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Friday, 19 December, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to pagodas in Bagan-NyaungU

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann and party, paid homage to pagodas in Bagan-NyaungU at 11.30 a.m. yesterday.

The Senior General and party offered flowers, water and oil lights to Lawkananda Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda. Next, the Senior General made cash donations for the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees and paid homage to the pagoda clockwise.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected tasks of prevention against bank erosion of Ayeyawady River

at the pagoda.

At Shwezigon Pagoda, the Senior General and party paid homage to Kakuthan Buddha Image at the eastern archway.

After paying obeisance at the pagoda, the Head of State and party donated cash to the trust funds of the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees. Next, they paid homage to the pagoda clockwise.

The Head of State and party proceeded to Bagan Archaeological Museum. At the meeting room, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint reported to the Senior General on the background history of the museum and preservation of cultural heritage.

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Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Kakuthan Buddha Image at eastern archway of Shwezigon Pagoda.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress in bank erosion prevention task at Lawkananda Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 December, 2008

Nurture the youth for promotion of national education

The national education promotion plan and work programmes are the ones to be implemented intensively for long-term interests of the country. With this concept, the government is sweating its guts out for development of human resources, while creating good opportunities and environs in the education and health sectors.

One of the work programmes is to ensure that every citizen completes basic education. In order to hit the target, the people and local organizations and associations are working hard together in order that every school-age child has access to education, every schoolchild completes basic education, and transferring rates of students from basic to middle, and from middle and high school levels are high.

Now, a new nation is being built with the education section at the core, and so competence, interest, goodwill and diligence of basic education teachers serve as a substantial contributor for development of human resources. Therefore, teachers have to nurture their students in order that they are good at their studies and possess cognitive and physical prowess.

Today, every nation tries to consolidate national unity, and boost economic growth and technological development. As such, it is obligatory for teachers to constantly guide the students and sharpen their abilities so as to help the latter broaden their horizons with high reasoning power.

In addition, the students should be well trained and drilled to be good at their school studies with altruistic spirit and good moral conduct.

The nation will see a growing number of reliable youths if teachers effectively train younger generations in all sectors in conformity with the national education promotion plan.



President U Kyaw Win of MBF presents championship trophy to I.L.B.C team.—NLM

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

Kaba-Aye Condominium and Gamonpwint Shopping Mall opened

YANGON, 18 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening ceremony of Kaba-Aye Condominium and Gamonpwint Shopping Mall jointly-implemented by Yangon City Development Committee and Gamonpwint Co Ltd which held in front of the Gamonpwint Shopping Mall building on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cut the ribbon to open the building.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The State Peace and Development Council has appointed U Win Myint, Manager of Yangon No. 1 Cigarette Factory of Myanma Foodstuffs Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1, as Director-General of the Directorate of Industries under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

MNA

the shopping mall.

Next, the managing director of Gamonpwint Co Ltd and responsible persons conducted Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party around the shopping mall. Personal goods, foodstuff, cosmetics, clothes,

furniture and books are available and beauty parlors, amusement park for children and restaurants are being kept open at the shopping mall. The building offers parking lot that can house 200 vehicles.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project in Nyaung U Township.—MNA

Youth Basketball Tournament concludes

YANGON, 18 Dec—The prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Basketball Federation President's Cup Youth Basketball Tournament was held at Kyaikkasan Gymnasium here today. In the final match of U-16 Men's event, I.L.B.C team won over Venon with 63-23 point, in Women's event, Yangon Division edged out D.B.E (3) with 57-39, in U-13 Men's event, I.L.B.C beat D.B.E (3) 56-53 and in Women's event, Mogok thrashed D.B.E (3) 79-22.

In U-13 Men's events,

I.L.B.C stood first, D.B.E (3) second and No. 3 B.E.H.S Hpa-an third, in Women's events, Mogok was first, D.B.E (3) second and Shan State (South) third. In U-16 Men's events, I.L.B.C got first, Venon second and D.B.E (3) third, in Women's events, Yangon Division stood first, D.B.E (3) second and Seikphutaung third.

President of Myanmar Basketball Federation U Kyaw Win and personnel concerned presented prizes to the prize winners.

NLM

Minister inspects river water pumping projects in Nyaung U

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo together with Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental heads inspected river water pumping projects, Myakan Dam and thriving Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation in Nyaung U Township on 16 December.

During the tour, the minister and party inspected Lawkananda river water pumping station in Bagan in the township and gave instructions to officials.

Next, the minister and party inspected flow of water into Maykan Dam, greening tasks and Kyaukku river water pumping station.

The minister visited thriving Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation of farmer U Chi of Phayagon Village in the township, cultivation of 400-acre paddy plantation irrigated by Letpancheyaw river water pumping station and Ngathyork river water pumping project.—MNA

Iraqi Parliament in turmoil over shoe tosser

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec — Chaos erupted in Iraq's parliament Wednesday over the jailing of a reporter who threw his shoes at President George W Bush, with lawmakers loyal to a radical anti-American cleric demanding his freedom. The parliament speaker responded by threatening to resign.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for an Iraqi-owned television station based in Cairo, Egypt, had been expected to appear Wednesday before an investigative judge at Iraq's main court as a first step in a complex legal process that could end in a criminal trial.

Instead, the judge visited him in his jail cell and the family was told to return to the court in eight days, according to the journalist's brother, Dhargham al-Zeidi.

"That means my brother was severely beaten and they fear that his appearance could trigger anger at the court," he said.

However, Iraqi officials and another brother have denied that the journalist suffered severe injuries after he was wrestled to the floor when he hurled one shoe and then the other from close range at Bush during a news conference Sunday in Baghdad. Bush deftly ducked out of the way both times.

Internet

An Afghan boy named **Quadratullah** shows his leg which was allegedly bitten by a snuffer dog, as he has lost his parents during an overnight raid of the US and Afghan forces in the city of **Khost Province** east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 17 Dec, 2008. US troops and Afghan police killed three militants in an overnight raid on a compound housing people with al-Qaeda links in eastern Afghanistan, the US military said Wednesday.

INTERNET



Pakistan optimistic on India talks despite pause

ISLAMABAD, 18 Dec — Pakistan's Foreign Minister said on Wednesday he was optimistic about peace talks with India despite an Indian-imposed "pause" but expressed frustration that offers of help in the Mumbai investigation had been shunned.

Tension has been simmering between the nuclear-armed rivals since last month's assault on Mumbai, in which 179 people were killed, and which India has blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

India said on Tuesday the attacks had led to a pause in the nearly five-year-old peace process the neighbours initiated after nearly going to war for a fourth time in 2002, after a militant attack on the Indian Parliament.—Internet

Death toll rises to 18 in Baghdad twin bombing

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec — The death toll of a double explosions outside a traffic police headquarters in central Baghdad on Wednesday rose to 18 and 52 people injured, an Interior Ministry source said.

"The toll of the car bomb and a roadside bomb attacks in Nahdha area rose to 18 killed and 52 injured," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attack took place when a booby-trapped car detonated outside the headquarters near the al-Nahdha parking lot in central Baghdad on the east side of Tigris River, the source said. Minutes later, a roadside bomb went off when security forces and civilians gathered to examine the first blast, the source added.

Three traffic policemen were among the killed and eight others were among the wounded people, he said. Earlier, the source said that the total of at least six people were killed and more than 18 others wounded by the two blasts.—Internet

35 Iraqi officials arrested over "coup plot"

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec — About 35 Iraqi officials have been arrested at the interior ministry, some accused of planning a coup, the New York Times reported on Wednesday, citing senior security officials in Baghdad.

The arrests over the past three days were carried out by an elite counterterrorism force that reports directly to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, the report said.

Senior security officials said there was significant evidence tying those arrested to Al Awda, a group accused

of working to reconstitute the Baath Party of late Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein, the *Times* reported.

The newspaper cited a high-ranking interior ministry official as saying those affiliated with Al Awda had paid bribes to other officers to recruit them and that huge amounts of money had been found in the raids.

Critics of Maliki accuse him of using arrests to consolidate power a month ahead of provincial elections, the *Times* said.

One police officer, who knows several of the detainees, said they were innocent, were long-



35 Iraqi officials have been arrested at the interior ministry. The arrests were carried out by an elite counterterrorism force that reports directly to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.—INTERNET

standing civil servants and had little in common with one another, the paper reported.—Internet

End of honourable or pointless Iraq war

LONDON, 18 Dec — A job well done, or the end of a mission that has achieved little — newspapers here were divided Thursday on Britain's withdrawal from Iraq, although all agreed that lessons must be learned.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced in Baghdad Wednesday that Britain's remaining 4,100 troops would be withdrawn from Iraq by next summer, marking the end to a six-year occupation that has been hugely unpopular here.

The news was welcomed. But many in the press echoed calls from opposition parties for an inquiry into the war, its causes and its costs — an inquiry the government had insisted could not take place while troops were still fighting.—Internet

Sixth British soldier in a week killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 18 Dec — A British soldier was killed in fighting in troubled southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, the sixth fatality among British forces in the past week, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The soldier from 1st Battalion The Rifles was killed by enemy fire in an area north west of Lashkar Gah in southern Helmand Province while fighting in the district of Nad-e-Ali, the ministry in London said.

He was treated at the scene before being taken to the military hospital at Camp Bastion by helicopter, but later died of his wounds.

His death follows that of a soldier from 29 Commando Royal Artillery in Helmand on Monday, and those of four marines in the province on Friday.

It brings to 134 the total number of British service personnel killed in Afghanistan since 2001, when US-led forces ousted the Taliban in the wake of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington.—Internet



Residents gather at the site of bomb attacks in Baghdad's Nahdha neighbourhood on 17 Dec, 2008. Twin blasts killed 18 people and wounded 53 in central Baghdad on Wednesday as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made an unannounced visit to Iraq, police said.—INTERNET



An Afghan villager holds what he claims to be an explosive that was discovered from an overnight raid of the US and Afghan forces in the city of Khost, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 17 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET

Russia's armed forces to be equipped with new missile systems by 2020

Moscow, 18 Dec — The Russian Strategic Missile Forces will be armed with new types of missiles that can overcome defensive measures by 2020, the forces' commander said Wednesday. "By 2015-2020, the Strategic Missile Forces will have absolutely new missile systems with improved combat characteristics, which will be able to resolve any problems, including combating enemy missile defence systems," Gen Nikolai Solovtsov was

quoted by *Interfax* news agency as saying.

The first new RS-24 multi-warhead strategic missiles will be handed over to the forces next year, the general told a briefing in the Moscow region.

He denied that the RS-24 violates the Russian-US agreements on strategic weapons, which he says only bans adding additional warheads to existing missiles or expanding the number of warheads on multiple-war-

head weapons.

Solovtsov added the forces plan 13 training missile launches for next year. "We have scheduled 13 training launches for 2009. The number could come down a bit," he said.

Internet

Rebels resume attacks on civilians in eastern DR Congo

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Dec— Elements from a mainly Tutsi rebel group in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are continuing their attacks on the civilian population, the United Nations reported on Wednesday.

They continue to commit abuses, beating and detaining civilians and pillaging businesses and private homes, said the UN Mission in the DRC, known by its French acronym MONUC.

The abuses by members of the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), led by renegade general Laurent Nkunda, were taking place in Kiwanja in North Kivu Province, which has seen an upsurge in fighting between rebels and the government army, it said.

"I wish to tell Mr Laurent Nkunda to put an end to these abuses and violations," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Representative Alan Doss told a news conference in Kinshasa, the Congolese capital. —*Internet*



Israelis stand near a damaged car following a rocket attack by Palestinian militants in the southern Israel city of Sderot. Israeli warplanes have carried out two nighttime air strikes against the Gaza Strip following rocket fire against Israel, witnesses have said. —INTERNET

Army says Gaza militants fire nine rockets at Israel

GAZA CITY, 18 Dec—Israel's army says Gaza militants have fired nine rockets at Israel. Wednesday's rocket fire came just two days before militants say a truce along the Gaza bor-

der is to expire. The rockets were fired by three small militant groups and caused no injuries, the army said.

Gaza's Hamas rulers say the truce with Israel ends Friday. Israel says there's no expiration date.

In a case, the ceasefire has been badly

shaken, as both sides try to dictate new terms.

Hamas wants Israel to keep its crossings open. The borders have been mostly sealed since Hamas seized power of Gaza last year. Israel wants to be able to conduct incursions into Gaza's border areas. —*Internet*

NATO to mount pressure on Taliban in winter

KABUL, 18 Dec— The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is going to keep on pressure on Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan through the winter, deputy commander of the alliance forces in the post-Taliban country Lt General Jim Dutton said Wednesday.

"We intend to continue with operation through the winter. We are better able to operate through the winter," he told newsmen at a round-table here.

Afghanistan has been suffering from Taliban and al-Qaida-linked insurgency since the collapse of the fundamentalist regime by the US-led Coalition forces seven years ago. So far this year, more than 5,000 people with over 2,000 civilians have lost their lives in conflicts and Taliban-led violence incidents while some 70,000-strong international troops have been stationed to stabilize security there.

However, the British General failed to predict that how long the international troops would continue to fight militants and bring stability in the militancy-plagued nation by saying, "I am not going to predict how long it would take."

Nevertheless, the commander supported deploying additional troops to Afghanistan besides stressing for enhancing the operational capacity and reconstruction process of the war-ravaged nation. —*Internet*

Indiana students hurt in school bus crash

FRANKTON, 18 Dec—A school bus carrying as many as 60 middle school and high school students on an icy road collided with a car Wednesday morning and landed on its side in a central Indiana farm field, the sheriff said. Dozens of children were hurt but authorities said none of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening.

All the students were off the bus by the time emergency crews arrived, Madison County Sheriff Ron Richardson said. The Frankton Junior-Senior High School students and

the driver helped the injured through the emergency hatch in the bus roof, he said.

Richardson said the driver of the car had been unable to stop and slid into the passenger side of the bus on a rural road about 35 miles northeast of Indianapolis.

"We're just thankful right now that it doesn't appear that we have anything very serious as far as injuries," the sheriff said.

Community Hospital in Anderson received 25 students from the crash, with a 12-year-old boy

needing plastic surgery for complex facial cuts and a 13-year-old boy suffering a broken collarbone, said Katy Harrison Troxell, the hospital's marketing director.

Twenty-one other students from the crash were taken to other hospitals in Elwood and Anderson. Only minor injuries were reported among those students.

Joshua Derrickson, a junior at the school, told *The Herald Bulletin* of Anderson that students were knocked on top of each other in the crash.

Internet



An accident investigator looks at the scene where a school bus crashed with a car amid icy road conditions near the Madison County town of Frankton, Ind, on 17 Dec, 2008. Numerous ambulances responded to the scene, but no life-threatening injuries were immediately reported. —INTERNET

US embassies in Europe, governor offices receive envelopes with suspicious powder

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—The US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Department said on Wednesday that more than 40 governor offices and at least 15 US embassies in Europe have received envelopes with suspicious white powder but no dangerous substances were found yet.

According to the State Department, embassies in Berlin, Berne, Brussels, Bucharest, Copenhagen,

Dublin, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Riga, Rome, Stockholm, Tallinn, and The Hague all received the mails with such powder.

“There have been some initial tests that have been done, and all of them have proved negative,” said deputy spokesman Robert Wood, adding two embassies in Rome, Italy, and Bucharest, Romania, were closed because of the incidents. In Madrid,

Spain, local authorities took precautions measures including deployment of ambulances outside the US embassy and the close-off of the road near-by after they received the report on the white-powder envelopes.

A statement released by the FBI said that offices of more than 40 governors across the country also received similar envelopes with white powder that was tested negative.—Xinhua



Emergency workers stand inside the door at the US Embassy in Madrid after it received a suspicious envelope on 17 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

Somalia welcomes Chinese naval deployment off its coast

MOGADISHU, 18 Dec—Somalia on Wednesday welcomed China’s announcement that it was seriously considering sending naval ships to Somali waters to fight rampant piracy.

“As a friend of the Somali people and victim of the piracy menace,” China can play a vital role in combating the scourge off Somali waters, said Somalia’s Parliament Speaker Sheik Aden Madoobe.

“We welcome that China is considering

sending its naval force to our coast to help us end the piracy problem,” Madoobe told Xinhua in the southern town of Baidoa, the seat of the Somali parliament.

“We also appreciate other friendly countries who have already sent their warships to fight piracy, which is causing as much problems for Somalis as the rest of the world,” he added.

Noting the “strong and historical ties” between Somalia and China, Madoobe said the Chinese government’s move would

further strengthen bilateral relations.

On Tuesday, China said it was “seriously considering sending naval ships” to the waters off the Somali coast for escort operations in the near future to fight against rampant piracy in the region.

China’s announcement followed the UN Security Council’s adoption of a resolution the same day to further step up the international fight against piracy.

Xinhua

Vietnam increases steel import tariffs

HANOI, 18 Dec—The tariffs levied on imported steel billet and steel ingot will be raised to five percent from the current two percent as of 21 Dec the local newspaper *Industry and Trade* reported on Thursday.

According to Vietnamese Ministry of Finance, the adjustment of steel import tariffs is necessary to boost the domestic steel consumption and to ensure the stability of the country’s steel market as the current stockpiled steel in companies and manufacturers nationwide has around 3 million tons.

However, industry insiders said that the higher import tax was just a short-term solution. To tackle the difficulties for the local steel producers, the best way should be changing business strategy, improving technologies to reduce the price and strengthening cooperation among local steel producers.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Two people confirmed dead after planes collide over Sydney

CANBERRA, 18 Dec—Two people were killed on Thursday morning after two planes collided over Sydney’s southwest, authorities confirmed.

One plane landed safely but the other plane slammed into a house and burst into flames, killing two people on board. There were people inside the Casula house at the time of the crash but they “were safely evacuated and are being assessed by paramedics at the scene,” Ambulance Service of NSW spokeswoman Fiona Cook said. A man who witnessed the accident said the plane destroyed the rear of the home on Box Road, according to a report by Australian Associated Press.—Xinhua

High winds blow over helicopter, killing one

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec—High winds blew over a helicopter on the ground in Santa Clarita near Los Angeles on Wednesday, killing one person, authorities said.

A second person was injured, said Inspector Ron Haralson of the Santa Clarita County Fire Department. Paramedics were sent to scene and rushed the injured person to a nearby hospital, Haralson said.—Xinhua

Caroline Kennedy makes public interest for Clinton’s seat in Senate

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—Caroline Kennedy, the only surviving child of US former President John F Kennedy, made public on Wednesday her interest to take over New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton’s seat in the Capitol Hill. Kennedy made a statement to media as she kicked off a tour in New York to meet politicians, saying she “would be

honored” to be appointed to the Clinton’s seat.

As the first stop for her campaign for the appointment, she visited Syracuse to meet several Democratic party power brokers.

The former First Lady Hillary Clinton has been named by President-elect Barack Obama as the next Secretary of State. If approved by the Senate,

she will take office on 20 Jan, and resign from the Senate.

New York Governor David Paterson will decide who gets Clinton’s seat. The successor will have to run in 2010 to fill the last two years of Clinton’s term and then run for a full term in 2012.

Born in New York City on 27 Nov, 1957, Kennedy moved to the White House

with her parents when she was three. After her father’s assassination in 1963, the family moved back to New York.

She finished her bachelor degree in Harvard and graduated from Columbia Law School in 1988. She is currently an attorney, writer and serves on the boards of many non-profit organizations.

Xinhua

Guests from Belarussia visit the exhibition about China’s Opening Up in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 Dec, 2008. Diplomatic envoys of foreign countries visited on Wednesday the exhibition named “A 30-year history: Exhibition on China’s Opening Up”, which is due to held at the China World Trade Centre from 18 Dec in Beijing. —XINHUA



We remain unperturbed-3

Kyaw Ye Min

As I have presented, our country does not come under direct effect of the global financial crisis, however, it, like other countries, will have to suffer adverse effect more or less. In that regard, the word "less" is more possible than the word "more". Whatever it is, we people have to take great care, and should do everything necessary to be able to address the issue. To my knowledge, necessary measures are already ongoing.

I am not an economist, but I would like to present my personal views. Ours is a country that can stand on its own feet to fulfil the basic needs of its people. In my opinion, it should try to be able to stand more firmly. In addition, it is required to reduce import, produce import-substitute goods, take innovative measures, boost export and trade with neighbouring main trade partners. Furthermore, we need to keep a good balance between income and expenditure of foreign exchange. Many Myanmar workers working abroad will lose their jobs and will have to return. So, it will be prudent if many job opportunities are created in advance at home for them.

These foregoing points are just the views of an ordinary citizen like me, and I am sure economists have sought many ways and means to tackle the issue. Journals and magazines have presented a lot of discussions about the crisis. However, the people worry about the adverse effects more or less. Some unscrupulous persons and broadcasting stations are behind the rumours designed to mislead the people into misunderstanding the situations that in Myanmar, prices of cars, paddy and beans and pulses are going down. With the intention of adding to the worries of the people, certain foreign radio stations are airing made-up broadcasts based on falling prices of rice and beans and pulses that farmers are going through hard times and the financial crisis has touched Myanmar. May I explain the matter as much as I can.

Myanmar is a country that is trying to achieve development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. In 2007, the agricultural sector contributed round about 146 per cent of domestic demand. And for 2008, to meet more than 150 per cent of local demand is on target. The nation contributes to world food security by exporting its food surplus.

Some foreign radio stations relished to broadcast that Myanmar would face food shortage soon, following the cyclone "Nargis" that ravaged the paddy fields of Yangon Division, and Ayeyawady Division, the granary of Myanmar. In contrary with their forecast, this paddy season, paddy output was boosted, if compared with that last year due to the fact that all-round assistance was provided for local farmers of the storm-hit areas to grow paddy in time; paddy was cultivated

Myanmar is a country that is trying to achieve development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. In 2007, the agricultural sector contributed round about 146 per cent of domestic demand. And for 2008, to meet more than 150 per cent of local demand is on target. The nation contributes to world food security by exporting its food surplus.

on an extensive scale throughout the nation; and farmers and private companies established agricultural farms in mutual interest. Then, those alien radio stations aired in a different way that paddy supply far exceeded the demand, and farmers were in trouble due to the fall in paddy prices.

As far as I know, it is true that per acre yield of paddy is on the increase this year, and farmers of various regions could produce more paddy. However, the statement "paddy trade is quite dull" is merely a created piece of news. In fact, paddy merchants and owners of rice mills are on their trips to various regions to purchase paddy. Besides, the Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and the Myanmar Economic Corporation are buying paddy at prevailing prices on a commercial scale. As a result, farmers have sold out their agricultural produce with convenience, and they are gearing up for the next paddy season. These are true stories.

Plans are well under way to export the paddy surplus. The government is taking steps for Myanmar rice to gain a foothold in the international market. It also has allowed national entrepreneurs to export rice to neighbouring countries across the borders. According to the figures, up to the end of October 2008, over 170,000 tons of rice was exported. In the meantime, the Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd is planning to export rice. It is true that the global financial crisis also has led to decrease in world rice demand and prices. So, I wish those radio stations would realize that there is no way local farmers will suffer adverse effect because in Myanmar paddy is in demand both for domestic consumption and export.

Another point I want to present is Myanmar's trade of beans and pulses. The prices of beans and pulses are falling to some degree at home. Now, the meeting of the two ministries of Myanmar and India reached an agreement on regular trade of beans and pulses according to the dealings of the two governments. So, India will purchase beans and pulses from Myanmar at international prevailing prices. The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the State Trading Corporation of India will coordinate that

matter in further detail. Commodity prices are fluctuating so rapidly due to decreasing demand at the global level that I want all to see that the government is now taking necessary measures for smooth trade at current international prices. **India will purchase Myanmar's beans and pulses yearly, so the nation does not need to worry about export of beans and pulses.**

Similarly, Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton farms in central Myanmar are thriving and per acre yield is on the increase. Nonetheless, pessimistic radio stations aired that farmers were forced to grow Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton, and they got into troubles because no merchants bought their produce. It is common knowledge that farmers, in reality, are making substantial profits on farming Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton. Its per acre yield is high, and the government purchases Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton at reasonable prices, so farmers grow Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton extensively year by year. The sown acreage of Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton increased to 260,399 in 2008-2009 fiscal year, and per acre yield ranges between 1000 and 1600 viss.

The Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise under the Myanma Industrial Crops Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation purchases all the long staple cotton through its purchase centres. It is learnt that the Myanma Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 has a plan to purchase 1.5 million viss of Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton, 500,000 viss of short staple cotton, 3 million viss of cotton wool (A) and (B) classes of Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton, and 2 million viss of cotton (C) and (D) classes of long and short staple cotton for its textile factories and plants and staple cotton mills. In addition, the Tatmadaw is purchasing cotton from Meiktila Defence Services Textile Factory, Pwintbyu Defence Services cotton farm, and Han Myinmo Lunkyaw Defence Services cotton farm for its textile and garment factories. The government is also taking measures for comfort and convenience of cotton farmers.

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We remain unperturbed-3

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 6)

It can clearly be seen that the State on its part is taking all necessary measures for ensuring smooth and secure trading of all domestic crops and for not causing any economic losses. It is also lifting restrictions on border trade for its more development. Moreover, plans are under way to send international market-seeking teams abroad under the leadership of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Measures will be taken to regularize the commodity prices of Myanmar depending on changes in global commodity prices to minimize economic losses.

Steps are also being taken to ensure that farmers do not earn less income due to the fall of international crop prices and to reduce the cost of production. These steps include distributing agricultural facilities at reduced prices such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides and crop strains.

Meanwhile, encouragement is being given to extending export items so as to weather the financial crisis. The State is also helping domestic industries to gain raw materials at reduced prices and manufacture import-substitute items and value added products. By giving such encouragements to domestic industries to have their regular operations, there will surely be more domestic employment opportunities.

While the government as well as economic organizations like UMFCCI is trying to seek international market, domestic producers need to try to keep quality control of their products, reduce unnecessary costs of production and make their products able to get the competitive prices in the global market. In addition, they are required to find the root cause of affecting their commodity prices in the global market and make reforms. Only then, will the value and amount of export items improve.

Creating job opportunity should be the matter of preparedness. The global financial crisis has led the world's nations to face economic downturn, job cuts

and limit their expenditures. It has been learnt that the US businesses had to cut 20 percent of their workforce. Likewise, the regional countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Korea and Japan where a lot of Myanmar citizens are working are starting to lay off workers. Those who have gone abroad for jobs are coming back, too. Some have come back for they were sacked by their employers. In this regard, anyone cannot avoid this problem as it is concerned internationally. The only thing is to welcome back our own citizens and open up job opportunities for them.

As far as I know, the vast stretches of land across the country, oil palm farms in Taninthayi coastal region and salt businesses in the Ayeyawady delta are in need of a great number of workers. Besides, there are job opportunities in rubber, teak and timber businesses. Similarly, agricultural and livestock and fishery businesses in Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States are ready to offer more jobs for their own citizens. I expect that all agricultural business, industries and services nationwide will offer lots of job opportunities. Anyhow, the problem can surely be solved as the State will create job opportunities for its citizens.

As such a time, I would like to say that each and every person needs to serve the interest of the State as well as the people. They must avoid seeking their self-interest alone. If we remain united, practise fairly and serve the interest of the State and the people, such a problem would be a minor one. It is necessary for merchants' associations, wholesale centres and traders from the economic field to work in the interests of the State and the people depending on the situation of the international market, to overcome all difficulties through unity and try to ensure smooth and speedy local and foreign trade. No need to worry about any economic problem if a nation can keep its regular domestic market going.

Overall, according to some experts, it is less likely that the world will face total economic

meltdown due to the global financial crisis. It is also speculated that the world economic situation can be remedied in a matter of one or two years. However, it is certain that the trust in the open market system and the leading economies of West Bloc will be on the wane. It is also expected that the practice of protectionism can erupt in regional economies as a repercussion of the financial crisis.

In my opinion, whatever the global financial crisis or the global economic recession, we don't need to worry about that. It cannot have great impact on our nation. I would like the people not to be swayed by the threatening words of foreign media as saying that Myanmar people are in trouble as the prices of rice, beans and pulses, cars and lands and houses are falling. I have already discussed the true situation. No matter whoever says what, our country capable of standing on its own feet and relying on itself has overcome all difficulties many times. I want the people to understand this.

All in all, the US and its allies impose economic sanctions and restrictions on and made accusations against our nation. But our nation remains unruffled. Myanmar has had a fine tradition throughout the history that she can stand steadfastly and overcome all difficulties in times of emergency.

Now, the powerful nations that have imposed economic sanctions on us have to be suffering the financial crisis and economic recession. Even though we cannot gain the benefits from such countries, we may suffer their consequences to an extent according to the process of globalization. For this, we don't hate them, and we ourselves don't need to lose heart. It is a must for the three forces such as the State, the people and the Tatmadaw to remain united and brace against the crisis. I would like to say that we can remain unperturbed about the global financial crisis if we don't forget the fact that we have the ability to stand tall for ever.

Translation: MS+ST

Why London Millennium Bridge 'wobble'?

LONDON, 18 Dec—On its opening day, the London Millennium Bridge experienced unexpected swaying due to the large number of people crossing it. A new study finally explains the Millennium Bridge 'wobble' by looking at how humans stay balanced while walking.

The same pedestrian-structure interaction has also been identified on several other bridges, including Bristol's famous Clifton Suspension Bridge.

The phenomenon is not related to the structural form of the bridge, but rather the behaviour of the pedestrians. The paper by civil engineers at the University of Bristol, published in the Royal Society journal Proceedings of the Royal Society A, examines the basic way humans maintain balance.

Balance is achieved by changing the position of foot placement for each step, based only on the final displacement and speed of

the centre of mass from the previous step.

The same balance strategy as for normal walking on a stationary surface was applied to walking on a laterally swaying bridge.

Without altering their pacing frequency, averaged over a large number of cycles, the pedestrian can effectively act as a negative damper to the bridge motion, which may be at different frequency. Hence the pedestrian can inadvertently feed energy

into bridge oscillations.

Dr John Macdonald, Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering, said: "It is clear that the motion of the bridge affects the force from the pedestrian, rather than the pedestrian simply applying an external force."

It has generally been thought the Millennium Bridge 'wobble' was due to pedestrians synchronizing their footsteps with the bridge motion. However, this is not supported by measurements of the phenomenon on other bridges.

Internet

Course on construction & maintaining power grid concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Conducted by Ministry of Electric Power No. 2, course No. 2/2008 on construction and maintaining of power grid system concluded at the ministry here yesterday.

Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an address at the concluding ceremony.

A total of 42 engineers of the ministry received the training during the course. Managing Director of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo presented completion certificates to the trainees. The concluding ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental heads of the ministry.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Ananda Pagoda.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave necessary guidance and signed in the visitors' book.

The Senior General viewed gold Buddha image and silver Buddha image, 12 inches in height, 11 inches in width between two knees of the image and five inches in thickness cast in 12th Century, found at the Pagoda No. 1515 near Myebontha Phayahla in Bagan, the bronze water lily bud cast in 11th Century and dolomite plaque and dolomite Buddha image of Bagan era, bronze Buddha image, fossil ivory parts of ancient elephants and fossil molars.

At Ananda Pagoda, the Senior General and party offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha image at the western archway and paid homage to the pagoda.

The Senior General also paid homage to the Buddha images in the tunnel of the Ananda Pagoda clockwise and made cash donations.

At Hsinmyarshin Pagoda, the Senior General and party paid obeisance to the Buddha image offering flowers, water and lights and made cash donations to the funds through the pagoda board of trustees. Later, they paid homage to the pagoda.—MNA

Rural development, self-reliant village libraries supervised in Pale Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—To supervise rural development tasks and development of self-reliant village libraries in Pale Township, Sagaing Division, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan continued his trip to Nweshauk Village of the township on 15 December and met with over 1,700 local people from Nweshauk, Kyunphogon

and Kanbauk villages.

After hearing reports, the minister attended to the needs of education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors and gave instructions on regional development.

He presented K 200,000 for the self-reliant library in Nweshauk Village and clothing and kitchen utensils to the local people, and Head of

Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, books donated by the Information Department, to libraries of Nweshauk and Kanbauk villages through officials. Next, the minister cordially greeted the local people. After visiting Nwe Thit Mon self-reliant village library and urged them to build a well-established library.

In the afternoon, the minister met with over 1,100 people from Ywahtin, Shwelaung, Nyaunggon, GyogyarU, Ywatha and Leingon villages at Ywahtin Village.

Officials reported on undertaking of rural development tasks, and the minister fulfilled the needs in village power supply, transport and health care services.

Next, the minister presented K 200,000 for the clinic of Ywahtin Village, K 100,000 for the library of GyogyarU Village and clothing and kitchen utensils for the local people and Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win, books donated by MWAF to libraries of Ywahtin and GyogyarU villages through officials. Later, the minister cordially greeted the local



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents donations for Ywahtin Village dispensary.—MNA

people.

After visiting Htin Gabar Self-Reliant Village Library in Pale

Township, the minister gave instructions on perpetual existence of the village library.—MNA

Prize presentation ceremony of colour photo contest on 21 Dec

YANGON, 18 Dec—Securitizing Committee has selected winners of colour photo contest titled Peaceful and Modern Myanmar, held in commemoration of 61st Anniversary Independence Day, which falls on 4 January, 2009. The prize presentation ceremony will be held at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San road here on 21 December.

The prize winners are requested to make contact with the committee (Tel: 371342).—MNA

Russian Language Course in Feb

YANGON, 18 Dec—With the arrangement of the Union of Myanmar Travels Association, Russian language course (Intermediate Level) will be opened in early February, 2009.

Those who want to learn Russian language may attend the three-month course which will be lectured by a Russian native teacher.

More information are available at the Union of Myanmar Travels Association (Tel: 559672 and 559673).—MNA



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Htin Gabar Self-Reliant Village Library in Pale Township.—MNA

Twantay Township gets Tamatakaw Bridge

YANGON, 18 Dec—The opening ceremony of Tamatakaw Bridge built by Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee was held at the bridge near Tamatakaw village in Twantay Township this morning, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental officials, members of social organizations, students and local people.

First, the commander and the mayor cut the ribbon to open the bridge and the mayor presented the commemorative pennants to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the mayor and officials inspected the bridge.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to construction site of Yaynganyochaung bridge being built by the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of YCDC near Mangay village in the township and heard reports on works being carried out presented by Head of the department U Bo Htay.

MNA



Tamatakaw Bridge in Twantay Township.—MNA

Preparations for drilling test-well inspected in Thagyitaung oilfield

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 14 December inspected preparations for drilling the well in Thagyitaung oilfield

with the use of machinery in Pauk Township.

Officials of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on preparation for drilling a new deep well.

In his instructions, the minister said that the imported deep well drilling machines are to be used in drilling No. 1 test-well in Thagyitaung oilfield in accordance with the seismic survey. Workers are to make all-out efforts in drilling the well for ensuring local fuel sufficiency.

The employees who cooperated with foreign technicians are to try hard to have work efficiency. In

addition, the officials are to systematically supervise drilling works through technology. The minister viewed preparations for drilling the well with the use of ZJ 70L SR I deep well drilling machine and attended to the needs. At No. 2 Fertilizer Plant (Kyunchaung), the minister inspected tasks for organizing the anniversary celebration of the plant and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects preparations for drilling test-well in Thagyitaung oilfield.—ENERGY

Yenangyoung Township BEHS No. 1 gets new school building

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—A ceremony to open the newly-built Shwe Parami two-storey school building donated by Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Chandhadhika and laypersons and wellwishers and to hand over the documents related to the building to the Ministry of Education was held in front of the school building of Yenangyoung Township Basic Education High School No 1 in Magway Division on 14 December.

It was attended by Sayadaw Ashin Chandhadhika, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Director-General U Win Kyi of Settlement and Land Records Department, Secretary of Magway Division Peace and Development Council U Myint Thein, Chairman of Magway District PDC U Min Aye Lwin, departmental officials, members of social organizations, wellwisher U Shein Win, Chairman of Tatlan Construction Co Ltd, and members, wellwishers, students and local people. Firstly, Sayadaw Ashin Chandhadhika, the managing director, the director-general and the chairman of Magway District PDC opened the new school building.

Next, the Secretary of Magway Division PDC unveiled the signboard of the new school building.

Wellwisher U Shein Win handed over documents related to the new school building to Magway Division Education Officer U Than Nyunt. The eight-classroom new building, 120-foot long and 36-foot wide, was built with K 156 million donated by wellwishers.—MNA



Opening ceremony of newly-built Shwe Parami two-storey building of No. 1 Yenangyoung BEHS in progress.—MNA

North Yama Supporting Dam contributes to supplying potable water, greening Pale Township

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

(from page 16)

For ensuring development of the country in all sectors, the government of the Union of Myanmar is striving for equitable improvement of economic, social, health and construction tasks on the plateaus, plains and border regions including the coastal regions.

In this regard, the government is making all-out efforts for all round development of other sectors of the economy based on the agriculture sector. In accord with the instructions of the government, the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation built North Yama Supporting Dam on North Yama Creek, two miles southeast of Aingma Village in Pale Township, Monywa Dis-

trict, Sagaing Division, after conducting feasibility studies to utilize water and land resources.

In the past, North Yama Dam had been built on North Yama Creek. The water storage capacity of the dam was 14,075 acre-feet and the flow of water into the dam was about 130,000 acre-feet. Therefore, the dam yearly lost the water from the spillway and the supporting spillway.

The aim of building North Yama Supporting Dam is to control about 93,300 acre-feet of water overflowed from North Yama Dam and to irrigate 12,000 acres of farmlands.

Together with Staff Officer U Aung Min Naing and U Zaw Myat Ko of Construction-4 of Irrigation Department, I made a trip to North Yama Dam along Pale-Gangaw



North Yama Supporting Dam storing water to the brim.

Road. Thanks to construction of the dam opened in November 2007, double cropping of paddy and chick pea plantations are thriving with the help of irrigation facilities.

The staff officers explained that the earthen embankment of the dam is 136 feet high and 1,200 feet long. The supporting

dam is located six miles upstream of North Yama Dam. The annual flow of water is 110,000 acre feet. The storage of water at the dam is 122,900 acre feet at the full brim and 21,240 acre feet at the lowest level. The water surface of the dam is 3,993 acres. Two reinforced concrete type con-

duits measure 4 feet by 6 feet.

To generate hydro-power, the supporting dam was installed with two 19-inch diameter pre-stressed steel pipes at the basin of the chute.

Thanks to construction of North Yama Supporting Dam, the water overflowed from North

Yama Dam can be stored to irrigate the double and mixed cropping plantations in the region, contribute to increasing the income of the local farmers, supply potable water to the people and green the region.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 9-12-2008

Stipend granted to four-distinction winner

YANGON, 18 Dec—Stewards and airhostesses of flight section batch (3) from Air Bagan Ltd, to mark their third anniversary service, granted sti-

pend to Ma Myat Pwint Phyu Aung of Salingyi BEHS, daughter of U Aung Min, who passed the 2007-2008 academic year matriculation exami-

nation with four distinctions.

They will give stipend to her until she completes her tertiary education.—MNA



Stewards and airhostesses of flight section batch (3) of Air Bagan Ltd present cash assistance to Ma Myat Pwint Phyu Aung.—AIR BAGAN



Joint Secretary of MGEA U Maung Ko speaks at opening ceremony of MGEA's Yangon Division Association Office.—MNA

MGEA sets up Yangon Division Association office

YANGON, 18 Dec — Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association opened its Yangon Division Association Office on Shwebontha Street at No. (62/68) on the first floor in Pabetan Township, here yesterday.

Joint Secretary of MGEA U Maung Ko

(Htarwara Co Ltd) made a speech. Chairman of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association Yangon Division Office U Ba Than (BT Gold Smelting) made clarification about establishment of the association and Vice Chairman U Kyaw Myint (Shwe Myin Pyan

Gold Smelting) also spoke on the occasion.

The gold merchants and entrepreneurs will do their business there.

The gold dealers and entrepreneurs can apply for memberships of Yangon Division Association Office.

MNA

Deforestation in Brazil's Atlantic forest reaches 793 hectares

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Dec — The deforestation in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest has totaled 793 hectares in the past three years, the country's National Institute of Space Research (Inpe) and the SOS Atlantic Forest Foundation said on Wednesday.

The total area is equivalent to 990 soccer fields.

The deforestation mainly occurred in the metro areas of Rio, Sao Paulo and Vitoria, the capital city of Espirito Santo state. All the three are located in Brazil's most densely populated

southeastern region.

The largest deforestation was registered in the Sao Paulo metro area, where 437 hectares of forest were suppressed in three years. That represents about nine times the deforestation registered between 2000 and 2005.—*Internet*

Exercise a habit with 28% people

BEIJING, 18 Dec — About 340 million people exercised regularly last year, with 250 million of them spending an average of 593 yuan (\$88) on sport or sport-related activities.

A State General Administration of Sport survey released yesterday said a record 28.2 percent of the population spent more than 30 minutes on physical training at least

three times a week.

The national survey shows health awareness among urban residents is much higher than rural people.

The percentage of those who exercise regularly among the 593 million urban residents is three times that of the figure among the 727 million people living in rural areas. The authorities said the

figures reflected the rising health awareness among urban residents after 2001, when Beijing won the right to host the 2008 Olympic Games.

"People are remarkably more aware about physical fitness and have become more active on physical training," said Sheng Zhiguo, head of Sports for All Department under the administration.—*Internet*

Suspected meningitis outbreak kills 29 in N Nigeria

LAGOS, 18 Dec — An outbreak of a disease suspected to be meningitis has claimed an unofficial figure of 29 lives in Aggur village in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State, reported the News Agency of Nigeria on Wednesday.

Abubakar Dikko, a resident of the area on Wednesday said he noticed the outbreak last week and reported it to the local authorities.

Deputy Director of Primary Health Care Department in the council area, Ibrahim Isa, confirmed the outbreak.

Permanent Secretary in the State's Ministry of Health, Umaru Attahiru, also confirmed it, but said that only five or six people died from the disease.

He added that patients are complaining of back pains, diarrhoea and fever, noting that the state government would get to the root of the matter soon. The ministry had dispatched a medical team and drug to the area and had also commenced an investigation into the cause.—*Internet*



Japanese officials wave as journalists watch a Japanese Air Self-Defence Force C-130H preparing to take off from the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait on 17 Dec, 2008. The last of three JASDF C-130H cargo planes departed from Kuwait for Japan on Wednesday as Japan wrapped up its nearly five-year airlift operations in Iraq, Kyodo News said.—INTERNET

Two trains derail in crash along Mississippi River

DRESBACH, 18 Dec — Two freight trains collided early Wednesday, derailing 40 cars and sending an engine and some railcars plunging into the Mississippi River, authorities said. No serious injuries were reported.

Why the Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd trains collided is under investigation, said Mike LoVecchio, a spokesman for the rail company in Calgary, Alberta.

The trains crashed about 5:30 am near Dresbach in southeastern Minnesota. One rail car struck a 1,000-gallon propane tank attached to a switching station, causing a small leak that was stopped by early afternoon, authorities said.

About 25 disabled veterans at the nearby Mosher Veterans Rest Home near Dresbach were evacuated for several hours as a precaution because of the leak but returned home by late afternoon, said Joyce Tlougan, deputy director of Winona County Emergency Management.

Internet

NEWS ALBUM

Car key blocks mobile phone use while driving

A pair of US inventors are bringing to market a computerized car key that prevents people from chatting on mobile telephones or sending text messages while driving.

Key2SafeDriving adds to a trend of using technology to thwart speeding, drunken driving, and other risky behavior proven to ramp-up the odds of crashing.

Once slipped into a car's ignition, the key created by US university researcher Xuesong Zhou and Dr Wallace Curry sends a wireless signal to a driver's mobile phone blocking calls or texting.

"If you're in driving mode, you can't talk or text — period," a character tells a friend trying in vain to send a text message while driving a car in a YouTube video demonstrating how the keys work.

The keys are being pitched as a way for parents to stop teenage children from focusing attention on beloved mobile telephones instead of traffic.

A growing number US states are enacting laws against teenagers using mobile telephones while driving.

Obama's true colours: Black, white ... or neither?

A perplexing new chapter is unfolding in Barack Obama's racial saga: Many people insist that "the first black president" is actually not black.



This 1960's file photo provided by the presidential campaign of Sen Barack Obama, D-Ill, shows Obama with his mother Stanley Ann Dunham. The Kansas-born mother, the Kenyan-born father, Barack Obama Sr, met at the University of Hawaii. They marriage, and Barack, 'blessed' in Arabic, was born on 4 Aug, 1961.

Debate over whether to call this son of a white Kansan and a black Kenyan biracial, African-American, mixed-race, half-and-half, multiracial — or, in Obama's own words, a "mutt" — has reached a crescendo since Obama's election shattered assumptions about race.

Obama has said, "I identify as African-American — that's how I'm treated and that's how I'm viewed. I'm proud of it." In other words, the world gave Obama no choice but to be black, and he was happy to oblige.

But the world has changed since the young Obama found his place in it.



Rower rescued off Australia after 10-month journey

An Italian adventurer who spent 10 months rowing more than 9,500 nautical miles (18,000 kilometres) across the Pacific was rescued a mere 65 nautical miles short of his goal — Australia — after rough weather sapped him of his final shreds of energy.

Alex Bellini, who began his voyage off Peru in February, contacted his wife Friday to say he was too

exhausted to row his 25-foot (7.5-metre) boat any farther, despite being nearly in sight of the eastern Australian town of Laurieton.

Bellini's wife contacted authori-

ties, and an Australian tug boat towed the 30-year-old to shore. They reached Newcastle, 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of Sydney, Saturday morning.



Camels arriving in Australia at Port Augusta. Australians were urged Tuesday to eat camels to stop them wreaking environmental havoc, just months after being told to save the world from climate change by consuming kangaroos.

A saleswoman measures the height of the heel of a shoe in a shopping mall in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province. The high-heel shoe with a 10-centimetre-thick sole and 20-centimeter-high heel draws people's attention.

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 Dated:19 December,2008

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 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 (For Eccles & Lee
Patent and Trademark Attorneys, Hong Kong)
 Dated: 19 December 2008

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF FORESTRY
 MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

DATE, 19-12-2008

SEALED TENDER NO. (STWB-01/2008-2009)

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL HOLD A SEALED TENDER SALE AS FOLLOWS.

COMMODITY : (I) TEAK/HARDWOOD CARVING (VARIOUS DESIGN)
 (II) TEAK/HARDWOOD PANEL DOOR
 (III) TEAK/HARDWOOD CARVED ELEPHANT
 (IV) TEAK/HARDWOOD FURNITURE

QUANTITY : ABOUT (238.7) TONS
 DATE : 5-1-2009 (MONDAY)
 TIME : (12:00) NOON
 PLACE : GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE, WOOD BASED INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE, AHLONE.

EARNEST MONEY : EURO 10000 IS REQUIRED FOR OVERSEA COMPANIES.
 : EURO 5000 IS REQUIRED FOR MYANMAR COMPANIES.

PLEASE CONTACT THE GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE, WOOD BASED INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOYNO (029)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOYNO (029) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Philippines stops pork shipment due to Ebola fears

MANILA, 18 Dec—The Philippines has stopped a shipment of 50,000 tons of pork to Singapore after traces of low pathogenic Ebola-Reston virus were found on some hog farms in the country, officials said on Monday.

The shipment was supposed to be the country's first ever pork export. The pork products were set to be sent to Singapore on 10 December when the government voluntarily stopped the shipment due to food safety concerns, said Davinio Catbagan, director of the government's animal industry bureau.

The Philippines has informed Singapore's AgriFood and Veterinary Authority (AVA) about the Ebola-Reston virus among pigs in four northern areas in the country, Catbagan said. "We're still waiting for their reply," Catbagan told reporters.

The presence of the Ebola-Reston virus in some pigs in four farms in the country was the first such case anywhere in the world, Caroline-Ann Coulombe, a spokeswoman of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Manila, told Reuters.

But the WHO still considered the case as a "low public health risk" because the Ebola virus strain found in the Philippines was not known to be fatal in humans in the past, Coulombe said.

The Philippines has said all tests conducted on workers from the hog farms and butchers from slaughterhouses handling the pigs from the farms yielded negative for the presence of the Ebola-Reston virus.— MNA/Reuters

Latam has 40 mln natives with 420 languages

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec—Up to 40 million natives who speak 420 different native languages are now living on the vast continent of Latin America, local media said Monday citing a recent UNICEF survey.

The survey, conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), showed a total of 522 native villages scattered across Latin America from Mexico to Argentina. Among the 21 countries involved in the survey, Brazil has 247 of the 522 native villages, while El Salvador has the fewest.

The natives account for 10 per cent of the whole population of Latin America. At least 420 different languages are still in use among the natives, including a few that scholars once thought had disappeared already, the survey said.

Together with the survey, the UNICEF also published a book and DVD of the native words and cultures.

Inge Sichra, who was in charge of the project, said the survey was trying to make people know more about the current life of the natives, with a hope of seeking solutions for social inequality.—MNA/Xinhua

Report says 45% Nepali people infected with TB

KATHMANDU, 18 Dec—Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are still major health problems in South Asia, which shoulders 28.3 per cent of the global TB burden and is home to 2.6 million HIV-positive people, *The Himalayan Times* daily reported on Tuesday.

According to an opening report released by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre, at the SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases, 45 per cent of Nepalis were infected with TB, 60 per cent of whom are adults.

Every year, 40,000 people develop active TB, of whom 20,000 have infectious pulmonary TB, resulting in 5,000 to 7,000 deaths, the report said.

The report added that AIDS is spreading rapidly in all SAARC countries, often fueled by high-risk practices such as sex work.

In Nepal, it maintains, the AIDS prevalence is low in general population but significantly higher among those engaged in sex trade and injecting drugs with contaminated needles.

MNA/Xinhua

Donate Blood

South Korean elementary school children make a scrum during a winter survival camp at Marine Training Center in Gimpo, west of Seoul, on 18 Dec, 2008. Some 50 students participated in the three-day camp to strengthen themselves mentally and physically.—INTERNET



Doctors explain face transplant

CLEVELAND, 18 Dec — Details have emerged of the first almost-total face transplant performed by surgeons in Cleveland, Ohio.

Eight specialists transplanted bone, muscle, blood vessels and nerves in the 22-hour operation, doctors said. They did not name the female patient, but said an injury several years ago had left her without an eye, most of her nose and her upper jaw.

The transplant was the fourth to have been carried out after two operations in France and one in China.

Dr Maria Siemionow, the reconstructive surgeon in charge of the operation, said 80% of the woman's face was replaced with that of a dead female donor.

The patient had been

disfigured to the point where she could not eat or breathe on her own, doctors involved in the transplant told a press conference at the Cleveland clinic on Wednesday.

They said they hoped the surgery, performed two weeks ago, would allow her to regain both the abil-

ity to smile and her sense of smell.

"We need the face to face the world," said Dr Siemionow.

The world's first face transplant took place in France three years ago, on Isabelle Dinoire, a woman who had been mauled by her dog. —Internet



Eight specialists took part in the 22-hour operation.—INTERNET

Missing plane's pilot had only student license

SAN JUAN, 18 Dec — The pilot of a plane that disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle with 11 passengers aboard had only a US student pilot license and should have never been allowed to fly, Dominican authorities said on Wednesday.

Adriano Jimenez had been stripped of his Dominican license in 2006 because he was caught flying multiengine planes when he was only authorized to fly helicopters, said Pedro Dominguez, president of the Dominican Pilots Association. Two weeks ago, he had a minor accident while landing a small plane at a Dominican airport.

"An in-depth investiga-

tion was never opened to prevent what today we are lamenting," Dominguez said.

Jimenez loaded 11 passengers onto a twin-engine plane in Santiago, Dominican Republic, on Monday and filed a flight plan for a landing in Mayaguana Island in the Bahamas, but he never arrived, according to the Dominican Civil Aviation Institute.

Jimenez sent an emergency signal about 35 minutes after takeoff and then disappeared from the radar.

He was flying in low visibility over rough seas, according to US Coast Guard Petty Officer Barry Bena.

Rescue crews have searched about 4,000 square miles (10,300 square kilometers) but have not turned up any sign of the plane or its passengers, said Lt. Matt Moorlag of the Coast Guard.

The plane went missing in the Bermuda Triangle, a zone of the Atlantic Ocean noted for a supposedly high number of unexplained losses of small boats and aircraft.

The missing aircraft's owner, Luis Perez of Puerto Rico, said he hired a pilot to fly the BN2A MK III Trislander to the Dominican Republic so that Jimenez, a potential buyer, could inspect it.

Internet

Company to pay millions in fatal Big Dig collapse

BOSTON, 18 Dec — Prosecutors will drop a manslaughter charge against the only company charged in the fatal Big Dig tunnel collapse after the epoxy maker agreed to pay \$16 million to

settle a lawsuit.

Under the "deferred prosecution agreement" with state Attorney General Martha Coakley, Powers Fasteners Inc also will take steps to prevent the wrong type of epoxy from being used by its customers, said Max Stern, a company attorney.

"They are happy to put this behind them and get back to business," he said.

Coakley spokeswoman Emily LaGrassa confirmed the two sides reached an agreement to resolve both criminal and civil cases against Powers, but she wouldn't release details. Coakley planned a news conference later Wednesday. The Brewster, NY, company was indicted after the July 2006 death of Milena Del Valle for providing the epoxy blamed in the ceiling collapse. —Internet



In this 11 July, 2006, file photo, firefighters inspect a section of ceiling in the Interstate 90 eastbound connector tunnel through Boston that collapsed onto the roadway and killed a woman passenger in a car.—INTERNET

1,500 parakeets rescued from two-room Berlin apartment



A couple of budgerigars at a zoo. Berlin city officials, summoned by complaints over the noise, found a 60-year-old man sharing his two-room flat with 1,700 budgerigars.—INTERNET

BERLIN, 18 Dec — Berlin officials say they have rescued 1,500 parakeets from a two-room apartment. City veterinarian Margit Platzer says the birds

were flying freely around the apartment, which was "littered with feces, feathers and leftover food."

Platzer says it took her team more than seven hours on Tuesday to catch all the birds with nets. The birds were taken Wednesday to animal shelters in Berlin and elsewhere because there was not enough room for them at facilities in the capital. Local media reported, without citing sources, that the owner gradually bought and bred the birds until his apartment was full, and that neighbors had complained about the noise and smell.

The retired man, who was not identified, could face charges for endangering the animals' safety and health.

Internet

Chrysler plants close for a month

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — The struggling US carmaker Chrysler is to halt production at all 30 of its plants for one month.

Chrysler needs to save money as it waits for the US government to find a way to help the car industry. A \$14bn (£9.4bn) bailout deal for the industry failed in the Senate last week, raising fears of job cuts and a possible industry collapse.

Chrysler also needs to reduce production to reflect falling demand as the economy stumbles. Dealers have been unable to

sell cars even to people with the confidence to buy them, because they have been unable to take out car-loans.

"As a result of the financial crisis, the automotive market remains depressed due to the continued lack of consumer credit for potential buyers," Chrysler said in a statement.

It left open the possibility that the plants would be closed for more than a month. "Impacted employees will not return to work any sooner than Monday 19 January," it

said.

Also on Wednesday, Ford announced it was to extend the normal two-week Christmas shutdown at 10 of its North American plants for an extra week. Last week, General Motors announced it was shutting down 30% of its North American production.

Chrysler, Ford and General Motors have warned that millions of jobs could be lost if the government does not agree to a package of loans to support the industry. —Internet



Chrysler plants will not resume production before 19 January.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Manchester United celebrate with their 2008 UEFA Champions League trophy at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow, in May. A research commissioned by MasterCard has concluded that the winners of this season's Champions League can expect to make 110.35 million euros, despite worldwide financial problems caused by the global credit crunch.—INTERNET

Champions League still lucrative despite downturn

LONDON, 18 Dec—The winners of this season's Champions League can expect to make 110.35 million euros according to a new study.

Research commissioned by MasterCard, the official sponsor of European club football's leading tournament, said getting to the knockout stages alone would earn teams an average of 38.45 million euros each despite worldwide financial problems caused by the global credit crunch.

"In uncertain economic times, sport's universal appeal remains strong, making it one of the most lucrative industries to be involved in," said Professor Simon Chadwick of Coventry University, central England, who conducted the research.

"The competition continues to be an important source of revenue and commercial activity for clubs, especially for those that qualify for the knockout phase of the competition.—INTERNET

ITF honours Nadal and Jankovic as World Champions

PARIS, 18 Dec—World No 1 Rafael Nadal of Spain and Jelena Jankovic of Serbia were named on Wednesday as World Champions for 2008 by the International

Tennis Federation (ITF). The 22-year-old Nadal, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and Olympic gold in Beijing to dethrone Roger Federer atop the rankings, is the first Spanish man to be named men's World Champion.

"It has been an incredible year for me and I will never forget all that's happened," Nadal said.

"To finish the year ranked No 1 was really special. At the same time I was proud to win the Olympic gold medal, and help Spain regain the Davis Cup. It has been a wonderful year for Spanish sport, and I am happy to have been part of it."

INTERNET



World No 1 Rafael Nadal, seen here, of Spain and Jelena Jankovic of Serbia have been named as World Champions for 2008 by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).—INTERNET

Ferguson urges limits on foreign players

YOKOHAMA, 18 Dec—Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson has backed FIFA's plan to limit the number of foreign players at clubs, saying it is crucial to help develop local talent.

FIFA's 6+5 proposals would oblige teams to play at least six homegrown players in a match, but it is opposed by the European Commission because it breaches the bloc's strict rules on free movement of workers.

Ferguson though said the plan was important in encouraging the develop-



Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson

ment and protection of young talent.

"I think it should be a concern when local and national players are not given opportunities, so therefore eventually there have to be limitations on foreign players," he said after meeting here with FIFA president Sepp Blatter.—INTERNET

Pregnant Davenport withdraws from Aussie Open



Three-time Grand Slam winner Lindsay Davenport (seen here in January) announced that she is pregnant and has taken herself off the WTA Tour indefinitely.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec—Three-time Grand Slam winner Lindsay Davenport announced that she is pregnant and has taken herself off the WTA Tour indefinitely.

After agreeing to participate in the Australian Open last week, the 32-year-old former world No 1 pulled out of the event on Wednesday.

"Of course this unexpected, but exciting, surprise now means I will be putting tennis on hold for the foreseeable future," Davenport said.

After returning to the tour after the birth of her first child, Jagger, Davenport won four of her 55 career singles titles. Davenport has won three Grand Slam titles — US Open in 1998, Wimbledon in 1999 and the Australian Open in 2000.

INTERNET

Deportivo qualify through the back door in UEFA Cup

PARIS, 18 Dec—Deportivo La Coruna qualified by the back door from the UEFA Cup group stages as the 2004 Champions League semi-finalists struck a late winner through Rodolfo Bodipo for a 1-0 victory at home to Nancy.

FC Copenhagen thanked Cesar Santin for a second-half winner in their 1-0 win at FC Bruges to also get their ticket through while Lech Poznan got the third and final berth of the night following a win by the same scoreline at Feyenoord with Ivan Djurdjevic on target.

Another six places in February's two-leg Round of 32 are on offer in Thursday's fixtures before Friday's draw which comprises the eight third-placed teams in the Champions League groups and the 24 UEFA Cup qualifiers.

INTERNET



Deportivo Coruna's Rodolfo Bodipo celebrates after scoring against AS Nancy during their UEFA Cup Group H football match at the Riazor Stadium in Coruna. Deportivo won 1-0.—INTERNET

Tiger Woods says knee rehab right on schedule

THOUSAND OAKS, 18 Dec—Tiger Woods wore sneakers instead of spikes. He sat next to a bottle of Gatorade Tiger, not the silver US Open trophy. One thing that didn't change at his first press conference in 184 days were questions about his left knee.

But after speaking for a half-hour Wednesday at Sherwood Country Club, covering everything from his rehab to his caddie to his improbable victory at Torrey Pines, the most powerful statement about his health and future required no words at all.

Does he have any doubts he will be better than before?

Woods turned up the bottom of his lip, shook his



Tiger Woods

head three times and mumbled, "Uh-uh," as if that had never entered his mind.

Six months after reconstructive surgery on his left knee to repair a ruptured ligament — his third surgery in six years — Woods said he was right on schedule to return, already hitting short irons and excited about playing on a leg that has never been more stable.

INTERNET



Christian Gimenez, left, of Mexico's Pachuca CF and William Araujo, right, of Ecuador's Liga Deportiva Universitaria Quito battle in the air in the first half of their semi-final match at the FIFA Club World Cup soccer tournament in Tokyo, Japan, on 17 Dec, 2008. Quito won 2-0.—INTERNET

Birmingham to host

US v Switzerland Davis Cup matches

BIRMINGHAM, 18 Dec—The United States Tennis Association has chosen Birmingham, Alabama as the host city for the 2009 first round match between USA and Switzerland.

The matches will be played in the 17,000-seat indoor Convention Complex Arena from 6-8 March. The United States and Switzerland are two of the 16 nations competing for the 2009 Davis Cup title as part of the Davis Cup World Group. The US leads all nations with 32 Davis Cup titles.

"The tennis fans in Alabama are in for something special," American Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe said. "There is nothing in tennis, or sport, like a Davis Cup match."

Singles players Andy Roddick and James Blake and the doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan have competed for Team USA in 10 of the past 11 Davis Cup matches.—INTERNET

Death toll tops 1,100 from Zimbabwe cholera

HARARE, 18 Dec— The death toll from a cholera epidemic in Zimbabwe has soared to 1,111, the United Nations said on Thursday, adding to pressure for a quick solution to the crisis in the southern African country.

South African ruling ANC leader Jacob Zuma backed a diplomatic push as the way to end political deadlock and rejected any suggestion of sending troops.

The latest cholera figures from the UN

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva included a new outbreak in Chegutu Urban in Mashonaland West, west of Harare, where more than 378 cases and 121 deaths have been recorded, it said in a statement.

It said more than 20,580 people had been affected by cholera since August. Mugabe agreed to share power with opposition leader Morgan Tsvanigrai in September, raising hopes of a power-sharing government that could bring the country back from economic meltdown.

But negotiations are deadlocked over who should control key ministries.

Prominent figures, including Kenyan Prime

Minister Raila Odinga and Nobel peace laureate and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, have called for Mugabe to go or for peacekeeping troops to be sent to Zimbabwe.

When asked in an interview with South Africa's 702 Talk Radio whether he favoured sending troops to Zimbabwe, ANC leader Zuma said: "No. Why military intervention when there is no war? We should be pressurising them to see the light." South Africa's ANC-led government, however, has continued to back the regional SADC group's efforts to mediate an end to the crisis. Former South African President Thabo Mbeki is leading the mediation of the power-sharing talks.—Internet

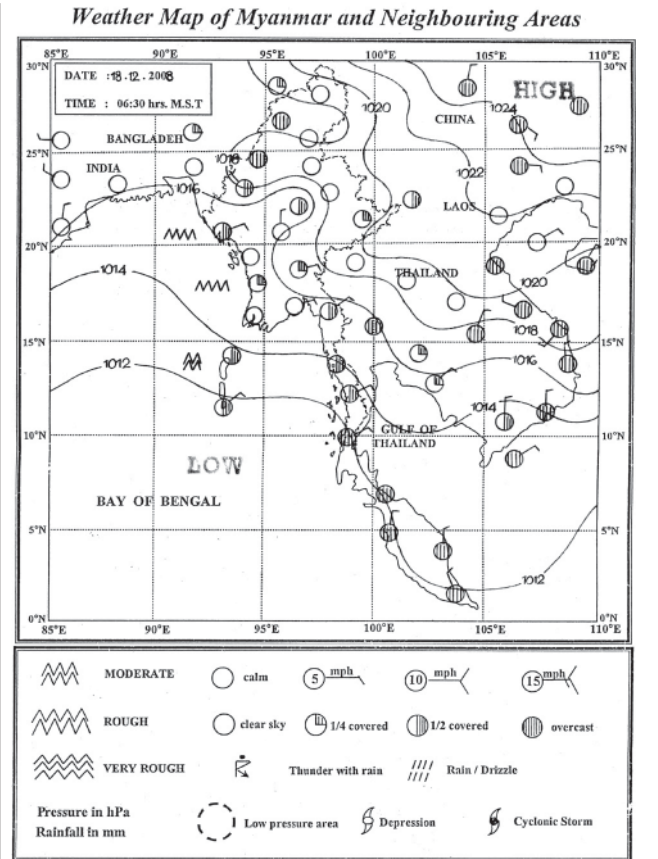
Study: Coal should be global warming concern

NEW YORK, 18 Dec— Global warming scenarios are based on oil reserves, but those reserves will have less impact on global climate than the extent to which liquefied coal replaces oil and gas, scientists said at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

"Oil and gas by themselves don't have enough carbon to keep us in the dangerous zone for very long by themselves, but that's assuming we do something about coal," Pushker Kharecha, a researcher for the U.S. space agency NASA and Columbia University in New York.

Estimates vary, but coal is the most abundant fossil fuel, and countries like China and the United

States are looking at liquefaction technology. Many industries in South Africa already use liquefied coal. In 2007, Illinois Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Kentucky Republican Jim Bunning introduced legislation that would set the stage for large-scale production of transportation fuels from coal. Bunning and president-elect Obama come from state with prodigious coal supplies.—Internet



WEATHER

Thursday, 18 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Mon States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-1°C) and Loilem (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 17-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 18-12-2008 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-12-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 17-12-2008 was (7.7) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 18-12-2008 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 Southeast at (11:45) hours MST on 17-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19th December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

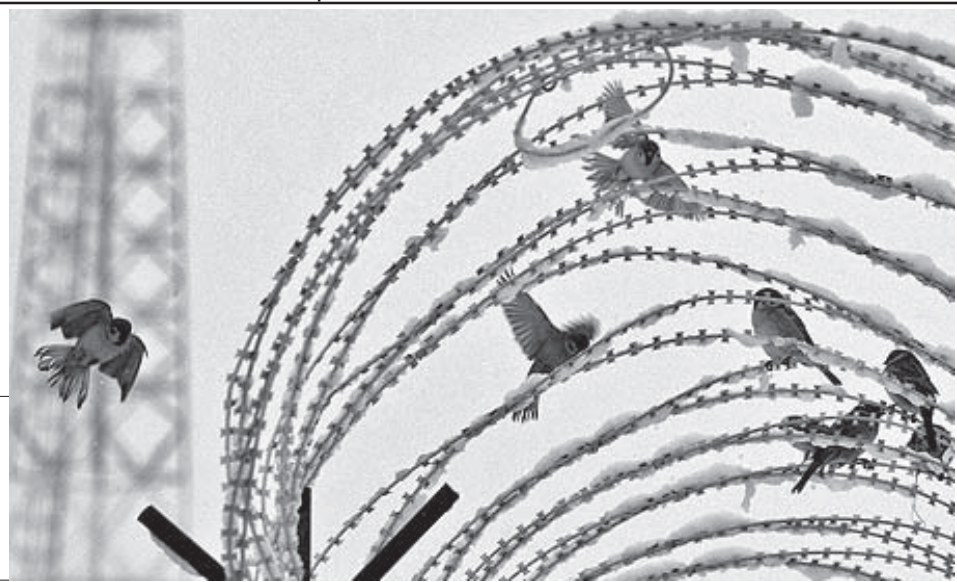
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-12-2008: Generally fair weather.



Birds perch on snow-covered razor wire at a French military outpost in Afghanistan.
INTERNET



Friday, 19 December
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. တောင်တန်းသာနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

- 7:55 am**
5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am**
6. “အသိစိတ်ကလေးအရင်းတည်၍” (ဖြူစွန်း၊ ထင်ရှား၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)
- 8:20 am**
7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm**
2. Dance of national races

- 4:20 pm**
3. ဝိုင်းဝန်းဆွေးနွေးအကြံပေး တိုးတက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုကုန်မာရေး
- 4:35 pm**
4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)
- 4:50 pm**
5. Songs to uphold national spirit
- 5:05 pm**
6. Songs of yesteryears
- 5:20 pm**
7. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား
- 5:40 pm**
8. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

- 6:00 pm**
9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
- 7:10 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကုန်သွယ်မှုနှင့်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၃၆)
- 8:00 pm**
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၅၆)

Four political objectives

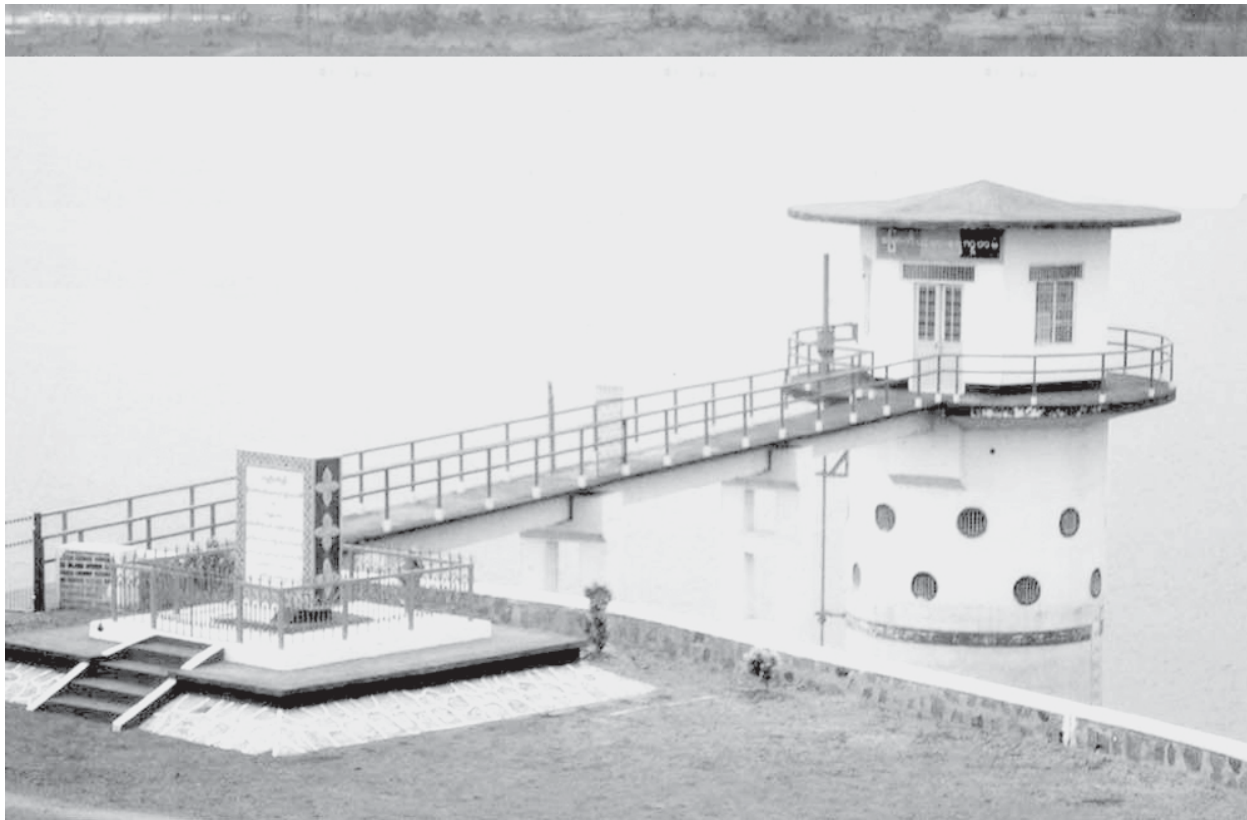
- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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



Water control tower seen at North Yama Supporting Dam built in Pale Township.

North Yama Supporting Dam contributes to supplying potable water, greening Pale Township

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

(Byline on page 10)

Take Fire Preventive Measures

INSIDE

We can remain unperturbed about the global financial crisis if we don't forget the fact that we have the ability to stand tall for ever.

PAGES 6+7

KYAW YE MIN

Salgado fears Bayern

MADRID, 18 Dec—Real Madrid defender Michel Salgado is hoping to avoid German outfit Bayern Munich in Friday's draw for the last 16 of the Champions League.

Madrid have been dumped out of the competi-



Salgado - hopes to avoid Bayern.

tion at the first knockout stage in each of the last four years, including losing to Bayern in that round on the away goals rule in 2007 following a 4-4 aggregate tie.

The Spanish champions, who finished second in Group H, could also come up against the likes of holders Manchester United, 2005 winners Liverpool and Roma in the draw, but it is Bayern who Salgado fears most.

"The team I don't want is Bayern Munich," said Salgado, who has been at Madrid since 1999 and helped the Spanish giants win two Champions League titles.

"They are the worst team you can get in a two-legged tie. I've played against them five times and when you face them in a knockout tie they are very difficult.

"You can never assume you have eliminated them until it's over," added the 33-year-old full-back to Spanish radio station Onda Cero.—Internet

Cosmic rays do not explain global warming, study finds

OSLO, 18 Dec—A new study supports earlier findings by stating that changes in cosmic rays most likely do not contribute to climate change. It is sometimes claimed that changes in radiation from space, so-called galactic cosmic rays, can be one of the causes of global warming. A new study, investigating the effect of cosmic rays on clouds, concludes that the likelihood of this is very small.

A group of researchers from the University of Oslo, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), CICERO Center for Climate and Environmental Research, and the University of Iceland, are behind the study.

Unlikely that cosmic rays affect global warming.

Internet



Changes in cosmic rays are not likely to contribute to climate change.