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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win leave for Republic of Singapore on goodwill visit

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—As guests of Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, Myanmar goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win left here for Singapore by Myanmar Airways International special flight at 9 am today.

President U Thein Sein and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, the chief of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads,



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife on departure for Singapore.—MNA

Charge'd Affaires ai of Singapore Mr William Chit and officials.

President U Thein Sein-led goodwill delegation

comprised Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife, Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint

Hlaing, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Transport

Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, Yangon Mayor Min-

ister for Development Affairs of Yangon Region U Hla Myint and high-ranking officials.

MNA

Snowy owls soar south from Arctic in rare mass migration



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Hope fades for survivors in Rio building collapse

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Djokovic tops Nadal in marathon Australian final

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Elderly veteran librarians honoured for 14th time

YANGON, 29 Jan—Myanmar Library Association held 14th respect-paying ceremony of elderly veteran librarians at National Museum in Dagon Township here today, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Library Association Rector of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) U Kyaw Oo.

Writer Hein Latt read biography of lifetime achievement award winner Sithu laureate Sayagyi Dr Thaw Kaung and presented gift.

Sayagyi Dr Thaw Kaung spoke words of admonishment.

Next, the association chairman and responsible persons presented gifts to 27 elderly librarians aged 65 and over. Sayagyi U Kyi Thaug expressed thanks on behalf of the elderly.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 30 January, 2012

**Work hard, our farmers!
Golden future is ahead!**

Working in the fertile soil with great encouragement by the government, farmers are now enjoying improved socio-economic status as never before. Myanmar is an agr-based country. Just in very recent years, summer paddy fell into the category of farmers who had only engaged in monsoon paddy.

They also grow edible oil crops—groundnut, sesame, sunflower, and beans and pulses. Their life is enviable, with sesame thriving, beans hardly used up and paddy filling up silos in each year.

In such a comfortable position, farmers are experiencing a switch to even better life. This is because the government is giving a top priority to socio-economic development of farmers. Especially, agricultural technologies and quality strains are being distributed.

Farmers once had to long for rainfall. They no more have to worry about it now. There are plenty of dams and lakes in each region or state. Farmers could grow paddy or crops in all weathers. Simultaneously, agricultural technologies are being disseminated throughout the country. Paddy strains giving over one hundred yield per acre have been developed.

Agricultural loans disbursed to farmers to help them grow paddy in time were doubled from K 20000 to K 40000. Fertilizers were sold at reasonable price.

Now, a supervisory committee for rice reserve was established to help farmers fetch good price. The committee will procure rice at a price fixed for a region or period. The price for 100 baskets of Aemahta paddy bought directly from farmers is K 330000.

Some reports say it is paying K 0.2 million in advance for 100 baskets of special high-yield paddy. Really a good news for farmers. These are signs showing the government is constantly providing assistances to help farmers reap what they sowed.

The onus is on all farmers to strive to generate more incomes, grasping the ideal opportunity.

Documentary photos exhibition on XXVI SEA Games Indonesia opened

YANGON, 29 Jan—Documentary photos exhibition on XXVI SEA Games Indonesia was held at Asia Plaza Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning. Exhibition organizer Managing-Director U Myo Min Oo of Xenon Inkjet Printing Co Ltd explained purposes of photo show and three gold medals winners Myanmar selected archer Ma Aung Ngein spoke words of thanks.

Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu presented certificates of honour to Asia Plaza Hotel, Myanmar Distribution Group, Myanmar Olympic Committee, Myanmar Tourism Service Co Ltd, nature Link Travels & Tours Co Ltd, Youth Force of Companies and Xenon Inkjet Printing Co Ltd that helped in organizing the photo show.

The photo show was opened with photo shooting of gold medal winner athletes and the deputy minister and guests viewed snap shot photos on Myanmar athletes of Myanmar sports federations taking part in XXVI SEA Games.

There is non-blank lucky-draw programme for visitors of the photo show which includes Bangkok tour, Chaungtha Beach tour and round-the-Myanmar pilgrimage tour. The free-of-charge photo show will be held until 31 January, from 9 am to 5 pm at Asia Plaza Hotel.—MNA

Union H&T Minister addresses work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—The work coordination meeting of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism took place at the ministry here today.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan pointed out starring of hotels, ensuring high-class room, making check for exact numbers of rooms by checker groups, having facts and figures of superior hotel rooms qualified for tourists, ensuring collecting of monthly debt needed to be paid by foreign-invested hotels, taking prompt action for delay projects of foreign-invested hotels, conducting of hospitality

courses and tour guide courses by the Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services, arrangements for transport service for tourists convenience, implementation of e-visa system at border entrances, setting rates of rental fees for hotels and restaurants, assessment and upgrading of rental fees, and welfare for staff members by implementing agriculture and livestock breeding firms.

The officials concerned reported on department-wise undertakings and the deputy minister gave supplementary report. The Union Minister then coordinated the reports.

MNA

Selected student sport team of Yangon Region honoured

YANGON, 29 Jan—A dinner was hosted in honour of selected student sport team of No.3 Basic Education Department of Yangon Region at No.1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township here yesterday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said he was delighted that student sport athletes brought honour to Yangon Region bagging 58 gold medals, 28 silver medals and 20 bronze medals in State/Region inter-basic education school sports contests for 2011-

2012 academic year. He then expressed thanks to the officials of No.3 BED, coaches, managers and teachers and urged students to try harder to achieve more success in coming sports contests. The chief minister next awarded K 600,000 to the student sport team.

Today evening, the chief minister attended the successful completion of the Buddha Pujaniya Festival and rice-offering ceremony of Sule Pagoda.

MNA



Yenwe Chaung Bridge over Yenwe Creek in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago District was opened on 28 January to help access between the eastern and western parts of Bago Region. (News reported)

MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Karate-do Technical Seminar conducted

YANGON, 29 Jan—The Karate-do Technical Seminar was conducted at Aung San Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 21 January.

Mr Fujikiyo Omura (7th Dan JKA Instructor) (JKA W/ F Asia Oceania Director) gave training.

Altogether 75 trainees from Yangon Region, Yangon Command Headquarters, Myanmar Police Force, Ministry of Defence, Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay Region, Kayah State, Rakhine State, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Inland Water Transport, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and Aung San Thurein Club.

Myanma Alin

U-27 Football Tournament concludes

KYAUNGON, 29 Jan—Kyaunggon Township Sports and Physical Education Committee Chairman's Trophy Men's U-27 Football Tournament reached final on 4 January.

In the final match, Thitseintgon team emerged champion with a 1-0 win over Wadaw (A) team.

Chairman of the Township SPEC Township Administrator U Myo Kyaw Kyaw presented championship trophy to Thitseintgon team.

Altogether 16 football teams took part in the tournament.—Township IPRD

Sixty junior engineers receive skills at refresher courses

YANGON, 29 Jan—The two refresher courses for junior engineers conducted by the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction ended yesterday.

Managing Director of the Public Works U Kyaw Lin delivered an concluding address at the ceremony to conclude the refresher courses for junior engineers (1) (Civil) and for junior engineers (3) (Electrical) at the central training school of the ministry here.

Thirty-one junior civil engineers and 29 junior electrical engineers attended the respective refresher courses which lasted four weeks.—MNA



Indonesian storm death toll rises to 14

JAKARTA, 29 Jan—The death toll from heavy rains and strong winds in Indonesia has risen to 14, an official said on Sunday, with the victims of a tropical cyclone crushed by falling trees.

“In total, 14 people died, 60 people were injured,”

National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in a text message to AFP.

“The 14 killed were crushed by falling trees,” he added.

More than 2,300 houses in 35 districts and cities across the central island of Java and

resort destination of Bali were also damaged due to heavy rains in the last four days, Nugroho said.

The “massive” rainstorms were brought about by Tropical Cyclone Iggy in the Indian Ocean, south of Bali and the nearby Nusa Tenggara islands, he added.

“But now the Tropical cyclone Iggy has weakened and it’s moving away from Indonesia,” the official added.

Last week, *The Jakarta Globe* newspaper reported a ferry carrying more than 200 people, including five Australians, heading to the Gili islands off Bali nearly capsized after being caught in waves up to three metres (10 feet) high, but there were no casualties.

Storms, landslides and floods are common in Indonesia during the annual rainy season, which peaks between December and February.—*Internet*



A policeman at a scene where a driver was fatally crushed by a tree felled by a storm in Jakarta on 25 Jan. The death toll from heavy rains and strong winds in Indonesia has risen to 14, an official said Sunday, with the victims of a tropical cyclone crushed by falling trees.—*INTERNET*

Britain calls for NATO to stick to 2014 Afghan pullout

LONDON, 29 Jan—Prime Minister David Cameron warned on Saturday against withdrawing troops from Afghanistan too fast, after France said it would pull out a year before the international deadline of 2014. Speaking at a Press conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who was visiting London, Cameron said the speed of the NATO drawdown should depend on security conditions on the ground. “Obviously, between now and 2014 there will be opportunities for different countries to reduce their troop numbers. Britain has reduced our troop numbers over the last year,” Cameron said.

“I don’t want to see some



Prime Minister David Cameron speaks during a Press conference at the Prime Minister’s country residence of Chequers. Cameron warned Saturday against withdrawing troops from Afghanistan too fast, after France said it would pull out a year before the international deadline of 2014.

INTERNET
sort of cliff edge in 2014 when all of the remaining troops come out at once, but clearly, between now and 2014, the rate at which we can reduce

our troops will depend on the transition to Afghan control in the different parts of Afghanistan. “And that should be the same for all of the members of NATO who are all contributing and helping to a strong, stable and peaceful Afghanistan, which is in all our interests.”

Britain has around 9,500 troops in Afghanistan, the second largest contingent after the United States. His comments appeared to be a rebuke to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who said Friday that France would pull its forces out of Afghanistan in 2013. Sarkozy’s decision followed the killing a week earlier of four French servicemen by a renegade Afghan soldier.—*Internet*

Iran to continue confidence-building measures in cooperating with IAEA

TEHERAN, 29 Jan—An Iranian lawmaker said on Saturday that Iran will continue its confidence-building measures in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the official IRNA news agency reported.

Mehdi Medizadeh, member of Iran’s Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said that the confidence-building measures will be the main subject of the upcoming talks with the IAEA, said the report.

Iran will announce again that its nuclear activities are “peaceful” and Iran does not



An inspector from the International Atomic Energy Agency installs a camera at Iran’s Isfahan nuclear facility in 2005. The chief UN nuclear inspector said on Saturday that a dialogue with Iran over its atomic programme was long overdue, as he prepared to depart for a visit to the Islamic republic.

INTERNET

Hope fades for survivors in Rio building collapse

SAO PAULO, 29 Jan—Firefighters pulled more bodies from the rubble of three collapsed buildings in downtown Rio de Janeiro on Saturday, raising the death toll to at least 17 as hopes faded for finding anyone alive almost three days after the disaster.

A Rio de Janeiro fire department official said the search for survivors would continue at least through Sunday, but the chances of finding anyone alive are “practically nonexistent.”

The official, who declined to be named because

Firefighters work at the site of a building that collapsed in downtown Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 27 Jan, 2012. The building collapsed on Wednesday, killing at least 9 people and at least 16 are still missing. The Municipal Theater stands in the background.

INTERNET

he was not authorized to speak to the press, said rescuers pulled five more bodies from the debris overnight and early Saturday morning. The death toll had been 12. Seven people are still missing.

It’s not yet known why the 20-story building suddenly collapsed Wednesday night, but authorities say they suspect unauthorized construction work inside the large, 72-year-old building created structural damage that led to the fall.

Officials believe the falling building wrenched

down two neighboring office buildings of approximately the same age.

The collapsed buildings in Rio’s historic center contained a wide range of businesses. Most tenants were gone by the time of the tragedy, but some had remained to finish leftover work. Several of the missing were in a computing course.

Rio’s Regional Council of Engineering has said the last time they authorized refurbishing in the 20-story building was in 2008.

Internet



50 more militants surrender in Baghlan, Afghanistan

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 29 Jan—Fifty more militants surrender to the government in the northern Afghan province of Baghlan, a provincial police source said on Sunday.

“A total of 50 anti-government militants, including several group commanders, have renounced violence and joined the government in Baghlan-e-Markazi District late on Saturday,” provincial police chief of Baghlan, Asadullah Shirzad, told *Xinhua* on Sunday morning.

He said the former group of militants belonged to Hizbi-Islami. Hizbi-Islami, with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar as its

leader, is the second largest militant group fighting the government.

With these people joining the peace process, the security situation will be further improved in Baghlan Province, police chief Shirzad said, adding with the mediation of local elders,

more militants would give up militancy and join the peace process in near future. Police chief Shirzad also said more than 100 militants, with a majority of them Taleban, have joined the peace process in the province, some 160 km north of Kabul over the past couple of days.—*Xinhua*

Fire kills 32 at rehab centre in Peru



Relatives of patients of the “Christ is Love” centre for drug and alcohol addicts, react in Lima, Peru, on 28 Jan, 2012.—*INTERNET*

LIMA, 29 Jan—A rehab centre for drug addicts in the Peruvian capital caught fire Saturday morning, killing at least 32 people. According to local radio RPP, the fire that swept the two-storey building was caused by an explosion of a gas cooker inside the centre, but eyewitnesses said the blaze started as some inmates set fire to their mattresses.

Most patients of the rehab center were unable to escape since exits were mostly locked up. Some patients survived by leaping from the windows on the second floor.

Those injured in the accident were sent to hospital for treatment and firefighters and police remained at the site for rescue and further investigation. Local media said the rehab center had some 80 drug addicts receiving treatment.

Xinhua



A woman cares for her child as cholera victims sit on beds at a clinic in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo town of Goma in 2008. Cholera cases have soared in the Democratic Republic of Congo in recent weeks, the UN said on Friday, bringing the number of people infected in the year-long outbreak to 22,000 with 584 deaths.—INTERNET

Bed-wetting may be due to constipation

WINSTON-SALEM, 29 Jan— Bed-wetting isn't always due to a bladder issue — constipation is often the culprit — US researchers found. Dr Steve J Hodges, assistant professor of urology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Centre in Winston-Salem, NC, and lead author of the study, said bed-wetters should be examined for constipation. If it turns out that is the problem, children and their parents might avoid an unnecessarily long, costly

and difficult quest to cure nighttime wetting. The study, published in the journal *Urology*, found the 30 children and adolescents who sought treatment for bed-wetting all had large amounts of stool in their rectums, despite the majority having normal bowel habits. After treatment with laxative therapy, 83 percent of the study participants were cured of bed-wetting within three months. "Our study showed that a

large percentage of these children were cured of nighttime wetting after laxative therapy," Hodges said in a statement. "Parents try all sorts of things to treat bed-wetting — from alarms to restricting liquids. In many children, the reason they don't work is that constipation is the problem." The importance of diagnosing this condition cannot be overstated, Hodges said. "When it is missed, children might be subjected



to unnecessary surgery and the side effects of medications," Hodges said. "We challenge physicians considering medications or surgery as a treatment for bed-wetting to obtain an X-ray or ultrasound first." *Internet*

Health Tip: Manage pain during childbirth

Pain is a virtual certainty during childbirth, but there are ways to ease the discomfort without medication. The womenshealth.gov website mentions these non-medication possibilities:

- * Practicing relaxation and breathing techniques.
- * Relaxing in a warm shower or bath, or getting a gentle massage.
- * Receiving hot and cold therapy, including placing a cool washcloth on the forehead or a heating pad on the lower back.
- * Seeking the care and support of a doula, nurse or loved one.
- * Trying various positions to get more comfortable, from crouching to walking.
- * Listening to soothing music.
- * Using a labour ball.

Internet



A pharmacist shows anti-retroviral drugs. Set up to roll back diseases that kill some four million people each year, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is shifting focus under new leadership even as it struggles to shake off corruption charges and keep its coffers full.—INTERNET

Cosmetic procedure reduces signs of aging

DALLAS, 29 Jan—Ultherapy uses high-frequency ultrasound waves to tighten the deep collagen fibers of the skin making the face appear younger, a US plastic surgeon said. Dr Jeffrey Kenkel, a plastic surgeon and an international expert on laser techniques, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, has done some of the research on the use of this device for non-invasive skin tightening. During the office procedure, the device delivers ultrasonic waves through the upper layers of skin to the underlying muscle and tissue layer. The ultrasound generates heat, which causes the tissue to contract and the upper skin layers to contract with it, Kenkel said.

The non-invasive procedure is designed to gradually produce new collagen over a period of time that results in a more youthful appearance, especially in the lower face, cheek and neck areas; achieve safe and predictable non-surgical skin tightening and provide patients with a treatment that has little or no downtime.—*Internet*

IMF leads global push for euro zone to boost firewall

DAVOS, 29 Jan— International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde led a global push on Saturday for the euro zone to boost its financial firewall, saying "if it is big enough it will not get used." Lagarde, supported by the British Finance Minister, George Osborne, said the IMF could boost its support for the euro zone but pressed its leaders to act first. Some attendees at the Davos Forum still doubted the viability of the currency union. Countries beyond the 17-country bloc want to see its members stump up

more money before they commit additional resources to the IMF, which this month requested an additional 500 billion euros (\$650 billion) in funding. "Now is the time - there has been a lot of pressure building in order to see a solution come about," Lagarde told a Forum panel discussion on the economic outlook from which euro zone leaders — most notably Germany — were conspicuously absent. "It is critical that the euro zone members develop a clear, simple firewall that can operate both to limit the contagion and to provide this sort of act of trust in the euro zone, so that the financing needs of that zone can

actually be met," she said. Lagarde's comments rounded out a crescendo of calls at the Davos Forum for the euro zone to boost its financial defences. The annual five-day conference began with German Chancellor Angela Merkel deflecting pressure to do so. In a carefully worded keynote address, Merkel suggested doubling or even tripling the size of the fund may convince markets for a time, but warned that if Germany made a promise that could not be kept, "then Europe is really vulnerable." *Internet*

Swiss urge US tax deal to shield other banks

DAVOS, 29 Jan—The break-up of Switzerland's oldest bank Wegelin on Friday shows the need to settle a dispute with US authorities over tax cheats hiding cash in secret Swiss accounts, the finance minister said on Saturday. "It is very regrettable," Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf told journalists at the World Economic Forum of the decision by Wegelin to break itself up in the face of possible indictment on charges the bank helped wealthy Americans to evade taxes. "This development shows how important it is that we come to solutions in the discussions, negoti-



Swiss President and Finance Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf gestures during a news conference on the weekly meeting of the Federal Council in Bern, 27 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

ations with the United States which hopefully prevent other banks getting into a similar situation," she said. The US Department of Justice is probing 11 Swiss banks, including Credit Suisse, Julius Baer and Basler Kantonalbank. "I don't know whether

other banks are in a similar or same situation...but what I know is that various banks are being threatened by the United States with prosecution and we will try to do everything...to come to a solution," Widmer-Schlumpf said. *Internet*

S Korean conglomerates pull out from food business amid criticism

SEOUL, 29 Jan—Amid mounting public criticism over their aggressive business expansion, South Korea's family-owned conglomerates, or chaebol, are making a series of announcements of their withdrawal from food business involving bakeries, coffee shops, and street snacks. It has been a popular trend among scions of the country's big-name conglomerates like Samsung, Hyundai and LG to wade into such territory traditionally occupied by mom-and-pop stores. Their rapid advancement into bakeries and street foods has been blamed for putting small, individually-owned businesses out of work. The number of bakeries operated by self-employed individuals dropped from about 18,000 in 2003 to around 4,000 late last year, according to the Korea Federation of Small and Medium Business. In sharp contrast, Paris Baguette, the country's leading bakery chain run by SPC Group, a food and confectionary giant, saw its number soar to more than 3,000 nationwide late

last year, about 300 of which were opened last year alone. On Wednesday, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak lashed out at the sprawling business expansion promoted by a slew of chaebol offspring. "Second-generation or third-generation chaebol may be running the business as a pastime, but it is a matter of survival for ordinary people who operate bakeries," Lee was quoted as saying by his aides in a meeting with senior secretaries. Lee called on large conglomerates to refrain from penetrating fields that are related to the livelihoods of small business owners, according to his spokesman Park Jeong-ha. Immediately after Lee's remarks, Hotel Shilla, run by Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Kun-Hee's eldest daughter Lee Bu-jin, announced on Thursday that it will walk away from its bakery and cafe chain Artisee.—*Xinhua*



The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde attends a session at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, on 28 Jan, 2012. INTERNET



Snowy owls soar south from Arctic in rare mass migration

SALMON, (Idaho) 29 Jan—Bird enthusiasts are reporting rising numbers of snowy owls from the Arctic winging into the lower 48 states this winter in a mass southern migration that a leading owl researcher called “unbelievable.”

Thousands of the snow-white birds, which stand 2 feet tall with 5-foot wingspans, have been spotted from coast to coast, feeding in farmlands in Idaho, roosting on rooftops in Montana, gliding over golf courses in Missouri and soaring over shorelines in Massachusetts. A certain number of the iconic owls fly south from their Arctic breeding grounds each winter but rarely do so many venture so far away even amid large-scale, periodic southern migrations known as irruptions.

“What we’re seeing now — it’s unbelievable,” said Denver Holt, head of the Owl Research Institute in Montana.

“This is the most significant wildlife event in decades,” added Holt, who has studied snowy owls in their Arctic tundra ecosystem for two decades.

Holt and other owl experts say the phenomenon is likely linked to lemmings, a rodent that accounts for 90

percent of the diet of snowy owls during breeding months that stretch from May into September. The largely nocturnal birds also prey on a host of other animals, from voles to geese.

An especially plentiful supply of lemmings last season likely led to a population boom among owls that resulted in each breeding pair hatching as many as seven offspring. That compares to a typical clutch size of no more than two, Holt said.

Greater competition this year for food in the Far North by the booming bird population may have then driven mostly younger, male owls much farther south than normal.

Research on the animals is scarce because of the remoteness and extreme conditions of the terrain the owls occupy, including northern Russia and Scandinavia, he said.

The surge in snowy owl sightings has brought birders flocking from Texas, Arizona and Utah to the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest, pouring tourist dollars into local economies and crowding parks and wildlife areas. The irruption has triggered widespread public fascination that appears to span ages and interests.—Internet



A snowy white owl takes flight in this undated handout photo courtesy of US Fish & Wildlife Service. Bird enthusiasts are reporting rising numbers of snowy owls from the Arctic winging into the lower 48 states this winter in a mass southern migration that a leading owl researcher called “unbelievable” according to Denver Holt, head of Owl Research Institute in Montana.

INTERNET

Russian cargo vessel arrives at space station



A Russian Soyuz-U booster carrying an unmanned cargo spacecraft Progress M-14M atop blasts off a launch pad at the Russian leased Kazakhstan’s Baikonur cosmodrome, early on 26 Jan.—INTERNET

Moscow, 29 Jan—A Russian cargo vessel docked safely at the International Space Station on Saturday carrying mainly water and fuel, the mission control centre said. The Progress M-14M spacecraft was launched from

the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan early Thursday and arrived at its destination at 0008 GMT, it said in a statement. There are six men aboard the orbiting space station; three Russians, two Americans and a Dutchman.

Russia has sole responsibility for taking US and other international astronauts to the ISS following the withdrawal of the US space shuttle in July last year, but its own space programme has been hit by a string of problems. In 2011, the Russian space industry suffered five failed launches.

Internet

South African scientists invent bone reconstruction device

CAPE TOWN, 29 Jan—Researchers at the University of Cape Town (UCT) have developed a new device to bring back the smiles to people with upper jaw abnormalities, a news report said on Saturday.

The device, invented by Maxillo-facial surgeon Rushdi Hendricks with two mechanical engineers, is a plate-guided distractor which can help grow new bone in the upper jaw, according to the South African Press Association.

Hndricks described the

device as superior in treating jaw problems. “I am growing bone as well as bone lining. Not only that; I’m also concentrating on your smile; on the aesthetics; the way the teeth are going to sit in your mouth,” he said.

The device works like a hose clamp made to work as a crawler on a track. As the bone grows, the hose clamp is moved to allow the bone to

extend.

The principle behind the invention was that new bone and tissue developed to fill the gap when a carefully severed bone was pulled apart, said the report.

A similar method for regrowing the lower jaw — distraction osteogenesis — was already in use.

However, it was believed that Hendricks and his team were the first to use it on the more complex upper jaw, the report said.

Xinhua



Facebook IPO could value it among top companies



In this 26 May, 2010 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg talks about the social network site’s new privacy settings in Palo Alto, Calif.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan—When Facebook makes its long-expected debut as a public company this spring, the social-networking company will likely vault into the ranks of the largest public companies in the world, alongside McDonald’s, Amazon.com and Bank of America.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that Facebook is preparing to file initial paperwork for an offering that could raise as much as \$10 billion and value the company at \$75 billion to \$100 billion. The filing with the Securities and

Exchange Commission could come as early as Wednesday, with an initial public offering of stock in three or four months. The targeted amount would slot it among the world’s 25 largest IPOs, although as recently as November 2010, General Motors raised \$15.8 billion when it shed majority control by the US government.

The IPOs of 14 companies would rank higher than Facebook’s, according to investment adviser Renaissance Capital. Among them were Visa Inc’s \$17.9 billion IPO in March 2008, the largest for a US company, and world-topper

Agricultural Bank of China Ltd, which raised \$19.3 billion in July 2010, not including extra shares issued to meet demand. Facebook spokesman Larry Wu said the company will not comment on IPO-related speculation. The Journal had cited unnamed people familiar with the matter.

The Journal also said that Facebook was close to picking Morgan Stanley as the lead underwriter, which would be a setback for rival Goldman Sachs. Both declined comment to The Associated Press.

Internet

Thai people look at mobile phones during Thailand Mobile Expo 2012 held until 29 Jan at Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 26 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA



Kinect technology is heading to laptops

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 Jan—According to a recent report from The Daily, Microsoft is working with manufacturers third-party manufacturers on prototypes of laptops utilizing a built-in Kinect sensor. Microsoft has already discussed desktops that include Kinect functions

while at CES this year, but this is the first mention of the motion controller in a portable solution. The prototypes appeared to be ASUS netbooks and they were running Windows 8, likely to use motion navigation within the metro style version of the operating system.

The potential to release cross-platform, Kinect-enabled games seems like the most obvious use of the technology. However, a smaller, mobile version of the Kinect sensor would need to focus the sensitivity range to a much smaller area in order to work correctly with a typical 15-inch laptop screen. In addition, light sensitivity could be a problem for users that like to sit outdoors while

on a laptop. Beyond games, the opportunity for disabled users to utilize gesture and voice control in a portable solution would be excellent. Using Kinect controls to operate actions within Windows Media Centre could also be interesting.

Microsoft started encouraging developers to experiment with the Kinect hardware after opening up the Kinect SDK during June 2011 and seeks to roll out Kinect-enabled desktops before the end of the year. According to speculation from The Daily, Microsoft is only offering licensing the Kinect technology to manufacturers rather than building a solution in-house.—Internet



Harish, 11, a school boy uses a laptop provided under the “One Laptop Per Child” project by a non-governmental organization (NGO) as a calf stands next to him, on the eve of International Literacy Day at Khairat village, about 90 km (56 miles) from Mumbai, India on 7 Sept 2010.—INTERNET



British police arrest five in tabloid bribery probe

LONDON, 29 Jan—The criminal investigation into British tabloid skullduggery turned full force on a second Rupert Murdoch publication Saturday, with the arrest of four current and former journalists from *The Sun* on suspicion of bribing police.

A serving police officer was also held, and authorities searched the newspaper's offices as part of an investigation into illegal payments for information.

The arrests spread the scandal over tabloid wrongdoing — which has already shut down one Murdoch paper, *the News of the World* — to Britain's best-selling newspaper.

London police said two

men aged 48 and one aged 56 were arrested on suspicion of corruption early in the morning at homes in and around London. A 42-year-old man was detained later at a London police station.

Murdoch's News Corp. confirmed that all four were current or former Sun employees. The BBC and other British media identified them as former managing editor Graham Dudman, former deputy editor Fergus Shanahan, current head of news Chris Pharo and crime editor Mike Sullivan.

A fifth man, a 29-year-old police officer, was arrested at the London station where he works.

Officers searched the

men's homes and the east London headquarters of the media mogul's British newspapers for evidence.

The investigation into



whether reporters illegally paid police for information is running parallel to a police

A news camera films the offices of News International company headquarters in London, on 28 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

inquiry into phone hacking by Murdoch's now-defunct News of the World.—INTERNET

Sri Lanka records high number of road accidents

COLOMBO, 29 Jan—Sri Lanka has recorded an increase in the number of road accidents so far this year with 156 people killed, the police said on Sunday. Police Spokesman Ajith Rohana said that 17 people were killed in separate road accidents over a period of 24 hours between Saturday morning and Sunday morning.

He said drivers and pedestrians ignoring road rules were blamed for the increase in the number of road accidents.

The police added that almost all the accidents reported in Sri Lanka over the 24 hour period ending on Sunday morning was outside capital Colombo. Rohana said that 15 accidents had occurred during that period and among those killed were two teenagers, aged 16 and 17, when the motorbikes they were riding collided with each other. Last year, the Sri Lankan motor traffic department said that it was to give local police the right to cancel the driving license of reckless drivers. The Sri Lankan government also made it mandatory for drivers and front seat passengers of motor vehicles to wear seat belts. Doctors at the state hospital in the capital had said that they got some 200 to 300 road accident victims being admitted for treatment every week.—Xinhua

Suspect shown by Mexico cops says he beat Canadian

CULIACAN, 29 Jan—A man charged with brutally beating a Canadian tourist at a luxury beach hotel told reporters on Saturday that he tried to hold the woman in an elevator and punched her several times in the face when she cried for help.

Police presented Jose Ramon Acosta Quintero, 28, to local and foreign journalists in the Pacific port city of Mazatlan, where the attack on Sheila Nabb of Calgary, Alberta, occurred in the early hours of 20 Jan.

He was arrested on Friday and charged with brutally murder. Prosecutors have said investigators were led to Acosta by a hotel security video that showed him leaving the elevator where Nabb was attacked.

Sinaloa State Prosecutor Marco Antonio Higuera Gomez said on Saturday that Acosta was drinking in local bars and had taken cocaine with a Canadian friend when they decided to go to one of the large tourist hotels where bars operate 24 hours. He said

Acosta frequents those hotels and sometimes goes by the name "Ray."

Flanked by police, Acosta spoke in fluent English as he answered a few questions from foreign reporters. He said he entered the hotel from the back beach doorway and was taking an elevator up to the roof when the doors opened and Nabb got in. They talked and then he put his hand on the door, he said, to prevent her from leaving so they could keep talking.—INTERNET

Jose Ramon Acosta Quintero, aka "El Ray", is escorted by soldiers during his presentation to the press in Mazatlan, Mexico, on 28 Jan, 2012. Acosta Quintero is accused by state authorities of being the man responsible in the brutal beating of Sheila Nabb, 37, a Canadian woman at a five-star resort in Mazatlan.—INTERNET



Boys walk on a destroyed bridge at Kapay river, which overflowed during typhoon Washi. The government said at least 1,268 people were killed in the storm, but the total number of fatalities may never be known as entire families were washed away, leaving no survivors in unofficial slum areas to report the deaths.



Flood survivors rebuild in Philippine danger zones

MANILA, 29 Jan—Less than six weeks after killer floods swept away their slum homes along a Philippine river, Lydia Abulanda and her neighbours are rebuilding despite warnings disaster could strike again.

In a poverty-driven tale repeated with depressing frequency across the storm-plagued Southeast Asian nation, Abulanda said they had no other option but to take their chances again in the danger zone.

"We have nowhere else to go," the 41-year-old housewife said as she stood amid the shantytown ruins of Iligan city, where tropical storm Washi swept away entire communities in mid-December.

The government said at least 1,268 people were killed in the storm, but the total number of fatalities may never be known as entire families were washed away, leaving no survivors in unofficial slum areas to report the deaths.

Government officials said many of the victims were slum dwellers who had flocked to dangerous riverbanks because they could not afford to buy land or build homes in safer areas.

Slums hugging riverbanks, exposed coasts and other areas vulnerable to extreme weather are seen across the Philippines, where roughly a quarter of the country's 100 million people live on a dollar a day or less.

Rain predicted to lash Fiji's northern division

SUVA, 29 Jan—The rain and floods are moving to Fiji's Northern Division, leaving the island nation's government worried about costs of damages. Visitors, tourists and Fijians are being warned to be careful as another flash flood warning is now in place for another part of Fiji—Vanua Levu (island) as confirmed by the Nadi Weather Office on Sunday.

Duty forecaster Sanjay Prakash told local media the weather condition in the Northern Division is expected to worsen on Sunday night. Prakash said the adverse weather condition was due to a low pressure system slow moving over the Fiji's North.

He said the low pressure system will start affecting Northern Division either Sunday or Monday.

Prakash said there was also a low pressure system coming in from Vanuatu and anticipated to intensify by Tuesday. In addition there is also an active convergence zone with tropical depression that will affect the whole of Fiji from Tuesday. The Western Division should also anticipate heavy rain from Monday. This after they have lost over 30 million worth of damage reported so far from the flood affected areas between Nadroga to Ra. Commissioner Western, Commander Joeli Cawaki says the figures are expected to rise as their officials have not been able to reach some areas as estimates from damage assessments were taken.—INTERNET

Cruise ship fuel removal stalled due to rough seas

GIGLIO, 29 Jan—Rough seas off Italy's Tuscan coast forced a delay in the planned Saturday start of the operation to remove a half-million gallons of fuel from the grounded Costa Concordia, and officials said pumping may now not begin until

midweek. Recovery operations continued, however, and on Saturday yielded a 17th body: The woman who wasn't wearing a life jacket was found by divers on the submerged sixth floor deck, civil protection officials said.

Italian Financial police scuba divers sale around the grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, on 27 Jan, 2012. Costa Crociere SpA offered uninjured passengers •11,000 (\$14,460) apiece to compensate them for lost baggage and the psychological trauma they suffered after their cruise ship ran aground and capsized off Tuscany.—INTERNET



The Concordia ran aground on 13 Jan off the port of the island of Giglio after the captain deviated from his planned route and gashed the hull of the ship on a reef. Some 4,200 passengers and crew endured a panicked evacuation after the abandon ship alarm didn't sound until the ship had capsized so much that some life boats couldn't be lowered.

Some 16 people remain unaccounted for and are presumed dead.

On Saturday, the body found on the ship's deck on 28 Jan was identified as Erika Soria Molina, 25, of Peru by Doris Sotomayor, Peru's consul general in Florence.

Sotomayor told *The Associated Press* that the body was found in a submerged part of the deck.

Soria, who was wearing a service uniform, studied tourism in Peru and was born in the Andean city of Cuzco, southeast of Lima.

The removal of the fuel aboard the Concordia is a key concern since the seas around Giglio form part of a protected marine sanctuary and are a favorite destination for scuba divers. So far, no leakage has been detected.

Dutch shipwreck salvage firm Smit has been contracted by the Concordia's owner Costa Crociere SpA, a unit of Miami-based Carnival Corp, to remove the fuel. Smit's divers have made the necessary preparations to begin pumping out fuel from six outer tanks that hold more than half of the 500,000 gallons (1.9 million liters) of heavy fuel oil that are aboard the ship.

INTERNET

Three killed in Sacramento SUV-light rail train crash

SACRAMENTO, 29 Jan—The driver of an SUV veered around a crossing arm and ignored flashing warning lights before the vehicle was struck by a light-rail train in Sacramento on Saturday, killing an infant and two adults, authorities said.

The other person inside the Nissan Pathfinder, a woman in her 30s, was taken to a local hospital with serious injuries, said Niko King, assistant chief with the Sacramento Fire Department. Six of the roughly 50 passengers on the light rail train suffered minor injuries and were taken to a hospital, he said.

King and a spokeswoman for the transit line said video from a camera at the crossing clearly shows the SUV driving around the crossing arm. The light rail followed two Union Pacific freight trains, which use separate tracks, and the arms had remained down during the interval, said Alane Masui, spokeswoman for the Sacramento Regional Transit District.

"They were down after the UP trains and before the (light rail) train approached, so the crossing arms were properly working," she said.

She said the length of time between the freight trains clearing the intersection and the light rail train crossing it had not yet been determined and would be part of the investigation. Investigators also were reviewing video from a camera mounted



Officials test the signals and lights at an intersection where an SUV and Light Rail train collided in Sacramento, Calif, on 28 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

on the light rail train.

The collision, in a working class neighbourhood south of downtown, occurred shortly after 4 pm and pushed the Pathfinder about 30 yards from the point of impact.

"All I heard was a big bang, and I saw a light-rail train heading south with a big truck smashed on it," said Ravin Pratab, 42, of Davis, whose car was among those waiting for the train at the rail crossing, on the opposite side of the tracks from the Pathfinder.

Internet



In this photo taken in 2010, the director of Shabelle radio station Hassan Osman Abdi, right, popularly known as Hassan Fantastic, presents a programme on social issues in the radio station's studio in Mogadishu, Somalia. INTERNET

Somalia journalist shot dead in capital

MOGADISHU, 29 Jan—A producer at a Somali radio station says gunmen shot dead the station's director in the chaotic capital, Mogadishu.

Mu'awiye Ahmed Mudey, a producer at Shabelle radio, said unidentified gunmen killed Hassan Osman Abdi on Saturday. He was on his way home. The 29-year-old father of three had worked at the station for three years.

Attacks on journalists are common in war-ravaged Somalia. Two journalists were killed last year, and there have been numerous attacks in the northern semiautonomous region of Puntland.

Internet

Indian police arrest five Bangladeshi pirates in Bay of Bengal

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan—Indian police said on Saturday that they had arrested five Bangladeshi pirates who were captured by a group of fishermen in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of eastern Indian state of West Bengal on Friday.

"We have arrested the pirates who had been handed over to us by some fishermen who captured them when the sea robbers intercepted three trawlers off Kenduakhali area in the Bay of Bengal with an aim to rob them," a police official said on condition of anonymity.

The incident took place Friday morning when a group of eight Bangladeshi pirates came in a motorized boat and attacked the three of the trawlers and fired at the Indian fishermen, killing three fishermen and injuring 10 others.

However, after a scuffle, the Indian fishermen managed to capture the eight pirates, but three of them jumped into the waters and escaped, the official said.—Xinhua

Emergency declared in 13 Serbian areas due to heavy snow

BELGRADE, 29 Jan—A state of emergency has been declared in 13 Serbian municipalities, buried under a thick blanket of snow after days of constant snowfall, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS) on Saturday.

The Serbian Army has been summoned to clear roads and rescue isolated individuals, more notably the mountainous village of Babusnica, near the Bulgarian border, where snow drifts over

one meter have made it inaccessible.

The most critical areas are along a swath of territory stretching from near the Montenegrin border eastward to Bulgaria, with Nova Varos, Prijepolje and Ivanjica hardest hit. Many villages have also been without electricity for days, with transmission lines downed by heavy snow and strong winds.

Members of Serbia's Ski

Service helped evacuate residents of a village near Brus, not far from Serbia's most notable ski destination on Kopaonik, which has recorded more than 134 centimeters of snow this season.

According to Predrag Maric, head of emergency services, it will take days of cleanup to be able to reach many of the snowbound villages.

Internet



A resident clears heavy snow in the district of Nova Varos, southwest of Serbia, on 27 Jan, 2012. A state of emergency has been declared in 13 Serbian municipalities, buried under a thick blanket of snow after days of constant snowfall, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS) on Saturday. XINHUA

Holiday firecrackers kill one, injure 200 in Beijing

BEIJING, 29 Jan—Firecrackers lit by Beijing residents to celebrate the Chinese new year killed one person and injured more than 200 others in the Chinese capital during the past seven-day holiday, the government reported on Saturday.

The holiday firecracker casualties this year, however, were down nearly 50 percent from a year earlier, according to the municipal health bureau.

Nine of the injured remain hospitalized, the bureau said, without revealing any detail about the only fatality.

Body found as bad weather delays liner fuel pumping

ROME, 29 Jan—Heavy weather forced salvage crews to suspend pumping thousands of tonnes of fuel from the wrecked Costa Concordia liner Saturday, though recovery operations continued and divers found another body. With waves reaching more than one metre (over three feet) in height, technicians from the Dutch salvage company Smit and Italy's Neri said it was too dangerous to start siphoning off an estimated 2,380 tonnes of fuel from the tanks of the Concordia, which ran aground 13 January.

Salvage workers on Friday attached valves to six of the stricken vessel's 23 tanks as part of the first phase of operations. It was unclear how long the delay would last, with weather forecasts showing worsening conditions Sunday.

Once they start, pumping operations are expected to take several weeks. Many in the region are concerned about fuel leaks from the ship into the area's popular recreation waters, saying a spill would be environmentally disastrous in one of Europe's biggest marine parks. Despite rough weather, recovery work

continued and divers pulled the body of another victim from a submerged deck on the stricken ship.

She was not immediately identified. Italy's civil defence organisation said the woman was discovered on deck six in the submerged part of the vessel.

The Costa Concordia ran aground on rocks with some 4,200 people aboard and is lying on its side off the Tuscan island of Giglio. Fifteen people remain missing.

Authorities on Saturday said another woman, whose identity had not previously been released, was German passenger Inge Schall.

Of the 17 bodies found, 15 have now been identified. They are: five Germans, four French people, three Italians, a Hungarian, a Spaniard and a Peruvian.

On Friday, six Costa Concordia passengers sued parent company Carnival Cruise Lines in Miami, demanding compensation totaling \$460 million. It's one of what is likely to be a slew of lawsuits against the cruise firm, and several consumer associations have already announced their intention to bring a class action case.

Internet



A rescuer looks at the cruise liner Costa Concordia on 27 January. Heavy weather forced salvage crews to suspend pumping thousands of tonnes of fuel from the wrecked Costa Concordia liner Saturday, though recovery operations continued and divers found another body.—INTERNET

complained that there had been a loss of festivity without the bangs of firecrackers.

Following suit with other cities, the Beijing municipal government lifted its 12-year ban on firecrackers in December 2005, but still restricts the locations and timing for igniting firecrackers.

This year, urban residents in Beijing left 183.7 tonnes of paper scraps from firecrackers set off during the holiday, prompting authorities to mobilize more than 5,000 sweepers to keep the streets clean, government officials earlier said.—Xinhua

Yangon-Mandalay Highway links whole Myanmar

Construction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway (Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon section) began in April, 2005 and finished by 25 March, 2009. The route from Yangon No. 3 Junction to Nay Pyi Taw Junction is 202 miles and one furlong long and is of about-four-hour drive.

Construction of Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section started on 10 October, 2005 and completed by 29 December, 2010. It takes three hours from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay, 150 miles and five furlongs long route.

Construction of Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundine section of Yangon-Mandalay Highway was put into operation on 1 January, 2011 and the road section was opened on 23 December, 2011. It is of 13 miles and five furlongs long section.

The thickness of the concrete highway is 18 inches. There are a total of 172 bridges small or large on the highway. The concreting work was carried out with labour and machine power and liquid chemicals were used where necessary to enhance the road resistance.

The highway is of four-lane one, allowing two-way traffic, 100 feet in total width. It was built by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction with the assistance of Directorate of Military Engineers of the Ministry of Defence. Five computerized toll gates are opened on the road.

A total of 884 culvert boxes were built in to ensure separation of traffic and roadside safety and 75 under passes and three rest camps for communication between villages near the highway. Restaurants, automobile workshop, petrol-filling station, car



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo at the inauguration ceremony of Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundine section of Yangon-Mandalay Highway, greeting to departmental personnel, members of social organizations and locals.



A section of Yangon-Mandalay Highway (Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section) constructed in line with ASEAN norms and international designs.



Dagundine Roundabout on Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundine section of Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

parking and police station were also built on the highway.

Centered in Nay Pyi Taw, the highway is of great value to the country, having shortened the distance between regions and states.

It lies between Middle Yoma Mountain Ranges (Bago Mountain Ranges) and East Yoma Mountain Ranges (Shan Mountain Ranges). The highway is latest communication link added to old Yangon-Mandalay motor road, Yangon-Mandalay railroad, Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi-Kyaukpadaung railroad and Pyinmana-Pinlaung motor road, connecting Nay Pyi Taw with regions and states.

It is a pride of people across the nation and of the locals

as well. In addition, it is greatly beneficial to economic, health, education, social development of the region apart from social and economic cohesion.

The first and foremost advantage of the highway is of course shortened travel time and it is expected to bring more visible benefits for economy, trade, social affairs and health of the region.

In a short time, Nay Pyi Taw and regions and states can communicate with each other in all aspects thanks to the advent of the highway, which will contribute a great deal to solidification of Union Spirit and national consolidation.

"I would like to say Thank You to the government for all of its infrastructural construction including this road section. I believe this bridge would make it for regional development."

U Aung Naing Oo from Amarapura

"It is a four-hour drive from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon by express bus. It is convenient and time-saving.

U Htay Aung, staff from Nay Pyi Taw

"Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw highway surely deserves appreciation. My job involves dealing with government departments and the travel is much easier."

U Thein Kyaing, businessman

"I prefer to run long-distance transport service as it makes more money. I am grateful for the road as the number of the travellers has increased and also my income"

U Myint Wai, coach owner

"I am pleased that I can eat and take a rest at eateries opened at the 105th mile rest camp on the highway."

Ma Nay Zar Zar Tun, passenger

Translation: TTK



Toll gate at the entrance to Nay Pyi Taw on Yangon-Mandalay Highway (Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section)

Experiences of work coord meeting between Union Supreme Court and Region/State High Courts recounted

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Experiences of the second work coordination meeting between Union Supreme Court and Region/State High Courts held on 12, 13 January was recounted at Mon State high Court in Mawlamyine yesterday.

Chief Justice of State High Court U Khin Maung Gyi explained judicial instructions given by the Chief Justice of the Union at the meeting and district and township judges reported on judicial affairs and court works.—MNA

Over 200 golfers participate in Meiktila Golf Tourney

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Meiktila Golf Society conducted its golf tournament for 2012 at Meiktila Air Force Golf Court on 28 and 29 January.

Twenty teams and over 200

golfers from Yangon, Mandalay, Myingyan, Pakokku, NyaungU, Taungtha, Mahlaing, Natogyi, Kyaukse, Yamethin, Thazi, Wundwin and Meiktila townships participated in the golf tournament.—MNA

Peace agreement signed...

(from page 16)

liaison offices and stations will be established in Taunggyi, Lashio and Kholan with the people agreed, by both sides. More offices will be opened in required places.

- (4) Apart from the mutually agreed areas, transgression and arms carrying will be allowed under negotiation between both sides.
- (5) It is agreed that Union level peace-making group and SSPP peace-making group will continue their talks for ensuring regional peace, stability and development, enabling the troops to earn their living and ensuring lasting peace in the region after meeting in the given place at the given time.

Union level peace-making group leader U Aung Thuang and six members and Shan State Progressive Party/ Shan State Army peace-making group leader Sao Khay Tai and six members signed five agreements. The group leaders then exchanged notes. The five agreement points they signed are as follows:-

- (1) It is agreed that to build peace, the preliminary agreement signed between Shan State peace-making group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) in

Objectives of the 65th Anniversary Union Day

- * To build the Union for its perpetual existence through the strength of national unity
- * All the national people to uphold Our Three Main National Causes forever
- * To endow the national people with Union Spirit
- * To strive for ensuring eternal peace for all the national races
- * To build a modern and developed Union by practising discipline-flourishing democracy in accord with the constitution

Taunggyi on 28 January, 2012 shall be approved.

- (2) It is agreed that concerted efforts shall be made to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty at all times based on Panglong spirit.
- (3) It is agreed that arrangements for improvement of livelihood and sociolife of Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) members and their families in line with law in cooperation with the government shall be made.

- (4) It is agreed that cooperation with the Union government in a fight against narcotic drugs shall be made.

- (5) It is agreed that further discussions and negotiations to ensure eternal peace shall be held afterwards.

After the meeting, group leader U Aung Thuang, deputy group leader U Thein Zaw and party presented 500 bags of rice, 50 solar lamps, 20 Sky Net TV receivers provided by the President to SSPP/Shan State Army peace-making group leader Sao Khay Tai, Sao Khun Hsai and members.—MNA

Ayeyawady Chief Minister meets foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung received delegation led by Project Executive of Myanmar Office of China Yunnan Construction Engineering Group Co Ltd Mr Li Nan at the Region government office yesterday morning.

They discussed matters related to investment in agriculture sector.

The chief minister also met delegation led by Tanzania-based Export Trading Group Mr Mahesh Patel and discussed investment in the region at the same venue a day before.

MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—The work coordination meeting of Myanmar Red Cross Society and members of red cross supervisory committee of the region was held at region government office on 27 January, with a speech by Chief Minister of

Bago Region U Nyan Win.

The chief minister gave instructions on carrying out of social welfare works and coordinated the needs concerning reports of the officials.

MNA

K 5000 mobile “impossible...”

(from page 16)

available at low price in both rural and urban areas for socio-economic development of the people. It has planned to reduce mobile phone installation fee as it is in neighbouring countries during the project period of five years.

MPT has to build radio stations on chosen sites for enabling to use a mobile phone, install sufficient machines, and construct communication routes for local, long-distance and trunk calls for a long time. MPT issued a public announcement that “telephone at the price of K 5000 is impossible for the time being as it takes a considerable time to establish a communication network”.—MNA



Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win making speech at work coordination of region red cross supervisory committee.—MNA

To grab the golden opportunity

With much interest, I read the editorial of the *New Light of Myanmar* (NLM, 9 January, 2012) under the heading of “Role of ICE in Youths”. The perspectives urged the youths to acquire ICE—Internet, Computer and English language.

I have noticed that every now and then, the NLM carries some editorials and articles that broaden the scope of the young. And I also notice the gradual reforms the paper is carrying out. Whatever it may be, all sorts of the news times attract the readers especially those who cannot have easy access to the Internet.

To be frank, I am not able to watch the screen of the computer for a long time due to my old age and poor eyesight. Although the Internet is within our reach, I am staying away from it. Sometimes, e-mail, g-mail, blog facebook, twitters and so on. However, I am still using my old typewriter for writing. Because of the NLM, I am able to keep pace with the changing world. This is why I take off my hat to the NLM and I think some senior citizens like me will follow suit.

At the same time, I envy the youths who are well-versed in computer science.

Today, the computer, the telephone and the television are no longer separate tools. They are linked together. In the near future, our youths and even our children can have easy access to even supercomputers to perform calculations as fast as the current technology allows and to solve extremely complex problems. They know very well how to use the Internet which provides

huge amounts of information from thousands of places.

To be objective, youths and children of today are lucky enough to live a modern life that seemed to be a dream world for us in the past.

No one can deny that our modern world is changing at an enormous rate. New things appear. Old ones gradually disappear. Slide rules make way for electronic calculations. Toys make way for video games. And notebooks give way to personal computers.

Only young people can handle their accelerated changes. We of the older generation can only stand back and stare in astonishment and incomprehension. The young are like empty cups taking in as information as the outside world can give them. The old are like full cups that cannot take in anymore.

Generally, there have been advances in all spheres of human endeavours in all countries regardless of region or size. There are also instances of less achievement, especially where the have-nots are concerned. We can see that since the past decades, there have been advances in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with the galloping strides made by the Internet.

The invention of communication satellites now allows us to witness any event around the globe at the touch of a switch. The speed at which information is transferred is unprecedented in history. Those who have access to them as well as those who still need to have them know fully well the rewards of the latest modes of communication.

By Maung Hlaing

The impact of this improved communication on our lives are great indeed. We are not only better informed of current events all over the world but we are also exposed to multitude of different cultures and ways of life. Never before did we have to face such a huge onslaught of information.

As a matter of face, this century, and especially these last few decades, witnessed the tremendous strides made in electronic technology. The youths of today, beginning with those in primary grades, are more fortunate than those of the past for their education in consonance with the national character.

As far as the ICE is concerned, we the older generation are fully satisfied with the way our youths do for the first and second letters “IC” (Internet and Computer). However, as for the last letter “E” for English language, we cannot say that all of the youths are well-versed in English. As long as youths are not good at the tree letters “ICE”, highly-qualified human resources development cannot be vividly achieved. Likewise, a constant learning society will not be materialized as we expect.

Today, English classes both spoken and written conducted by private or departmental work establishments are mushrooming. Audiovisual equipment we had never seen in our schooldays of the past is abundant in the surroundings of the young.

Youths of today should grab the golden opportunity to improve their capabilities.

Japan, Russia to boost economic, security ties



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, and his counterpart Koichiro Gemba, right, attend their meeting in Tokyo, on 28 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

TOKYO, 29 Jan—The foreign ministers of Japan and Russia agreed on Saturday to strengthen economic and security cooperation but made no progress on resolving a long-standing territorial dispute over islands off northeastern Japan.

Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba and visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the two countries needed to address the territorial row in a calm manner. The dispute over the islands—called the southern

Kurils in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan—has kept the two nations from forging a peace treaty officially ending their World War II hostilities, a problem Gemba said needs to be rectified.

Both men sought to downplay the dispute and focus on ways the two nations could expand their ties. “As the security situation in the Asia-Pacific undergoes major changes, the Japan-Russia relationship has taken on new importance,” Gemba said at a

joint Press conference that followed what he called a “fruitful” two-hour meeting.

“We reaffirmed that we want to strengthen our cooperation in security, defence and economic matters, particularly energy modernization,” he added.

Lavrov welcomed the increased trade between the two nations, which last year grew to 2.45 trillion yen (\$31 billion).

While the two sides didn’t announce any specific energy projects, they did sign

a procedure to simplify visa procedures in an effort to boost visitors and business interaction, particularly from Japan to Russia.

Ties between Japan and Russia soured in late 2010 when President Dmitry Medvedev became the first Russian president to visit the disputed islands, which are located off the northeastern coast of Hokkaido.

They were seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of the war, but Japan claims they are part of its territory. The islands are surrounded by rich fishing grounds and are believed to have oil, natural gas and mineral deposits.

“Resolving this problem and concluding a peace treaty is more necessary than ever,” Gemba said. “But unfortunately...our positions are different. We hope to resolve this through dialogue.”

Lavrov said tackling the matter would have to wait until a new leader is chosen in Russia’s presidential election on 4 March, but added that he wants to seek a way “to resolve the dispute in a way that’s acceptable to both sides.”—INTERNET

Doctors in Peru to remove ‘parasitic twin’

LIMA, 29 Jan—Doctors in Peru have found a “parasitic twin” in the stomach of a 3-year-old boy, and plan to surgically remove the tissue on Monday.

Dr Carlos Astocondor of the medical team at Las Mercedes Hospital in the northern port of Chiclayo says the condition occurs in about one of every 500,000 live births.

He says the partially formed fetus weighs a pound and a half (700 grams) and is nine inches (25 centimeters) long.

Astocondor says the brain, heart, lungs and intestines never developed after the fetus was absorbed by the other fetus inside the mother’s womb. He says it has some hair on the cranium, eyes and some bones.—INTERNET



Leonidas Pacunda holds up the shirt of his son Isbac Pacunda, who was diagnosed with “Fetus in fetu” at Las Mercedes hospital in Chiclayo, Peru, on 28 Jan, 2012. Isbac, 3, was diagnosed with having tissues from the fetus of his twin brother in his abdomen, called “Fetus in fetu,” and will be operated on Monday, according to doctors. Fetus in fetu occurs once in every 500,000 live births, according to pediatric surgeon Carlos Astocondor, who will lead the surgery with 12 other physicians.—INTERNET

Turkish aid foundation donates 85 homes to flood-hit Pakistan

ANKARA, 29 Jan—Turkey’s Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) has donated a total of 85 homes to Pakistan’s flood-stricken city of Muzaffargarh, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Saturday.

Each home donated in Muzaffargarh has two rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom, IHH’s Bursa chief Huseyin

Kaptan was quoted as saying at a Press conference held in Turkey’s northwestern Bursa Province.

Kaptan said that the IHH are trying to provide aid in all corners of the world so that justice and brotherhood could prevail across the globe.

In August 2010, more than 160,000 people received the United Nations’

emergency shelter and relief assistance in flood-torn areas in Pakistan, as the organization launched an initial 41-million-US dollar appeal to meet the needs of more than 560,000 people affected by the disaster, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which aimed to help 80,000 families.

Xinhua

Colicky Edinburgh Zoo pandas removed from display

LONDON, 29 Jan—Two giant pandas on loan to a Scottish zoo have been removed from display while being treated for colic.

Edinburgh Zoo officials say female panda Tian Tian was treated by a veterinarian for the illness on Saturday, just as her male companion

Yang Guang is recovering from about diagnosed earlier this month. Officials say the illness is not serious, but can cause discomfort and requires medication.

The zoo said Tian Tian would be allowed “to relax privately away from public view” over the weekend.

Yang Guang is expected to be back on view on Monday.

The 8-year-old pair are the first pandas to live in Britain in nearly two decades. They arrived from China in December and are expected to draw huge crowds of visitors to the zoo.—INTERNET

Xinhua



Cheeses are on view during the Fine Food Days Linz in Linz, capital of Oberoesterreich, Austria, on 28 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

Crews try to stabilize Ohio casino collapse site

CINCINNATI, 29 Jan—A hospital spokesman says a worker who was injured when a floor collapsed at an Ohio casino construction site

remains in serious condition a day later as investigators work to figure out what happened.

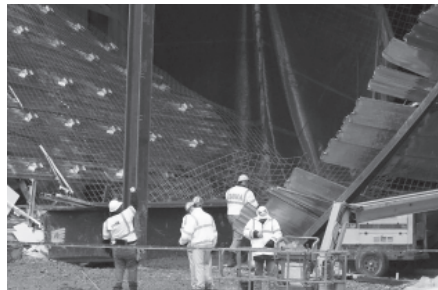
More than a dozen

workers were hurt on Friday morning at the Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati site, where they were pouring a section of concrete floor.

Most of the injured had been treated for bumps and scrapes and released by Saturday afternoon. One man was hospitalized in serious condition.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reports crews were stabilizing the site on Saturday amid investigations by city and workplace safety officials.

The collapse occurred weeks after a similar accident at a Cleveland casino with the same developers. The developers have said there’s no link between the two accidents.—INTERNET



OSHA officials inspect the scene of a collapse at the Horseshoe Casino under construction, on 27 Jan, 2012, in Cincinnati. Around a dozen workers were injured, non life-threatening.

INTERNET

Senate election kicks off in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 29 Jan—The election for the third legislature of Cambodia Senate has begun on Sunday morning with two main political parties participating in the contest.

The two parties are the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) and Sam Rainsy Party, the country’s main opposition party, according to the National Election Committee (NEC).

Prime Minister Hun Sen

casted his ballot near his residence in Takhmau district, Kandal Province, about 10 km south of the capital.

The Senate election is voted by 119 Members of Parliament and 11,351 commune councilors at 33 polling stations across the country, it added.

Cambodia’s Senate has 61 seats, but the election is held for 57 seats as two senators will be appointed

by the King and the other 2 by the National Assembly.

The results will be announced on Sunday afternoon.

The Senate election is held every six years. The last one was in Jan. 2006, at that time, three parties—CPP, Funcinpec and Sam Rainsy Party—joined the contest. As a result, the CPP won 45 seats, Funcinpec 10 seats and the Sam Rainsy Party 2 seats.

Xinhua

Thwarted on US oil pipeline, Canada looks to China

KITAMAAT, 29 Jan—The latest chapter in Canada's quest to become a full-blown oil superpower unfolded this month in a village gym on the British Columbia coast.

Here, several hundred people gathered for hearings on whether a pipeline should be laid from the Alberta oil sands to the Pacific in order to deliver oil to Asia, chiefly energy-hungry China. The stakes are particularly high for the village of Kitamaat and its neighbours, because the pipeline would terminate here and a port would be built to handle 220 tankers a year and 525,000 barrels of oil a day.

But the planned Northern Gateway Pipeline is just one aspect of an epic

battle over Canada's oil ambitions — a battle that already has a supporting role in the US presidential election, and which will help to shape North America's future energy relationship with China.

It actually is a tale of two pipelines — the one that is supposed to end at Kitamaat Village, and another that would have gone from Alberta to the Texas coast but was blocked by the Obama administration citing environmental grounds.

Those same environmental issues are certain to haunt Northern Gateway as the Joint Review Panel of energy and environmental officials

canvasses opinion along the 1,177-kilometer (731-mile) route of the Northern Gateway pipeline to be built by Enbridge, a Canadian company.

The fear of oil spills is especially acute in this pristine corner of northwest British Columbia, with its snowcapped mountains and deep ocean inlets. People here still remember the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989, and oil is still leaking from the Queen of the North, a ferry that sank off nearby Hartley Bay six years ago. The seas nearby, in the Douglas Channel, "are very treacherous waters," says David Suzuki, a leading environmentalist. "You take a supertanker that takes miles



This 10 Jan, 2012 photo shows the Douglas Channel, the proposed termination point for an oil pipeline in the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project at Kitamaat, British Columbia, Canada.—INTERNET

in order to stop, (and) an accident is absolutely inevitable." Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada's national interest makes the \$5.5 billion pipeline essential. He was "profoundly disappointed" that US

President Barack Obama rejected the Texas Keystone XL option but also spoke of the need to diversify Canada's oil industry. Ninety-seven percent of Canadian oil exports now go to the US.

Internet

18th AU summit opens to discuss Intra-Africa trade

ADDIS ABABA, 29 Jan—The 18th African Union (AU) summit opened on Sunday here in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, as African leaders gathered with the theme of "Boosting Intra-African Trade." The summit is set to elect new members of the AU Commission (AUC), namely, the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the eight Commissioners. The current AUC members are coming to the end of its four year mandate in January 2012.

Xinhua



Tourists dance with local performers at a tourist destination in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 27 Jan, 2012. The warm weather during the Spring Festival holiday in Hainan attracted many tourists recently.—XINHUA

Thai GSB ready to lend to flood-hit industrial estates

BANGKOK, 29 Jan—Thailand's state-run Government Savings Bank (GSB) has prepared to provide soft loans for the construction of anti-flood dykes in the industrial estates affected by the severe flood, the National News Bureau of Thailand said on Sunday.

Loans could be approved once the Ministry of Industry gives the nod to their construction blueprints proposed by flood-ravaged industrial estates, the report said.

The cabinet meeting on 8 November, 2011 agreed with the Ministry of Finance to provide soft loans worth 15 billion baht (483 million US dollars) for the seven industrial estates to build permanent floodwalls in their estates.

Until present, only the Bang Pa-In Industrial Estate in central Ayutthaya Province has started building a dyke with its own funds and will later make a loan reclaim from the GSB. The total seven industrial estates submerged

by nationwide flood last year include Bang Pa-In Industrial Estate, Rojjana Industrial Estate, Navanakhon Industrial Estate, Ban Wah (Hi-Tech) Industrial Estate, Saha Rattana Nakhon Industrial Estate and Factory Land Industrial Estate in ancient city of Ayutthaya Province as well as Bang Kadi Industrial Park in Pathumthani Province, adjacent to capital Bangkok. The initial cost of damage was estimated at about 140 billion baht (4.5 billion US dollars).—Xinhua

Tourism booms during festival holiday week

BEIJING, 29 Jan—China's week-long Spring Festival holiday, which ended on Saturday, brought a new round of travel boom across the country.

According to data from the National Holiday Tourism Office, Beijing received 8.27 million visitors during the holiday, generating a revenue of 3.4 billion yuan (538.5 million US dollars), an increase of 9.3 percent from the

previous year. Around 3.14 million travellers went to Shanghai during the period, up 3.2 percent year-on-year, with tourism revenue up 10.4 percent to 2.96 billion yuan.

Self-driving tours become increasingly popular among travellers. In the city of Tianjin, the ratio of people choosing to drive by themselves surged 35 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, outbound

trips continued to increase sharply. According to tourism authorities of the Republic of Korea (ROK), a total of 45,000 Chinese people travelled to the country during the holiday, which represents an increase of over 30 percent from the same period last year.

From 25 to 64 Jan, 344 people departed from Shanghai to other countries, up 11.59 percent from the same period last year.—Xinhua

Sun Fengtong finishes swimming in cold water in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 24 Jan, 2012. Sun Fengtong, a 86-year-old winter outdoor swimming fan, went to practise everyday during the Spring Festival holiday. He likes to swim in water which is nearly 0 degree centigrade. Every time he spent 20 to 30 seconds in the cold water. Sun believes that swimming in icy water could keep his body fit.—XINHUA



China says retail sales hit \$74 bln during holiday

BEIJING, 29 Jan—China said retail sales surged 16.2 percent year on year to 470 billion yuan (\$74 billion) during the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, as consumers splashed out on food, wine and clothes.

Hundreds of millions of people journey across the country during the holiday to celebrate with their families and consumer spending typically soars during the period.

The commerce ministry said sales of clothes, jewellery and food rose 18.7 percent, 16.4 percent and 16.2 percent respectively, according to a statement posted on its website Saturday, the last day of the holiday.

The number of

passenger trips on trains, planes, boats and buses was expected to reach 3.2 billion during the peak travel period from 8 January to 19 February, up 9.1 percent from last year.

Authorities warned

snow and rain in parts of southern and southwestern China could disrupt road and rail links as millions of people returned to work in the major cities, the Global Times reported.—Internet



China said retail sales surged 16.2% year on year to \$74 billion during the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, as consumers splashed out on food, wine and clothes.—INTERNET

Failing aluminum complex threatens Montenegrin economy

BELGRADE, 29 Jan—The debt of a failing aluminum complex in Montenegro is threatening the tiny Balkan state with economic collapse, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS) on Saturday.

The Aluminum Plant Podgorica (KAP) is jointly managed by the Montenegrin government and the Central European Aluminum Company (CEAC) controlled by Oleg Deripaska, a Russian billionaire, each with roughly 30 percent of the shares.

According to Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić, the Montenegrin government would likely assume

payment of the first tranche of 22 million euros due to the Deutsche Bank in February. He said this could "lead to the collapse of the financial system" as the creditors for the remaining debt of 131 million euros come due: Hungary's OTP Bank in April and the Russian VTB Bank in 2014.

In the past two years the public debt in Montenegro has doubled to 47 percent of GDP. Kavarić said Montenegro would have to borrow the necessary funds to cover the KAP debt, for which it has not budgeted.

Kavarić said the Montenegrin government would like to negotiate with creditors to postpone commitments and also negotiate with strategic partners to assume the state debt in KAP.

The company has been plagued with labor disputes as it slashed its 2,300 workers from its labor force of 3,500 in 2008. Although KAP represents the largest single source to Montenegrin GDP and exports, it has been running a daily deficit of 200,000 euros since the economic crisis of 2008.

Xinhua

New test detects vitamin D more accurately

GAITHERSBURG, (Md), 29 Jan—It's estimated most US adults may be deficient in vitamin D but blood sample testing may yield inaccurate measurements of vitamin D levels, researchers say.

Karen Phinney of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an agency of the US Department of Commerce, and colleagues said medical research suggests vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency may be more common than previously thought.

Measuring vitamin D itself doesn't work because it is rapidly changed into another form in the liver, Phinney said.

"That's why current methods detect levels of a vitamin D metabolite, or 25(OH)D.

However, the test methods don't always agree and produce different results," Phinney said in a statement.

To help laboratories detect consistent and accurate methods, the researchers developed a Standard Reference Material, or SRM 972, the first certified reference material for the determination of the metabolite in human serum — a component of blood.

The researchers developed four versions of the standard, with different

levels of the vitamin D metabolites 25(OH)D2 and 25(OH)D3 in human serum.

In addition, the researchers found the metabolite 3-epi-25(OH)D in the adult human serum samples, which was previously thought to only exist in the blood of infants.

"This reference material provides a mechanism to ensure measurement accuracy and comparability and represents a first step toward standardization of 25(OH)D measurements," the researchers said.

The findings were published in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

Internet

People read the notice that Spain's Spanair airlines left in the closed customer service at the Terminal 2 of Barajas Airport in Spain, Madrid, on 28 Jan, 2012. The collapse of Spanish airline Spanair on Friday night has resulted in the cancellation of 220 flights this weekend and has affected over 22,700 passengers.—XINHUA



15 Somalis killed in boat sinking off Libyan coast

TRIPOLI, 29 Jan—At least 15 Somali passengers on their way to Europe have been killed when their boat capsized off the coast of Misrata, a western port city of Libya, French news agency AFP quoted the Somali ambassador as saying on Saturday. According to Ambassador Abdelghami

Wais, the boat was carrying 55 Somali migrants when the accident occurred and the other 40 are still missing.

A reporter of a local TV station told Xinhua that witnesses saw the bodies of some Africans lying on the Misrata beach two days ago.

The Somali ambassador said that the 15 bodies that

have been recovered were found on Wednesday on the shore of Misrata and include one child and 12 women.

Libya has long been used as a transit point en route to Europe by large number of impoverished Africans who illegally travel to the continent seeking for a better life.—Xinhua



A man fishes on a beach in Florianopolis, the capital city of Santa Catarina State in southern Brazil, on 28 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Bahamas police investigate cruise ship death

NASSAU, 29 Jan—Authorities in the Bahamas say a 26-year-old US tourist has died aboard a Carnival cruise ship and the cruise has been delayed pending the investigation.

Bahamas police said in a statement Saturday that a man from South Carolina apparently jumped from one floor to another aboard the Carnival Fantasy ship that had docked in Nassau late Friday. He was declared dead at the scene.

Carnival issued a statement saying the guest apparently fell. They said the ship's visit to Freeport on Saturday has been canceled as the investigation continues. Officials did not release the man's name or home town.

The ship departed Charleston, South Carolina on Wednesday for a five-day Bahamas cruise. It is still scheduled to return to Charleston on Monday.

Internet



A little performer dressed in bizarre suits prepare to participate a parade in Pelnik in Bulgaria, on 28 Jan, 2012. The 21st International Mask Festival which attracts 99 performing teams from 13 countries or areas, kicked off on Saturday.—XINHUA

Two traders shot dead in southern Philippines

COTABATO, 29 Jan—Gunmen in the southern Philippines killed a couple engaged in business in an attack early on Saturday.

The victims, Muddin Abu Kali and his wife Racman Kali, were heading home around 5:00 am on board a motorbike when they were ambushed by undetermined armed men along the

highway in Rosary Heights 6 village in the southern city of Cotabato, killing them on the spot. Japal Guani, mayor of Cotabato, said cops are investigating the motive behind the killing. Earlier this month, vice mayor of Cotabato, Muslimin Sema, survived an assassination plot.

Xinhua



Local performers play dragon dance in the sky in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi Province, on 29 Jan, 2012. Many people came to Taiyuan Zoo to watch a special air dragon dance on Sunday.—XINHUA

Arctic ice melt lifts hopes for Russian maritime trade

SEVERODVINSK, 29 Jan—When severe snowstorms prevented life-sustaining fuel supplies from reaching the frozen Alaskan town of Nome, US officials turned to a Russian company for help. The relief mission through perilous, ice-choked seas was the first mid-winter fuel delivery to western Alaska, capping a year of pioneering shipping as oil and gas development and climate change increase traffic along northern trade routes sought by centuries of Arctic explorers.

Russia has staked future growth on mining the Arctic's vast energy resources, and reviving a Soviet-era shipping route along its Siberia coast is an integral part of that plan. It could also promise economic revival for Russia's ports and shipyards, struggling since their Soviet-era glory days.

But industry analysts and mariners say ice floes, narrow straits, shallow waters, poor infrastructure and stormy winters continue to loom as obstacles to safe and profitable shipping through the polar shortcut. "We must develop the Arctic!" said Fazil Aliyev, a sea captain and owner of the tanker that voyaged to Alaska.

"It is profitable for everyone. Our clients win because their cargo is delivered faster, now we need to make it economically

Magnitude-6.2 quake hits off Kermadec Islands

HONG KONG, 29 Jan—An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale jolted off the Kermadec Islands of New Zealand, at 1742 GMT on Saturday (0142 Beijing Time on Sunday), the US

Geological Survey said. The epicenter, with a depth of 28 km, was initially determined to be at 29.3444 degrees south latitude and 177.4243 degrees west longitude.—Xinhua

Snowboarder dies in avalanche in Utah backcountry

SALT LAKE CITY, 29 Jan—A 24-year-old male snowboarder has died after becoming trapped in an avalanche in a steep Utah backcountry area that the public was warned to avoid after potent snowstorms. The death marks the ninth avalanche fatality in the West this season, and experts say the risk of additional slides could remain high all winter. Unified police Lt. Justin Hoyal says the victim was with two other men when the avalanche occurred on Saturday morning in the Wasatch Range's Big Cottonwood Canyon near Salt Lake City. He says the other two — a snowboarder and skier — watched as the victim descended Kessler Peak and triggered an avalanche. They found his body less than an hour later using avalanche beacons. The victim's name and hometown were not immediately released.

Experts say a weak base layer of snow, packed with large grains of ice, is plaguing parts of Utah, Colorado, Montana and California. They say these conditions could keep avalanche risks high for the rest of the season.

Internet



The US Coast Guard cutter Healy guides the Russian tanker Renda closer to the fuel transfer mooring point off the coast of Nome, Alaska, 14 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

via... try to make it a year-round route," he said, speaking by phone from Vladivostok, Russia's gateway port to Asian markets.

Aliyev's company, RIMSCO, tripled cargo along Russia's coastal waterway last year when a warm summer kept what Russia calls the Northern Sea Route open for a record 141 days, almost a month longer than usual.

Reuters

National Mustard Museum gets reprieve

The National Mustard Museum in Wisconsin has been given extra time to pay off a \$178,073 loan — and ordered to increase the size of its staff.

Donna Vogel, chairwoman of the Dane County community development block grant commission, said the group voted unanimously on Thursday to defer principal and interest on the loan for one year, *The (Madison) Wisconsin State Journal* reported on Friday.

Vogel said Barry Levenson, majority owner of the Middleton museum and shop, does not have to make monthly payments of \$2,614.63 with a 4.25 interest rate.



Fascinating underwater world.

Postman says he was forced out over bike

A longtime mail carrier in Britain said he was forced out of his job because he refused to switch from his bicycle to a mail truck.

William Blight, 42, who has delivered mail in Corfe Castle, England, for 14 years, said he felt “bullied” and “intimidated” by Royal Mail officials who ordered him to nix his bicycle in favor of a high-capacity mail truck, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Thursday. Blight said it would be “dangerous” for him to take a truck on his route due to the narrow roads in the area. “I even measured the trolley and did a walk of my round, measuring the pavement,” he said. “My concerns about it were confirmed — it was unsafe and dangerous. I’m happy to compromise but I object to being subjected to poor working procedures and dangerous conditions.” Blight said he felt he had no choice but to resign his position.

Teens used CNN computers for Facebook

Atlanta police said they arrested two teenagers accused of breaking into the CNN newsroom and using computers to check their Facebook pages.

Atlanta police spokeswoman Kim Jones said CNN security contacted police around 3:30 am on

Friday to report there was “someone in their secure area newsroom” on the fifth floor of CNN Centre, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported. Jones said Aldayne Fearon, 18, and Francis Mutemwa, 17, were arrested and charged with criminal trespass. The spokeswoman

said the teenagers gained access to the newsroom by climbing over a ledge from the Omni Hotel. Jones said the teenagers “started working on two computers.” “At the time of their arrest, they were checking their Facebook pages on those computers,” she said.

Donations pour in for evicted 101-year-old

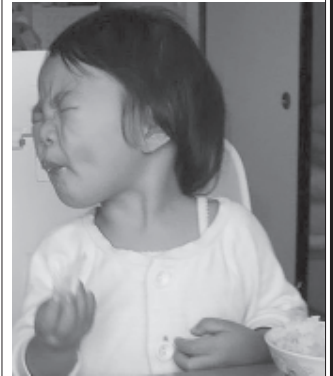
A 101-year-old Detroit woman who was evicted from her home said offers of cash and services have been rolling in since her situation was first reported.

Texana Hollis, who was removed from her home by a Housing and Urban Development foreclosure, said offers of money and services have been pouring in since she was left alone in a wheelchair outside of her home with her belongings in the trash in September, *The Detroit News* reported Friday.

“Lord, yes, I had no idea in the world so many people was thinking about little old me,” Hollis said Wednesday. “It’s just a blessing, I’m telling you.”

Pollian Cheeks, 68, a longtime family friend who welcomed Hollis into her home, said she has set up a PO Box for donations, and cash has been rolling in to help the senior citizen replace her belongings.

“I said, ‘People are sending you money to get you new clothes — stop worrying about those old clothes,’” Cheeks said.



Babies taste lemon for the first time.

News Album

Kate Middleton honoured for hat style

LONDON, 29 Jan—The Headwear Association says participants in an online poll have declared Kate Middleton, wife of Britain’s Prince William, Hat Person of the Year. The association, founded in 1908, said on its Web site this week the Duchess of Cambridge earned an overwhelming 91 percent of the vote in the survey.

Runners-up for the

accolade included Rachel Zoe, Ne-Yo, Justin Timberlake, Bruno Mars and Charlie Sheen.

This is the third annual Hat Person of the Year award. Johnny Depp and Brad Pitt were the previous winners.

The association did not say how many people participated in the online survey or when it was conducted.—Internet

Prince William’s wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, greets the public as they depart the Canada Day Citizenship Ceremony at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, Ontario, on 1 July, 2011.—INTERNET



Life great for Pickler even without cat

NASHVILLE, 29 Jan—Former “American Idol” contestant Kellie Pickler says married life is still going well even though it cost her pet cat. Pickler, 25, told *Parade* magazine she had to give away her feline buddy Pickles after she married songwriter Kyle Jacobs a year ago.

“I love cats, but my husband’s severely allergic to them,” said Pickler. “I had to find a good home for my cat when we got together. I still get a little teary eyed when I think about Pickles.”

Pickler kept up her cat-loving creds by teaming up with designer Geren Ford to create a special kitty sweater



Kellie Pickler arrives on the red carpet at the 45th Annual Country Music Association Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee on 9 Nov, 2011.—INTERNET

that is being sold by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—Internet



Ryan Gosling, a cast member in the motion picture political drama “The Ides of March”, attends the premiere of the film at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences in Beverly Hills, California, on 27 Sept, 2011. INTERNET

Busy Ryan Gosling not dwelling on Oscars

BANGKOK, 29 Jan—Actor Ryan Gosling says he isn’t concerned about not being nominated for an Academy Award and has been keeping busy training as a Thai boxer.

Gosling has been putting in 2-3 hours per day learning Muay Thai boxing for his upcoming movie “Only God Forgives.” Gosling told *The Hollywood Reporter* he always loved visiting Bangkok and was immersed in his work with director

Nicolas Winding Refn.

“Ever since I came here I’ve been dreaming about making a film in Bangkok,” he said. “I’m happy to be here.”

Gosling might have been hard at work in Hollywood getting polished up for Oscar night, but his acclaimed performances in “Drive” and “Ides of March” failed to generate a coveted nomination. But when asked if he was disappointed at the snub, Gosling simply told THR, “No.”—Internet



Demi Moore arrives at the Samsung Hope for Children Gala at Cipriani on Wall Street in New York City on 7 June, 2011.—INTERNET

Details of Demi Moore 911 call revealed

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan—Uncertainty over the address delayed the arrival of an ambulance at the home of actress Demi Moore, Los Angeles fire officials said.

Capt Tina Haro said the person who called 911 when the actress lapsed into convulsion was using a cellphone and told dispatchers they were in Beverly Hills when they were actually within the Los Angeles city limits.

Because the caller was on a cellphone, the call initially went to the California Highway Patrol and did not automatically provide dispatchers with the caller’s location. “The address did not come up on the call takers’ screen,” Haro said. “That means the call taker has to go with the information that the caller told them.”

Internet

Etta James remembered as triumphant trailblazer

GARDENA, 29 Jan—Rhythm & blues legend Etta James was remembered at a service on Saturday attended by hundreds of friends, family and fans as a woman who triumphed against all odds to break down cultural and musical barriers in a style that was unflinchingly honest.

The Rev Al Sharpton, a civil rights activist, eulogized James in a rousing speech, describing her remarkable rise from poverty and pain to become a woman whose music became an enduring anthem for weddings and commercials.

Perhaps most famously, President Barack Obama and the first lady shared their first inaugural ball dance to a version of the song sung by Beyonce, who portrayed James in the film “Cadillac Records.” Sharpton on

Saturday opened his remarks by reading a statement from the president.

“Etta will be remembered for her legendary voice and her contributions to our nation’s musical heritage,” Obama’s statement read.

The Grammy-winning singer died 20 Jan after

battling leukemia and other ailments, including dementia. She had retreated from public life in recent years, but on Saturday her legacy was on display as mourners of all ages and races converged on the City of Refuge church in Gardena, south of downtown Los Angeles.—Internet



Stevie Wonder performs at the funeral of singer Etta James, on 28 Jan, 2012, at Greater Bethany Community Church City of Refuge in Gardena, Calif.—INTERNET

Forsman wins season opener on Champions Tour



KAUPULEHU-KONA, 29 Jan—Dan Forsman never flinched in the final round of the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship.

Forsman closed with a 3-under 69 in windy conditions Sunday for his third Champions Tour title. He beat Jay Don Blake by two shots.

Defending champion John Cook and Michael Allen shared third, another shot back.

The 53-year-old Forsman, a five-time winner on the PGA TOUR, finished with a 15-under 201 total at Hualalai Resort and earned \$307,000 in the 41-man event.

He opened with rounds of 67 and 65 to take a two-stroke lead into the final

round. He never lost it, earning his first win in 20 months.

"On the 18th green I couldn't even speak," Forsman said.

"I am really humbled to top this field of guys I've admired and competed with all my professional life.

The chance to be on top of a distinguished group of players like this is something I'll always cherish.

You've got to be blessed to have opportunities like this and I feel like I am."—*Internet*

Answer for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	G	I	B	B	O	N	S	A	R	A	S	I	T	I	D
2	A	L	L	U	R	E	C	R	A	B	N	O	R		
3	B	L	A	R	E	S	A	C	R	E	S	U	E		
4	S	K	A	T	E	B	O	A	R	D	E	R	S		
5	N	O	T	E	D	L	E	A	D	O	R	E	S		
6	I	L	O		E	E	C		V	E	S	T	R		
7	L	I	F	E		L	O	R	I	E	S				
8	O	F	F	I	C	I	O	U	S	N	E	S	S		
9	F	O	L	D	E	D		D	E	E	P				
10	A	R	C	A	D	E		D	E	N		M	A	R	
11	N	I	A	C	I	N		S	E	C	R	E	T	E	
12	N	O	M	E	N	C	L	A	T	U	R	E	S		
13	U	T	E	A	H	E	A	M		E	S	T	E	S	
14	L	E	O		T	E	A	M		E	M	E	E	R	S
15	I	D	S		E	D	D	O		R	E	W	R	A	P

Tracy trying to race 1 last year in IndyCar Series



Co-drivers on the Doran Racing Ford Dallara, from left, Brian Frisselle, Paul Tracy and Jim Lowe walk along pit road prior to the start of the Grand-Am Rolex 24 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, on 28 Jan, 2012, in Daytona Beach, Fla.—*INTERNET*

DAYTONA BEACH, 29 Jan—Paul Tracy is close to putting together a deal to run in IndyCar this season, but said 2012 will be his final year in the open-wheel series. The Canadian announced Saturday night that he's working on a deal with Michael Shank Racing, is close to securing a sponsor and is working on an engine package.

MSR will be a new team in IndyCar this season, and is co-owned by NASCAR driver AJ Allmendinger.

"It would be my final year in IndyCar racing, and after that I'd like to try to do more sports car racing," Tracy said after his first stint in the Rolex 24 at Daytona.

"I've raced Indy cars now, this season will be my 22nd year, so it will be my last year," Tracy said 2012 will be a farewell tour.

If he can't finalize a deal with MSR—and he said he hopes to lock up elements this week—Tracy will turn to sports car racing immediately.—*Internet*

Jamaica celebrates sprint double in New York

NEW YORK, 29 Jan—Asafa Powell and Veronica Campbell-Brown completed a Jamaican sprint double at the US Open indoor meet at Madison Square Garden on Saturday. There were no Olympic gold medals on offer but it was an ominous reminder ahead of this year's London Games of the unrivalled strength of Jamaica's crack sprinters. Powell, almost the forgotten man of Jamaican sprinting because of the achievements of Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake, lunged at the line to win the 50 meter dash in 5.67 seconds, the fastest time in a decade for the rarely-run event. "It was weird but it was a pretty good time for my first race of the



Asafa Powell, of Jamaica, crosses the finish line of the 50 meter dash to win ahead of Nesta Carter (C), of the US and Justin Gatlin (R), of Jamaica, at the US Open Track and Field meet at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 28 Jan, 2012.—*INTERNET*

season," said Powell. "There's bigger races ahead but that's a good way to begin."—*Internet*

Wagner wins 1st title in night of flawed skating

SAN JOSE, 29 Jan—Ashley Wagner is the "Almost Girl!" no more. Wagner won her first title at the US Figure Skating Championships on Saturday, salvaging what was an otherwise dismal night of splats and spills with a majestic rendition of "Black Swan." She finished with a score of 187.02 points and then watched as two-time champion Alissa Czisny and Agnes Zawadzki melted down.

When the final results were posted, tears filled Wagner's eyes and she rested a hand on the shoulder of coach John Nicks. She beamed when she climbed to the top of the podium, her smile as bright as the gold medal around her



Ashley Wagner competes in the ladies free skate event at the US Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Calif, on 28 Jan, 2012.—*Internet*

neck. "I can't even describe how happy I am," Wagner said. "It's been since the junior Grand Prix circuit since I've been on top of a podium, and I almost forgot what it felt

Man arrested over 'racist' gesture at Liverpool



Liverpool fans watch Manchester United's French defender Patrice Evra during the English FA Cup fourth round football match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield in Liverpool, north-west England, on 28 January. *INTERNET*

LONDON, 29 Jan—British police said they arrested a man late Saturday in connection with an alleged racist gesture made at Liverpool's Anfield stadium during the FA Cup fourth-round tie against Manchester United.

An image of a man apparently making a monkey gesture in the stands was widely distributed on social networking websites, and a number of complaints were made to police after the match which ended in a 2-1 win for Liverpool.

The game was the first between the fierce rivals since Liverpool striker Luis Suarez was given an eight-match ban after a Football Association inquiry found him guilty of racially abusing United captain Patrice Evra.

A police spokeswoman said: "Merseyside Police can confirm that a 59-year-old man from North Wales has been arrested this evening following an alleged incident at the LFC vs MUFC match this afternoon."—*Internet*

Real Madrid 3-1 Zaragoza: League leader comes from goal behind as Kaka, Ronaldo and Ozil strike to seal victory

MADRID, 29 Jan—Real Madrid survived an early scare against Zaragoza to come back and earn a comfortable 3-1 win at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday evening. Kaka, Cristiano Ronaldo and Mesut Ozil all got on the score sheet for the home side.

Angel Lafita gave the visitors a shock lead on 11 minutes after some slack defensive play from Los

Blancos, yet Kaka got his side back on level terms in the 32nd minute.

The home side was 2-1 up not long after the break when Ronaldo scored from close range before Ozil completed the scoring with a powerful finish in the area. Mourinho's side heads eight points clear of rival Barcelona which visits Villarreal later in the evening while Zaragoza remains bottom after



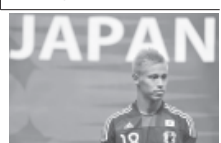
Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Real Zaragoza with teammate Kaka (L) during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 28 Jan, 2012.—*INTERNET*

extending its winless run in the league to 13 games. *Internet*

Newcastle beats Brisbane in A-League

SYDNEY, 29 Jan—Newcastle earned its first away win in more than a year in Australian football's A-League with a 1-0 win over Brisbane on Saturday. Newcastle's last win away from home was over the now defunct North Queensland Fury, 3-1, on 8 Jan last year, and the Jets have since had 10 losses and three draws on the road. But Brisbane remains a favorite venue for the Jets, who have won there seventimes in 10 visits in league games.

Jobe Wheelhouse scored in the 23rd minute to help lift Newcastle to seventh place, two points out of the top-six playoffs zone, while Brisbane dropped to third, 11 points behind league leader Central Coast, whose match on Friday against Gold Coast was postponed because of flooding.—*Internet*



Japan and CSKA Moscow midfielder Keisuke Honda *INTERNET*

Barcelona, where he was undergoing rehabilitation on his injured right knee, the daily said.—*Internet*

International Sports Japanese footballer Keisuke Honda to join Lazio

TOKYO, 29 Jan—Japan and CSKA Moscow midfielder Keisuke Honda, the 2011 Asian Cup's most valuable player, is to join Serie A side Lazio in a 14-million-euro transfer, a Japanese sports daily reported on Sunday. CSKA and Lazio have narrowed their differences and

come to terms on the transfer fee—worth \$18.5 million—after the 25-year-old Honda agreed other terms with the Rome outfit, the Sports Nippon said. Following the club-to-club agreement, Honda lunched with Lazio president Claudio Lotito in Rome after flying in from

DISTRICT NEWS

Talks on environmental conservation held

SINGU, 29 Jan—Under the arrangement of the rural development and poverty alleviation, Singu Township Forest Department organized the talks on eradication of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation at Basic Education Primary School in Magwaytaya on 19 January.

Senior foresters U Aung Kyi Win and U Aung Zaw Moe talked about eradication of illegal timber extraction and conservation of environment.

Later, the departmental officials shared fire-wood from Nagamauk Hill manageable plantation to the local people.

Myanma Alin

New school building inaugurated



HMAWBY, 29 Jan—The 55x22 school building was opened at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Yoewa Village-tract of Hmawby Township on 22 January.

Departmental officials and wellwisher U Win Htaik-Daw Gyi Na family formally opened the new building.

Moreover, a 200-foot concrete road and 10x5 feet water tank were also opened there. The school building was constructed at a cost of K 10 million.—Township IPRD

Hoefl-Riesch pips Vonn in super-combined



Germany's Maria Hoefl-Riesch, center, winner of an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-combined, celebrates on the podium with second placed Lindsey Vonn, left, of the United States, left, and third placed Austria's Nicole Hosp, in St. Moritz, Switzerland on 29 Jan, 2012.

ST MORITZ, 29 Jan—Germany's Maria Hoefl-Riesch ended Lindsey Vonn's hopes of a third win in as many days here on Sunday after pipping the American to victory in the World Cup super-combined.

Vonn, a three-time World Cup winner, added a downhill victory on Saturday to her super-combined win on Friday to claim her 49th career win and surge further clear in her bid for a fourth overall title.

However reigning World Cup champion Hoefl-Riesch pulled out all the stops to beat Vonn by just 0.03sec, claiming her first win of the season and ending Vonn's hopes of reaching the 50-win landmark.

Austria's Nicole Hosp claimed her second podium spot of the weekend when she finished third at 0.51 behind the German. In a thrilling end to last season Hoefl-Riesch claimed her maiden World Cup title with just a three-point advantage on Vonn, a contest which all but ended their hitherto strong and well-documented friendship.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL (30-1-12 09:30 am ~ 31-1-12 09:30 am) MST

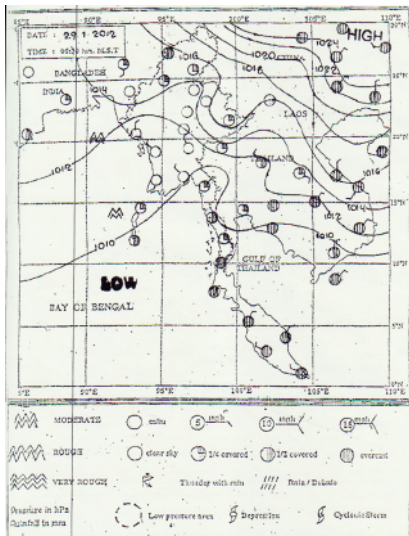
Overseas Transmission

- * News
- * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary
- * News
- * Fascinating Myanmar Tapestry
- * 1st Anniversary Asian Wings Airways
- * News
- * Youth & Literary Performance
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * The Road to 4th Yangon Photo Festival
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * HIV - AIDS Awareness
- * News
- * Casting A Glance at the Past
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Myanmar Movie Impact
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies "Uncontrollable Heartbeat"

MYANMAR TV (30-1-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:00 am
- 4. Dance Of National Races
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 8:45 am
- 6. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 4:00 pm
- 7. Martial Song
- 4:25 pm
- 8. One Village & One Product
- 4:50 pm
- 9. Songs For National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 10. Myanmar Langue
- 5:30 pm
- 11. Myanmat Idol
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. World's Starts
- 15. TV Drama Series
- 16. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 30th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	10/50	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	29/84	07/45	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	36/97	15/59	Generally fair weather	
4	Chin	18/64	-01/30	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	11/52	Generally fair weather	
6	Lower Sagaing	30/86	12/54	Generally fair weather	
7	Tainthaya	35/95	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	16/61	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	32/90	13/55	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	35/95	16/61	Generally fair weather	
12	Yangon	35/95	15/59	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	24/75	06/43	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	04/39	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	08/46	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	18/64	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	13/55	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	15/59	Generally fair weather	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past (24) hours, weather has been isolated light rain in Tainthaya Region, Kachin. Night temperatures were (6°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Haka (-1°C), Pinduung, Namsam and Hebo (2°C) each.

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Djokovic tops Nadal in marathon Australian final



MELBOURNE, 29 Jan—Novak Djokovic wore down Rafael Nadal in the longest Grand Slam singles final in the history of professional tennis on Sunday, winning 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 after 5 hours, 53 minutes to claim his third Australian Open title.

Djokovic sealed victory at 1:37 am local time and became the fifth man since the Open Era began in 1968 to win three straight Grand Slam finals. The 24-year-old Djokovic tore off his shirt in celebration after one of the most dramatic finals

in the history of the game. He went to his support camp and repeatedly thumped the side of the arena in delight and relief.

Djokovic's win maintained his mastery of Nadal, who has lost seven straight finals against the Serb since March.

Nadal became the first man in the Open Era to drop three straight major finals after losing to Djokovic at both Wimbledon and the US Open last year. After coming from 5-3 down to win the fourth-set tiebreaker, Nadal was up a break at 4-2 in the fifth set while Djokovic appeared to

betting. But the top-ranked Djokovic, who needed almost five hours to win his semifinal against Andy Murray, somehow responded. He broke for a 6-5 lead and saved a break point before finally claiming the win.

The previous longest major singles final was Mats Wilander's win over Ivan Lendl at the US Open in 1988, which lasted 4 hours, 54 minutes.

The longest Australian Open final also involved Wilander in 1988, when the Swede beat Pat Cash in 4:27.

Internet



Peace agreement signed between Union level peace-making group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—With the aim of building regional peace, a talk was held between Union level peace-making group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), yesterday morning.

Union level peace-making group comprised group leader Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thuang, deputy leader Myitkyina Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw and members Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Union Minister U Win Tun, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Kayan Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Kawng Thein, Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw, Commander of Central East Command Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister U Soe Tint, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Col Zaw Naing Oo and Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu. Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group comprised group leader Party Central Committee Deputy Secretary General Sao Khay Tai and members Sao Khin Min, Sao Khun Hsai, Sao Khay Maung, Sao Kyaw Hla, Sao Htin Mein, Sao Laung Khay, Sao Naw Leik and Sao Hsay Pein Pha.

Before the Union level peace talk, state level initial peace talk was held. Leader of state level peace-making group Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu and members General Staff Officer (Grade I) of North-East Command, General Staff Officer (Grade I) of Central East Command, regional development supervisor of the Department for Progress of Border Areas



Union level peace-making group leader U Aung Thuang and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group leader Sao Khay Tai in peace talks.—MNA

and National Races, State Advocate General and leaders of state level peace-making group of SSPP/Shan State Army Sao Khun Hsai, Sao Khay Maung and Sao Kyaw Hla and members Sao Htin Mein and Sao Hsay Pein Pha made cordial discussions at the initial peace talk. They signed five-point preliminary agreement and exchanged the notes. The five-point preliminary agreement is as follows:

- (1) It is agreed to make ceasefire between the Tatmadaw and SSPP/Shan State Army.
- (2) It is agreed that troops of SSPP/Shan State Army are allowed to base in Wanhai and then to base temporarily in their branches.
- (3) In order to hold mutual coordination and discussion (See page 9)

K 5000 mobile “impossible for the time being”

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—News that Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications will sell mobile phone lines at the price of K 0.25 million or 0.3 million was overshadowed by that of K 5000 SIM Card. It gained public attention as local call will be charged K 25 per minute and trunk call, K 30 per minute. Though, MPT labeled news of K 5000 SIM Card a hoax.

All the people, including trishaw drivers, vendors, low-income government staff and especially those who did not afford mobile phones carrying a price tag of K 1.5 million or K 0.5 million, are over the moon to insert K 5000 SIM card.

Officials of Shwe Pyi Tagon Company which proposes the low-cost SIM Card, Directorate of Telecommunications, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications met the press to clarify the matter at MPT training school in Pazundaung in Yangon today.

U Lwin Naing Oo, managing director of the company, explained enthusiastically about plans to sell K 5000 SIM Cards and to help all walks of life use mobile phones. “I found mobile phones in Singapore and Malaysia are cheap when I visited there. I did this business to help the people of our country hold mobile phones at cheapest price. It is an attempt to sell at lowest price and help everyone use mobile phones. Our company will start from

Ayeyawady and Yangon Region and will expand to the whole country within five years,” he said.

The meeting was lively with technical questions fielded by MPT’s technicians.

U Lwin Naing Oo guaranteed to sell SIM Cards soon. The plans will be explained at Konbaung Hall of Traders Hotel on 30 January, he invited all those present.

U Eaidi Hla, MPT managing director, said to improve communications status in every corner of the country is objective of MPT and invited to work in cooperation on common ground.

Myanmar Post and Telecommunications is reducing initial installation fees step by step for enabling the people to contact each other by phone at low cost as it is responsible for provide efficient communication services to the State and people. It reduced the price of a mobile phone from K 1.5 million to K 0.5 million and worked in cooperation with private companies to help the people buy and use mobile phones at any place or time. The installation charge of auto telephones was reduced and could be paid in installments as of May 2011 though it was once K 1 million. MPT is working in cooperating with 23 private companies in accordance with existing laws for GSM/UMTS phone line extension project to make mobiles (See page 9)

Arsenal’s Cup fight back stuns Villa



LONDON, 29 Jan— Arsenal staged a remarkable recovery from 2-0 down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 and keep their FA Cup hopes alive with a dramatic fourth round win at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

The Gunners, without a major trophy since winning the FA Cup seven years ago, were booed off by their own fans at halftime after a Richard Dunne header and Darren Bent strike had put Premier League rivals Villa 2-0 in front.

But three goals in seven second half minutes courtesy of two Robin van Persie penalties separated by a Theo Walcott effort, after an Alan Hutton clearance rebounded in off the England international, turned the match on its head.

Arsenal, still in the Champions League but 18 points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City, will now play either Sunderland or second-tier Middlesbrough in the last 16 after they drew 1-1 earlier on Sunday.

Middlesbrough were on course for an upset win at north-east rivals Sunderland’s Stadium of Light when Barry Robson gave them a 16th minute lead with a spectacular volley.

Internet

Significant night temperatures (29-1-2012)

Haka	(-1°C)
Pinlaung	(2°C)
Namhsan	(2°C)
Heho	(2°C)

Yangon-Mandalay Highway links whole Myanmar



PAGE 8



Russian cargo vessel arrives at space station

PAGE 5

Bed-wetting may be due to constipation

PAGE 4



Jamaica celebrates sprint double in New York

PAGE 14