



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Buddha Image at west entrance of Ananda Temple in Bagan-NyaungU.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and party, paid homage to pagodas in Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay Division, yesterday evening.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Lawka Nanda Buddha's Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda and paid homage to the pagoda. Senior

General Than Shwe and party offered flowers, water and lights to the Image and donated cash to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

On arrival at Ananda Temple, Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Buddha Image at the west entrance and offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image. Senior General Than Shwe and party donated cash to the Pagoda Board of Trustees and paid homage to the Buddha Images inside the temple.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party



Vice-President of PRC to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping will pay an official goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar in near future.—MNA

paid homage to Kakuthan Buddha Image at the east entrance of Shwezigon Pagoda. Senior General Than Shwe and party offered flowers, water and lights to the Image and donated cash to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Senior General Than Shwe and party cordially greeted the local people and pilgrims along the passage of Shwezigon Pagoda.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 December, 2009

Make relentless efforts for timely completion of projects

The government is making all-out efforts for national development. In this regard, it is trying its utmost for prevalence of peace and stability throughout the nation, economic development and improvement of the living standard of the people.

The government is giving priority to implementing projects aimed at bringing about equitable development across the nation and improvement of socio-economic status of the people.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on 13 December inspected Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) construction project site and gave guidance. Senior General Than Shwe in his guidance called for parallel working of building the bridge and the railroad, saying that the bridge will be the longest of its kind in the nation, so it must meet the set standards.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will link Letpanchepaw Village in NyaungU Township on the eastern bank and Pakokku on the western bank of Ayeyawady River. With its over two miles long main bridge, it will be the longest one in the nation. The bridge is of RC steel frame and will have two motorways and railrack in parallel flanked by two pedestrian walkways.

The Pakokku-Myinchaik Letpanchepaw-Thithtauk-NyaungU railroad section is being constructed to be completed in time along with Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku). The railroad section will link the Magway-Taungdwingyi railroad section on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River and the Kyangin-Pakokku railroad section on the western bank of Ayeyawady River.

Roads and bridges are being constructed for national development although funds to be spent on them are huge. And we firmly believe that the people will enjoy the fruits of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Project when it is completed in time meeting the set standards.

Respects paid to doyens at their homes

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—The doyen literati who were not able to attend respect paying ceremony held in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day (1371 ME) for various reasons were paid respect right at their homes. Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association

and CEC member U Aung Thein Win (Maung Khaing Khant) and party presented gifts and cash assistance to four doyen literati in Yankin and Pazundaung Townships at their homes this evening. The remaining doyens literati living in Yangon municipal area will be paid respects.

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

Coord meeting on holding 62nd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony held

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The Sub-committee for Organizing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Nay Pyi Taw Command this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Sub-committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, chairmen of the subcommittees and working groups, secretaries, joint secretaries, members and officials.

First, the commander

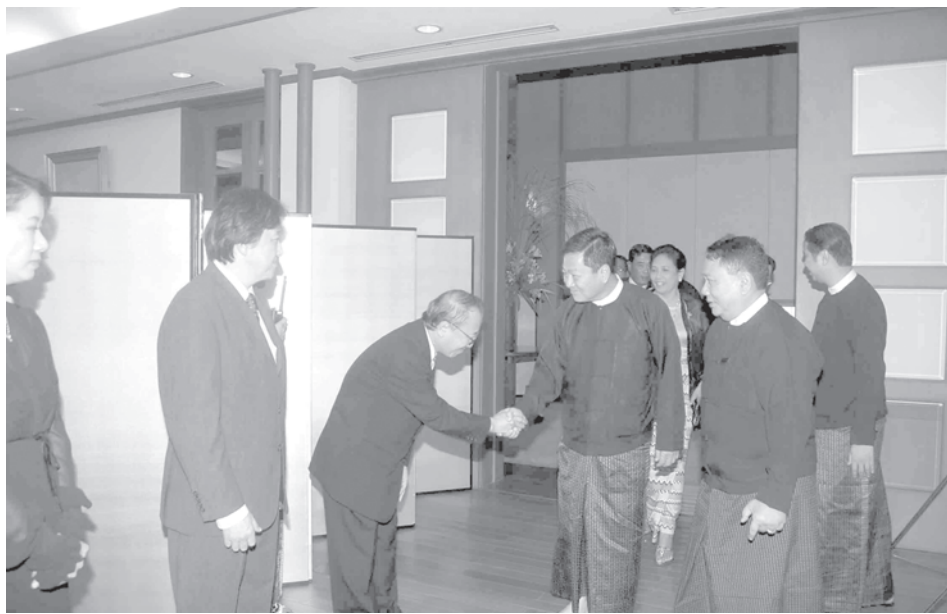


Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses the meeting on holding 62nd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony.—MNA

made an opening speech. The secretary gave clarified plans on holding the ceremony.

The chairmen and the officials reported on progress of work and future tasks.

The Commander coordinated essentials and made concluding remarks.—MNA



Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Yasuaki Nogawa on 11 December welcomes Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and wife at the reception to mark the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor and the 20th Anniversary of His Majesty's ascension to the throne.—MNA

Gifts presented to Correction Department (Mawlamyine)

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—A ceremony to donate inverters to Mawlamyine Correction Department (Mawlamyine jail) in Mon State was held at the department on 9 December.

It was attended by well-wishers Head of Mawlamyine District Police Force Lt-Col Shwe Aye, U Khin Maung Kyaw, U Thein Lin, U Zaw Naing, U Tin Shwe and U Thin Maung Soe, and Assistant Director U Aye Ko Ko and staff.

First, Police Lt-Col Shwe Aye explained



Police Lt-Col Shwe Aye presents inverters and cash assistance to officials.—MNA

purpose of the donation and presented inverters, refreshments and cash

assistance to Assistant Director U Aye Ko Ko. The assistant director

then spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Taleban speed up attacks as US top commander visits Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Dec—Taleban militants have intensified activities amid the visit of Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, to Afghanistan as over a dozen policemen have been killed over the past 24 hours in the post-Taleban nation.

In the latest wave of violence and apparently coordinated attacks, the militants raided police checkpoints in the restive southern Helmand Province and the relatively

peaceful northern Baghlan Province killing at least 15 police constables late last night and this morning.

Anti-government militants stormed a police checkpoint in Baghlan-e-Markazi District of Baghlan Province late Sunday night killing seven police constables, a police officer Ahmad Jan told *Xinhua*. He also added that a militant commander Qari Mansoor was killed in the firefight.

In a similar incident

the militants killed seven policemen in the militancy-hit Helmand Province in south Afghanistan early on Monday, spokesman for the provincial administration Daud Ahmadi said.

Furthermore, Taleban militants wounded one police constable in an engagement with police in the northeast Takhar Province at 11:00 am local time, according to provincial police chief Ziadin Mahmoudi.

Xinhua



A wounded woman is helped outside the Heetal Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 15 Dec, 2009. An apparent suicide car bomber blew himself up in the vicinity of a hotel in Kabul that is frequented by foreigners.—INTERNET

Bombers breach Baghdad security again, killing four

BAGHDAD, 16 Dec — Three car bombs struck the heart of Baghdad on Tuesday killing four people in the fourth wave of coordinated attacks in as many months, days after top ministers were quizzed in parliament over security.

Fourteen people were wounded in the blasts, which came in quick succession during the height of the morning rush hour, an interior ministry official said.

The first bomb exploded in a car park opposite the Iranian embassy around 7:30 am (0430 GMT), the second minutes later near the foreign ministry and the third soon after in a car park by the ministry for emigres and displaced persons.

“Dear God, how on earth do the police and soldiers let these booby-trapped vehicles through,” wailed Um

Ali, whose son Maki, 28, works in the car park hit by the third bomb and who was seriously wounded in the blast.

“A man left his car this morning and headed off almost at a run. When my son approached the vehicle, it blew up,” she said, crumpled on the pavement. Baraa al-Saraj, 26, who works inside the nearby Green Zone, the highly protected compound which houses the US and British embassies as well as government offices, said the bomb was clearly targeted at civil servants.

Internet

Two NATO tankers torched in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 15 Dec—Unknown assailants torched two NATO tankers in southwest Pakistan’s Balochistan Province on Tuesday, local TV channel reported.

According to police sources, the tankers carrying fuel for NATO forces in Afghanistan were set ablaze on the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan Province, the private *TV DAWN News* reported.

Local police officer Jamil Kakar said police found no drivers and cleaners in both the tankers when they reached the spot. He added that the police were trying to locate the drivers.

Xinhua



Iraqi police officers secure the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 Dec, 2009. A series of car bombs ripped through downtown Baghdad near the heavily fortified Green Zone.

INTERNET

US military bases in Colombia threaten regional peace

HAVANA, 15 Dec — US military bases in Colombia are a grave threat to the peace, security and stability in Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA) said on Monday.

In a final declaration at the ALBA summit, the group strongly condemned American political and military activities in the region and an agreement the US signed with Colombia to set up or use military bases in that country.

The ALBA said that Latin America and the Caribbean must be free of foreign military bases, reaffirming that it is unacceptable to use the fight against drug trafficking and international terrorism as excuses to increase America’s military presence in the area.

The ALBA’s member countries said the real aim of the United States was to control the region’s economic resources and markets and to hold back ongoing social changes there.—*Xinhua*

Fumes sicken over 30 students at Boston school

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—At least 34 students in a Boston school were sent to hospital on Monday after they reported sickened by fumes, said a local media report.

According to WCVB TV, the students at the Excel Charter School complained in the morning that they felt nausea and dizziness, and were sent to area hospitals for treatment.

The whole school was evacuated after more people reported smelling fumes, possibly natural gas, and fell sick, it said.—*Xinhua*

Mayon volcano in Philippines oozes lava; alert up

MANILA, 15 Dec—Authorities moved thousands of villagers from harm’s way near the Philippines’ most active volcano on Tuesday after it oozed lava and shot plumes of ash, and said they probably will spend a bleak Christmas in an evacuation centre.

State volcanologists raised the alert level on the cone-shaped, 8,070-foot (2,460-metre) Mayon volcano overnight to two steps below eruption after

ash explosions and dark orange lava fragments glowing in the dark trickled down the mountain slope.

Nearly 50,000 people live in a five-mile (eight-kilometre) radius around the mountain, and authorities began moving thousands of them in case it erupts, Albay provincial Gov Joey Salceda said.

“Whatever the volcano does, our target is zero casualty,” Salceda told *The Associated Press*.

Salceda said he decided to cancel a trip to Copenhagen, where he was to attend a UN climate conference to discuss his central Albay Province’s experience with typhoons and other natural disasters.

Internet

Mayon volcano in Legazpi city, Albay Province, continues to spew ash on 15 Dec, 2009 about 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of Manila, Philippines.—INTERNET



Developing Asia economy to grow by 4.5% in 2009

MANILA, 15 Dec—The bulk of 45 economies of developing Asia is expected to grow by 4.5 percent in 2009 after third-quarter data showed a better-than-expected performance by many countries in the region, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its latest report on Tuesday.

In a special assessment of the region, ADB said it

now expects developing Asia to grow by 6.6 percent in 2010.

The forecasts were mildly upgraded from its prediction made in September.

ADB forecasts East Asia — comprising the People's Republic of China (PRC); China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; South Korea; Mongolia;

and China's Taiwan — will expand by 5.1 percent this year and 7.3 percent next year while Southeast Asia is now set to grow 0.6 percent in 2009 and 4.5 percent in 2010. Southeast Asia is made up of Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; and Vietnam.

Xinhua

Russia's crude oil exports increase 1.8% in 2009

Moscow, 15 Dec—Russia's crude oil exports in 2009 rose 1.8 percent year on year, but gas exports tumbled 10 percent, Russian news agencies quoted Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin as saying on Monday.

Russia's oil output increased 1.0 percent to 493 million tons this year, with oil exports at 247.4 million tons, up 1.8 percent from the 2008 level, Sechin said at a meeting with President Dmitry Medvedev.

Natural gas exports, however, have been hit by lower demand in Europe.

Gas exports slumped 10 percent to 170.6 billion cubic metres in 2009, Sechin said. Total gas production was 575 billion cubic metres, down 13.5 percent from the year earlier, he added. He said coal output plunged 10 percent to 296 million tons, but coal exports amounted to about 100 million tons, over 2 percent higher than that in 2008.—Xinhua

China's fifth largest automaker buys Saab assets from GM

BEIJING, 15 Dec—Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings Co Ltd (BAIC), China's fifth largest automaker, has agreed to take over some of the assets of General Motor's Saab arm as part of its plans to develop cars under its umbrella, *China Daily* reported on Tuesday.

BAIC is one of the few Chinese automakers not to have its own car brand and model, and also has limited production and research and development experience in passenger cars, according to the newspaper.—Xinhua

Russian customers drive to leave China after shopping in Manzhouli, the largest land port on the Sino-Russian border in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 12 Dec, 2009.—XINHUA



Daimler to triple Beijing JV capacity

BEIJING, 15 Dec—Daimler AG, parent of German luxury car brand Mercedes-Benz, will triple the production capacity at its Beijing joint venture amid skyrocketing local demand, *China Daily* reported on Tuesday.

The capacity of Beijing Benz-Daimler Chrysler Automotive Co

Ltd (BBDC), a joint venture between Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Co Ltd, Daimler AG and Daimler North East Asia Ltd, would be raised to 75,000 to 100,000 units per year, depending on shift patterns, the newspaper said, citing Ulrich Walker, chairman and

CEO of Daimler North-east Asia.

According to Walker, BBDC has increased the localization rate of Mercedes cars to 45 to 50 percent and identified 85 new China-based suppliers and worked with them to support the local production.—Xinhua

New gas pipeline near Turkmen-Uzbek border commissioned

BEIJING, 15 Dec—Chinese President Hu Jintao has wrapped up his visit to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia. Earlier on Monday, he attended an inauguration ceremony for a gas pipeline near the Turkmen-Uzbek border.

The leaders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan joined Hu Jintao to commission the more than 1,800 kilometre fuel supply route that snakes across Central Asia. The project connects with existing pipelines that carry natural gas produced in

Turkmenistan to major Chinese cities like Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong.—Internet

ExxonMobil bets on gas with XTO deal for 41 billion dollars

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—ExxonMobil announced plans on Monday to acquire rival exploration firm XTO Energy for 41 billion dollars, a deal giving the largest US energy producer a bigger share of domestic natural gas reserves. The biggest US oil group said the all-stock takeover deal would “enhance ExxonMobil's position in the development of unconventional natural gas and oil resources.”

The transaction includes the assumption of

10 billion dollars in XTO debt and offers shareholders a 25 percent premium to the most recent stock price. Analysts said the deal acquiring XTO, an independent drilling firm that has become one of the largest producers of natural gas, highlights the growing importance of the cleaner-burning fuel amid concerns on greenhouse gases.

The deal “will be a taken as a major bullish signal on natural gas,” said Joe Weisenthal, ana-

lyst at the financial website Business Insider.

“The deal will boost Exxon's presence in the natural gas industry at a time of low prices for the commodity,” added Melly Alazraki at the Daily Finance website.

While natural gas is a byproduct of oil wells, XTO and others have been working to recover gas trapped in wells thought to be depleted through vertical wells to pockets of trapped methane.—Internet



Andean Indian women fight for the ball at the second annual Mamacha national female soccer championships in Lima, on 12 Dec, 2009. Andean women from all over Peru gathered in Lima for the tournament.—INTERNET



Liu Xiaojiang, political commissar of the Navy of Chinese People's Liberation Army, addresses the welcome ceremony of the Chinese naval 3rd escort fleet, in Hong Kong, south China, on 14 Dec, 2009. —XINHUA

Singapore aims to create hassle-free healthcare system

SINGAPORE, 15 Dec—Singapore's Health Minister KhawBoon Wan said that creating a hassle free healthcare system for each region in Singapore is a major strategy his ministry is pushing, local media reported on Monday. It will make healthcare more convenient, safer and better at the lowest possible cost, local TV broadcaster Channel NewsAsia reported.

Khaw pointed out that the traditional institution-centric approach to healthcare will no longer be adequate due to Singapore's ageing population. He expected local acute hospitals to work closely with key healthcare partners, such as community hospitals, nursing homes, general practitioners (GPs), home healthcare teams and hospices, with all taking a patient-centric approach in their daily work.

He added that to achieve success requires "integration of care" between all the healthcare providers along the entire range of services, from acute hospital specialists to GPs to home nurses to home palliative care teams.—Xinhua

Turkish police seize cocaine capsules in drug trafficker's stomach

ANKARA, 15 Dec—An Ecuadorean smuggler swallowed 66 capsules of cocaine in an attempt to bring the drug into Turkey but was found and arrested by the police, Turkish media reported on Monday.

The trafficker caught police attention at the Customs in Istanbul's Ataturk Airport and accepted an X-ray check on his stomach, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency quoted officials as saying.

The capsules were taken out after a two-day medication at the hospital and altogether 700 grammes of cocaine were discovered, said the report.

Xinhua

Workers work in the grape field in Concha Y Tora, Chilean major wine producer and chateau, at the outskirts of Santiago, capital of Chile, on 14 Dec, 2009. XINHUA



Chinese scientist awarded UNESCO's Avicenna Prize

PARIS, 15 Dec—Chinese scientist Qiu Renzong was awarded the 2009 Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science on Monday by the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova awarded the prize to professor Qiu, the organiza-

tion said in a statement, calling Qiu a pioneer in the field of bioethics.

The committee of the Avicenna Prize laureated Professor Qiu as a recognition of his research in the ethics of science and steadfast public advocacy of ethical issues related to science.

Besides his work on life-sustaining technology, assisted reproduction technology, public health and cloning, Qiu made a leading contribution to ethical policy with over 20 volumes and nearly 280 articles published on ethical issues and guidelines drafted for researchers and policy-makers, the

statement said.

Qiu will receive the prize composed of a certificate, a gold medal commemorating his contribution to scientific ethics and a cheque for 10,000 US dollars, at a ceremony on 18 Dec at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Qiu is currently an emeritus senior research fellow at the Institute of Philosophy of Chinese Academy of Social Science and professor and chairperson of the Academic Committee at the Centre for Bioethics at the Peking Union Medical College.

Xinhua

Carbon monoxide takes down 17 workers in central France

PARIS, 15 Dec—Seventeen workers were hospitalized due to sickness caused by penetrating carbon monoxide at their working garage in the central French city of Bourges, local media reported on Monday.

Soon after some 78 car fixers started their regular work at the garage in the morning, some of them showed sick symptoms like headache and stomachache. The firefighters arrived later and transferred all workers to safer places, and they found thick carbon monoxide in the fixing store. The workers suffering grave sickness have been sent to a nearby hospital by the rescuers.—Xinhua

Three killed in market fire near Moscow

MOSCOW, 15 Dec—Three people were killed and four others injured on Monday in a fire at a wholesale market outside Moscow, said the Investigative Committee of the Russian Prosecutor General's Office.

The fire engulfed the Mytishchin market near the intersection of the Moscow ring road and Ostashkovsky highway on Monday morning, the *Itar-Tass* news agency quoted the Investigative Committee as saying.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 13 Dec, 2009 shows the White House Theatre in Branson, Missouri, the United States. China Heaven Creation officially took over the White House Theatre on Monday.

XINHUA



Chinese company purchases theatre in US

BRANSON, 15 Dec—China Heaven Creation International Performing Arts Co Ltd (CHC) on Monday formally took over the ownership of the White House Theatre in Branson, Missouri, making the first ever successful purchase of an American theatre by a Chinese company.

Cao Xiaoning, CEO of the Chinese performing company, signed the documents on the 3.54 million-US-dollar deal with representative of the White House Theatre at Hogan Land Title Co in Branson. Mrs Raeanne Presley, the

Mayor of Branson, Mr Li Dongwen, Cultural Counsellor of Chinese Embassy, and some other officials from the City of Branson were present at the signing ceremony.

In an interview with *Xinhua* after the signing ceremony, Cao said, this is the first time ever for a Chinese entertainment enterprise to purchase a theatre in the United States. The purpose is to bring the Chinese shows into entertainment business in the United States. "With China's economy growing stronger, the Chinese show business has

started its way to step into the international arena," he added.

He said "in the United States, there are many shows involved Chinese performers, like those talented acrobatic performers, if we name them. But all of these shows are arranged by foreign producers not Chinese. So (CHC) hopes to change the situation. CHC has produced many high quality shows in China, and toured internationally with a big success. Now, the company aims the American residential entertainment market." —Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

More than 70 vehicles involved in pile-ups in Ottawa

OTTAWA, 15 Dec—More than 70 vehicles were involved in pile-ups on a main highway south of Canada's capital on Monday morning, causing multiple injuries.

The chain reaction crashes occurred just before 8 am local time (1300 GMT) on Highway 416 in the city's south end. Rescue workers said about 32 vehicles are involved in one crash, and up to 40 vehicles in a second chain-reaction pileup.

At least one truck is involved, and one vehicle ended up on its roof. Paramedics have treated several injured motorists and continue to assist those who remain at the scene. Dozens of emergency vehicles are on the scene.—Xinhua



Children admire a set of paper-cut works made by their Kindergarener Du Ying from the Yuxiangyuan Nursery School in Yuncheng, north China's Shanxi province on 14 Dec, 2009.

XINHUA

Solar power unit does more with less sunshine

KONA, 15 Dec—The world's first solar thermal plant using proprietary MicroCSP solar panels opened at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii in a major new response to the state's clean energy initiative.

The thermal energy project spans 3.8 acres in the Kona desert and features 1,000 of the solar panels, the first of their kind, Hawaii-based Sopogy Inc said.

Through the use of mirrors and optics and an integrated sun tracker, the company claims the panels achieve higher efficiencies than conventional solar panels and are good at gathering energy even in the cloudiest of conditions.

Internet

Earthquake warning system feasible

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Dec—The US Geological Survey says its research has determined an earthquake early warning system for use in California is feasible.

USGS scientists said earthquake early warning systems, already successfully deployed in Mexico, Japan and China Taiwan, can detect an earthquake in progress and provide notice of seconds to tens of seconds prior to actual ground shaking. After a three-year USGS-funded earthquake

early warning study was completed in August, a second USGS-funded project was launched to integrate the previously tested methods into a single prototype warning system. When completed, the pilot system—called the California Integrated Seismic Network Shake-Alert System—will provide warning to a small group of test users, including emergency response groups, utilities, and transportation agencies.

While in the testing

phase, the system will not provide public alerts.

The USGS said its ShakeAlert system will detect strong shaking at an earthquake's epicentre and transmit alerts ahead of the damaging earthquake waves. Potential applications include stopping elevators at the nearest floor, slowing or halting trains, monitoring critical systems and alerting people to move to safer locations.

Internet

Russia launches three navigation satellites

MOSCOW, 15 Dec—Russia launched a Proton-M carrier rocket with three Glonass navigation satellites atop from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan on Monday.

A Live TV broadcast showed that the rocket blasted off at 13:38 Moscow Time (1038 GMT) from the Central Asian launching pad.

Anatoly Perminov, head of the Federal Space Agency, pledged earlier

that six satellites for the Glonass satellite network would be launched by the end of 2009. However, Perminov announced on 5 Dec that Monday's launch was the last this year and the launch of three other Glonass satellites was postponed until February 2010.

Glonass, the Global Navigation Satellite System, is the Russian version of the US Global Positioning System (GPS).

Both systems allow users to determine their positions to within a few meters.

The Glonass satellite cluster is now composed of 19 satellites, including 16 in use, two under regular maintenance and one with an expired service life.

The system requires 18 satellites for continuous navigation services covering the entire territory of Russia.—Xinhua

No more endangered eel at top supermarket



Eels curl up in a bucket in the polders surrounding the Southern Dutch Village of Numansdorp.

Smoked eel on toast looks set to become an even rarer treat at Dutch parties, as the main supermarket group in the Netherlands plans to stop selling the endangered fish from 2010.

Following moves by smaller competitors, Albert Heijn said it would phase out all eel products on its shelves next year, and would introduce a different fish sort as a more sustainable alternative to the popular national delicacy.

The Ahold-owned chain has more than a 30 percent share of the Dutch market, far outstripping rivals.

The move will come as a blow to Dutch fisheries, who have also been hit by a partial ban on eel fishing introduced this year, aimed at stemming a 95 percent slide in the European eel

population in the past four decades.

The European eel is classified as "critically endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The Dutch arm of environmental group WWF has compared eating an eel roll to consuming a panda sandwich.

The long snake-like slippery fish is a popular treat at Dutch parties and fairs, most commonly smoked but also baked and eaten in stews for dinners.



The Sandovaz family from Mexico snap pictures by the 110-ton stainless steel Anish Kapoor sculpture called 'Cloud Gate' and nicknamed 'The Bean' during a visit to Millennium Park in downtown Chicago on 4 Jan, 2008. Vacationers coming to the city think the winter is a good time because there are fewer crowds and better deals to be had. The city and hospitality industry are trying to convince more visitors to come, promoting everything from nine ice rinks around the city to deals at hotels and museums.

Rotating house puts family in a spin

An Australian family is turning heads with a rotating house that can guarantee a different view every time they wake up.

The Everinghams have been in a spin since they moved into their dream home in the countryside north of Sydney three years ago. They can turn the house to follow the sun without having to leave the comfort of their armchairs. "When you wake up you do wonder where you'll be facing," said Luke Everingham, a sound-engineer who came up with the idea with his wife, Deb, after chatting with neighbours.

The neighbours wished they had built their home 15 degrees further to the north to capture more sunlight.

The octagonal-shaped house sits on a turntable powered by a small electric motor and controlled by a computer, which allows it move on demand.



An octagonal, three-bedroom, family home built on a rotating platform near Wingham, about 250km (155 miles) north east of Sydney, is shown in this undated handout picture. The house, which cost about A\$700,000 (\$641,000) to build, can complete a full rotation in about 30 minutes according to its owners.

Makeup hides neo-Nazi's swastika in court

A neo-Nazi gang member went on trial for murder on Monday with his swastika and other tattoos covered by makeup on the order of a Florida judge who thought they could prejudice jurors.

The judge ordered the state to pay for a cosmetologist to apply makeup before trial each day to cover up the tattoos on John Ditullio's face and neck, which include a swastika, barbed wire and an obscene word.

Ditullio, 23, is charged with stabbing to death 17-year-old Kristofer King in 2006 in New Port Richey, north of St Petersburg.

His lawyer argued in a pretrial motion that the tattoos, which Ditullio acquired after his arrest, could prejudice a jury.

The judge agreed but ruled that any tattoos Ditullio had before his arrest should not be covered.

NEWS ALBUM

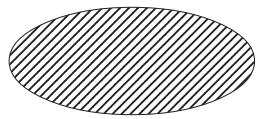
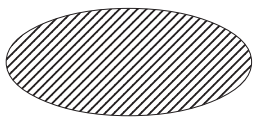


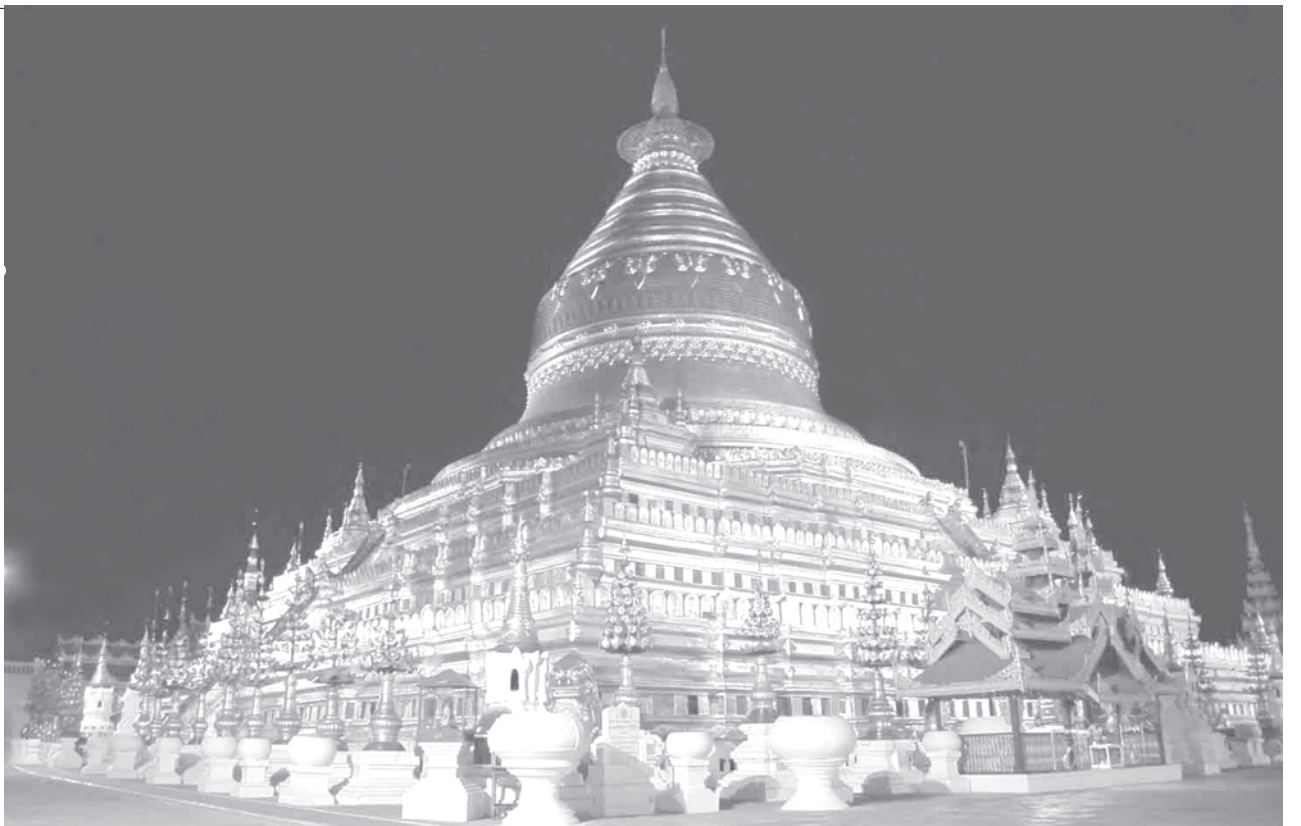
Photo shows Lawka Nanda Buddha's Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda in Bagan-NyaungU.

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MNA



Senior General Than Shwe offers flowers, water, and lights to Shwezigon Pagoda
(News on page 1)—MNA



EP-2 Dy Minister attends Refresher Course for Officers (1/2009)

YANGON, 15 Dec—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint attended the opening ceremony of Refresher Course for Officers (1/2009) at Central Training School (Hlinethaya) in Hline Township, here, yesterday morning.

It was also attended by Director-General U Khin Maung Zaw of Department of Electric Power, Managing

Director U Aung Than Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Chairman Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Electric Supply Board, departmental heads, officials and 70

trainees.

The deputy minister having made an opening address viewed the items displayed in the training hall.

The course will last two weeks.—MNA

188 drug-related cases exposed in November

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—The Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department exposed 188 drug related cases in November 2009.

They seized 24.04086 kilos of opium in

23 cases, 3.0687 kilos of heroin in 63 cases, 0.34525 kilos of opium oil in 3 cases, 4.9082 kilos of low-grade opium in 8 cases, 38.6050 kilos of marijuana in 21 cases, 193,000 stimulant tablets in 42 cases, 63.9909 kilos of opium speciosa in 10 cases, one case of 1.002 kilos of stimulant powder, 0.41793 of cough syrup two cases, 63 bottles of Buprinorphere in three cases, 7,252,035 Pseudo Ephedrine tablets in three

cases, eight cases of failure to register and other one case.

Action was taken against 296 persons—245 men and 51 women—in 188 drug related cases according to law.—MNA

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced that according to the observations at 5:30 pm today, the cyclonic storm "Ward" over the Mannar Gulf of India was getting abated and turned into depression and then is centering at about 50 miles South-East of Nagapattinam of India. It is forecast to move Northwest.—MNA

**Donate
Blood**

The Ayeyawady river-crossing bridges that will promise development of the nation

Kyaw Ye Min



every region of the Union and to further cement national solidarity. All endeavours of the government are based on genuine goodwill and Union Spirit. With the development of roads, railways, waterways and airways and modernization of communication links, transport between one region and another will become easier and speedier. It will ensure not only increased contacts among national races but also speedy flow of commodities. The result would be further development of respective regions for sure.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ayeyawady bridge (Sinkhan) is being constructed near Sinkhan village in Bhamo Township upstream the second Ayeyawady defile. The construction started in May, 2009, and it is going to be a rail-cum-road bridge.

(See page 9)

Recently we have had a chance to learn about the news, on TV as well as in newspapers, of the Head of State's inspection tour of the Yadanarpon new town construction site, the Ayeyawady bridge construction site (Sinkhan) and the Ayeyawady bridge construction site (Pakokku). The government's measures for development of roads and bridges, especially the Ayeyawady bridge construction site (Sinkhan) and the Ayeyawady bridge construction site (Pakokku) are very encouraging and heartening.

With a view to serving long-term interests of the future democratic state, the government is working day and night to build required infrastructures. It is doing so to narrow the gap between the national brethren as much as possible, to ensure rapid and harmonious development of each and

**Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
Senior General Than Shwe views
construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan).—MNA**



The Ayeyawady river-crossing bridges that will promise development of the nation

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 8)

The completion of the bridge will allow goods from all parts of the country to flow speedily to Bhamo by car as well as by train. Moreover, border trade will develop between Myanmar and China. Anyway, the bridge will surely bring about the easy and smooth transport and regional development for people living in the region.

The main structure of the Ayeyawady bridge (Sinkhan) will be 3,215 feet long; the approach roads from the Katha side and the Bhamo side are going to be 710 and 770 feet long respectively; the total length of the motor road is to be 4,695 feet; the total length of the railroad, including the approach railroads, is to be 5,510 feet. The bridge is of broad crest type, with two 3-ft-wide pedestrian lanes, a 14-ft-wide railroad and a 28-ft-wide motor road. The bridge will have 47 feet high clearance and will be able to withstand 75-ton loads.

The Ayeyawady bridge (Sinkhan) is a major structure on the Katha-Bhamo railroad being constructed. In fact, Katha and Bhamo regions were remote areas and so lacked direct links with arterial motor roads and railroads. As a result, they are behind the other regions in every way. These bad situations will be over soon. It is because the government, with a view to serving the long-term interests of the people living in these regions, has built the Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo road and is now constructing the Katha-Bhamo railway and the Ayeyawady bridge (Sinkhan).

Katha and Bhamo are in northern part of the country and like remote regions just because they lacked good transport. Now, as new motor roads and railroads are being built and hydroelectric power projects implemented there, they will surely enjoy rapid development sooner or later. With regional development, national races such as Kachin, Shan and Bamar living in these regions will also enjoy higher standards of living. "Yaymyint Kyarmyint," as a Myanmar saying goes. If we look at the government's nation-building endeavours, we can obviously see that it is building necessary development infrastructures the length and breadth of the Union for the good of the entire national people.

Similarly, the government is already preparing ground work for building the Ayeyawady bridge (Pakokku) that will link Letpanchepaw village in NyaungU Township on the east bank of the Ayeyawady and Pakokku on the west bank. Pre-engineering work

is being carried out such as seeking preliminary alignments of the bridge, measuring the speed of the current and stockpiling of construction materials, machinery and vehicles.

The bridge will be 11,431 feet (2.16 miles) long with a rail-cum-road. It is of broad crest type. It has a 28-foot-wide two lane motorway and a 14-foot-wide railroad. Its clearance area is 52 feet in height. There will be a three feet and three inches wide walkways on either side of the bridge. It is on Pakokku-Myincheint-Letpanchepaw-Thithtau-NyaungU railroad section.

Hearing the reports on construction project of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the Head of State stressed the need to expedite construction tasks of the bridge and the road at the same time, to place emphasis on meeting the set standards as it is the longest bridge in the country, to show off innate ability of the people and the state by constructing the longest bridge to be the best quality and to thoroughly and effectively implement the project in order that it can be regarded as the exemplary project in the nation. The guidance is really correct and valuable.

While watching the news of the Head of State's tour, we witnessed infrastructural buildings of Pakokku, the capital on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River such as development, regional greening, universities, schools, departmental buildings and internal roads. The Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will guarantee more prosperity of Pakokku region in the future.

The Ayeyawady River is the life-blood of Myanmar and its people as it flows from north to south through the centre of the country. However, the bridge was a barrier, dividing the country into two parts. So, construction of many river-crossing bridges in strategic regions was really necessary. The entire national people had to rely only on the Inwa Bridge across the Ayeyawady River built by the British imperialists in the colonial period. That is why in the time of the Tatmadaw government, like the Inwa Bridge, eight more bridges have been built as the glory of the nation.

They are the 4183-foot Nawade Bridge opened in Pyay, Bago Division, on 18-9-1997; the 2362-foot Maubin Bridge opened in Maubin, Ayeyawady Division, on 10-2-1998; the 2688-foot Bala Min Htin Bridge opened in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 14-11-1998; the 8544-foot Bo Myat Tun Bridge opened in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division, on 15-11-1999; the 5192-foot

Anawrahta Bridge opened in Chauk, Magway Division, on 4-4-2001; the 8989-foot Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) opened in Magway, Magway Division, on 24-11-2002; the 4088.3-foot Dedaye Bridge opened in Dedaye, Ayeyawady Division, on 23-3-2003; and the 5614-foot Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanapon) opened in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, on 11-4-2008.

Moreover, more Ayeyawady River-crossing bridges namely Sinkhan, Malun, Pakokku and Nyaungdon are under construction and efforts are being exerted to complete them almost at the same time. So we can say that the old bridge of the colonial period and the eight already-built bridges and four more bridges under construction in the time of the Tatmadaw government are competing against each other for their beauty, serving the interests of the State, the people and their own regions. In reality, emergence of one bridge after another is thanks to the improved economy of the nation, improved technology and efficiency and the government's sound management of development projects in cooperation with the people. These results reflect the government's benevolent attitude towards the State and the people.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, a network of roads and bridges, after strategic plans have been made, are being built so that the regions that lagged behind development may develop significantly and all the regions regardless of their locations either in hilly or plain areas would contact easily. The more the people's socio-economy improves, the more their morale and reasoning power will improve. Then, all the people will be able to overcome any outside disturbances, and make endeavour for sustainable development of the nation and the people and safeguard the Union for its perpetuation.

To put it in a nutshell, fruits of development under the far-sighted leadership of the Head of State can be witnessed everywhere. The country has developed in all aspects. The new bridges under construction will emerge as new projects that contribute towards long-term development of the State and the people. I write this article holding the belief that there will be a brighter future for our nation and people alongside good transport infrastructures.

Translation: NN+WH+ST



Photo shows magnificent Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanapon).

Senior General Than Shwe inspects greening of Mt. Popa

Mt. Popa region an invaluable natural resource for arid central Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC

shade trees.

The minister continued to say that if cultivation of tea became a success, it would not only create new jobs but provide tea and dried tea to the region. The

system near Yenge camp at Mt. Popa and planned to establish as many as 500 acres of tea plantations. It is learnt that about 0.3 million of tea saplings have been grown in the nursery of

The minister went on to say that the replacement of over 5,000 acres of banana plantations with trees, plants and perennial crops in period between 1996 and the rainy season

cultivation of perennial crops, accomplishment of replacing banana plantations with perennial crops in collaboration with local people.

The Senior

region originated from Mt. Popa region.

He said that dams constructed in the surrounding areas also were somewhat related with Mt. Popa region; that strenuous efforts had been made for greening of the region so as to keep the region, an invaluable natural resource, under preservation; that Mt. Popa region had now become greener with trees as a result of over 10 years of thorough conservation.

He said that geographical condition of Mt. Popa and its environs were suitable for cultivation as the region being an extinct volcano; that it was necessary to be aware of the value of Mt. Popa; that perennial crops that were likely to grow well including tea plants were to be grown extensively for higher income of the local people and greening of Mt. Popa.

Next, the Senior



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on greening of Mt. Popa and tea plantations presented by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung—MNA

Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers and officials left Bagan for Mt. Popa region by helicopter yesterday morning and arrived there at 9:40 am.

At the briefing hall of private tea plantations in Kyinma camp of Mt. Popa Park, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung submitted reports to the Senior General, saying that in accord with guidance of the Head of State on greening of Mt. Popa region, such tasks as forests conservation and afforestation were undertaken thoroughly; that private sector had been permitted to grow tea since November 2008 after trial cultivation of one-acre tea plantation that grew well under

minister then elaborated on tea plantations of private sector and future plans.

A one-acre pilot tea plantation with 5,400 plants that are suitable to climate of the region has been grown in the eastern part of Mt. Popa region.

the company and monsoon, groundnut and orange have been grown in the plantations as mixed-crops.

The minister added that for greening the environs of Mt. Popa region and long-term benefit of local people,

of last year was a cent per cent success and over 1.3 million of trees including teak, ironwood, Gmelina arborea, kapok, eucalyptus, belleric myrobalan were planted in addition to perennial crops such as cashew,

General in his guidance said that Mt. Popa region was an invaluable natural resource for arid central Myanmar that had hot and dry weather; that Mt. Popa and climate of the region had direct relation and thus Mt. Popa region was



Senior General Than Shwe inspects one-month old tea saplings in a private nursery —MNA

With regard to private sector, Tin Tun Win Producers Company has so far grown over 0.7 million tea plants on 200 acres with application of contour

banana plantations inside forest reserves and public protected forests had been replaced with trees, plants and perennial crops.

tamarind, sweet sop, jack fruit and so on. The minister gave a detailed account on income per acre of perennial crops grown in the region, locals' interests in

pivotal for favourable weather condition; that Mt. Popa region was major watershed for central Myanmar as most of rivers and creeks flowing through the

General and party viewed thriving one-year old tea plants and mixed-crop groundnut plantations in pilot tea plantation of a private company.

(See page 11)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects.....

(from page 10)

The Senior General and party viewed one-month old tea saplings in the nursery and looked round the plantation in a motorcade.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party proceeded to Popa Mountain Resort from which the Senior General viewed flat top of Mt. Popa, greening of Mt. Popa region and forest conservation.

The Senior General then met with personnel concerned and inquired about harvest of seasonal crops, water inflow into Kyetmaukyaung dam, supply of irrigation water and socio-economic conditions including increase in per capita income.

The Senior General and party left Mt. Popa region in the afternoon.—MNA

Photo shows flat top of Mt. Popa, greening of Mt. Popa region.—MNA



Tea saplings seen at Mt. Popa private tea nursery.—MNA

Medal Standing in XXV SEA Games

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	51	57	65	173
Vietnam	45	46	41	132
Singapore	31	22	31	84
Malaysia	26	29	45	100
Indonesia	26	27	48	101
Philippines	23	23	35	81
Laos	22	11	35	68
Myanmar	7	14	29	50
Cambodia	2	6	18	26
Brunei	1	1	8	10
Timor Leste	0	0	3	3

Myanmar win one more gold, two silver, four bronze in SEA Games

YANGON, 15 Dec— In XXV SEA Games, Kay Khine Myo Tun won gold in 20 kilometer women's walking event, Aung Hngaing silver in 70 meter women's compound bow (individual) event, Zaw Win Htike silver in 70 meter men's recurve (individual) event, Nilar San bronze in women's marathon event, Saw Malar Nwe bronze in 20 kilometer women's walking event, Wai Lin Oo bronze in Wushu (Sanshou) 60 kilo event, Nyein Nyein Aung bronze in (45-50) kilo women's Pencak Silat event.—MNA



Kay Khine Myo Tun.—SPED



Aung Hngaing. SPED



Zaw Win Htike. SPED



Saw Malar Nwe. SPED

Bitdefender Antivirus Software 2010 opened

YANGON, 14 Dec— The opening of Bitdefender Antivirus Software 2010 imported and distributed by Global Technology Co Ltd was held at FMI Centre on Bogyoke Aung San Street

here on 12 December with an address by General Manager of Bitdefender Antivirus Software Charoensak Sakra.

Director U Min Swe Hlaing of Bitdefender Antivirus Software and

officials formally opened the ceremony and Globalnet Senior Sales Engineer U Yan Aung Naing explained facts about Bitdefender Antivirus Software 2010.

With the aim of

handling the virus problems such as Virus, Worm, Trojan, House, Phising, etc in software the Globalnet (Global Technology Co Ltd) started distributing Bitdefender Antivirus Software in 2009 in Myanmar market.

As part of promotion programme, the company will offer resellers a three-day free trip to Bangkok.

Those interested are to contact Free Customer Support (Myanmar) Global Net (Global Technology Co Ltd), Room-1, Building 7, Myanmar Info Tech, Hline Township (Tel 01 652232, 652324 and 507054).

MNA



General Manager of Bitdefender Charoensak Sakra delivers an opening speech at the launch of Bitdefender Antivirus Software 2010.—MNA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BELUGA NOMINATION VOYNO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BELUGA NOMINATION VOYNO () are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 17.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MILLENNIUM VOYNO (06/09)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MILLENNIUM VOYNO (06/09) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 16.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KM INTERTRANS CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VIMARU STAR VOYNO (902)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VIMARU STAR VOYNO (902) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 17.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MAGNET MERCHANT
MARINE CO.,LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOYNO (048)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOYNO (048) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 16.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

New Zealand's unemployment rate to rise to 7%

WELLINGTON, 15 Dec—Economists expect the unemployment rate in New Zealand to rise to 7 percent of the workforce and stay there for the next two years.

A survey by the Institute of Economic Research released on Tuesday showed the economists see the unemployment rate rising from 6.5 percent currently.

This compares to an estimate by the Reserve Bank last week of a peak of 6.7 percent in the third quarter of next year.

The Treasury expects unemployment to peak at 8 percent of the workforce during the second half of next year. It will update that forecast when it releases the Half-Year Economic and Fiscal Update on Tuesday.

Xinhua

Bird flu reappears in N Vietnam

HANOI, 15 Dec—Bird flu reappeared in Vietnam's northern province of Thai Nguyen, killing 405 poultry, the Animal Health Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said on its website on Tuesday.

The disease broke out in two communes of Thai Nguyen Province from 9 to 11 Dec, according to the department.

To prevent the spread of bird flu, local authorities have taken prevention measures including the destruction of 4,100 ducks, 102 chickens and 17,750 poultry eggs in the affected communes.

Currently, Vietnam has two provinces affected by the H5N1 flu, namely the southern province of Ca Mau and the newly-reported Thai Nguyen Province, said the department.—*Xinhua*

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Dated: 16 December 2009

Extreme weather affects 55 million people in 2009

COPENHAGEN, 15 Dec—Extreme weather events affected 55 million people around the world in 2009, a disaster reduction agency said on Monday.

At a joint Press conference in Copenhagen, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) said that although preliminary reports showed there were fewer natural disasters in 2009, the majority were weather-related.

From 1 Jan to 30 Nov, 224 out of 245 disasters were weather-related,

causing 7,000 out of 8,900 deaths and resulting in 15 billion US dollars of economic damages out of 19 billion, according to the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED).

"Statistics this year show lower figures compared to previous years, which is good news for people and countries, however extreme weather disasters remain at the top of the list and will continue to affect more people in the future," Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Special Representative of

the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, said a statement. Floods and storms composed the majority of extreme weather events, it added.

Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Michel Jarraud, said while the number of natural disasters and its resulting economic damages had "increased between 10 and 50 times, the reported loss of life has dramatically been reduced by a factor of 10" in the last 50 years.—*Xinhua*

Americans may live longer and cost more

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Americans may live significantly longer in the future than current US government projections, and that could mean sharply higher costs than anticipated for Medicare and other programmes, researchers reported on Monday.

The researchers say that by 2050 Americans may live as much as eight years longer than government forecasts and that spending by Medicare and Social Security could rise by \$3.2 trillion to \$8.3 trillion above current projections.

Advances in medical care will accelerate, stretching out lifespans, the MacArthur Research Network on an Aging Society wrote in the report, published in *The Milbank Quarterly*.

"If we're right we've got a problem," Dr Jack

Rowe of Columbia University's School of Public Health and chairman of the MacArthur Research Network said in a telephone interview. "Can we really afford to have everybody quit work at 65?"

The research did not address any effects of longer lifespan on the cur-

rent effort to overhaul the US healthcare system.

US government agencies' projections do not match the study's for increases in life expectancy because they assume improvements in mortality in the coming decades will decelerate, the researchers said.

Xinhua

A worker at a Padang cuisine restaurant serves a customer in Jakarta on 15 Dec, 2009. Persistent food price increases in the last few months could mean inflation trouble down the road for Asian economies, such as India and Indonesia, and keep pressure on policymakers to let their currencies appreciate more.—INTERNET





Chefs and culinary students prepare their entry for the 5,000-cheese inspired dishes in an attempt to set a new world record at a coliseum in Manila on 14 December 2009. The event aimed to beat the Guinness World Record of "The most number of dishes on display, in a single day" of 4,668 set by India in 2007.—INTERNET

Thai HIV trial vaccine gives hope for development of effective vaccine

KAMPALA, 15 Dec — The Thai HIV trial vaccine that lowered the infection rate by 31 percent provides hope that an effective vaccine can be developed to slowdown the spread of the scourge, scientists and researchers meeting here have said.

Allan Berstein, head of Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise told reporters here on Monday that scientists are building on the progress to hopefully develop

a vaccine with a higher effective percentage that can prevent the disease.

"It gives the scientific community hope that as a principle it will be possible to improve on that 31 percent and hopefully go right up to 100 percent protection," he said on the sides of the ongoing 5th Forum of the African AIDS Vaccine Programme discussing progress made in development of an HIV vaccine.

A study carried out in Thailand involving 16,000 volunteers showed for the first time a test vaccine indicating some level of efficacy in preventing HIV infection.

Berstein said scientists are now studying whether the same vaccine can generate the same results elsewhere where there are numerous HIV genetic variants and recombinant viral forms driving the epidemic.—Xinhua

CERN colour X-ray technology to save lives

GENEVA, 15 Dec — A colour X-ray technology created by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) might be on the path to saving lives, the organization said on Monday.

"This exciting news is showing the benefits to humanity of research collaborations that cross the oceans," CERN Professor Emmanuel Tsismelis said in a statement.

Incorporating Medipix technology, created for CERN's Large Hadron Collider, the University of Canterbury, New Zealand built a CT scanner that produces colour images.

"The Medipix collaborations have adapted the technology to create new detectors which fundamentally change how X-ray images are taken and used," said Medipix

collaborations spokesperson Michael Campbell. A Canterbury student arrived on Monday in North America, where the scanner was shipped, to study heart disease using colour images.

"We are surprising ourselves with new CT images that show disease in a way that has never been seen before," said Anthony Butler, lead radiology researcher on the New Zealand project.

Xinhua

Physicians lack food allergies knowledge

CHICAGO, 15 Dec — An estimated 6 percent of US children may have food allergies but many doctors say they're not sure they can diagnose or treat the allergies, researchers say. Researchers at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago surveyed 400 pediatricians and family physicians nationwide and found significant misconceptions concerning food allergies.

The study found doctors acknowledged the potential for anaphylaxis — a life-threatening allergic reaction — but few knew the appropriate dosage of epinephrine to treat anaphylaxis, or that teenagers are at greater risk than younger children of fatality due to anaphylaxis.

"Many physicians themselves reported not being comfortable with diagnosis, treatment or interpreting labs for food allergies," study leader Dr. Ruchi Gupta said in a statement. "Understanding these misconceptions will help us to create an intervention tool to close the knowledge gap."—Internet

Cigarette craving hurts cognition

PITTSBURGH, 15 Dec — Craving a cigarette while performing a cognitive task increases the chances of a person's mind wandering, University of Pittsburgh researchers suggest.

The study, scheduled to be published in the

January issue of *Psychological Science*, finds evidence that craving a cigarette disrupts one's meta-awareness—the ability periodically to appraise one's own thoughts.

Psychology Professor Michael Sayette and col-

leagues recruited 44 male and female heavy smokers to take part in the study.

All smoked nearly one pack a day and refrained from smoking for at least six hours before arriving at the study lab.

Participants were assigned to a low-crave group, who were permitted to smoke throughout the study.

The rest, assigned to the crave-condition group had to abstain.

Participants were asked to read as many as 34 pages of Tolstoy's "War and Peace" from a computer screen.

If they caught themselves zoning out, they pressed a key labelled ZO.

After 30 minutes, a reading comprehension test was administered.

Internet

Wind energy can meet 65 percent of tabled 2020 emissions cuts by rich nations

COPENHAGEN, 15 Dec — The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) on Monday released calculations showing that wind energy alone could achieve up to 65 percent of the emissions reductions pledges by industrialized nations. "Wind power is rapidly emerging as a key technology towards a low carbon, resource efficient green economy," said Achim Steiner, UN under secretary general and ex-

ecutive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told a joint Press conference of the UNEP and the GWEC in Copenhagen.

In the GWEC's most ambitious scenario for wind energy development, wind could produce 2,600 terawatt hours of power and save 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide in 2020, which would represent between 42 percent and 65 percent of the emissions

cuts pledged by developed countries.

A UN panel of climate scientists were proposing a 25-40 percent cut in carbon emissions by rich nations by 2020 in order to keep global warming under control. According to the GWEC, global wind energy alone could contribute 34 percent of a 25 percent emissions reduction and 21 percent of a 40 percent reduction.

Xinhua

High fat, sugar fuel obesity in Africa

NAIROBI, 15 Dec — An obesity epidemic has reached the urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa, researchers in Kenya found.

Abdhalah Ziraba, who worked on the study with the African Population and Health Research Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, used data from seven African countries to investigate changes in body mass index from early 1990s and the early 2000s.

The study, published in the journal *BMC Public Health*, found the number of overweight/obese people increased by nearly 35 percent during the study period. Those of higher socioeconomic status were more likely to be overweight or obese but the rate of increase in obesity was higher in the poor group, the study found.

"Despite being the least urbanized continent, Africa's population is becoming increasingly urban and its cities are growing at unprecedented rates," Ziraba said in a statement. "In spite of rampant poverty in urban areas, access to cheap foods with a high content of fat and sugar is commonplace."—Internet



An Iberian lynx runs after being released from a cage in Villafranca de Cordoba, southern Spain on 14 Dec, 2009. The Andalusia regional Environment Ministry delivers an experimental reintroduction of the Iberian lynx for a programme aimed at breeding the animal in captivity. —XINHUA

SPORTS

Felipe Melo named 'Flop of the Year'

ROME, 15 Dec—Juventus's Brazilian international defensive midfielder Felipe Melo was on Monday named 'Flop of the Year 2009' in a vote parodying the annual 'Ballon d'Or' award given to Europe's top player.

The award was decided via a vote by listeners of the Rai 2 radio programme 'Catersport'.

Melo, who is likely to be first-choice for Brazil at next summer's World Cup, joined Juventus from Fiorentina in the close season for a fee of 25 million euros.

After a strong start to the current campaign, his form has faded in recent weeks to the point where

he has been jeered by supporters of his own club.

Melo received 22.87 percent of the votes, enabling him to see of challenges from Inter Milan's reigning 'Flop of the Year' Ricardo Quaresma (20.63 percent) and his own Juventus team-mate Tiago (9.99 per cent).—Internet



Juventus's Brazilian international defensive midfielder Felipe Melo.

Lehmann apologises for Mainz red card



Jens Lehmann

BERLIN, 15 Dec—Stuttgart goalkeeper Jens Lehmann apologised to his team-mates after being sent off in their 1-1 draw with Mainz, the struggling club's Romanian striker Ciprian Marica revealed on Monday.

"He apologised," said Marica. "I hope that Jens will stay with us, but it's a shame what he did against Mainz."

The 40-year-old former

Germany goalkeeper saw red in the 87th minute of the match at Mainz on Sunday for standing on the foot of the home side's Burkina Faso striker Aristide Bance.

Mainz equalised from the ensuing penalty to leave Stuttgart fourth from bottom in the Bundesliga standings despite their recent qualification for the last 16 of the Champions League.

After the match, Lehmann was involved in an altercation with a Stuttgart supporter outside the stadium that was captured by television cameras.

Internet

Bremen coach Schaaf to stay through 2012

BREMEN, 15 Dec—Long-serving Werder Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf has extended his contract by a further two years until June 2012.

Werder manager Klaus Allofs said Monday Schaaf has "proven over many years that he is a very important factor in our success with his ability to improve teams and players."

The 48-year-old has been Bremen coach since May 1999. The club won the Bundesliga and German Cup double in 2004.

Last season, Bremen won the cup again and made it to the final of the UEFA Cup. It is currently fourth in the Bundesliga.—Internet

Euro 2012 logo, slogan unveiled

KIEV, 15 Dec—UEFA President Michel Platini unveiled the official logo and slogan to be used at Euro 2012 at a ceremony here on Monday.

The logo is a design of two tulips—one red and one white—featuring the Polish and Ukrainian flags and a football, and the slogan is "Creating History Together."

Platini said: "These are two flowers which bloom, I hope that Poland and Ukraine will grow like them."

Euro 2012 is the first major football tournament to be awarded to Eastern Europe.

Appearing with Platini at the unveiling was

Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.—Internet



UEFA President French Michel Platini speaks in front of the UEFA EURO-2012 logo after its official launching in Kiev.—INTERNET

Cape Town World Cup venue complete

CAPE TOWN, 15 Dec—South Africa's Greenpoint stadium, which has been chosen to host a 2010 World Cup semi-final, was on Monday declared complete.

"This has been worth the wait. People of Cape Town this is our stadium, it is ready for the world," said mayor of Cape Town Dan Plato, during the opening ceremony. The 68,000 seater stadium boosts the views of the iconic Table Mountain and the historic Robin Island, where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated.

Its 32-months construction process was dogged by labour strikes and faced fierce opposition from environmentalists who claimed that its existence would spoil the city landscape. Greenpoint cost 4.5 billion rand (605 million dollars) and is one of ten venues to host the 2010 football spectacle. Other stadiums already completed include, Moses Mabhida in Durban and Soccer City in Johannesburg.—Internet

Mourinho faces inquiry over journalist attack

ROME, 15 Dec—Inter Milan manager Jose Mourinho is being investigated by the Italian Football Federation for verbally attacking a journalist at the weekend.

Mourinho allegedly set upon Andrea Ramazzotti after he spotted the Corriere dello Sport reporter in an area reserved for Inter's television station Inter Channel after Sunday's 1-1 draw with Atalanta.

According to his paper, Ramazzotti had been given permission to enter the cordoned-off zone by Inter's press officer.—Internet



Spurs' Jermain Defoe challenges Manchester United's Nemanja Vidic at Old Trafford on 1 December.—INTERNET

Ribery set for Bayern return

MUNICH, 15 Dec—Bayern Munich's France international winger Franck Ribery will make his return next weekend after two-and-a-half months out with injury, his coach Louis van Gaal said on Monday.

"He's better than ever because he can train without pain," said the Dutchman, who revealed that Ribery would likely only feature for a few minutes in the home match against Hertha Berlin on Saturday.

Bayern have overcome a difficult start to the season and currently sit third in the Bundesliga table but they have been without Ribery since 3 October due to tendinitis in his left knee.

Internet



Bayern Munich's French midfielder Franck Ribery runs with the ball during a Champions League group match against Juventus in the southern German city of Munich in September.—INTERNET

Ki delight at completing Celtic move

GLASGOW, 15 Dec—South Korea midfielder Ki Sung-Yueng has voiced his delight at hav-



South Korea's Ki Sung-Yueng celebrates after scoring against Senegal during a friendly football match in Seoul in October. Ki has voiced his delight at having finally completed his move to Celtic.—INTERNET

ing finally completed his move to Celtic.

Asia's current young player of the year signed a four-year contract with the Scottish club over the weekend and will officially become a Celtic player on 1 January.

Ki, signed for a reported two million pounds from FC Seoul, said he was thrilled to be joining a club with Celtic's history.

"I know that Celtic has some of the best supporters in the world and I will be doing all I can to show these fans what I can do and give everything as part of a team which will aim to achieve more and more success," Ki said.

Internet

Vidic wants United to bite back against Wolves

MANCHESTER, 15 Dec—Nemanja Vidic has called for an immediate response as Manchester United look to force their way back into control of the Premier League title race against Wolves here on Tuesday.

With Chelsea only managing a 3-3 draw with Everton on Saturday, second-placed United passed up the chance to move level on points with the leaders when, later that day, they lost 1-0 to Aston Villa at Old Trafford.

Vidic returned to the side against Villa following a spell on the sidelines with illness.

And as United manager Sir Alex Ferguson's injury problems continue to lighten, Vidic could be joined by Wes Brown, who has been missing with a hamstring injury, against a Wolves team who climbed out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win away to Tottenham last weekend.—Internet

LG sets 3D TV target, to offer new lineup in 2010

SEOUL, 15 Dec — LG Electronics Inc, the world's No. 2 TV brand by revenue, set an aggressive sales target for 3D televisions, aiming to build a leadership position in an emerging market where competition is expected to heat up.

Digital 3D TVs, which use double layered images and special glasses to trick viewers into seeing 3D, are set to become the next battlefield for top TV makers, including Samsung Electronics, LG and Japanese rivals Sony Corp and Panasonic Corp.

LG aimed to sell 400,000 3D TVs in 2010 and 3.4 million in 2011, the South Korean company said at a news conference on Tuesday.

It plans to unveil a full line-up of 3D TV models with new technology improvement in the second half of next year, targeting retail consumers. LG currently offers one 47-inch 3D TV, which is sold mostly to businesses due to a high price tag.

Some analysts were still cautious about the emerging segment, citing lack of 3D content that costs about 50 percent more to make than regular versions.—*Internet*



Competitors in the Men's 3000m steeplechase jump into the water at the East Asian Games in Hong Kong on 13 December 2009. Tseung Kwan O sports ground is the venue for the athletics.

INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (16-12-2009) (Wednesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am)MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm)MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am)MST

Local Transmission

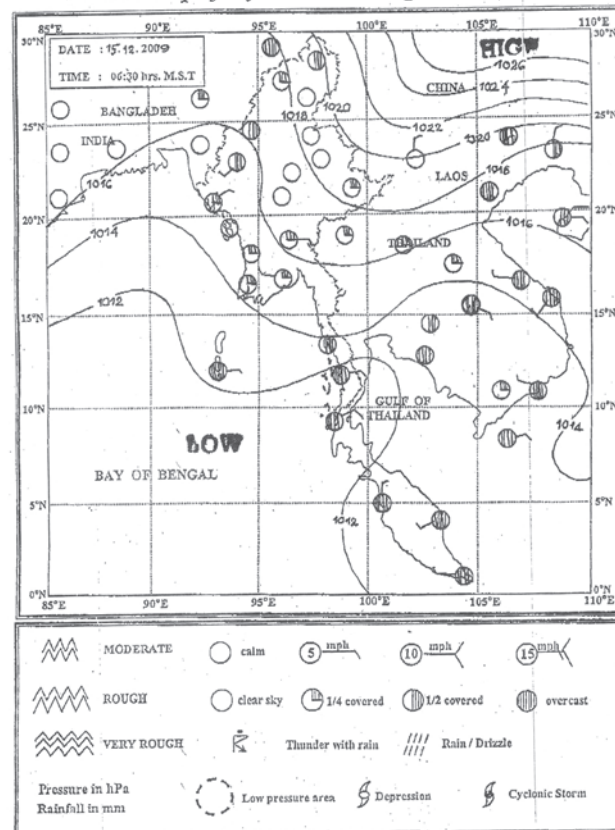
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Reed Mats
- * Modernized Myanma Fashion Designs
- * Turtle! Our Heritage
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Silk-Ware from Amarapura
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Reed Mats
- * Modernized Myanma Fashion Designs
- * Turtle! Our Heritage
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Silk-Ware from Amarapura
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * A Place of Cultural heritage
- * Survey of hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-4)
- * Ginger Salad For An Acquaintance
- * Culture Stage
- * Smogless Sky, Enchanting Smile (Popa)
- * The historical sites of Taung Tha Man
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 15th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Northern Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Mon State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Loilem (0°C), Heho and Pinlaung (4°C) each, Lashio and Mogok (5°C) each and Namsam, Mindat, Pyin Oo Lwin and An (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 14-12-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 15-12-2009 was 57°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-12-2009 was 61%. Total sun shine hours on 14-12-2009 was (9.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 14-12-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, cyclonic storm "Ward" over Gulf of Mannar (India) is almost stationary and it is centered at about (80) miles Southeast of Pamban (India). It is forecast to move Westward. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16th December 2009: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-12-2009: Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 16 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning News

7:40 am

4. အဝံ့ဇယမင်္ဂလံ (ယဉ်ဝေယံထွန်း၊ တေးရေး-ဝိတာစာဆိုမျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)

7:55 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:10 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

7. Musical Programme

8:40 am

8. International News

8:45 am

9. Dance Of National Races

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:10 pm

2. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:20 pm

3. သီချင်းကြီးပဒေသာ

4:30 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ်(ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

4:45 pm

5. Songs For Uphold National Spirit

4:50 pm

6. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

5:05 pm

7. ရင်ခုန်ကြည့်နူးဖွယ် ကိုကိုးကျွန်းအက္ခရာခရီးစဉ်

5:20 pm

8. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံ အစီအစဉ်

5:35 pm

9. စူပါတေးသံရှင်ရွေးချယ်ပွဲ

6:00 pm

10. Evening News

6:15 pm

11. Weather Report

- 6:20 pm

12. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်စဉ်

6:40 pm

13. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:20 pm

14. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ် ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

7:40 pm

15. ဝတ်မှုတ်တေးဂီတဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International News

18. Weather Report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တေးသံသာ" (အပိုင်း-၃)

20. မြန်မာဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း နှလုံးသား၏အမိန့်တော်အတိုင်း (ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ပြုံးငွေစိုး၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်ဇောလင်း)

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
- By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Singaporean Military Attaché

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Military Attaché of the Republic of Singapore Colonel Terry Siow Meng Meng at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here this morning.

Also present at the call were Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Thura Thet Swe, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Director-General U Min Lwin of Consular and Legal Affairs Department under Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Military Attaché of the Republic of Singapore Colonel Terry Siow Meng Meng.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shaking hands with Singaporean Military Attaché Colonel Terry Siow Meng Meng.—MNA

Significant night temperatures

(15-12-2009)

Haka	(-2°C)
Loilem	(0°C)
Heho and Pinlaung	(4°C)
Lashio and Mogok	(5°C)
Namhsan, Mindat	(6°C)
PyinOoLwin and An	(6°C)