



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 12th Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the graduation dinner of the 12th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy at the DSTA parade ground in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division at 5.30 pm yesterday.

Also present at the graduation dinner were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of (See page 7)



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of the 12th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy.—MNA

Profile of PRC Vice President Mr Xi Jinping



Mr Xi Jinping.—MNA

Mr Xi Jinping is an ethnic Han and born in June 1953, in Fuping, Shaanxi Province. He joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1974. He received Doctor of Laws (LLD) from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tsinghua University, majoring in Marxist theory and ideological education.

From 1969 to 1975, he worked at Liangjiahe Brigade, Wenanyi Commune, Yanchuan County, Shaanxi Province, and served as party branch secretary.

From 1975 to 1979, he was a student of basic organic synthesis at the Chemical Engineering Department of Tsinghua University.

From 1979 to 1982, he was a secretary

at the General Office of the State Council and the General Office of the Central Military Commission. From 1982 to 1985, he was a deputy secretary and secretary of the CPC Zhengding County Committee, Hebei Province.

From 1985 to 1988, he was a member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and vice mayor of Xiamen, Fujian Province. From 1988 to 1990, he was a secretary of the CPC Ningde Prefectural Committee, Fujian Province.

From 1990 to 1993, he was a secretary of the CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee and chairman of the standing committee of the Fuzhou Municipal People's Congress, Fujian Province.

From 1993 to 1995, he was a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, Secretary of the CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fuzhou Municipal People's Congress.

From 1995 to 1996, he was a deputy secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, Secretary of the CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fuzhou Municipal People's Congress.

From 1996 to 1999, he was a deputy secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee.

(See page 7)

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

Saturday, 19 December, 2009

Military engineers to play roles in building modern Tatmadaw

The graduation parade of the 12th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy took place at the parade ground of the academy in PynOoLwin the other day, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his speech, the Senior General said, "I would say with all seriousness that you must be well capable of staying in touch with not only the advancements in the military science but also modern warfare, as well as applying them in accordance with the objective conditions. And to shape the Myanmar Tatmadaw into a strong, efficient and modern one depends on the sense of patriotism, capability and hard work of younger generations of intellectuals and intelligentsia like you."

The world has seen rapid advancements in the science and technology. Modern wars are waged with the use of science and technology. Sophisticated weapons and advanced warfare are now common in wars. Various types of today's heavy weaponry can hit the targets with pinpoint accuracy, and so, enemies can be crashed with minimum loss.

Today, the Tatmadaw is in the process of being upgraded into a strong, capable and modern patriotic force to be able to defend the motherland. The drive calls for further development of human resources. In this regard, the Defence Services Technological Academy is one of the sources. The 12th graduation of DSTA increased the number of military engineers.

Being engineers, the newly graduated junior military officers have to do their bit in the national defence and security duties, while discharging the major duties of building a modern Tatmadaw. Simultaneously, they have to try to catch up with the ever-advancing military science.

So, Tatmadaw junior engineer officers are duty-bound to meet the five fundamental requirements: moral conduct, self-discipline, loyalty, team spirit, and being endowed with three capabilities. In line with the motto "Engineering Prowess for Military Might", they can be in perpetual service of the mother country by playing their role as reliable resources in building a modern Tatmadaw.



Chairman U Maung Maung accepts US\$ 195,076 worth 22 items of hospital equipment and one ambulance donated by Italian ambassador to Myanmar H.E Dr Giuseppe Cinti.

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

Domestic science courses conclude in Pyapon, Bogale

Minister Col Thein Nyunt presents to an outstanding trainee in Special Domestic Science Course No (2) (Basic Level) in Pyapon.



MNA

YANGON, 18 Dec— Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt addressed the conclusion of Special Do-

mestic Science Course No (2) (Basic Level) in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Division, on 13 December.

He viewed garments and works made by the trainees, and the prac-

tice of preparing meals.

The minister also attended the conclusion of Special Domestic Science Course No (2) (Basic Level) in Bogale.

In compliance with

the guidance of the Head of State, the Education and Training Department under the ministry conducted the courses for young women from the storm-hit villages in the townships.

On 15 December, the minister attended the opening of Maubin-Pantaput tarred road in Maubin, and inspected the facility.

The 13,260 feet long and 12 feet wide road was built in 2009-2010 fiscal year by Maubin Township Development Affairs Committee with the funds of the Development Affairs Department. The road benefits rural people in 56 villages of 15 village-tracts.—MNA

Dy Foreign Affairs Minister arrives back from Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here by air on 16 December after attending the Myanmar Investment Seminar sponsored by ASEAN-Japan Promotion Center on Trade, Investment and Tourism and held in Japan from 13 to 16 December. Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Director Daw Mya Thuzar of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration and responsible officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the seminar.

On 15 December, the deputy minister and party attended the Myanmar Investment Seminars at Grand Prince Hotel in Tokyo. At the seminar, the deputy minister and party presented the overviews of economic, industrial, tourism and commercial development of Myanmar and the business and investment opportunities as well as Japanese investment in Myanmar. The delegation exchanged views and had discussion with the participants. More than 200 Japanese businessmen attended the seminar. During the visit, the deputy



Deputy Minister U Maung Myint speaking at Myanmar Investment Seminar sponsored by ASEAN-Japan Promotion Center on Trade, Investment and Tourism held in Japan.

MOFA

Italy donates hospital equipment and ambulance

YANGON, 18 Dec—Under the programme of Support the Vulnerable Population Myanmar Aid 8976, the Government of Italy, after coordinating with Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar, donated US\$ 195,076 worth 22 items of hospital equipment and one ambulance to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital on 15 December. The donation ceremony was attended by Italian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Dr Giuseppe Cinti and embassy staff, Chairman of the Hospital Administrative Board U Maung Maung and members.

The chairman extended greetings and spoke

minister held separate discussions with Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Mitoji Yabunaka and Mr Kenichiro Sasae, Secretary General of ASEAN-Japan Center Mr Yoshikuni Ohnishi. The two sides cordially exchanged views on matters concerning the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan as well as on the international issues of mutual interest.—MNA

words of thanks. Afterwards, the ambassador explained the purpose of donation and handed over documents related to 22 items of hospital equipment and one ambulance. The chairman accepted the donation and presented the certificate of honour and fruit basket to the ambassador.—MNA

Car bomb near central Baghdad restaurant kills three

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec — A car bomb exploded outside a popular restaurant in central Baghdad on Thursday night, killing three people and wounding 16 as diners were out enjoying the start to their weekend, police and hospital officials said.

The explosion happened around 7:10 pm. outside the City Chef restaurant in the Karradah neighbourhood. Diners were among those injured, police said.

The officials were not authorized to talk to the media and spoke on con-

dition of anonymity.

"I saw at least two cars burning and screaming women running out of the restaurant," said Ali Ahmed, 26, who was headed to the City Chef with a friend when they heard the blast. "Some wounded people were on the ground waiting for ambulances."

Ahmed said parts of the front of the restaurant were damaged. The City Chef opened last summer.

The attack happened just days after three car bombs were detonated

across the Tigris River, outside the Green Zone, and a week after suicide bombers killed 127 and wounded more than 500 in Baghdad.

Iraqi security forces have detained dozens of people as suspects in the horrific on 8 Dec suicide bombings, officials said earlier on Thursday. That announcement sought to clarify earlier remarks by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that had appeared to link security forces to the attacks.

At an hourlong news conference on Wednesday, al-Maliki cited the continuing investigation of the 8 Dec attacks. He said several security forces were involved in the probe.—*Internet.*



A woman is helped onto a small boat that transports people over the Tigris River in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 Dec, 2009. Many civilians use small boats to cross the Tigris River and avoid the traffic jams and possible attacks on the roads.

INTERNET

US drone strike kills 14 in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 18 Dec — A US drone aircraft on Thursday fired volley of missiles in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, killing at least 14 people, locals said.

Missiles were fired in Degan and Ambur Shaga areas on the suspected hideouts of the militants, killing 12 persons, they said.

It was the most serious US drone attack so far, tribesmen said.

Locals said that the US drone fired missiles at one place and when the people were heading to the site of the first blast to pull the bodies and injured out of the rubble more missiles were fired.

Sources said that Arab militants were attacked in the strike. However, tribesmen said locals were killed and injured. Some sources said that seven foreigners were

among those killed in the attack.

It was the second strike in North Waziristan in one day. Earlier in the morning a strike in Datta Khel area killed two persons.

The drone struck militants at a time when Pakistani forces have taken control of most of the areas in the neighbouring South Waziristan. Officials say that militants have moved to North Waziristan and Orakzai tribal region.

MNA/Xinhua



Ali Hussein is seen after being injured in 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

Spain to send 511 more troops to Afghanistan

MADRID, 18 Dec — Spain's Defence Minister has announced plans to send 511 more soldiers to Afghanistan in response to President Barack Obama's request for more allied help to fight the Taliban.

Carne Chacon says most of the soldiers will train Afghan soldiers so the Kabul government can eventually fend for itself.

The deployment needs approval from Spain's Parliament. It would raise the Spanish troop presence in Afghanistan to more than 1,500.

Chacon told a parliamentary panel on Thursday that details of the deployment would be announced at a conference on Afghanistan next month in London.

In November, Spain sent an additional 200 troops.—*Internet*

In this handout picture received from The Netherlands Ministry of Defence, a boat containing alleged Somali pirates is apprehended by the Netherlands warship Evertsen on 2 December. A band of suspected Somali pirates captured by the Dutch Navy after a failed attack on a cargo ship are to be freed after no country would agree to prosecute them, Dutch officials said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills seven members of same family in Taleban hotbed

KANDAHAR, 18 Dec — Seven civilians including five women were killed and three others sustained injuries as their car ran over a roadside bomb in Taleban hotbed Kandahar Province of southern Afghanistan on Thursday, spokesman for local administration said.

"The bloody incident occurred in Khakriz District at 4 pm. local time (1130 GMT) as a result seven people including five women were killed," Zulmi Ayobi told *Xinhua*.

All the victims are the members of same family, he added. Three children were injured in the incident, he further said.—*Xinhua.*

Suicide attack wounds eight in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Dec — A suicide bomber blew himself up in Uruzgan Province south of Afghanistan wounding eight people including four Afghan soldiers on Thursday, provincial police chief Juma Gul Humat said.

"Meeting of elders with local authorities was going on in the headquarters of Deh Rawad District today at around 03:00 p.m. local time when a man attempted to get inside but the soldiers at the gate refused to allow him and he blew up himself up wounding eight persons including four soldiers," Humat told *Xinhua*.

He also added that among four more injured in the incident is a 15-year old boy and all of them have been taken to a nearby hospital.—*Xinhua.*

Car blast kills militant, wounds four soldiers in E Afghanistan

KHOST, 18 Dec — An explosive-laden car detonated by Taleban militants in Afghanistan's eastern province of Khost on Wednesday night leaving one Taleban fighter dead and four soldiers injured, a senior Afghan military officer in the province General Mohammad Israr said on Thursday.

"Acting upon intelligence report, a joint unit of Afghan and US forces were searching for an explosive-laden car in Sabari District but Taleban militants detonated it by a remote-control killing a rebel on the spot and slightly wounding one Afghan and three US soldiers," Israr told *Xinhua*.

One Taleban militants was also killed at the site of the blast, he further said.

The officer added that the militants wanted to use the car bomb against security forces in the area but the troops foiled their design.

Xinhua.



2009, difficult year for Latin American economies

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec —Latin American economies were battered by the worldwide recession in 2009, but escaped domestic crises in contrast to the start of this decade when global links triggered one crisis after another in the region.

Nike Q2 profit dips 4 percent; future orders rise

PORTLAND, 18 Dec — Tiger Woods' situation may be worsening, but his key sponsor sees brighter days ahead for its business.

Nike Inc, the world's largest athletic shoe and clothing company, said on Thursday its earnings dipped because of a sales decline in its fiscal second quarter. But company leaders said they are seeing hopeful signs of recovery and consumer sentiment around the world after several tough quarters.

Nike said its orders for goods to be delivered through the early spring were up 4 percent — benefiting from the weaker dollar and with significant growth in Western Europe, China and emerging markets.

In the second quarter, Nike's profit fell 4 percent to \$375.4 million, or 76 cents per share. Tight inventory and cost controls helped it withstand an 8 percent decline in revenue to \$4.4 billion.—*Internet*

In the long term, the crisis may have positive effects on the top regional economies because it led to the G20 replacing the G8 as the world's leading economic group.

Since September's Pittsburgh summit, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina now speak as peers to important global economies such as the United States, China and the European Union.

The G20 has made a

commitment to ensuring poorer nations have better access to financing and the world has better safety measures to prevent future crises.

The economies of Mexico and Brazil, the region's two heavyweights, have started to grow, lending strength to a recovery. But their different economic ties with the United States have taken them on two paths.

Xinhua



A Haitian girl collects water in a flood-affected area in Malpasse on 17 December, 2009. Two of the ten countries which were more affected by climate change between 1990 and 2008 belong to the Caribbean.—*INTERNET*



A construction worker works at the Octagonal Hall of the Shanghai Peace Hotel in Shanghai, the economic and financial hub of China, on 17 Dec, 2009. With a history of nearly one hundred years, the landmark building in Shanghai began its reconstruction and renovation to welcome visitors all over the world by the time when Shanghai Expo would be held next year.—*XINHUA*

Record sales for Blackberry maker, adds China partner

MONTREAL, 18 Dec —Research In Motion Ltd was hit by an email outage on Thursday for its popular Blackberry but there were no problems with the quarterly earnings of the Canadian smartphone maker.

Besides releasing results that surpassed the expectations of Wall Street analysts, RIM also announced that in addition to China Mobile it was adding China Telecom as a Blackberry part-



Research In Motion Ltd was hit by an email outage on Thursday for its popular Blackberry but there were no problems with the quarterly earnings of the Canadian smartphone maker.

INTERNET

ner in China.

RIM reported a 58.5 percent rise in quarterly net profit to 628.4 million dollars. The Waterloo, Ontario-based company said revenue rose 41 percent to 3.92 billion dollars in the third quarter of its financial year.

It said it shipped a record 10.1 million devices during the quarter which ended on 28 November, including its 75 millionth Blackberry.

Internet

S Korean Gov't to conclude sale of Daewoo International by June 2010

SEOUL, 18 Dec —The South Korean government plans to wrap up the sale of Daewoo International Corp in the first half of next year as it seeks to retrieve public funds, a committee said on Friday.

According to the public fund oversight committee, the company's creditors, led by the state-run debt clearer Korea Asset Management Corp (KAMCO), decided to unload a 68 percent stake, worth 2.2 trillion won (1.87 billion US dollars) in Daewoo.

The government will start with a 35.5 percent stake held by the KAMCO, and the sale process will be continued throughout the first half of 2010, the committee said.

POSCO, South Korea's leading steelmaker, has reportedly shown interest in joining the bid which kicked off in October when a consortium of Merrill Lynch & accounting firm Samjong KPMG was picked as main arranger. The South Korean government is pushing for a swift retrieval of the so-called 'bailout funds', which they formed to save the local financial market falling into a disorder from corporate bankruptcies amid the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.—*Xinhua*



An Airbus A380. France's financial markets watchdog on Thursday cleared 17 current and former EADS aerospace executives accused of making millions in insider trading linked to the Airbus A380 superjumbo project.

INTERNET

France clears Airbus execs of insider trading

PARIS, 18 Dec —France's financial markets watchdog on Thursday cleared 17 current and former EADS aerospace executives accused of making millions in insider trading linked to the Airbus A380 superjumbo project.

Three firms — EADS itself and shareholders Chrysler and Lagardere

— were also cleared of accusations that they sold stock options because they knew the share price would slump when A380 production delays went public.

European aerospace maker EADS is the parent company of Airbus.

The Financial Markets Authority (AMF) said in a report on the high-pro-

file investigation that knowledge of the A380 delays was not "privileged information" and therefore there was no case of insider trading.

Arnaud Lagardere, whose company was one of the ones being investigated, said on television channel Canal+ that he felt "relief" at the ruling.

Internet

Chinese Premier meets Maldivian, Ethiopian, Bangladeshi, Grenadian, Sudanese leaders

COPENHAGEN, 18 Dec—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Thursday that China and other developing countries, including underdeveloped countries, small island states and African countries, all face the pressing tasks of economic development and eradication of poverty.

Premier Wen made the remarks when he met President of the Maldives Mohammed Nasheed, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Bangladeshi Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina, Grenadian Prime Minister Tillman Thomas and Sudanese Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie on the issue of climate change on the sidelines of the UN-led talks being held here.

Developing countries are most severely affected by climate change, Wen said, adding that they share a broad range of common interests, concerns and targets in this regard.

The Chinese government understands the particular situation and needs

of underdeveloped countries, small island states and African countries on the issue of climate change and urges developed countries to support them in terms of technology, finance and capacity building, Wen said.

China will continue its support and aid to these countries on agriculture, health care, education and climate change in the frameworks of South-South cooperation and bilateral cooperation, he said.—Xinhua



Children sit in the helicopter of a merry-go-round at a funfair inside Paris' Grand Palais as part of holiday activities in the French capital on 17 Dec, 2009. —XINHUA

Guatemala, PAHO sign medicine purchasing pact

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec—Guatemala's Health Minister told media on Thursday that the nation has signed an agreement with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to buy medicine and vaccines against A/H1N1 flu.

The minister, Ludwig Ovalle, said that PAHO, the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), will purchase medicine and vaccines for Guatemala at a much cheaper price than the nation does it by itself.

In late November, the WHO said it would donate 1.3 million doses of vaccines against A/H1N1 flu to the nation, which has seen 18 deaths from the disease. The first some 260,000 doses are set to arrive in January. The nation is currently experiencing a wave of cold temperatures which could increase the amount of flu cases.—Xinhua

UN agencies respond to deadly outbreak of cholera in NW Kenya

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Dec—United Nations humanitarian agencies are providing emergency supplies and other forms of assistance to Kenyan government officials as they respond to an outbreak of cholera in the northwest of the country that has left at least 26 people dead, UN officials said here on Thursday.

More than 200 cases of cholera have now been reported in the outbreak, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Thursday, with most deaths occurring in relatively remote and inaccessible areas.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided hygiene and sanitation supplies and begun working with authorities in Turkana East District to finalize a joint response plan to the outbreak.

Xinhua



A passenger takes a picture as he sits aboard high speed train Sapsan in Moscow, on 17 Dec, 2009. Sapsan will take passengers from Moscow to St Petersburg in 3 hours and 45 minutes at a top speed of 250 kmph (155 miles per hour). XINHUA

Four found dead at Manhattan building

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—The bodies of four homicide victims—three reportedly from the same family—were found on Thursday at a single address on New York City's Upper West Side. A woman suffered a graze wound.

The *New York Times* described the dead as a grandfather, father and son.

The fourth man was believed to be the assailant, chief police spokesman Paul Browne said.

An automatic pistol was found at the scene.

The woman, who was not immediately identified, was taken to St Luke's Hospital, where she was described as being in stable condition with a "graze wound," a police spokeswoman told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Somali pirates release Greek cargo ship

NAIROBI, 18 Dec—Somali pirates have released a Greek cargo ship after holding it for about six weeks, a regional maritime official confirmed on Friday. Andrew Mwangura, the East Africa Coordinator of Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP) said the *MV Delvina*, which was hijacked by pirates on 5

Nov, was freed by Somali pirates late Thursday.

"The *MV Delvina* was freed late Thursday and was to reach Mombasa in the next two days but is not moving. She is drifting in one position where she was being held captive," Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone from Mombasa.

All the crew in the

Green cargo ship which was seized in the Indian Ocean are unharmed and are well despite their 43-day ordeal.

The cargo ship was hijacked northeast of the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean. It had been sailing from Ukraine to Mombassa in Kenya.

Xinhua

Egypt lifts gate of Isis from underwater

CAIRO, 18 Dec—Egypt on Thursday lifted a nine-ton gate of the goddess Isis which carved out of red granite and discovered in the port area on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

The gate is one of the rare artifacts discovered in 1998 by an archaeological survey carried out by the Greek archaeological mission in cooperation with the diving team of the Department of the Sunken Antiquities in Alexandria, said the Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni during the ceremony.

Hosni noted that a committee of the UNESCO would meet with Egyptian archaeologists to study the establishment of the museum under the waters of the Mediterranean, it would be the first museum of its kind worldwide. Another part of the museum would be set up over the water surface taking the form of the lighthouse of Alexandria.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency



Workers handle an ancient Egyptian granite tower that was retrieved from the Mediterranean Sea, at Alexandria's eastern harbour on 17 Dec, 2009. The tower is a part of a pylon of the temple to Isis, and was found next to Cleopatra's submerged mausoleum on the murky seabed.—INTERNET

Four dead so far in cargo ship sinking

BEIRUT, 18 Dec—The Lebanese army says at least four people have died and dozens are still missing after a Panamanian-flagged cargo ship carrying cattle sank in stormy weather.

The army said on Friday that 38 of the 83 crew members have been rescued and that four bodies have been retrieved. Rescue operations are continuing despite high waves. The ship was believed to have been sailing from Uruguay to Syria.

Andrea Tenenti, a spokesman for the UNIFIL peacekeeping force, identified the vessel as the *Danny F II*. It went down on Thursday afternoon some 11 miles (17 kilometres) from the Lebanese port city of Tripoli.

The crew members were from Britain, Australia, Russia, Lebanon, Syria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Uruguay, the state-run *National News Agency* reported.—*Internet*



Rescue workers help a survivor of a sunken Panama ship after he was rescued off the port of Tripoli in northern Lebanon, on 17 December, 2009. —XINHUA

Yemen claims 34 killed in raid on Qaeda hide-outs

SAN'A, 18 Dec—Yemeni security forces struck suspected al-Qaeda hide-outs and training sites on Thursday, and officials said at least 34 militants were killed, in an unusually heavy assault as Washington presses the deeply unstable country for tougher action against the terror network.

Witnesses, however, put the number killed at over 60 in the heaviest strike and said the dead were mostly civilians, including women and children. They denied the target was an al-Qaeda stronghold, and one provincial official said only 10 militant suspects died.

Internet

11 baby deaths now linked to Simplicity cribs

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—Despite several recalls and warnings, the number of reported baby deaths linked to defective Simplicity cribs has risen to 11.

The most recent death occurred in September when a 7-month-old child from Princeton, Ky, became entrapped in the crib when a part of it broke, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said on Thursday.

The agency also said it's aware of 25 other incidents involving drop-side parts detaching from Simplicity cribs.

The recall of Simplicity-manufactured cribs began in December 2005. More than 2 million Simplicity drop-side cribs have been recalled so far because of problems with their plastic hardware. Some of the recalled cribs have the Graco logo and Winnie the Pooh motif.

Internet

DNA test sets US inmate free after 35 years in jail

MIAMI, 18 Dec—Locked up 35 years for child rape and kidnapping, James Bain was finally set free by a Florida judge after a DNA test proved he was innocent of the crimes.

"Mr Bain, I'm now signing the order... you're a free man. Congratulations," the judge told the 54-year-old as his family and friends in the courtroom broke out in applause.

Outside the courtroom, Bain told reporters he held no grudge.

"No, I'm not angry, because I've got God... I'm going home with my family... and I will stay in touch with my lawyers," he said. Bain's ordeal with the law began when in 1974, at the age of 19, he was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping and raping a nine-year-old boy.—*Internet*



A technician prepares vials for DNA testing at a laboratory. Locked up 35 years for child rape and kidnapping, James Bain was finally set free by a Florida judge after a DNA test proved he was innocent of the crimes.—INTERNET



In this 10 Dec, 2009 photo taken near Indonesia and released by Museum Victoria, a veined octopus, *Amphioctopus marginatus* crawls along the ocean floor holding one half of a coconut shell. Australian scientists have filmed the octopus collecting coconut shells for shelter, unusually sophisticated behaviour that the researchers believe is the first evidence of tool use in an invertebrate animal.

Brazil toddler has 50 sewing needles inside body

A 2-year-old boy has as many as 50 metal sewing needles inside his body, apparently stuck there one by one, a doctor treating him said Wednesday. Brazilian media said the boy's ex-stepfather was detained.

Dr. Luiz Cesar Soltoski told The Associated Press that surgeons hope to remove most of the needles — some as long as 2 inches (5 centimeters) — but those in the lungs will have to wait until the child's breathing improves.

Some needles cannot be removed as they are too close to vital organs or even inside organs, Soltoski said.

The boy's mother, a maid, took him to a hospital in the small northeastern city of Ibotirama last Thursday, saying

he was complaining of pain. Three days later, after X-rays revealed many of the needles, doctors moved him to a larger hospital in the nearby city of Barreiras.

The mother told police she didn't know how the needles got inside her son, whose name was not released because of his age. But police Wednesday night detained an ex-stepfather of the boy who confessed, according to Brazil's Globo TV. It reported the man said he inserted the needles with the help of two women who were not identified.

NEWS ALBUM

Tourist caught smuggling lizards in pants

A German visitor was caught trying to leave New Zealand with 23 geckos and 20 skinks hidden in his underwear, a court was told.

Hans Kubus, 58, was stopped at Christchurch Airport on Sunday after checking in, and was searched by Customs staff.

A small package containing the reptiles was found in his underwear, prosecutor Mike Bodie told the

After 50 years, UK ministry shuts down UFO unit

Britain's Ministry of Defence has had a close encounter of the credit crunch kind.

After more than 50 years of service, the ministry has shut down its UFO investigation unit, saying it could no longer justify the cost of running the service.

The ministry said it had found no evidence of a threat to Britain or proof of the existence of extra-terrestrials, despite the public sending thousands of reportings of UFOs to a ministry hotline and email address.

It said it held no opinion on the existence or otherwise of alien life, but added it had "no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings."

"There is no defense benefit in such investigation and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources," it said.

Christchurch District Court on Monday.

"The package contained eight separate compartments separating various gecko and skink species," he said. Kubus' luggage also contained a single gecko in a rolled up sock.

A total of 24 geckos were found from five different species, as well as 20 skinks from two species. The German admitted trading geckos and taking geckos and skinks from the wild without a permit.

A black market trade in geckos exists in Europe and those taken by Kubus would have had a street value of around 50,000 dollars (35,850 US), Bodie said.

The value of the skinks was unknown because trading in that species had not previously been identified. Kubus was due to be sentenced on 25 January.



A German visitor has been caught trying to leave New Zealand with 23 geckos and 20 skinks hidden in his underwear, a court has been told.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 1)

Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen

Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders of military commands, ministers, senior military officers, deputy min-

isters, the Mandalay Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Commander of PyinOoLwin Station and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, the Commandant of DSTA, the chief

instructor officer, commanding officers of the cadet battalions, professors/deans, faculty members, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

MNA

Profile of PRC Vice President...

(from page 1)

From 1999 to 2002, he was a deputy secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee and acting governor and governor of Fujian Province.

From 2002 to 2003, he was a deputy secretary and Secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee and acting governor of Zhejiang Prov-

ince.

From 2003 to 2007, he was a secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress.

In 2007, he was a secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee.

From 2007 to 2008, he was a member of the Standing Committee of the

Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, and president of Party School of the CPC Central Committee. In 2008, he served as Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, vice president of PRC and president of Party School of the CPC Central Committee and alternate member of the 15th

CPC Central Committee, member of 16th and 17th CPC Central Committees, and member of the Political Bureau of the 17th CPC Central Committee, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 17th CPC Central Committee and member of the Secretariat of the 17th CPC Central Committee. He was elected as the vice president of PRC at the first session of the 11th National People's Congress.

MNA

Thandwe Airport runway in course of extension



Commander Maj-Gen Thaug Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspect extension of the runway of Thandwe Airport.—TRANSPORT

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye together with Minister for Transport Maj-Gen

Thein Swe yesterday visited Thandwe Airport in Rakhine State.

The commander and the minister heard reports on progress in renovation of the airport, extension of the runway, stockpiling of materials

to be used in work. The minister then gave instructions on tasks for beautifying the environs of the airport, extension and repair work, timely completion of projects, safety measures and urged the staff to have a

sense of duty.

The commander and the minister inspected groundwork for extension of runway, landing of aircrafts and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Construction of Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project going on

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min who accompanied the Head of State in his inspection tour, together with Director-General U Myint Zaw of Hydropower Department on 16 December visited Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project.

At the briefing hall of the director of No. 2 Construction Group reported to the minister on location of the project, construction of roads to the project, chosen site for dam, chosen places for construction of intake tunnel and diversion tunnel, chosen site for construction of power station, condition of rock layers according to geological survey, and future programmes. The minister called for completion of work at the top of the agenda in season and inspected the chosen

site for construction of the dam and stones from Sein Lun quarry.

The minister then cordially greeted community elders and local residents from Taunggyay village near the project.

Yeywa Hydropower Project (Upper) is built across Dokhtawady river in Kyaukme Township, 65 miles upstream of Yeywa Hydropower Project. The river was dammed and hydropower projects are being implemented along it—Yeywa Hydropower Project as the first phase and Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project as the second. The Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project will be a 140-megawatt electricity supplier.—MNA

4th Inter-School Senior Cricket Challenge Shield 2009 on 22 Dec

YANGON, 18 Dec—Jointly organized by No. 3 Basic Education Department and Myanmar Cricket Federation, 4th Inter-School Senior Cricket Challenge Shield 2009 will be held from daily 22 to 27 December at the sport ground of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township here.

A total of 10 teams will participate in men's event and six in women's. Myanmar Cricket Federation will award K 70,000 for first prize winner, K 40,000 for second and K 20,000 for third.—MNA



Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min inspects Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project.—MNA



We favour peace and stability

Chit Naing (Psychology)

"I think it is a natural phenomenon that if anything or anyone took a wrong place, then they would become dirty. We should be well aware of how important it is to live in a right place."

*Saya Aung Thin
(Shin-bayin-babe & the book on Shwepyikan
articles- P-60)*

Former British Prime Minister Lord Paul Marston once wrote: "Dirt is not dirt; it is a thing that is wrongly placed."

In this context, Saya Aung Thin said one feels sick when a hair is in one's plate. If one's hair cream is on his face, he removes it as dirt. When one's facial powder is down on the mirror, he shakes it off. It is explained in detail in the article titled 'Hmatthade'. One must know his own place. One must be in his right place. If one stands firm in a wrong place, no benefit will be reaped for him, for his surroundings as well as for the whole world.

Welcome, if you show positive attitude.

If you show negative attitude, then it will adversely affect others. Why don't you show positive attitude? Never too late.

"The blessing of a person goes together with that of the human society. Only if peace and stability of the human society prevails, will a person enjoy a peaceful life. So everyone has a bounden duty to make their environment and society peaceful.

*Sayagyi Paragu
(Japan Book, P-127)*

A little frog can see the sky over the rim of its well with the limited diameter. The frog thinks the sky is too wide as much as it could see. When it reaches on the well rim, it will see that the sky is far wider than it has thought.

Without boundaries, a place is spacious.

It is necessary not to stick to unacceptable wants and demands. Retrospection is not necessary when impossible. Yesterday has gone. We have to look straight at the present. Like or dislike, prevailing conditions can be seen right now. The future can be shaped depending on the present situations. Pragmatism is important. We cannot build a castle in the air.

In the post-Cold War, a symbol emerged. It was Internet Website. What is the indication of the Website?

Now is the age of cooperation by seeking common goals rather than heated disagreement focusing on different opinions. It is known to all that there have been instances of successes by using such a way of thinking.

The more narrow-minded attitude one has, the more difficulty one will have to live. And this concept is concerned with everyone.

It is not possible for a person to sit on the fence if he sticks to destructive acts instead of participating in making the human society peaceful without discarding his negative attitude when his desire is not met.

Why not one builds confidence? Honesty is required in building confidence. When one acts dishonestly, the other knows it. But such a dishonest act may be forgiven with kindness and patience like parents' showing loving-kindness towards their children. How much has the nation lost due to various hindrances and disturbances? Let bygones be bygones as the nation no longer wants to remember the bitter experiences of the past.

Honesty is Sila (a good practice).

There is nothing that does not emerge from practising Sila.

There is no other tool as strong as loving-kindness.

The sweet smell of Sila can spread far beyond the wall of the universe. The blessings of Sila are countless.

Every race, every religion or every custom must practise Sila. If one does not know how to value one's culture and tradition, law and Sila, one will only suffer because of one's own fault.

The dishonest act has been forgiven one or two times. But according to Dhamma, doing insincere acts again and again is unacceptable. Only a person who respects Dhamma will be protected by Dhamma.

If one wants to enjoy peace and tranquility, one will have to take part in making one's own nation and people peaceful. It is totally wrong for a person to think that he can prevent the nation from becoming peaceful and prosperous. Anyone cannot block people's desire to see the nation develop in order to keep abreast of the international community. They have their ability to overcome any difficulties.

I don't want anyone suffering from evil consequence of preventing the people's strength. Doing everything with care and consideration is the best. I don't hate any beings. I don't want to see harm to anyone.

If you help others, then you help yourself.

Serving own interest at expense of others' is driven by a wrong concept. The dream of such a selfish person will never come true. They are now dreaming of a new era. But how can they serve the interest of human society if they keep on centering their interest, showing total disregard for the opinion of others and expending the interest of the people?

"For the youth, receiving a legacy of education alone is not enough. In that context, we have to nurture and guide our children in order that they become upright with good moral conduct and a heart of gold."

Saya Chit San Win

"Good Legacy and Evil Legacy Book", Page-117
Our country lies between two Asian giants. Our

country stands 50th in order of size on the list of 200 world countries. But, ours is not a very small country. The area of England or Japan, for example, is half of our country's. France and Germany are not as big as our country.

Due to our country's vast area, it does not matter even if the population reaches over 100 million. Myanmar's population is extremely sparse if compared with that of the country with a population of over 1000 million to the north, and the country with a population of over 1000 million to the west of our country. And our country's military power is nothing if compared with their navies, air forces, and atomic bombs. Myanmar still exists due to being a brave people.

Our ancestors were capable enough to live on, as evidenced by the fact that they had made their home in the nation for hundreds of years. Our country has seen signs of progress.

In his article featured in Tharapa Magazine, Ludu Sein Win said, "There is nothing like our motherland." He also said that **a person cannot automatically have a sense of patriotism by just claiming that he loves his country. He will come to love his country only if he has known why his country deserves admiration and how his country should be loved.** Otherwise, it is out of the question. By traveling around the nation, a citizen can know facts about his country and his own people thoroughly. In that regard, making an around-the-nation trip works more beautifully to know the geographical features and traditions of own people than giving lip services.

If so, a citizen can have a first-hand experience of how much beautiful Myanmar's geographical features are; how much Myanmar is rich in natural resources; and Myanmar people's innate nature of being helpful and big-hearted, he said.

Moreover, he said that he can know the extent of the difference between Myanmar culture and that of the cities in other countries.

He also stated that Myanmar people are of considerable intellect by nature with high innovative power. The youth of today in Myanmar are highly intelligent, as well.

What we are working is not in the interest of the people at the age of 60 to 70 alone. The major duty is to lay foundations for development of the nation in the interest of our posterity. We have made a lot of sacrifices, showed forbearance, stuck to forget-and-forgive practice, and built national reconsolidation and ensured non-disintegration of the Union at the unprecedented level in discharging national duties.

Visionary leaders of successive periods managed to guard the motherland against outside threats meant to harm the independence and sovereignty. Now, the nation has been unified far strongly than ever, and the nation will be handed over to future generations in line with the State constitution in 2010.

We have yet to hand down the legacy of uprightness and the legacy of good morality and magnanimity to the youth. The people should stay away from plotting against others, entertaining rumours and hearsays, and chiding each other for small matters.

We should play an exemplary role in nurturing the youth. It is time we drove out provocateurs disguised as peacemakers, and work together to generate a better future of our nation.

Translation: ST + MS

It is necessary not to stick to unacceptable wants and demands. Retrospection is not necessary when impossible. Yesterday has gone. We have to look straight at the present. Like or dislike, prevailing conditions can be seen right now. The future can be shaped depending on the present situations. Pragmatism is important. We cannot build a castle in the air.

48th Tatmadaw Football Tournery begins



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivers a speech at opening of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Football Tournament (2009).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The opening of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Football Tournament (2009) took place at No (1) football ground here yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivered a speech. It was attended by senior military officers and

managers of the football teams.

The commander watched the match between Camp Commandant's Office of the Ministry of Defence and Eastern Command teams.—MNA

Construction of Cyclone Shelters in storm-hit regions in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—A coordination meeting on progress of work in construction of Cyclone Shelters in storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions was held at the office of Public Works (Yangon Division) yesterday morning, attended by

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Chief Engineer (Bridge) (Advisor) U Khin Maung Oo, Chief Engineer (Building) (Advisor) U Nyunt Maung San, and officials of Public Works and personnel from private companies.

The deputy minister gave instructions on completion of the work on schedule meeting the set standard and Advisor Chief Engineers made supplementary reports on required technologies and personnel from companies on progress of the work.

MNA

New Asia Light Electrical Accessories show room to be opened

YANGON, 18 Dec—Asia Light Electrical Accessories opened its new show room at No(16/17), East wing of Aung San Stadium on Upper Pansodan Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here today.

Ceiling Lamp, Down Light and Spot Light, Gate Lamp, Garden Lamp, Water Proof Lamp, Security Lamp, Wall Lamp, Stand Lamp, Table Lamp, Crystals Lamp, Sodium Lamp, Solarize Lawn Lamp, electronic wires and switches are

displayed at the show room. Various designs of Diamond shaped and Crystal Ceiling Lamp produced by Egyptian Asfour Crystal Company and switches of C-Metro E-3000 Series and Zencelo Series produced by Schneider Company through German Technology are also on display. The customers will be able to buy those high standard products, which are ensuring safety for electrical uses and appropriate for home decoration, at reasonable

prices. The lamps and bulbs can be switched through sensors of human temperature, shadow and sound. Various sensors are also on sale.

The show rooms of Asia Light Electrical Accessories have been opened between No.97 and No. 30 Streets (Ph: 0209421 and 0274655) and at No. 269 between No. 26 and (83x84) Streets (Ph: 0266655 and 0272300). One may contact the show rooms Asia Light through Email: asialight-27@gmail.com. —MNA



Newly-opened show room of Asia Light Electrical Accessories on Upper Pansodan Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.
UMFCCI

Website and mobile application competitions to be held

YANGON, 18 Dec—With a view to enhancing the skill of computer technology and innovation, enabling the youth to take interests in computer technology and reaching international level, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs' Association and Myanmar Computer Professional

Association will hold website and mobile application competitions. Participants are to send their projects with two sets of CD. They are to deliver application form together with objectives, features, market potential, uniqueness, technology and benefits of site / application to the office of MCEA and MCPA,

Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township here by 30 December (noon).

Cash awards, certificates and Myanmar ICT Awards 2009 will be present. For more information, visit www.myanmarictawards.org, www.mcpamyanmar.org and www.mcia-myanmar.org.

MNA

Director-General inspects Central Training School

YANGON, 18 Dec—Director-General U Soe Ko Ko of Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs met

with the staff and trainees who were attending courses and gave instructions on academic matters at the Central Training School of Education and Training Department in Dagon

Myothit (North) Township yesterday morning.

He met with trainees who were attending the special vocational instructor course No 2 of and fulfilled the requirements.

The director-general inspected the workshop of Parahita (Tiger) School.

MNA

Educative talks on traffic rules in Mayangon and Shwepyitha Townships

YANGON, 18 Dec—Police Captain Myint Kyi and party of Yangon Division Wireless Traffic Police Force gave education talks on traffic

rules to teachers and students at No. 29 Basic Education Middle School in Mayangon Township on 16 December morning, and to car owners and

drivers and conductors at office of War Veteran Organization in Shwepyitha Township at noon.

MNA

DONATE BLOOD



Ministers view progress in upgrading of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.
MNA (News on page 16)



Flowers in full bloom at National Kandawgyi Gardens.
MNA (News on page 16)

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries held its coordination meeting at the ministry on 16 December, with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Development Bank and University of Veterinary Science and Beekeeping Department who passed matriculation examination for 2008-2009 with flying colours through directors-general and managing directors.

Next, President U Kyaw Lwin of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Bank, Director-General Dr Myint Thein of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Deputy Director-General Dr Myint Than of Beekeeping Department,

The minister then presented cash awards to children of staff of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Fisheries Department, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivers an address at work coordination meeting.—L&F

Medal Standing in XXV SEA Games

| Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Thailand | 86 | 83 | 97 | 266 |
| Vietnam | 83 | 75 | 57 | 215 |
| Indonesia | 43 | 53 | 74 | 170 |
| Malaysia | 40 | 40 | 59 | 139 |
| Philippines | 38 | 35 | 51 | 124 |
| Singapore | 33 | 30 | 35 | 98 |
| Laos | 33 | 25 | 52 | 110 |
| Myanmar | 12 | 22 | 37 | 71 |
| Cambodia | 3 | 10 | 27 | 40 |
| Brunei | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| Timor Leste | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |

Acting Rector Dr Tin Ngwe of University of Veterinary Science, Acting Managing Director Dr Pyae Sone of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise, Director-General U Khin Ko Lay of Fisheries Department reported to the minister on work progress and future plans.

The minister stressed the needs and made concluding remarks.

MNA

MPEC to open Professional Application Developer Course in Jan

MPEC

Myanmar Professionals Education Centre

YANGON, 18 Dec— Education Centre will Myanmar Professionals open professional

application developer course for bachelor degree, master degree, or higher diploma holders in Information Technology and related fields who want to work as professional application developers.

The four-month course will be opened in the first week of January 2010. The curriculum covers Introduction to Microsoft, NET Framework, Object Oriented Programming in C #, NET, Web Based Application with ASP, NET, Window Form Application with Visual C #, AJAX Technology and other essential subjects.

Those who have completed the course can enter IT industry as a professional application developer with full of self-confidence. Those wishing to attend the course may register at Myanmar Professionals Education Centre, No. 112, Room (11/12), 8th miles, Pyay Road, Mayangon Township, here, Ph: 668779, 668259 and 650124.

MNA

Myanmar win two more gold and one more silver

YANGON, 18 Dec—In the final day of the XXV SEA Games in Vientiane of Laos, selected Myanmar Sepak Takraw team won two gold in

men's and women's double Sepak Takraw event whereas Min Swe won silver in 55-70 kilo Martial Arts Contest yesterday.—MNA

TV Guide in circulation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—TV Guide Volum-1 No.24 will be published on Friday, 18 December.

The guide carries programmes of about Rihanna, Featured Artist of December through MRTV channel, American Idol programme through Star World channel, two famous world tennis players through Star Sport channel, football match previews of EPL through ESPN, coastal reef from Indonesia through Net Geo Wild channel, Project Runway 5: Rock N' Runway for Fashion Industry through Travel & Living channel, about Mummy of famous Queen who was more powerful than Cleopatra through Discovery channel, programmes of MRTV-4 and others.

MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.



The floral houses of the Royal Castle of Laeken in Brussels, seen under the snow on 18 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

S Korea, EU sign MoU on cultural exchanges

SEOUL, 18 Dec—The South Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Korea (EUCCK) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cultural development co-operation on Friday.

South Korean Culture Minister Yu In-chon and Chairman of the EUCCK Jean-Marie Hurtiger signed the deal on Friday morning.

"I expect to see substan-

tial growth in cultural and tourism exchanges between South Korea and the European Union (EU), which have been quite inactive in the past, through this agreement," Yu said upon settling the accord.

Following this deal, the two sides are expected to work on co-hosting a film festival during the Group of 20 financial summit that is to be held in Seoul next year, and cooperate on building joint institutes in areas involving

eSports, animation, and tourism, the release said.

The move comes as South Korea seeks to promote stronger ties between the two sides in areas such as culture, arts, and tourism and to build a foundation for better institutional structures, especially as the South Korea-EU free trade deal is expected to be ratified next year, the culture ministry said in a Press release.

Xinhua

Venezuela's Chavez sees US threat in Dutch islands

COPENHAGEN, 18 Dec—Hugo Chavez accused the Netherlands on Thursday of allowing the United States to use Dutch islands off Venezuela's Caribbean coast to prepare a possible military attack against his country.

The Venezuelan leader said the US military, to prepare for a possible offensive, has sent intelligence agents, war ships and spy planes to Aruba,

Curacao and Bonaire, which are self-governing Dutch islands.

"They are three islands in Venezuela's territorial waters, but they are still under an imperial regime: the Netherlands," Chavez said during a speech at a climate change conference in Denmark. "Europe should know that the North American empire is filling these islands with weapons, assassins,

American intelligence units, and spy planes and war ships."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly denied that US military personnel in the Caribbean are planning to attack Venezuela.

"These allegations are baseless. These are routine exercises. We seek cooperation with the region," Kelly said.

Internet



A workman cleans the floor in the Bella Centre as negotiators worked through the night to form a draft text at the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen on 18 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

A partial aerial view of the man-made Palm Jumeirah island built by Nakheel property giant off the coast of Dubai. Abu Dhabi's last-minute lifeline to debt-laden Dubai, which prevented a potential major default, was an interest-bearing commercial loan and not a handout, a government-owned daily has said.

INTERNET

Italy's security to be increased after failed bomb attacks

ROME, 18 Dec—The Italian government announced on Thursday that tighter national security measures will be examined after two bombs were discovered in separate locations in northern Italy this week.

An anarchist group has claimed responsibility for the partially exploded bomb found at Bocconi's Milan University on Wednesday as well as a letter bomb sent to an im-

migrant centre in the northeast region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia on Tuesday. Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni said the government was very concerned about the two bombs and did not underestimate their significance.

"It is a serious thing, these actions are occurring in several cities, in Milan and in Friuli, but also other places," Maroni said. "We are giving a great deal of

attention to these events and looking at measures to take to avoid their spreading in the country."

As investigations into the bombs continue, authorities fear there may be more attacks.

One partially exploded bomb, discovered at the Bocconi University in Milan, was claimed by an anarchist group inspired by Chilean left-wing anarchist Mauricio Morales.

Xinhua

Former Syrian President Amin Hafez dies at 89

DAMASCUS, 18 Dec—Former Syrian President Amin Hafez, who was brought to power by a military coup only to be overthrown three years later, has died at the age of 89. One of those who served as an adviser to the former strongman, Monzer Mosaly, says Hafez died on Thursday of cancer.

Hafez became President in a 1963 coup, but Baath Party radicals drove him from power three years later. Among the fighters who had a part in toppling him was Hafez Assad, who became President four years later and ruled Syria with an iron fist for three decades.

Hafez lived in exile in Iraq after his overthrow. He returned to his homeland in 2003 after the US-led invasion of Iraq.—Internet

Farmers return to erupting Philippine volcano

LEGASPI, 18 Dec—Farmers have begun returning to the foothills of the Philippines' most active volcano despite an increasing flow of lava from the mountain, officials said on Friday.

The picturesque Mayon volcano continued to spout spectacular fountains of ash into the sky amid a series of minor eruptions, heightening concerns that a major explosion could occur at any time.

Earthquakes inside Mayon also increased due to the enormous pressure of the ever-increasing amount of lava on its slopes, according to the government's volcanology institute.

"The important thing is that people

should not be in those danger zones when a hazardous explosion happens," said chief government volcanologist Renato Solidum.—Internet



Plumes of ash and smoke stream from the top of the Mayon volcano in the Philippine town of Legaspi in November.—INTERNET



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGKHONTHI VOYNO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOYNO () are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 19.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W6 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO.,LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG XIU VOYNO (9060)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG XIU VOYNO (9060) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 19.12.2009 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION MYANMA RADIO AND TELEVISION INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Sealed tenders are invited for Myanma Radio and Television for the following equipment:

- (1) 3KW UHF TV Transmitter System (Dual Cast) 2 Sets
-Dual Power Amplifier (Analogue/ Digital)
-Output Coaxial Equipment & Channel Combiner
-Programme Input and Monitoring Equipment & Audio/ Video Power & RF Cabling Material
- (2) Antenna System for 3 KW TV.TX & RF Feeder Cable 2 Sets
- (3) 100 Metre Guyed Tower Complete Set 1 Lot
- (4) Automatic Voltage Regulator & Power Distribution Board for TV.TX 2 Nos
- (5) Generator (Diesel Open type,30, 65KVA, 380 V,50 Hz) 2 Nos
- (6) Supervision Commissioning and site training 2 Lots

2. Tender closing date/time will be on 30.12.2009 at 16:30 hrs.

3. Tender documents are available at the below mentioned address.

**Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise
No.28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street,
Bahan Township, Yangon
Ph: 534574, 536029**

Deep sea freediver pushes endurance to the limit



Freediver Sara Campbell poses with her World Championships silver medal, in central London. Campbell is on a mission to stretch the limits of human beings even further, swimming deeper still into the murky ocean depths on just a single gulp of air.—INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Dec—Briton Sara Campbell is on a mission to stretch the limits of the human body — diving down into the murky ocean depths for minutes at a time, on a single gulp of air.

Extreme depth freedivers swim down and back as far as possible, while coping with pressure that crushes their lungs to the size of a lemon and would wreck their eardrums if they were not careful.

And the record-breaking Briton admitted it is tough. "Each dive is a phenomenal physical and mental challenge," the 37-year-old told *AFP*. "Your body goes through very extreme changes.

"Your heart rate drops, all the blood comes to the centre of your body, and then that blood starts to fill the lung tissues so that the air spaces can contract even more.

"For every 10 metres (yards) that you descend, the pressure doubles, so that means your lungs halve in size. So down at 90 metres, 100 metres, they're about a ninth, tenth of the size."

Internet

French military satellite launch delayed again

PARIS, 18 Dec—The launch of French military observation satellite *Helios 2B* has to be delayed once again, an Ariespace official announced on Thursday a few minutes after the scheduled liftoff time passed.

The liftoff was originally scheduled at around 1626 GMT on 9 Dec from the Kourou launch site of Ariespace in French Guiana, Southern America, but an "anomaly of the launcher" firstly postponed the launch to on 17 Dec.—*Xinhua*

Mudslide kills nine, destroys houses in Peru Andes

AYACUCHO, 18 Dec—A storm-loosened wave of mud and rocks rolled through the streets of Ayacucho in the Peruvian Andes, killing at least nine people while destroying homes and cars, authorities said on Thursday. Wednesday's mudslide came to within a block of the central plaza in the mountain city of 150,000 people.

Senior Cabinet Minister Javier Velasquez said nine victims were confirmed dead and 23 injured, three of whom were still hospitalized for fractured bones.

Authorities declared a state of emergency and were on guard for further slides in the region, where meteorologists predicted continued intense rains in the coming days.—*Internet*

Reason to AF447 crash still unknown

PARIS, 18 Dec—France's Bureau of Investigation and Analysis (BEA) published on Thursday its second report on the crash of the Air France airliner *AF447* that fell into the Atlantic, which outlined the latest progress but said the real cause of the tragedy is still unknown.

Six months after the accident that killed 228 peo-

ple on board, the searching teams have found more debris, based on which, the report confirmed that "the airplane struck the surface of the water pitch-up, with a slight bank and a high vertical speed" while oxygen masks and all life jackets hadn't be used.

Its first report released on 2 July said that the problem of the airspeed sensors, called pitot tubes,

was broken and brought mass criticism. The second report confirmed the incorrect readings provided by the defaulted pitot tubes was "one element among a chain of events that have caused the accident" but excluded it as the only reason.

This time, the analysis bureau suggested the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) "modify the certification criteria" of pitot tubes at the end of the report, saying recent tests found out some equipment, in particular the pitot probes "do not appear to be well-adapted to flights at high altitude."

It also recommended EASA "undertake studies to determine with appropriate precision the composition of cloud masses at high altitude."—*Xinhua*

Giving the gift of higher IQ

CLEVELAND, 18 Dec—A US pediatrician advises veering away from videos when giving gifts to small children.

Dr Michael Macknin, a pediatrician at Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, says a study found infants 8-16 months old who watched popular baby education videos for more than one hour a day scored 17 points lower on verbal tests than peers.

Cartoon watchers, he says, had verbal scores that were 11 points lower. However, reading to children improved their verbal scores by 12 points.

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests

total screen time be limited to one to two hours per day, maximum, for video viewing, television and computer time combined, Macknin says. Less screen time has been linked to less obesity and less violent behaviour, as well,

Macknin says.

Macknin also advises the perfect gift is a helmet.

"Always add a safety helmet when giving a bike, skateboard, scooter or rollerblades," Macknin says in a statement.

Internet



Photo taken in November 2009 shows the night view in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) in south China. The 10th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland will fall on 20 Dec this year.

XINHUA

Robot records deepest erupting undersea volcano

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Dec — Scientists have recorded the deepest erupting undersea volcano ever seen, capturing for the first time video of fiery molten lava bubbles exploding 4,000 feet beneath the Pacific Ocean. A submersible robot witnessed the eruption in May during an underwater expedition near Samoa, and the high-definition videos were presented on Thursday at a geophysics conference in San Francisco.

Scientists hope the images, data and samples obtained during the mission will shed new light

on how the earth's crust was formed. The research could also help explain how some sea creatures survive and thrive in extreme environments and how the earth behaves when tectonic plates collide.

"It was an underwater Fourth of July," said Bob Embley, a marine geologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in a news release. "Since the water pressure at that depth suppresses the violence of the volcano's explosions, we could get the underwater robot within

feet of the active eruption."

The eruption was a spectacular sight: Bright-red lava bubbles shot out of the volcano, releasing a smoke-like cloud of sulfur. The lava froze almost instantly as it hit the cold sea water, causing black rock to sink to the sea floor. The submersible hovered near the blasts, its robotic arm reaching into the lava to collect samples.

Internet



In this image taken from a May 7, 2009 video and provided by the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a robotic arm collects samples at the West Mata Volcano nearly 4,000 feet beneath the Pacific Ocean, south of Samoa.—INTERNET

Heart drugs may help treat colon cancer

UPPSALA, 18 Dec — A group of drugs used to treat heart failure shows promise for fighting colon cancer, researchers in Sweden said.

Jenny Felth and Joachim Gullbo both of Uppsala University and colleagues said cardiac glycosides — a family of naturally derived drugs used to treat congestive heart failure and abnormal heart rhythms — may prove useful in fighting many types of cancer.

As part of a larger study to screen and identify natural substances with activity against colon cancer, the researchers tested five of these heart drugs against laboratory cultures of human colon cancer cells and found they were all effective, to varying degrees, in killing the cancer cells.

The sensitivity was rather low when compared with that of other cancer cell types reported previously. However, several of the drugs also showed increased anti-cancer activity when combined with certain drugs used for standard chemotherapy.—Internet

Beaches may be reservoirs of Ecoli

PARIS, 18 Dec— Beaches may be a reservoir of the pathogen Ecoli as a result of migratory bird droppings, researchers in France and Portugal say.

Scientists at the Hopital de Bicetre in Paris and Universidade do Porto in Portugal said

Ecoli can be very resistant to antibiotic drugs, which makes the infection hard to treat.

The researchers found the same bacteria in the bird droppings as hospitalized people and concluded that people were getting infected by bird droppings on the sand on the beaches in Portugal. The Porto coastline in Portugal, including downtown Porto, has a large seagull population, the researchers said.

During December 2007 through April 2008, wild seagull feces were collected on beaches in Porto, Portugal. Twenty samples were collected every two weeks and the researchers detected Ecoli in the samples.

Internet

Earthquake with magnitude 5.5 hits Morocco

RABAT, 18 Dec — An earthquake with a magnitude 5.5 was reported early on Thursday in Morocco, Media 1 satellite TV reported.

The epicentre of the quake was located in the Atlantic Ocean, 300 km off the northern city of Tangier, the report quoted the Moroccan Geophysics Institute as saying.

The tremor was particularly felt in the cities of Rabat, Casablanca, Tangier, Fez, Saf said and Marrakesh, according to the institute. There were no reports of damage or injuries until now.—Xinhua

Quake hits central Japan, seven hurt

TOKYO, 18 Dec — At least seven people were injured and more than 20 buildings damaged on Friday when a moderate earthquake hit central Japan and more than 100 aftershocks jolted the region. The 5.2 magnitude quake struck at 8:45 am (2345 GMT Thursday), with the epicentre located off the Izu Peninsula in the Pacific Ocean about 90 kilometres (55 miles) southwest of Tokyo, the US Geological Survey said.

The tremor shattered windows and cracked some roads and sidewalks, toppled over tombstones in a cemetery, caused the collapse of a hotel wall and damaged more than 20 other buildings in Ito City, eastern Izu. Among those injured was a 78-year-old man who broke his hip when he fell on a stairwell,



Map locating the epicentre of a 5.2-magnitude quake that struck off the coast of Japan on Friday. At least seven people were injured and more than 20 buildings damaged.

INTERNET

local officials said. "We have continued feeling aftershocks," said Hiroki Ishii, an Ito city official. "We are trying to ask our citizens to be on alert while we are providing as much support for them as possible."

Internet

Drug added to cocaine could kill

ATLANTA, 18 Dec — Two state health departments identified a life-threatening condition that compromises the immune system among persons using cocaine, US officials said.

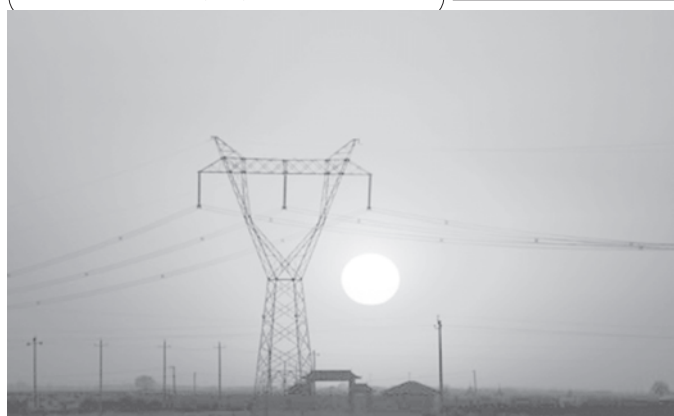
The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report said agranulocytosis is a life-threatening condition believed to be caused by inadvertent exposure to levamisole — a veterinary drug used to treat rheumatoid arthritis — added to cocaine for reasons unknown. It is no longer available in North America for human use, but is available in the United States and South America for veterinary administration.

The New Mexico department of health and Washington state department of health have identified 21 cases of agranulocytosis, the report said. People who use cocaine should seek medical attention if they experience persistent sore throat, persistent or recurrent fever, swollen glands, painful sores, skin infections or other unusual infections.

Internet

The sun sets behind a transmission pylon carrying high voltage power cables in Horinger County, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 16 Dec, 2009.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Villarreal, Valencia reach last 32 in Europa League

LONDON, 18 Dec—Italian soccer club Lazio on Thursday lost its final Group G game 1-0 at home to Levski Sofia and failed to advance to the knockout stages of the Europa League.

In the same group, Austrian club Salzburg, who has qualified with undefeated run in the League, edged past Villarreal 1-0, a win that means both reach the last 32, combined with the loss from Lazio.

Elsewhere, Spain forward David Villa missed a penalty but later grabbed an injury-time winner as Valencia triumphed 2-1 at Genoa to make sure of its place and eliminate the Italians. Belgian club Anderlecht was far too strong for Ajax Amsterdam in Group A and won 3-1 in the Netherlands to move past the Dutch club into first place into the group.

Only several places were up for grabs in Thursday's 12 games, with a number of teams having already qualified including



Salzburg's players celebrate their victory over Villarreal after their Europa League soccer match at the Madrigal Stadium in Villarreal on 17 December, 2009.—INTERNET

Anderlecht's opponents Ajax.

Lille also secured the ticket to the knockout round after beating Slavia Prague 3-1, and former England coach Steve McClaren's Twente Enschede completed the lineup for the last 32 with a 1-1 draw at eliminated Steaua Bucharest.

On Wednesday struggling Bundesliga club Hertha Berlin beat Sporting Lisbon 1-0 to join the Portuguese team in the next round, while Basel failed to get the win it needed against Fulham.

INTERNET

Woods wins American Golf Writers' player of year award

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—Tiger Woods has been voted male Golfer of the Year in the annual Golf

Writers of American Awards, the PGA Tour said on Thursday.

Woods received 84 percent of the vote (168 votes), while Steve Stricker and PGA Championship winner Yang Yong-eun only polled 10 percent and six percent respectively.

The American was a runaway winner of the award for the 10th time in 13 seasons despite the recent tabloid revelations about his personal life.

Woods has taken an "indefinite break" from the game after admitting his being unfaithful to his wife.

South Korean Jiyai Shin, the LPGA's Rookie of the Year, won the female player award while Loren Roberts won the senior player of the year prize.—Xinhua



Tiger Woods reacts during the British Open Golf Championship at the Turnberry Golf Club in Scotland, in this on 16 July, 2009 file photo. Woods said on 11 December he would take an "indefinite break" from professional golf, acknowledging the disappointment and hurt his "infidelity" had caused his family.

XINHUA

Beckham dreaming of United return

NYON, 18 Dec—David Beckham is dreaming of a return to Old Trafford ahead of Friday's draw for the knockout stages of the Champions League, which could see Manchester United paired with AC Milan.

Beckham is due to return to Milan in January for a second loan spell and, with United among the seeds for the draw in Switzerland, they are one of six teams the English champions could face in February.

Beckham left United



David Beckham.

for Real Madrid in 2003 and has not yet come up against the club where he made his name and with whom he collected a Champions League winners' medal in 1999.

INTERNET

Barcelona midfielder Iniesta to miss World Club final

MADRID, 18 Dec—Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta will miss the final of the World Club Championship on Saturday.

Barcelona plays Argentinean side Estudiantes this Saturday in Abu Dhabi after beating Mexican outfit Atlante in Wednesday's semi-final.

However, Iniesta was forced to limp out of the game with 15 minutes remaining after suffering problems with his upper left thigh.

He will undergo further tests on Thursday, but the club website insists there is no chance of the Spain international recovering in time for the final.

"It is confirmed that he has a tear in his upper thigh," confirmed the FC Barcelona website.

Meanwhile the player admitted he was uncertain how serious the injury was.

"I don't know if it was after a challenge or whether the muscle was a bit overworked," he said before giving his support to his team mates who have the chance to win their sixth title of 2009.—Xinhua

Pavlik finally back in ring to defend crown

YOUNGSTOWN, 18 Dec—Kelly Pavlik, frustrated after a 10-month layoff because of an infected hand, returns to the ring on Saturday in his hometown to defend his World Boxing Council middleweight crown.

The 27-year-old faces fellow American Miguel Angel Espino after months fighting off the infection in his right hand, a delay that scrubbed a potential showdown with US southpaw Paul Williams.

"It has been a long year for me, very frustrating because of a series of setbacks," Pavlik said. "But now I'm back. I feel great. I have a huge hunger to get back into the ring. On Saturday it will be 'Bombs away.'"

Pavlik, 35-1 with 31

knockouts, suffered his only loss 14 months ago when he stepped up in weight to face Bernard Hopkins and dropped a unanimous 12-round decision.

Pavlik defended his title last February by beating Mexico's Marco Antonio Rubio, but has much to prove after the layoff when he meets Espino, 20-2 with one drawn and nine knockouts.—INTERNET



Kelly Pavlik

Italy's Toni drops England and Spain hints

BERLIN, 18 Dec—Italian World Cup winner Luca Toni said on Thursday he is also ready to quit Bayern Munich for a Spanish or English club when the transfer window reopens in January to win back his Azzurri place.

"I am also ready to go to England or Spain," Toni told German magazine Kicker having already said a return to Italy is another possibility.

Having been in the Italian team which won the 2006 World Cup in Germany, Toni has found

himself on the bench at Bayern Munich this season having lost favour with their Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

INTERNET



Italian World Cup winner Luca Toni

Real Madrid looks to close gap on league leaders Barcelona

MADRID, 18 Dec—Real Madrid looks to close the gap on Spanish Primera Liga leaders FC Barcelona when Zaragoza visits the Santiago Bernabeu stadium for the last game of 2009 on Saturday night.

Barcelona is in Abu Dhabi to contest the World Club Championship and has already played its match day-15 game, beating Xerez 2-0 away from home.

That has given the Catalan side a five point lead at the top of the table, which Real Madrid aims to reduce to just two.

Real Madrid welcomes back Cristiano Ronaldo after his suspension for the 3-2 triumph in Valencia, but Manuel Pellegrini's side is still without Kaka, who is struggling from a groin problem.

Real also has to start getting used to life without central defender Pepe, who is out for the season after damaging the ligaments in his right knee last weekend, Ezequiel Garay, who replaced Pepe in Valencia and scored the winning goal in the game, is the favorite to fill the gap in the Madrid defence.—Xinhua

Yao to focus on Sharks before returning to NBA by next season

SHANGHAI, 18 Dec—Houston Rockets' Chinese center Yao Ming said he will focus mainly on the running of Shanghai Sharks back in China and would probably return to NBA by next season.

Yao came back to Shanghai on Thursday night, mainly to fulfill his duty as the sole shareholder of Shanghai Sharks, the name of which had been changed to Shanghai Sharks-Maxxis Tires basketball team as Maxxis Tires signed with Yao's management team to be the team's title sponsor on Friday morning.

"I used to be a player of Shanghai Sharks, and now I become the boss of the team.

But no matter how the

identity changes, I hope that Shanghai sharks would soon return to glory and take on new look for fans in Shanghai and all over China," said Yao on the signing ceremony.

The Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) league will kick off on Saturday with its opener between Zhejiang Guangsha and Shanghai Sharks.—Xinhua



Yao Ming



A visitor looks at a projection of Space and Earth, a part of the NGO presentation in Oksnehallen in the centre of Copenhagen, 17 December 2009, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009.

INTERNET

China builds one more panda breeding base, expecting eight more cubs a year

Xi' An, 18 Dec— China began to build a fourth giant panda breeding base in northwestern Shaanxi Province Friday, which is expected to add at least eight cubs to the population of the endangered species a year.

With an investment of 69.54 million yuan (10.2 million U.S. dollars), the Qinling giant panda breeding base will cover 287 hectares, according to Zhang Shenian, head of the provincial forestry department.

The base will have eight breeding pens and 10 "kindergartens" for cubs, and the 22 pandas which will live there after the base is built are expected to have at least eight cubs a year, and the total population of the base could reach 40 in two years, according to Zhang. There are about 1,600 giant pandas living in the wild, mostly in southwestern Sichuan Province and the northwestern provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu.—Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (19-12-2009) (Saturday)

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

Local Transmission

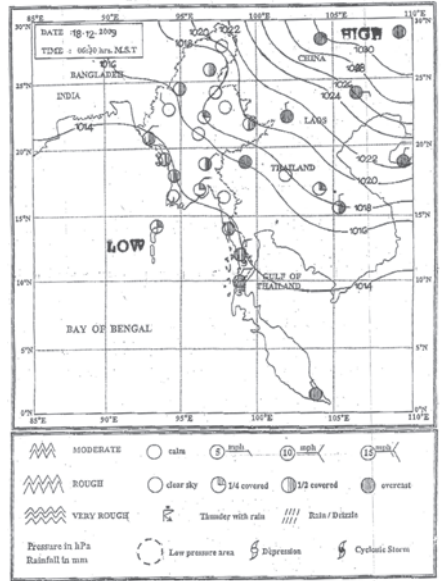
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Invaluable heritage of the Pyu
- * Pay Serious attention to construction work for regional development
- * Myanmar DVD
- * Better Homes, Better Decorations
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Wonderful Tofu
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Invaluable heritage of the Pyu
- * Pay Serious attention to construction work for regional development
- * Myanmar DVD
- * Better Homes, Better Decorations
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Myanma Indigenous Ornamental Fish (Part-2)
- * A Creator of Collage
- * Let's Drink Strawberry Juice
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Reed Handbag
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 18th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Yangon Division, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (1°C), Haka (2°C), Lashio (4°C), Namhsam and Heho (5°C) each and Mogok (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Myeik (0.35) inch and Kawthoung (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2009 was 59°F. Minimum temperature on 16-12-2009 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-12-2009 was 67%. Total sun shine hours on 17-12-2009 was (9.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-12-2009 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 Northeast at (18:30) hours MST on 17-12-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th December 2009: Light rain are possible to be isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of ceratainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-12-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-12-2009: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for forth weekend of December 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 19 December
View on today

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 7:00 am 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် | 7:40 am 5. Nice & Sweet Song | 2:35 pm 7. "ရင်ခွန်ကြည်နူးဖွယ်ကိုတိုးကျွန်း အတ္ထုပ္ပါဒ်ခန်းစဉ်" | 5:45 pm 8. Musical Programme |
| 7:15 am 2. အဂ္ဂိလယမင်္ဂလ် (ယဉ်ဝေယံထွန်းတေးရေး-ဝိတဇာဆိုဖိုးနွယ်ဆွေ) | 7:55am 6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ် | 2:45 pm 8. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား ချီးရာအက | 6:00 pm 9. Evening News |
| 7:25 am 3. To Be Healthy Exercise | 8:10 am 7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ | 2:50 pm 9. International News | 6:15 pm 10. Weather Report |
| 7:30 am 4. Morning News | 8:20 am 8. ဆည်ရေလျှံလျှံကန်ဒေါင့် ရေလှောင်တံစံ | 4:00 pm 1. Martial Song | 6:20 pm 11. အလှရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ် |
| | 8:30 am 9. International News | 4:10 pm 2. မြန်မြန်ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက | 6:45 pm 12. ယဉ်တစ်ကိုယ်မယ် "မက်ချင်ခဲ့တဲ့အိမ်မက်များ" (မာရီနာချန်ထွန်း)(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းလေးယုလင်း) |
| | 8:35 am 10. Crossroads Cafe (Episode-15) (Breathing Away) | 4:20 pm 3. Musical Programme | 7:00 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မိုးမြေချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀) |
| | 11:00 am 1. Martial Song | 4:35 pm 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ်(ရူပဗေဒ၊ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သင်္ချာအထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ) | 8:00 pm 14. News |
| | 11:10 am 2. Musical Programme | 4:50 pm 5. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ | 8:00 pm 15. International News |
| | 11:25 am 3. Game For Children | 5:00 pm 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ | 8:00 pm 16. Weather Report |
| | 11:50 am 4. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News | 5:10 pm 7. "ငွေကြေးကိစ္စဒုန့်သမျှ | 8:00 pm 17. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ" (အပိုင်း-၆၉) |
| | 1:30 pm 5. Yan Can Cook | | 8:00 pm 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွေဦးကဗျာချစ်သံသာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀) |
| | 1:45 pm 6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ | | 8:00 pm 19. ဝိတဇာခါးလေးမွှင်ပါဦး |

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- ★ 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

Ministers inspect upgrading of National Kandawgyi Gardens

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, who accompanied the Head of State on his inspection tour, inspected upgrading of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

First, the ministers viewed the colourful flowerbeds in the gardens. The ministers then looked round fossils of mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates displayed in fossil museum. The ministers also observed fossils of plants, colourful stones, fossils of toddy-palm roots, and things made from fossils of plants in Petrified Wood Museum.

The ministers then visited butterfly museum where they viewed various species of butterflies from Myanmar, Nepal, Chinese Taipei, South America, Japan and South East Asia.—MNA



Ministers inspect upgrading of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.—MNA

2nd round of Tatmadaw Football Tournery (2009) continues

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The second round robin match of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at designated places today.

In No.1 Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Command won over Eastern Command (A) 6-1. In Paunglong Sports Ground, Tatmadaw (Navy) held draw with Southern Command 1-1.

MNA

Significant night temperatures

(18-12-2009)

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Loilem | (1°C) |
| Haka | (2°C) |
| Lashio | (4°C) |
| Namhsan and Heho | (5°C) |
| Mogok | (6°C) |