

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 12 December, 2008

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Companies prepare to produce 100 baskets per acre at agriculture model zones



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views cultivation of summer paddy at agriculture zone-1 of Dagon International Ltd in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

MNA

YANGON, 11 Dec—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander

of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected preparations of

agriculture companies for cultivation of summer paddy at the agriculture model zone to meet the target of 100 baskets per acre yield this afternoon. *(See page 8)*

7th Myanmar ICT Week 2008 in Yatanarpon Teleport for IT enthusiasts

Myanmar is striving for rapid development of information technology to be able to catch up with the advancement of IT the global countries have made.

On 3 December morning, I had an opportunity to visit the Information and Technology Department of *(See page 7)*

Article & Photos: Tin Maung



The main building of Yatanarpon Teleport in PyinOoLwin Township where 7th Myanmar ICT Week 2008 will be held.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 12 December, 2008

Participate in anti-narcotic drugs campaigns

Narcotic drugs inclusive of opium pose threats to the mankind, and Myanmar has been engaged in supply and demand elimination of narcotics and law enforcement with this end in view.

Narcotic drug is, in fact, a social issue. Poppy farming on a commercial scale had been introduced by the British colonialists since they expanded their economic hegemony over Asia.

The government has been stepping up implementation of anti-narcotic drugs plans in border areas since they made peace with national race armed groups.

In the course of Myanmar history, successive monarchs issued orders on prohibition against use of intoxicants such as opium, marijuana, intoxicating brew, fermented glutinous rice, and alcohol.

Methods and equipment for production of narcotic drugs originated in the western nations, but certain such countries are unjustly accusing some developing countries of producing narcotic drugs.

Narcotic drug issue is a global concern because world people especially younger generations are now under its threats.

Myanmar has launched agricultural and livestock farms designed to reduce poppy farming and production and trade of narcotic drugs including opium.

Drastic fall in poppy farming in Myanmar results from the exercise of effective strategies and tactics it laid down for warding off the danger of narcotic drugs.

It is, therefore, mandatory for the people to join hands with the government in anti-narcotic drugs campaigns it has been implementing as a national duty.

Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed GH gives medical care to cardiac patients

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec— A medical team comprising specialists and nurses led by Professor Dr Tin Latt gave medical care to cardiovascular patient U Phoe Htwe by means of Cardiac cath at Cardiac Care Unit of Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed General Hospital this morning. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials concerned viewed the medical treatment under computer the control and fulfilled the requirements.

At the Intensive Care Unit, the Deputy Minister inspected intensive care for the patients, emergency medicines and sophisticated medical equipment.

Specialist clinics, surgical wards, intensive care units and Cardiac cath rooms were opened at Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed GH on 27 September of 2007. Now, specialists are giving medical care to heart disease patients with the use of sophisticated medical equipment.—MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Technical course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Minister for Electric Power No.2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an address at the opening of power grid installation and maintenance course No.2/2008 at the hall of the ministry, here, on 9 December.

Altogether 42 engineer officers are attending the course.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Pro-Rector Dr U Charlie Than of Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport as Rector of the same university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—MNA

Two-storey school building for orphans



Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials open two-storey school building by cutting the ribbon.—YCDC

YANGON, 11 Dec— Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected tarmacking of Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township here this morning.

The 4100 feet long and 72 feet wide road section has been upgraded by 60 per cent so far.

Hole-in-one at MGC

YANGON, 11 Dec— While playing together with U Tha Nyunt and U Maung Maung Aung, U Tun Nu yesterday scored an ace at hole No. 17 with the use of Ping Rsi Iron No. 6 iron gold club at Myanmar Golf Club, here, yesterday.

MNA

The mayor attended the opening of the two-storey school building of the orphanage in Kyaukyedwin village, in Phayagon village-tract, Thanlyin Township which was built with the donations jointly made by

Singaporean Red Cross Society Manphutaung Social Security Board.

Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Chairman of Singaporean Red Cross Society Mr Tee Tue Ba, Deputy Chairman

of Manphutaung Social Security Board Ms Jane Tan, Deputy Director U Tin Hlaing of No. 3 Basic Education Department and Patron of School Board of Trustees U Kyaw Khin formally opened the facility.—MNA

Pedagogical aids donated to Myanmar Maritime University

YANGON, 11 Dec— Myanmar International Thilawa Port Terminal donated teaching and learning aids worth US\$ 9000 to the Port Engineering Department of Myanmar Maritime University at the university at Thilawa Region, Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District, this morning.

Rector Dr U Charlie Than made a speech.

Assistant Manager of the port explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the donations to the educational institution through the rector, and presented an HPH gold medal and US\$ 1000 each to two students who stood first in Port Engineering subject in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years.

That is the seventh

time the port has donated aids to the university. It has presented US\$ 100 each to 10 students majoring in Port Engineering, and sent three students as six-month apprentices to the port project being undertaken by Saigon International Terminals Vietnam (SITV) in Hochi Minh City, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

MNA

A young life changed forever by Iraq's war

BAGHDAD, 11 Dec — She was a beautiful, round-faced little girl with large, coal-black eyes and an instant smile. Two years later, the 3-year-old is blind and scarred, her mother is dead and her father's new wife can't cope with caring for her.

Shams, whose name in Arabic means "sun," is among tens of thousands of Iraqis whose suffering will linger long after the war ends.

Shams' young life changed on 23 Nov, 2006, when a car bomb exploded near her father's pickup as he was driving his family — his wife, two sons and the daughter — home after a visit to his wife's parents in the Shiite district of Sadr City.

The blast engulfed their car in flames. Shams and her mother, who was fatally injured in the blast, were thrown from the backseat into street. Her father, Husham Fadhil, tried to douse the flames on his wife's clothing.

But there was little he could do for his 1-year-old daughter, lying face down next to her dying mother.

"I was totally preoccupied with putting out the flames which were burning my wife's body," Fadhil, 32, said. "Then, I lifted Shams and saw her face covered with blood. I thought that they were caused by minor injuries that would heal. Later, I learned that the blood was coming from her badly injured eyes."

Internet



Three-year-old Shams is held by her grandmother at their home in Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 Dec, 2008. Sham's young life changed on 23 Nov, 2006, when a car bomb exploded near her father's pickup as he was driving his family. The blast left Shams blind and killed her mother. —INTERNET

Blast at Iraq restaurant kills 47

KIRKUK (Iraq), 11 Dec — A suspected suicide bomber has killed at least 47 people at a restaurant near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, police said. Around 102 people were injured in the

explosion at the Kurdish restaurant, some 5km (three miles) north of the city, police said. The reason for the attack is not yet clear, but Kirkuk is home to a volatile mix of Kurds, Arabs and

Turkomans. Families were eating lunch in the Abdullah restaurant, located on the main road to Irbil, when the attack happened, police said. Bomb attacks still continue regularly in Kirkuk.

Control of the oil-rich city is disputed between Iraqi Arabs, Kurds and

ethnic Turkmen. Iraqi Kurds believe they should control the city, which has a Kurdish majority but which lies outside their semi-autonomous northern enclave. But the ethnic Arabs and Turkmen say it should be under the control of the central government.—Internet

A child who was wounded in a bomb attack receives treatment in a hospital in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 11 Dec, 2008. A suicide bomber killed 47 people and wounded over 100 on Thursday in a crowded restaurant near Iraq's ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, shattering the calm during a major Muslim holiday, police said.—INTERNET



Russia, Argentina tout world without US domination

MOSCOW, 11 Dec — The presidents of Russia and Argentina called for a world not dominated by the United States as the two countries signed deals Wednesday to cooperate in energy, agriculture and science and other areas.

The agreements dealing with nuclear and conventional power, scientific research and food exports underlined Russia's growing interest in developing relations with Latin America. They come shortly after Russian President Dmitry Medvedev made a high-profile trip to the region.

"The domination of one state, even the biggest, most powerful or most successful one, is unacceptable in any case," Medvedev said.

After the signing, Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez expanded on the theme, complaining how "powerful states" had forced economic and security policies onto others. "We see the results of such policy — the whole planet is paying for it," she said.—Internet

US-led air raid kills Afghan civilian and six police

KANDAHAR, 11 Dec — Six police and a civilian were killed Wednesday when US-led forces targeting a Taliban commander bombed a police station in southern Afghanistan, the force and a local official said.

The bomb hit from the air just before dawn and "totally destroyed" the police station in the troubled province of Zabul, deputy provincial police chief Ghulam Jailani Khan told AFP.

"Six policemen were killed. A civilian man was killed in a nearby house," Khan told AFP. "We don't know how it happened. An investigation is ongoing."

The US force in Afghanistan later issued a statement regretting the incident and describing it as a "tragic case of mistaken identity on both parts."

It said coalition forces were conducting an operation against an armed Taliban militant when they came under fire from a nearby building.

"Coalition forces engaged those firing with small arms fire and coalition aircraft. It was later determined those firing on the force were ANP (Afghan National Police)," the statement said.

"Coalition forces deeply regret the incident of mistaken fire. Initial

reports indicate this was a tragic case of mistaken identity on both parts," said Colonel Jerry O'Hara, US Forces Afghanistan spokesman in the statement.—Internet

Fresh calls for Iraq war inquiry

LONDON, 11 Dec — The Conservatives have called again for a public inquiry into the "origins and conduct" of the war in Iraq. Shadow foreign secretary William Hague told MPs that with UK troops likely to have left Iraq by the

middle of 2009, a "full-scale" inquiry should follow. A senior defence source has told the BBC UK forces could start pulling out in March while Gordon Brown has hinted at a near total withdrawal by mid-2009.

Labour has said an inquiry will be needed but only when troops have left.

The Lib Dems also renewed their calls for a public inquiry into British involvement in the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and the role played by UK troops in Iraq since 2003.

The Ministry of Defence said on Wednesday that it anticipated a "fundamental change of mission" in Iraq next year - one expected to result in the exit of the bulk of the 4,100 troops left in Basra.—Internet



Iraqi prisoners sit inside a US armoured vehicle before they were released to their families in Baghdad's southern Doura district, on 10 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



Macao Special Administration Region (SAR) Chief Executive Ho Hau Wah(R3) shakes hands with Shenzhou VII manned space mission delegation prior to their departure from Macao on 10 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

Vietnam to build international deep-water port hub by 2025

HANOI, 11 Dec—Vietnam has planned to transform the Chan May-Lang Co economic zone in central Thua Thien Hue province into a modern international deep-water port hub by 2025, the local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported Thursday.

Under the plan approved by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen TanDung, the 370-hectare Chan May deep-water port will serve as an important transit point for deliver goods in the central economic region of Vietnam, and further boosting business between Vietnam and foreign traders. Chan May's commercial and financial services area and a non-tariff area providing a post-port and hi-tech industrial service will be included in the plan.

An additional 4,570 hectare will be set aside for developing high-quality ecological tourist and service area. Trade, health, sports, shopping and vocational training centres will also be built in the economic zone.

The Chan May- Lang Co economic zone of Vietnam has long been served as a gateway to the East Sea. —*Xinhua*

Financial crisis doesn't affect Panama Canal widening project

PANAMA CITY, 11 Dec—The head of the Panama Canal Authority said Wednesday that plans to widen the canal have not been changed because of the global financial crisis.

Alberto Aleman Aleman told *Xinhua* the project will benefit the world economy for years to come.

"The Panama Canal and the world have suffered recessions before. That is nothing new," Aleman said, adding the project has "all the support and guarantee" from financial institutions.

Panama President Martin Torrijos said Tuesday during a meeting to sign loans worth 2.3 billion US dollars for the canal project that it was not affected by the financial uncertainty.—*Xinhua*

Strike affects 51 flights at Budapest airport

BUDAPEST, 11 Dec—Fifty-one flights had been cancelled by early Wednesday afternoon due to a strike at Budapest's Ferihegy Airport, said airport spokesman Domokos Szollar.

A total of 25 arrivals and 26 departures were affected, Szollar was quoted by the *MTI* news

agency as saying.

Though the airport has not been completely paralyzed, some airlines have cancelled their planned trips to Budapest because they are not sure whether they can return, he said.

The strike was called by two trade unions after negotiations with the air-



Two boys stroll through the fields with pole and rack for airing and basking the dried pumpkin cookie, at Fuchun Township, Wuyuan County, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 9 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

China withholds more than 300 tons of Irish pork products at port

BEIJING, 11 Dec—China's entry-exit and quarantine inspectors detained about 312 tons of Irish pork products across the country, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said here on Wednesday.

Another 93 tons of Irish pork products had already entered China's markets and were being recalled, according to AQSIQ.

Problematic pork products are to be re-

turned to Ireland or destroyed.

AQSIQ suspended the import of Irish pork products and animal feed on Monday after the products were suspected to be tainted with dioxin, a chemical derived from petroleum and believed to be adverse to human health.

Local entry-exit and quarantine inspectors were required to recall and return pork products already in China if they were made in Ireland after 1 Sept.

Statistics showed China had imported 2,047 tons of pork products since September.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



Photo taken on 10 Dec, 2008 shows the snow-covered Mutianyu section of the Great Wall located on the outskirts of Beijing, capital of China. The first snow of this winter fell in Beijing on Wednesday.—XINHUA

Obama joins call for Illinois governor to resign

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec—US President-elect Barack Obama on Wednesday joined calls for indicted Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to resign.

"The president-elect agrees with (Illinois) Lt Governor Quinn and many others that under the current circumstances it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people

of Illinois," Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters.

On Tuesday Blagojevich was arrested on federal conspiracy charges and went back to work Wednesday after being released on a 4,500-US-dollar bond.

Prosecutors alleged in their complaint that the governor pressured candidates to replace Obama in

the Senate for campaign contributions and other benefits.

Obama's former partner in the Senate, Senator Dick Durbin, also called on Blagojevich to step down immediately.

"Beyond guilt or innocence, the charges against you raise serious questions about your ability to carry out your duties as chief executive of our state," Durbin wrote in a letter sent to Blagojevich.

Durbin also asked the governor not to name a successor to Obama.

Xinhua

Senior CPC official meets Russian guests

BEIJING, 11 Dec—The Communist Party of China (CPC) will step up cooperation with the A Just Russia party of Russia, in an effort to boost bilateral relations, a senior CPC official said here Thursday.

Wang Gang, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks when he met with a Russian delegation headed by Svetlana Goryacheva, secretary of the Central Committee of A Just Russia.—*Xinhua*

California budget gap increases by 3.6 billion dollars

LOS ANGELES, 11 Dec—Californian Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said Wednesday that the state's budget deficit has grown by 3.6 billion US dollars.

The governor warned that the most populous state in the nation is headed toward a "financial Armageddon" and will be out of cash by February if legislators continue their standoff over the budget deficit.

Schwarzenegger said the state's financial crisis has worsened substantially in recent weeks, with the projected budget deficit growing by another 3.6 billion dollars to reach 14.8 billion dollars in the current fiscal year ending in June, up from an earlier estimate of 11.2 billion dollars.

The news from the governor, delivered in a hastily arranged press conference in the state capital Sacramento comes as lawmakers have yet to address the problem in emergency sessions of the state legislature.

The governor said the state may be forced to cut off 5 billion dollars of construction funding for roads, schools and other infrastructure projects this month if no budget is adopted.

Over the next 18 months, the gap between tax revenue and spending will exceed 30 billion dollars unless action is taken to cut programmes and raise taxes, the governor said.—Internet



Workers assemble mobile handsets in Gimpo. South Korea's telecoms regulator said Wednesday it would drop a requirement for mobile phones to be embedded with local software, opening the market for Apple's iPhone and other foreign brands.—INTERNET

Pilots and controllers blamed for Brazil crash

BRASILIA, 11 Dec—An air force report Wednesday blamed Brazilian air traffic controllers and two US pilots for a midair collision over the Amazon that killed 154 people, but found no evidence the Americans intentionally turned off a transponder that warns of approaching aircraft.

An Embraer Legacy 600 flown by Joseph Lepore of Bay Shore, New York, and Jan Paladino of Westhampton Beach, New York, collided with a Brazilian Boeing 737 operated by Gol airlines on 29 Sept, 2006. The Boeing plunged into the jungle and disintegrated on impact, killing all aboard. The smaller plane, owned by ExcelAire Service Inc of Ronkonkoma, New York, was damaged but landed safely.

The 277-page Brazilian air force report said Lepore and Paladino did not have sufficient knowledge of the aircraft's avionics, resulting in the inadvertent switching off of the plane's transponder and the collision-avoidance system.

"There is no indication that allows us to conclude that the transponder was intentionally turned off," the report said. The Brazilian flight controllers failed to notice that the transponder was on standby and did not warn the American pilots that they were flying at the wrong altitude and on a collision course with the Boeing, the report said.—Internet



The wife of 50-year-old municipal worker Nasir Ali, sits in centre, along with her children as she is surrounded by relatives during a mourning day for her husband in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 4 Dec, 2008. Ali died while cleaning Kabul's streets when a suicide bomber threw himself at a passing vehicle 10 metres away. Shrapnel pierced Ali's skull, killing him.—INTERNET

Cuban FM urges closure of Guantanamo prison

HAVANA, 11 Dec—Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque on Wednesday called for the closure of the prison for terrorism suspects at the US military base at Guantanamo and there turn of the land on which it was built to Cuba's control.

The demand was made during a forum celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Convention Palace in Havana.

Perez Roque also condemned the "paradoxical" fight of the United States against terrorism.

Internet

Gitmo commander predicts prison won't close soon

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVALBASE, 11 Dec—Guantanamo's commander believes that the prison on this base won't close anytime soon after President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

Rear Adm David Thomas said he expects "rigorous debate" in America before the 250 detainees are flown out, pouring cold water on speculation that the military's offshore prison might close within days after Obama is sworn in on 20 Jan.

Internet

Greenhouse effect has killed nearly one fifth of world's corals

POZNAN, 11 Dec—The world has lost almost 20 percent of its coral reefs due to carbon dioxide emissions, according to a report released here Wednesday.

The report, released by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network on the sidelines of the Poznan talks, is trying to exert pressure on delegates at the UN climate

talks in Poznan to make progress in fighting rising temperatures.

"If current trends in carbon dioxide emissions continue, many of the reefs may be lost over the next 20 to 40 years, and this will have alarming consequences for some 500 million people who depend on coral reefs for their livelihoods," the report said.

"If nothing changes, we are looking at a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide in less than 50 years," said Carl Gustaf Lundin, head of the global marine programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, one of the organizations behind the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

Internet

Mine tunnel collapse kills three in Philippines

DIGOS, 11 Dec—Three miners died when a tunnel collapsed at an unregulated gold mine in the southern Philippines, disaster relief officials said Thursday.

They were inside the tunnel without safety gear when the accident happened Wednesday in the village of Ngan in Compostela Valley, the officials said.

Landslides and other mine-related accidents are common in Compostela, where entire villages rely on small-scale unregulated mining for their livelihood.

Internet

The Space Shuttle Endeavour, on its modified 747 carrier aircraft, takes off on the first leg of its trip on 10 Dec, 2008, from Edwards Air force base in Edwards, Calif, back to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

INTERNET





File photo shows a China Southern Airlines airplane preparing to take off at Beijing's Capital Airport. The parent firms of two of China's biggest airlines will use the 438 million dollars they each received in government aid to strengthen their stakes in the carriers, statements filed on Thursday said.—INTERNET

Two dead, three injured in southwest China earthquake

CHENGDU, 11 Dec— Two people were confirmed dead and three others were injured in a 5.0-magnitude earthquake that shook southwest China's Sichuan Province early on Wednesday, the local government said on Thursday. The quake, an aftershock following the 8.0-magnitude earthquake of

12 May, toppled the roof of a coal mine in Guangyuan City, killing two miners, said Jia Quande, an official with the city's emergency management office. "Seven miners were working in the pit of the Tongmukeng Coal Mine in the Chaotian District of Guangyuan and five es-

caped without injury," Jia said in a telephone interview. In Lizhou District, three residents were slightly injured as they fled their homes, he said. No casualties were reported at the epicenter in Qingchuan County, but 13 houses collapsed, said Jia. *Internet*

Indian Parliament seeks strict action

NEW DELHI, 11 Dec — Dubbing the Mumbai terror strikes as "most horrendous", the Indian Parliament Wednesday sought strict action and all out efforts to prevent recurrence of such attacks. Speaker Somnath Chatterjee in the Lok Sabha and Chairman Hamid Ansari in the Rajya Sabha condemned the Mumbai strikes as also several other terror attacks in the north-eastern state of Assam as both Houses met for the first day of the third part of Monsoon

Session. "The scourge of terrorism must be countered at all levels by the people and the government," Ansari said in the Rajya Sabha. Chatterjee recalled that the financial hub of the country was paralyzed due to "most horrendous" terrorist attacks at several crowded places and prominent hotels of the city. "The House calls for strict action and all out efforts to prevent recurrence of such

cowardly and inhuman attacks," the speaker said. Both the Houses also condoled the death of former prime minister VP Singh whom Chatterjee hailed as a "true friend of the poor and deprived" and "a statesman who stood for secularism and a casteless society." The Rajya Sabha said in the passing away of VP Singh, the country has lost a "patriot, a great statesman, a veteran Parliamentarian and an able administrator". *MNA/PTI*

Somali pirates capture two Yemeni boats, crew members

SANAA, 11 Dec— Somali pirates captured two Yemeni fishing boats and 22 Yemeni fishermen on Wednesday in the Gulf of Aden, Yemen's official news agency SABA said. SABA, citing sources in Yemen's Coast Guard, said seven other fishermen escaped on a small boat prior to the pirates' taking control of the fishing boats. The news agency also

said that, after hijacking a different Yemeni ship last month and demanding \$2 million ransom, Somali pirates freed the cargo ship and its crew without receiving ransom after local clan elders and officials pleaded with them to do so. On Tuesday, the German cruise liner MS Columbus said it would fly its 246 passengers and most of its crew over the Gulf of Aden instead of

through it to avoid any pirate attack. The number of attacks off Somalia has shot up this year, with pirates staging increasingly bolder attacks on ever-bigger targets. So far this year, pirates have attacked almost 100 vessels off Somalia's coast and successfully hijacked nearly 40, according to the International Maritime Bureau.—*Internet*

NYC fashion boutique: free soup, designer pants

You know the economy is ailing when a Manhattan fashion boutique starts offering free soup. The temporary fashion boutique calling itself The 1929 is selling chic clothes and giving away soup and coffee. The store is located in one of the trendiest shopping districts in the city. Manager and co-owner Aaron Genuth says the store in SoHo was inspired by the great depression. His partner Levi Okunov says they want people to go to the store, have a bowl of soup and try on some clothing. The store sells the work of independent designers on its ground floor. The basement is an art and performance space where the free nourishment is doled out. The store is expected to remain open through next month.

21 new species in danger of extinction: UN convention

Twenty-one animal species, including the cheetah, three dolphin families and an Egyptian vulture, were added to the list of those in danger of extinction by a UN conference. Six other bird species as well as manatees have also been placed on the list of animals benefiting from increased protections, called list I. In addition, next year has been proclaimed the "year of the gorilla" to help the survival of threatened species. The findings were made at a conference of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Several types of sharks have been placed on the so-called list II of threatened species, including two families of Mako sharks in the Mediterranean

whose population have fallen off by 96 percent in recent years due to overfishing.



A Cheetah looks back while on display at the animal orphanage in Nairobi's National Park. Twenty-one animal species, including the cheetah, three dolphin families and an Egyptian vulture, were added to the list of those in danger of extinction by a UN conference.

Soul mates: thieves lift 1,400 pairs of shoes

A couple of heels stole a trailer in suburban Detroit and hot-footed away with 1,400 pairs of shoes worth \$40,000. Security cameras show at least two men hooking the trailer to their truck early Friday at a loading dock in Redford, then driving away. The trailer was found a couple of blocks away in Detroit. The shoes belonged to the Mr Alan's Shoes & Sportswear, a retail chain with eight locations in southeast Michigan. CEO Roger Turner told Detroit's WDIV-TV that he's not surprised by the theft, and that in tough economic times anything is possible. Police are investigating.

NEWS ALBUM



Photo taken shows a part of a dish made up with odd stones during the 8th China Ornamental Stone Exhibition held in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province. The exhibition kicked off in the city on Thursday.

Woman gets probation for setting tow truck on fire

A 20-year-old woman received two years probation for setting a tow truck on fire as it was rolling away from an apartment complex with a car. A Multnomah County judge also ordered Elizabeth Allen to complete alcohol treatment, 80 hours of community service and a mental health evaluation. Allen was arrested and spent 30 days in jail. She pleaded no contest to arson. Authorities said Allen threw a flaming fast-food bag at the truck because it was towing away a car that was parked without a permit. Allen says she does not remember the incident.



Employees of Yomiuri Land in Santa Claus outfits enjoy a ride at an amusement park in Tokyo. The park's employees will be dressed as Santa Claus until Christmas day.

7th Myanmar ICT Week 2008 in Yatanarpon Teleport for IT enthusiasts

Article & Photos: Tin Maung

(from page 1)

Yatanarpon Teleport in Yatanarpon Myothit being built by the government for the emergence of an IT City at mile post 27/0 on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road in PyinOoLwin Township.

The Yatanarpon Teleport where the Seventh Myanmar ICT Week 2008 will be held soon was established on 30 June 2006. On 14 December 2007, the Head of State attended the opening ceremony of the building of Yatanarpon Teleport and opened it.

The Yatanarpon Teleport is being constructed on 10,000 acres of land. The Teleport has been facilitated with a four-lane concrete entrance road. Moreover, one 5.6 miles long two-lane concrete road and one 12.7 miles two-lane earth road have been completed and more roads are under construction.

At the Myothit, ADSL Internet will be accessible through the fibre optic communication system, the under water cable Internet system and the transnational Internet system. The building of the Teleport is being facilitated with WiFi, Wimax and Broadband

Wireless Internet Access. Moreover, applications and machinery for satellite communication system, auto-telephone system, mobile telephone system and cable TV system have been installed for those who will live in the Myothit, companies and business organizations.

Potable water from Hsinlan and Sitha Dams are being provided to the Myothit and arrangements have been made to supply electricity to the new town round the clock. At the Teleport, the soft Based Factory project is being implemented. At present, the ICT Main Complex of the Teleport and seven buildings to serve as the Incubation Centre were completed. Plans are under way to build the International Software, the Local Software, the Commercial & Service, the Park & Convention, the Training Center, Research & Development and the Southern Residential Area.

In the northern part of the Myothit, Mandalay City Development Committee started the construction of Private Housing Estate Project. Those wishing to buy the plot for their residence at the housing estate are to follow the disciplines for

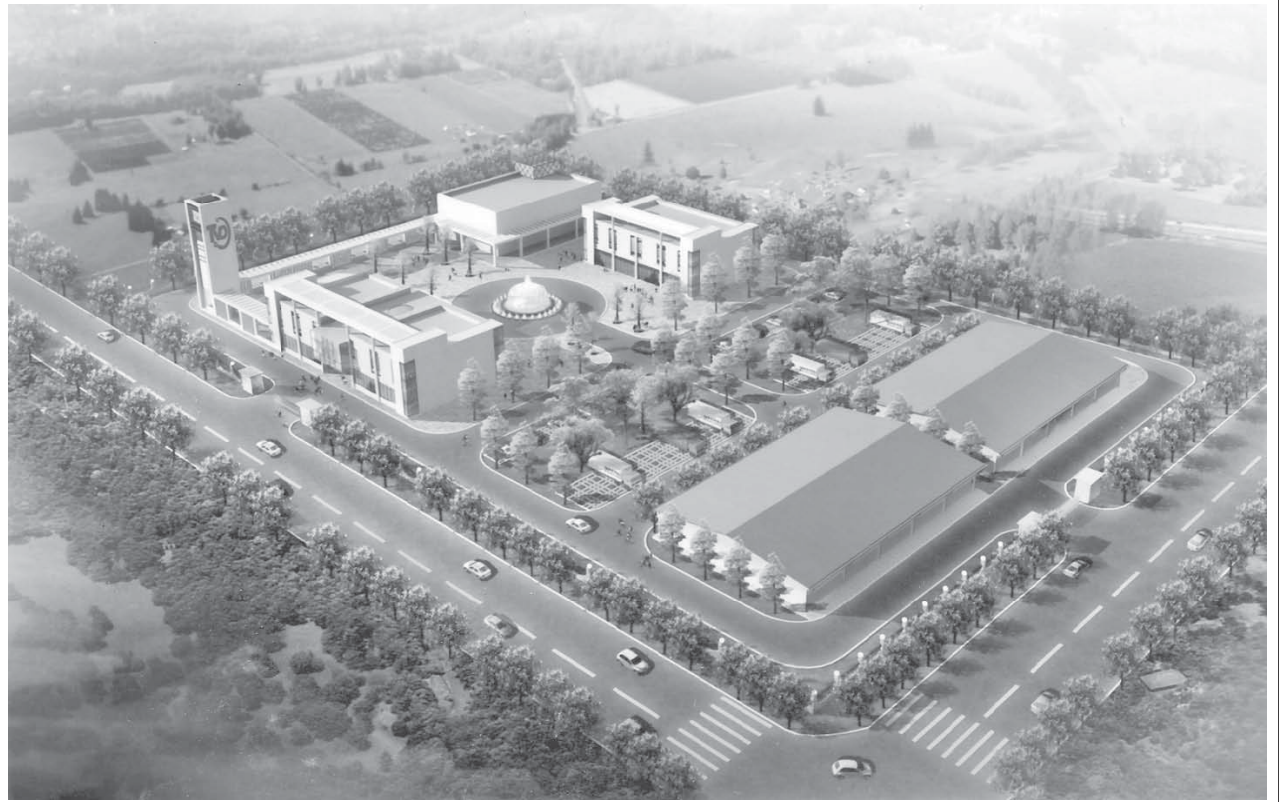


Photo shows scale model of digital auto-exchange, transmission equipment and factory to produce MDF and telephone accessories of Tamoenye Chan Thar Tun Wai Co on No. 13 plot of Yatanarpon Myothit Project.

the dwellers prescribed by the MCDC. Furthermore, water, power and road transport facilities will be provided for the residents. Furthermore, a world class computer training centre will be established. The Teleport located in the area with favourable weather condition has easy access to Anisakhan Airport and other regions through road transport link. Therefore, a total of 35 joint venture companies at home and from abroad invested in the Yatanarpon Myothit

Project to produce different types of IT items and accessories.

So far, the ICT Weeks have been held for six times in the country for development of the human resources based on IT. The 7th Myanmar ICT Week 2008 will be held at Yatanarpon Myothit from 12 to 16 December with the aims of enabling the IT enthusiasts to understand the development of IT and relevant knowledge at the IT exhibitions, disseminating the IT knowl-

edge to the youth, uplifting the IT capacity of the youth through the IT exhibitions, enabling the visitors and IT enthusiast youth to apply the modern IT accessories, enjoy the entertainments at the exhibition and view the progress of IT and latest IT products at the Yatanarpon Teleport.

At the ICT Week, experts and technicians will submit papers and give lectures on advancement of modern IT products at the IT workshops and seminars, paper-reading sessions and educative talks. The tasks based on the IT progress of youth will contribute to development of the State economy.

Local IT companies will open over 70 booths to display the latest IT products to the visitors. Companies will sell modern products related to IT technology at reasonable prices. The ICT Week will be organized with the programmes of modern ICT product lucky draws, model shows, Miss

IT 2008 contest and IT games and handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners. During the ICT week, vocalists will entertain the visitors with variety of songs. Moreover, arrangements are being made to perform entertainments for visitors with the programmes of MRTV-4, City FM, Mandalay FM through LED Indoor and Outdoor monitors.

Express buses will ply for the visitors of the ICT Week from Zaygyo in Mandalay to Yatanarpon Myothit and the bus fare will be fixed at K 500 per head. Officials have made arrangements for the students to visit the ICT Week exhibitions. As such, IT enthusiasts and the people may not only view the modern IT products at the exhibitions of the ICT Week but also the scenic beauty of the Hill Station and the floral festival in PyinOoLwin.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 8-12-2008



Incubation Center building built in the northern part of Yatanarpon Teleport.

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continues

YANGON, 11 Dec—The first round robin matches of the 47th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at the designated zones today.

In South-West Command Zone (Patheingyi), Air Force and North-West Command were held to a 2-2 draw and Western Command and No. 55 LID

were held to a goalless draw in the group-B; in the North-West Command Zone (Monywa), Northern Command edged out Western Command (B) with 7-0 and Northern Command (A) and No. 77 LID were held to 1-1 draw in the group-C; in the Central Command Zone (Mandalay), Eastern Command won over Triangle Region Command with 3-0 and North-East Command (A)

beat South-East Command (A) with 3-1 in the group-D; in Southern Command Zone (Taungtha), Coastal Region Command was defeated by South-East Command 2-0 and No. 44 LID narrowly won over No. 101 LID with 3-2 in the group-E. The second round will be held from 15 to 24 December at Bahtoo Stadium in Central Command Zone (Mandalay).

MNA

Companies prepare to produce...

(from page 1)

At the briefing hall of Pinlekoethwe company in the agriculture model zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) township, the chairman of the company presented reports to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party on plans for growing summer paddy, the chairman of the zone-2 on arrangements for growing summer paddy and the director-general of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development on arrangements to render

assistances in the growing of summer paddy. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

Upon arrival at Shwenagamin company in Dagon Myothit (South) township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into progress in ploughing farmlands with the use of power-tillers manufactured by Agriculture Mechanization Department.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party oversaw progress in digging smaller passage used for carrying water to the farmlands by means of heavy

machinery and building the road in the agriculture zone-1 of Dagon International Company of Dagon Myothit (east) township.

At the briefing hall, the chairman of the company presented reports to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party on progress in digging smaller passage and building the road as well as arranging to grow summer paddy. Next, officials concerned gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to supply water to grow summer paddy.

MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Col Zaw Min and Brig-Gen Thein Aung open the Modern Amusement Park by cutting the ribbon in National Kandawgyi Gardens in Pyin Oo Lwin.—FORESTRY

MFPTMA 15th AGM 27 Dec

YANGON, 11 Dec—Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association will hold its 15th annual general meeting at the building of I.B.C on 27 December. Members are requested to attend the meeting whether invitation cards are received or not.—MNA

Mass walk on December first week held in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 11 Dec — Mass walk in December first week of Mawlamyine Township was held in Mawlamyine Township on 6 December.

A total of 30,000 people including Secretary of Mon SPDC U Khin Maung Tun, departmental officials, members of social organizations, Myanmar Police Force,

Fire Brigade, nurses, school children and residents participated in the mass walk from the Office of Mon State Peace and Development Council to Yamanya sports ground.

Afterwards, they collectively took physical exercise in the sports ground.

□MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Col Zaw Min and Brig-Gen Thein Aung open the third flower festival in National Kandawgyi Gardens in Pyin Oo Lwin. (News on page 16)—FORESTRY

Seinlè Shwepyi news journal in circulation

YANGON, 11 Dec—Seinlè Shwepyi news journal, Volume 6, No. 2, carrying features on the discussions with independent representatives-elect, the payment with euro or Singapore \$ between

Myanmar and Indian banks, the recommendation on clearance of H5N1, the extended cultivation of onion in Magway and Yenangyoung, the way for importing red sandalwood and sandalwood from In-

dia to Myanmar, and others has come out recently.

The copies of the journal are available at Sarpay Beikman Book Shop on Merchant Street, the book stall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Pan

Shwe Pyi Book Shop on Theinbyu Street. Manuscripts may be sent to the journal at No. 228 at the office of PPE on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Tel: 382070.

MNA

World AIDS Day 2008 observed in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 11 Dec—A ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day 2008 was held at the Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine on 1 December.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win formally opened the ceremony and

delivered an address.

Head of Mon State Health Department Dr Htay Aung reported on progress in control of AIDS. The commander awarded prizes to the winners in the high and middle school level essay contests to mark the World AIDS Day. Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the commander, and officials

presented prizes to the winners in the painting and cartoon contests.

Next, the commander and guests enjoyed the song entertainment and one act play presented by local and international social organizations. The commander and party visited the World AIDS Day commemorative exhibition.—MNA

Bago Division marks World AIDS Day for 2008

YANGON, 11 Dec — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min attended a ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day for 2008 at the city hall in Bago on 1 December.

At the ceremony, the commander awarded winners of the essay, cartoon, painting and

poster contests which were conducted to mark the World AIDS Day for 2008.

Afterwards, the commander and party visited the booth displaying documentary photos, posters, cartoons, painting and posters.

After the ceremony, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min inspected upgrading of Panyangon Street and Sandawdwin

Street.

He also inspected construction of the bridge across Bago River and upgrading of Kanhtoo Yeiktha Road.

The commander and party also visited Myan Star Garment Factory and enjoyed Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's Shield soccer tournament in Bago.

MNA



Archers taking part in Archery (Open) Compound Tournament.

NLM

Myanmar bag 2 gold, 1 silver in Asian Archery Compound Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The 1st Asian Archery (Open) Compound Tournament kicked off at Kyaikkasan Archery Ground, here, this morning.

After the first-day competition, Myanmar Archery Team secured two gold and one silver medals. It was attended by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-

General U Thaug Htaik of the Sports and Physical Education Department, member of Asian Archery Federation Council Vice-President of SEA Archery Federation Honorary President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe, General Secretary of MAF U Kyaw Oo, Vice-President of World Archery Federation Mr Sanguan Kosavinta, Asian Archery

Federation Vice-President Major (Retd) Bohanuddin Jamil and Secretary Mr Um Sung-Ho.

In the competition, Ye Min Swe bagged one gold medal in the men's event and Aung Hngein, another gold medal in the women's event. Hla Hla San also secured one silver medal in the women's event.

The tournament continues tomorrow morning.—NLM

H & T Minister inspects reconstruction of Dedaye Township

YANGON, 11 Dec — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing looked into construction of Chaungphyia Village rural health care branch in Dedaye Township on 7

December.

While in Chaungphyia Village-tract, the Minister viewed breeding of ducks to be distributed to storm survivors.

Next, the Minister inspected the tailoring course being conducted for the trainees at the of-

fice of Township Peace and Development Council and met with departmental officials.

The Minister gave packets of seeds for cultivation on a manageable scale to the villagers through officials.

MNA

207 drug-related cases exposed in November

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department exposed 207 drug-related cases in November 2008.

They seized and exposed 71.1807 kilos of opium in 34 cases, 7.6007 kilos of heroin in 62 cases, 0.7531 kilo of opium oil in 10 cases, 4.6152 kilos

of low-grade opium in 19 cases, 9.0097 kilos of marijuana in 10 cases, 221,406.5 stimulant tablets in 53 cases, 6.1229 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, 0.257 kilo of stimulant powder, 2.515 kilos of Ice in one case, 5.9 kilos of Caffeine, 7 kilos of Ephedrine, 20 tablets of

buprenorphine, one tablet of tramadol, 0.12 litre of cough syrup, 156.5 litres of chemical liquid, four cases of failure to register and other five cases.

Action was taken against 308 persons—250 men and 58 women—in 207 drug-related cases.

MNA

MWAF gives educative talks

YANGON, 11 Dec—The Organizing Department under the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation conducted educative talks at Myanmar Sankaytha Factory of the industrial

zone in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, here, this morning. Head of the Organizing Department Dr Nyunt Nyunt Oo gave talks on "Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation", and accepted membership

applications. Deputy Leader of the Organizing Department Daw Thein Thein Nyunt gave talks on "Anti-Trafficking in Persons" and Secretary Dr Myat Lay Kyin, on "AIDS".—MNA

Talks on fish resource conservation held in Mawlamyine district

YANGON, 11 Dec—With the aim of disseminating knowledge on fish resource conservation, Mawlamyine Township Fisheries Department and District Fish Resource conservation committee held a ceremony to give educative talks to fishermen in Mawlamyine District at the office of Maternal and Child Welfare Association in

Gatonpaw village, Mudon Township on 7 December.

At the ceremony, Head of District Fisheries Department U Thet Oo gave talks on rules and regulations of fish resource conservation and works being carried out to keep fish resources in abundance.

Afterwards, he distributed pamphlets forbidding fishermen to catch fish with the use of

battery shock technique.

Similar educative talks were held at Naungpinseik village on 13 September, at Kyauktan model village on 7 November and at Kinchaung village of Mudon Township on 15 November.

Likewise, educative talks will be held at the villages in Mawlamyine district where the majority of fishermen live.—MNA



Head of the MWAF Organizing Department Dr Nyunt Nyunt Oo accepts membership applications.—MNA

Myeik easily accessible by car from Kawthoung

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos; Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

The road and bridge projects the government constructed in many regions in Taninthayi Division which were difficult of access in the past have led to smooth transport between southern and northern parts along the coast.

Dawei District, the northernmost part of Taninthayi Division, is now easily accessible by car from Kawthoung, the southernmost part, and vice versa, and that is a driving force behind the

It snakes at hilly places, but it is straight in the plains where paddy is grown on a large scale.

Driver U Aung Kyi of the Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise who gave us a drive said, "In the olden days, there was no road near here, so people around here went on foot to Myeik if they needed to do so. Now, this region has got a road, so they can get to the city centre by bus or by motorcycle in a short time."



Green oil palm farms stretch along Myeik-Kawthoung Road at the entrance to Kawthoung.



Myeik-Dawei Road in Ingamaw Village-tract.

tasks for regional development.

On our trip to Taninthayi Division to write articles about regional development, we paid a visit to the oil palm farm of Asia World Co in Myeik through Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road, one of the roads the government has built after 1988. It is a 276-mile-long facility. We took the feeder that takes service to Myeik-Dawei Road. It is a two-way tarred road, coping with a constant flow of traffic.

He was right. Three motorcycles overtook our car, shortly after his words. It was evidenced that local people were doing well in their businesses.

On our tour of Kawthoung, we dropped in Yuzana, Shwe-si-ohn and Dagon Timber oil palm farms. The roads inside and outside the township have been upgraded to tarred ones, so it was very comfortable for us to take a drive to the township.

Green oil palm farms and the fine main road added to the beauty of the township. We passed

through Khamaukkyi and Maliwun to reach our destination.

"In the past, the roads

here were so bad that we had to spend a night if we wanted to go to Maliwun. But, they have been upgraded, so the distance between here and Maliwun is only a 45 minutes drive now. Local people are happy with it", said Deputy Head of the Township Administration Department U Min Lwin, who accompanied us.

Till we reached Maliwun, the road had a constant flow of traffic. It is the fruits of special projects that have been implemented after 1988.

Local people call Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik Road Union Highway. Now, they can travel by car to Yangon through Dawei and Mawlamyine along the Union Highway. In other words, they enjoy fruitful results of smooth transport. However, road sections between Bokpyin and Taninthayi have yet to be upgraded to fine ones.

After 1988, Dawei District of Taninthayi Division saw tarred roads stretching 267 miles; Myeik District, 133 miles of tarred roads, 59 miles

of gravel roads, and 26 miles of laterite roads; and Kawthoung District, 60 miles of tarred roads and 129 miles of gravel roads.

Secure and smooth transport has led to swift flow of local goods to other regions and economic growth of local people.

Thanks to secure and smooth transport, local people will soon be able to enjoy higher living standard.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 10-12-2008



Pathoung Bridge on Myeik-Kawthoung Road spanning the Taninthayi Creek serves as an access to inland areas.

Ban hails China as example in fighting climate change

POZNAN (Poland), 11 Dec—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday described China as an example in fighting climate change at a meeting with the head of the Chinese delegation to UN climate talks here.

China has been coping with climate change in a positive way and worked out a national climate strategy to address the problem by its own, thereby setting an example for other countries to follow, Ban told Xie Zhenhua, vice director of China's National Development and Reform Commission.

The UN chief, who is in the central Polish town of Poznan for the

ministerial meeting on climate change, said China has been playing a positive and constructive role in the Poznan talks.

Ban said the Poznan climate talks are crucial to the Copenhagen meeting next December and parties need to agree on three key issues—a long- and mid-term emission reduction targets for developed countries, more fund to help the world economy transform to a low-carbon mode, and adaptation to climate change.

Ban said he hoped the adaptation fund to help poor countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change can be launched as soon as possible.

Internet

Rome seeks emergency status after heavy rains

ROME, 11 Dec—Rome's mayor asked authorities to declare a state of emergency in the Italian capital on Thursday after heavy rains and thunderstorms overnight caused floods, disrupted transport and led to at least one death.

Much of Italy has been hit by bad weather in the past few days, with strong winds and steady downpours in the south and heavy snowfall in the north.

In Rome, overnight

storms flooded underpasses and prompted precautionary evacuations as the waters of the Tiber and Aniene rivers rose quickly. The flooding delayed trains and injected further confusion to Rome's already chaotic traffic.

One woman died after being trapped in her car in a flooded underpass in the city's outskirts. Mayor Gianni Alemanno urged Romans to avoid using their cars for the next 24 hours.—*Internet*

Germany criticises British economic rescue plan

HAMBURG, 11 Dec—German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck has attacked Britain's plans to tackle the global financial crisis, calling them “breath-taking” measures that will saddle a generation with debt.

In an interview with Newsweek magazine, he said governments around the world risked repeating the mistakes from the past in the rush to be seen to be taking action.

“The same people who would never touch deficit spending are now tossing around billions,” he was quoted as saying in the interview, published on the Newsweek website on Wednesday. “The switch from decades of supply-side politics all the way to a crass Keynesianism is breathtaking.”—*Internet*



German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck has attacked Britain's plans to tackle the global financial crisis.—INTERNET

Mugabe says cholera outbreak has been stopped

HARARE, 11 Dec—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said on Thursday his government had stopped a cholera outbreak that has killed nearly 800 people and prompted Western leaders to call on him to step down.

Mugabe's announcement came several hours after South African officials declared the border with Zimbabwe a disaster area and warned that extraordinary measures were needed to control the rising number of cholera cases.

“I am happy we are being assisted by others and we have arrested cholera,” Mugabe said in a televised speech in which he also attacked what he described as Western plans to invade Zimbabwe and topple his government.

“Now that there is no cholera there is no case



“I am happy we are being assisted by others and we have arrested cholera,” Mugabe said.—INTERNET for war.”

The World Health Organisation reported on Wednesday that the cholera crisis in Zimbabwe had worsened. It said 774 people had died from the easily preventable disease and 15,000 were believed to be infected.

The collapse of Zimbabwe's economy and health care system has left victims to fend for themselves and driven many to try to escape to South Africa.—*Internet*

Belgium detains al-Qaeda suspects

BRUSSELS, 11 Dec—Belgian police say they have detained 14 people suspected of being members of the al-Qaeda network.

They include a man believed to have been about to launch a suicide attack, officials said.

Federal prosecutor Johan Delmulle said police did not know where the suspected suicide attack was to have targeted. The detentions came as a two-day European Union leaders' summit was due to start in the Belgian capital, Brussels, on Thursday afternoon.

A total of 242 police officers carried out 16 raids in Brussels and one in the eastern city of Liege, officials said. Police seized computers, data storage equipment and a pistol during the raids, reports say, and the men and women arrested are due to appear before anti-terrorism judges later.—*Internet*



Police do not know if the EU summit was to be the target of an attack.—INTERNET



A car ploughs through floodwater in a street in Trigroria, close to the Italian capital Rome, where strong winds and rain have caused widespread disruption.—INTERNET

Indonesia, Malaysia boost security amid financial crisis

JAKARTA, 11 Dec—Indonesia and Malaysia pledged on Thursday to increase security cooperation and expand joint patrols on their borders in case the global financial crisis causes a spike in human trafficking, smuggling and piracy.

There has been a reduction in the number of pirate attacks in the Malacca strait bordering the two countries and Singapore in recent years, although the two countries vast sea and land

borders ranging from Sumatra to Borneo are notoriously difficult to police. “We want closer cooperation in intelligence to anticipate a possible increase in illegal activities due to the global financial crisis,” Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono told reporters after meeting visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Malaysian prime minister said vigilance was needed because cases of piracy, smuggling and

human trafficking might increase when the economy was struggling.—*Internet*



There has been a reduction in the number of pirate attacks in the Malacca strait bordering the two countries and Singapore in recent years.—INTERNET

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Indian Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan is pictured visiting a temple in the northern Indian city of Amritsar during the shooting of film 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi', in September 2008.

INTERNET



Siemens close to deal with US officials on scandal charges

FRANKFURT, 11 Dec—German industrial giant Siemens is close to reaching agreement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on a fine in connection with a corruption scandal, a press report said on Thursday.

"We hope to reach an accord with the SEC before Christmas," a source close to the Siemens supervisory board told the

Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper.

Board members were advised to be available for an extraordinary meeting and "if necessary, we will get together on 23 December," the source said.

Otherwise a deal was expected by early 2009 at the latest. Talks with German justice officials were also close to a conclusion, the newspaper added.

The affair has weighed heavily on Siemens, which makes everything from nuclear power stations to trains and light bulbs, and employs some 400,000 people worldwide. The 161-year-old conglomerate has acknowledged that up to 1.3 billion euros (1.7 billion dollars) may have been used illegally to win foreign contracts.—*Internet*



A man makes a snowman in front of St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter, as snow falls in New Orleans, on 11 December, 2008.
INTERNET

Iranian nuclear workers arrested for spying

TEHERAN, 11 Dec—Several Iranians working directly for the country's nuclear research programme were among those arrested recently for funneling information about the programme to foreign nations, according to an Iranian media report.

The *Tabnak* report which was released on Tuesday did not say which countries were connected to the alleged spying ring or how many Iranians were arrested in the past few months.

Tabnak is a semi-official Iranian news agency that is linked to a former commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

The report said the arrests were made after media reports which claimed the United States and other Western intelligence agencies were trying to spy on Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran maintains its nuclear programme is for energy purposes only, despite accusations from the US and other Western nations that Tehran is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Two weeks ago, Iran arrested three alleged spies accused of working for Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, the semi-official *Fars* News Agency reported.

IRGC Commander Maj Gen Mohammad Ali Jafari told *Fars* that those arrested included members of an Israeli spy network who collected and transferred information about Iran's nuclear and military centers.

INTERNET

Violent storms damage dozens of homes across South Mississippi

JACKSON, 11 Dec—A night of unseasonably warm weather generated torrential rains and tornadoes that damaged two schools and dozens of homes in the South, where snow began to fall in some areas on Wednesday after temperatures dropped.

At least one person was injured in south Mississippi when a car on Interstate 59 struck a tree downed by the wave of storms that raked the region starting Tuesday night, authorities said. At least 39 houses and mobile homes were damaged in Mississippi as well as three businesses. Classes were cancelled when an apparent tornado ripped off part of the roof of an elementary school in Walker County, Ala, northwest of Birmingham. The storm also damaged more than a dozen homes there. There were reports of damaged homes and trees on roadways across Mississippi and reports of large hail.—*Internet*

US plan calls for hunting pirates by land and air

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Dec—The US is proposing to track down Somali pirates not only at sea, but on land and in Somali air space with cooperation from the African country's weak UN-backed government.

The United States on Wednesday circulated a draft United Nations Security Council resolution on the issue. It proposes that all nations and regional groups cooperating with Somalia's government in the fight against piracy and armed robbery "may take all necessary measures ashore in Somalia."

The proposal marks one of the Bush administration's last major foreign policy initiatives. If the US military gets involved, it would mark a dramatic turnabout from the US experience in Somalia in 1992-1993 that culminated in a deadly military clash in Mogadishu followed by a humiliating withdrawal of American forces.

Piracy off Somalia has intensified in recent months, with more attacks against a wider range of targets. There was an unsuccessful assault on a cruise ship in the Gulf of Aden, which links the Mediterranean Sea, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. In September, pirates seized a Ukrainian freighter loaded with 33 battle tanks and on Nov 15, they seized a Saudi oil tanker carrying \$100 million worth of crude.—*Internet*

About one in nine US kids use alternative medicine

ATLANTA, 11 Dec—Just like their parents, kids are taking herbal supplements from fish oil to ginseng, a sign of just how mainstream alternative medicine has become. More than one in nine children and teens try those remedies and other nontraditional options, the government said Wednesday in its first national study of young people's use of these mostly unproven treatments.

Given that children are generally pretty healthy, the finding that so many use alternative medicine is "pretty amazing," said one of the study's authors, Richard Nahin of the National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The sweeping study suggests about 2.8 million young people use supplements.

Their parents' practices played a big role. Kids were five times more likely to use alternative therapies if a parent or other relative did. The same study showed that more than a third of adults use alternative treatments, roughly the same as in a 2002 survey.

The researchers used a big umbrella in defining alternative medicine: Acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractic, traditional healing, yoga, Pilates, deep breathing, massage and even dieting were included.—*Internet*



King penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*) and Gentoo penguins (*pygoscelis papua*), rear, take a walk in the Basel zoo on 10 Dec, 2008, in Basel, Switzerland.—INTERNET

Man who bought stolen rocket launchers jailed in Australia

SYDNEY, 11 Dec – A Sydney man was jailed for three-and-a-half years on Wednesday for buying seven rocket launchers stolen from the military, most of which have never been recovered by authorities.

Justice Mark Marien said Taha Abdul-Rahman, who had pleaded guilty to charges including buying prohibited weapons without authority and receiving stolen army goods, had acted as a middleman in selling the weapons.

“However, the offender would have clearly been

aware that the rocket launchers would have likely ended up in the hands of criminals and possible terrorist offenders,” Marien said, *Australian Associated Press* reported.

Abdul-Rahman, 30, purchased seven rocket launchers from an associate of former army captain Shane Della-Vedova between 2001 and 2003 but only one has been recovered.

Marien said the fact that most of the weapons were still missing posed “an ongoing security risk

to the whole community”.

He sentenced Abdul-Rahman to a maximum of three years and six months in jail, with a minimum two years and five months to be served. The father-of-two will be eligible for release in December 2009 because of time already served.

Della-Vedova was jailed for a minimum of 10 years earlier this year after pleading guilty to stealing and selling rocket launchers.—*Internet*



Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, with an altitude of 8,848 meters (29,028 feet), is seen in this aerial view taken from a passenger aircraft flying over Nepal, on 9 Nov, 2008 file photo. A brain swelling condition related to low oxygen levels in the air may have caused many of the deaths of people climbing Mount Everest, researchers said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

S Africa declares cholera disaster on Zimbabwe border

MUSINA, 11 Dec – South Africa has declared a cholera disaster on its border with Zimbabwe, as a spillover from a deadly epidemic strains health resources, a government official said on Thursday.

“The provincial government took a decision that the whole of the Vhembe district should be declared a disaster area,” northern Limpopo provincial government spokesman Mogale Nchabeleng told *AFP*.

The Vhembe district includes Musina, a bustling town at the 24 hour



Zimbabweans wait for their turn to fetch water from an underground water point in Harare, on 10 Dec, 2008. The United Nations said on Wednesday the death toll from Zimbabwe’s cholera outbreak has risen sharply, with 775 deaths and 16,141 cases of the waterborne disease now reported.—INTERNET

border crossing between South Africa and the cholera-hit town of Beitbridge in Zimbabwe.

The disaster status would free up funding and focus relief efforts, Nchabeleng said.

Eight people have died of cholera in Limpopo province, two of them South African, while 664 cases have been treated, local health officials said.

Aid agencies have warned of Zimbabwe’s cholera crisis spreading to neighbouring countries, and the regions’s shared waterway, the Limpopo River, has tested positive for cholera. The United Nations said that more than 16,000 cholera cases have been reported in Zimbabwe.

Internet



Japanese student demonstrates walking in a virtual world, on a flat screen monitor, with the character controlled by his brain waves, in Yokohama, in 2007.—INTERNET

Report says Sharp to close LCD production lines

TOKYO, 11 Dec – Japanese electronics maker Sharp Corp will shut down production lines for liquid crystal display panels at two domestic plants due to faltering global demand for personal computers and mobile phone handsets, a report said on Thursday.

Sharp, a leading maker of liquid crystal display panels and flat-panel TVs, will slash some 300 contract workers in line with the production halt, said the evening edition of the *Nikkei*, Japan’s top business daily, citing no sources. It would be the first time Sharp has closed liquid crystal display production lines in operation, the paper said. A spokeswoman for Sharp could not confirm the report.

Sharp will close one production line each at its plant in Mie and another factory in Nara, the *Nikkei* said. Both factories are located in western Japan. The two production lines began operations in the early 1990s, and currently make low-definition liquid crystal display panels. Sharp decided to shut down the lines due to a prolonged slump in global demand for personal computers and mobile phone handsets, which use liquid crystal display panels.

The paper said the closure will be completed within the following fiscal year, which starts in April 2009.

Sharp competes with South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co and Japanese electronics maker Panasonic Corp in the global liquid crystal display market.—*Internet*

World’s third largest mall to open in Philippines

MANILA, 11 Dec – The world’s third biggest shopping mall is to open in the Philippines capital this week, a vote of confidence on the country’s economic prospects amid a global slowdown, its owners said on Thursday.

The launch on Friday of a 90,000-square-metre (22-acre) annex will make the SM City North Edsa mall the third biggest in the world with a gross floor area of 425,000 square metres (105 acres), SM Prime Holdings Inc said in a statement.

The company, a holding firm of the country’s richest man Henry Sy, also owns the world’s fourth, seventh, and 11th biggest malls, it added.

SM Prime President

Hans Sy said launching the project amid the global crisis “speaks of how we view the longer-term prospects of the country.”

Internet

Peru sues Yale for disputed Inca artifacts

LIMA, 11 Dec – Peru is suing Yale University in a US federal court to recover thousands of Inca artifacts removed from the Machu Picchu jungle

ruins nearly a century ago.

In a suit filed on 5 Dec in Washington, the South American nation is demanding the Ivy League university return what it says are more than 40,000 artifacts taken by famed scholar Hiram Bingham III between 1911 and 1915. The claim accuses Yale of fraudulently holding the relics for decades.

“Peru seeks the immediate return of all such property as well as damages that it has suffered on account of Yale’s persistent breach of its obligations and profit at the expense of the people of Peru,” the lawsuit says.

Peru has been pressing its claim to the relics for years, saying it never relinquished ownership of the artifacts.—*Internet*



A team of scientists from the US and Uruguay may have found a way to delay the onset of chronic neuron-killing diseases such as Lou Gehrig’s disease, according to one of the researchers. In a new study, scientists at the University of Wisconsin found that by increasing a protein called Nrf2 the lifespan of Lou Gehrig’s disease sufferers can be extended and onset of the disease delayed.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Manchester United's English forward Wayne Rooney (L) vies with Aalborg's Dutch defender Steve Olfers during their UEFA Champions League Group E football match at Old Trafford, Manchester. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.—INTERNET

Rooney saves United blushes

MANCHESTER, 11 Dec – Wayne Rooney saved Manchester United from an embarrassing Champions League defeat at home to Aalborg on Wednesday, but the striker was lucky to avoid a red card for a first-half foul on Kasper Risgard during this 2-2 draw.

England striker Rooney scored a crucial equaliser on 52 minutes to extend United's unbeaten run in the Champions League to 19 games — a record shared with Ajax and Bayern Munich.

But Sir Alex Ferguson's team were unconvincing and although defeat would have been a setback, the loss of Rooney to suspension could potentially have been much more damaging.

"There were some great chances," Ferguson said. "We should have taken at least 30 percent of them and then we would have won the game comfortably.

"We should have won the game, but the good thing is we won the group which we wanted to do and our unbeaten record remains, which is good."—INTERNET

Raul double cheers Ramos's Real



Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez celebrates scoring against Zenith San Petersburg during their Champions League match Group H, at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. INTERNET

MADRID, 11 Dec – Juande Ramos may be wielding a new broom at Real Madrid but it was one of the old guard who starred as the nine-times champions saw off Zenit St Petersburg in their final Champions League Group H game on Wednesday.

Veteran forward and three-time champion Raul bagged a brace to sandwich a goal by Arjen Robben in a 3-0 win over the outclassed Russians and cement the runners-up spot behind Juventus.

Raul's goals made him the competition's all-time top scorer with 66 goals ahead of AC Milan's Filippo Inzaghi and gave a fillip to a side whose confidence has been sagging in recent weeks.—INTERNET

Ribery-inspired Bayern beat Lyon to top group

LYON, 11 Dec – A Franck Ribery-inspired 3-2 victory at Lyon on Wednesday night shot Bayern Munich to the top of their Champions League group in rainy conditions in France.

Bayern's pole position in Group F meant they are assured of play-

Wenger unfazed by Arsenal's Euro slump

OPORTO, 11 Dec – Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal have nothing to be afraid of in next week's Champions League draw despite their failure to win Group G.

Wenger's side surrendered top spot in their qualifying group to Porto after a dismal 2-0 defeat against the Portuguese champions at the Dragao Stadium on Wednesday.

The Gunners had needed only a draw to clinch first place and with it the advantage of playing the second leg of their second round tie at home. But goals from Bruno Alves and Lisandro Lopez either side of half-time killed off an under-strength Arsenal.

INTERNET



FC Porto's Argentinian Lisandro Lopez (right) celebrates with his teammate Bruno Meireles after scoring his goal against Arsenal FC during their UEFA Champions League group football match at the Dragao Stadium in Porto.—INTERNET

Daly snatches camera, smashes it into a tree



John Daly of America walks off the 10th tee during the Australian Open golf tournament in Sydney on 11 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

SYDNEY, 11 Dec – John Daly smashed a spectator's camera into a tree while shooting a 6-over 78 in the first round of the Australian Open on Thursday, making it likely he will miss the cut for the third consecutive week Down Under.

After pushing his tee shot wide on the ninth hole—his last — Daly walked into a clump of trees, where spectator Brad Clegg tried to take a picture at close range.

Daly snatched the camera and smashed it against the nearest tree, telling the man, "You want it back, I'll buy you a new one."—INTERNET

Missed opportunities cost us European progression says Strachan



Celtic's Irish midfielder Aiden McGeady (2nd right) celebrates scoring against Villarreal during their UEFA Champions League football match at Celtic Park, Glasgow, Scotland.—INTERNET

LONDON, 11 Dec – Celtic manager Gordon Strachan said missed chances in previous matches cost his side as they exited Europe with a 2-0 win against Villarreal.

The Parkhead side ended their Champions League Group E campaign on a high with victory over the Spanish side but last month's defeat away to Aalborg means they finished bottom of the table.

But the Hoops gaffer says things could have been different if Celtic had taken some of their chances in their early games against Aalborg and Manchester United.

"If you analyse our performance at Villarreal away I felt we should have taken something from a smashing performance," Strachan said. "We had a penalty at home against Aalborg and if we had scored we win the game and that's three points."—INTERNET

Malaysia eye Peter Withe as new coach



Malaysia are keen to appoint former England international Peter Withe (pictured here in 2002) as their new coach after the team crashed out of the AFF Suzuki Cup in the group stages, according to a report. INTERNET

Thailand and Indonesia.

The New Straits Times quoted a Football Association of Malaysia official as saying that the former Aston Villa striker would fly to Kuala Lumpur next week for talks.

"Peter is an excellent coach, but he is expensive and FAM will need to break its bank to have him in Malaysia but it is possible," said the official.

The comments come a day after Malaysia's team manager, Soh Chin Aun, backed current coach B Sathianathan to keep his job despite their disappointing Suzuki Cup performance.

According to the newspaper, Withe, who lives in Perth, Australia, would cost around 20,000 US dollars a month, plus other benefits.

If the 56-year-old is appointed he would be the second Englishman in charge of a Southeast Asian national team, joining former Sunderland manager Peter Reid, who coaches Thailand.

INTERNET

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec – Malaysia are keen to appoint former England international Peter Withe as their new coach after the team crashed out of the AFF Suzuki Cup in the group stages, according to a report.

Withe has plenty of experience in Asia, having previously coached

INTERNET

Surface-Level Ozone Pollution set to reduce tree growth 10% by 2100

SCIENCE DAILY, 11 Dec— Modern day concentrations of ground level ozone pollution are decreasing the growth of trees in the northern and temperate mid-latitudes, as shown in a paper publishing December 9 in Global Change Biology.

Tree growth, measured in biomass, is already 7% less than the late 1800s, and this is set to increase to a 17% reduction by the end of the century.

Ozone pollution is four times greater now than prior to the Industrial Revolution in the mid-1700s; if modern dependence on fossil fuels continues at the current pace, future ozone concentrations will be at

least double current levels by the end of this century with the capacity to further decrease the growth of trees.

Ozone is the third strongest greenhouse gas, directly contributing to global warming, and is the air pollutant considered to be the most damaging to plants. But more importantly, it has the potential to leave more carbon dioxide, ranked as the first strongest greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere by decreasing carbon assimilation in trees. Ozone pollution occurs when nitrogen oxides have a photochemical reaction with volatile organic compounds.

Internet



Portland, Oregon. Researchers have found that modern day concentrations of ground level ozone pollution are decreasing the growth of trees in the northern and temperate mid-latitudes.—INTERNET

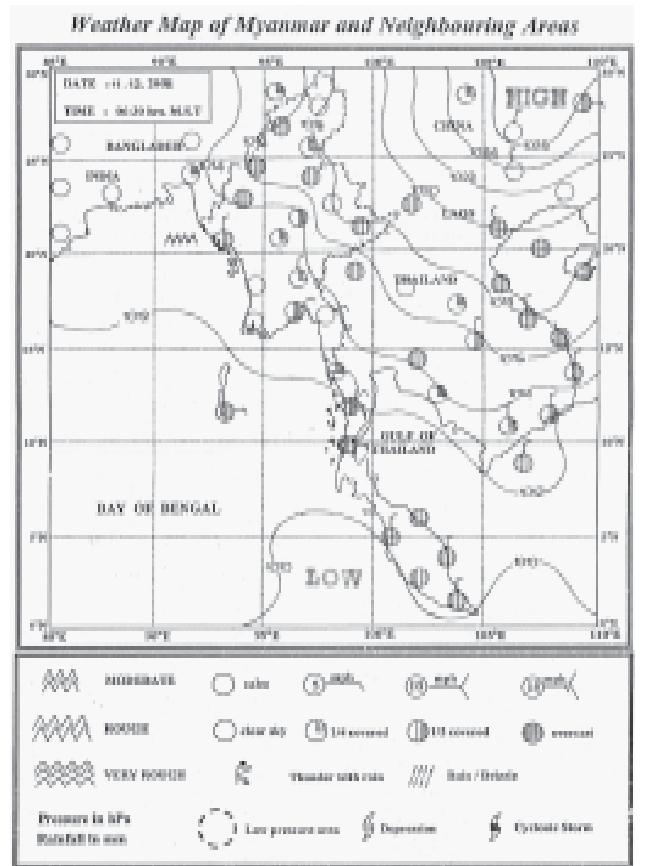
Lack of Vitamin D causes weight gain and stunts growth in girls

CALIFORNIA, 11 Dec— Insufficient vitamin D can stunt growth and foster weight gain during puberty, according to a new study published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism. Even in sun-drenched California, where scientists from the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and the University of Southern California conducted their study, vitamin D deficiency was found to cause higher body mass and shorter stature in girls at the peak of their

growing spurt.

While lack of vitamin D is common in adults and has been linked to diseases such as osteoporosis, cancer and obesity, until this study, little was known about the consequences of insufficient vitamin D in young people. The research team measured vitamin D in girls aged 16 to 22 using a simple blood test (25-hydroxy vitamin D). They also assessed body fat and height to determine how vitamin D deficiency could affect young women's health.

Internet



WEATHER

Thursday, 11 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Mon State, Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures was Hakha (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 10-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 11-12-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 11-12-2008 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 10-12-2008 was (8.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 11-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (09:30) hours MST on 11-12-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12th December 2008: Weather will be generally fair in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 12-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-12-2008: Generally fair weather.



Feeding off nectar : A Hummingbird feeds in Los Angeles.—INTERNET



Friday, 12 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

2. ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. The mirror images of
the musical oldies

8:20 am

7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:40 am

8. International news

8:50 am

9. Musical programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Musical programme

4:20 pm

3. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:25 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
တတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု)
(ဓာတုဗေဒ)

4:40 pm

5. Songs to uphold
national spirit

4:45 pm

6. Dance of national races

4:50 pm

7. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

5:10 pm

8. Song of yesteryears

5:20 pm

9. တီးကွက်ညီညာညွန့်သံသာ

5:35 pm

10. “ပေါင်ပေါ်ကျတုမီး”
(ရဲအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊
ညီညီမင်းထက်၊ ဘုန်းလှ၊
ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊
မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

5:45 pm

11. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:40 pm

14. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်

7:20 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“ကုန်သွယ်မုန်တိုင်း”
(အပိုင်း-၃၄)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား”
(အပိုင်း-၅၄)

20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာ

ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Modern Amusement Park, 3rd Flower Festival opened in National Kandawgyi Gardens (PyinOoLwin)

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec — The opening ceremony of Modern Amusement Park and the 3rd Flower Festival was held at the National Kandawgyi Gardens (PyinOoLwin) in PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division this morning.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the park and viewed around it.

The ministers opened the 3rd Flower Festival and went sightseeing in the festival.

Over 7 million flowers of 16 local species and more than 70 foreign species are on display on a grand scale at the festival. Moreover, floral Myanmar Map and statues are being shown for visitors.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Forestry is undertaking work for all-round development of the National Kandawgyi Gardens and almost 600 species of local and foreign trees, 300 species of Myanmar orchid, 75 species of garden croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*) and 75 species of bamboo have been grown there.

With the aim of drawing the attention and making visitors relaxed, lawns and colourful flowers are being displayed at the gardens.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and ministers view the Modern Amusement Park of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.—FORESTRY



Visitors seen at Modern Amusement Park in National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.

FORESTRY

INSIDE

It is, therefore, mandatory for the people to join hands with the government in anti-narcotic drugs campaigns it has been implementing as a national duty.

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PERSPECTIVES

Xavi keen to add to Real woes

BARCELONA, 11 Dec—Barcelona midfielder Xavi has urged his side not to waste the chance to strike a potentially crucial blow in the Primera Liga title race this weekend when they host troubled champions Real Madrid.

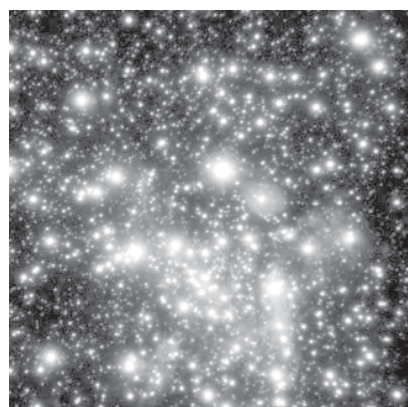
The season may not even be at the halfway point yet but Barca could move a massive 12 points clear of arch rivals Madrid if they win Saturday's Clasico at the Nou Camp.

All signs are pointing to a Barca triumph, with Pep Guardiola's side in phenomenal form while Madrid have just changed coaches, have up to nine players absent through injury and suspension and have suffered six defeats in their last 13 matches in all competitions.—Internet



Xavi - hopes to go 12 points clear.

Unprecedented 16-year-long study tracks stars orbiting Milky Way black hole



MUNICH, 11 Dec — By watching the motions of 28 stars orbiting the Milky Way's most central region with admirable patience and amazing precision, astronomers have been able to study the supermassive black hole lurking there. It is known as "Sagittarius A*" (pronounced "Sagittarius A star"). The new research marks the first time that the orbits of so many of these central stars have been calculated precisely and reveals information about the enigmatic for-

mation of these stars — and about the black hole to which they are bound.

The centre of the Galaxy is a unique laboratory where we can study the fundamental processes of strong gravity, stellar dynamics and star formation that are of great relevance to all other galactic nuclei, with a level of detail that will never be possible beyond our Galaxy," explains Reinhard Genzel, leader of the team from the Max-Planck-Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching near Munich.

Internet