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Thursday, 12 January, 2012

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

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses coord meeting for holding Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 will be held on a grand scale across the country including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, the Union Territory, with political essence in accord with national objectives and Union Spirit.

The coordination meeting for organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 was held in Union Government Office Meeting Hall here this evening, with an address by Chairman of Central Committee for Holding the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

The meeting was also attended by members of the central committee and management committee and chairmen and secretaries of subcommittees, and departmental heads.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in his address that today's meeting was called to discuss measures to be taken in organizing the Union Day. The Union Day is held in the whole nation including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, the Union Territory, on coming 12 February with national objectives and in very essence of politics, he set the target.

The central committee, management committee and subcommittees for organizing the Union Day ceremony had already been formed and had to discuss preparations of each committee at the meeting, he said.

It is arranged to invite Region and State Hluttaw representatives, and each subcommittee is to systematically organize State flag hoisting and message reading ceremony, dinner and staging traditional dances of national races by the Ministry of Culture at the dinner, he tasked the subcommittees.

He underscored the need to arrange the 65th Anniversary Union Day national objectives and message with usages commensurate with the age of democracy.

Chairman of Management Committee Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt reported on preparedness for holding State flag hoisting ceremony and dinner and invitation to ceremonies.

Member of Management Committee Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt reported on the national objectives.

(See page 8)



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at coordination meeting for organizing 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012.

MNA



Bagan region focal point of almost all historical ancient heritages of nation and people

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Union Transport Minister meets Japanese guests



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Agricultural officials discuss effective application of studies

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Model plot of monsoon paddy harvested

MANDALAY, 11 Jan—Staff Officer U Thein Tun Zaw of Settlement and Land Records Department in Mandalay and Manager U Myo Naing of Myanmar Agriculture Service supervised the harvesting of Ayeyamin paddy strain on six acres of model plot in Chanmyathazi Township on 27 December.

The model plot produced 90 baskets of paddy per acre at high level and 58.59 baskets at lower level. Departmental officials and local farmers participated in the paddy harvesting task.

Kyemon

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 12 January, 2012

Fight poverty first in far-flung areas

Myanmar's poverty rate has dropped from 34 per cent to 26 per cent thanks to ambitious efforts of the government. In alleviating poverty, it is targeted to reduce it to 16 per cent. Prerequisite for poverty reduction is start-up capital. Lack of the capital forces the poor to lock themselves up in continuous poverty.

Poverty issue could not be tackled by the government alone. There must be a way for banking industry, cooperative societies, civil societies, non-governmental organizations, and social organizations, both at home and abroad, to get involved. They work in the regions they choose. Government officials reached out to the grassroots as well, albeit unsuccessfully in some regions. As poverty has touched 70 per cent of rural population in Myanmar, microcredit cannot reach all of them. The self-run institutions are dispersing loans.

To steer the drive, supervisory committee will be formed soon. A group of MPs visited rural areas recently to learn what the people want.

As loan provided by microcredit societies is vital for the grassroots, we need to adopt a better monetary system. We need help from international monetary organizations. As Myanmar saying goes, "A force of ten thousand can accomplish what a single fore cannot". If united, we could bring poverty to an end.

Rural farmers are living below the poverty line. Their life is hard as they live in areas with poor transportation. They are struggling just to make ends meet. Bad weather, pests and lack of capital make them stuck in poverty. Both officials and wellwishers should visit these regions and seek remedies.

By disbursing loans to low-income population in far-flung areas, our goal of being free from poverty will be achieved sooner.

Bagan region focal point of almost all historical ancient heritages of nation and people

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan— Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan arrived in Bagan Archaeological Region of NyaungU Township on 7 January.

He inspected preservation of mural paintings at pagoda No. 569 with the use of chemicals at Wineedo Group of Pagodas, renovation of the walls in the pagoda and maintenance of the pagoda, renovation of pagoda No. 577 and preservation of mural paintings of Phayathonzu Pagoda.

Director U Thein Lwin and officials of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library reported on progress in renovation and maintenance of the mural paintings and pagoda in the archaeological region and cooperation of UNESCO.

The Union minister instructed officials to systematically supervise preservation of mural paintings without harming the value of artifacts, to adopt plans for prevention of leaking rain drops in the pagodas, clearing of birds and bats, availability of adequate light and weeding work on the pagodas, and to conduct the multiplier courses to the trainees so as to finish maintenance of the mural paintings at over 400 pagodas through chemical technology in a short period.

After looking into reconstruction of Pagoda No.



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan inspects preservation of mural paintings at pagoda No. 569.—MNA

2142, the Union minister gave instructions on reconstruction of ancient pagodas for satisfaction of wellwishers, maintenance of ancient works and more strengthening, emphasis to be placed on maintenance works meeting international standards in line with the culture and religious traditions of Myanmar, gathering momentum in renovation of 63 pagodas in the Bagan Archaeological Region by spending cash donations of wellwishers, and holding of consecration ceremony for the renovated pagodas at the same time so as to share merits gained for all the wellwisher people.

On 8 January, the Union

minister met officials of Bagan Branch of the Ministry of Culture and asked the progress of tasks. In his instruction, he said that Bagan region is a focal point of almost all the historical ancient heritage of the nation and the people. Thus, he noted that it is necessary to adopt a Master Plan to systematically preserve and upgrade the ancient heritage of Bagan region. In so doing, he instructed them to give first priority to maintenance of the structures of pagodas, draw the programmes for maintenance works, coordinate the plans for continuous excavation of ancient heritage works underground, extend

formation of more work groups to preserve mural paints with a plan, put the mural paintings on records through digitalization and print records, hold a workshop with Myanmar Engineering Society on maintenance of the ancient pagodas and protection them against natural disasters and coordinate with scholars and experts. The Union minister inspected excavation of works at the site of Anawrahta Palace and instructed the officials to manage the attractive displays of unearthed works for convenience of archaeological researchers and local and foreign guests.

MNA

Tennis coaching course from 7 to 20 February

YANGON, 11 Jan— Myanmar Tennis Federation will conduct the tennis coaching course from 7 to 20 February at Theinbyu Tennis Ground in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

The enthusiasts between 18 and 30 years aged wishing to attend the course may enlist at the federation (Theinbyu Tennis Ground in Mingala Taungnyunt Township), not later than 4 February. For further information, dial 01-381990, 381992, ext: 1, 01-372360 and 09-73122449.

Mr Robert Davis, Chief Coach of the federation, will provide training to the attendees practically and theoretically.

MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at excavation site of Anawrahta Palace.

MNA



Sumitomo Golf Classic commences

YANGON, 11 Jan—The Sumitomo Golf Classic, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA with the sponsorship of Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machine, was opened at Yedaguntaung Golf Club in Mandalay this morning.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Phone Zaw Han, President Director Mr Kasuhiko Sasaki of Indonesia

Sumitomo Factory, Managing Director U Chit San of Aung Hein Min Co Ltd, Vice-Presidents of MGFU Aung Kyi, U Tint Oo and U Min Thein tee off the golf classic.

After the first round, Hla Myo (APPO) led the professional golfers event with 67, followed by Kyaw Swa Lin with 70, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) and Thein Zaw Myint (KM Golf Centre) 72 each. In the men's amateur event, Myo Win Aung stood first with 70 and Y Htet Aung, second with 72.—MNA

Canadian man 'beaten to death by five cops after trying to give woman officer a bear hug'

CROCHU, (Grenada), 11 Jan—A Grenadian official has called for an official inquiry into police brutality after a man was allegedly beaten to death by five officers for trying to hug a woman.

Oscar Bartholomew was allegedly beaten after he mistook a plainclothes female

officer for a friend and lifted her off the ground in a bear hug outside a police station in St David's, Grenada. A witness claimed the 39-year-old, from Toronto, Canada, said: 'I got you today,' when the officer began shouting for help.

Five other officers rushed

to the woman's assistance and Mr Bartholomew tried to kick one of them and resisted arrest as he was held down, handcuffed and his ankles were bound.

Witnesses claimed the officer yelled 'rape!' as she was lifted off the ground. Minutes later, Mr Bartholomew was in a coma and lay on the ground dying.

An independent autopsy found he died of severe trauma to the head and several injuries to the body.

A state autopsy reported a similar conclusion. He had only stopped at the police station with his wife Dolette Cyr because she needed to use the toilet. The pair, who had been married for 10 years, were visiting relatives in Grenada when the incident took place. Mr Bartholomew's death has provoked uproar on the tiny Caribbean island over alleged systemic police brutality.—*Internet*



Dolette Cyr, right, wife of Oscar Bartholomew weeps with her daughter Jacynthe at his funeral service in Crochu, Grenada.—*INTERNET*



The Panama-flagged Oriental Sunrise is salvaged from seawater off in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 9 Jan, 2012. A sunken freighter was salvaged from seawater off east China's coast Monday, more than two months after a shipping collision accident that left three foreign sailors dead and eight others missing. XINHUA

Bombing kills 29 in Pakistan's Khyber Region

PESHAWAR, 11 Jan—A bomb killed at least 29 people and wounded 37 on Tuesday when it exploded near a fuel station in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber region, one of the restive tribal areas where insurgents are battling government forces, regional officials said.

"It was a huge blast and caused damage to a number of vehicles at (a) bus terminal," said Khyber tribesman Khan Zaman from the Jamrud bazaar, around 25 kilometres (15 miles) west of the city of Peshawar. Government officials in the area said 29 people were killed and 37 wounded, at least 20 of whom are in critical condition.

Tribesman said members of the pro-

government Zakhakel tribal militia were the target of the attack. Member of the militia—or "lashkar"—were filling their vehicles at the station when the bomb exploded. "There was a loud explosion, everything shook" said Fariz Ullah, a fruit seller in Jamrud near the fuel station.

"We all ran to the station. There were bodies everywhere. I saw bodies missing hands and feet," he said. Assistant Political Agent Jamrud Mohammad Jamil Khan said three members of the Khasadar tribal police force were among those killed. The wounded were taken to hospitals in Jamrud and Peshawar.

MNA/Reuters

Cuba establishes forest fire monitoring centre

HAVANA, 11 Jan—Cuba has set up a forest fire monitoring centre in its efforts to protect the country's forests and nature habitats, the official daily *Juventud Rebelde* reported on Tuesday. The new centre will monitor forest fire through satellite images and allocate the forces and resources to control it, said the paper. The newspaper quoted Colonel Manuel Lama Lopez, chief of the Cuban Ranger Department (CRD), as saying that the country registered a record number of 695 forest fires in the first five months of 2011.

Lopez stressed that awareness of the danger of forest fire is low among Cuban people, as most of the forest fires are provoked by human negligence, such as littering burning cigarettes or burning wood for various purposes. About 20,000 hectares of forests went up in flames in Cuba last year.—*Xinhua*

Iran car explosion 'kills nuclear scientist' in Teheran

TEHERAN, 11 Jan — A university lecturer and nuclear scientist has been killed in a car explosion in north Teheran, reports say. Iranian media sources named the casualty as Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan, *Reuters* news agency reports. The blast happened when a motorcyclist stuck a bomb on the side of the car, says Iran's semi-official *Fars* news agency. Several Iranian nuclear scientists have been assassinated in Iran in recent years. Teheran has blamed the killings on Israel and the US. Both countries deny the accusations. Local sources said Wednesday's blast took

place at a faculty of Iran's Allameh Tabatabai university. Two others were reportedly also injured in the blast, which took place near GolNabi Street, in the north of the capital.

Mr Ahmadi-Roshan, 32, was a graduate of oil industry university and supervised a department at Natanz uranium enrichment facility in Isfahan Province, *Fars* reported. The latest attack comes almost two years to the day since Massoud Ali Mohammadi, a 50-year-old university lecturer at Teheran University, was killed by a remote-controlled bomb as he left his home in Teheran on 12 January 2010.

INTERNET



The bomb was reportedly attached with magnets to the car. INTERNET



Chinese icebreaker Xuelong arrives in Ushuaia, Argentina, on 9 Jan, 2012. After loading some thousands of tons of supplies, the icebreaker will go back to Chinese Antarctic research station Zhongshan for further missions during the country's 28th scientific expedition. XINHUA

High-level visits can boost Sino-US ties

BEIJING, 11 Jan—US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's visit to Beijing sets a positive tone for the development of Sino-US relations in 2012. Frequent high-level meetings and communication helped Sino-US relations remain relatively stable last year, although there were some disputes and friction, most notably the US' increased military presence in the Asia-Pacific, and its announcement of the sale of a new package of arms to Taipei, which led to bilateral military-to-military exchanges being suspended until the 12th China-US Defence Consultative Talks in December.

But as the first cabinet-level official to visit China this year, Geithner's visit sends the message that despite the clamor that in the US that it should contain China and allegations that China is trying to exclude the US, the two can still cooperate with each other. According to the Treasury Department, Geithner will discuss strategies to revitalize global economic growth and efforts to support fair competition in global trade.—*Xinhua*

US fires 1st drone in Pakistan in six weeks; four dead

BANNU, 11 Jan—The US carried out its first drone strike into Pakistan since errant November airstrikes by US forces killed two dozen Pakistani troops along the Afghan border. The latest missile attack killed four militants, three of them Arabs, according to Pakistani intelligence officials.

The drone strike took place on Tuesday near Miran Shah in North Waziristan, an al-Qaeda and Taleban stronghold that has been pounded by the US since the drone programme began in earnest in 2009. The intelligence officials didn't give their names because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Relations with Pakistan plummeted after the 26 Nov airstrikes prompted Islamabad to shut down vital supply routes into Afghanistan and force the US to vacate Shamsi Air Base in southwestern Baluchistan Province.

The US used the base to service drones that targeted militants in the tribal regions close to Afghanistan. American officials say there had been no promise by Washington that drone operations would be avoided since the deadly airstrikes, but that the lull was part of a broad effort to tamp down tensions with Pakistan. While there has long been some level of agreement by Pakistan over the drone attacks, their scope and frequency has been a source of friction between the two countries.

An American investigation into the November airstrikes concluded that a persistent lack of trust between the US and Pakistan, and a series of communications and coordination errors on both sides, led to the attacks. Pakistani officials have rejected that probe and there has been little public sign that relations between the two countries are improving.—*Internet*

Hormone helps obese shed weight

LONDON, 11 Jan—An appetite-curbing hormone found in the gut may help overweight and obese people shed weight, lower blood pressure and reduce cholesterol levels, according to a study released on Wednesday.

Known as glucagon-like peptide-1, or GLP-1, the hormone is naturally secreted from the intestine when we eat. Recently, doctors have begun to use GLP-1 to treat patients with type 2 diabetes due to the molecule's ability to regulate sugar levels in the blood.

But they also noticed that the hormone appeared to make patients less hungry, raising the question of whether it could work as a treatment for obesity. A team of researchers led by Tina Vilsboll of the University of Copenhagen designed a study to find out. Reviewing medical literature, they analysed the results of 25 clinical trials involving over 6,000 patients who had been given GLP-1. Patients with and without diabetes who received a minimum dosage for at least 20 weeks showed greater weight loss than control groups, they reported in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ). There was also improvement in blood pressure, cholesterol and glycaemic control, the process by which the body adjusts the impact of carbohydrates on blood sugar levels.—*Internet*



An appetite-curbing hormone found in the gut may help overweight and obese people shed weight, lower blood pressure and reduce cholesterol levels, according to a study released Wednesday.—INTERNET

Registered Nurse Kimberly Arial (L) and Martha Dixon, MD work to treat a patient inside the emergency room at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas on 27 July, 2009. INTERNET



Loud hospital rooms linked to poor patient sleep

NEW YORK, 11 Jan—Hospitals are too loud, and patients' sleep could be suffering because of it, suggests a new study. According to World Health Organization recommendations, noise in hospital rooms generally shouldn't get above 30 to 40 decibels. But researchers at one hospital reported that the average noise level in patients' rooms was close to 50 decibels, and sometimes spiked as high as 80 decibels — almost as loud as a chainsaw, they said.

"The hospital environment is certainly not a restful environment," said Dr Vineet Arora, from the University of Chicago. In a study of about 100 adult patients at their medical centre, she and her colleagues found that noise levels in patients' rooms at night tended to be lower than during the day, but almost always exceeded recommendations for average and maximum noise level. Much of that extra noise was due to talking between

doctors and nurses, but the loudest interruptions were likely from alarms and intercoms, Arora said.

Higher maximum noise levels in individual rooms were linked to sleep disruptions in their occupants. In general, patients slept over an hour less in the hospital than they'd reported sleeping at home, and often had restless, poor-quality sleep. Arora and her colleagues reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine. "One of the most common complaints that patients will report is that they had a difficult night sleeping," she told Reuters Health — and that could delay their recovery. "It could be part of a cycle of: you're sick, you get bad sleep, and you're not able to get better as quickly," Arora said. Dr Sairam Parthasarathy, who studies patient sleep at the University of Arizona in Tucson, said that noise on the hospital ward may not be fully to blame for patients' sleep troubles.—*Reuters*



Indonesia takes steps to anticipate H5N1

JAKARTA, 11 Jan—The Indonesian government has been on alert on the possible spread of bird flu viruses (H5N1) following a global concern that the virus may mutate to a certain form that can spread among human, a minister said here on Tuesday.

On 3 Jan, a 23-year-old Indonesian man suspected of having avian influenza died in a hospital in the Capital of Jakarta following the death of one of his pigeons a week before. Indonesian Agriculture Minister Suswono Arsyaf said that his ministry had received informal information from the international organizations that the viruses would later show an indication that they could mutate to a certain form that make it enable to spread among humans.—*Xinhua*

Orange juice futures surge to record on fungicide fears

NEW YORK, 11 Jan—US orange juice futures surged almost 11 percent to an all-time high on Tuesday, after US health regulators announced a clampdown on imports from top producer Brazil following the discovery of small doses of a fungicide that is not approved in the United States.

Tropicana and Minute Maid, from Coca-Cola Co. "If we take Brazilian OJ out of the market, it has not reached its peak certainly. We're in uncharted waters," said James Cordier, president of Tampa, Florida-based Liberty Trading Group. "We lost oranges on the freeze last week but this certainly trumps that."

The benchmark March

March contract was already trading up between 3 and 4 cents at \$2.10-2.12 per lb in synthetic options trade, said Bill Rafferty, senior analyst for commodities futures brokerage Penson Futures in New York. A near doubling in ICE exchange margins announced after the close of trade could also spur more covering by traders who are short.

The latest surge came after the Food and Drug Administration told juice makers that it would step up testing for the fungicide carbendazim, which is used in Brazil to protect against black spot but is not authorized for use in the United States. FDA said it would block imports that tested positive.

The investigation was prompted after a juice company alerted the FDA to the discovery of low levels of the substance in orange juice sold in the United States.

It was unclear how much juice could be affected. The United States imports about a quarter of its supply, with Brazil accounting for nearly half of all frozen and fresh OJ imports, according to government data.

Reuters



A woman picks up some oranges at a fruit shop in Sydney on 7 June, 2011.—INTERNET

Fears that more than a tenth of US supply could be abruptly cut off, alongside concerns about the impact of a brief freeze in Florida last week, triggered a frenzy of short-covering in the tiny market, threatening to spur a rise in retail prices and crunch margins for brands like Pepsico Inc's

frozen concentrated orange juice contract on the ICE Futures US exchange — one of the smallest futures markets, which achieved fame in the 1980s movie *Trading Places* — jumped the 20-cents daily limit to \$2.0775 at 9:46 am EST, taking two-day gains to nearly 17 percent. The most-active

Toyota wants North America to become big export base

DETROIT, 11 Jan—Toyota Motor Corp's <7203.T> North American operations are looking to become a big exporter as the automaker gets hit by a strong yen that has eroded profits on vehicles shipped from Japan, a top executive said on Tuesday.

"We are looking for the opportunity for any North American product to be exported," Yoshimi Inaba, president and chief operating officer of Toyota Motor North America, told a small group of reporters at the Detroit auto show.

"We have 12 models now being produced in North America, and each one of them has its own potential. We are thoroughly reviewing the potential," he said.

Toyota made headlines last year by announcing the start of Camry exports from the United States to South Korea, instead of shipping them from neighbouring Japan.

In 2010, the latest year for which data is available, Toyota exported 16,700 vehicles from the United States to 19 countries, mainly in the Middle East, across six



The Toyota Prius C hybrid is displayed on the final press preview day for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, on 10 January, 2012.—INTERNET

models: Avalon, Sequoia, Tacoma, Tundra, Camry and Sienna. Including markets in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) zone, exports totaled 100,000 vehicles, Toyota said.

"This is just the beginning of a new era of North America being a source of supply to many other parts of the world," Inaba said.

Toyota has said it wants to reduce its exports out of Japan, now around 1.7 million vehicles a year, to 1.5 million to escape currency losses. It is simultaneously looking to increase Japanese sales by 200,000 vehicles a year to keep its pledge of producing

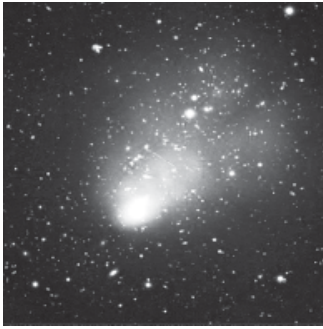
at least 3 million vehicles at home.

Inaba said Toyota would look for ways to utilize its vast global sales network to market the vehicles for a niche segment of customers that may share US consumers' unique taste for bigger cars and trucks.

"We have a very strong base of world distributors. I think we can take advantage of their sales network and their power of marketing," he said.—*Reuters*



An international team of astronomers have located a massive, hot young galaxy cluster nicknamed "El Gordo" by using a telescope in Chile.
INTERNET



'Fat' distant galaxy cluster called El Gordo

NEW DELHI, 11 Jan—An international team of astronomers have located a massive, hot young galaxy cluster nicknamed "El Gordo" by using a telescope in Chile. The finding was announced at the 219th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Austin, Texas.

El Gordo, which means "the fat one" in Spanish, has its official name as ACT-CLJ0102-4915 and is located more than 7 billion light-years from Earth.

The monster galaxy cluster El Gordo has mass about 2 quadrillion times that of the sun and is the largest, hottest, and most energetic cluster ever seen in the distant universe.

Galaxy clusters are the largest objects in the universe held together by gravity. They are formed as a result of smaller groups of galaxies merging together. The process depends on the amount of dark matter and dark energy in the universe at that time. Having a peep inside the clusters can shed light on the mysterious components of the cosmic world.

Internet



Israeli archaeologists say they've discovered a 1,500-year-old ceramic stamp used to mark baked goods as kosher.

INTERNET



How the sun sets in an alien world

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—Scientists have thrown light on how sunsets on exoplanets would look like.

According to University of Exeter exoplanetary scientist Frederic Pont, as exoplanet planet HD 209458 b - unofficially known as "Osiris", a world 150 light-years from Earth, orbits extremely close to its star, atmospheric temperatures are high (around 1,000 degrees Celsius or 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit).

This implies that its outer atmospheric layers become "puffed up."

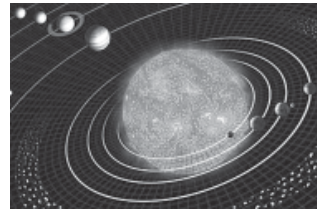
The exoplanet's atmospheric "puffiness" makes it easier to analyze, and using data from the STIS spectrograph on the Hubble Space Telescope, Pont was able to calculate how the star would look as seen at the exoplanet's horizon, *Discovery News* reported.

In the case of Osiris, as its star drops

through the atmosphere from an observer's perspective, it will transform from predominantly white to blue.

The blueness is due to atmospheric sodium absorbing the orange/red light being emitted by the star, causing its light to shift towards the blue part of the spectrum.

Internet



Solar system

Ancient kosher 'bread stamp' found

ACRE, (Israel), 11 Jan—Israeli archaeologists say they've discovered a 1,500-year-old ceramic stamp used to mark baked goods as kosher.

The Israel Antiquities Authority found the kosher "bread stamp" bearing the image of a menorah during excavations at Horbat Uza, east of Acre, *Haaretz* reported Tuesday.

Experts say they believe it belonged to a bakery providing kosher bread to the Jews of Acre in the Byzantine period.

"A number of stamps

bearing an image of a menorah are known from different collections," Gilad Jaffe and Danny Syon, the directors of the excavation, said.

"The Temple Menorah, being a Jewish symbol par excellence, indicates the stamps belonged to Jews, unlike Christian bread stamps with the cross pattern which were much more common in the Byzantine period," they said.

"The stamp is important because it proves that a Jewish community existed in the settlement of Uza in the

Christian-Byzantine period," Syon said. "The presence of a Jewish settlement so close to Acre — a region that was definitely Christian at this time — constitutes an innovation in archaeological research."

The stamp bears the image of a seven-branched menorah and Greek letters possible spelling the Launtius, common among Jews of the period.

"This is probably the name of the baker from Horbat Uza," Jaffe and Syon said.—*Internet*



Top Diggs: Google-made tablet to challenge Kindle Fire or iPad?

The most popular news, videos and images as picked by Digg users during the last seven days, recorded on 10 January.



Google-made Tablet.

1. Will a Google tablet challenge the Kindle Fire? Or the iPad?

The *Washington Post* contemplates the viability of high-end or low-end Google-made Android tablets against tablet rivals such as the Amazon Kindle Fire and Apple's iPad as others report that Google will soon "jump into the tablet game."

2. Soldier at Ron Paul rally could face trouble

A US Army reservist who got up on stage in his military fatigues and pledged his support for American Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul may face legal ramifications over his public stance because "participating in a partisan political event in uniform is a violation of Defence Department rules."

3. Joe Torre Wants to Buy the Dodgers With Developer Rick Caruso; LA Rejoices

Former Major League Baseball manager Joe Torre has quit his job as the manager of the MBL Dodgers team and now says he will "pursue ownership of the Dodgers alongside major LA developer Rick Caruso."

Amazon Kindle Fire.

4. SOPA sponsor Rep Lamar Smith to SOPA opponents: You don't matter

Rep Lamar Smith, the chief sponsor of the US's Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), reportedly said that the "criticism of this bill is completely hypothetical; none of it is based in reality. Not one of the critics was able to point to any language in the bill that would in any way harm the Internet. Their accusations are simply not supported by any facts." He also suggested that online communities who opposed the bill (Reddit.com, Google, AOL and Facebook among others) were "neither 'legitimate' nor 'large in number.'"



Apple's iPad.

5. Huge Web Companies Are Willing To Go Dark In Protest Of SOPA

Companies including Amazon, AOL, eBay, Facebook, Google, Twitter and Yahoo! are reportedly willing to black out their services on 23 January to spread awareness of SOPA and the effect it could have on the average internet user in the US.—*Internet*



Acer Aspire S5 laptop

High-tech gadget show opens doors in Vegas

LAS VEGAS, 11 Jan—The International Consumer Electronics Show kicked off on Tuesday with a dazzling array of high-tech gadgetry including ultra-thin laptops, snazzy smartphones, iPad rivals and flat-screen and 3D TVs.

A record 3,100 companies from around the world have staked out booths in the cavernous Las Vegas Convention Center for the four-day event, displaying their wares over a space equivalent to more than 35 football fields.

The host of CES, the Consumer Electronics Association, forecasts worldwide spending on consumer electronics to surpass \$1 trillion this year for the first time with smartphones and tablet computers leading the way.

CEA chief economist Shawn DuBravac said he expects more than 20,000 new products to launch at CES including over 50 new tablet computers as Apple competitors seek to make a mark in a category dominated by the iPad.

Smartphones are also expected to be a hot item with Finland's Nokia teaming up with Microsoft to tackle a US market dominated by the Apple iPhone, Research In Motion's BlackBerry and handsets running Google's Android software.

Microsoft chief executive Steven Ballmer joined Nokia boss Stephen Elop ahead of the show on Monday to unveil the new Lumia 900 smartphone, which will run on Windows mobile software.

Internet

Indonesia quake triggers brief tsunami alert

JAKARTA, 11 Jan—A powerful earthquake struck off the coast of Indonesia's Aceh Province, prompting officials to issue a brief tsunami warning. Residents ran into the streets after the 7.3 magnitude quake struck 423km (262 miles) south-west of Banda Aceh. No damage has been reported. Officials lifted the tsunami alert two hours later. A quake off Indonesia in 2004 triggered a tsunami killing 230,000 people around the Indian Ocean. Half

were in Aceh.

The latest quake struck shortly after midnight on Wednesday local time (18:37 GMT Tuesday) and had a depth of 29.1 km (18.1 miles), the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The USGS put the earthquake's magnitude at 7.3. Indonesia's earthquake agency initially estimated the quake at 7.6 but later revised it down to 7.1. In Banda Aceh, sirens blared from mosques and people fled their homes, waiting outside

or in some cases heading for higher ground in cars or on motorcycles. Witnesses said about 100 people gathered on a bridge in the city to see if the quake triggered any significant change in its height. Patients at a hospital in the town of Seumele were evacuated as a precaution. Indonesia is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" - one of the most seismically active regions on earth.

Internet



India train collision kills five in Jharkhand

RANCHI, 11 Jan — At least five people were killed when a passenger train

collided with a goods train in the eastern Indian State of Jharkhand, police said. A

coach of the Delhi-bound Brahmputra Mail overturned in the collision and several people were trapped in the wreckage, they said. Ten people are known to have been hurt in the crash near Sahibganj District.

Rescue operations are going on and the injured have been taken to the hospital, police said. Railway officials said the cause of the accident was not known. They said an inquiry would be held into the crash. Train accidents in

India have killed some 1,220 people over the last five years, railway officials revealed last month.

The immense state-owned railway network connects every corner of the country, operating 9,000 passenger trains a day, carrying some 18 million people. India has set up a special \$3.6bn (£2.4bn) railway safety fund to make travelling safer for the more than six billion passengers who use the transport network every year.

Internet



Malaysia seizes illegal haul of African elephant tusks

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Jan — Malaysia customs officials have seized elephant tusks worth 2.4 million ringgit (\$760,000) from South Africa. Customs officials say that the tusks were discovered inside television boxes as they were inspecting a container in Port Klang outside Kuala Lumpur.

Wildlife trade group Traffic says 2011 was a "horrible year" for elephants, with 23 tonnes of ivory seized, which it says equates to 2,500 dead animals. Trade in ivory was banned in 1989 to save elephants from extinction. Officials said that Malaysia is normally used as a transit point by ivory smugglers, but in this instance Malaysia was listed as the final destination of the container.

The shipment from Cape Town was declared as carrying "polyester and nylon strand matting," but the boxes containing the tusks were found hidden among some tyres in the back of the container, according to officials. Campaigners say the ivory trade has continued illegally because of huge demand in Asia, where it is used to make decorative objects. Worldwide more tusks were seized in 2011 than in the previous 22 years.

Internet

Australia's Port Hedland closed due to Tropical Cyclone Heidi

SYDNEY, 11 Jan—Port Hedland of Western Australia, the nation's highest tonnage port, has been closed down in preparation for Tropical Cyclone Heidi approaching the state's Pilbara coast, the Port Hedland Port Authority said on Wednesday.

A cyclone warning has been issued for coastal areas between Sandfire and Mardie, including Port Hedland, Roebourne, Karratha and Dampier.

Tropical Cyclone Heidi is estimated to be 220 kilometres north of Port Hedland and moving south towards the coast, the weather bureau said. Heidi is expected to bring winds of up to 100 kilometers an hour to the coastal areas, extending west during Wednesday, it said.

Port Hedland Port Authority spokesman Steed Farrell told the *Australian Associated Press (AAP)* that the port had activated its cyclone contingency plan at 4 pm (local time) on Tuesday in preparation for Heidi.

"We cleared inbound traffic into the port and cleared the port of vessels that needed to get out," he said. Farrell said the port would remain closed until further notice from the weather bureau.—Xinhua

Poyang Lake's migratory birds to get helicopter food drop

NANCHANG, 11 Jan—Authorities at Poyang Lake plan to deploy a helicopter to distribute feed to more than 500,000 birds as a severe drought has shrunk China's largest freshwater lake and is threatening birds there for the winter.

The first air delivery will start before the Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year, that falls on 23 Jan, to ensure that birds will not starve for the rest of the winter, said Wu Heping, a senior official at the Poyang Natural Reserve.

East China's Poyang Lake, a major winter destination for birds in Asia, had more than 500,000 birds of 52 categories, including endangered species such as hooded cranes and white-naped cranes, as of

December, 2011.

But as this year's extended dry season has shrunk the lake to less than 200 square km, or 5 percent of its full size, ornithologists are worried about the birds that feed on plankton, fish and waterweed in the lake and its nearby wetlands.

"About 60 percent of swan geese and 98 percent of white cranes in the world fly to Poyang for the winter, but they are now threatened by shrinking food supply and habitat," said Zuo Quan, employed at the Poyang Natural Reserve that locates in the Jiangxi Province.

Traditionally, feed was distributed by reserve staff members in times of disastrous snowstorms. But manual distribution has been difficult this year, as the

massive shrinkage of Poyang has forced the exodus of birds into nearby smaller lakes and even farmlands, said Wu.

"About 200,000 birds, or half of the flock, have flown to the nine satellite lakes of Poyang, and their expanded habitat is the main reason we used air distribution this year," said Wu.

Wu said they also intended the air distribution to guide birds into scattered groups, thus curbing a mass breakout of bird flu, which has been reported in south China's Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Feed to be distributed this year includes tonnes of rice, maize, fish and shrimps, which cater to both herbivorous and carnivorous birds.

Xinhua



Crew members check a locomotive in the servicing field among heavy fog in Handan, north China's Hebei Province, on 10 Jan, 2012. A heavy fog alert has been issued Tuesday morning in Tianjin Municipality and Hebei, Henan, Anhui and Shandong Provinces, according to the National Meteorological Station.—XINHUA

Int'l visitors to Cambodia's Angkor heritage site up 23 pct in 2011

PHNOM PENH, 11 Jan—Cambodia's Angkor Wat temples, one of the world heritage sites, attracted 1.6 million foreign visitors in 2011, an increase of 23 percent from 1.3 million a year earlier, according to the statistics of Siem Reap provincial tourism department on Tuesday.

Among the top ten countries visiting the

temples, South Korea was ranked first with 265,000 visitors, up 31 percent; Vietnam at second with 251,400, up 45 percent; Japan at third with 120,200, up 5 percent; and China at fourth with 119,900, up 81 percent. The statistics also showed that Thai tourists to the temples had slightly declined by 0.2 percent to 42,250 due to border dispute that led to

armed clashes in February and April last year.

"Base on the figures, we see that Chinese visitors to the temples last year grew sharply and we expect that the trend will continue in the coming years," Chhoeuy Chhorn, administration chief of Siem Reap provincial tourism department, told Xinhua by telephone on Tuesday.—Xinhua



There is a huge demand for ivory throughout Asia.

INTERNET

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

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

From Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

Excellency,

As the Republic of the Union of Myanmar commemorates its independence, it gives me great pleasure to send Your Excellency my warmest congratulations, and to offer my best wishes to you for good health and happiness, and to your people for continued progress and prosperity.

I should like to take this auspicious opportunity to tell you how keen the Kingdom of Morocco is to give fresh momentum to the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries, and thus serve the mutual interests of our peoples.

From President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Excellency,

The celebration of your country's national day gives me the pleasant opportunity to address to you, on behalf of the Algerian people and Government and on my own name, my warm congratulations accompanied with my sincere wishes of health and happiness to you and of progress and prosperity to your friendly people.

I seize this occasion to reiterate to you my commitment to consolidating the friendship relations

between our two countries and the promotion of a fruitful bilateral cooperation to the benefit of our two peoples.

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

From Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan

Dear Mr. President

On the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day, I convey to you and your nation our sincere congratulations.

I believe that relationship between Azerbaijan and Myanmar will develop in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.

I wish you good health, success in your work and thrift and progress to the friendly Myanmar nation.

From Mr. Pal Schmitt, President of Hungary

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the People's of Hungary and that of my own I have the pleasure to convey my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I believe that the encouraging developments which continue to take place in Myanmar provide good basis for friendly and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.

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

From Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain

Mr. President,

On the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you my congratulations together with those of the Government and the People of Spain.

I reiterate to you, Mr. President, my best wishes for your personal well being and for peace and prosperity to our friends, the people of Myanmar,

With My High Consideration

From Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the Commemoration of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January 2012, I am pleased to extend to you, and through you, to the people of Myanmar, my most cordial greetings and heartfelt felicitations, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia.

It gives me a great pleasure to note the ever improving solid ties to friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar. I fervently believe that the partnership between Indonesia and Myanmar will be further solidified by the common commitment and vision of our two countries to advance democracy and to achieve a more secure and prosperous region in Southeast Asia. With all best wishes for the enduring prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, her people, and your good health as well as success, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

December mass walk activity organized

PINDAYA, 11 Jan—A mass walk activity was organized in Pindaya Township of Danu Self-Administered Zone on 24 December.

Local authorities, departmental officials and personnel, teachers and students including people enthusiastically participated in the mass walk from the Myoma Market to Township Sports Ground. In the ground, they took physical exercises.—*Township SPED*



LOCAL SPORTS

Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament commences

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament 2012

kicked off at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Ground, here, yesterday morning.

On behalf of the Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports, Secretary of the MNSC Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Kyu delivered an address.

In the debut, Ministry of Defence team trounced Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation 3-0. Altogether 24 teams are taking part in the tournament that will last up to 27 January. Three matches are held daily.

Martial arts competitions 15-21 Jan

YANGON, 11 Jan—The First Myanmar Martial Arts Federation President's Trophy Bando Championship and the 17th Inter-Ministry Myanmar Martial Arts Competition will be held at the gymnasium in Dagon Myothit (North) Township from 15 to 21 January.

The teams representing ministries are allowed to compete in the inter-ministry championship. The ministerial teams, clubs, region/state teams and main teams are allowed to take part in the inter-club and open Bando contests. Handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners and outstanding athletes will be chosen as tentatively selected players.

Those wishing to take part in the championship may submit applications together with three passport sized photos to the federation during the office hour.

For further information, dial 584353 and 580712.

MNA

MMAF

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Shows and Contest draws people interests

Aungmyingalar Bus Terminal in Pinyinmana is crowded with students and people. The reason is that Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rule Enforce Committee is holding the fourth Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative shows and contest. The terminal is clawing with shows, shops, companies' showrooms and entertainment of famous singers. In an attempt to educate people and students as well as drivers, educative talks and shows are being held constantly. In Myanmar, the number of motor vehicles has reached 423,345 and of motorbike, 1,908,374 till 2011. Educative



talks are being given to motorbike riders to wear helmets.

No official licenses have been issued yet to those who offer carrying services in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. For the convenience of people, authority concerned allows it temporarily. Those on their parts have duty-bound to ensure safety of passengers, to follow traffic rules and to avoid potential accidents. Authority concerned educates people by means of distribution of pamphlets and signboards reading rules to be followed by drivers and motor bike users, the number of car accidents occurs very often in Nay Pyi Taw due to the absence of traffic rule enforcement.

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rule Enforcement Committee was formed in 2006. The accidents have been on the increase till 2011. So, the show that covers interesting programme is meant to make the general public know traffic rules.

Traffic rule enforcement committees across the country educate people to follow traffic rules and avoid accidents.

To avoid accidents, the Committees are undertaking accidents information system, coordination and management for road safety, losses and damages, research on road safety, emergency aids to victims, checking and action taken by traffic police, the standardizations of vehicles, educative campaign, training and inspection of

Byline: *Mar Mar Soe*
Photos: *Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)*



drivers, educative talks for children, posting of notice boards in accident-prone areas, road safety designs and fund-raising. According the Nay Pyi Taw Development Law Section (26), those who fail to follow traffic rules in the Nay Pyi Taw Development Area would serve prison terms no more than three months or would fine of cash not more than K 100,000 or both.

Translation: MT
Kyemon (11-1-12)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses ...

(from page 1)
Chairpersons and officials of subcommittees submitted reports on their preparations.

Members of the central committee Union Ministers discussed matters related to releasing news, performance of artistes at dinner, facts to be included in the national objectives and message.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in his concluding remarks said

hundreds of national races have long been living in the country through thick and thin. The Union Day ceremony should be held in essence, he said. He instructed to erect attractive billboards and LED boards. He called for foolproof security at the ceremony and coordinating among the subcommittees for successful holding of the ceremony.

The meeting then came to an end. —MNA

General Min Aung Hlaing visits Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing visited Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy (CRMA) of Royal Thai Army by helicopter from Royal Thai Army yesterday morning.

On arrival at the CRMA, they were wel-

comed by Commandant of CRMA Lt-Gen Danai Meechowevt and officials. Afterwards, General Min Aung Hlaing took the salute of guard of honour and inspected the guard. Then, he laid wreath at

King Chulachomklao Statue. At the museum of the CRMA, the commandant explained background history and training to General Min Aung Hlaing. After that, General Min Aung Hlaing and the

commandant exchanged gifts. General Min Aung Hlaing signed visitor's book. Myanmar delegation looked round CRMA museum and CRMA.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing exchanges gifts with Commandant of CRMA Lt-Gen Danai Meechowevt—MNA

Foreign gas and oil companies to invest in energy sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—International companies show strong interests to make cooperation and technological investments in oil and gas exploration and petrochemical-based industries being run by Ministry of Energy.

Union Minister for

Energy U Than Htay met with Chairman Mr Kazuo Furukawa of New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) of Japan and party, Chairman of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation Mr Hirobumi Kawano and party, Senior

Vice President of LG International Corporation of the Republic of Korea Mr Song Chi Ho and party, at his office here this morning and afternoon. At the calls, The minister and officials explained investment opportunities.

MNA

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay meets Senior Vice President Mr Song Chi Ho of LG International Corporation. MNA



Union Health Minister receives Alternate Chair of AusAID, Vice-Chairman of Asia Society

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Alternate Chair of the Three Diseases Fund Donor Consortium of Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), First Secretary Ms Shaanti Sekhon from Australian Embassy, at 10 am today, at Minister's office and Vice-Chairman of Aisa Society Mrs Suzanne Di Maggio and party, at 11 am on same day and at same venue respectively.

The Union Minister held a discussion with AusAID on health projects to meet Millennium Development Goals including maternal, infant, child health project, preventive measures against infectious diseases, upgrading of health care standard, immunization, rural health care, upgrading of library.

In meeting with Asia Society, the discussion focused on cooperation in health care, opportunity, ways to receive more aids from international organizations, training and cooperation in rural health development and maternal, infant and child health care.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Sciences Department and officials.

MNA

Medical Research Conference continues for third day

YANGON, 11 Jan—Medical Research Conference today continued for third day at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township in Yangon.

Men of medical world at home and abroad gave talks on bio-security process at pathology lab and challenges to research ethics and 16 papers were submitted at the seminar of the conference.

MNA



Medical Research Conference for third day at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township in progress.—MNA

Union Transport Minister meets Japanese guests



Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung receives Member of House of Councillors of Japan Mr Koizumi Toshiaki and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received a delegation led by Member of House of Councillors of Japan Mr Koizumi Toshiaki

at the ministry here this morning.

They discussed matters related to installation of six storm sensor radars, sending Japanese panel to survey river

conservation along the Ayeyawady and the Chindwin Rivers and upgrading of Yangon International Airport.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Win Shein and officials.—MNA

Aids provided to Myaungmya suburbs

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Ayeyawady Region Myaungmya and Labutta Districts In-charge of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Working Committee Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung attended the ceremony to provide development and poverty alleviation aids to neighbourhoods in Myaungmya held at No (1) Basic Education High School in Myaungmya on 9 January.

The Union minister elaborated on eight Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation tasks adopted by the government at the ceremony attended by Region ministers, District and Township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, townsenders and entrepreneurs.

Chairman of ACE Construction Company U Phyo Ko Ko Tint Hsan provided K 92.3 million assistance for suburbs in Myaungmya through the Myaungmya Township administrator.

The Region chief minister explained measures taken by the government for development of the Region and expressed thanks to contributors.

MNA

Talks on “Investment and Public Companies” on 29 Jan

YANGON, 11 Jan—Under the arrangement of Myanmar Certified Public Accountants Association, Director U Tin Ko Win of Directorate of Myanmar Investment and Companies Administration and Chairman of MCPA U Win Thin will give talks on “Investment and Public Companies”, at No.29, Minkyawswa Road, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon on 29 January.

Those wishing to attend it are to enroll at MCPA office located at No.1/19, Thakin Mya Park Road, Union Auditor-General’s Office, Yangon Training School, not later than 25 January. The certified public accountants who attend the talks get recommendation for CPE hour. CPA Part-II trainees are to register before the designated date. People across States and Regions may dial Ph-214653 for registration.—MNA

Agricultural officials discuss effective application of studies

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—A coordination meeting on effective application of agricultural studies for Region and State Managers of Myanma Agriculture Service and Principals of Institute of Agriculture took place at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here, this morning.

In his speech, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that the ministry is undertaking the seed

production, training and education and research and development tasks. He stressed the need to disseminate knowledge on growing of paddy and suitable crops at the school owned farmlands through good agriculture pattern. Those who were turned out from the Institutes of Agriculture are to be trained for serving interest of the farmers, he said.

He said that it is necessary to distribute Palethwe hybrid

paddy strain and GAP to the farmers.

Deputy Minister U Ohn Than made a speech.

After the meeting, Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanma Agriculture Service, principals of the institute and Region and State Managers of MAS visited the 500-acre model plot in Pobbathiri Township and 369-acre model plot in Pyinmana Township.

MNA

Union ECF Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received a delegation led by New York-based Asia Society Vice-President Mrs Suzanne Di Maggio at the ministry here this morning.

The meeting focused on environmental conservation, conservation of biodiversity and human resources development.

The minister also received a delegation led by Director of Wildlife Conservation

Society (Asia) Mr Colin Poole at the same venue in the afternoon. Among the topics discussed at the meeting were wildlife conservation, maintenance of forest reserves and staff’s capacity building.

Also present at the calls were Director-General of Planning and Statistics Department U Sann Lwin, Acting Director-General of Forest Department U Aye Myint Maung and Deputy Director-General of Planning and Statistics Department U Tin Tun.—MNA



Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun receives delegation led by Director of Wildlife Conservation Society (Asia) Mr Colin Poole. MNA

Golden land Myanmar attracting great attention of tourists

By Ko Gyi Tha

Thanks to rapid progress of Myanmar, this year’s visits of tourists to the nation are raising than that of previous years.

Recently, I have learnt that organizations and media abroad ticked Myanmar as one of the top countries which

are the best tourist destinations across the world in 2012. In fact, it was the good news.

A large number of tourists visit Myanmar through airports, sea ports and border gates. To ensure smooth and convenient visits of the tourists, the government has relaxed the

tourist visa system. At present, arrangements are being made for enabling the tourists to pay easy and smooth visits to Myanmar through e-Visa system.

A person who witnessed the daily visits of larger number of tourists at Shwedagon Pagoda said, “Since recent months and days, I have seen larger number of tourists at the pagoda. I am pleased to read the news and information in newspapers and journals about yearly and monthly increasing of tourists. I think the visit of larger number of tourists may depend on development and changes in political sector of the nation. The tourists very prefer smiling faces and attitude of Myanmar people. I have an experience that a tourist group very preferred a baby being carried by the mother on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda and took photos of the baby from various points of views. Such circumstance was like a scene that paparazzi take photo of a renowned actress in competitiveness. About 10 foreigners took

photo of the child.”

To be able to maintain the increasing number of tourists, it is necessary to upgrade services in security, transport, hotel, communication, reclamation of new tourism zone and health sectors with the expectation of raising greater number of tourists in the future.

The Myanmar Investment Commission and the Office of the Quartermaster-General invited local and foreign investors to submit proposal tenders for buildings and land plots in Yangon so as to put investments in the hotels and tourism services. Likewise, those who have taken land plots for establishment of new hotel zones and for construction of hotels in States and Regions were urged to implement their plans as soon as possible. On completion of all plans, the tourists will enjoy more and more convenience in the tourism sector.

Translation: TTA



Tourists take photos of a lovely Myanmar child on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Breastfed babies 'are more cranky and cry more'



Not all cries are about hunger, experts advise.

INTERNET

LONDON, 11 Jan — New mums should be advised that it is normal for their baby to cry more if they are breastfed, say experts. The Medical Research Council team says this irritability is natural, and although formula-fed babies may appear more content and be easier to pacify, breast is still best. If parents have more realistic expectations more may stick with breastfeeding, they hope.

Most UK mums try to breastfeed. Within months the rate drops to a third. The Department of Health recommends that mothers exclusively breastfeed for the first six months after birth. The most common reason given for women to stop breastfeeding is that "Breast milk alone didn't satisfy my baby", which the MRC

scientists say reflects their perception of irritability as a negative signal. But they say this crankiness in babies is normal and just their natural way of communicating their needs to their mother and is no cause for alarm.

For example, some cries will be down to tiredness not hunger. And the reason formula babies are so serene could well be because they are overfed. Lead investigator Dr Ken Ong said: "Bottle-fed babies may appear more content, but research suggests that these infants may be overnourished and gain weight too quickly. "Our findings are essentially similar to other stages of life; people often find that eating is comforting." In their study, they asked more than 300 mums to comment on the temperament of their own baby and to state whether they were using breast or bottle. Overall, 137 of the infants were exclusively breastfed, 88 were exclusively bottle-fed, and 91 were fed with a mixture of formula and breast milk. — *Internet*



WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — A US ship has picked up Iranians in trouble at sea, in the second such rescue in less than a week, the Pentagon has said. US Coast Guard cutter Monomoy rescued six Iranian mariners after their vessel broke down in the Gulf. One of the six had suffered burns and is receiving treatment, Pentagon spokesman George Little told reporters. The US Navy rescued 13 Iranian fishermen last Thursday after they were captured by Somali pirates.

US ships 'in second rescue of Iranians in Gulf'

Both incidents come at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Teheran.

In the latest incident, the six Iranians were some 50 miles (90km) south-east of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr when they got into trouble early on Tuesday, Mr Little said. The crew used flares and flashlights to hail the passing Monomoy. The vessel's master indicated "that the engine room was flooding and [the ship was] not seaworthy", Mr Little added. The Pentagon said the Iranian mariners would be repatriated, although it has not yet been



The US Coast Guard cutter Monomoy was involved in Tuesday's rescue. — INTERNET

determined how. Last Thursday, forces assigned to the John C Stennis aircraft carrier group — on its way from the Gulf to Afghanistan — received a distress call from the Al Molai fishing vessel. The ship had been boarded by pirates in the Arabian Sea more than a month ago, and its crew had been kept in "harsh conditions", the Pentagon said at the time. — *Internet*

Asbos ban Trowbridge pensioners from feeding pigeons



The council says the women emptied carrier bags of bird feed around the town several times a day. — INTERNET

LONDON, 11 Jan — Two pensioners have been given anti-social behaviour orders (Asbos) stopping them feeding pigeons in Trowbridge for five years. Margaret Reynolds, 69, and Danuta Rogowa, 75, have been banned from buying more

than three loaves of bread a day or excessively feeding any birds. Wiltshire Council said they had been emptying carrier bags of bird feed around the town several times a day. The council said the action was "in the interest of public health". Procedures over a third Asbo being pursued by the council have been adjourned until next month.

The pigeon population in the county town has increased excessively over the past 10 years, according to the council. And the volume of faeces produced by pigeons "has resulted in a slip hazard on pavements" and "excessive damage to a number of buildings, including a high number of listed buildings". "The cause of the pigeon problem was attributed to the excessive feeding of pigeons by three individuals," said a council spokesperson. — *Internet*

100-year predictions that came true



John Watkins predicted Americans would be taller, tanks would exist and C, X and Q would no longer feature in our everyday alphabet. — INTERNET

LONDON, 11 Jan — In 1900, an American civil engineer called John Elfreth Watkins made a number of predictions about what the world would be like in 2000. How did he do? As is customary at the start of a new year, the media has been full of predictions about what

may happen in the months ahead.

But a much longer forecast made in 1900 by a relatively unknown engineer has been re-circulating in the past few days.

In December of that year, at the start of the 20th Century, John Elfreth Watkins wrote a

piece published on page eight of an American women's magazine, *Ladies' Home Journal*, entitled: "What may happen in the next hundred years". He began the article with the words: "These prophecies will seem strange, almost impossible", explaining that he had consulted the country's "greatest institutions of science and learning" for their opinions on 29 topics.

Watkins was a writer for the *Journal's* sister magazine, the *Saturday Evening Post*, based in Indianapolis. The *Post* brought this article to a modern audience last week when its history editor Jeff Nilsson wrote a feature praising Watkins' accuracy. It was picked up and caused some excitement on Twitter. So what did Watkins get right — and wrong? — *Internet*

Alaska snow and ice cuts off Cordova and Nome

CORDOVA, 11 Jan — Extreme winter weather has left one Alaskan town battling huge snowdrifts and forced another to seek fuel supplies from a Russian tanker. The Alaskan National Guard has arrived to dig out the town of Cordova, which has seen 10ft (3m) of snow in a week. Drifts in the town of 2,000 trapped some residents in their homes. Further north, US Coast Guard and Russian vessels are attempting to reach Nome, which has been cut off by ice and is facing a fuel shortage.

The US ship, the Healy, is attempting to cut a path through thick ice in the Bering

Sea, ahead of a Russian tanker called Renda which is carrying 1.3 million gallons (4.9 million litres) of oil. But shifting ice up to 3ft thick in the area is hindering the process, forcing the ice-breaker to double back to recut a path. The scale of the mission is unprecedented for the US Coast Guard in the Arctic, Commander Greg Tlapa told the *Associated Press*.

Flying in the fuel would be possible but extremely expensive, Nome officials say. A severe autumn storm prevented a usual pre-winter delivery of fuel and cut off the town where temperatures regularly drop below zero

Pressure on the ice is so great that the icebreaker has needed to circle back to reopen the path. — INTERNET



Fahrenheit (-18C) in January. But the resupply effort also needed to clear bureaucratic hurdles — a waiver was needed to allow a non-US ship to deliver the goods.

In Cordova, a fishing town only accessible by air and water, heavy falls of snow were followed over the weekend by rain that weighed down the snow, creating dangerous conditions. Some roofs in the town have collapsed or caved in under the weight of up to 7ft of snow. John Madden, the director of Alaska's division of homeland security and emergency management, told the BBC that after a full day of work on Monday, another storm on Tuesday is expected to bring an additional 10in to 16in of snow. Crews will be unlikely to be able to get back to work until the weekend, Mr Madden said. — *Internet*

Skyscrapers 'linked with impending financial crashes'

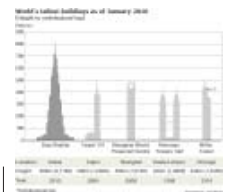


London's Shard will soon be the tallest building in Western Europe. — INTERNET

LONDON, 11 Jan — There is an "unhealthy correlation" between the building of skyscrapers and subsequent financial crashes, according to Barclays Capital. Examples include the Empire State building, built as the Great Depression was underway, and the current world's tallest, the Burj Khalifa, built just before Dubai almost went bust. China is currently the biggest builder of skyscrapers, the bank said.

India also has 14 skyscrapers under construction. "Often the world's tallest buildings are simply the edifice of a broader skyscraper building boom, reflecting a widespread misallocation of capital and an impending economic correction," Barclays Capital analysts said. The bank noted that the world's first skyscraper, the Equitable Life building in New York, was completed in 1873 and

coincided with a five-year recession. It was demolished in 1912. Other examples include Chicago's Willis Tower (which was formerly known as the Sears Tower) in 1974, just as there was an oil shock and the US dollar's peg to gold was abandoned. And Malaysia's Petronas Towers in 1997, which coincided with the Asian financial crisis. The findings might be a concern for Londoners, who are currently seeing the



construction of what will be Western Europe's tallest building, the Shard. That will be 1,017ft (310m) tall on completion. — *Internet*

NGO warns of poor air quality in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 11 Jan—Airborne pollutants have been increasing in Mexico City, making the Mexican Capital the world's fourth most polluted city, an NGO warned on Tuesday. Particles have been above safe levels since 2004, but in 2008 and 2009, they exceeded the annual average, said Gustavo Alanis, director of the Mexican Environmental Law Centre (Cemda).

The director blamed the deteriorating air quality on low

temperatures, traffic chaos, high sulphur fuel use and obsolete environmental standards for emissions control. The use of high sulphur fuel has led to a surge in the concentration of the PM2.5 particles, one of the pollutants most harmful to health, Alanis said. Mexican standards for assessing air quality in the capital city are less rigid than those recommended by the World Health Organization, giving local habitants the wrong message, Alanis added.—Xinhua

Peru replaces controversial drug tsar

Ricardo Soberon

LIMA, 11 Jan—Peru, one of the world's largest producers of cocaine, has replaced its drug tsar, Ricardo Soberon. He had come under criticism last year for temporarily suspending coca eradication efforts in the Huallaga region, where much coca is grown. Mr Soberon said the eradication programme had not had much success.

The move raised concern about Peru's commitment to the fight against the illegal growing of coca, the raw material for making cocaine. Mr Soberon's successor is Carmen Masias, who has said

she thinks the destruction of coca crops is a vital part of the fight against drugs. She has previously worked for an anti-drug charity, which is partly funded by the United States.

In August 2011, Mr Soberon said that coca eradication in Huallaga would be halted while his office re-evaluated the eradication programme. The move caused concern in the United States, which helps finance the Peruvian eradication efforts. In October, Chief of Intelligence of the US Drug Enforcement Administration Rodney Benson told a Congressional hearing that "although Colombia remains

the world's largest cultivator of coca, for the first time in



over a decade, the US government estimates that Peru has surpassed Colombia in potential pure cocaine production."

The eradication suspension was quickly reversed. The interior minister

Ricardo Soberon suspended eradication in Huallaga, Peru's second largest coca producing region.

INTERNET



"They started pushing as the gates were opened".

INTERNET

Johannesburg university stampede kills one

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Jan — One person has died after a stampede broke out among crowds of people trying to enrol at a university in the South African city of Johannesburg. "There was a person that was deceased," University of Johannesburg (UJ) spokesman Herman Esterhuizen said. The victim was said to be the mother of a prospective student. More than 180,000 high school graduates are expected to be turned away from South Africa's nine top universities this year, said the *Times* newspaper.

It said about 74,000 students would fail to win a place at the University of Johannesburg alone. Soaring unemployment has added to the pressure on place numbers, says the BBC's Andrew Harding in South Africa. Tuesday's incident occurred as students queued for last-minute places at the university, registrar Marie Muller told eNews channel. On Monday alone 5,000 registered in person for last minute places, and applicants waited through the night.

The stampede apparently happened just after the main gate was opened at 07:30 local time (05:30 GMT), emergency services spokeswoman Nana Radebe was quoted as saying. The dead woman had suffered severe head and chest trauma, reports say. Two people are also said to have been seriously injured.—Internet

Motor shoes with wheels developed for commuting

LAS VEGAS, 11 Jan — A pair of motorised shoes with wheels have been developed by Action Inc to help pedestrians get to their destinations faster, while having more fun along the way. SpnKiX is the brainchild of Peter Treadway, who says the idea for the shoes was conceived after he had trouble finding parking in Los Angeles, California.

The BBC's Matt Danzico had an opportunity to sit down with Mr Treadway at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.—Internet

Brazil rescuers find more landslide dead in Rio state

Hours of rain had loosened the earth in Jamapara.

INTERNET



JAMAPARA, 11 Jan — Brazilian rescuers digging through mud that buried homes in Rio de Janeiro State have found a further four

bodies, bringing the number of victims to 12. It is believed several people could still be buried in Jamapara. The landslide happened in the

same area where a dam burst last week, forcing thousands from their homes.

The government on Monday launched an emergency plan to deal with the torrential rains which have also hit Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo states. Rescuers in Jamapara, in Sapucaia, some 145km (90 miles) north of Rio, have been using machinery to dig through the mounds of soil and debris. Sniffer dogs have also been trying to locate people in the mud. The hillside

collapsed onto several homes, with a sound like an explosion, local residents said.

Among the victims was a family who had taken shelter in their car, fearing their house could be swept away by floodwaters.

Heavy rains and landslides are not uncommon in the mountainous area of Rio de Janeiro state. A year ago, more than 1,300 people died or went missing during a particularly wet season.

Internet

Three missing in South Korean boat fire in Antarctic

WELLINGTON, 11 Jan — Three crew members from a South Korean fishing boat are missing after their vessel caught fire in Antarctica, officials say.

The Jeong Woo 2 is still burning and appears to be sinking, the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand says. Another 37 fishermen were rescued, but at least two of them are said to have serious burns. The ship got into trouble in the Ross Sea, about 600km (375 miles) north of the US McMurdo Antarctic base. Two other South Korean fishing vessels



The Jeong Woo 2 issued a distress call early on Wednesday.—INTERNET



rushed to evacuate the crew members, after the 51-metre (167ft) Jeong Woo 2 issued a distress call early on Wednesday. However, the three missing fishermen are believed to have died in the fire, the RCCNZ says. It adds that a US research vessel - which has onboard medical facilities - is "steaming north" to help the injured, as the two rescue boats remain stuck due to ice and fog conditions. The incident happened about 3,700km (2,000 miles) south-east of New Zealand. The Jeong Woo 2 was built in Japan and is registered in Busan, South Korea, according to the *Associated Press News Agency*.—Internet

Crested macaque monkeys' follow friends before family

PORTSMOUTH, 11 Jan — Crested macaque monkeys look to their friends for "guidance" more readily than to their family, according to scientists. The University of Portsmouth team that made this discovery measured how quickly one monkey would follow the gaze of another. Gaze following is very important in macaque society - helping the animals to find food or spot potential danger. The findings are published in the journal *Animal Behaviour*. They reveal, the researchers say, the importance of friendship in complex societies, where animals live together and rely on one another. "We [study these primates] try to explain how our own social system evolved," explained lead researcher Jerome Micheletta from the University of Portsmouth. "We want to know why we humans form groups and... social relationships."

Mr Micheletta, who is studying the behaviour of macaques as part of his PhD, said that previous research on social primates had already shown how important friendship was in terms of "fitness, reproductive success



Following the gaze of another macaque helps the animals find food and spot danger.—INTERNET

and the reduction of stress". "But there's little evidence about how social relationships and friendship actually affect behaviour," he explained to BBC Nature. To find this out, he and his colleagues studied the animals' habit of following the gaze of another. The team worked with captive monkeys at Marwell Wildlife Zoological Park in Hampshire. During the experiments, the scientists had to wait for two macaques to sit together, facing one another.—Internet

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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US driver swims off to escape arrest

SAN DIEGO, 11 Jan — A suspected drunk driver escaped arrest in California on Tuesday by diving into the sea and swimming off — but a friend left in the car gave officers his name and contact details, police said. The 28-year-old man, who was not identified, took to the waves after being pulled over in Pacific Beach, north of San Diego at around 2:30 am, said San Diego Police Department (SDPD) spokeswoman Andra Brown said.

Dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, he jumped out of the pick-up truck and sprinted to the shoreline, before jumping into the sea — where temperatures have been in the mid- to high 50s in recent weeks — and swimming out of sight. Lifeguards began searching immediately, and were joined by a Coast Guard helicopter at daylight.

Several hours later, his family called police to say he had been in touch and would give himself up to police. "We ask that he call the San Diego Police Department so we know, indeed, that he is safe," said Brown. — *Internet*



Many photography enthusiasts and tourists take photos before the Nuorilang Waterfall in Jiuzhaigou scenic area, a renowned tourist resort in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 9 Jan, 2012. — XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG PAKAEW VOY NO (191)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG PAKAEW VOY NO (191) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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The Apple Inc logo hangs inside the newest Apple Store in New York City's Grand Central Station on 7 Dec, 2011, during a press preview of the store, which opens to the public on Friday. — REUTERS

Casual marijuana smoking causes no long-term damage to lungs

BEIJING, 11 Jan — Casual marijuana smoking can cause no long-term damage to lungs, according to a new study in Tuesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*. After a study of 5,115 American adults over two decades, researchers from the University of California, San Francisco found the lung capacity of people who smoked marijuana was not diminished, even among those who smoked once or twice a week.

One of the main reasons of why marijuana smoking is not as harmful as tobacco may be that people generally don't have marijuana as much as they have tobacco, the researchers explained. But it's also possible, the researchers said, marijuana smoking

simply isn't as damaging as tobacco.

This finding should reassure doctors and patients for use marijuana in medical treatment, said Dr Mark Pletcher, the lead author of the study. However, that does not mean people from now on can begin smoking marijuana without worrying anything, the researchers warned. Marijuana contains a lot of the same toxins as tobacco, and smoker can develop throat irritation, coughs and other disorders for frequent use, they added.

Xinhua



This Bollywood movie palace is tucked away in Rajasthan's gem-dealing capital, and fittingly, seating sections are named after precious stones (Emerald, Diamond). Built in the mid-1970s, the space is still considered India's top theatre. The façade is easily recognized with a coat of jaunty pink, and inside, the heavily ornamented lobby resembles a retro ballroom in ice cream-coloured pastels.

INTERNET

Strong Apple contingent expected at CES

LAS VEGAS, 11 Jan — Apple Inc, famous for giving CES the cold shoulder year after year, will field a larger presence at the world's largest trade show than many observers imagine.

More than 250 employees are registered to attend the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, according to a person familiar with Apple's plans.

One of the biggest gripes about CES is that Apple, which dominates consumer electronics, does not exhibit its wares at the show.

A reporter for Paid Content on Tuesday spotted Greg Joswiak, Apple's head of iOS product marketing walking around Sony Corp's booth at the convention centre. Apple officials could not immediately be reached for comment late Tuesday. — *Reuters*

Largest Dutch clog goes missing

COPENHAGEN, 11 Jan — Dutch police in the eastern town of Enter are investigating the theft of the country's largest clog after it disappeared without trace from its main street, a police spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

"We don't know who stole it, but it's disappeared," Rosita de Vries said of the clog, which at four metres (13 feet) in length and weighing almost two tonnes is the largest example of the Dutch icon, police said. "It is a joke. We even received an email announcing that the shoe will probably be back after Carnival," in mid-February, she told *AFP*, adding it was believed the shoe disappeared Friday night or early on Saturday.

Police however failed to trace the email and inquiries lead to nowhere, De Vries said. "They (the thieves) would have had a truck to fly off with this shoe," which was about two metres (6.5 feet) high, De Vries said adding even if it was done as a joke, the thieves will "answer in court" for their actions. Still worn today, clogs are carved from a single piece of wood and are as emblematic to the Netherlands as cheese, tulips and windmills.

Internet

How rhinos' little feet carry their bulky bodies

LONDON, 11 Jan — How rhinos, one of the heaviest land animals, use their stumpy little feet to distribute their weight has left scientist puzzled for decades.

Now a team from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is one step closer to unravelling this mystery.

Rhinos at Colchester Zoo have been trained to walk across a hi-tech track that is packed full of sensors.

This will allow the researchers to measure the pressure and forces in the rhinos' feet to reveal how the weight is distributed.

"Rhino feet are a bit of a

mystery to us," the BBC quoted Prof John Hutchinson, from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC)'s structure and motion laboratory as saying.

"There is a little bit known about their anatomy and their health, but nothing that is known about the mechanics of their feet, the physics, the physiology, the detailed anatomy or the behaviour of how they use their feet," he stated.

The animals are given a signal - a gentle touch on the horn with a pole - so that they walk through a small, narrow enclosure, which has been fitted with the pressure track.

"The pressure pads measure the amount of force per unit area that the rhinos are placing on individual regions of their feet at a high resolution," said Prof Hutchinson.

Dr Olga Panagiotopoulou, who is also working on the study, is interested in looking at the differences between how elephants and rhinos carry their weight.

Elephants have five toes that point forwards, giving them a tip-toed stance, as well as a recently discovered sixth "false toe" that points towards their heel, and a squishy pad at the back.

St Helens man 'stabbed noisy neighbour' to death

ST HELENS, 11 Jan — A woman was stabbed to death by a neighbour during a dispute over her anti-social behaviour, a court heard. Heather Dyer, 22, was stabbed in Chapel Street, St Helens, on 23 July, weeks before she was due to be evicted over parties and loud music. Paul Lyon, 44, who lived in the flat below the victim, denies murder saying he acted in self defence.

Liverpool Crown Court heard there had been friction between the neighbours for months leading up to the incident. The court heard Mr Lyon confronted Miss Dyer in the early hours when she and seven friends were leaving her flat, before stabbing her three times in the chest and stomach with a sharp fish filleting knife.

When her friends tried to intervene one of them, William Taylor, was also stabbed twice but survived the attack following a period in intensive care at hospital. Mr Lyon denies the murder of Miss Dyer and the attempted murder of Mr Taylor. He says he was attacked by the group.

Internet



Heather Dyer was stabbed three times.

INTERNET

Rhinos have three rigid toes, with a more evenly spread pad across their feet.

"Our preliminary results show that there is a difference in the distribution of weight between an elephant and a rhino's foot," said Dr Panagiotopoulou.

"Elephants generate the highest pressure on the outside part of the feet, whereas rhinos have the highest pressures on the inside part.

"The next step is to try to see if there are any anatomical differences or differences in the locomotion to account for this," he added.

Internet

Identical quadruplets born in Germany

Doctors in Germany said a woman who gave birth to identical quadruplets beat odds of about one in 13 million. Doctors at Leipzig Hospital said the mother, whose name was not released, beat the daunting odds when she became pregnant with quadruplets Laura, Sophie, Jasmin and Kim without the help of artificial insemination and it was near miraculous that the pregnancy made it to the 28th week without complications, *The Local.de* reported Tuesday. The girls were born 10 weeks early, doctors said. "They came through the early birth astoundingly well," a hospital spokeswoman said. Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung, who was made the girls' godfather, visited the infants Tuesday. "Crazy," Jung said of the quadruplets. "It is simply unbelievable."



Disorderly parking consequences.

Police respond to gunshots — from movie

Police responded to the sound of gunfire and screams at a Sweden apartment — and found it came from a violent movie a couple were watching, officials said. The couple had been watching the Swedish thriller "Gone" in their Umea apartment in northern Sweden when they heard pounding on the door and police yelling for them to open it, *The Local* reported. "I couldn't believe it," the man told the *Vasterbottens-Kuriren* newspaper.

The couple asked what the officers wanted. "The police said we should open the door otherwise they would break it down," the man said. He said he walked to his balcony and saw three officers who appeared "ready to draw their weapons." Turns out, a neighbour had called the police after hearing the gunfire and screams. Police, realizing the sounds came from the movie, left and the couple resumed watching it.

Two-year-old gives police dad's hiding place

Police in Florida said a 2-year-old boy clued officers into his wanted father's hiding spot in the attic. St Petersburg police said officers went to the home of Valdet Gjelogshi, who was wanted for violating his probation, Saturday afternoon and the mother of his child, Megan Merschen, told them Gjelogshi was not home, the *Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times* reported Tuesday. However, Merschen admitted Gjelogshi

was in the home when the 2-year-old child blurted out that his father was in the attic. Gjelogshi, 29, was arrested and charged with violation of probation and resisting an officer without violence. Merschen, 25, was charged with obstruction. Gjelogshi's father, Ismet Gjelogshi, 62, answered his son's phone Sunday and said the probation violation stemmed from a miscommunication about Gjelogshi's court date.

Man with unusual name arrested in Wis

Police in Wisconsin said an unusually named man, Beezow Doo-Doo Zopitty-bop-Bop, was arrested on charges including a probation violation. Madison police said the 30-year-old man, who was born Jeffrey Drew Wilschke and had his name legally changed to Beezow Doo-Doo Zopitty-bop-Bop in October, was arrested Thursday by officers responding to reports of excessive drinking and drug use near Reynolds Park, *The (Madison) Capitol-Times* reported Tuesday.



Beezow Doo-Doo Zopitty-bop-Bop's mugshot. Courtesy of the Dane County Sheriff.

Officers found Zopitty bop-Bop walking near the park's tennis courts. He was previously known to officers from an

April 2011 arrest, when he was found walking in Peace Park with a loaded handgun in his backpack. "A search of his property revealed a knife, marijuana and drug paraphernalia," police spokesman Howard Payne said. Zopittybop-Bop-Bop was tentatively charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and a probation violation.

News Album



Courtesy of Universal Pictures.

100-year-old Universal debuts new logo

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan—Hollywood's Universal Pictures, which marks its 100th anniversary this year, has debuted a new logo. The updated image will be used starting Tuesday on printed materials, while an animated version is to make its first appearance when "Dr Seuss' The Lorax" has its premiere in February. The Seuss movie hits theaters 2 March. The studio said another significant element of its centennial celebration is the extensive restoration of 13 of its most beloved titles, including "To Kill a Mockingbird," "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Jaws," "The Sting," "Out of Africa," "Frankenstein" and "Schindler's List." Universal Studios Home Entertainment will kick off the celebration this month with a special 50th anniversary release of "To Kill a Mockingbird," debuting on Blu-ray for the first time. "This is a proud moment for all of us who've had the privilege of working at

Universal Pictures," Ron Meyer, president and chief operating officer of Universal Studios, said in a statement Tuesday.—*Internet*

Can you say that on TV? The Supreme Court debates

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—In colorful give and take, the Supreme Court debated whether policing curse words and nudity on broadcast television makes sense in the cable era, one justice suggesting the policy is fast becoming moot as broadcast TV heads the way of "vinyl records and 8-track tapes." The case involves programming that is available to all viewers free over the air — even though many now receive it through paid cable connections — during hours

when children are likely to be watching. Some justices said they were troubled by inconsistent standards that allowed certain words and displays in some contexts but not in others. One example frequently cited by the networks was the Federal Communications Commission's decision not to punish ABC for airing "Saving Private Ryan," with its strong language, while objecting to the same words when uttered by celebrities on live awards shows. Justice

Elena Kagan said the FCC policy was, "Nobody can use dirty words or nudity except Steven Spielberg," director of the World War II movie. Other justices seemed more open to maintaining the current rules because they allow parents to put their children in front of the television without having to worry they will be bombarded by vulgarity. Chief Justice John Roberts, the only member of the court with young children, hammered away at that point.—*Internet*



In this 9 Dec. 2002, file photo, Cher accepts a lifetime achievement award at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas during the Billboard Music Awards show.—*INTERNET*

Keith Urban records song for SEAL film

BEVERLY HILLS, 11 Jan—Country music star Keith Urban has co-written and recorded a song to appear in the end credits of the US Navy SEAL film "Act of Valor," Relativity Media said. The collaboration with songwriter Monty Powell is the first song Urban has written and recorded specifically for a motion picture. Set to open in theaters 24 Feb, the movie stars a group of active-duty Navy SEALs, along with actors Roselyn Sanchez, Alex Veado, Jason Cottle and Nestor Serrano. "I loved the challenge of writing for a film," Urban said in a statement. "I've never done that before. After seeing 'Act of Valor,' my co-writer and I wanted to capture the essence of not only what these



Keith Urban performs at the 2011 CMA Country Christmas special in Nashville, Tennessee on 10 November, 2011. INTERNET

men and women do so extraordinarily, but how that relates to all of us. 'Valor' shows us what they are willing to give their all for, which made me wonder, 'What am I willing to give my life for?' 'For You' is intended to allow the listener to define who that is for them.—*Internet*

Singer Elton John turns author

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan—Singer Elton John is writing his first book "Love Is the Cure: Ending the Global Aids Epidemic," a collection of memories and meditations on the fight against Aids. The book is due for July release and will be accompanied by an audiobook recorded by the singer himself. "Why are we not doing more? This is a question I have thought deeply about, and wish to answer - and to help change - by writing this book... This is a disease that must be cured not by a miraculous vaccine, but by changing hearts and minds," the guardian.co.uk quoted the 64-year-old as saying. John will also share his experience of losing friends including Freddie Mercury, Managing Director of Idea Cellular. Speaking on the occasion, Abhishek remembered his first award which he got for 'Yuva' and termed it as the greatest moment in his life. The Filmfare awards 2011 will be very special as there will be giving out 2,500 'Black Lady' trophy at the awards show, to be held on 29 January.—*Internet*



Singer Elton John.

who died of an Aids-related illness in 1991 and the teenage activist Ryan White - in the book. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Elton John's AIDS Foundation. *Internet*

57th Filmfare awards on 29 Jan

MUMBAI, 11 Jan—Bollywood star Abhishek Bachchan today announced the 57th Idea-Filmfare Awards open by lighting a ceremonial lamp, along with other dignitaries, here. The dignitaries present on the occasion were Tarun Rai, chief executive officer of Worldwide Media, and Himanshu Kapadia,

QPR name Hughes as new manager

Former Blackburn, Man City and Fulham boss replaces Neil Warnock at Loftus Road

LONDON, 11 Jan — Queens Park Rangers have appointed Mark Hughes as their new manager. The Welshman joins the Loftus Road club on a two-and-a-half year contract two days after they parted company with former boss Neil Warnock. Hughes will take first-team training for the first time on Tuesday afternoon with the rest of his backroom staff Mark Bowen, Eddie Niedzwiecki and Kevin Hitchcock, who have also been appointed. "It's a great feeling to be back in football and to be the manager of QPR," Hughes told the club's official website



Mark Hughes takes his first job in football since leaving Fulham last summer.—INTERNET

(qpr.co.uk). "I'm fully aware of the challenge in the short and long term and I am genuinely excited about the ambition of the owners. "Now the immediate priority is to consolidate our place in the Barclays Premier League, but beyond that, the future is very bright and fills me with great enthusiasm." QPR are 17th in the Barclays Premier League after winning promotion from the Championship last season, hovering one point and one place above the relegation zone. Hughes left his last role as Fulham manager at the end of the 2010-11 season, and before that had been in charge at Manchester City, Blackburn Rovers and with the Wales national team.

QPR chairman Tony Fernandes added: "Mark has an proven track record in the Premier League, bringing a wealth of experience at both club and international level.

"He has a great passion to achieve as a manager and has already been hugely successful in his career. "His ambitions match those of the board and we are delighted to have him at the helm." Hughes' first match in charge of QPR will be a Barclays Premier League trip to Newcastle United at the Sports Direct Arena on Sunday.— Internet

Coquelin signs new Arsenal contract

LONDON, 11 Jan — Versatile Frenchman Francis Coquelin has put pen to paper on a new long-term contract that will keep him at Arsenal. The 20-year-old has become a regular in Arsene Wenger's first-team squad this season, and the Gunners have now tied him down to a longer deal at the Emirates Stadium.

Coquelin joined Arsenal in 2008 and spent last year on loan at French side Lorient, and he has made 12 appearances in all competitions for the Gunners this season, seven of those coming in the Barclays Premier League. A statement on the club's official website (arsenal.com) read: "Coquelin has established himself as a valuable addition to the first team squad this term, putting in a man of the match performance against Tottenham in October and providing excellent cover in both full-back positions.

"As well as being a regular for the reserves in recent seasons, he was an integral part of



Francis Coquelin has impressed in both defence and midfield for Arsenal this season.—INTERNET

the FA Youth Cup-winning side of 2009 and a key member of the France team to win the European Under-19 Championship a year later. "Everyone at Arsenal looks forward to Francis' continued contribution to the club in the years to come." Coquelin does, however, face a spell out of action after suffering a hamstring injury in Arsenal's 1-0 FA Cup third round victory over Leeds on Monday.— Internet

Wenger says Henry return was like a dream

LONDON, 11 Jan — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger admitted the return of Thierry Henry to the Gunners first team was like 'a dream'. Henry came off the bench to score the only goal of the match in Arsenal's 1-0 FA Cup third round victory over Leeds at the Emirates Stadium on Monday. The 34-year-old Frenchman, who played for the club from 1999-2007, was making his second debut for Arsenal, having joined on a two-month loan deal from New York Red Bulls in the United States.

He collected an Alex Song pass 10 minutes after coming on and kept his cool to slot past Leeds keeper Andy Lonergan to book a fourth round home tie against Aston Villa. "It was a little bit of a dream, it was like a story about football that you

would tell to young children," said Wenger. "Unfortunately it is not often like that in our game, but sometimes it happens. "You could see when Thierry came on he had a presence on the pitch and if we could find him, he would be dangerous. He was sharp physically. "He was already

a legend here and now has added a bit more to the story." Wenger says he had seen enough of Henry in training to know he could still make a difference for Arsenal, and is delighted by the impact the former Barcelona striker is having on his young squad.



Thierry Henry scores the winner for Arsenal in their FA Cup tie against Leeds.—INTERNET



Roy Hodgson has already started bolstering his West Brom squad in January. INTERNET

Hodgson delight at Allan capture

LONDON, 11 Jan — West Bromwich Albion manager Roy Hodgson says he is excited by the talent of the club's new signing Scott Allan. Allan, 20, has joined the Baggies on a two-and-a-half year contract after agreeing a transfer from Scottish Premier League club Dundee United, and will wear the number 16 shirt at the Hawthorns. Allan had attracted the attention of the likes of Celtic and Rangers, and Hodgson believes he has a big part to play in the second half of the season as West Brom try to stay in the Barclays Premier League.

"Scott's one of the most exciting talents in Scottish football, so why shouldn't he be part of our immediate top-flight plans?" Hodgson told the club's official website (wba.co.uk). "It

would be harsh to demand of him that he steps on the training field at the start of the week and is then the best player next Saturday "But certainly, he'll come into the first-team squad straight away and we'll see what impact he can make.

"I've seen him play out wide and centrally. He's not a winger, he's a talented midfielder and like so many of our midfielders, I think he can do the job centrally or in a wider position." Allan has earned four Scottish Under-21 caps and had made nine appearances for Dundee United this season before completing his move south of the border. West Brom are 15th in the Barclays Premier League and face Norwich City at the Hawthorns on 14 January. Internet

Olympic gymnastics test event: Britain's men qualify for London 2012

LONDON, 11 Jan — Great Britain's men won the Olympic test event in style to qualify a full team for the Games for the first time since Barcelona 1992. They missed their first chance to qualify for London 2012 at the World Championships in Tokyo, finishing 10th in team qualifying. The squad needed

a top-four finish at London's O2 Arena to secure their spot. And, led by Dan Purvis's brilliant all-round performance, Britain comfortably beat France to win the event.

Purvis, along with teammates Daniel Keatings, Louis Smith, Max Whitlock, Kristian Thomas and Ruslan Panteleymonov, triumphed with a total of 358.227 points ahead of France, Spain and Italy, who also qualified. Canada, Brazil, Puerto Rico and Belarus missed out. Purvis scored 89.948 for the six pieces of apparatus to top the individual all-round standings ahead of Thomas, with Keatings third.—Internet

Purvis won bronze at the World Championships in 2010.—INTERNET



International Sports

Four teams to receive Tour of Italy wildcards

ROME, 11 Jan — Four teams will receive wildcards of this year's Tour of Italy, organizers announced on Tuesday. The four teams will compete alongside the 18 World Tour teams from 5 to 27 May. Italians Androni Giocattoli, Ireland's Colnago-Csf Inox, British team Farnese Vini and Germany's NetApp got the nod which means there will be no place for Italian team Acqua & Sapone, who have instead been given a place in the Tirreno-Adriatico, Milano-Sanremo and Tour of Lombardy races.—Xinhua



Rossi has won seven MotoGP world titles. INTERNET

Valentino Rossi considering 2014 retirement from MotoGP

ROME, 11 Jan — Italy's seven-time MotoGP champion Valentino Rossi is contemplating retiring after the 2014 season. Before he quits, the 32-year-old is keen to bring success to his Ducati team and wants to extend his contract before it expires at the end of 2012. Rossi, who won his last title in 2009, said: "I want a new two-year contract with Ducati, maybe the last, and then I'll think about how to enjoy myself.

"I want to win something here, make Ducati grow and then stop." Last year, Rossi failed to win a MotoGP race for the first time in his career as he finished in seventh place in the championship. He has won nine championships, seven in the premier class, including five consecutive titles from 2001-05 and two more in 2008 and 2009, riding for Honda and Yamaha. Internet

Bomber enters Afghan police chief compound but misses



The police chief, who at the time of the blast was in his office, was separated from the waiting room by a middle room and survived the attack unhurt. —INTERNET

KANDAHAR CITY, 11 Jan—A teenage suicide bomber managed to slip through tight security into police headquarters in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province on Wednesday, but blew himself up before he could reach the police chief he was targeting, authorities said.

A policeman was wounded in the attack, which came less than a year after a suicide bomber successfully killed previous Kandahar police chief Khan Mohammad Mujahid in his compound, an attack the Taliban said they had ordered.

The assault raises concerns about security in an area that was the birthplace of the Taliban and has been a focus of efforts by a surge of US troops to boost Afghan government control in the south.

"The 15-year-old boy had a letter for me and wanted to meet me," police chief Abdul Raziq told reporters.

"But as soon as he got near my office a policeman noticed he (had explosives) and started to shoot him," Raziq said, adding that the bomber detonated his explosives on the spot.

Raziq said an investigation was underway to see how the adolescent bomber managed to pass several layers of security with explosives strapped on his body. —MNA/Reuters

DISTRICT NEWS

Talk on anti-human trafficking given

YANGON, 11 Jan—Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) General Administration Department organized the talk on prevention against trafficking in person on 26 December morning.

Police Major (Staff) of Yangon East District Police Force explained matters related to anti-human trafficking.

In-charge of World Vision social association U Soe Than replied to questions on prevention against trafficking in person raised by those present. —Myamma Alin

Babies, model mothers awarded

PYAWBWE, 11 Jan—A baby show and model mother contest, organized by Pyawbwe Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Office in Pyawbwe on 4 January.

Chairperson of the District MCWSC Daw Htar Htar Win, Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Myint Myint Htwe and officials awarded winners in the baby show and model mother contest. —Township



Traffic rules explained

HOMEIN, 11 Jan—Talks on traffic rules and road users were held at Withodhdi Monastery in Homein Sub-Township of Lankho District on 7 December.

Township Administrator U Ye Lwin explained traffic rules and road disciplines. IP Yin Aye of Myanmar Police Force talked about declining of traffic accidents and Ward 2 Administrator U San Aung, curbing traffic danger in Shan language. —Township IPRD

Separate attacks kill 10 in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 11 Jan—At least 10 people were killed in separate attacks in the northern Mexican State of Chihuahua overnight Tuesday, local authorities said. Ciudad Juarez City police chief Juan Pablo Soria was killed in an attack Tuesday morning in a market where five civilians were also wounded in a shooting, said the authorities.

According to initial investigation, a heavily armed gunman arrived in a van with high-impact weapons and fired at a group of policemen, who then returned fire at Soria's order. Local

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(12-1-12 09:30 am ~ 13-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

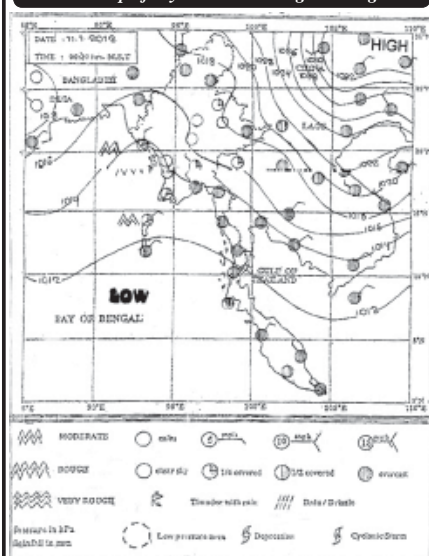
- * Opening
- * News
- * "Myanma Orchestra" The Magic of Melodious Music (Episode-3)
- * News
- * Marketable Goods
- * Myanmar Arts Handicrafts
- * New Year Flag-Mast Festival Dance (Kayah State)
- * News
- * Education Malaysia, Math Challenge and Teacher Enhancement Workshop
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Let's enjoy Fish Crispy
- * News
- * City Light & Country Lamp
- * News
- * How to choose where to eat
- * VCD Centre
- * News
- * "MI People's Celebrities" Ye' Taik, Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * A Short Trip with Steve
- * Myanmar Movies "Great Goodwill"

MYANMAR TV

(12-1-2012) (Thursday)

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:30 pm
- 2. Myanmar Traditional Performing arts Competition
- 4:45 pm
- 3. One Village & one Product
- 5:20 pm
- 4. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 5. Teleplay (Forest)
- 4:45 pm
- 6. Science and Environment
- 6:00 pm
- 7. Evening News
- 5:50 pm
- 8. "ASEAN" Programmes
- 6:15 pm
- 9. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Myanmar Series
- 6:40 pm
- 11. Approachaing Science Discoveroy World
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Documentary
- 15. TV Drama Series
- 16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 12th January, 2012

Sl. No.	Region/States	Temperature (C°/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	24.75	15.59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	26.82	12.54	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	35.95	19.66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	15.59	03.37	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	23.73	14.57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	26.82	14.57	Partly cloudy	
7	Tamuhay	25.95	21.70	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	30.96	17.63	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	30.96	17.63	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	29.84	15.59	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	34.93	23.73	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	32.90	20.68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30.96	18.64	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25.77	10.50	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	27.81	08.46	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	27.81	12.54	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	31.88	20.68	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31.88	14.57	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32.90	20.68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	29.84	15.59	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (C°) to (4°) above January average temperatures in Magway and Tamuhay) Regions, Shan, Kayah and Mon States, (5°) above January average temperatures in Kachin State and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Patheingyi and Hahka (4°) each and Heho (5°).

Bay Reference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon, Tamuhay) Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas

Pakistan PM sacks defence secretary, tension rises

ISLAMABAD, 11 Jan—Pakistan's prime minister has sacked the defence secretary, his office said on Wednesday, in a move likely to ratchet up tension with the powerful military and raise fears of instability in a country vital to efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

The decision comes during intense friction between the civilian government and the army over an unsigned memo that sought US help in reining in Pakistan's generals, a scandal dubbed as "memogate" that has reached the Supreme Court.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's office said in a statement retired Lieutenant General Naem Khalid Lodhi, the

police also said four people—three men and one woman—were kidnapped and their bodies were found in the courtyard of an abandoned house south of Ciudad Juarez hours later, with signs of having been shot dead.

Meanwhile, two other murders were reported in different parts of Ciudad Juarez, which was considered as Mexico's most violent city. Three other men were killed in different parts of Chihuahua. More than 45,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence in Mexico since President Felipe Calderon launched a "war against organized crime" in 2006. —Xinhua

top defence bureaucrat, was fired for "gross misconduct and illegal action which created misunderstanding" between institutions.

Distrust between civilian leaders and the generals has bedeviled the nuclear-armed South Asian country for almost all of its existence, with the military ruling for more than half of its 64-year history after a series of coups.

A senior military official told Reuters the latest tension was "very serious." Lodhi was replaced by cabinet secretary Nargis Sethi, who is considered close to Gilani.

If Gilani decides to dismiss the army or intelligence chiefs — arguably the two most powerful men in the country — he needs the defence secretary on his side. —MNA/Reuters



Pakistan's Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani speaks during an interview with Reuters at his residence in Islamabad on 27 Sept, 2011. —REUTERS

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at the Government Residence of Thailand.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing called on Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at the Government Residence of Thailand at 1.30 pm yesterday.

At the call, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing expressed thanks to Thai people and Royal Thai Armed Forces for their assistance to Myanmar

when Ayeyawady Region was hit by cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008 and earthquake jolted in Tachilek and Tahlay regions in 2010. He said that achievements have been secured in peace talks with national race armed groups at the border areas and there remains signing of agreements at the Union level. He urged her to help finish construction of Dawei deep sea port, highways and railroad as quickly as

possible as peace and stability is being restored in border regions between the two nations. He said that as arrangements are being made for establishment of industrial zones in border regions, it is necessary to urge factories and workshops of Thailand to put investment in the industrial zones. The new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on its part is bringing about the democratization process with much relaxation, he added. There is no plan of U turn in system, he said. Moreover, he said that armed forces of the both countries will cooperate in prevailing peace and prosperity of the border regions.

For her part, the Thai Prime Minister said that she especially thanked President U Thein Sein for reopening the border bridge between the two nations. She expressed her belief in democratization process of Myanmar. She showed her thanks for quick assistance on drinking water, medicines and foodstuffs provided by Myanmar in July when many regions of Thailand were flooded. She said that Thailand will cooperate with Myanmar in implementation of the projects for timely completion. Moreover, she said that she is delighted about bilateral cooperation between the peoples of two nations and armed forces.

Also present at the call were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein and Military Attaché Col Win Maung.

The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by Supreme Commander General Tanasak Patimapragorn of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and senior military officers of the Thai Armed Forces.—MNA

Two people including one from KNU killed, 11 wounded in bomb blast in Anankwin Village of Kyain-seikkyi Township Injured undergoing medical treatment at Thanbyuzayat, Mawlamyine hospitals

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The initial news regarding the explosion at the Buddha Pujaniya in Anankwin Village of Kyain-seikkyi Township, Kayin State, on 7 January was issued yesterday.

According to the follow-up information, as a person who was presumed to be from KNU took out money from his bag to buy something at a row of stalls near the temporary theatre of Soe Ko Ko-Win Ko Ko Theatrical Drama at the Buddha Pujaniya in Anankwin Village at 10.15 pm on 7 January, a bomb that dropped from the bag to the ground caused explosion. The person taking the bomb along with him died on the spot with injuries at his face and body in the blast. Moreover, vendor Ma Cho Cho Myint of Anankwin Village died due to injury caused by bomb splinters. Ma Nu Nu Khaing, 20, Ma San Ngwe, 31, Maung

Kyaw Kale Naw, 12, Maung Kyaw Kale Chay, 10, Maung Myo Win, 22, and Ma San San Htwe, 35 of Anankwin Village, Naw Phaw Tee Chay, 18, Naw Phaw Laei, 12, and Naw Thu Lu Wah, 17 of Tanyin Village, Naw Phaw Pale, 19 of Kyaukbalu Village and Naw Mu Yel Se, 14 of Thanbaya Village, totalling 11 were injured in the incident. Of them, five injured are undergoing treatment at Thanbyuzayat Hospital and six at Mawlamyine Hospital.

The person taking along with a bomb was presumed to be from KNU group. As he was dead with injuries at the face in the blast, the authorities concerned continue more investigation in detail. State, District and Township level officials are providing necessary assistance to the injured in coordination with officials of the hospitals.

MNA

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced that a strong earthquake of magnitude 7.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (off the west coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia) about 1011 miles south of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 01 hrs 11 min 10 sec MST today.—MNA

Talks on trafficking in person held

MOMAUUK, 11 Jan—Talks on prevention against human trafficking were given at General Administration Department in Momauk Township on 30 December.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Thein Aung gave talks on trafficking in persons followed by IP Aye Aye Khaing of Bhamo District Anti-Human Trafficking Special Squad.—Township IPRD

Micro-credit societies disburse loans

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 11 Jan—Seven micro-credit societies disbursed loans to primary assistance teachers and departmental personnel at BEPS on 14th Myoma Street in Mawlamyinegyun on 4 January. Karuna, Thabyetun, Wah Wah Win, Min Tharaphu, Panthee and Hsinmin micro-credit societies presented K 119.6 million to 1078 teachers and departmental staff.—Myanna Alin



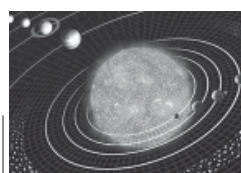
Loud hospital rooms linked to poor patient sleep

PAGE 4

Orange juice futures surge to record on fungicide fears



PAGE 4



How the sun sets in an alien world

PAGE 5

QPR name Hughes as new manager



PAGE 14



Valentino Rossi considering 2014 retirement from MotoGP

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