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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 receives Home Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs and party attending to 17th State level meeting of Myanmar-India Civil Authorities



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Home Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs Mr R K Singh and party of the Republic of India at Credentials Hall of President Residence in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo received Home Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr R K Singh and party of the Republic of India who attended the 17th State level meeting of Myanmar-India Civil Authorities at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence, here, at 5 pm

today. Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin and departmental heads.

The Indian Home Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr V S Seshadri. They cordially discussed ensuring peace and stability at the border region of the two countries and bilateral cooperation. MNA

Naga Traditional New Year Festival packed with tourists and guests

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— There were a total of 37 foreigners among partakers in Naga Traditional New Year Festival held in Leshi on 15 January, 2012. They were from France, the United States, Thailand, Germany, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Czecho-

slovakia, Australia, Luxembourg and Japan. The foreign tourists and tour guides and 13 photographers of Myanmar Photographic Society and local tourists from 16 local tour companies were comfortably served.—MNA

Crime reduction and anti-human trafficking educative pamphlets distributed

YANGON, 19 Jan— Police Captain Than Naing, Chief of Mogok Township Police Force, and party distributed pamphlets printed with hot line phone numbers of Transnational Crime Department and special anti-Human trafficking squads of Myanmar Police Force and mobile phone

numbers of Mogok Township Police Station, the chief of the township police force, and police station commanders to ward/village administrators office in the township on 14 January. They also gave talks on measures for reduction of crimes.—MNA

Significant night temperature (19-1-2012)

Loilem	(0° C)
Pinlaung	(1° C)
Heho	(1° C)
Namhsan	(2° C)
Lashio	(3° C)
PyinOoLwin	(4° C)

Captive rhino romance may be last hope for species



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Witnesses say Aussie shark attack 'like Jaws'

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India to get first robotic training centre for doctors



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PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 20 January, 2012

Prospecting for gold while travelling

Time is as precious as gold. A lost thing whatever priceless it is can be found back but elapsed time is of no recovery.

Everyone has 24 hours a day. We use this 24 hours for work, sleep, relaxation and odd jobs. Once I made a trip to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon. I arrived at the express bus terminal at 8 pm, half an hour ahead of the departure time. So I killed the time sitting at a nearby teashop and others travelers were like me. The express bus actually departed at 10.30. It means I wasted two hours of time for which I felt regret.

How beneficial would have been it if I had read one or two articles while waiting, I thought. Reading can broaden one's horizon. And knowledge is power to reap benefits like gold. So, reading while travelling is indeed like prospecting for gold.

In today's developed nations, most travelers read while travelling. They are using airports, harbors and bus terminals as reading room. Travelling time can be precious in their hands.

Most of the people find it difficult to have specific time for reading as they join the work life after leaving the school. Amidst the various struggles and pleasures of life, we hardly ever read books for our intellectual nourishment.

So, reading while travelling is advantageous, making sure that you are not wasting the time. Those who cannot give specific time for reading can find self-improvement knowledge in the books while travelling. So, use your time and read while travelling.

Multiplier course on enhancing quality assurance opens

YANGON, 19 Jan—Under the arrangements of the ASEAN University Network-AUN, the Training on Enhancing Quality Assurance was conducted at Myanmar Maritime University from 22 to 25 August 2011.

The multiplier course of the training is being opened at Myanmar Maritime University from 18 to 20 January.

Altogether 10 faculty members of Cooperative Degree College are attending the multiplier course.

On completion of the training course, the trainees will have higher proficiency for enhancement of higher education of universities and colleges.—MNA

3rd Japan Cup Karatedo Championship commences

YANGON, 19 Jan—Jointly organized by Myanmar Karatedo Federation and Japanese Embassy to Myanmar, the 3rd Japan Cup Karatedo Championship, sponsored by Japanese Chamber of Commerce (Yangon) (JCCY), kicked off at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito and President of MKF Dr U Win Zaw cordially greeted the Karate-do teams.

The federation president, the Japanese Ambassador and executive of JCCY Mr Shigeo Hana were presented with gifts and donations were made to the funds of Dagon Basic Education Middle School No. 2, Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No. 4 and No 3.

Selected Myanmar Karate-do athletes demonstrated their skills. With the aim of promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan, Mr Fujikiyo Omura (7th Dan, JKA W/F Asia Oceania Director) and party who attended the Karatedo technical seminar course in Myanmar showed off their brilliant skills. Then, the matches went on for the first day.

Also present on the occasion were Patron of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and General Secretary Daw L. Khun Yi and executives, officials of the Ministry of Sports and enthusiasts.—NLM

2nd BIMSTEC member countries adopt PPA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation was held in Kathmandu of Nepal on 16 January, attended by Myanmar delegation headed by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was held at Soaldee Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu on 16 January, with an inaugural address by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal Mr Narayan Kaji Shrestha Prekash. On behalf of the delegation leaders of BIMSTEC countries, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein delivered an address.

During the meeting, the minister endorsed Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation and agreed to implement eight broad strategies including "accelerated, pro-poor and inclusive growth, social development, and implementation of targeted programmes for poor, increased coverage for social protection, increased preparedness to address adverse effects of climate change, disaster risk management, good governance and periodic progress review. Then the participating delegation issued Kathmandu Declaration.

The Union Minister together with leaders of BIMSTEC delegations paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Nepal on 16 January afternoon. The BIMSTEC members agreed to hold the third ministerial meeting in Sri Lanka.

MNA

Myanmar, India vow to ensure everlasting border stability

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The national level meeting between civil authorities of Myanmar-India borders was held at Myat

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Zaw Hein	Managing Director Myanma Ceramic Enterprise Ministry of Industry
(b) U Aye Ko	Director-General Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Kyaw Zin Thant	Director-General Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Health
(b) Dr Win Myat Aye	Professor Child Health Department University of Medicine (1) Yangon Medical Science Department Ministry of Health



The 17th national level meeting between civil authorities of Myanmar-India borders in progress at Myat Tawwin Hotel.—MNA

Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint and departmental heads, Home Secretary of Home Affairs Ministry of India Mr R. K Singh, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr V.S Seshadri and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said he had strong belief that the meeting would produce the desired results and bring about everlasting friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The Indian Home Secretary also gave a speech.

They had a cordial discussion about inking of MoU on Myanmar-India borders affairs and matters of common interests. The two leaders then reviewed the agreed minutes.

The national level coordination of Myanmar-India borders civil authorities was held alternatively since 1994, which have brought cooperation in ensuring stability and enhancing socio-economic status of national of border regions of the two countries with deeper mutual understanding.

In the afternoon, the Indian deputy minister and party visited Uppatasanti Pagoda, Gems Museum, Junction Centre and Capital Hyper Market.

In the evening, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint hosted a dinner to Indian Home Secretary and party at Myat Tawwin Hotel.

MNA

Japanese Ambassador Mr Takashi Saito gives speech at 3rd Japan Cup Karatedo Championship.



Seattle faces unusually strong snowfall



Pedestrians navigate through the snow in downtown Seattle during rush hour on 18 January, 2012.

INTERNET

SEATTLE, 19 Jan—A Pacific storm blanketed Seattle in more than 4 inches of snow on Wednesday, forcing school closures and airline flight cancellations and snarling traffic throughout a city more accustomed to rain than severe winter weather.

But the storm, nicknamed "Snowmageddon" as it approached the Puget Sound Region, proved less extreme than originally forecast, with the National Weather Service lowering its

outlook for possible snow accumulations from up to 10 inches to around 6 inches, meteorologist Dustin Guy said.

The storm, which arrived on Tuesday evening, bore down more forcefully on towns in the interior part of Washington State, where snowfall totals ranging from 10 inches to 20 inches were forecast, the Weather Service said. More than 38,000 customers had lost power late on Wednesday, as the state braced itself for icy, slick

roads from falling temperatures and possible rain. In Pierce County, Tacoma Public Utilities reported about 24,000 without power in the Tacoma area and Puget Sound Energy, which services the Seattle metropolitan area, reported 14,000 without power, said Charles Tomala, a spokesman for the state's Emergency Operations Centre at 8 pm local time.

An additional 200 residences also lost power when a tree fell in Mason County, near the state capital of Olympia and on the Puget Sound's southwest edge.

Most of the state's schools, including those throughout Seattle, were scheduled to be closed on Thursday.

By midday Wednesday, 20 inches of snow already had fallen on the rural town of Rochester, just south of Olympia, said Rob Harper, a spokesman for the state Emergency Operations Centre.—Reuters

Havana building collapse kills three, injures eight

HAVANA, 19 Jan—At least three people were killed and eight injured when a residential building here collapsed Tuesday night, local media reported.

The old building, located in the Centro Habana neighbourhood, was home to about 30 people, several of whom were trapped in the rubble, official Radio Reloj reported.

Rescue workers, firefighters, medical staff and municipal authorities rushed to the site and rescuers were still searching for survivors on Wednesday. Some of the injured were hospitalized.

Building collapses are common in Cuba, particularly during the rainy season, due to a lack of maintenance spanning decades that has left many, especially in the capital's old neighbourhoods, in poor condition.

Authorities say more than 50 percent of Cuba's housing is in poor condition and the Cuban government has introduced a programme of subsidies for individuals to build and repair their homes.

Authorities expect private construction of at least 23,000 house in 2012.

Xinhua



Residents look out from a balcony next to an apartment building that collapsed in Havana, Cuba, on 18 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

Argentine rejects British PM's claim over territorial dispute



File photo of an Argentine war veteran's T-shirt reading: "Will be back!... for our Land... for our death... for our honour..."

XINHUA

BUENOS AIRES, 19 Jan—Political leaders here Wednesday strongly rejected British Prime Minister David Cameron's claim Argentina was "colonizing" the Malvinas Islands, which Britain calls the Falkland Islands.

Earlier in the day, Cameron said the Argentine government had engaged in "colonialism" toward the islets, which are at the center of the decades-old feud between the two countries. Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said instead of calling its National Security Council to discuss the issue, Britain should call United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and accept UN resolutions calling for dialogue to resolve

the issue peacefully. Argentine Interior Minister Florencio Randazzo described Cameron's comment as "particularly offensive."

Britain should respect the UN resolution to "discuss the Malvinas' sovereignty", although for Argentina there won't be such discussions because "the Malvinas belongs to Argentina," Randazzo said. Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota said Wednesday Latin America and the Caribbean back Argentina over the dispute.

Meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary William Hague, Patriota said Hague knew "Brazil and Unasur (Union of South American Nations) support Argentinean sovereignty over the Malvinas." Brazil also supported UN resolutions calling for the two countries to discuss the issue, Patriota said.

Argentina was defeated by Britain in a 74-day war in 1982 over the sovereignty of the South Atlantic islets, which are close to Argentine coasts and far away from Britain. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the conflict.

Tensions over the islands escalated recently when the Mercosur South American trade bloc and Chile backed Argentina by banning Malvinas-flagged ships from docking at their ports.

Xinhua

More than 5 mln going hungry in Niger



A man from Niger is pictured in his ravaged field due in 2011.

More than five million people are going hungry in Niger, the impoverished west African country's premier said Wednesday.

INTERNET

NAIROBI, 19 Jan—More than five million people are going hungry in Niger, the impoverished west African country's premier said Wednesday. A survey in December showed that "34.9 percent of Niger households, or over 5.456 million people, are in a situation of food and nutritional insecurity," Brigi Rafini told national radio. Among them "1.324 million people are affected by severe food insecurity," said the prime minister. "We must act right now," stressed Rafini

during a visit to Tillaberi, a western Niger Region that has been hard hit by the food crisis. Niger is short of 519,639 tonnes of cereals—or 14 percent of what it needs to feed 15 million people in 2012, said the agriculture ministry. Poor harvests, drought and cricket attacks have been blamed.

European humanitarian aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, who is visiting Niger, warned of the situation plaguing the country and the Sahel Region.

Some 1.7 million children are in a "vulnerable situation," she said. Launching an appeal for international aid, Georgieva said the EU "has more than doubled its aid for the Sahel," contributing 105 million euros to help the region fight the food crisis.

Internet

Rocket hits Turkish embassy in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan—A rocket hit the Turkish embassy compound in Baghdad on Wednesday, striking its perimeter without causing any injuries, Iraqi security and Turkish sources said. At least two rockets were fired from a vehicle at the embassy in northern Baghdad, outside the heavily fortified Green Zone complex, a senior Iraqi security official said.

Baghdad summoned Turkey's ambassador on Monday, complaining that comments made by Turkish officials amounted to meddling in its internal affairs. "There were two Katyusha rockets.

The first one hit the embassy blast wall, and the second one hit the second floor of an adjacent bank," the official said.

A Turkish embassy



A vehicle drives past a damaged concrete blast wall outside the Turkish embassy in Baghdad on 18 January, 2012.

INTERNET

source said at least three rockets had been fired at the embassy, but only one hit an outside blast wall without causing injuries.

Reuters

US navy rescues Iranian fishermen from sinking boat

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—The US Navy announced it led a rescue operation to assist the crew of an Iranian fishing vessel in distress in the Gulf of Oman, the third in 10 days in an area marked by tension between Washington and Teheran. A Seahawk helicopter from the guided missile destroyer USS Dewey spotted an Iranian fishing boat sinking early Wednesday while two other vessels tried to tow it to safety, according to a Navy Press release.

One sailor remained on board the sinking boat, called the *Al Mamsoor*, while two other crew members took refuge on the vessels that came to help. The helicopter stayed overhead while the *USS Dewey* joined the rescue operation. "Once we talked with their captain, it was clear that they needed food and water," said Navy Lieutenant Jason Dawson, the leader of the rescue team. The *Al Mamsoor* crew had fought flooding for three days before abandoning their vessel, the Navy statement said. The rescue team gave the crew about 150 pounds of food, water and other supplies before returning to the *Dewey*. On 7 January, a Navy destroyer rescued 13 Iranian fishermen who



US navy sailors from the USS Dewey's speak with mariners on an Iranian fishing dhow, on 18 January, 2012 in the Arabian Sea.—INTERNET

were being held hostage by Somali pirates. The guided missile destroyer *USS Kidd* made the rescue after one of the kidnapped fishermen revealed in a radio communication that pirates held his vessel's crew captive.—Internet

Breast milk courier helps Indonesian mums cope

JAKARTA, 19 Jan—Febby Kemala Dewi returned to work at a Jakarta accounting firm after three months of maternity leave but struggled, like many new mums, to balance her home and work lives — especially keeping her infant daughter fed.

Unwilling to stop breastfeeding, unable to pump enough for a whole day in the morning before work and leery of giving her baby anything but the freshest milk, she finally turned to a unique Jakarta service — a breast milk motorbike courier. “I have to work, but at the same time I can still feed my baby,” said Dewi, the wall

by her desk plastered with pictures of her smiling daughter, eight-month-old Ashalina Putri. Now, the 29-year-old IT consultant pumps breast milk at her office in central Jakarta and a courier comes to pick up the bottles around lunchtime. Placing them in a padded cooler box whose strap he then slings over his shoulder, the courier rides 45 minutes to an hour on a motorbike through choked Jakarta streets to deliver the milk to Dewi’s mother, who cares for the baby.

Indonesia’s economy has the fastest growth rate in Asia outside China and India, with the number of working women estimated at 40 million in 2009 by the

Ministry of Women’s Empowerment. This has since risen, as has the number of working mums. The service was launched in 2010 by Fikri Nauval, owner of a cargo and document shipping business, who said he was inspired by his wife’s using one of his motorcycle riders to send her breast milk home to their baby after she had to return to work. He charges 30,000 to 40,000 rupiah (\$3.30 to \$4.40) a trip, keeping track of traffic conditions and the best routes for drivers to take using a GPS map on a computer.

“I would like to help this nation build a better generation by helping working mothers deliver breast milk to their babies at home,” said the 40-year-old Nauval, who feels the nutrients in breast milk can’t be replicated by the powdered variety.—Reuters



A breast milk motorbike courier, Agus, gives a bottle of breast milk to a babysitter, who is holding Lenny Rukiya Tampubolon’s son Abraham Pratama Prasetyo, at Lenny’s house in Jakarta on 18 January, 2012.—INTERNET

Many women can skip frequent bone scans



US researchers say they have found new links between the timing of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and certain characteristics of fetal alcohol syndrome. INTERNET



No safe time to drink while pregnant

SAN DIEGO, 19 Jan—US researchers say they have found new links between the timing of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and certain characteristics of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Researchers at the California Teratogen Information Service Pregnancy Health Information Line — a state non-profit organization based at the University of California, San Diego — used data from its toll-free service offering information about alcohol exposure during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

The study involved 992 California women who contacted the information line from 1978 to 2005 with questions about a wide variety of exposures and, after being counseled, agreed to participate in a follow-

up study of their pregnancy outcome.

The results, published online ahead the April print edition of *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*, found every pattern of higher prenatal alcohol consumption — no matter the timing in pregnancy — was associated with an increased risk of having an underweight infant or reduced birth length.

“For every one drink increase in the average number of drinks consumed daily, there was a 25 percent increased risk for smooth upper lip, a 22 percent increased risk for thin red portion of the upper lip border, a 12 percent increased risk for small head size,” said lead author Haruna Sawada Feldman, postdoctoral student at UCSD.

Internet

ATLANTA, 19 Jan—New research could mean millions of older women can skip frequent screening tests for osteoporosis: If an initial bone scan shows no big problems, many can safely wait 15 years to have another one, the study suggests.

Government advisers and leading doctor groups urge osteoporosis screening, but no one has known how often that should happen. The findings offer the best information to date on that question, experts said.

“This is landmark, in the sense that it could allow us to move on to more precise guidelines,” said Dr. Heidi Nelson, a researcher at the Oregon Health & Science University who is an expert on the topic. At issues are bone mineral density tests, which usually are done through X-rays and cost around \$250. It takes about 10 minutes and involves less radiation than what’s emitted during a chest X-ray. Medicare pays for testing every two years.—Internet

Asia stocks up as Wall Street cheers housing data

BANGKOK, 19 Jan—Asian markets rose Thursday as investors grew more comfortable with riskier assets such as stocks after the release of surprisingly strong US housing figures and a pledge by the IMF to help stave off a financial crisis.

Benchmark oil rose above \$101 per barrel while the dollar fell against the euro and the yen. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.2 percent to 8,651.14. South Korea’s Kospi rebounded 1 percent to 1,911.15 after a losing session Wednesday. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng rose 1.1 percent at 19,906.39.

Australia’s S&P ASX 200 gained 0.2 percent to 4,224.30. Benchmarks in Singapore and mainland China also rose. Markets in Taipei were closed for Chinese New Year. Analysts said investors were becoming more comfortable with taking on risk despite multiple headwinds — including a likely recession in Europe, a possible debt default by Greece and a warning from

the World Bank on Wednesday of a possible slump in global economic

growth. “Evidence that markets are becoming increasingly

resilient to bad news emerged from the muted reaction to sharp downgrades in growth forecasts by the World Bank,” Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong said in a research note. Fears that the euro common currency might implode amid a mountain of sovereign debt eased Wednesday after the International Monetary Fund said it was looking at ways to raise another \$500 billion for loans to struggling countries.—Internet



Passers-by are reflected on an electronic stock board displaying the euro’s quotation against the Japanese yen at a securities firm in Tokyo, on 17 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

US airline traffic down 1.5% in October

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—US airline system traffic lost its momentum in October that was seen in the previous month, according to the preliminary data released by US Transportation Department on Wednesday. US airlines carried 61.2 million scheduled domestic and international passengers in total in October, down 1.5 percent from the same period of 2010, said the department.

The fresh number of passengers was 4.1 percent above that of two years ago in October 2009. There were 1.3 percent fewer domestic passengers this October than in the same month of 2010. International passengers edged down 3.0 percent over the same period.

Delta Airlines carried more total passengers than any other US airlines in October, reaching 9.571 million. Southwest Airlines carried the most domestic passengers, reaching 9.522 million. American Airlines took the first place in terms of international passengers with as many as 1.636 million, according to the data. In the first 10 months of 2011, US airlines carried 613.0 million passengers, up 1.5 percent from the same period in 2010. It was also the best January-October performance since 2008.—Xinhua



Rio clear to take over Mongolia project after Ivanhoe relents

LONDON, 19 Jan—Global miner Rio Tinto is clear to take over Mongolia’s coveted Oyu Tolgoi project, which promises to be one of the world’s largest copper-gold mines, after project owner Ivanhoe Mines decided to scrap a controversial “poison pill”. Ivanhoe said on Wednesday it would ditch its shareholder rights plan, originally aimed at blocking Rio Tinto from raising its stake in the Canadian firm, as a separate agreement capping the global miner’s holding at 49 percent expired. Rio, which has built its stake in the miner as it has helped fund construction of Oyu Tolgoi, welcomed the decision.

“As the 49 percent cap on Rio Tinto’s ownership of Ivanhoe expires today, we are free to increase our shareholding as we see fit,” a Rio spokesman said. Ivanhoe said Rio had recently told Ivanhoe’s board that it intends to buy additional shares to raise its stake to more than 50 percent. Ivanhoe’s rights plan, backed by shareholders in 2010 and due to expire next year, was dealt a fatal blow in December when a court ruled it could not be used to dilute Rio’s stake.—Reuters



An aerial view of traditional Mongolian tents, or ghers, which will house workers at Mongolia’s Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold deposit being developed by Rio Tinto and Ivanhoe Mines on 10 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Captive rhino romance may be last hope for species

LAHAD DATU, (Malaysia), 19 Jan—Punting is a Sumatran rhino, one of roughly two hundred left in the world.

Captured in a Borneo forest on Christmas Day, she is the latest addition to Malaysia's Borneo Rhino Sanctuary — and experts say she may also be one of the last hopes for a species on the brink of extinction.

Veterinarians want to introduce Punting to Tam, a 20-year-old male Sumatran rhinoceros in the enclosure next door, in the hopes that they will breed — although this cannot take place for a number of months yet, until Punting is deemed ready.

Estimated to be 10 to 12 years old, she was airlifted to the sanctuary in the Tabin Forest Reserve after her capture, and has since been adjusting to her new home, eating more than 60 kg (132 lb) of leaves each day.

"She doesn't look stressed, she's eating well ... but the stress (of a new environment) is enough to offset her cycle, her normal cycle," said Zainal Zahari Zainuddin, a veterinarian with the Borneo Rhino Alliance.

"So she may not have a cycle now. That's why we're monitoring her."



A veterinarian attends to Punting, a newly captured female Sumatran rhinoceros in Lahad Datu, in Malaysia's state of Sabah on Borneo island in this 12 Jan, 2012 file picture.—INTERNET

Captive breeding is now regarded as the only way to boost the population of the two-horned Sumatran rhino, which at 500 to 600 kg (1,100 to 1,322 lb) and 1.3 metres tall (4.3 feet) is the world's smallest rhinoceros.—Reuters

Oslo voices concern over shrinking number of whalers

OSLO, 19 Jan—Norwegian authorities called Wednesday on the country's whaling industry to counter the dramatic drop over the past decade in the number of boats partaking in the annual whale hunts.

The number of Norwegian vessels actively hunting whales has shrunk from 33 in 2001 to just 19 last year, Norway's Directorate of Fisheries said in a statement.

"The authorities are therefore stressing the importance of the sector itself working to recruit new participants," it said.

Whales have been protected by a global moratorium on hunting since 1986, but Norway does not abide by the ban.

In a bid to sustain a small market, the government in

Oslo has meanwhile gradually increased the annual whaling quotas in recent years.

In 2011, it authorised hunters to cull 1,286 Minke whales, up from 549 of the small whales hunters were allowed to take a decade earlier. But with the number of whalers in free-fall the industry has increasingly had trouble filling its swelling quota.

In the past couple of years, whalers have not been able to kill more than around half their quota, with just 41 percent of the permitted number taken in 2011. They blame overfilled processing plants, high fuel costs, hunting areas located too far from the coast and difficult weather conditions.—Internet



Norwegian authorities called on the country's whaling industry to counter the dramatic drop over the past decade in the number of boats partaking in the annual whale hunts.—INTERNET

La Nina said bringing US drought

PASADENA, 19 Jan—The La Nina weather event, dubbed "the diva of drought," is peaking and increasing the odds the southwestern and southern United States will be dry, NASA says.

The space agency said sea surface height data from its Jason-1 and -2 satellites show the milder repeat of last year's strong La Nina has recently intensified.

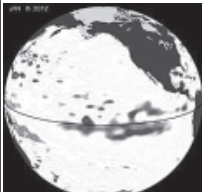
This is the second consecutive year the satellites have measured lower-than-normal sea

surface heights in the equatorial Pacific and unusually high sea surface heights in the western Pacific, a NASA release said Wednesday.

The height of the sea surface in a given area is an indicator of ocean temperature and other factors that influence climate, it said.

"Conditions are ripe for a stormy, wet winter in the Pacific Northwest and a dry, relatively rainless winter in Southern California, the Southwest and the southern tier of the United States," climatologist Bill Patzert of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, said.

"This La Nina could deepen the drought in the already parched Southwest and could also worsen conditions that have fueled recent deadly wildfires," he said.—Internet



The image depicts places where the Pacific sea surface height is higher than normal (due to warm water) as yellow and red, while places where the sea surface is lower than normal (due to cool water) are shown in blues and purples. Green indicates near-normal conditions.—INTERNET



India to get first robotic training centre for doctors

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Promising a new dimension to the future of robotic surgery in the country, India will soon be getting its first training centre for the technique, a robotic surgery firm said here Saturday.

"India has immense scope for robotic surgery. What we need is skilled manpower for doctors who can conduct the surgery. Vattikuti Foundation will open the first such training centre in Chennai by the end of this year for doctors from all over India," said Mahendra Bhandari, CEO of the Vattikuti Foundation, at the ongoing global robotics conference here.

"It will be our first step to help overcome the shortage of high-quality training on robotic surgery in India. The centre will provide services of skilled surgeons at affordable costs. By 2016, we expect 30,000 surgeries to be done annually with the new technology," Bhandari added.

The foundation has collaborated with hospitals

in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and other cities to provide robot-assisted surgeries. Among the government hospitals, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) conducted the first such surgery in 2008. While the surgery is conducted by a four-armed robot, the movements of the robot are controlled by a trained doctor. An arm of the robot controls the camera and the other three hands manipulate the surgical instruments. The entire surgical process is observed via a high-definition 3D vision system known as the Da Vinci surgical robotic system.

According to experts, the surgery is expected to find more takers when the cost comes down in the times to come. "Till now, the robot is manufactured by California-based Intuitive Surgical. One particular company maintains monopoly in the market, competition could help us bring down the cost," said Gagan Gautam, senior consultant and head of urology and robotic surgery at the Medanta Kidney and Urology Institute.—Internet

No Wikipedia? What if the Internet went down?



This screen shot shows the home page Google.com. A campaign whose backers include tech heavyweights like Google Inc and Yahoo Inc has successfully portrayed the bills the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect Intellectual Property Act as an attack on a free and open Internet rather than a way to protect the jobs of Americans in the movie and music industries, in a protest on 18 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—If a day without Wikipedia was a bother, think bigger.

In this plugged-in world, we would barely be able to cope if the entire Internet went down in a city, state or country for a day or a week.



Most of civilization went along until the 1990s without the Internet. But now we're so intertwined socially, financially and industrially that suddenly going back to the 1980s would hit the world as hard as a natural disaster, experts say.

No email, Twitter or Facebook. No buying online. No stock trades. No just-in-time industrial shipping. No real-time tracking of

diseases. It's gotten so that not just the entire Internet but individual websites such as Google are considered critical infra-structure, experts said.

"Nobody would die, but there would be a major hassle," said computer security expert Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at F-Secure in Helsinki, Finland.

If an Internet outage

lasted more than a day or two, the financial hit would be huge, with mass unemployment, said Ken Mayland, a former chief bank economist and president of ClearView Economics.

Eugene Spafford, director of Purdue University's Centre for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security, worries about bank runs and general panic.—Internet

Nintendo bringing free game demos to 3DS eShop

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—Launching nearly ten months after the Nintendo 3DS hit North American shores, Nintendo is rolling out support for demos that can be downloaded through the Nintendo eShop. As of 19 January, Nintendo 3DS owners can download a trial version of Capcom's Resident Evil: Revelations, a title that's launching in North America in approximately three weeks. During the following week, 3DS owners will be able to check out Sega's Mario & Sonic at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Other demos included on the docket are Konami's Metal Gear Solid: Snake Eater 3D and Ubisoft's Rayman Origins, however no date has been announced on the availability of either demo.

Nintendo of America's senior director Tony Elson stated "The demo programme allows Nintendo 3DS players to be among the first to test-drive select games. Players can try out new genres or series, often weeks before the full versions are available in



stores." However, Nintendo has remained silent on the availability of any first party demos for previously released titles such as Super Mario 3D Land or Mario Kart 7. Nintendo fans are also likely interested in potential demos for upcoming Nintendo 3DS titles such as Kid Icarus: Uprising and Animal Crossing. With the launch of demo support, Nintendo could potentially branch out into older titles currently being sold on the eShop. For instance, Nintendo could provide short demos for some of the previous Legend of Zelda titles.—Internet

Death toll in Haiti truck crash climbs to 29

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 19 Jan—A truck's brakes failed and it crashed a small bus then careened onto the sidewalk of one Port-au-Prince's busiest streets, killing 29 people and injuring 67, a Haitian official said on Tuesday.

Nadia Lochard of Haiti's Civil Protection Office said the accident happened on Route Delmas in the capital when the driver lost control of his dump truck.

The Press office of President Michel Martelly issued a statement saying the leader went to the site of the crash, which was in front of the national television headquarters.

The sidewalk outside the news station is often crowded with street vendors who sell their goods and motorcycle cabbies awaiting customers. The incident happened before midnight Monday.

Internet



People look at a wrecked truck after it crashed in Route Delmas, one of the busiest streets in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, late Monday on 16 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET



Tornadoes touch down in Indiana, Kentucky and Mississippi

JACKSON, 19 Jan—Tornadoes struck parts of Mississippi, Indiana and Kentucky on Tuesday, including one that hit a home in Mississippi and injured at least one person, meteorologists said. The Indiana and Kentucky twisters knocked out power lines, downed trees and caused property damage, while a Sheriff's Department dispatcher said the Mississippi tornado struck a home in south Marion County, and a person who was inside suffered a possible broken arm.

Tornadoes are unusual for this part of the year in Indiana and neighbouring Kentucky, although twisters occasionally hit Mississippi during the current season, said Dan Podynowski, senior meteorologist at AccuWeather.com, whose company provides forecasting services.

A cold front combined with a warm and humid air mass contributed to the latest twisters, but those conditions were dissipating, he said.

"The threat's pretty much come to an end everywhere, so I don't think there's any more tornadic activity to worry about anywhere at this point," Podynowski said.

In the area of Louisville, Kentucky, a twister knocked down trees and power lines along roadways, the National Weather Service said. To the north in Clark County, Indiana, a twister touched down in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart, the Weather Service added. When the twister moved, a vehicle was turned over on nearby Interstate 65, the agency said.

At Madison Municipal Airport in southeast Indiana, a twister also damaged a Beechcraft King Air when it moved the small plane and broke its nose gear, the Weather Service said.

Internet

US, Singapore hold 1st Strategic Partners Dialogue

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—The United States and Singapore held here Wednesday their first Strategic Partners Dialogue, seeking to expand cooperation in bilateral, regional and global matters of joint interest.

The one-day talks, co-chaired by US Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Singapore's permanent secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bilahari Kausikan, served to "enhance further" bilateral relations and marked a new development in the countries' strategic partnership, the two countries said in a joint statement.

"The co-chairs, in the spirit of equal partnership, mutual respect and desire to promote close cooperation, reviewed an already robust array of initiatives undertaken between the two countries and sought new

areas to create and expand cooperation in bilateral, regional, and global matters of joint interest," it said.

In addition to a review of bilateral areas of engagement including security, defence, education, trade and environment, the co-chairs discussed recent developments in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and regional institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The pair reviewed regional initiatives as well, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, where they renewed their commitment to complete "a high standard, 21st century agreement" with the other participating countries, said the joint statement.—Xinhua

Battle for control of Asia's seas goes underwater

YOKOSUKA, 19 Jan—It's getting a bit more crowded under the sea in Asia, where Andrew Peterson commands

one of the world's mightiest weapons: a \$2 billion nuclear submarine with unrivaled stealth and missiles that can

devastate targets hundreds of miles (kilometres) away.

Super high-tech submarines like Cmdr. Peterson's USS Oklahoma City have long been the envy of navies all over the globe—and a key component of US military strategy.

But America's submarine dominance in the Pacific is facing its biggest challenge since the Cold War.

Nearly every Asian country with a coastline is fortifying its submarine fleet amid territorial disputes stirred up by an increasingly assertive China and the promise of bountiful natural resources.—Internet



In this 10 Nov, 2011 photo, Cmdr Andrew Peterson stands by his USS Oklahoma City during the super high-tech submarine's port call in Yokohama near Tokyo.—INTERNET

Avalanches kill 29 in northeastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Jan—Avalanches have killed at least 29 people in Afghanistan's mountainous northeast as rescuers struggled to reach the worst-hit areas cut off by heavy snows, officials said.

The Afghan National Disaster Management Agency said Thursday that at least 40 more people have been injured in a series of avalanches since Monday in Badkhash Province.

Roads outside the provincial capital of Faizabad are blocked by at least 6 feet (2 metres) of snow, the agency said. Afghanistan's harsh winters and mountainous terrain in the north make avalanches a danger each year. In February 2010, an avalanche killed at least 171 people near the Salang Pass, a major route through the Hindu Kush mountains that connects the Capital of Kabul to the north of the country.

The NATO security force in Afghanistan said Thursday that one of its service members died after an explosion in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday. A coalition statement did not provide the nationality of the service member, nor any details of the attack. On Wednesday, dozens of civilians, coalition troops and Afghan security forces were killed and wounded when a suicide attacker blew himself up in a bazaar.

Daud Ahmadi, a provincial spokesman, said a bomber on a motorcycle killed 12 Afghans, including two policemen, and wounded at least 23 other people in Kajaki District of Helmand Province.

A statement released late Wednesday by NATO said the Kajaki explosion killed and wounded dozens of Afghan civilians, Afghan national security forces and coalition troops.—Internet

Bird flu kills two in Cambodia, Vietnam

PHNOM PENH, 19 Jan—Vietnam on Thursday reported its first human death from bird flu in nearly two years, as the virus also claimed the life of a toddler in Cambodia.

Concerns about avian influenza have risen in the region after China in late December reported its first fatality from the H5N1 virus in 18 months, but Vietnamese authorities said there was no need to be alarmed.

"The bird flu situation is still within our control," said Le Minh Hung, a doctor from

the Health Department of Ho Chi Minh City. "Some healthcare teams have been sent to check on the situation in southern provinces."

The Vietnamese victim, who died on 11 January, was a duck farmer from the southern Mekong delta Province of Hau Giang, and experts were investigating whether the infection came from his flock.

It was Vietnam's first human death from the disease since April 2010.

In neighbouring Cambodia, a two-year-old boy

from northwestern Banteay Meanchey Province, who is thought to have been exposed to sick poultry, died on January 18 from the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

The H5N1 strain of avian influenza has killed more than 340 people worldwide since 2003, according to WHO statistics.

Vietnam has recorded one of the highest numbers of fatalities from bird flu in southeast Asia, with 59 deaths since 2003, according to the WHO.—Internet



In this file photo, people are seen watching pigeons in central Phnom Penh. A two-year-old Cambodian boy has died from bird flu, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, in the country's first fatality from the virus this year. INTERNET

Witnesses say Aussie shark attack 'like Jaws'



An Australian surfer was recovering Thursday after being dragged under the water by a shark that sliced his leg open then circled him as he screamed for help in a scene witnesses said was "like Jaws".—INTERNET

SYDNEY, 19 Jan—An Australian surfer was recovering after being dragged under the water by a shark that sliced his leg open then circled him as he screamed for help in a scene witnesses said was "like Jaws".

Tattoo artist Glen Folkard, 44, was catching waves off Redhead Beach, near Newcastle, north of Sydney, when the two-metre (6.5 foot) shark attacked on Wednesday afternoon in front of dozens of stunned swimmers.

Witnesses said the shark took a large chunk out of Folkard's thigh as well as his board before dragging him under.

He managed to shake himself free and with the help of fellow surfers paddled back to shore trailing blood as the shark circled and was Thursday stable in hospital after surgery.

"It was kind of like Jaws, you know, the scene at the start... where everybody's pulled out of the water and it's a hot day and the water's inviting," a witness, named

only as Peter, told the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"My son actually said he saw the shark leap out of the water and grab a fish. The word is it was a bull shark.

"His (Folkard's) skin was really grey, he obviously lost quite a lot of blood."

Bull sharks are a medium-sized species known for their aggression and tendency to attack humans.

Around 500 people were on the popular family beach at the time, with about 100 in the water, reports said.

Another witness, Tony James, said: "It's just hit him and took him under for a bit.

"He's managed to get to the surface but I saw it start to follow him."

Rescue helicopters began air patrols after the attack and spotted several large groups of sharks nearby with beaches in the area closed.

But they reopened less than 24 hours later, although jet ski and helicopter patrols were continuing, as the schools of baitfish that are thought to have drawn the sharks close to shore moved further out to sea.—*Internet*

Five Europeans die in Ethiopia attack, two abducted



A wounded tourist from the group attacked in Ethiopia's Afar region arrives in Addis Ababa. The Erta Ale volcano is one of Africa's most spectacular and lies in the Afar depression — reputedly one of the least hospitable places on the planet — where local rebels have claimed attacks and kidnappings in the past.

INTERNET

ADDIS ABABA, 19 Jan—Gunmen killed five Europeans trekking near Ethiopia's famed Erta Ale volcano and kidnapped two others, officials said Wednesday, in the region's worst attack on tourists in years.

The volcano is one of Africa's most spectacular and lies in the Afar depression — reputedly one of the least hospitable places on the planet — where local rebels have claimed attacks and kidnappings in the past.

Ethiopia blamed Eritrea but Asmara denied involvement in the attack, which occurred before dawn on Tuesday and dealt another blow to regional tourism after recent kidnappings in Kenyan resorts and attacks on yachts by Somali pirates.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's spokesman Peter Szijarto, in an emailed statement, provided the nationalities of all the tourists involved in Monday's incident, citing information he said was obtained from Interpol.

"Two Hungarians were killed in Ethiopia and another lightly wounded... In total, five people were killed: two Germans, two Hungarians and an Austrian," the spokesman said.

"Two Italians were able to escape, two Belgians were lightly wounded. Two Germans and two Ethiopians were abducted," he added.

Belgium said one of its nationals was wounded in the attack, as was a British friend she was travelling with.

Ethiopia's foreign ministry said that a total of 22 tourists were on the trip to the remote destination.—*Internet*

Strong earthquake strikes off New Zealand

INVERCARGILL, 19 Jan—A strong earthquake has struck off the coast of New Zealand's South Island, but there are no reports of damage or injuries and no tsunami warning has been issued.

The 6.1-magnitude quake struck Thursday 126 miles (203 kilometres) west of New Zealand's southernmost city, Invercargill, at a depth of 11 miles (18 kilometres).

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre did not issue an alert.

A devastating quake ravaged the New Zealand City of Christchurch last year, killing 182 people.—*Internet*



Buildings are seen shrouded by heavy fog in Toronto, Canada, on 17 Jan, 2012.

According to a special weather statement issued by Environment Department of Canada, heavy fog hit Greater Toronto Area brought a sharp drop of visibility.

XINHUA

Indians return home after surviving Italian luxury liner disaster

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—More than 200 Indians who were rescued from the Italian cruise ship, Costa Concordia which had hit a rock and sank off the coast of Italy last week, will return to India by Thursday, local media

reported.

Help desks were set up at the airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad to help out relatives of those returning home, officials of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs

were quoted as saying.

A total of 203 Indians were on board the ship, one passenger and 202 crew members. One of them, Robello Russel Terence, a 33-year-old waiter on the ship, remains missing. The

government has stepped up efforts to search the missing Indian.

The Italian luxury liner was carrying more than 4,200 people when it ran aground on a reef off Giglio island in western Italy. Six people were killed and more than 60 injured in the accident.

Xinhua

200 flights delayed by heavy fog at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Fog continued to haunt the Indian capital early Thursday morning, disrupting air and rail traffic, with over 200 flights delayed and 11 flights canceled at the Indira Gandhi International airport, said civil aviation officials.

Visibility plunged below 50 meters at the airport early Thursday when international departures were in full swing. Some aircraft waited for a few hours at the holding point on the taxiways and had to return to the parking bays due to low visibility. Massive congestion caused by runway closure further worsened the delay, which lasted from one to six hours.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 18 Jan, 2012 shows staff members using cranes to repair the big oilfield workshop at a dock in Nantong City, east China's Jiangsu Province. A workshop worth an investment of 740 million yuan (117 million US dollars) by the China Oilfield Services Ltd (COSL), a leading Chinese oil field service provider, has sunk at a dock during construction on Wednesday. The cause of the accident was under investigation and no environmental pollution was incurred, COSL said.

XINHUA

Seven injured in Australia's Brisbane tunnel crash

BRISBANE, 19 Jan—Seven people were injured in a serious traffic crash in the Nundah Tunnel on Brisbane's north-side in Australia's Queensland, police said on Thursday.

Two vehicles, a blue dual cab Triton utility and a silver Nissan X-trail, collided on Sandgate Road in the Nundah Tunnel around 2 am local time on Thursday, Queensland police said.

Seven people in the two vehicles were injured and sent to hospital, three of them in serious conditions, police said.

While police investigations are continuing, initial probe has indicated one vehicle may have been traveling the wrong way.—*Xinhua*

Ministry of Culture to play a main role in resurrecting, preserving and promoting cultural heritages: Union Information and Culture Minister



Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at coordination meeting of Ministry of Culture.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan addressed the work coordination

meeting of the Ministry of Culture here this morning.

The Union Minister called respective

departments of the Culture Ministry to strive for accomplishment of duties assigned. He urged Archaeology, National Museum and

Library Department to prepare a master plan for basic renovation of all the heritages in need of repair across the nation during the period between 2012 and 2015. The Union Minister instructed that such works are to be done with four programmes—renovation, excavation, preservation and exhibition, and putting on records, stressing that heritages are to be renovated as possibly according to their original form. He called the staff of the ministry to discharge their duties with goodwill and pride as they are playing a very important role in resurrecting, preserving and promoting the cultural heritages and dignity of the nation and its people.

Next, Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin reported to the Union Minister on works implemented between 1-4-2011 and 31-12-2011 and follow-up tasks.

Director-General of the ANMLD U Kyaw Oo Lwin, Director-in-charge of Bagan Branch U Thein Lwin, Director-in-charge of Mandalay Branch U Myint Zaw, Director-in-charge of Sittway Branch U Zaw Zaw Tun and personnel of Bago, Taunggyi, Myitkyina, Loikaw and Hpa-an branches explained ongoing works and follow-up tasks of respective branches.

The meeting came to an end with discussions of Principal U Win Kyaing of Archaeology Technological Training School (Pyay) and rectors of universities of culture.—MNA

Child and human rights educative measures workshop produces valuable advices for Myanmar

YANGON, 19 Jan—The workshop on child and human rights educative measures, conducted by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) with the sponsorship of UNICEF, concluded at the Traders Hotel here yesterday, attended by commission Chairman U Win Mya.

UNICEF deputy resident representative Ms Juanita Vasquez made a concluding remark.

At the workshop that started on 16 January,

scholars from MNHRC, UNICEF and Education Planning and Training Department set out background history of UN charter on child and human rights measures, human rights activities of the UN, role of MNHRC on promotion and protection of child and human rights, teaching experience of human rights syllabus in school, and media might to motivate public human rights awakening. Representatives from Myanmar Police Force, General Administration

Department, Social Welfare Department, Supreme Court and Labour Ministry shared knowledge of promotion and protection of child and human rights in Myanmar; and Save the Children, World Vision and Myanmar Red Cross Society experiences of educative measures for child and human rights among the people.

Those present at the workshop could set down work procedures and advices helpful to such measures to be taken next in Myanmar.

MNA



Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung discussed extension of Myanmar-Malaysia airlines and investment in aviation management and services at Nay Pyi Taw Airport with Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ahmad Faisal Muhamad on 18 January. (News reported)—Myanma Alin

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects construction of Sittway University

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin made an inspection tour of the construction site of the multi-purpose three-storey main building of University of Sittway yesterday. There

he left necessary instructions after hearing reports presented by project manager U Htay Win.

He proceeded his inspection tour to the construction site of underground water tank with

30000 gallons of capacity and building Nos (7) and (8) of University of Sittway, where he urged the officials concerned to meet the standards of the construction real in time.

MNA

Farmers from Magway Region visit farmer educative farms in capital

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw conducted 52-member farmers group led by Taungdwingyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyi Thein

from Magway Region round 500-acre farmer educative mechanized farm in Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township this morning.

The farmers observed cultivation methods of hybrid Paethwe rice plants

and high yield sugarcane plantation there. They also observed good agricultural pattern at farmer educative farms in Dekkhinathiri Township and Pyinmana Township.

MNA

Mandalay fire burns down 26 houses, renders 28 households homeless

MANDALAY, 19 Jan—A fire broke out at the house of Daw Mon Mon Zin of Block-428 in East Thanletmaw, Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay at 2 am today.

The fire which started from amber destroyed 26 houses and rendered 106 people of 28 households homeless, and it was put under control by 250 fire brigade members using 53 fire engines at

3.20 am.

Fire victims are being accommodated at a relief camp opened at Pyilon-ant Dhammayon in Block-429 and being provided with necessary assistance by social organizations, region, district and township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations and officials concerned.

Nyunt Zaw-Mandalay

New school buildings handed over in Myaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—A ceremony to hand over Thallawady new building to Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was held in Myitson Village of Myaung Township on 14 January afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ohn Ngwe of Myaung Township, Deputy Commissioner U Myint Wai of Sagaing District and an official of Sagaing Region Education Office formally opened the new building. Region Minister for Forestry, Mines and Energy U Than Htaik unveiled the signboard of the building.

The new building, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high, was built at a cost of K 16 million.

Likewise, the handing over of Ayenyein Thayar new building was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Nanwinaing Village. The facility, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high, was constructed at a cost of K 8 million by the State. The region minister inspected construction of new buildings at Shwetachung Village BEPS and Kyauktan Village BEPS.—MNA

Union Commerce Minister on field trip of YeU

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint on 15 January met departmental personnel, entrepreneurs and townsenders at the office of General Administration Department in YeU Township.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister explained that the State is implementing the five-year plan from 2010 to 2015 for rural development and poverty alleviation, and he urged departmental personnel to cooperate with local people in undertaking regional development tasks.

Shwe Nagamin Co donated K 8.9 million for upgrading of YeU-Tamardaw-Kanhtuma Road, K 2 million each for YeU Basic Education High School No 1 and No 2, K 500,000 each for two students admitted to

University of Medicine, one set of Sky Net receiver to YeU Township GAD and 20 ampoules of anti-snake venom for Township People's Hospital.

He met teachers and students at YeU BEHS No 2 and observed the wickerwork industry in Aung Zeya Ward. He also met local people in Tinteinyan Model Village.

On 16 January, the Union Minister explained arrangements for keeping Thiri Lake clean and pleasant in Taze. While in Taze, he met departmental personnel, entrepreneurs and local people and attended the donation ceremony for development tasks.

The Union minister met local people in Nabetgyi and Inkokka villages after inspecting construction of new building at Nabetgyi Village BEHS.—MNA



Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun views conducting of Computer and Basic Office Work Course No. 30 at the office of Mandalay Region Internal Revenue Department on 18 January. (News reported).—MNA

Meeting with Dr Manam Tuja who will stand for by-election



MOHNYIN, 19 Jan—Dr Manam Tuja who is to stand for the by-election to be held on 1 April for the vacancy of

Mogaung township constituency in Kachin State as an independent representative presented his

candidature list to Mohnyin District Election Sub-commission Office on 18 January.

Dr Manam Tuja in an interview with a correspondent of *The New Light of Myanmar daily* said that his seal for election is a white dove carrying the Eugenia branch (olive branch) in its mouth, and that it is the symbol of peace. Dr Manam Tuja had attended the National Convention and resigned from KIA as one of the top leaders of the group. NLM-001

Dy Tourism minister attends 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting and related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung on behalf of Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan attended 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting and related meetings along with 12th ASEAN Tourism Fair held in Manado of Indonesia from 8 to 12 January.

Tourism ministers and deputy ministers from ASEAN countries, Director Mr Somsak Pipoppinyo of ASEAN Secretariat and high-ranking officials of tourism industry also attended the 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting on 11 January.

At the 11th tourism ministers meeting from ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held on 12 January, the ministers,

deputy ministers and officials held discussion on tourism cooperation among ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK and follow-up plan.

At the 3rd ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers Meeting, the MoU on tourism industry cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed.

Indonesian Vice President Prof Dr Boediono opened the 12th ASEAN Tourism Fair-2012 at Grand Kawanua Convention Centre.

Deputy Minister U Htay Aung viewed displays of Myanmar tourism booth at 12th ASEAN Tourism Fair in Golden Kawanua Exhibition Hall on 13 January. MNA

Theidpan Market to be upgraded by secret voting system

Byline & Photo: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindaing)

Theidpan Market formerly called Hsinmin Market at the junction of Hsinmin Road and Strand Road in Ahlon Township entering its aging time is due to be upgraded soon through free secret voting system in consideration of the desires of sellers.

The market is a one-story building and cannot catch proper light due to its low roofing structure. To upgrade the market, responsible persons asked shopkeepers for their desire by secret voting system at the in-charge office from 9 am to 4 pm on 13 January.

Deputy Head U Maung Maung Aye of Markets Department of the Yangon City Develop-

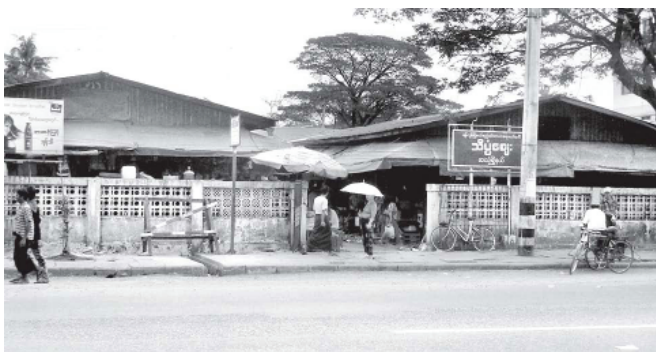


Photo shows old Theidpan Market in Ahlon Township.

ment Committee, district heads, township administrators, the township police head and members of market supervisory committee took charge of voting process.

YCDC is going to upgrade the market as there were 470 vote in favour and 185 against.

It was learnt that during construction period, temporary stalls will be put

up in Thiri Mingala playground. But, no information about the exact place of hundreds of vendors is coming out yet, by all accounts.

Translation: ZZS

DISTRICT NEWS

School buildings handed over

MAGWAY, 18 Jan—School buildings of Affiliated Basic Education Middle School and Primary School were handed over to Ministry of Education in Jatkon Village of Magway Township on 12 January.

Deputy Speaker of Magway Region Hluttaw U Saw Win Maung handed over documents related to Magway Region Education Officer U Myat Htut.

Two buildings, 120 feet long, 24 feet wide and 12 feet high each, were constructed at a cost of over K 30 million in total amount.—District IPRD

Mindat harvests model monsoon paddy

MINDAT, 18 Jan—Manawthukha strain monsoon paddy on the model plot was harvested in Lalawnghti Village-tract of Mindat Township on 16 January.

Deputy Commissioner U Nay Aung of Mindat District General Administration Department and officials supervised the harvesting of paddy. The local farmers harvested the paddy that produced 118.33 baskets of dried paddy per acre.

Myanma Alin



Take Fire Preventive Measures

Cultivation of Palethwe rice plants demonstrated in Kyaiklat Township

KYAIKLAT, 18 Jan—A demonstration on transplanting of high yield Palethwe hybrid rice plants was held in Tapaytamawt Village of Kyaiklat Township on 13 January morning.

District and township level officials of Myanma Agriculture Service

explained the purpose of growing Palethwe paddy strain and applying good agriculture pattern.

The paddy cultivation demonstration was attended by local authorities and local farmers.

Township IPRD



Passengers stranded by heavy fog wait on Wednesday at the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport in Northwest China's Shaanxi Province.—INTERNET

Weather turns bad as back-home travel peaks

BEIJING, 19 Jan— This year's annual travel rush, which will go into full swing in the next three days, will encounter bad weather, and the road home could be a tough one for many heading to Spring Festival family reunions.

Heavy fog on Wednesday stranded more than 14,000 passengers at the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport in Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, where visibility was reduced to less than 100 metres.

Airport authorities said the dense fog grounded more than 200 flights since Wednesday morning. By 6 pm, 47 flights in and out of Xi'an had been canceled.

With air tickets sold out during the travel rush, many passengers whose flights were canceled found themselves in a predicament.

Xu Ning, a 30-year-old Xi'an native trapped in Shanghai Pudong International Airport since noon, said if he could not find a ticket to Xi'an, he would not be able to spend Spring Festival eve with his family.

"The airport staff told us that we could choose between endlessly waiting in the airport or rescheduling our flight for one of the next couple of days. But I just found out that tickets for flights to Xi'an later this week were all booked," he said.

Zhang Yao, 28, who arrived with her husband at Beijing Capital International Airport at 3 pm from Belgium, found the flight she planned to take to Xi'an had been canceled.

"We were told we could reschedule, but the earliest flight with available seats is on 23 Jan," she said.

That the airport did not make arrangements for stranded passengers, such as free accommodation, made her feel even more frustrated, she said.

Zhang and about 30 other passengers were still waiting for a solution at 6 pm.

Xinhua

Indonesia tries to deter train 'surfers' — again

JAKARTA, 19 Jan—Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains — hosing down the scofflaws with red paint, threatening them with dogs and appealing for help from religious leaders.

Now the authorities have an intimidating and possibly even deadly new tactic: Suspending rows of grapefruit-sized concrete balls to rake over the top of trains as they pull out of stations, or when they go through rail crossings.

Authorities hope the balls — which could deliver serious blows to the head — will be enough to deter defiant roof riders.

"We've tried just about everything, even putting rolls of barbed wire on the roof, but nothing seems to work," said Mateta Rizahulhaq, a spokesman for the state-owned railway company PT Kereta Api. "Maybe this

will do it."

Trains that crisscross Indonesia on poorly maintained tracks left behind by Dutch colonizers six decades ago usually are packed with passengers, especially during the rush hour.

Hundreds seeking to escape the overcrowded carriages clamber to the top. Some ride high to avoid paying for a ticket. Others do so because — despite the dangers, with dozens killed or injured every year — "rail surfing" is fun.

The first dozen or so balls were installed Tuesday hundreds of yards (metres) from the entrance of a train station just outside the capital, Jakarta. Painted silver, the balls hung by chains from what looked like the frame of a giant soccer goal.

Internet



People ride on top of a commuter train in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17 Jan, 2012. Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains, hosing down the scofflaws with red paint, threatening them with dogs and appealing for help from religious leaders.

INTERNET

Armed conflict linked to low birth weight

DENVER, 19 Jan— Pregnant women exposed to armed conflict have a higher risk than others of giving birth to babies who are under weight, US researchers say. Hani Mansour and Daniel Rees of the University of Colorado Denver and Daniel Rees said the Second Intifada, which began in September 2000, claimed more than 4,000 Palestinians by 2005.

Mansour and Rees used data from the Palestinian Demographic and Health Survey, collected by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics approximately four years after the start of the uprising. The data were matched with data on Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank collected by B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization.

The researchers examined a sample of 1,224 births to women living in the West Bank. Conflict exposure in utero was measured by the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces in the district where the mother lived. The authors controlled for a variety of potentially confounding variables — including education of the mother and father, mother's age when she gave birth, father's occupation, birth order, gender of the baby, number of prenatal care visits, whether a curfew was in place and self-reported anemia.

Internet

Woman removed from plane after bringing gun aboard

FORT WORTH, 19 Jan—A 65-year-old lawyer was arrested Wednesday for carrying a loaded handgun aboard an American Airlines jet at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Judith Kenney was released later Wednesday on her own recognizance, said her attorney, Dallas lawyer David Finn.

Kenney carries a handgun for protection but had forgotten that it was in a computer bag she carried on board the plane, he said. She has no criminal history, he said.

Screeners at a security checkpoint had detected a gun in a woman's carry-on bag but she "picked up the bag and left the checkpoint before the screening process was over," said Greg Soule, a spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration, which operates the checkpoints. When TSA screeners spot a gun in a bag, they are supposed to seize the bag and notify police, he said.

Internet

Homelessness down but seen rising anew

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan— US homelessness slipped 1 percent from 2009 to 2011, but the sluggish economy left more poor people struggling to pay for housing and just a step away from shelters, an advocacy group said in a new study on Wednesday.

The drop to 636,017 homeless people last year could prove short-lived, since

it was likely due to \$1.5 billion in federal aid that will run out this year, the National Alliance to End Homelessness said in its report.

"The fact that homelessness dropped in the middle of a downturn is counter-intuitive," Nan Roman, the Alliance's president and chief executive, told a news conference.



Steve "Pockets" gathers firewood to heat the inside of his tent, that is part of a homeless community near Lakewood, New Jersey on 9 January, 2012.—INTERNET

The federal aid, part of an economic stimulus package, "seems to have worked," she said.

The Alliance, which groups public, private and non-profit organizations, said the biggest decrease in homelessness was among veterans, with the number falling 11 percent to 67,495 in 2011.

The overall decline in homelessness, however small, may not last long. Current trends point to the number of homeless people rising about 5 percent through 2013, Peter Witte, a researcher who compiled the study, told reporters.

In one indicator of possible trouble, the number of poor households that spent more than half their incomes on rent — defined as "severely housing cost burdened" — rose 6 percent to 6.2 million, the report said.

The number of people

living "doubled up" with friends, relatives or others jumped 13 percent to 6.8 million. "Doubling up" is the usual step before people move into shelters, Witte said.

Robert Reector, a senior researcher with the Heritage Foundation, called the slight decline in homelessness "pretty startling" in light of the worst US economic downturn since the Great Depression.

He said the federal aid, although worthwhile, had played only a small part in easing homelessness.

Reuters

The Keystone Oil Pipeline is pictured under construction in North Dakota in this undated photograph released on 18 January, 2012.

INTERNET

Keystone rejection no judgment on pipeline merit

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan— President Barack Obama on Wednesday blamed his Republican opponents for imposing an "arbitrary" deadline on his review of TransCanada Corp's plan to build the Keystone XL Canada-to-Texas crude oil pipeline, which led to its rejection.

"This announcement is not a judgment on the merits of the pipeline, but the arbitrary nature of a deadline that prevented the State Department from gathering the information necessary to approve the project and protect the American people," Obama said in a statement. "I'm disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision."

Reuters



Russian tanker near finishing Nome fuel delivery

ANCHORAGE, 19 Jan—A Russian tanker was expected to finish offloading 1.3 million gallons of fuel in Nome as early as Wednesday night, officials said, easing an energy shortage in the ice-bound Alaskan port city.

The Renda, a 370-foot ice-class tanker sent to Nome from its home port in Vladivostok, has already pumped its gasoline cargo to shore and is now finishing the delivery of diesel, said Jason Evans, board chairman of the Sitnasuak Native Corp, the company that arranged for the unusual icebreaking mission.

The Renda, escorted by a US Coast Guard icebreaker, is making the first-ever winter marine delivery of fuel to northwestern Alaska.

Fuel is typically barged in to Nome, which lacks

outside road access, during summer and fall. The last scheduled delivery was canceled after one of the worst storms to hit the region in decades swept the Bering Sea town of 3,600.

The missed barge shipment meant Nome could face sparse fuel supplies and, if fuel had to be flown into town, extremely high prices by late winter, Sitnasuak warned. Gasoline currently costs about \$6 a gallon in Nome, Mayor Denise Michels said. Michels said caution was more important that speedy fuel flow from the Renda, which arrived in town on Friday and began sending fuel to onshore storage tanks late Monday.

"We're not pushing. We want to make sure this transfer is done safely. If it takes another 24 hours, so be it,"



Two hoses used to transfer fuel from the Russian Russian-flagged tanker Renda are seen in Nome, Alaska, in this 16 Jan, 2012 handout picture. Renda, the Russian tanker escorted by the US Coast Guard cutter Healy, reached the frozen Alaskan port of Nome with emergency fuel supplies on 13 Jan after a 10-day voyage through ice-choked seas, the Russian company that owns the vessel said.—INTERNET

she said.

By the time the fuel-laden Renda reached Nome on Friday, Evans said, Sitnasuak subsidiary Bonanza Fuel had run out of

diesel and was buying supplies from Nome's only other distributor. The company was two weeks from running out of gasoline, he said.—Reuters

Unemployment in Britain hits 8.4 percent

LONDON, 19 Jan—The unemployment rate in Britain reached 8.4 percent from September to November with a record number of dissatisfied part-time workers, national data shows.

The unemployment rate climbed higher than the 8.3 percent predicted by economists as the number of unemployed persons rose by 118,000 in the three-month stretch, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Wednesday.

The number of unemployed, 2.68 million, is a 17-year high. The number of workers listed as "underemployed," which means they are working part time because no full-time job is available, rose by 44,000 in September to November to 1.31 million, the highest figure since 1992.

The number of persons listed as working for themselves rose by 101,000 to 4.12 million. But analysts said a sudden interest in independence was not behind the rise. Rather, the surging number of entrepreneurs is a sign that some unemployed workers are attempting to avoid government welfare, the newspaper said.

"The government's welfare-to-work programmes are now clearly failing and the welfare bill is going through the roof," said Liam Byrne, the Labour Party's shadow work and pensions secretary.

"Unemployment has now soared to highest level for a generation and long-term youth unemployment has more than doubled since January last year.—Internet

Major oil refinery to close in US Virgin Islands

ST CROIX, (US Virgin Islands), 19 Jan—One of the world's largest oil refineries will close next month, the company announced Wednesday, stunning nearly 2,000 workers and threatening to upend the reeling economy of the US Virgin Islands.

Industry analysts said the closure is unlikely to have a

major effect on the global oil market, but Gov John de Jongh described the loss of the territory's largest private employer as "a complete body blow" for the US territory of about 108,000 people.

He said Hovensa generated a minimum of \$60 million a year in revenue for the government, which recently laid off hundreds of

public workers due to a budget crisis.

"Given what we're going through right now, this is the last bit of news that I wanted to hear," he said in a teleconference with reporters.

Losses at Hovensa, a joint venture of US based Hess Corp and Venezuela's state-owned oil company, have totaled \$1.3 billion over the past three years and were projected to continue due to reduced demand caused by the global economic slowdown and increased refining capacity in emerging markets, said Brian K Lever, president and chief operating officer of Hovensa LLC.

"We deeply regret the closure of the Hovensa refinery and the impact on our dedicated people," Lever said in a statement. "We explored all available options to avoid this outcome, but severe financial losses left us with no other choice." Hess announced in New York that it will take a \$525 million after-tax charge against its fourth-quarter 2011 earnings due to the shutdown.—Internet



A worker walks out of the Hovensa oil refinery in St Croix, US Virgin Islands, on 18 Jan, 2012. The refinery, the largest private employer in the US Virgin Islands and once one of the largest refiners in the Western Hemisphere, will cease operations next month and will be converted to an oil storage terminal, said Brian K Lever, president and chief operating officer of Hovensa LLC. Losses at Hovensa, a joint venture of US-based Hess Corp and Venezuela's state-owned oil company, have totaled \$1.3 billion over the past three years.—INTERNET

South African Airways launches flights to Burundi, Rwanda

BUJUMBURA, 19 Jan—South African Airways (SAA) on Tuesday night launched flights to the Burundian Capital Bujumbura and the Rwandan Capital Kigali, a press release from SAA said.

The flight will operate from South Africa's Johannesburg to Kigali and onwards to the Bujumbura, while the return flights will operate from Bujumbura to Kigali and onwards to Johannesburg.

"The flights will pick up passengers and freight on the Kigali-Bujumbura-Kigali sectors allowing for growth in the African Great Lakes of the central and eastern African and increase intra-regional connectivity," said the Press release. SAA will take the Johannesburg-Kigali-Bujumbura route three times a week every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. The return will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.—Xinhua



Oxford Street, London's busiest Shopping District on 20 Dec, 2011. The unemployment rate in Britain reached 8.4 percent from September to November 2011.—INTERNET

Tales emerge of missing and dead in ship disaster

ROME, 19 Jan—A retired American couple treating themselves after putting four children through college. A Hungarian musician who helped crying children into life jackets, then disappeared while trying to retrieve his beloved violin from his cabin. As details emerged Wednesday about the missing and the dead in the grounding of the Costa Concordia, the captain was quoted as saying he tripped and fell into the water from the listing vessel and never intended to abandon his passengers.

The search for the 21 people still unaccounted for in the disaster ground to a halt after the cruise liner shifted again on its rocky perch off the Tuscan island of Giglio, making it too dangerous for divers to continue. Rough seas were forecast for the next few days.

The bad weather also postponed the start of the weekslong operation to extract the half-million gallons of fuel on board the vessel, as Italy's environment minister warned Parliament of the ecological implications if the ship sinks.

Internet

IMF seeks up to \$500 billion in new funds

BRUSSELS, 19 Jan—The International Monetary Fund said Wednesday that it's aiming to increase its financial firepower by around \$500 billion so it can issue new loans to help ease a worsening financial crisis. Responding to speculation surrounding its funding requirements, the Washington-based institution said its staff estimates that countries around the world will need about \$1 trillion in loans in the coming years. Most of the concerns center on the 17 nations that use the euro and their debt crisis.

Thanks to about \$200 billion that European countries have promised the IMF, it's more than one-third of the way to its fund-raising goal. The IMF has put up about a third of the financing of the eurozone's bailouts over the past two years. But there are growing worries that non-European countries will also need more help because of the worsening economic outlook.

Earlier, its sister organization, the World Bank, urged emerging countries to be ready for a severe global downturn if the crisis in the 17-nation eurozone intensifies.

The eurozone, in particular, has been pushing countries around the globe to give more funds to the IMF. The idea is to build up a larger firewall to stop the continent's debt troubles from spreading to large economies like Spain, Italy or even France.—Internet



In this photo taken on 14 Jan, 2012, and made available on 18 Jan, 2012, Francesco Schettino, right, the captain of the luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia, which ran aground Friday off the tiny Tuscan island of Isola del Giglio, is taken into custody by Carabinieri in Porto Santo Stefano, Italy. INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (053)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (053) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2012 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV POSITIVE PIONEER VOY NO (60)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV POSITIVE PIONEER VOY NO (60) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2012 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: EASTERN-CAR LINER
SINGAPORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

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The said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say—
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National Capital Region
e-mail: dandi@vsnl.com
India. 20 January 2012

Oprah Winfrey parties in Mumbai with Bollywood stars



Oprah Winfrey was driven to the party by the Bachchans.—INTERNET

MUMBAI, 19 Jan — US chat show queen Oprah Winfrey has kicked off her week-long visit to India by partying with Bollywood stars. Winfrey is on her first visit to the country to film a documentary and is expected to attend the literary festival in Jaipur City. She arrived in

Mumbai on Monday and attended a party held in her honour.

She is expected to visit the city's slums on Tuesday and is also expected to have dinner with a traditional family of four generations. On Monday evening, Winfrey was seen wearing a

red sari as she travelled in a car with Bollywood acting legend Amitabh Bachchan to a glitzy event, hosted by socialite Parmeshwar Godrej.

They were accompanied by actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, Mr Bachchan's son and daughter-in-law. Other actors who attended the party included Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan, and Preity Zinta. Zinta tweeted from the event: "Tonight was dinner at the Godrej House with Oprah Winfrey. Nice to see her wearing a beautiful sari." Winfrey, who is one of America's most famous women, left one of India's biggest personalities star-struck.

Internet

Boa constrictor snakes sense prey's fading heartbeat

LONDON, 19 Jan — Scientists have now discovered that snakes sense exactly how long they need to squeeze; the predators can sense their victim's heartbeat, and let go only when it stops. The findings are reported in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*. They reveal how snakes evolved to take physical "cues" from their

prey. This allows the animals to sense when they have successfully incapacitated their quarry. It is a crucial trick for a predator that has to balance its need for food with the energy it spends constricting its muscles tightly enough—and for long enough — to suffocate an animal.

The research team, led by Dr Scott Boback from Dickinson College in the US state of Pennsylvania, wanted to find out if the snakes were able to "measure" the amount of time they needed to keep squeezing. The scientists used rats to entice their captive Boa constrictor to attack. But the team did not subject the rodents to death by constriction, instead implanting dead rats with "simulated hearts" — water-filled bulbs connected to a pump, which replicated the blood-pumping action of a live rat's heart.—INTERNET

Boa constrictors can grow up to 4m (13ft) in length and have a lifespan of up to 30 years

The snakes have no venom, instead using their small, hook-shaped teeth to grip prey while wrapping their muscular bodies around it

Boas tackle a wide variety of prey, including rodents, monkeys and wild pigs. As with most snakes, their specialised, "flexibly attached" lower jaw enables them to swallow prey whole.



Rise in number of 'younger' knee replacements

LONDON, 19 Jan — Data suggests there has been a big rise in knee replacement operation rates, particularly for younger patients. Figures for the UK, US and Finland show an emerging trend of requests for arthritic 'baby boomers' in their 50s.

UK experts believe the nation's growing obesity problem is partly to blame for

the rise, putting strain on the knees.

A report in *Arthritis & Rheumatism* says work is urgently needed to check that replacements in this age group is wise given the product's unknown shelf life. The durability of the replacement knee joints has only been assessed in patients in their 60s, 70s and

80s, not in their 50s.

Best estimates suggest the joints last for about 15 years in these "older" and often less physically active recipients. Surgeons say it's possible younger patients might wear out their replacements even faster than this.

Arthritis Research UK is currently investigating the

Osteoarthritis risk increases with age.
INTERNET



success rate of knee replacement surgery in this younger age group. The charity wants to ensure.

Internet

Kraft to cut 1,600 jobs in split



A woman grabs a box of Kraft Macaroni & Cheese from a shelf at a Walgreens store in Willowbrook, Illinois.
INTERNET

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — Kraft Foods Inc said that splitting into two companies would lead it to cut about 1,600 jobs in North America this year and that its 2011 profit should be slightly higher than it had previously forecast. About 40 percent of the job cuts come from the

company realigning its US sales division, Kraft said.

About 20 percent of the jobs being cut in the United States and Canada are currently open positions, the company said.

The planned job cuts do not include any cuts at manufacturing facilities. The 1,600 job cuts represent about 1.26 percent of the company's total workforce. Kraft has about 127,000 employees, including about 46,500 in North America. Kraft also said its 2011 net revenue would be up by about 10 percent, as it ended the year with strong momentum around the world despite a tough operating environment.

Internet



Hedgehogs in urban areas can be helped by the provision of "hedgehog houses"—INTERNET

Public request for climate hedgehog study

LONDON, 19 Jan — UK wildlife charities are asking for people's help in examining if hedgehogs are being affected by climate change.

Retired hedgehog expert Dr Pat Morris performed a study 40 years ago showing that temperature affects when the animals emerge from hibernation. With the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species, he

wants to see if warming since then has changed things.

Hedgehog numbers fell in the last 50 years, largely due to land use change. From an estimated 30 million in the 1950s, the UK population shrank to about 1.5 million in 1995, and has almost certainly fallen further since then.

The spread of urban landscapes and industrial farming are among the factors involved; but climate change

could be having an impact as well.

As a researcher at Royal Holloway, University of London in the 1970s, Dr Morris conducted a survey trying to map hedgehog populations across the country.

"We took observations of hedgehogs that people had sent in for mapping," he told BBC News.

Internet

White-nose syndrome ravages North America bat numbers

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — At least 5.7 million bats across 16 US states and Canada have died from White-nose syndrome, scientists studying the fungal ailment say. The disease was first detected in a cave in New York State in 2006. Previously, the US Fish and Wildlife Service closed caves and mines in an effort to hamper the spread of the disease.

Officials say bats provide value to the US economy as

natural pest control in farms. The nocturnal creatures also help to control insects that can spread disease to humans. Bats with White-nose syndrome exhibit odd behaviour during the winter months, including flying outside during the day. The rapid spread of the disease has also challenged officials' population estimates.

Internet

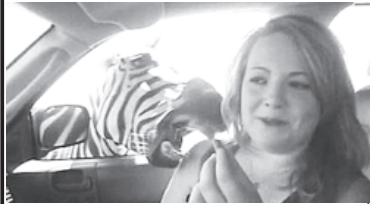
Woman ok after bite from zebra during Texas safari visit

A young woman named Megan is bitten by a zebra while on a visit to a Texas wildlife safari.

Obviously caught off guard, Megan screams and appears very upset over the attack. Thankfully, Megan doesn't appear seriously injured and can even be seen laughing during the final seconds of the video. Zebras are herbivores, so it appears that the Zebra was going for Megan's potato chips, not Megan herself. Still it's a

good reminder that you shouldn't leave your windows open while on a wildlife safari, particularly not when you're looking away from the window and eating food.

Though it hasn't been officially confirmed, the video appears to have been taken at the Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch in San Antonio, Texas. Their homepage even features a zebra bearing its teeth with a park gift card wedged between its jaws.



The hungry zebra moves in for a snack

News Album

'21' tops US album chart

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan—Adele's "21" is No 1 on the US album chart for a 16th week, Billboard.com reported Wednesday.

The last album to spend



Adele's "21" is No 1 on the US album chart for a 16th week, Billboard.com reported Wednesday.—INTERNET

so long at the top of the chart was the "Titanic" soundtrack in 1998.

Coming in at No 2 on this week's Billboard 200 is the David Crowder Band's "Give Us Rest," followed by the Black Keys' "El Camino" at No 3, Drake's "Take Care" at No 4 and Snow Patrol's "Fallen Empires" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Young Jeezy's "T.M.: 103 Hustlerz Ambition" at No 6, Rihanna's "Talk That Talk" at No 7, Coldplay's "Mylo Xyloto" at No 8, Nickelback's "Here and Now" at No 9 and the "Now 40" compilation CD at No 10.—INTERNET

LL Cool J to host Grammy Awards show

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan—Rapper and actor LL Cool J is to serve as host of the 54th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles, organizers said Wednesday.

This will mark the first time in seven years that the music industry event will have an official host. Queen Latifah was the last celebrity to preside over the show.

This year's prize presentation at the Staples Centre is to air 12 Feb on CBS. "I'm thrilled to be a part of music's biggest night," LL Cool J said in a statement. "I will always have fond memories of my first Grammy Awards and to now be hosting the Grammy show, in the company of so many other incredible artists, is a dream come true. Great performances

and great music — it's going to be a great night."

LL Cool J has served as host of The Grammy Nominations Concert Live! since its inception in December 2008, but this will be his first time as emcee of the annual Grammy Awards broadcast.—INTERNET



Rapper and actor LL Cool J is to serve as host of the 54th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles, organizers said Wednesday.—INTERNET



White whales and their trainers present a show for visitors, celebrating the upcoming Chinese New Year in the Harbin Polarland in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Jan, 2012.

Plane passengers accidentally told they are about to crash into ocean

Passengers aboard a trans-Atlantic British Airways flight were startled when a recorded message was accidentally triggered at 3am, telling them their flight was about to crash into the ocean.

"We were about three hours into the flight when an automated message came over saying, 'This is an emergency. We will shortly be making an emergency landing on water,'" flight passenger Duncan Farquharson told the Daily Mail.

The automated message, which began while the

plane was at about 35,000 feet in the air during its voyage from Miami to London, apparently was triggered when one of the plane's pilots accidentally bumped it in the cockpit's tight quarters.

Farquharson says the passengers then braced for the worst, assuming they were all about to die. "We looked at each other and figured we were both about to die," Farquharson said.

"Families with children were distraught and people were in tears. It was very distressing."



British Airways has an "oops" moment.

Another passenger, Michelle Lord, told the Telegraph: "People were terrified, we all thought we were going to die. They said the pilot hit the wrong button because they were so close together."

Country music great Haggard hospitalized with pneumonia

NASHVILLE, 19 Jan—Country music great Merle Haggard has been admitted to a Georgia hospital suffering from pneumonia and postponed the rest of his concert dates in January, his spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

Haggard, 74, entered the Macon hospital on Tuesday night after he canceled a show in that Georgia City seven minutes before he was to take the stage because he was too ill to perform, said Frank Mull, his tour manager and close friend.

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Haggard is best known for songs including "Mama Tried," "Okie from Muskogee" and "The Fighting Side of Me."

Haggard had been scheduled to perform again on Wednesday night in Columbus, Georgia, but that show and the rest of the January slate will be rescheduled for April, according to Haggard's Los Angeles-based publicist Tresa Redburn.

Redburn said the singer was receiving fluids

intravenously. She said she spoke with Haggard by



telephone "and he sounded pretty good."

Haggard will take time off to recover and resume his

Music legends Merle Haggard (L) and Willie Nelson perform together at the Wilmet Theatre in Los Angeles on 5 May, 2004.—INTERNET

tour in February, Redburn said. Haggard lives in Northern California.

Reuters



Japan's techno DJ Ken Ishii speaks at an interview with Reuters in Tokyo on 14 January, 2012. INTERNET

Ken Ishii, out of dance clubs and into daydreams

Tokyo, 19 Jan—Japan's trail-blazing techno king Ken Ishii has rocked massive crowds the world over with his dance floor beats, but for his latest album he drew inspiration from what some may think an odd choice much closer to home — a luxury Tokyo shopping mall.

Ishii, 41, is nothing if not unconventional and even as his popularity has grown — he has risen from playing clubs to the MTV Video Music Awards, made the cover of Newsweek magazine and composed the theme song for the 1998 Winter Olympics — the master music mixer has tried to remain true to his roots even as his songs make their way into spaces as common as elevators. "I didn't want to become commercial but music always does," Ishii told Reuters. "I'm an old-school techno kind of guy."

His new project "Music for Daydreams" has the formal title "Ken Ishii presents Metropolitan Harmonic Formulas" and is released in February, almost 20 years after Ishii cut his first track.

Reuters

Over 30 films nominated at 6th Asian Film Awards

HONG KONG, 19 Jan—A total of 32 movies were nominated to compete for 14 prizes at the 6th Asian Film Awards, the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) announced here Tuesday.

Organized by the HKIFFS and funded by CreatHK and the city's Film Development Fund, the Asian Film Awards aimed to commend outstanding films in Asia.

The Flying Swords of Dragon Gate, jointly produced by Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong was a nominee of the Best Film, the Best Director, the Best Actor, and four other categories, becoming the film most frequently appeared on the nomination list.

Mainland's production The Flowers of War and Taipei's Warriors of the Rainbow: Seedling Bale got six nominations each of them, including the Best Film and the Best Director.

Also running for the Best Film and Best Director awards was Iranian drama Nader and Simin: A Separation, a festive favourite which has won tremendous critical acclaim.—Xinhua



Sharapova, Ivanovic into 3rd round in Australia



Maria Sharapova of Russia waves to the crowd after beating Jamie Hampton of the US during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 19 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—The delayed preparation is working well for Maria Sharapova so far at the Australian Open, where she has reached the third round after just two hours on court.

The 2008 Australian Open winner had a 6-0, 6-1 second-round win over US qualifier Jamie Hampton in 64 minutes on Thursday, two days after beating Argentina's Gisela Dulko by the same margin. Sharapova did not play in any warmup events and spent nearly two

weeks in Melbourne ahead of the season's first major while she rested an injured left ankle.

There was no indication of any problems with the ankle on Thursday, but the 24-year-old Russian wasn't really tested by No. 144-ranked Hampton, who has only ever won one match at a Grand Slam. "It was more about getting my feet going ... worrying about myself," Sharapova said. "Yeah, started my preparations in the off-season a little late, took a bit of extra time in practice instead of rushing into a tournament." She'll meet either Stephanie Dubois of Canada or 30th-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany in the next round.

Internet

Djokovic rebounds from early break at Aussie Open



Serbia's Novak Djokovic during the Australian Open match against Santiago Giraldo of Colombia on 19 Jan.

INTERNET

after, it was the other way around."

A title this month would put him in select company. Only four players — Laver, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — have won three straight Grand Slam singles tournaments, and Djokovic could join them following his wins at last year's Wimbledon and US

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—It was early in Novak Djokovic's second-round match at the Australian Open and the world's top-ranked player was looking more like a journeyman. Playing against Santiago Giraldo, ranked 55 places behind him, Djokovic made four straight unforced errors in the fifth game to hand the Colombian the first service break of the match. But Djokovic quickly broke Giraldo to love in the next game and went on to win the next seven on his way to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory at Melbourne Park, playing much more like the man who won three Grand Slam singles titles and 41 matches in a row last year.

"I maybe started a little too defensive because he was hitting the ball very strong," Djokovic said. "But then

Open. Second-seeded Nadal and third-seeded Federer, who are in the other half of the draw here, play back-to-back matches at Rod Laver Arena on Friday. Fourth-seeded Andy Murray, who lost to Djokovic in the final here last year, also advanced Thursday, beating Edouard Roger-Vasselin of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-4. Later, players who could give both Djokovic and Murray some competition in their half of the draw — former finalist Lleyton Hewitt and American Andy Roddick — had a night match at Rod Laver Arena.

Murray is playing his first Grand Slam tournament since hiring eight-time major champion Ivan Lendl as his coach. "It's been good, he's obviously one of the greatest players ever," Murray said.

Internet

Kvitova struggles as main rivals cruise into Open

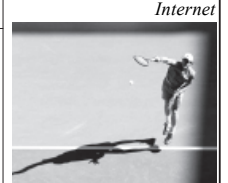


Second seed Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic during the Australian Open match against Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain on 19 Jan.—INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—Second seed Czech Petra Kvitova battled her way into the Australian Open third round on Thursday as rivals Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova steamrolled their respective opponents. Russia's Vera Zvonareva and Serbian glamour girl Ana Ivanovic also won in straight sets as the cream continued to rise to the top of the women's draw.

However Wimbledon champion Kvitova had to survive a second-set meltdown against Carla Suarez Navarro, who bundled Venus Williams from the tournament in 2009. Kvitova won the first set easily but grew visibly frustrated as she lost the second and had to come from a break down in the third to win 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. The reigning Wimbledon champion was in great touch

in the first set, serving well and breaking the Spaniard twice in a commanding display. But at the start of the second Kvitova seemed to lose focus, missing easy shots and allowing Suarez Navarro to dictate the points. The Spaniard, one of only seven players in the top 100 with a one-handed backhand, used it to devastating effect to move Kvitova around the court.—*Internet*



Britain's Andy Murray serves to France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, on 19 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Pato sinks Novara as Milan reach quarters

MILAN, 19 Jan—AC Milan rung the changes and made hard work of reaching the Italian Cup quarter-finals, beating Novara 2-1 after extra-time at the San Siro on Wednesday night.

Teenager Stephan El Shaarawy opened the scoring midway through the first half but Ivan Radovanovic equalised two minutes from time.

In the extra period Brazilian pair Robinho and Alexandre Pato combined for the latter to score the winner and secure a clash with Lazio in the next round.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri rested star performers

such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Thiago Silva and Mark van Bommel while Kevin-Prince Boateng has been ruled out for a month with a hamstring injury. It meant veteran Filippo Inzaghi was given a starting berth alongside youngsters such as El Shaarawy and Alexander Merkel, while France centre-back Philippe Mexes was afforded a rare start. In fact Merkel was thrust straight into the team despite only re-joining the club from Genoa 24 hours earlier.

Allegri was relieved to have made it through. "We conceded a goal a minute from the end from a free-kick

we could have avoided," he moaned. "Then we had a chance to make it 3-1. We struggled but the important thing was to go through and we've done that."

Chances were few and far between with Inzaghi, 38, peeling off his marker at the back post to meet an inswinging cross from Luca Antonini, only to head wide.

Internet

Harrington, Els seek big improvements



Padraig Harrington and Ernie Els, pictured in 2011. INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—Padraig Harrington and Ernie Els will both set out in the Volvo Champions at The Links at Fancourt on Thursday on what they hope will be much improved golfing years. "Last year was well below average," said Harrington, who won back-to-back British Opens in 2007 and 2008, adding the USPGA Championship in 2008, but who has slipped to 89 in the world rankings.

"I'd like to get my sense of humour back," said three-time Major winner Els, acknowledging that his putting woes in recent years had taken the smile off his face as well as sending him plunging to a world ranking of 71. Harrington, 40, said a measure of how his golf had declined was that in his peak year of 2008 he had improved his position in every final round he had played. "In 2011 I went backwards every Sunday," he rued. Although it had been a poor year, Harrington said it had ended on a positive note. "I sorted out a recurring neck injury that had been plaguing me for 10 years.—*Internet*

Ronaldinho rolls with the ponchos

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Jan—Brazilian veteran Ronaldinho enjoyed being the centre of attraction Wednesday as he trained with his Flamengo teammates ahead of next week's Copa Libertadores match against Bolivia's Real Potosi.

Bolivian fans flocked to see the 2002 world champion as the Brazilians trained at Sucre where Flamengo were enduring a second day of altitude training ahead of the 25 January match up.

Ronaldinho was thrilled to be presented with a decorative woollen poncho - as worn by the local indigenous Tarabuco people

who hail from the southwest of the country.

"I feel great here," said the star as fans chanted "Ronaldinho is from Bolivia" and "you are better than (former Barcelona teammate Lionel) Messi."

Ronaldinho travelled with the squad after reportedly reaching an agreement with Flamengo officials over some two million dollars of unpaid salary stretching back five months.

Internet



Brazilian veteran Ronaldinho, pictured in 2011, enjoyed being the centre of attraction on Wednesday. INTERNET



AC Milan's Brazilian forward Pato, pictured in 2011. INTERNET

International Sports

FIFA tells Brazil it must have beer at World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Jan—Beer will be sold at the 12 venues of the 2014 World Cup finals, FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke said on Wednesday as he attempted to close all further discussion on a controversial issue in Brazil.

Voting on the bill for the World Cup Law has been held up over differences between the tournament hosts and world soccer's governing body, notably on the sale of alcoholic drinks at sports venues which is banned in Brazil.

The bill was scheduled to have been voted on by the chamber of deputies at the end of last year but it has been delayed by several issues including the sale of beer, with FIFA demanding protection of sponsors' trademarks.

"Alcoholic drinks are part of the FIFA World Cup, so we're going to have them. Excuse me if I sound a bit arrogant but that's something we won't negotiate," Valcke said. "The fact that we have the right to sell beer has to be a part of the Law," he told the foreign press corps in an interview in Rio de Janeiro, where on Thursday he will hold a meeting with



Bottles of beer move along a production line at a South African Brewery plant, on 2 April, 2009.—INTERNET

the World Cup local organizing committee (LOC).

Alcoholic drinks have been banned in Brazil's stadiums since 2003 as part of the Supporters' Statutes, aimed at preventing violence among hardcore fans at football matches.

Alexandre Padilha, Health Minister in President Dilma Rousseff's government, and other members of parliament linked to health matters have put pressure on Congress to maintain the ban in the World Cup Law.—Reuters

Abidal grabs Cup winner for Barca at Real

MADRID, 19 Jan—Eric Abidal netted a rare but superbly-taken goal to give Barcelona a 2-1 comeback win at holders Real Madrid in a King's Cup quarter-final first leg on Wednesday as Pep Guardiola's side tightened their stranglehold over their rivals.

The France fullback, who extended his contract with the Spanish and European champions on Monday, galloped on to a floated Lionel Messi pass 13 minutes from time and calmly slotted past Iker Casillas to give the 2011 runners-up the advantage for next week's second leg in Barcelona.

Real forward Cristiano Ronaldo had put the home side ahead with a breakthrough goal in the 11th minute before Barca captain Carles Puyol flung himself at Xavi's corner to power a header past Spain team mate Casillas for a 49th-minute equaliser.

Reuters



Barcelona's Eric Abidal (R) celebrates after scoring against Real Madrid during their Spanish King's Cup quarter-final first leg "El Clasico" match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, on 18 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Beckham to re-join Galaxy on two-year deal

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan—Former England captain David Beckham will be returning to the LA Galaxy on a fresh two-year contract, the Major League Soccer (MLS) team said on Wednesday.

Beckham's initial five-year deal ended after the Galaxy won the 2011 MLS

Cup and there had been speculation the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder was considering offers from Paris St Germain and a number of English clubs.

However, Paris St Germain said earlier this month the Englishman would not be joining the big-spending Ligue 1 soccer club due to family reasons.

"This was an important decision for me," Beckham, 36, said in a statement. "I had many offers from clubs from around the world, however, I'm still passionate about playing in America and winning trophies with the Galaxy.—Reuters



David Beckham

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-1-12 09:30 am ~ 21-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

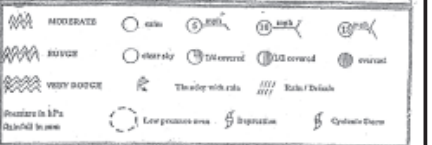
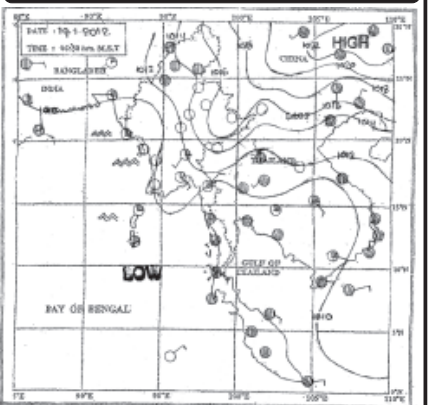
- * News
- * One Asia in Film
- * News
- * Myanma Beauty and His Creation (Episode-2)
- * The Way of Life Influenced by the Environment
- * News
- * Sakura Car Sale Centre
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * A Night of Dancing with Phoe Chit
- * News
- * Kid's Talent
- * Yangon-Mandalay Expressway saves Time
- * News
- * Record Album
- * 2012, A Banner Year in the Making
- * "Fruits of Success" A Glory of Myanmar
- * News
- * "Me N My Travel" Pyay (Part-2) Shwe San Taw Pagoda
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Essence of Devotion"

MYANMAR TV

(20-1-2012) (Friday)

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Dance Of National Races
- 4:20 pm
- 3. Teleplay
- 4:35 pm
- 4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:40 pm
- 5. Songs Of Yester Years
- 5:10 pm
- 6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 7. Myanmar Language
- 5:30 pm
- 8. Musical Programme
- 5:45 pm
- 9. Sports Highlight
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Internet Garden
- 7:00 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Just For Laughs (Gags Asia)
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. Song Lovers

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 20th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	22/72	12/54	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	29/84	05/41	Generally fair weather	
3	Kaym	35/95	14/57	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	20/68	06/43	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	22/72	12/54	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	
7	Tamthay	34/93	18/64	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	15/59	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	33/91	13/55	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	33/91	14/57	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	30/86	15/59	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	06/43	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	27/81	02/36	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	06/43	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	17/63	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	14/57	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	14/57	Generally fair weather	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, isolated light rain in Kachin State and weather has been cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Tamthay Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kaym and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions and Kaym State, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Tamthay Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Loloem (0°C), Pinlung and Hebo (1°C) each, Namsang (2°C), Lashio (3°C), PymOGL win and Mogok (4°C) each.

Bay
Inference
State of the Sea
Outlook for subsequent two days

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Seas will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters.
Likelihood of decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar Areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

Educative talks organized

YANGON, 19 Jan—Thanlyin Township Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association jointly conducted the educative talks at the administrator's office in Bogyoke Village of Thanlyin on 17 January.

Member of Township WAO Daw Aye Win gave talks on prevention against human trafficking and Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Khin Thida Aye, prevention against HIV/AIDS.—Myanma Alin



Talks on IT application disseminated



YANGON, 19 Jan—With the assistance of Agro Bio Product Co Ltd, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association held the educative talk on information technology at its tower on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township on 14 January afternoon.

Chairperson of MWEA Daw Wah Wah Tun explained the purpose of holding the talk. Chairman of Smart Group of Companies U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing talked applying of Google for mothers.

Vice-Chairperson Daw Hla Wady presented gifts to U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing. Secretary of the association Daw Hnin Wai gave certificate of honour to Managing Director Daw Khin Myo Khaing of Agro Bio Product Co Ltd.—MWEA

Union level peace-making group meets representatives of KIO

Both sides issue statement on peace process

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Leader of the Union level peace-making group U Aung Thuang and party arrived in Ruili of the People's Republic of China on 18 January to hold peace talks with the KIO representative group.

On 18 and 19 January, leader of the Union level peace-making group U Aung Thuang, deputy leader U Thein Zaw, members Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Union Minister U Win Tun, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Kachin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Than Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Tun Tun of Mansi Township, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khet Htein Nan, Lt-Col Zaw Naing Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Command Staff Colonel of North-East Command Col Win Thein, Command Staff Colonel of Northern Command Col Myint Swe and Director-General U Soe Aung of Relief and Resettlement Department had a cordial discussion on realization of peace process in the region with leader of representatives of KIO U Swam Luk Gam and members U La Phai La, U Jee Nawng, U La Jaung Khong Lwam, U N Gan Zaw Khwam, U Khun Nawng, U La Phai Zaw Raw and U Maran Zaw Tawng together with a group of U Sao Aung Myat, U Naw Bu, U Hsin Khaw and U Naw Thwe at Jingcheng Hotel in Ruili of the People's Republic of China. After the discussion, they exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

On 18 January, members of both peace-making groups cordially had a dinner.

After the completion of meeting on 19 January, the Union level peace-making group and the representatives of KIO issued a statement for holding the continuous meeting



through political means to realize the eternal peace and to decline military acceleration. The translation of the statement is as follows:-

(1) The Union level peace-making group and the KIO representatives held a meeting in Ruili of the People's Republic of China on 18 and 19 January 2012 with the aim of ensuring stability and eternal peace of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

U Aung Thuang-led Union level peace-making group and U Swam Luk Gam-led KIO peace-making group talk about peace at Jingcheng Hotel in Ruili of PRC.

MNA

- (2) The Government and KIO will continue the negotiation between them through political means.
- (3) They will issue correct information of the meeting to the public.
- (4) They will coordinate matters related to military units of both sides in the hot spots, to control military activities and building trusts.

MNA

Coyle's backing for Carroll

Misfiring Liverpool striker "is an outstanding young player"



LONDON, 19 Jan—Bolton manager Owen Coyle is convinced it is only a matter of time before Andy Carroll finds the sort of form that made him such a huge favourite at Newcastle.

Carroll has struggled to live up to his £35 million price tag - which makes him the most expensive British footballer in history - in the 12 months since he left Tyneside to join Liverpool.

Far from leading the line, the 23-year-old could not even make the Reds' starting line-up for last weekend's draw at Stoke, even though Luis Suarez is in the middle of an eight-match suspension. Carroll is hoping to be recalled for Saturday's trip to Bolton but Coyle, for one, would not welcome that news as he believes the big number nine is a class act.

"I don't think there is any doubt he will reproduce that form," said Coyle.

"He is an outstanding young player.

"The thing is, when you get that kind of criticism you

have to come through it with a smile on your face.

"It will serve him well. His quality is unquestioned. We have to make sure he doesn't show it against us."

"His quality is unquestioned. We have to make sure he doesn't show it against us."

Owen Coyle on Andy Carroll Quotes of the week Point to prove

Carroll might not be the only forward with a point to prove this weekend, with Bolton's David Ngog coming up against his old club.

Ngog joined Wanderers from Liverpool in a £4 million deal in August, having shown glimpses of ability without being able to reproduce it on a consistent basis.—*Internet*

Plan to mark World Wetland Day 27-29 Jan

YANGON, 19 Jan—The ceremony to mark the World Wetland Day which falls on 2 February and photo show, organized by Myanmar Bird Lovers Association, will be held at Thiri Hall of Royal Rose on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township, here, from 28 to 29 January.

The association and photographers will display over 140 photos on wetlands and distribute the book on Myanmar wetlands and CDs free of charge.

MNA

Vendors in Nattalin joyful with loans disbursed

NATTALIN, 19 Jan—As part of efforts to alleviate poverty of the people, the ceremony to disburse loans to vendors was held in Shwelin Hall in Nattalin on 1 January.

Executive Officer U Tin Maw Than of Township Development Affairs Committee explained the purpose of disbursing the loans and then presented K 4 million loans to 80 vendors.—*Township IPRD*

MNA



Ministry of Culture to play a main role in resurrecting, preserving and promoting cultural heritages: Union Information and Culture Minister

PAGE 8

Child and human rights educative measures workshop produces valuable advices for Myanmar

PAGE 8

Dy Tourism minister attends 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting and related meetings

PAGE 9

Breast milk courier helps Indonesian mums cope



PAGE 4



Sharapova, Ivanovic into 3rd round in Australia

PAGE 14