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

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo on inspection tour of Hkamti District

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union ministers, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Lwin, deputy ministers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr VS Seshadri and officials, went to Hkamti yesterday.

They were welcomed at Hkamti Airport by Sagaing Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Saw Myint Oo, Chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Rhu San Kyu, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw representatives of the region, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local national races.

At the office of Hkamti District General Administration Department, the Vice-President and party met district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders.

Hkamti Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw and Deputy Commissioner of the district U Kyaw Than reported on locations, areas and administrative matters of the township and district. They also gave account of land utilization, rainfall, monsoon crops cultivation target and progress in 2011-2012, cultivation of cold season crops, production of 10 major crops to meet the tar-



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeting those present at the meeting hall of Hkamti District GAD.—MNA

get, cultivation and production of rubber, transformation to mechanized farming, disbursement of agricultural loans, gross production of the district up to December 2011-

2012, per capita income, tasks of education and health sectors, and progress of water and power supply to undertake rural development tasks. They submitted requirements of

the region.

Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye presented reports on efforts for ensuring smooth *(See page 8)*

Union Supreme Court, Region/State High Courts meet



Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo delivers an address at second coordination meeting between Supreme Court of the Union and Region/State High Courts.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—The second work coordination meeting between Union Supreme Court and Region/State High Courts took place at the meeting hall

of the Union Supreme Court here this morning, with an address by Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo.

U Tun Tun Oo in his speech said that judges, being responsible to strengthen the judicial pillar, were to adhere to uprightness without bias and corruption. The meeting was attended by judges of Union Supreme Court, chief judges of Region/State High Courts, director-general and deputy directors-general of the office of the Union Supreme Court and region/state law officers. The chief judges reported on legal and judicial affairs of respective courts and the Chief Justice of the Union assessed the reports.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 14 January, 2012

Tears of joy

There are three happiest days in Myanmar society—wedding day, the day on which a novice monk leaves the Order and the day on which one is released from jail. Among these days, the last two are the happiest days.

Today is the happiest day not only for those who were serving their prison terms in respective jails but also for their families, relatives and friends. Some are overcome with joy and they are on the verge of tears. In the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by President U Thein Sein, Amnesty and clemency are granted to prisoners with the aim of ensuring stability and eternal peace of the State, fostering national reconciliation, enabling them to participate in the nation-building endeavors by realizing the magnanimity of the State. This January alone sees the release of convicts for two times. Late 3rd January, the government set a total of 6656 prisoner free—6087 male and 569 female.

The 651 prisoners were granted amnesty again on 13 January. It is heard that people express special thanks to the State and President U Thein Sein for the releasing because the fact that the recent release included notable persons although the number is less than previous times.

In the time of the new government, the release of prisoners is four times, including this time. Among several reforms of the President, releasing the prisoners is the significant one.

Those people, on their parts, should do their bit for peace and stability of the State and development works. All people happily welcome the release of prisoners and should put all-out efforts into the emergence of a democratic nation.

Health research conference concludes

YANGON, 13 Jan—The final day session of Myanmar Health Research Conference took place at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Ziwaka Street, Dagon Township here this morning. Resource persons read out seven papers and scholars talked about progress towards malaria control in Myanmar.

In the afternoon, the best papers were chosen and awarded. At the conference, 73 papers were read, 24 research posters were displayed and nine technical seminars were held. —MNA

Libraries open in Lashio, Paungde

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Pyinnya Alin Library in Pontun Village, Lashio Township, Shan State had a new building opened on 6 January. The new library building was built with K one million by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and K one million by the local people.

Similarly, a new building of Yaungchi Oo Library in Ywathitgyi village in Paungde Township, Pyay District was opened on 10 January. Wellwisher U Tin Win Zaw donated a Sky Net receiver to the library. Moreover, a new building of Dhamma Gonyang Library in Ohnnesan Village, Paungde Township, Pyay District was opened on 24 December. —MNA

New asphalt road commissioned

YEDASHE, 10 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the Mingala Lake asphalt ringroad was inaugurated in Yedashe on 29 December.

The 1700 feet long road was constructed at a cost of K 10.9 million by Township Development Affairs Committee. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representative U Myo Thant and Executive Officer U Tin Moe Hlaing of Township DAC formally opened the road.

Township IPRD

Union Information and Culture Minister makes an inspection tour around Pale Township, presents cash assistance for regional development

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan to engage in development of socioeconomic life of rural people made an inspection tour around Pale Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 9 January. He visited Mayin, Bantway, Watky and Lekan villages where works on construction of village-to-village roads, extension of school buildings, construction of rural libraries, repair of embankments damaged by torrential rains were inspected. He also met locals from those villages and immediate environs.

In meeting with them, the Union Minister asked about condition of villages and then explained rural development plan being carried out by the State. He highlighted durability of extended school buildings, effective education system with fitting teacher-student ratio, bona fide use of assistance for construction of rural dispensaries, giving healthcare services to locals using medical funds, timely completion of rural libraries under construction, sustainable development of libraries, maintenance of village-to-village roads, pilot plantation of high-yield Palethwal paddy strains, and public participation for betterment of small loan disbursement.

During visit to the villages, the Union Minister presented K one million for Thitkyitaing village library, K 500,000 each for the libraries of Zeithtaunt, Kyawtaw, Thepyinkyal, Kanpauk and Hsepyin villages, K 500,000 for Aye Chan Tha health centre, K one million for Mayin village library, K 500,000 for Khintha village library, K one million each for the libraries of



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan donates cash to Bantway Library in Pale Township.—MNA

Bantway, Watky and Jap villages, K 500,000 for construction of In-taing-Tha village school building, K 500,000 each for the libraries in Kathoung, Lepalin and Khayu villages, K 500,000 for the embankment in Lekan Village, K one million for Monpin village library, K 500,000 each for the libraries of Khadwin, Kone and Taungpyauk villages, clothes and plastic buckets for villages and knowledgeable books for libraries.

On 10 January, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan inspected repair of Nyopyayoe creek embankment near

Htantawtaik Village of Pale Township which was adversely damaged by torrential rains in October 2011. The embankment is beneficial to 500 acres of farmland. There, he urged locals to boost agricultural production rate tapping Nyopyachaung creek water.

The Union Minister later proceeded to Hnawkan Village where he donated publications for rural library, calling for sanitation tasks in the village and progress of rural library.

MNA

Student aerobic contest organized in Toungoo

TOUNGOO, 13 Jan—The inter-basic education school primary level aerobic exercise Volume-I and Volume-II and middle level aerobic contest of Toungoo Township was organized at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Toungoo on 7 January.

In the opening ceremony, all contending teams took physical exercise, followed by primary level aerobic contest.

Township Education Officer U San Kyaw and officials presented prizes to winning teams in two level contests on 8 January. —Kyemom



LOCAL SPORTS

Sumitomo Golf Classic reaches third round

YANGON, 13 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 Machinery, continued for the third day at Yedaguntaung Golf Club in Mandalay today.

After the third round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) was leading the professional golfers event by firing 209 in three-day total. Thein Zaw Myint put his position behind the leader with 210, and Min Naing (Srixon) securing the third position with 212.

Myo Win Aung was standing at the top position in the men's amateur event with 213, followed by Naing Ye Lin with 216 in the second position and Ye Htet Aung, 217 in the third.

After the second round of the senior professional golfer event, Myint Shwe was taking the leading role with 143. Myint Thaug (PRGR) and Myint Thein tied at the second position with 149 each.

In the seniors' second round, U Win Kyi (Su Su Aye Aung Traditional Medicine) scored an ace of Titleist Pro V1 No. 2 ball at 131-yard-distance Hole No. 3 with the use of Srixon Iron No. 9, playing together with partners Nay Win Myint, Sai Kyaw Htin and U Aung Htut. —MNA

Ali Larijani accepts Turkey talks offer

TEHERAN, 13 Jan—Iran has said it has agreed to talks with six world powers on its controversial nuclear programme, days after the UN confirmed Teheran was producing 20% enriched uranium. Visiting Turkey, parliament speaker Ali Larijani said he had accepted Ankara's offer to try to restart the talks.

Negotiations have stalled since a meeting in Istanbul a year ago. Analysts say 20% enrichment is a major step to making nuclear weapons, but Iran says it is for peaceful purposes. More sanctions have been imposed on Iran since the last talks, with the US and EU targeting its oil revenues. Mr Larijani was speaking a day after a nuclear scientist was murdered in Teheran, an act that Iran blamed on the US and Israel.—*Internet*



Correspondents say Ali Larijani is one of the most influential players in Iran's opaque political system. INTERNET

Drone Strike in N-W Pakistan kills six militants

MIRANSHAH (Pakistan), 13 Jan—A second drone strike in two days killed six militants in North Waziristan in northwest Pakistan near the Afghan border in Thursday, intelligence officials said, further marking the resumption of the US campaign paused for almost two months.

The suspected US drone fired two missiles at two cars in the Dogga area of North Waziristan tribal region, killing six. "The missiles hit two cars that were heading towards the border. Several foreigners were in the cars, but we have no information on their nationalities yet," an intelligence source told Reuters. The source said there might be more casualties.

The strike comes two days after a similar attack killed four militants in North Waziristan, marking the resumption of the unacknowledged US drone campaign, paused after a 26 November NATO cross-border attack killed 24 Pakistani troops. The last drone strike before Tuesday's was on 17 November. Such attacks have been used increasingly in recent years in the fight against insurgents in Pakistan's largely lawless Pashtun tribal areas in the west and northwest who fuel violence across the border in Afghanistan.

Drones armed with missiles have played a significant role in US counter-terrorism operations as the Obama Administration winds down the war in Afghanistan and Washington's focus expands to militant havens in countries including Pakistan.—*MNA/Reuters*



The US drone campaign has reportedly killed dozens of militants and civilians.—INTERNET

Afghan suicide bomb kills senior official in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, 13 Jan—A suicide bomber in southern Afghanistan has killed a district governor who was

considered to be an important figure in the peace process. Sayed Fazuldin Agha, the governor of Panjwai District

in Kandahar, was targeted by a car bomb. Two of his sons and two guards were also killed in the attack. A BBC correspondent says Mr Agha had recently persuaded several groups of Taliban militants to stop fighting and be reconciled with government forces.

The attack took place on a road between Mr Agha's home district and Kandahar City, in the Kobi area. The bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into the vehicle carrying the district governor. Nine policemen and a civilian were injured. Sayed

Fazuldin Agha, who took up his position a year ago, was considered one of the most successful district governors in Afghanistan.

The BBC's Bilal Sarwary, in Kabul, says he was credited with bringing relative security to a once restive district, as well as bringing groups of Taliban fighters back into the government. A number of government officials in Afghanistan have been assassinated in recent months by militants opposed to the Afghan government. Kandahar's police chief was targeted by a suicide attack within the police building on Wednesday, but only the bomber was killed.

Internet



A man waits at Kandahar hospital for news of a relative, one of 10 people injured in the attack.—INTERNET

Russian spacecraft to crash soon, risks unclear

MOSCOW, 13 Jan—A Russian space probe designed to burnish the nation's faded space glory in a mission to one of Mars' moons has turned into one of the heaviest, most toxic pieces of space junk ever. It will come crashing down to Earth in just a few days.

The Russian space agency Roscosmos' latest forecast has the unmanned Phobos-Ground probe falling out of Earth's orbit Sunday or Monday, with the median time placing it over the Indian Ocean just north of Madagascar.

It said the precise time and place of its uncontrolled

plunge can only be determined later, and unless someone actually spots fiery streaks in the sky, no one may ever know where any surviving pieces end up. Space experts agree it's unlikely to pose big risks.

At 13.2 metric tons (14.6 tons), the Phobos-Ground is one of the largest spacecraft ever to plummet to Earth, considerably larger than the two defunct satellites that fell to Earth last fall and landed in the water.

Roscosmos predicted that only between 20 and 30 fragments of the Phobos probe with a total weight of up to 200 kilograms (440

pounds) will survive the re-entry and plummet to Earth. It's the third satellite to crash out of the sky in under five months: An old NASA 6-ton atmospheric research satellite came tumbling down in September, and a 3-ton German science satellite followed suit in October. But both were well past their prime.

Internet

China develops largest rocket propellant tank

BEIJING, 13 Jan—China has successfully developed its largest rocket propellant tank, which will be used to contain hydrogen fuel for the country's Long March-5 carrier rocket, the tank's developer said on Wednesday.

The homegrown rocket tank, measuring five metres in diameter and 20-plus metres in length, consists of bottom parts and eight tubular sections, which are welded together, according to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

The academy made a major technological breakthrough in the welding of such a massive-sized fuel tank, it said, adding that developing and manufacturing a propellant tank are among the most difficult tasks in building a rocket.

According to a government white paper issued last month, China will develop next-generation launch vehicles, including Long March-5, Long March-6 and Long March-7, in the 2011-2015 period. The Long March-5 will use a non-toxic and pollution-free propellant, and will be capable of placing a 25-tonne payload into near-Earth orbit, or placing a 14-tonne payload into geostationary orbit, the paper said.

Xinhua

Pirates attack Spanish navy ship off Somalia

MADRID, 13 Jan—Spain says pirates have attacked a Spanish navy warship off Somalia, drawing gunfire that reportedly left one dead and prompted a helicopter chase in which six attackers were arrested. A Defence Ministry official says the assailants may have mistaken the 165-metre (540-foot) ship Patino for a freighter in the attack before dawn Thursday.

The Patino is part of an European Union flotilla fighting piracy in the Indian Ocean. The ministry said in a statement that the detainees had confirmed a colleague was killed, and his body thrown overboard. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with department rules.

Internet



Female workers view a cross-stitch artwork "Riverside Scene at the Qingming Festival" at a cross-stitch art show in Huzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 11 Jan, 2012. A cross-stitch art show was held at Huzhou power bureau on Wednesday with the theme "Beautiful Life" to greet the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on 23 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

20 Killed in sectarian fight in N-E Yemen

SANAA, 13 Jan—At least 20 gunmen were killed in Thursday clashes between Shiite Houthi rebels and Sunni Islamist Salafi fighters in Yemen's northwest restive province of Hajja, a provincial security official said.

"Twenty gunmen, mostly from the Shiite rebels, were killed, while dozens of people from both sides were wounded," the official told Xinhua by phone on condition of anonymity.

"The clashes, triggered by conflicts related to the disputes over religion difference, flared in the morning in several villages bordering the northern province of Saada, a stronghold of the Houthi-led Shiite rebels who have engaged in fighting with outgoing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government forces over the past six years," the official said.

MNA/Xinhua

Health Tip: Better manage stress

Learning how to control stress can help you feel better and improve your health. The Cleveland Clinic suggests ways to help manage stress:

- * Become aware of the earliest signs of stress and how you respond.
- * Learn and practice a relaxation technique that becomes "your" way of "de-stressing."
- * Practice the technique as soon as you feel stress.
- * Imagine yourself in a stressful situation so you can practice dealing with stress.
- * Apply your stress management techniques to real-life situations.—*Internet*

Owning TV, car ups heart attack risk

UPPSALA, 13 Jan—Owning a car and TV was associated with an increased risk of heart attack, in a study involving 29,000 people in 52 countries, a Swedish researcher says. Lead researcher Claes Held of Uppsala University in Sweden and colleagues analyzed data from 1999 to 2003. One group of more than 10,000 middle-age men and women who had had a single heart attack was compared with a group of 14,000 who had no history of cardiovascular disease.

Physical activity at work and during leisure time was divided into levels of exertion. The study, published in the *European Heart Journal*, found any kind of physical activity during leisure time was shown to be a plus — compared to doing almost nothing — with heart attack risk dropping 13 percent for mild activity and 24 percent for moderate or strenuous exercise. Heavy physical labor did not reduce risk at all.

The study found 25 percent of the respondents in poorer and middle-income nations who owned a television and a car had an increased risk of heart attack, and two-thirds of those in rich nations who had a TV and car had an elevated risk of heart attack.—*Internet*



The key to people's enjoyment of alcohol? The release of endorphins in certain areas of the brain.—*INTERNET*

Why alcohol feels good

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Jan—Alcohol leads to the release of endorphins in certain areas of the brain that produce feelings of pleasure and reward, US researchers suggest. Lead author Jennifer Mitchell, clinical project director at the Gallo Centre and an adjunct assistant professor of neurology at University of California, San Francisco, said the finding is the first time that endorphin release in response to alcohol consumption has been directly observed in humans.

years, based on animal studies, but haven't observed in humans until now," Mitchell said in a statement. "It provides the first direct evidence of how alcohol makes people feel good."

Endorphins are small proteins with opiate-like effects that are produced naturally in the brain. "This is something that we've speculated about for 30

Senior author Howard L Fields said the discovery of the precise locations in the brain where endorphins are released provides a possible target for the development of more effective drugs for the treatment of alcohol abuse.

Internet



Polio breakthrough: India marks disease-free year

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—India marked a year since its last new case of polio Friday, a major milestone in a country once considered the epicentre of the disease and one that gives hope the scourge can be eradicated worldwide.



File photo of an Indian boy receiving anti-polio vaccination drops by an Indian Health worker as part of a Polio vaccination campaign in Amritsar on 12 January, 2012.—*INTERNET*

There were 150,000 cases of the highly contagious virus in India in 1985, but the country has now gone 12 months since discovering a new case — in an 18-month-old girl in the eastern state of West Bengal. India, which until recently accounted for half of all the polio cases in the world, is one of four countries — with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria — where the disease is still officially endemic. But if all laboratory tests for the wild polio virus return negative in January, India will follow recent success stories Niger and Egypt and be removed from the endemic list by the World Health Organization by mid-February.

There was cautious optimism in New Delhi as health workers and the government celebrated the milestone while stressing that the virus — which mainly affects young children and can cause paralysis and deformed legs — could resurface at any time. "We are excited and hopeful, at the same time, vigilant and alert," Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said in a statement to mark the occasion. Since the last new case was reported on 13 January last year, another vast effort to immunise children has seen 2.3 million vaccinators travel across India to deliver 900 million doses.

Internet

Kodak eyes bankruptcy cash from Citigroup

NEW YORK, 13 Jan—Eastman Kodak Co is in advanced talks with Citigroup Inc to obtain financing that would be used if the money-losing photography company files for bankruptcy protection, *Bloomberg News* said on Thursday, citing three people familiar with the matter. Advisers to Kodak are also lining up a "stalking horse" that would become the lead bidder for a patent portfolio should it be auctioned via the Chapter

11 process, the newswire said, citing one of the people. Neither Kodak nor Citigroup immediately responded to requests for comment. Shares of Kodak fell 7.2 cents to 60 cents in after-hours trading following the report. They had closed regular trading down 14.3 cents, or 17.5 percent, at 67.2 cents. Kodak has been left behind by rivals that embraced digital camera technology faster. The Rochester, New York-based company is trying to raise

which if successful could boost the value of its patents. On Tuesday, Kodak restructured its business operations, but it was unclear whether this would be enough to restore the company's health sufficiently fast.

According to published reports, Kodak may file for Chapter 11 protection by early February, and seek about \$1 billion of debtor-in-possession financing to keep it operating while in bankruptcy. The company is scheduled to report fourth-quarter results on 26 January.

Reuters

Chicago soybean drops 2.4 pct as rain hits Argentina

CHICAGO, 13 Jan—Chicago soybean price lost 2.4 percent on Wednesday, pressured by increasing precipitation over the main growing area in South America. Corn dipped while wheat ended a tad higher.

The most active corn contract for March delivery dipped 0.5 cent to close at 6.515 US dollars per bushel. March wheat added 1.25 cents, or 0.2 percent, to 6.41 dollars per bushel. March soybean trimmed 29 cent, or 2.4 percent, to close at 12.03 dollars per bushel.

Greater than expected precipitation on some major dry areas in Argentina and southern Brazil in the last 24 hours has helped drive soybean price sharply lower, as many analysts believed that soybean

production potential can still recover, as long as the weather turns more crop friendly for mid-January through mid-February.

As for corn, many traders believed that significant and permanent yield damage has been done for corn in South America, as most of Argentina's corn crop was in the critical, yield-determining pollination phase of development during the hottest, driest weather over the past month, which is considered supportive to corn prices.

Meanwhile, a stronger US dollar and weaker energy prices both weighed on the market. Wheat prices got a boost, as US Department of Agriculture was expected to trim US and global ending stocks estimate in its Supply/Demand reports.—*Xinhua*



Rolls of Kodak T-Max film are seen on a camera store shelf in New York on 5 January, 2012.

INTERNET



cash by selling a large patent portfolio, a sale that could enable it to avoid bankruptcy.

It also has patent litigation against such companies as Apple Inc, Taiwan's HTC Corp <2498.TW> and BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd,

Retail sales weak, jobless claims up

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan—US retail sales rose at the weakest pace in seven months in December and first-time claims for jobless benefits moved higher last week, signs the economic recovery is shaky despite a recent pick-up in growth. Retail sales increased a less-than-expected 0.1 percent, despite continued strength in auto purchases, a Commerce Department report showed on Thursday.

"The retail sales (data) suggests that spending isn't really picking up any momentum," said Sean Ince, an economist at 4Cast Ltd in New York. Robust factory output and improved hiring have fueled the view that the US economy has so far resisted a global slowdown as the euro zone grapples with a likely recession. A separate report showing 0.3 percent growth in business inventories during November buttressed the case the economy accelerated in the last three months of 2012 as firms restocked their shelves.

Many economists expect the economy grew at least 3



Shoppers carrying bags cross a street at middle Manhattan in New York, on 12 January, 2012.

INTERNET

percent in annualized terms in the fourth quarter, although some analysts lowered their forecasts because of the weak retail sales data. A Labor Department report that showed a surprisingly sharp increase in initial unemployment claims to a six-week high of 399,000 last week reinforced lingering concerns about the economy.—*Reuters*

Warmer summers cause colder winters, scientists say



A view shows the semi-frozen layer of a water reservoir on a cold day on the outskirts of Srinagar on 12 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

SINGAPORE, 13 Jan—Warmer summers in the far Northern Hemisphere are disrupting weather patterns and triggering more severe winter weather in the United States and Europe, a team of scientists say, in a finding that could improve long-range weather forecasts.

Blizzards and extreme cold temperatures in the winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 caused widespread travel chaos in parts of Europe and the United States, leading some to question whether global warming was real.

Judah Cohen, lead author of a study published on Friday in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, and his team found there was a clear trend of strong warming in the Arctic from July to September.

Existing predictions would also expect a warming trend during winter as well. But Cohen and his team found this was not the case for some regions, in a counter-intuitive finding that reveals more about the complexity of the world's climate system than any flaws in the science of global warming.

"For the last two decades, large-scale cooling trends have existed instead across large stretches of eastern North America and northern Eurasia. We argue that this unforeseen trend is probably not due to internal variability alone," the scientists say in the study.

Reuters

Astronomers see more planets than stars in galaxy



This handout illustration provided by San Diego State University, shows a newly discovered planet, called Kepler 35, that circles not one but two stars. Scientists thought this type of two-sun system made famous as the home planet of the fictional Luke Skywalker is too unstable to support planets.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan—The more astronomers look for other worlds, the more they find that it is a crowded and crazy cosmos. They think planets easily outnumber stars in our galaxy and they are even finding them in the strangest of places.

And they have only begun to count.

Three studies released Wednesday, in the journal *Nature* and at the American Astronomical Society's conference in Austin, Texas, demonstrate an extrasolar real estate boom. One study shows that in our Milky Way, most stars have planets. And since there are a lot of stars in our galaxy — about 100 billion — that means a lot of planets.

"We're finding an exciting potpourri of things we didn't even think could exist," said Harvard University astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger, including planets that mirror "Star Wars" Luke Skywalker's home planet with twin suns

and a mini-star system with a dwarf sun and shrunken planets.

"We're awash in planets where 17 years ago we weren't even sure there were planets" outside our solar system, said Kaltenegger, who wasn't involved in the new research. Astronomers are finding other worlds using three different techniques and peering through telescopes in space and on the ground.

Confirmed planets outside our solar system — called exoplanets — now number well over 700, still-to-be-confirmed ones are in the thousands.—Internet

Tobacco use by ancient Mayans confirmed

ALBANY, 13 Jan—US archaeologists examining Mayan containers say they've identified nicotine traces in a flask, the first physical evidence of tobacco use by ancient Mayans. The study published in *Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry* said the residue was identified in a flask marked



Mayan flask with hieroglyphics saying "tobacco."—INTERNET

with Mayan hieroglyphics reading, "y-ootot 'u-may," ("the home of its/his/her tobacco.")

This is only the second case to confirm the text on the exterior of a Mayan vessel corresponds to its ancient use, researchers said.

"Investigation of food items consumed by ancient people offers insight into the traditions and customs of a particular civilization," Jennifer Loughmiller-Newman from the University at Albany in New York said. "Textual evidence written on pottery is often an indicator of contents or of an intended purpose, however actual usage of a container could be altered or falsely represented."—Internet



'Smart TVs' offer new windows onto the Internet

SEOUL, 13 Jan—The world's obsession with tapping into the Internet is being played out on the biggest screen in the house, with software startups, TV makers, and technology titans such as Google and Microsoft adding momentum to the trend. Even the beloved firm behind iPads and iPhones is expected to weigh in soon with a revamped version of an Apple TV system that it has long called a hobby.

The Consumer Electronics Show that ends Friday in Las Vegas is brimming with companies large and small betting that "smart TVs" will quickly take over living rooms.

"The television is rapidly becoming the gateway of content from the Internet," Sony executive deputy president Kazuo Hirai said during a CES presentation.

Samsung, Sony, and LG are among major industry players that unveiled new smart TVs at the show.

South Korea-based LG announced it is making its own chips to beef-up TVs with online capabilities along

with gesture and voice controls. "Since the start of the smart TV revolution we've found that industry chip sets have held us back from offering high performance," said LG Electronics chief technical officer Scott Ahn. "Starting this year we will apply our own L line chips to a premier TV line."

LG has joined a small cadre of manufacturers building televisions synched to the Internet with Google TV software.

Internet pioneer Yahoo! kicked off the trend at CES three years ago, with "widgets" embedded in Connected TV models to link them to online services the way "apps" link mobile gadgets to games, video or other Internet content.

More than eight million TVs with Yahoo! widgets have been bought and sales are accelerating as the technology improves and more sets come with wireless Internet connections, according to Connected TV director Russell Schafer.

"The next stage is really about engagement, providing relevant content," Schafer told AFP.—Internet

Gadget Watch: ATM turns your old phone into cash

LAS VEGAS, 13 Jan—The International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is all about the latest smartphones, tablet computers and other devices. But what about the old gadgets? Don't they get any love?

Actually, one machine at the show is designed to help recycle gadgets, giving old phones a fitting end, or a better home.

Drop your phone into the EcoATM, and the machine will pay you what it believes the handset is worth. The cupboard-sized machine has a large touch screen and a big metal "mouth" where you can place your old phone or MP3 player. It takes pictures of the device to figure out what kind of shape it's in. Then, you choose one of the machine's many cables to connect your device. The machine will figure out if the device's internals are working.

When its analysis is complete, it gives you a quote on the spot, based on what a network of hundreds of electronics-recycling companies are willing to pay for it. If you accept, it spits out cash. In a demonstration by EcoATM founder Bill



A visitor touches the screen on Sharp's 80-inch touch screen TV set Aquos Board, an Interactive Display System during the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. The show kicked off with a dazzling array of high-tech gadgetry including ultra-thin laptops, snazzy smartphones, iPad rivals and flat-screen and 3D TVs.—INTERNET



This undated photograph provided by ecoATM, shows the EcoATM, which is a cupboard-sized machine with a big touch screen and a big metal "mouth" where you can place your old phone or MP3 player.

INTERNET

Bowles, it said a Verizon iPhone 4 was worth \$221.

An older phone might not be worth reselling, but the machine will take it anyway, and give you a dollar. The company will melt down the phone in an environmentally friendly fashion to extract the precious metals from it.

WHY IT'S HOT: It's tough to recycle old electronics. Collection bins are few and far between, though some electronics stores accept items for recycling. You can sell newer phones on eBay, but it's a bit of a hassle.

THE UPSHOT: A fast way to deal with old electronics that keeps your conscience clean and might give you a bit of extra money.

THE DOWNSIDE: The EcoATM's quote probably won't match what you can get for your item on eBay. On the other hand, you avoid eBay's seller fees. You have to physically go to the ATM. It's a big machine, about twice the size of a regular drugstore ATM. It has a lot of complicated moving parts, and could be prone to breakage.

AVAILABILITY: There are about fifty of them deployed right now, mostly in grocery stores and malls in California. The San Diego-based company behind the machine says it plans to have about 500 out at the end of this year, spreading eastward.—Internet



Workers arrange the newly launched Apple iPhone 4S phones at a branch of China Unicom in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 11 Jan, 2012. Apple recently announced that the latest version of its hot-selling iPhones will be released in China and 21 other countries on 13 January.—XINHUA

Crisis-hit Italy is more exposed to mafia power: prosecutor

MILAN, 13 Jan — Mafia has put its hands on the Italian economy cashing in on the ongoing financial crisis, leading anti-mafia prosecutor Antonio Ingroia told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview on Wednesday. Ingroia, who is a public prosecutor in Sicily's capital Palermo, said that the mafia today is still a dangerous economic and financial power in Italy.

"Mafia is still far from

being defeated, on the contrary, it has become a real criminal holding whose offshoots extend to other European and international countries," he said.

In the prosecutor's view, a report released recently by retailers' association Confescenti describing mafia as the "biggest bank" in the country was not an exaggeration.

According to the report, a growing number of small-

and medium-sized enterprises are the main victims of rackets, loan sharking and robberies which generates a turnover of 138 billion euros (175 billion US dollars) a year, or 7 percent of Italy's gross domestic product.

"Although quantifying the black and grey economy is always a hazard, these numbers give a realistic representation of the mafia phenomenon," Ingroia said.

Xinhua

Samsung and LG fined by regulator for price fixing

SEOUL, 13 Jan — South Korea's antitrust regulator has fined Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics for conspiring to fix the prices of some appliances. The companies face a penalty of 44.6bn won (\$39m; £25.2m), said the Fair Trade Commission (FTC). The regulator said the two firms held secret meetings in 2008 and 2009 to agree on prices for washing machines, flat-panel TVs and laptop

computers.

Samsung and LG are the largest makers of the products in South Korea. "Their price rigging caused damage to many consumers by leading the prices of washing machines, flat-panel TVs and laptop computers to rise more than other competing products," the FTC said. Samsung was fined 25.8bn won, while LG was fined 18.8bn won.

Internet



Samsung and LG are the biggest makers of many home appliances in South Korea.—INTERNET

Ford is recalling more than 450,000 minivans, SUVs in US

CHICAGO, 13 Jan — Ford announced a recall Wednesday of more than 450,000 minivans and SUVs for risks from fire and loss of power in US, *Detroit News* reports.

Ford is calling back 244,530 2001 and 2002 Ford Escape compact SUVs for fire risks, the company warned owners not to park the vehicles in garages until they get them repaired.

The 2001 and 2002 model Escape SUVs are "equipped with a brake master cylinder reservoir cap that could leak brake fluid, if brake fluid leaks from the cap, it could come in contact with the antilock brake system (ABS) module wiring harness connector," according to the company.

And the corrosion can develop in the electrical connector, leading to melting, smoke or a fire, the company said.

In April 2007, Ford recalled the 2001-04 Escapes to address potentially missing or misplaced seals in the

wiring harness connector to the ABS module electronic control unit.

Ford said some repaired vehicles may not have received a proper inspection or application of electrical grease as instructed in the FSA.

Ford is not aware of any accidents or injuries attributed to this condition, and dealers will replace the brake master cylinder reservoir cap and the ABS electrical system will be modified. Separately, Ford is recalling 205,896 2004-2005 Ford Freestar and Mercury Monterey vehicles in the US, because the torque converter output shafts in their power trains may fail and cause sudden loss of power, increasing the risk of crash.

Ford is aware of two minor accident allegations (with minor injuries alleged in one, no injury in the other) over the course of eight years. And dealers will replace the torque converter free of charge.

Xinhua

Star Trek-style 'tricorder' invention offered \$10m prize

LAS VEGAS, 13 Jan — A \$10m (£6.5m) prize is on offer to whoever can create a Star Trek-like medical "tricorder". The Qualcomm Tricorder X Prize has challenged researchers to build a tool capable of capturing "key health metrics and diagnosing a set of 15 diseases". It needs to be light enough for would-be Dr McCoys to carry—a maximum weight of 5lb (2.2kg).

The prize was launched at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. According to the official Star Trek technical manual, a tricorder is a portable "sensing, computing and data communications device".

The kit captured the imagination of the show's millions of viewers when it was first used in the cult series' first broadcast in 1966. In the show, which was set in the 23rd Century, the crew's doctor was able to use the tricorder to diagnose an illness simply by scanning a person's body.

The award organizers hope the huge prize may inspire a present-day engineer to figure out the sci-fi gadget's secret, and "make 23rd Century science fiction a 21st Century



Without the tricorder the enterprise crew would have struggled to boldly go. INTERNET

medical reality".

"I'm probably the first guy who's here in Vegas who would be happy to lose \$10m," said X Prize Foundation chairman Peter Diamandis.

While the tricorder is obviously the stuff of science fiction, other X Prizes have become science fact. In 2004, the Ansari X Prize for a privately funded reusable spacecraft was awarded to the team behind SpaceShipOne. Much of the technology they developed was subsequently utilised by Virgin Galactic.

Internet

G77, China face "arduous task" to promote world development: Chinese envoy

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Jan — The Group of 77 and China (G77+ China) faces the arduous task of promoting and implementing the international development agenda in 2012 against the backdrop of the fragile world economic recovery, a senior Chinese diplomat said here on Wednesday. Li Baodong, Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations, made the remarks at a ceremony at the UN headquarters in New York, where Argentina handed over the G77 chairmanship to Algeria.

"The new year is fraught with challenges and difficulties," Li said. "With the world economic recovery still fragile, developing countries have to grapple with multiple crises. The G77 and China faces the arduous task of promoting and implementing the international development agenda."

Putting forward his recommendations for further cooperation among G77 countries, Li said the biggest problem facing international

development efforts is lack of implementation. He urged developed countries to "honour their commitments by increasing financial support, technological transfer and capacity building to the developing countries."

"We should make means of implementation a core task for Rio+20 and push for an action-oriented, balanced and pragmatic outcome of the conference," he added, referring to the conference slated for June in Brazil.

Meanwhile, he urged the international community to "comprehensively assess progress and gaps, carefully sum up lessons learned, firmly uphold the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities,' always place poverty eradication at the top of the international development agenda, promote the deepening of the reform of the international economic and financial system, and safeguard the important role of the United Nations in the global economic governance."—*Xinhua*

ASEAN touted as single destination for tourist travel

JAKARTA, 13 Jan — Indonesia formally introduced ASEAN as a single tourist destination during the region's tourism forum in Manado of North Sulawesi Province on Wednesday, the *Jakarta Post* reported here on Thursday.

Tourism and Creative Economy Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said that campaign was launched in Indonesia and would be fully implemented after problems involving issuing common visas to non-ASEAN residents and issuing free visas to ASEAN residents were settled.

Pangestu said that the governments of ASEAN's 10 member nations were currently finalizing the introduction of the visas. "We are still waiting for approval

from Cambodia and Myanmar," Pangestu said. She said that the heads of the governments of Association of Southeast Asian Nations' member states had, in principle, agreed to the introduction of common visas for non-ASEAN visitors and free visas for the residents of ASEAN member nations.

The 31st ASEAN Tourism Forum, which will take place from 8 to 15 Jan, comprises the 35th ASEAN National Tourism Organization Meeting, Ministerial Meeting and Travel Exchange.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Xinhua



The 90th European Motorshow with 110 years' history officially opened in Brussels on Wednesday.—XINHUA

Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative substituted

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 4/2012 today.

The translation of the notification is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 4/2012
5th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(13th January, 2012)

Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute a Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw representative stated hereunder in Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against him.

BC 25110
Major Thein Win

(Substitution) BC 25235
Major Win Nyunt

By order

Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

New Year IT & Mobile Fair starts

YANGON, 13 Jan—New Year IT & Mobile Fair 2012 was opened today at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township here this morning.

Chairman of the organizing committee U Thaug Tin explained about the fair which was formally

opened by Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association U Ye Yint Win and Chairman of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association U Min Zeya Hlaing.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the exhibition and viewed round the exhibition.

A total of 53 companies display 147 booths at the fair which concludes on 15 January.

MNA

Union F & R Minister calls for modernization of banking services

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—"Banking service is instrumental in national economic growth as it works as it transfers savings of people into investment field", said Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun at the concluding of Banking Services Course for officers of Myanmar Economic Banks No 2/2011 at Myanma Economic Bank (Headquarters) on Myat Pan Thazin Street in Nay Pyi Taw Banks Zone here this morning.

The Union Minister urged the trainees to keep in touch with modern banking services and to apply theoretical knowledge in real worksite combining with own experiences. He then awarded the outstanding trainees and Managing Director of Myanma Economic Bank U San Thaug presented certificates to trainees and gifts to instructors.

A total of 51 trainees attended the four-week course.—MNA

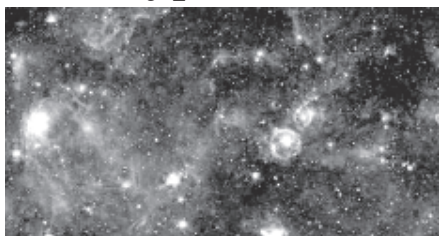
Bubble-blowing stars seen in the thousands by public

AUSTIN, 13 Jan — A project to spot the "bubbles" that young, massive stars blow in the gas surrounding them has come up trumps, finding more than 5,000 of the objects.

That increases the known catalogue of bubbles by more than a factor of 10. The discoveries were made by citizen scientists studying images from the Spitzer space telescope, as part of the Milky Way Project.

The much-improved catalogue has been submitted to the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

One of the great remaining mysteries of how



Members of the public are asked to spot "bubbles" in striking infrared images — INTERNET

our Universe works is how stars themselves form in vast clouds of swirling gas.

Astronomers are keen to find star-forming regions, hoping to catch the process at various stages to better understand it. Groups of stars

form in clusters near particularly large stars, and one good hint of these stellar nurseries is the "bubble" that they blow into the surrounding gas - a bubble that can be seen in pictures taken by Spitzer's infrared

Ottarathiri Township facilitated with new hospital (50-bed)

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A ceremony to open Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township Hospital (50-bed) was held in conjunction with the handing over of its documents in the compound of the hospital this morning.

Union Minister at President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and townselder U Hla Thein Swe formally opened the new hospital.

Union Minister U Thein Nyunt unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it together with Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin, the deputy minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council.

They visited the hospital.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun handed over documents related to the hospital to Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, and Director Dr Kyi Maung Swe of Aung Chan Tha Co

donated hospital equipment worth K 17 million and K 2 million to the medical trust fund to Head of Township Health Department Dr Saw Thet Hlyar Aung.

The new facility is located on 7.64 acres of land on Minbu Street in Zawana Theikdi Ward of Ottarathiri Township. The hospital is constituted with out-patient ward, medical ward, operation theatre, delivery room, residences of medical superintendent and assistant surgeon, six-apartment staff quarters and eight four-apartment staff quarters. The hospital and buildings were constructed by Aung Chan Tha Co beginning August 2010 by spending K 250 million funded by the State.

The State has planned to build one eye, ear, nose and throat specialist hospital (500-bed), one orthopaedic specialist hospital (500-bed), one women's specialist hospital (500-bed) and one children's specialist hospital (500-bed).

MNA

Basic English proficiency course for staff concludes

YANGON, 13 Jan—The basic English proficiency course No.3 for staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs concluded at Pitakat Chamber of the Ministry of

Religious Affairs (Branch) on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this afternoon, with an address by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung. Officials presented

prizes to outstanding trainees and completion certificates to the leader of trainees.

Altogether 59 trainees attended the four-week course.—MNA

Japan to invest in Myanmar's energy sector

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A Japanese delegation led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano called on Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay at his office here this morning.

The two sides held a coordination meeting on

cooperation in energy sector and signed and exchanged the agreed minute records.

In the meeting, the Union Energy Minister expressed his joy for Japanese cooperation in energy sector, asking the Japanese minister to consider establishment of

petrochemical complexes as priority as it could create jobs for Myanmar people. The Japanese Minister revealed Japan's interests for economic cooperation with Myanmar, promising to send Japanese companies for further discussions.

MNA

Winner in satellite image contest

NEW YORK, 13 Jan—An image of the ribbon-like Rakaia river in New Zealand has won an online vote for one company's best satellite image of 2011. The river, shown in March 2011, runs for about 150km to the Pacific. Commercial satellite imaging firm DigitalGlobe invited Facebook users to choose its best image of last year. The picture of the twisting river beat other striking images of Ground

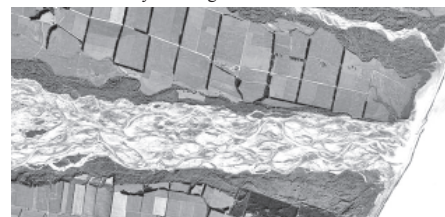
Zero in New York, and Palm Island, Dubai, to claim the top spot. Another satellite imaging company, GeoEye, has also published a 2012 calendar made up of its top images from last year.

DigitalGlobe encouraged users to vote on 20 of its images from last year. This was whittled down to five at the beginning of January; the winner has just been announced. In addition to the photos of Ground Zero and Palm Island, the original choices included a satellite photo showing the space shuttle Atlantis being moved out of its assembly building

in Florida for its final mission.

GeoEye's images include a photo of unusual, tree-like sedimentary formations in the Persian Gulf off Qatar and a shadow cast on the ground by the Gateway Arch in St Louis, Missouri, which is the biggest manmade structure in the US. A French high-resolution imaging satellite, named Pleiades, was launched in December. Its manufacturers are expecting it to go head to head with both GeoEye and DigitalGlobe in the satellite imaging market.

Internet



The Rakaia river runs through the Canterbury Plains on New Zealand's South Island.

INTERNET

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses the meeting with district/ township level departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders at the meeting hall of Hkamti District GAD.

MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo...

(from page 1)

transport in Hkamti Township and organizing the local farmers to grow perennial crops like rubber and tea for long-term development of regional economy.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Tun of Hkamti Township and townsenders U Khin Maung Nyunt and U Hla Pe submitted reports on requirements of education, health and electricity in the region.

The Union ministers and deputy ministers who accompanied the Vice-President reported on progress of respective ministries and arrangements for providing assistance for development of Hkamti District.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aye Myint of Wetlet Township from Sagaing Region briefed the Vice-President and party on legislative matters and progress of Hluttaw affairs at Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the Constitution.

After fulfilling the requirements of education, health and one fire engine,

generating of hydropower in the rural area on a manageable basis, upgrading of town ringroad raised by local people with financing from the Union ministers and the region chief minister, the Vice-President delivered an address.

He said that he and his party comprising the Union ministers, the chief minister, deputy ministers and officials were there to see development of Hkamti region and Naga Self-Administered Zone and to provide necessary assistance.

He said that in studying development potentials of economic sector in today's Hkamti region, it can be seen that there remains a large acres of vacant and virgin lands in the region. He added that the region has sufficiency of water for agricultural purpose with 100 inches rainfall. He stressed the need to effectively utilize the land and water resources. However, he said that it is necessary to grow perennial crops such as rubber, tea, orange, pepper and grape fruit which are suitable for

the region as it has seen little development. He pointed out that arrangements are to be made for organizing the local enthusiasts and investors to do agricultural business.

Moreover, he said that

and poverty alleviation. The plan is necessarily to be implemented, he said. He requested that those in the leadership role, respective rural people and those related to the plan are to harmoniously participate in the

ment tasks and international economic cooperation. To be able to do business easily by local entrepreneurs and investors at home and abroad, the government has carried out some changes in laws, relaxation of tax, and estab-

to understand laws and procedures and regional development.

So, people are urged to make cooperation with the government for eternal peace and development of the country, he concluded.



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets the medical superintendent, doctors and nurses at Hkamti District People's Hospital.—MNA

under the leadership of the President, the eight-point plan is being implemented for ensuring rural development

successful undertaking of the plan.

He said that nowadays, representatives elected by the people are sharing legislative, executive and judicial powers in undertaking their respective tasks in accord with the constitution. He noted that activities and effectiveness are gradually emerging as a democratic nation.

For perpetual development of the country, special emphasis is placed on peace and stability of the State and the rule of law. Now, the country sees a lot of progress in an attempt to stop armed insurgencies that have existed since post Independence period.

All inclusiveness of political parties and people in national building endeavors is the first priority. For the economic development of the country, the government is highlighting rural develop-

ment of special economic zones by inviting investments.

With respect to promoting social sector, the State is improving education and health standards to international standards, trying to raise more State's fund to make necessary change and give more support for the emergence of qualified human resources. In addition, more funds are being allotted to necessary sectors.

For the convenience of staff who are serving duties in remote areas such as Hkamti and Naga regions, the government is making arrangement to provide cash assistance to those starting coming financial year. So, the staff on their parts should serve their duties in the interests of regions and the State and are to lead local people who are far lagged behind. More efforts are to be made for enabling people

After that, Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co., UKyaw Win donated DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and generator for Hkamti District Administration Department, Hkamti Township Administration Department and Information and Public Relations Department through deputy commissioner and township administrator.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present.

At the meeting, Union Solidarity and Development Party and entrepreneurs donated K 50 million for the fund of education and health in Hkamti region and K 50 million for rural development foundation.

They also have made arrangements for regional development with the assistance of departments and under the leadership of townsenders.

(See page 9)



Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, Ltd U Kyaw Win presents DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator for Hkamti District People's Hospital.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party being welcomed by officials at Hkamti Airport.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo...

(from page 8)

On arrival at District People's Hospital, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by medical superintendent, doctors and nurses.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aye Myint handed over incubator donated by USDP, the Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator through the medical superintendent.

The Vice-President encouraged patients at the hospital and inspected operation theater, delivery rood and site for construction of new building.

In meeting with the principal and faculty members at Government Technical Institute (Hkamti) of Ministry of Science and Technology, the Vice-President urged them to nurture their students to become qualified human resources.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets faculty members and students at Government Technical Institute (Hkamti) and Government THS (Hkamti).

MNA

Japanese Economic Minister calls on Union Mines Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A Japanese delegation led by Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano called on Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik at the ministry here at 10.30 am today.

At the call, they cordially discussed test-exploration and production of minerals in Myanmar, environmental conservation, procedures in making investments, and mutual cooperation and continued cooperation between Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department and Japan Oil Gas and Metals National Corporation.

MNA



Notice for micro finance associations to apply for registration, business license

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Micro Finance Service Law (The 2011 Pyidaungshu Hluttaw Law No.13) was promulgated on 30 November 2011 for development of private small loan enterprises, one of the eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks.

According to Micro Finance Service Law Section 13, it must be a registered organization formed with in accordance with Myanmar

Companies Act, Cooperative Society Law, Associations Formation Law or a certain existing law. Moreover, according to Section 65, it is stated that those association that have been engaging in micro finance services before the promulgation of Micro Finance Service Law, if they wish to continue their service, shall have to apply for their business licences in accordance with the provisions of the law within three

months as from the date of the passing of this law.

Therefore, the associations engaged in micro finance service in the States, Regions and Nay Pyi Taw area are to promptly apply for registration and business licence in accord with Micro Finance Service Law Sections 13 and 65, announced Myanma Micro Finance Service Supervisory Enterprise (Head Office).

MNA

Dimawhso observes Kayah State Day

YANGON, 13 Jan—Dimawhso Township celebrated the 60th Anniversary Kayah State Day with a mara-

thon this morning.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Bo Yei and Township Administrator U

Aung Ko Ko awarded winners. A total of 1503 local people participated in the event.—MNA



BUS LINES DISCUSS: Mon State All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee met ten Township ABLSCs in Mawlamyine on 7 January and they discussed provision of convenient transportation service for passengers.

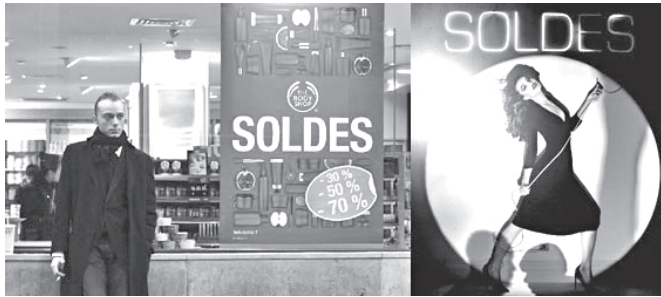
MNA

Japanese minister meets UMFCCI president

YANGON, 13 Jan—A delegation led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito called on UMFCCI delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win

Aung at Chatrium Hotel here yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on promoting cooperation in investment and economic sectors between the two countries, and investment of Japanese entrepreneurs in Dawei Deep-Sea Port Project and Thilawa Port Project.—MNA



People walk past a huge poster about sales outside the store Le Printemps in Paris, France, on 11 Jan, 2012. The 5-week-long winter sales began in France.

XINHUA

Web addicts have brain changes, research suggests

LONDON, 13 Jan — Web addicts have brain changes similar to those hooked on drugs or alcohol, preliminary research suggests.

Experts in China scanned the brains of 17 young web addicts and found disruption in the way their brains were wired up. They say the discovery, published in PlosOne, could lead to new treatments for addictive behaviour. Internet addiction is a clinical disorder marked by out-of-control internet use.

A research team led by Hao Lei of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Wuhan carried out brain scans of 35 men and women aged between 14 and 21.

Seventeen of them were classed as having internet addiction disorder (IAD) on the basis of answering yes to

questions such as, "Have you repeatedly made unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop Internet use?" Specialised MRI brain scans showed changes in the white matter of the brain — the part that contains nerve fibres — in those classed as being web addicts, compared with non-addicts.

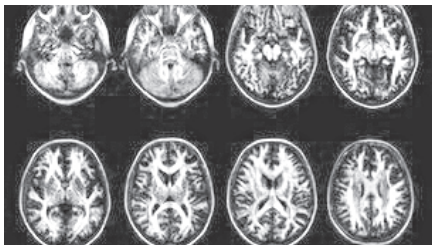
There was evidence of disruption to connections in nerve fibres linking brain areas involved in emotions, decision making, and self-control.

Dr Hao Lei and colleagues write in Plos One: "Overall, our findings indicate that IAD has abnormal white matter integrity in brain regions involving emotional generation and processing, executive attention, decision making and cognitive

control. The results also suggest that IAD may share psychological and neural mechanisms with other types of substance addiction and impulse control disorders."

Prof Gunter Schumann, chair in biological psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College, London, said similar findings have been found in video game addicts.

INTERNET



Brain scans of white matter in the brain. — INTERNET

Nepali mountaineering legend to begin Great Himalayan Trail

KATHMANDU, 13 Jan — Nepali mountaineering legend Appa Sherpa along with his counterpart Dawa Steven Sherpa are set to begin the Great Himalayan Trail (GHT) on 15 January. Appa Sherpa is a world record holder and 21 times Mt Qomolangma climber.

Dawa Steven Sherpa is an articulate advocate for mountaineering and tourism, and a world renowned climber and campaigner against the climate change and mountain pollution. Appa and Dawa shared their information about the GHT in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

The GHT will cover a 1,700 km long trail by Appa and Dawa with the message "Battling Climate Change in the Himalayas." In 2009, when I reached the top of Mt Everest (Mt. Qomolangma), I carried the message "Stop Climate Change, Let the Himalayas Live." The message has been carried throughout the world," Appa said.

"When we thought about how the message could be further intensified and how

we could protect the climate around the Himalayas, we came up with the idea of the trail of the Himalayas from east to west of Nepal," according to Appa. Likewise, he also said that the secondary aspect of the trail would be to develop the entire range as a trekking route. "When we have visitors to Nepal, they feel that Nepal has only few mountains and that they have climbed everything after climbing these few. But the truth is that there are still several routes that people are unaware of. We therefore want to discover them and make them known to the world," Appa said. — Xinhua

Trumbull to get his 2nd Oscar for technical achievement

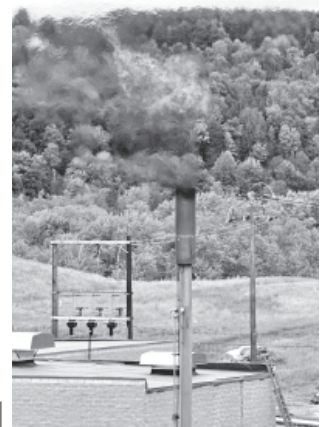
Scientists say cut soot, methane to curb warming

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — An international team of scientists says it has figured out how to slow global warming in the short run and prevent millions of deaths from dirty air: Stop focusing so much on carbon dioxide. They say the key is to reduce emissions of two powerful and fast-acting causes of global warming — methane and soot.

Carbon dioxide is the chief greenhouse gas and the one world leaders have spent the most time talking about controlling. Scientists say carbon dioxide from fossil fuels like coal and oil is a bigger overall cause of global warming, but reducing methane and soot offers quicker fixes.

Soot also is a big health problem, so dramatically cutting it with existing technology would save between 700,000 and 4.7 million lives each year, according to the team's research published online Thursday in the journal *Science*. Since soot causes rainfall patterns to shift, reducing it would cut down on droughts in southern Europe and parts of Africa and ease monsoon problems in Asia, the study says.

Two dozen scientists from around the world ran computer models of 400 different existing pollution control measures and came up with 14 methods that attack methane and soot. The idea has been around for more than a decade and the same authors worked on a United Nations report last year, but this new study is far more comprehensive. — Internet



File photo shows methane gas burns off a stack near the Washington Electric Cooperative power plant in Coventry, Vt. An international team of scientists say they've figured out how to slow global warming in the short run, prevent millions of deaths from dirty air and increase food production.

INTERNET

Beijing to construct more subway lines, regional roads this year

BEIJING, 13 Jan — Beijing will speed up construction of subway lines and regional branch road networks to ease traffic pressure, according to the municipality's government report released on Thursday.

The city's mayor Guo Jinlong read the report at the fifth session of the 13th Beijing Municipal People's Congress, saying the city will open another four subway lines and construct 45 km of branch roads to form regional road networks to ensure the traffic flow this year.

Other measures will include developing rental bike facilities and improving bike road lanes. According to the report, under the regulation of monthly lottery for new car plates put into use last year, the number of the city's annual automobile increase fell by 617,000 units, and the sales volume of autos dropped 44.3 percent year-on-year in 2010. Three new subway lines opened at the end of last year, bringing the total length of the city's subway lines to 372 km, which also helped ease traffic pressure in the city. — Xinhua

M5.8 quake jolts Fukushima, Japan

TOKYO, 13 Jan — A magnitude-5.8 earthquake jolted Japan's Fukushima at around 12:20 pm local time (0320 GMT) Thursday, according to Japan Meteorological Agency. The epicentre was initially determined at 36.9 degrees north latitude, 141.3 degrees east longitude, with a depth of 20 km. Strong tremor was felt near Tokyo. But so far no damage has been reported. — Xinhua

Potential suitors circle American Airlines

NEW YORK, 13 Jan — US Airways Group, Delta Airlines and private equity firm TPG Capital are among several parties interested in potential bids for AMR Corp, the bankrupt parent of American Airlines, people familiar with the matter told

Reuters.

These parties have been following AMR's bankruptcy proceedings closely to evaluate prospects for a merger or tie-up with American Airlines, the sources said. The sources and airline experts, however, cautioned that any deal is unlikely to materialize before AMR is close to completing its court restructuring, which could take a year or longer.

"At this point I wouldn't take it a bit serious. But if AMR does the restructuring correctly, I think it's going to be a very attractive target," said Ray Neidl, aerospace analyst with Maxim Group. Delta hired Blackstone as its financial adviser to assess a bid for American Airlines, one of the sources said.

Reuters



A worker walks underneath an American Airlines airplane at Miami International airport in Miami.

INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan — Douglas Trumbull will receive the Gordon E. Sawyer Award, the second Academy Award he has ever won, for his body of work and technical innovation in cinematic visual effects, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced on Wednesday. The Academy's Board of Governors voted to give the prize, an Oscar statuette, to the visual effects pioneer at its Scientific and Technical Awards presentation held on 11 Feb. at the Beverly Wilshire in Los Angeles. Trumbull is credited for having "created, developed or improved numerous filmmaking techniques and tools" during his career, the Academy said in a Press release. This is the second Oscar for Trumbull, a developer of the industry's first modern 65 mm camera who shared a Scientific and Engineering Award in 1993. — Xinhua

New Zealand woman auctions tattoo space on backside

WELLINGTON, 13 Jan — A cash-strapped New Zealander is auctioning off the chance to put a tattoo on her derriere so she can pay her bills. Wellington woman Tina Bezec, 23, says she needs the money after being made redundant twice in the past year.

She set up an online auction under the title "Your Tattoo on my Bum" and within 24 hours bidding had reached NZ\$10,250 (US\$8,135) while another three people have followed suit with auctions

offering body parts to be tattooed.

"You might think I am crazy for doing this! But yes, the winner of the auction gets anything they like tattooed on my bum!" Bezec said in her auction notice. She said 20 percent of the winning bid would go to charity "and the rest will go to me, I deserve it, I have been made redundant twice over the past year." The tattoo would be 9x9 centimetres (3.5x3.5 inches), it could be on either cheek and could be something

personal or "a business promotion" she said.

"The way I see it is it's going to be on my bum and it is something I can look back on in the future and remember this point in my life," she told the Stuff.co.nz website.

In a rival auction, a woman who identified herself as "Marie" said she decided to copy Bezec's money-raising scheme because "I'm a single Mum struggling just to pay the bills". S J Parker said he was auctioning his backside for a tattoo because "I was laid off myself at the end of the year so have mounting bills. I've been offered a job teaching overseas shortly so got to get that airfare somehow." — *Internet*



This file photo shows an artist putting a tattoo onto a customer. A cash-strapped New Zealander is auctioning off the chance to put a tattoo on her derriere so she can pay her bills. — *INTERNET*

Hundreds of villagers evacuated after gas leaks from smashed tanker truck

HEFEI, 13 Jan — Nearly 1,000 people were evacuated early Thursday morning after a highway crash triggered a gas leak from a tanker truck in east China's Anhui Province, local firefighters said.

Up to 24 tonnes of liquified petroleum gas are leaking from the damaged vehicle, which collided with a car at 2 am in Lixin county, according to the local fire brigade.

The car's driver, the only passenger, was killed in the crash. Local authorities have evacuated nearly 1,000 nearby villagers due to fire and poisoning concerns. Firefighters are working to dilute the gas. — *Xinhua*

'Profound shock' at Professor Steven Rawlings' death

LONDON, 13 Jan — The death of an Oxford University professor has "profoundly saddened" the institution, its vice-chancellor has said. Prof Andrew Hamilton said the entire university community was shocked at the untimely death of Steven Rawlings. Prof Rawlings, 50, was found at his bungalow in Southmoor, Oxfordshire, on Wednesday night.

Detectives are continuing to question a 49-year-old man arrested on suspicion of murder. The emergency services were called to Laurel Drive, Southmoor, at 23:20 GMT on Wednesday by a member of the public reporting that a man had been injured at the address.

Thames Valley Police said Prof Rawlings and the arrested man had known each other, but refused to speculate on the circumstances surrounding his death. Police said a post-mortem examination carried out on Prof Rawlings had been unable to establish a cause of death and that further tests would be conducted. They have said they are keeping an "open mind" about the circumstances of

the academic's death.

Prof Rawlings was official fellow and tutor in physics of St Peter's College. The academic, who was elected to his fellowship in 1994, was head of the sub-department of astrophysics at the university from 2006 to 2010. A University of Oxford spokesman said: "He was a much liked and admired tutor and colleague within the college and will be greatly missed. "We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Linda." — *Internet*



The emergency services were called to the property by a member of the public. — *INTERNET*

Travellers are stopped at a security check point at Los Angeles International Airport in 2011. A US woman called in a bomb threat to an airline to stop her husband flying from Los Angeles to Atlanta to see another woman, the FBI said on Thursday.



US woman sparks bomb hoax to stop errant husband

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan — A US woman called in a bomb threat to an airline to stop her husband flying from Los Angeles to Atlanta to see another woman, the FBI said on Thursday. Johnna Woolfolk, 50, pleaded guilty to making a bomb threat after calling Air Tran Airways in November to report that her husband was carrying a bomb onto a flight at LAX international airport.

"We had a fight and I called the airline and

reported that he had a bomb to stop him from taking that flight to see another woman," Woolfolk told US District Judge Jacqueline H Nguyen. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officers stopped the man at the airport and questioned him, and he missed the flight, said Assistant US Attorney Edward E. Alon. Woolfolk will be sentenced on 2 April, when she faces a maximum of five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine, Alon said. — *Internet*

Patient died after attempt to remove wrong organ

LONDON, 13 Jan — A woman died after an experienced surgeon unintentionally attempted to take out the wrong organ during an operating theatre complication.

Amy Joyce Francis, 77, was due to have a kidney removed at the Royal Gwent Hospital in July 2010 but instead the surgeon tried to remove her liver. The woman from Newport suffered a fatal heart attack after a loss of blood.

The coroner recorded a narrative verdict which was fully accepted by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. The inquest was told how Mrs Francis, a retired accountant, underwent keyhole surgery to remove a cancerous right kidney. Consultant urologist Adam Carter told the hearing that Mrs Francis was to undergo keyhole surgery in

order to avoid large surgical wounds and ensure a shorter recovery time so that her left kidney could be treated quicker.

Mr Carter said the removal was the easiest part and he asked a trainee present, who had never done it before, to carry it out. The beginning

of the routine operation went as expected with a 2-3 inch incision made in the groin area. But, the court was told, when it came to removing the kidney, the peritoneal sac was covered by more fluid and matter than usual.

A trainee surgeon was in the theatre that day, and

that registrar put her hand in to remove the kidney, but the registrar became unsure, lost her confidence and Mr Carter took over.

He said it was possible that while she was manipulating the organ the thin membrane protecting the liver, the peritoneal sac, was breached.

The inquest then heard how the surgeon felt what he believed was Mrs Francis's kidney and pulled down sharply, a normal procedure for organ removal.

But, the coroner was told, the anaesthetist immediately reported a fall in the patient's blood pressure. Mr Carter said he immediately realised he had pulled on the liver and, as a result, had torn the organ.



Amy Francis was a retired accountant and a widow. — *INTERNET*

Ind officer: Looked up, saw stolen cruiser leave

SOUTH BEND, 13 Jan — An Indiana police officer whose squad car was stolen by a suspect he'd handcuffed and put in the backseat said on Thursday he only realized the cruiser was gone when he looked up and saw the taillights leaving the parking lot. "I probably had a really dumb look on my face for maybe half a second," Kouts police Sgt Dave Johnston told *The Associated Press*.

Johnston, an 11-year veteran, said he was responding to a call about a reckless driver when he pulled in behind William Francis Blankenship, 22, of Knox, at a gas pump Tuesday night. When he spotted what he thought was drug paraphernalia in Blankenship's car, Johnston said he

handcuffed Blankenship with his hands behind his back and put him in the back of the running patrol car.

The officer said that after finding what he believed to be drugs in Blankenship's car, he informed the man he was under arrest and then went back to search more thoroughly. Johnston said he was searching for only another minute or two when he looked up. As Johnston saw the taillights, a passer-by said: "Hey, a guy's driving off in your car." The officer said when he asked the witness why he didn't say something earlier, the man replied, "I thought you had a partner." Blankenship remained at large Thursday as police continued their search. — *Internet*

Police ticket boy after toy motorcycle hits SUV

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 13 Jan — Police in this border city repented Thursday over ticketing a 6-year-old boy for reckless driving, driving without a license and not having his vehicle registered after he drove his miniature motorcycle into an SUV.

The boy's mother, Karla Noriega, said police impounded the miniature gasoline-powered motorbike that her son got for Christmas after he crashed into an SUV on 27 Dec. Noriega decided to go to the media and make the case public after finding out she would have to pay what she called a "ridiculous" \$183 in fines to recover the toy motorbike.

City council Secretary Hector Arceluz said Thursday that authorities had dropped the fines, released the motorbike and would punish the police officers for having acted improperly. Noriega's son Gael was happy to get his minibike back, but said it no longer works after the accident. — *Internet*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (141)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (141) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (148)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (148) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (106N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (106N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV STELLA BEAUTY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV STELLA BEAUTY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOMOSADA CORPORATION
S/A**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THOR ENDEAVOUR VOY NO (1112)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THOR ENDEAVOUR VOY NO (1112) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: CITIC-SHIP MANAGEMENT
LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORIENTAL ELF VOY NO (014)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENTAL ELF VOY NO (014) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SONG WON ENTERPRISE
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Hammersmith Flyover to reopen to light traffic

LONDON, 13 Jan — Boris Johnson, mayor of London, has announced that the Hammersmith Flyover in west London, which has been closed for three weeks, will reopen on Friday. It was shut when serious damage to cables in the structure was discovered. Transport for London (TfL) has said one lane will be open in each direction but it will be closed to HGVs and coaches. Closure of the A4 route, which is usually used by about 90,000 vehicles a day, has caused serious congestion in west London.

A steady seepage of salt water into the structure, built in the 1960s, has weakened the structure, but engineers said it was now safe to take light traffic.

TfL said the route would reopen "before the rush hour" on Friday but did not specify exactly when.

Strengthening work will continue for the next four months and drivers are still advised to "consider avoiding the area if possible". Once new cables are installed, the flyover will be reopened to all traffic "well ahead of the London 2012 Games", said TfL officer for surface transport, said: "This should significantly reduce the traffic disruption many thousands of drivers have been experiencing since the flyover closed." — *Internet*



The flyover closed on 23 December.

INTERNET

Burnt forest rises from the ashes

LONDON, 13 Jan — Hundreds of people have volunteered to help replant more than 85 acres of woodland in Berkshire which were destroyed by a forest fire. The blaze in Swinley Forest raged for three weeks in May 2011, damaging more than 100,000 trees, most of them pines. The Forestry Commission



The Forestry Commission has cleared away the charred trees left after the fire in May 2011. — INTERNET

has spent six months clearing the area ready for 60,000 new trees to be planted.

It says more fire retardant species like oaks, aspens and alders will be placed on the forest boundaries. Volunteers - many of whom were evacuated from their homes as the flames ravaged the area - will create ponds to form natural barriers to try to reduce the risk of fires spreading. Nick Hazlitt, a forester with the Forestry Commission, said they were also hoping to promote wildlife on the site, which is important for ground-nesting birds, dragonflies and damselflies.

"My job is to try to design and establish a robust multi-purpose forest which will be sustainable in the long run," he said. "One which is economically sustainable with a continued supply of much-needed sustainable timber and acts as a carbon sink but equally more robust in terms of fire, pests and diseases." — *Internet*

New JetBlue flight connects West Palm, Hartford

WEST PALM BEACH, 13 Jan — JetBlue is launching a new daily flight between West Palm Beach and Hartford, Conn. An official for the airline says both markets have seen growth over the past year. Beginning Thursday, an afternoon flight will fly from West Palm Beach to Hartford. A return flight leaves Hartford each evening. — *Internet*

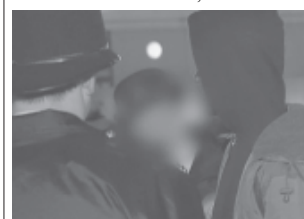
Stop and search overhaul planned by Met

LONDON, 13 Jan — The Metropolitan Police commissioner has ordered a radical overhaul of stop and search policing in London. During a question and answer session, Bernard Hogan-Howe admitted that the tactic had not always been used professionally. The BBC understands there will be new limits on issuing section 60 orders — which allow searches without suspicion.

But officers defended their right to use the tactic, which they say helps target drug and knife crime. "It is a complex area, but by training and education we can help our officers to deal with it. "One, to target searches properly. "Number two, when we do do it, even if we end up with resistance, we come out of that better if we remain professional, cool and calm," said Mr Hogan-Howe. "Sometimes we are not always able to manage that," he said.

Tensions caused by stop and search were highlighted 13 years ago in the Macpherson report, which looked into how the Met failed to properly investigate the murder of Stephen Lawrence. A group of black teenagers in Brixton said their experience of stop and search was negative. One said: "If they approach us in a calmer way we would feel safer. But they come aggressive and grab you up against a wall." Another said: "All of us are just criminals [in their eyes]."

Terance Smith, a youth worker in Lambeth, south London, said: "No-one will want to aspire to work for them, interact with them. "It's got so bad now they [young black men] won't even talk to them about crimes, serious crimes." — *Internet*



Bernard Hogan-Howe admitted that some of his officers had, in the past, failed to treat people in a professional manner.

INTERNET

Man accused of grabbing swan by neck



John Wynne's mugshot.

Police in Florida said they arrested a man accused of grabbing a swan by the neck at Lake Eola in downtown Orlando. Orlando police said John Wynne was arrested Tuesday after allegedly grabbing the bird by the neck at the lake and he was arrested on charges of animal cruelty and

grand theft, WOFL-TV, Orlando, reported.

Investigators said bicycle officers spotted Wynne choking the Australian black swan, named Ruffles, and carrying it several feet by its neck, the Orlando Sentinel reported. They said he dropped the bird when he saw the officers.

Police said Wynne was taken to the Orange County Jail in lieu of \$1,000 bond.

Sheila Bolin, chief executive officer of The Regal Swan Foundation, formerly served as caretaker for the Lake Eola swans and was called by police to assess the bird's injuries. She said Ruffles appeared to be eating but refused to let any humans come near him.

"We couldn't catch the bird that night," Bolin said. "But the head and neck were a wreck. He (Ruffles) didn't want anything to do with people."

Man allegedly hit mom twice with car

Police in Florida said a man allegedly hit his mother with her car twice when she attempted to stop him from driving. The St Johns County Sheriff's Office said the mother told them Anthony Migliaccio, 23, hit her with the car, knocking her onto the hood, when

she attempted to stop him from driving the Mazda 323 Monday because he has a suspended license, the St Augustine (Fla) Times-Union reported Thursday.

The woman said Migliaccio hit her with the car a second time while she was on the ground. She sustained

minor injuries and was treated and released from Flagler Hospital. Investigators said Migliaccio crashed the car into a fence and fled the area on foot. He was arrested when deputies found him crouching in some nearby woods.

Migliaccio was charged with felony counts of

Ind theft suspect threatens to eat police, dogs

Police say a man in Indiana accused of stealing a car threatened to hunt down and eat his arresting officers, their families and police dogs.

The Journal & Courier reports (<http://on.jconline.com/yGO09G>) that 39-year-old Paul M. Brock of Frankfort was charged Wednesday with auto theft, resisting law enforcement, intimidation and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Police in Lafayette, 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis, used dogs to subdue Brock during his arrest on Friday.

Police say Brock later told officers that he would hunt them down and eat them, their families and their dogs. He had a blood-alcohol content more than three times Indiana's legal limit.

He was jailed on a \$25,000 bond at the Tippecanoe County Jail.



Anthony Migliaccio's mugshot, courtesy of the St Johns County Sheriff's Office.

aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, hit and run and criminal mischief. He was also charged with a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest without violence. He was jailed with bond set at \$62,000.

Mass woman disputes TSA portrayal of her cupcake

A Massachusetts woman says federal safety officials are mischaracterizing a frosted cupcake in a jar that was confiscated from her at a Las Vegas airport. The Transportation Security Administration says it considered the icing on the cupcake a gel exceeding the 3-ounce limit for airline carry-on luggage. The limit is designed to stop terrorists seeking to evade detection by using explosives made of plastics, liquids or gels.

The TSA says in a blog post the cupcake taken last month had a thick layer of icing inside the jar. But Peabody (PEE'-buh-dee) resident Rebecca Hains said Wednesday her jar consisted of three layers of cupcake, each topped with a medium layer of icing, not a thick layer. The bakery that makes the red velvet cupcake has renamed it National (Security) Velvet.

News Album

'The Artist', 'The Help' big Critics' Choice winners



Actor Jean Dujardin (2nd R) holds the best picture award for "The Artist" as director Michel Hazanavicius (L), actress Bérénice Bejo (2nd L) and producer Thomas Langmann celebrate their win backstage at the 2012 Critics' Choice Awards in Los Angeles on 12 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—Silent film "The Artist" was the top winner at the Critics' Choice Awards on Thursday,

boosting its profile as the Hollywood season heats up ahead of the Oscars.

The comedy, shot in black and white, picked up four awards, including best picture and best director for Frenchman Michel Hazanavicius, who called it "a love letter to American cinema."

Comedy/drama box office hit "The Help" was the night's other big, and surprise, victor. The tale of black maids and their white employers in the 1960s US South brought acting honors for both Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer in their roles as maids. The movie also won best ensemble cast.

George Clooney was voted best actor for his role as



Robin Wright, right, presents Viola Davis with the award for best actress for "The Help" during the 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards on 12 Jan, 2012 in Los Angeles. INTERNET

a distracted dad in family drama "The Descendants" and female romp "Bridesmaids" won the award for best comedy. Reuters

'Mother,' Perry nab Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—The TV programmes "Castle" and "How I Met Your Mother," and singer Katy Perry picked up multiple People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles Wednesday night.

"Castle" was named Favourite TV Crime Drama, while its star Nathan Fillion earned the Favourite TV Drama Actor accolade.

"Mother" was voted Favourite Network Comedy and cast member Neil Patrick



Neil Patrick Harris appears backstage with the favorite TV comedy actor award he garnered during the 38th annual People's Choice Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 11 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

Harris Favourite TV Comedy Actor. Pop star Katy Perry won the award for Favorite TV Guest Star for her appearance on "Mother." Perry, who canceled her

plans to attend the ceremony after her husband, comedian Russell Brand, filed for divorce, also won the awards for Favourite Female Artist and Favourite Tour Headliner, Favourite Song of the Year for "ET" featuring Kanye West and Favourite Music Video for "Last Friday Night."

"Glee's" Lea Michele was declared Favourite TV Comedy Actress and Nina Dobrev from "The Vampire Diaries" Favourite TV Drama Actress.

"Supernatural" took the prizes for Favourite Network TV Drama and Favourite Sci-Fi/Fantasy Show, while the Favourite Cable TV Drama title went to "Pretty Little Liars."

Internet

'Love' remains atop the US record chart



Rihanna

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—Rihanna's "We Found Love" featuring Calvin Harris is No 1 on the US record chart for a ninth week, Billboard.com

reported Thursday. Coming in at No 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 is Bruno Mars' "It Will Rain," followed by LMFAO's "Sexy and I Know It" at No 3, Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain" at No 4 and Flo Rida's "Good Feeling" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Katy Perry's "The One That Got Away" at No 6, Jay-Z and Kanye West's "Ni**as in Paris" at No 7, Jason Mraz's "I Won't Give Up" No 8, LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" featuring Lauren Bennett and GoonRock at No 9 and Adele's "Someone Like You" at No 10.—Internet

Jeremy Jordan returns to 'Newsies' for Broadway

NEW YORK, 13 Jan—For Jeremy Jordan, bad news for "Bonnie & Clyde" means good news for "Newsies."

The actor whose role as the bank-robbing male lead in the musical "Bonnie & Clyde" was cut short last month by poor ticket sales, has jumped aboard the Broadway-bound "Newsies," a musical based on the 1992 film.

Producers announced Jordan will play rebellious newsboy leader Jack Kelly, the role he created at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey last year. "Newsies" will open its doors at Broadway's Nederlander Theatre on 15 March.

Jordan, who stars opposite Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton in the movie "Joyful Noise," was also on Broadway in "Rock of Ages."

Alan Menken and lyricist Jack Feldman have transformed Disney's "Newsies" into a musical with new story writer, Harvey Fierstein.

Internet

Tatum, Deschanel to host 'SNL'

NEW YORK, 13 Jan—Channing Tatum and Zoey Deschanel have been booked as guest hosts on the American sketch comedy show "Saturday Night Live," NBC said Thursday.

Tatum will make his debut as host 4 Feb. He can next be seen alongside Jonah Hill in the movie "21 Jump Street" due out 16 March. His past film credits include "Coach Carter," "Step Up," "Stop-Loss" and "Dear John."

The Grammy-nominated band Bon Iver will make their first appearance on "SNL" alongside Tatum.

Deschanel will make her debut "SNL" appearance as host 11 Feb. She is the star of

the hitsitcom "New Girl." Her film credits include "500 Days of Summer," "Yes Man," "The Good Girl" and "Elf."

Pop music duo Karmin will make their first musical guest appearance 11 Feb.

Internet



Zoey Deschanel attends the Fox Press Tour All-Star Party in Pasadena, California on 8 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Gerrard signs long-term Liverpool deal

LONDON, 13 Jan — Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard has signed a new long-term contract which could keep him at Anfield until the end of his playing career. The 31-year-old made his Reds debut in 1998 and has never played for anyone else, captaining the club to victory in the 2005 UEFA Champions League and also winning two FA Cups and two League Cups. Gerrard has also agreed to take up an ambassadorial role with Liverpool when his playing days are finished.

"I'm very happy. It's a very proud day for myself and my family," Gerrard, who



Steven Gerrard scores the only goal of the Carling Cup semi-final first leg at Man City.—INTERNET

has made 394 Barclays Premier League appearances for the Reds, told the club's official website (liverpoolfc.tv). "This is the club I love and is the club I have supported since I was a young boy.

Internet

Striker Keane joins Villa on loan



Keane has been one of the Premier League's top goalscorers.—INTERNET

LONDON, 13 Jan — Aston Villa have signed Republic of Ireland international striker Robbie Keane on loan from LA Galaxy, subject to clearance from FIFA. The club hope Keane will be available for Saturday's Barclays

Premier League home match against Everton on Saturday 14th January. The loan will end after Villa's match against Wigan on 25th February.

Keane, who has 123 Premier League goals to his name and has played for Tottenham, Liverpool, Leeds and West Ham among others, said he was "excited" by the move. "I'm delighted to be back in the Premier League," said Keane. "This is only short-term, of course, but there has been a lot of speculation over the years linking my name to Villa and, finally, I'm here.—Internet

Barca set up Real clash in Spanish Cup

BARCELONA, 13 Jan — Second half goals from Alexis Sanchez and Sergi Roberto gave Barcelona a 2-1 victory over Osasuna on Thursday and a quarter-final clash with arch-rivals and titleholders Real Madrid in the Spanish Cup. Dejan Lekic had put hosts Osasuna ahead five minutes before the break in Pamplona before Sanchez headed in a 48th-minute equaliser for the Catalans. Substitute Lionel Messi set up Roberto to seal victory after 71 minutes for a 6-1 aggregate scoreline and a meeting with Real Madrid next Wednesday.

Real Madrid qualified with a 72nd minute goal from Karim Benzema on Tuesday giving them a 1-0 win over Malaga for a 4-2 aggregate victory. Real Madrid host Barcelona in the first leg next Wednesday with the return leg on 25 January at the Camp Nou. The two sides meet again just a month after the 'clasico' which Barcelona won 3-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu. Athletic Bilbao also progressed with a 4-0 win over third division Albacete on Thursday.—Internet



Barcelona's Sergi Roberto (2nd L) shoots to score against Osasuna's goalkeeper Asier Riesgo (R) during their Spanish Cup football match at the Reyno de Navarra stadium in Pamplona.—INTERNET

Dubious Goals Panel rulings

LONDON, 13 Jan — The Premier League's Dubious Goals Panel has made a decision on 25 dubious goals that were scored in the Barclays Premier League between 12th October to 21st December 2011. The Dubious Goals Committee - drawn from people who have participated as a referee, player or manager at the highest level of the game - have ruled on the following goals:

Liverpool's goal against Manchester United on 15th October has been confirmed as a Steven Gerrard goal.

Bolton Wanderers' first goal against Wigan Athletic on 15th October was in fact an own goal (Gary Caldwell) and has therefore not been credited to Nigel Reo-Coker.

Chelsea's second goal against Everton on 15th October has been confirmed as a John Terry goal. Newcastle United's first goal against Tottenham Hotspur on 16th October has been confirmed as a Demba Ba goal.

Liverpool's goal against Norwich City on 22nd October has been confirmed as a Craig Bellamy goal.

Chelsea's second goal against Arsenal on 29th October has been confirmed as a John Terry goal.

Blackburn Rovers' first goal against Norwich City on 29th October has been confirmed as a Junior Hoilett goal.

Norwich City's second goal against Blackburn Rovers on 29th October has been confirmed as a Bradley Johnson goal.

Wolverhampton Wanderers' third goal against Wigan Athletic on 6th November has been confirmed as a Stephen Ward goal.

Tottenham Hotspur's first goal against Fulham on 6th November was in fact an own goal (Chris Baird) and has therefore not been credited to Gareth Bale.

Tottenham Hotspur's third goal against Fulham on 6th November has been confirmed as a Jermain Defoe goal.

West Bromwich Albion's second goal against Bolton Wanderers on 19th November has been confirmed as a Shane Long goal.

Chelsea's first goal against Wolverhampton Wanderers on 26th November has been confirmed as a John Terry goal.



Chelsea's John Terry has been confirmed as the scorer of a goal against Arsenal.—INTERNET

Stoke City's second goal against Blackburn Rovers on 26th November has been confirmed as a Glenn Whelan goal.

Liverpool's goal against Manchester City on 27th November was in fact an own goal (Joleon Lescott) and has therefore not been credited to Charlie Adam.

Tottenham Hotspur's first goal against Bolton Wanderers on 3rd December has been confirmed as a Gareth Bale goal.

Swansea City's first goal against Fulham on 10th December has been confirmed as a Scott Sinclair goal.

Aston Villa's second goal against Bolton Wanderers on 10th December has been confirmed as a Stiliyian Petrov goal.

Stoke City's first goal against Wolverhampton Wanderers on 17th December has been confirmed as a Kevin Doyle own goal.

Wolverhampton Wanderers' second goal against Norwich City on 20th December has been confirmed as a Ronald Zubar goal.

Sunderland's first goal against Queens Park Rangers on 21st December has been confirmed as a Nicklas Bendtner goal.

Sunderland's third goal against Queens Park Rangers on 21st December has been confirmed as a Wes Brown goal.

Arsenal's second goal against Aston Villa on 21st December has been confirmed as a Yossi Benayoun goal. Manchester City's second goal against Stoke City on 21st December has been confirmed as an Adam Johnson goal.

Manchester United's third goal against Fulham on 21st December has been confirmed as a Ryan Giggs goal.

Internet

Federer, Nadal in same half of Australian Open draw

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are in the same half of a grand slam draw for the first time in seven years in the selection made Friday for next week's Australian Open in Melbourne. Defending champion Novak Djokovic will have world number four



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return during a 11 January practice session for the upcoming Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne.—INTERNET

Andy Murray in his top half of the men's singles draw, while world number two Nadal and third seed Federer were placed in the bottom half.

It is the first time since the 2005 French Open that 16-time grand slam champion Federer and 10-time major winner Nadal have been pitted in the same half of a grand slam draw. Djokovic, who won three of the four grand slams and five Masters titles in 2011, will begin his Australian Open title defence against Italy's Paolo Lorenzi. Nadal and Federer will start against qualifiers, while Murray, bidding to become Britain's first male major-winner since Fred Perry in 1936, takes on American Ryan Harrison.

Internet

DeLaet is happy to be back, and it shows

HONOLULU, 13 Jan — One year after back surgery that made him wonder if he could ever play golf again, Canada's Graham DeLaet chipped in for eagle and twice holed 35-foot birdie putts for a 7-under 63 Thursday for a two-shot lead among the early starters at the Sony Open. Carl Pettersson and former Sony Open champion KJ. Choi were among those at 65, while Webb Simpson was in the group at 66.

"I'm just so excited to be back out," DeLaet said. "I had a good season my rookie campaign, and then it was all basically just taken away. And I realize now how fortunate we are to be playing golf for a living. My whole attitude is definitely better." His game looked to be in pretty good shape, too. Thursday was a gentle start of the season in the first full-field tournament of the year



Graham DeLaet, of Canada, lines up his putt on the 13th green during the first round of the Sony Open golf tournament, on 12 Jan, 2012, in Honolulu.—INTERNET

on the PGA Tour, with the ocean breeze barely strong enough to move fronds on the palm trees that line the fairways. Just under half of those with early tee times broke par.—Internet

International Sports

Wozniacki's tough draw at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — World number one Caroline Wozniacki was drawn Friday to face French Open champion Li Na in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open as she searches for her maiden grand slam title in Melbourne. The Danish top seed, whose top ranking is under threat by Czech number two Petra



World number one Caroline Wozniacki.

Kvitova, also has defending champion Kim Clijsters and third seed Victoria Azarenka in her top half of the women's singles draw.

Wozniacki, who starts her Open campaign against Australian Anastasia Rodionova, also has Agnieszka Radwanska in her side of the draw after losing to the Polish eighth seed at this week's Sydney International. Wimbledon champion Kvitova, beaten by Li in Thursday's semi-finals of the Sydney International, will also have some tough obstacles in her path.

Internet

NLM-ner Joke Baby Boo

A man speaks frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" the doctor queries.

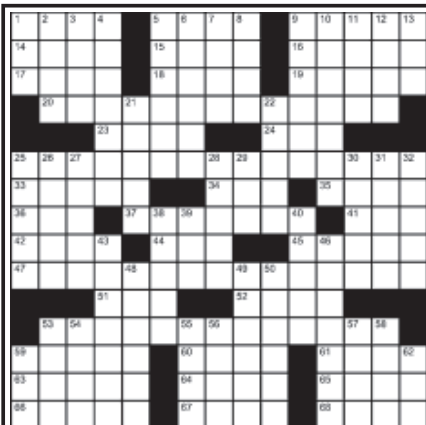
"No, you idiot!" the man shouts. "This is her *husband*!"

A man and his wife were making their first doctor visit, the wife being pregnant with their first child.

After everything checked out, the doctor took a small stamp and stamped the wife's stomach with indelible ink.

The couple was curious about what the stamp was for, so when they got home, the husband got out his magnifying glass to try to see what it was.

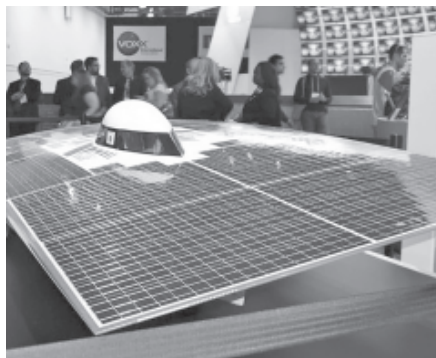
In very tiny letters, the stamp said, "When you can read this, come back and see me."



Crossword Puzzle

- Down**
- "___ Cried" (1962 hit)
 - Pasturelands
 - Assist, in a way
 - Wart
 - Bloviates
 - Picture-taking device
 - All excited
 - "The Open Window" writer
 - Paper folded to make eight leaves
 - Twill-weave silk with a printed design
 - Cost to cross
 - Evasive
 - Formerly known as
 - Cockeyed
 - French philosopher, founder of positivism
 - Farm buildings
 - Increase
 - About to explode
 - The fifth of the seven canonical hours
 - Grooved on
 - Carries
 - Bond, for one
 - Marsh growth
 - Bucolic
 - "Am ___ believe ...?" (2 wds)
 - Indian coin
 - Buy-one-get-one-free item?
 - Tickler of the ivories
 - Pride and prejudice, for example
 - Saddle seat back
 - Heavy metal
 - Drone, e.g.
 - "Cast Away" setting
 - Misfortunes
 - Joint problem
 - Alpine transport (2 wds)
 - "Your majesty"
 - Protestant denom.
 - "Come to think of it ..."

- Across**
- Bohemian, e.g.
 - Wood sorrels
 - "Come here ___?"
 - Daughter of Zeus
 - Eastern music
 - Australian bush high-pitched call
 - Appraiser
 - Crawly
 - Gown fabric
 - According to plan of action
 - ___-friendly
 - Egg cells
 - Business premises (3 wds)
 - Surrounding glows
 - Away
 - Chief magistrate of Venice
 - Biochemistry abbr.
 - Device to extract water from wet laundry
 - Casual attire
 - "Darn it!"
 - Adaptable truck, for short
 - Defeat
 - Those who study the atomic composition of light
 - Bank offering, for short
 - Fishing, perhaps
 - Improper spacial arrangements
 - Operatic villains, often
 - French novelist Pierre
 - Wading birds, such as herons or storks
 - Apportion
 - Corker
 - "___ Smile" (1976 hit)
 - Equals
 - Check
 - Deuce topper



Panasonic's solar power car isn't the most comfortable to drive but will get you in the HOV lane.
INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

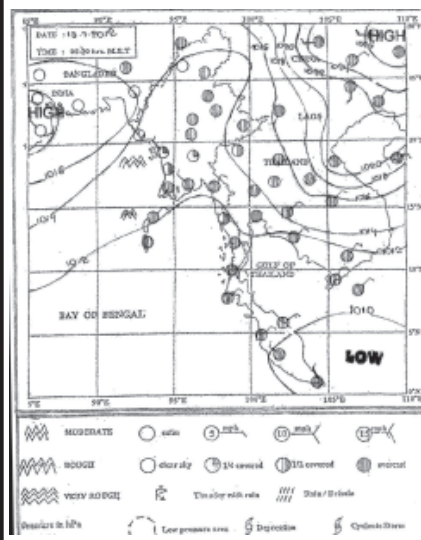
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (14-1-12 09:30 am ~ 15-1-12 09:30 am) MST
- Oversea Transmission**
- * News
 - * "Travelogue" Hiker Journey (Episode-4) Inlay Lake
 - * News
 - * The art of Sand Painting and its Creator's Life
 - * News
 - * Today's Efficient Youth (Indonesian In't School)
 - * School Family Day
 - * Music Gallery
 - * "Products of Myanmar" Bamboo Hat
 - * News
 - * Today Technology ICT
 - * News
 - * Famous Pagoda Festival in Shwebo
 - * VCD Centre
 - * News
 - * Secret Places for Yummy Food
 - * News
 - * Maha Wai Yan Communal Temple
 - * Myanmar Traditional Wedding Ceremony
 - * Myanmar Movies "New Bosom"

MYANMAR TV

- (14-1-2012) (Saturday)
- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatthandi Paritta
- 7:40 am**
2. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am**
3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am**
4. Health Programme
- 8:45 am**
5. 2011 Sports Yearend
- 11:00 am**
6. Martial Song
- 12:50 pm**
7. TV Drama Series
- 2:35 pm**
8. Dance Of National Races
- 4:15 pm**
9. Cultural Dances
- 4:50 pm**
10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm**
11. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 5:30 pm**
12. Game For Children
- 7:00 pm**
13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
 15. Cartoon Series
 16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 14th January, 2012

No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26.79	15.59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
2	Kayah	27.81	12.54	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
3	Karen	35.95	19.96	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
4	Chin	16.61	06.46	Partly cloudy	(60%)
5	Upper Sgawng	26.79	14.57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
6	Lower Sgawng	30.36	17.63	Partly cloudy	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	34.93	19.66	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
8	Bago	31.85	20.68	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
9	Magway	30.86	17.63	Partly cloudy	(60%)
10	Mandalay	29.84	19.66	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
11	Mae	35.95	22.72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
12	Yangon	33.91	22.72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
13	Rakhine	29.84	16.64	Partly cloudy	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	25.77	12.54	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	27.81	06.46	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	25.77	12.59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	31.88	22.72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33.91	17.63	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33.91	22.72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	29.84	19.66	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorm	(60%)

During the past 24 hours, light rain have been widespread in Kayah State, scattered in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, isolated in Upper Sgawng, Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Chin, Karen and Mon States and weather have been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin State and above January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature over Pabung (4°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Lokeaw (0.32) inch, Mahabaw (0.20) inch, Pata and Zala (0.16) inch each.

Bay Inference
Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea
Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times (Delata, Gulf of Mithana, off and along Main-Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach 30) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for sub-sequent two days
Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

School Family Day held in Nyaungdon BEHS-1

NYAUNGDON, 13 Jan—The school family day was organized at Basic Education High School No 1 in Nyaungdon on 3 January.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative Dr Hla Min and township departmental officials awarded outstanding teachers and students.

Township Education Officer Daw San Htay presented prizes to winners in the contests of School Family Day.

Myanma Alin



Oxygen provider donated to hospital



MONGTON, 13 Jan—An oxygen provider and cash to the fund of Mongton People's Hospital was held at the hall of the hospital in Mongton on 1 January.

Township Administrator U Aung Zin handed over K 1 million donated by the Shan State Chief Minister to the township medical officer.

Responsible persons of Township War Veterans Organization's Bus Line presented one oxygen provider and K 1 million to the township administrator.—*Township IPRD*

Five-point initial agreements signed to restore peace with KNU

President orders to suspend attacks while building mutual understanding

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—At the invitation of the Government, the state level peace-making group of Kayin State Government and the KNU peace-making group signed the five-point initial agreement in Hpa-an of Kayin State yesterday to restore peace with Kayin National Union (KNU) that has offered an olive branch to the Government.

The President Office has sent an order to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) dated today that all military camps and mobile columns are to suspend the attacks while building the understanding by both sides as the agreement has been signed at the initial stage.

MNA

State level peace-making group, KNU peace-making group sign initial agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A ceremony to sign the initial agreement between the State Level Peace-making Group and Kayin National Union (KNU) Peace-making Group was held at Zwegabin Hotel in Hpa-an of Kayin State at 9 am yesterday for realization of eternal peace with the KNU that offered the peace process to the Government at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It was attended by Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin, Mon State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung, Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Thet Tun, Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin, State Advocate-General U Thein Lwin, State Development Supervisor U Thet Naung, Secretary of Kayin State Government U Ohn Myint, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (People's Militia) Lt-Col Kyaw Myint of South-East Command, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (Operations) Lt-Col Than Aung of Southern Command, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (Operations) Lt-Col Nyunt Oo of Coastal Region Command and officials of the Union level peace-making group, General Saw Mutu Say Pho and Pado Saw David Htaw of KNU peace-making group.

The state level peace-making group and the KNU peace-making group signed the five-point agreement to be implemented as preliminary task and the 11-point agreement to be continuously discussed at the Union level peace-making talk, in the presence of Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Soe Thein, Union Minister U Khin Yi and State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, and then exchanged gifts.



Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min of Union level peace-making group and Vice-Chairman of KNU peace-making group General Saw Mutu Say Pho exchange notes after signing 11-point preliminary agreement for restoring Union level peace.—MNA

State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin and Brig-Gen Saw Johnny of KNU peace group signed the state level preliminary agreement and exchanged notes.

After that, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min of the Union level peace-making group and Vice-

Chairman of the KNU peace-making central committee General Saw Mutu Say Pho signed the 11-point preliminary agreement for realization of the Union level peace and exchanged notes.

Later, they posed for documentary photo with Union ministers.—MNA

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement dated today.

The full text of the statement is as follows:

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission had made appeals to the President that at a time when the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is building a democratic nation and striving for national unity, those among prisoners who were in various prisons for contravening existing laws, who do not pose a threat to national security, public peace and tranquility and national interest, be given amnesty to enable them to take part in whatever way they can in nation-building tasks.

2. Subsequently, the President had granted amnesty to 6359 prisoners on 11 October 2011 and 2 January 2012, through a presidential amnesty order reduced the sentences of the

prisoners in various prisons. Under an amnesty order of the President dated 12 January 2012, 651 prisoners were again released. The Commission welcomes the release of prisoners and greatly appreciates the magnanimity shown by the President.

3. The Commission is gratified that among the 651 prisoners released on 13 January 2012, prisoners whose release had been advocated by the Secretary General of the United Nations and some western countries were included as well. The Commission feels that the release of those prisoners fulfills the expectations by the Secretary General of the United Nations and some western countries.

4. In the interest of enduring peace and national unity, to enable an inclusive political process and on grounds of humanitarian consideration, the President had granted amnesty to the prisoners. In view of the President's magnanimity, the Commission strongly urges those who have been released to peacefully take part in whatever way they can in building national unity and a democratic State.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

14 January 2012
Yangon



Union Information and Culture Minister makes an inspection tour around Pale Township

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Owning TV, car ups heart attack risk

PAGE 4



Why alcohol feels good

PAGE 4

DeLaet is happy to be back, and it shows



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Gerrard signs long-term Liverpool deal

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