



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Secretary-1 receives President of Export-Import Bank of China Exim Bank of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received President Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China Exim Bank of China and party at the

SPDC Office here at 4 p.m. today.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.—MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Mr Li Ruogu and party of China Exim Bank of PRC.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Mount Pleasant Hotel opened

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Mount Pleasant Hotel on Phoe Zaung mountain range near Nay Pyi Taw Ottara Thiri was formally opened this morning at Mount Pleasant Tower of the hotel.

The opening ceremony was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests, personnel of G-4 Group of Companies, the MD and staff of Mount Pleasant Hotel.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, MD U Yan Win of G-4 Group of Companies cut a ribbon to open the hotel.

The Commander pressed the button to

open the archway of the hotel. Next, the commander, the ministers and guests looked round the hotel.

Mount Pleasant Hotel which lies on Phoe Zaung mountain range about 1600 feet above sea

level near Nay Pyi Taw Ottara Thiri has the same weather as Pyin Oo Lwin, a hilly resort station and is a four-star hotel.

The hotel is built on 25-acre hill and composed of three-story Mount Pleasant Tower from

which one can enjoy the scenic views of the surrounding of Nay Pyi Taw, Zabu Thiri Hall which can cater about 150 customers, Ottara Thiri Hall which can hold about 200 customers, a meeting hall with space for about 70

persons, and Bamboo Garden Restaurant where one can enjoy Eastern and European foods. It is an international hilly resort hotel formed with modern buildings such as reception & function rooms, Mount Pleasant Suite,

Junior Suite, Deluxe bungalows and about 70 bedrooms.

The hotel, to mark its opening, offers 40% discount for local and foreign customers for first six months. The hotel (See page 7)



Mount Pleasant Hotel on Phoe Zaung mountain range near Nay Pyi Taw Ottara Thiri.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 December, 2009

Popa region will be covered with lush and green tea plantations

Greening projects have been systematically undertaken in the regions of Central Myanmar such as Monywa and Sagaing Districts in Sagaing Division, Myingyan, Yamethin and Meiktila Districts in Mandalay Division and Pakokku, Minbu, Magway and Thayet Districts in Magway Division.

A tea growing project was launched in Natyekantaung region in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District and in Popa Mountain Garden region in Kyaukpadaung Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division.

Popa Mountain Garden region has favourable soil and climate to grow tea. National entrepreneurs have been given permission to grow tea as model tea plantations were successful.

With the thriving tea plantations, the surrounding areas of Mount Popa in Central Myanmar will have new job opportunities and be able to conduct mass production of pickled tea and dried tea.

The tea plantations established in the eastern part of Mount Popa are thriving. Moreover, a private-owned plantation near Yaynge Camp on the mountain has grown over 700,000 tea plants on 200 acres.

Although Popa region is arid, the region and its surrounding areas can conserve natural resources and have become lush and green thanks to the Popa Mountain region greening project. Besides, with its favourable soil and climate, the region now can establish thriving agricultural businesses.

As tea can grow well not only in Shan, Kachin, Chin and Kayin States but also in Popa region, the local people are urged to extend cultivation of globally marketable tea so as to generate more job opportunities and increase per capita income.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt presents award to an outstanding trainee.—MNA



People's Desire

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

Papers read on "Our Three Main National Causes, a reality proven by history"



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint addresses opening of paper reading session.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Ministry of Culture organized a paper reading session titled "Our Three Main National Causes, a reality proven by the history" at the ministry here yesterday morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Historical Commission Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Vice Chairman-2 Dr Toe Hla, Secretary Dr Kyaw Win, and Members Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, U Kyaw, and Daw Ohn Kyi,

experts from outside world, directors-general of departments under the ministry, resource persons, personnel from ministries and enthusiasts.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Historical Commission Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivered an address and opened the paper reading session. Vice Chairman-2 Dr Toe Hla extended greetings and Director-General Dr Ba Maung of Myanmar historical Research De-

partment explained salient points on paper reading session.

Dr Toe Hla, Dr Kyaw Win, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and Daw Ohn Kyi acted as alternate chairpersons and member of MHC Daw Ohn Kyi read out the paper on Myanmar Political Affairs (1900-1920) "Unity is Strength", Secretary Dr Kyaw Win on Period of transition in Myanma Politics (1962-1988) "Undertakings for National Solidarity" in the morning session.

In the afternoon session, member of Myanmar Historical Commission U Kyaw read out the paper on Myanma Political Affairs (1937-1945), and Dr Khin Maung Nyunt on "Cultural Heritage."

Afterwards, resource persons held discussion with experts, researchers and guests. Vice Chairman-2 Dr Toe Hla assessed the papers and the paper reading session came to an end in the evening.

MNA

Basic Domestic Science Special Course conclude in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the concluding ceremony of

Basic Domestic Science Special Course No. 2 organized by Education and Training Department at the Mawayeya Hall in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Division on 14 December morning. The minister made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes awarded by National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee to first, second, third prize winners.

Director-General U Soe Ko Ko of Education and Training Department gave completion certificates to a trainee.

The minister viewed the clothes and handicrafts made by the trainees.

The minister also attended the ceremony to conclude the Basic Domestic Science Special Course No. 2 at the Yway Nadi Hall in Labutta and made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, he presented prizes awarded by the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee to winners, and observed clothes and handicrafts made by the trainees.

After that, the minis-

ter inspected Third-mile new ward in Labutta, construction of 200-bed hospital, construction of tarred road, progress in construction of departmental office buildings.

The minister inspected construction site of office buildings of Development Affairs Committee and construction site of Basic carpentry, crafts of mason, steel work training school.

MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

US and Russia: nuclear deal 'very close'

COPENHAGEN, 19 Dec — The United States and Russia said on Friday they were on the verge of clinching a sweeping new nuclear disarmament pact, but signalled the bid to smooth final technical issues would slip into January.

US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev held their latest summit on the sidelines of the UN climate talks in Denmark, but dashed speculation that the long-awaited deal would be signed by the end of the year.

Obama said the two sides were "quite close" to clinching a framework to decommission hundreds of nuclear arms, and replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) which expired on 5 December.

"I'm confident that it will be completed in a timely fashion. And I just want to thank President Medvedev for being a very effective partner in these negotiations," he said.

Medvedev made clear that only "a few technical details" now blocked the agreement, which will see further deep mutual cuts in the nuclear arsenals of the former Cold War foes.

"Our positions are very close and almost all the questions that we discussed over the last months have been closed," Medvedev said.

"A few technical details have remained which nevertheless need to be finalized in such an important agreement and I hope that we will do this in quite a short time."—*Internet*



US President Barack Obama (R) talks with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev during a bilateral meeting at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen. —INTERNET



A person critically injured by a suicide bombing in Dir, arrives at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan on 18 Dec, 2009. A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives inside a police compound in north-western Pakistan on Friday in the latest attack by suspected Taliban militants. INTERNET

NATO kills three civilians, wounds four others in air strike in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 19 Dec — A NATO helicopter killed three civilians and wounded four others during an air strike in Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan, provincial government said on Friday.

The helicopter stroke a minibus on the Kandahar-Oruzgan highway in Shawali Kot District of Kandahar Province at about 11 pm on Thursday, killing three men and wounding one woman and three children, according to a Press release issued by the provincial governor house on Friday.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement it was sending a team to investigate reports of civilian casualties in the

operation.

"Initial operational reports indicate that men were placing an IED next to the road," ISAF said in the statement. "After firing on the men from a helicopter, ISAF forces discovered civilians in a car adjacent to the IED site."

Civilian casualties have increased in Afghanistan in 2009. Both militants and troops are held responsible for harming non-combatants in Afghanistan.

On 8 Dec, hundreds of Afghans protested in eastern Laghman Province over a NATO operation in which the Afghan government said six civilians were killed. ISAF rejected the claim, saying all those killed were militants.

Xinhua

Eight killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 19 Dec — US drone aircraft on Friday killed at least eight people in northwest Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, locals said.

Four missiles were fired in Dutta Khel area on houses and a graveyard where people were burying victims of another US drone attack on Thursday, they said. Officials in the region confirmed the strike but said they do not know about the number of casualties. Locals said that missiles also struck tents of nomads, mainly Afghans who migrated to Pakistan in summer.

It was the third strike in North Waziristan in two days. On Thursday, US drones carried two attacks and killed 17 people.

Xinhua

A/H1N1 pandemic death toll exceeds 10,000, says WHO

GENEVA, 19 Dec — The death toll of A/H1N1 influenza continues to increase worldwide, reaching at least 10,582 by 13 Dec, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a latest update on Friday.

Of all the deaths, some 6,335 occurred in the Americas, and at least 1,654 occurred in Europe. The other four WHO regions, Western Pacific, South-East Asia, East Mediterranean and Africa reported 1,020, 892, 572 and 109 deaths respectively.—*Xinhua*

Four passenger trains get stuck under English Channel

LONDON, 19 Dec — British media say four trains with more than 2,000 passengers aboard have broken down in the Channel Tunnel due to wintry weather.

Eurostar spokesman Bram Smets told *Sky News* and the *BBC* early on Saturday that all the passengers are safe, though some of the trains were without heating or lighting in the tunnel connecting England and France.

Smets says two of the trains are being pushed by diesel trains toward London and passengers on the other trains were being transferred onto shuttles. Eurostar told the *BBC* that the trains broke down because of the temperature difference between the cold air outside the tunnel and the warm air inside.—*Internet*



A Eurostar train is pictured travelling through the Kent countryside in south-east England, on its way to London. Four Eurostar passenger trains are reportedly stuck in the rail tunnel between Britain and continental Europe as they broke down due to the cold weather snap affecting the region.—INTERNET

Bomb attack kills US soldier in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec — A bomb attack has killed another US soldier in southern Afghanistan, pushing the death toll of foreign troops to close to 500 during the war this year, NATO said Saturday.

So far this year 496 foreign troops have died in the country, according to an AFP count based on a tally kept by the independent website icasualties. Of those deaths, 306 were American.—*Internet*



Visitors look around in the first day of Shandong International Auto Show that opened in Qingdao, a port city in east China's Shandong Province, on 18 Dec, 2009. —XINHUA

Honda to build fifth plant in China

TOKYO, 19 Dec—Japan's Honda Motor plans to build its fifth car plant in China to cope with mounting competition in the fast-growing auto market, according to a Press report released on Saturday.

The new plant, with an annual capacity of 120,000 units, will boost Honda's production in China by 20 percent to 730,000 units a year, the business daily *Nikkei* said.

It will be built next to the existing factory of Honda's Chinese joint venture Dongfeng Honda Automobile in the central city of Wuhan and is due to be operational by 2011, the report said.

Initial investment in the project is estimated at 20-30 billion yen (220-330

million dollars), the report added.

No one was immediately available at Honda's head office in Tokyo to confirm the report. Car sales in China are forecast to exceed 13 million units this year with the Communist nation replacing the United States as the world's biggest auto market, *Nikkei* said.—*Internet*



Workers are pictured assembling a Honda Accord at its plant in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. Japan's Honda Motor plans to build its fifth car plant in China to cope with mounting competition in the fast-growing auto market, according to a Press report released on Saturday.—INTERNET

Regulators shutter 2 big Calif banks, 5 others

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—Regulators on Friday shut down two big California banks, as well as banks in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Michigan and Illinois, bringing to 140 the number of US banks brought down this year by the weak economy and mounting loan defaults.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp took over all seven.

Regulators shuttered First Federal Bank of California, based in Santa Monica, with \$6.1 billion in assets and \$4.5 billion in deposits, as was as Imperial Capital Bank of La Jolla, Calif, with about \$4 billion in assets and \$2.8 billion in deposits.

California was one of the states hardest hit by the real estate market meltdown and many banks there have suffered under the weight of soured mortgage loans. First Federal and Imperial Capital bring to 17 the number of California banks to fail this year. Also closing their doors on Friday were Atlanta-based RockBridge Commercial Bank, with \$294 million in assets and \$291.7 million in deposits; and New South Federal Savings Bank, based in Irondale, Ala, with \$1.5 billion in assets and \$1.2 billion in deposits.

Internet

China's King Long bus company sets up assembly plant in Hungary

BUDAPEST, 19 Dec—King Long, a bus production company based in Xiamen in southeast China's Fujian Province, will build its first European vehicle assembly facility in Hungary, announced Janos Kelemen, manager of King Long Hungary, at a news conference on Friday.

Kelemen did not give the amount of the investment, but said that the Chinese firm had signed a declaration of intent and the project was already on the drawing board. The assembly plant will be in eastern Hungary, he added, although the specific venue has yet to be decided. He named the southern great plain region and the cities of Gyongyos and Miskolc as possible sites for the plant.

Xinhua

Deepening EU-China ties conforms to interests of both sides: EU official

STRASBOURG, 19 Dec—The European Union (EU) and China share common interests and the deepening of bilateral ties will bring benefits to both sides, Louis Michel, member of the European Parliament and former European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, said here on Friday.

The ever deepening EU-China relations have produced many positive results, Michel told *Xinhua* in an interview, adding that the two sides should strengthen economic cooperation and political dialogue to promote the overall development of bilateral ties.

China and the EU are economically complementary to each other to

some extent, Michel said, citing the fact that the EU has 500 million consumers with strong purchasing power while China has a big domestic market, 1.3 billion consumers and increasing gross domestic product (GDP).

On political relations, Michel said he is optimistic about the prospects of EU-China ties as the development of the partnership with China is a priority in EU's foreign policy.

Michel said the two

sides should hold political dialogues on a higher level to discuss issues including how emerging economies can play a bigger role in international institutions such as the Bretton Woods Institutions.

China and the EU could work together to help bring major reforms to international institutions including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, he said.—*Xinhua*

EU survey reveals wary British consumers see a bumpy ride ahead

LONDON, 19 Dec—A poll for the European Union released on Friday shows that British consumer confidence fell for the second month in a row.

The month-on-month fall of two points in the GfK NOP Consumer Confidence poll to -19 is still massively better than the -37 in January this year, but a decline from October's optimism which saw the Index at -13.

Nick Moon of GfK NOP Social Research said: "After a dramatic increase in the index from August to October it has now fallen back for two months in a row, and another month of falls could see all of the gains since August disap-

pear. This must be concerning for the government, although the index is still massively higher than it was a year ago." "What will be particularly worrying for Gordon Brown is that the index for the state of the economy, which had crept into positive territory, has fallen by a substantial nine points to -6," said Moon.

The lack of consumer confidence was also evident in the retail figures for November, released on Thursday. Experts expected a modest rise month on month, but saw a 0.3-percent decline last month on October's figures. October had seen a 0.6-percent month-on-month rise.—*Xinhua*

Aerial view of the Suncor oil sands extraction facility near the town of Fort McMurray in Alberta. Green groups on Friday named Canada "Fossil of the Year" — an award that carried the additional honorific of "Colossal Fossil" — for what they said was a strategy to sabotage efforts to tackle climate change.—INTERNET



President Hu arrives in Macao for 10th anniversary celebrations

MACAO, 19 Dec—Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Macao on Saturday at about 12:00 pm by special plane to attend the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the city's return to the motherland.

Hu, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, will also attend the inauguration of the third-term

government of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

This is the second time the President came to Macao. Hu attended the 5th anniversary celebrations in 2004.

Edmund Ho Hau Wah, the SAR chief executive and his wife Taniana Lau went up to the special plane to welcome Hu Jintao and his wife Liu Yongqing.

Chief executive-elect Fernando Chui Sai On and

his wife Fok Waifun as well as other senior SAR government officials were also present greeting Hu and his wife Liu Yongqing at the Macao International Airport.

When President Hu and his wife went down the ramp with smiles, the Macao Police Band began to strike up a tune of welcome and two lovely primary school pupils presented bouquets of flowers to them.

Xinhua



Chinese President Hu Jintao(L) waves upon his arrival at Macao International Airport in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) in south China on 19 Dec, 2009. —XINHUA



The photo taken on 17 Dec, 2009 shows the sight-seeing platform and driveways under reconstruction in the Bund by the Huangpu River in east China's Shanghai Municipality. —XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Wild elephant kills old woman

KATHMANDU, 19 Dec — The wild elephant killed one old woman on Thursday in Nepali central Sindhul District, local media reported on Saturday.

According to local newspaper *The Rising Nepal*, the total number of people killed in wild elephants attack in the district has reached to four in two weeks' time, with the death of the 66-year-old woman.

A group of four elephants entered the village and damaged the woman's house before trampling her to death, *The Rising Nepal* reported, citing the District Police Office as sources.

Xinhua

Moderate earthquake shakes Colombia's southwest

BOGOTA, 19 Dec— An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude shook the southwest of Colombia on Friday, without immediate report of casualties and important material damages. Director of the Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining (Ingeminas) Mario Ballesteros said the earthquake occurred at 9:30 am (1430 GMT) with the epicentre located some 30 km to Colato municipality in the department of Cauca and a depth of 148 km.

"This tranquilize us because as closer of the surface of the earth it occurs, it is felt stronger," Ballesteros said. Officers of Ingeominas checked the regions of Cauca and the departments nearby in order to find damages due to the earthquake.—Xinhua



Workers arrange "wishing spheres" as part of an art installation on the Singapore River on 18 Dec, 2009. People pen their New Year wishes on these spheres throughout December to be placed on the river as part of the coming New Year Day celebrations.—XINHUA

14 Filipino seamen freed by Somali pirates

MANILA, 19 Dec— Fourteen Filipino seafarers on board a Greek vessel was freed by ransom-seeking Somali pirates this week, the Philippine embassy in Nairobi reported on Friday.

The Filipino crew of *MV Delvina* are "safe and in good health." The vessel and its crew are now heading to Mombasa.

The latest release has reduced the number of hijacked Filipino seafarers off the coast of Somalia to 56, involving five vessels. Philippine foreign affairs and labour officials are

coordinating with concerned manning agencies and their shipping principals on the release and repatriation of Filipino seafarers. The Philippine government is stepping up efforts to address the rising incidence of piracy and hostage-taking involving Filipino seafarers off the coast of Somalia.

The Philippine labour department is requiring Filipino seafarers to undergo anti-piracy training to teach them how to deal with piracy situations and how to avoid it. It has also issued safety and security directives to manning agencies of ships plying the Gulf of Aden.

Xinhua

Russian foreign debt further decreases

MOSCOW, 19 Dec—The foreign debt of Russia totalled 37.942 billion US dollars as of 1 Nov, down 6.5 percent compared to early this year, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

Statistics released by the ministry showed that currently Russia owed 1.054 billion dollars and 1.858 billion dollars respectively to member and non-member states of the Paris Club. It also owed 1.335 billion dollars to the

former Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

In addition, the commercial debt left from the Soviet-era amounted to 1.232 billion dollars. Debt to international institutions reached 3.841 billion dollars.

Russia has issued Eurobonds and national foreign exchange bonds valued 26.24 billion and 1.778 billion dollars respectively.

Xinhua

Spanish region moves to ban bullfighting

MADRID, 19 Dec— The Spanish region of Catalonia voted on Friday to proceed with a bill aimed at banning local bullfighting.

The vote in the 135-seat regional Parliament was on whether to take up the bill formally for debate. It passed by a 67-59 vote, with five abstentions and four absentees.

The bill was accompanied by around 180,000 signatures against bullfighting. The bill will be formally debated and voted on by Parliament in the new year.

Bullfighting is considered by those who support it to be an event of historic and cultural significance and even a form of art.

Xinhua

Some orphanages provide loving care

DURHAM, 19 Dec — A study tracking 3,000 orphans in five Asian and African countries has found those in orphanages do as well as those in community settings.

The research was done at Duke University's Global Health Institute. Researchers used data from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania and two locations in India, Hyderabad and Nagaland.

Duke announced the results on Thursday.

Kathryn Whetten, director of the Centre for Health Policy at the institute, said the findings contradict other studies that

have suggested children in institutions fare less well. But she said the researchers looked at less formal orphanages and not just those identified by the government.

"What people don't understand is that, in many cases, the institutions are the community's response to caring for orphaned and abandoned children," she said. "These communities love kids and as parents die, children are left behind. So the individuals who love children most and want to care for them build a building and that becomes an institution."

Internet



The number of registered vehicles in Beijing topped four million this week, state media reported, meaning a quarter of the 16 million permanent residents in China's capital have a car.—INTERNET

74,000 Africans crossed Gulf of Aden in 2009

GENEVA, 19 Dec — The UN refugee agency says a record number of Africans fleeing war, droughts and poverty have crossed the Gulf of Aden into Yemen this year.

UNHCR says an estimated 74,000 Africans, mainly from Ethiopia and Somalia, have fled to Yemen as refugees or economic migrants. That's a 50 percent higher than in 2008.

Most cross the Gulf of Aden in rickety and overcrowded vessels run by smugglers.

UNHCR spokesman Andrej Mahecic said 309 people drowned in capsized boats or were killed by smugglers in 2009. Nearly 600 died in 2008.

Mahecic said on Friday that Ethiopians were the largest group of travellers.—Internet

Nigerian militants attack oil pipeline

LAGOS, 19 Dec — Militants in the oil-rich Niger Delta say they attacked an oil pipeline overnight, breaking a cease-fire agreement with the government.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said in the a statement issued on Saturday that its members attacked a major crude oil pipeline operated by Shell and Chevron.

Spokesman Jomo Gbomo says in the statement that the group attacked because government officials delayed ongoing peace talks over the absence of President Umaru Yar'Adua.

For weeks, Yar'Adua has been hospitalized in Saudi Arabia for what staffers say is a serious heart condition.

Internet

Finland reports slow economic growth

HELSINKI, 19 Dec — Finland's economy had hit the bottom and started to grow slowly, according to an economic review released by the Finnish Finance Ministry on Friday.

The export-oriented Finnish economy has declined sharply during the end of 2008 and the first half of this year, as the world economy slumped due to the global financial crisis. According to the review, Finland's gross domestic product will thus shrink by 7.6 percent in 2009.

However, the Finnish Finance Ministry said that the country's economy had already hit the bottom and began to grow slowly as the GDP in the third quarter of 2009 increased by 0.3 percent compared with the previous quarter, thanks to the growth of public investment and private consumption.—Internet

Book 99 years overdue returned to Mass library

The book returned to the New Bedford Public Library in Massachusetts this week wasn't overdue by a week, a month or even a year. It was nearly a century overdue, and the fine came to \$361.35.

"Facts I Ought to Know about the Government of My Country" was supposed to have been returned by 10 May, 1910.

Stanley Dudek told the *Standard Times* newspaper he came across the book while going through things that had belonged to his mother, who died about 10 years ago. He decided that



Stanley Dudek waits for New Bedford Mass, library director Stephen Fulchino so he can return a book that was 99 years, seven months and 12 days overdue. Dudek returned it on behalf of his deceased mother after he found it among her belongings.

returning the book to the city was the right thing to do.

The overdue book fine was a penny a day in 1910. But Dudek wasn't asked to pay it.

The library plans to display the book in its special collection.

Kitten apparently rides 120 miles in wheel well

An Oregon man says a 3-month-old kitten apparently hitched a cold, 120-mile ride in the wheel well of his SUV.

Marc Lichty left Olympia, Wash, after finishing a day of work on Wednesday. He heard meowing when he stopped at a rest stop along the way home but couldn't see a cat.

When he reached his home in Tualatin, Ore., he heard the meowing again and grabbed a flashlight. Sure enough, he says, "the cat was up underneath in the spare tire spot."

Daughter Jenna helped coax the passenger out with a bit of salmon.

Lichty says he can't imagine making that trip at 70 mph in this week's subfreezing temperatures.

The family called Olympia businesses in the area where he was working Wednesday but didn't find the kitten's owner. The animal had no collar or microchip; the Lichtys say they'll keep the kitten.

Shirtless man, woman in handcuffs belt rob bank

Authorities in South Florida are searching for a man who held up a Fort Lauderdale bank shirtless then fled with a woman who sported a belt made of handcuffs. According to a news release from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, the man demanded money from a teller at a Bank of America branch on Friday afternoon and implied he had a weapon. The teller gave the man an unspecified amount of cash, and he then fled on foot with the woman.

The man was wearing blue jeans, while the woman wore a blue hat, black shirt and jeans.

Angry driver crashed into DMV

Arapahoe County officials said a disgruntled driver crashed his truck into a DMV because it was closed. Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty said she thinks a driver was upset because he didn't make it to the office in time to get in. The sheriff's office was investigating surveillance video of the crash that happened at about 4:30 pm on Friday.

The truck broke two office windows and damaged a window frame but no one was injured.



An aerial view shows the Maldives capital Male. Maldives has a population of some 400,000 islanders, whose livelihood from fishing and tourism is being hit by climate change. Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed said in November that 2 degrees Celsius warming would risk swamping the sand-rimmed coral atolls and islets, dotted with palm trees and mangrove clumps, that form his small country.

Germans flee into container after wild boar scare

German police have rescued four frozen walkers who called up from a waste container begging to be saved from roving wild boars. Police in Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt, said they received an emergency call at nearly 3 a.m. Sunday from a man who said he and three companions had fled into the container after being surprised by a group of boars during a nighttime walk in the woods. He said they didn't dare to emerge.

NEWS ALBUM



Mount Pleasant Hotel...

(from page 1)

offers superior services such as high speed wireless Internet access, 24-hour room dining and healthcare service, Internet surfing and laptop rental and thus,

is suitable to serve special guests, international businessmen, delegates and representatives from organizations, and tourists at home and from abroad.

The hotel is now adding such new facilities as swimming pool, fitness centre, playground, spa & massage, and adventure tour at the second phase.

The contact address of the hotel is www.mountpleasanthotel-npt.com and Ph: 067-431155.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin formally opens Mount Pleasant Tower.—MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Col Thein Nyunt and Director U Yan Win of G-4 Group of Companies inaugurating Mount Pleasant Hotel.—MNA

F&R Minister meets Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received Chinese guests led by President Mr. Li Ruogu of the Exim Bank of China at his office here this afternoon.

They held discussion about

finance and monetary matters.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun receives President Mr. Li Ruogu of the Exim Bank of China.—MNA

Myanmar sports team arrives back

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint together with the Myanmar sports team to the XXV SEA Games in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, arrived back at Yangon by special flight this afternoon.

The minister, Secretary of MOC

Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and team members received a rousing welcome at Yangon International Airport by MOC members, officials from the ministry, Chairperson of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation (Central) Daw Aye Aye, patrons in-charge of sports federations, presidents

and secretaries of Myanmar sports federations, relatives of the athletes, and students from the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon).

Of the Myanmar sports contingent track and field, Wushu, archery, martial arts, and judo teams arrived back in Myanmar by air yesterday.

MNA

MPMEEA to hold annual meeting

YANGON, 19 Dec—Myanmar Pharmaceuticals & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association will hold its 8th annual meeting on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower in Lanmadaw

Township, here, from 1 pm to 3 pm on 22 December.

Members of the association have been invited to attend the meeting without fail.—MNA

Letpadan students to pay respects to old teachers

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Alumni of Letpadan Township will organize a ceremony to pay respects to old teachers aged 70 and above who retired from Basic Education High Schools (1) and (2) and basic education middle schools, at Nawade Hall of the BEHS (1) at 9 am

on 26 December.

The old teachers aged over 70 who have not signed up are requested to contact old students. Those wishing to participate in the ceremony are to get registered. And those wishing to make cash donations in Yangon may contact Daw San Nwe

(Ph: 664641), U Tint Lwin (291463), Daw Khin Thit Swe (642979), U Tin Maung Oo (516564), and U Thein Hlaing (222278); and in Letpadan, U Maung Aung (Yaung Ni Oo Photocopier) (053-32165), U Maung Maung Htay (Tantaya) (053-32065) and U Tin Khaing.

MNA

The best policy

Maung Shwe Ni

In this age, an important question has sprung up, and the people have been awaiting it. Which will be chosen, cooperation or confrontation?

Which is wanted? Want cooperation? Want confrontation?

The prevailing conditions have paved the way for cooperation. This decision is the best, isn't it? It is clear that cooperation benefits the two sides as well as the nation and the people.

All have understood that only cooperation can shape a better future rather than self-interest. The people will earnestly welcome it.

Sticking to confrontation and coercion by upholding old ideologies can only beget delays and hindrances. It cannot be successful at all. Then it will deviate from the public desire. The people will shake their heads with disappointment. Look at international incidents.

Tragedies stemming from threatening, fighting and arguing are a lesson to learn. But, unity and cooperation have achieved fruits of success.

Arrogance, grudge and worries came after trying to suppress others and it is a lesson to be taken. Forgiveness, loving-kindness and goodwill can only generate peace.

Future cannot be built with self-centredness and egoism. Don't try to destroy the world only because of your very desire. It is impossible. The period of 20 years has proved that utter devastation and confrontation are useless. Why continue to stick to it? Let's take a lesson.

Future can well be shaped with vision only. Future will surely reach soon. At present, who is the most honest? Who has the ability to serve the best interests? Who is the most farsighted? Who considers most to serve the interests of the State and the people?

It is certain that the good or evil legacies of the answer have to be experienced only by our nation. Can anyone from outside be dependable?

Over the last two decades, the State has been able to forge peace and cooperation with almost all the groups of our national brethren fighting for many years amidst various difficulties. History reflects the goodwill and loving-kindness of the existing government. Its capability to make peace should not be underestimated. Is it appropriate to collude with the one from distance whose interest is different from your own by showing hostile to the nearest one? The one from distance might be clever. But it is unlikely that he is good to you.

Surely, he will give priority to the interests of his nation and his own. There may be criticism

because of different ideologies. But assistance cannot come because of the same ideology. Despite being in the same group, one may not help sacrificing oneself. Now is a time when anyone is working for his own national interest. He will not do anything that is not beneficial to him. He will dare to threaten even coming from the western to eastern hemispheres if it is in his own interest. He has no shame, no fear, no ethics. He only seeks his interest. Might is right.

In order to safeguard our independence and sovereignty in this age of hegemony, the only military power, the only political power or the only economic power is not enough. It is important for the people to have strong patriotism and Union Spirit with awareness.

Anyone dare not invade our country if the people remain united. It is not time to argue who is important and who is not important.

It is high time the entire people remained united in doing their bit in the national interest. The State constitution drawn without any outside influence has been approved with the support of the entire people.

The demand for amendment to the constitution through discussions and a dialogue with them is beyond fulfillment. A group of people alone has no exclusive right to amend the constitution that has been approved in a democratic way by the people. Should the ruling government fulfil the wishes of the public or to yield to the demand of a group of people who are highly conceited and critical?

Why are they demanding for many things impossible? Their real intention is nothing more than to mar the democratic process. If a person is repeatedly claiming that he is in favour of democracy, and he wants flourishing democracy in the nation, but in practice, he is demanding for amendments to and revocation of the democratic system, then what he claims and what he does are opposing against each other.

Here, I do not mean that the constitution approved by the public shall never be amended. Necessary amendments should be made to the constitution when the occasion arises. Who should amend it? The Hluttaw (parliament) comprising members of parliament elected by the people should take that responsibility. And when should it be amended? It should be done in an opportune time. The people of us have to introduce and exercise the democratic system in which the people have ultimate authority.

When the people consider that Tatmadaw member MPs are no longer needed in the Hluttaw

according to the international and national situations in future, the Tatmadaw will comply with the wishes of the people in line with the laws adopted by the people's representatives. It can be deduced from global and local incidents today that the present constitution is the most suitable one because representatives of the people from all strata of life and various political parties formulated and adopted it through thorough and frank discussions. I do not think it is prudent that the constitution for which it has taken a long time is revoked at one go.

The constitution was approved with the secret ballot of the entire people. The result was the true one. Ambassadors and military attaches of foreign embassies in Myanmar were allowed to observe the conditions of the polling stations, the way to count the votes, and the voting system. The result has been recognized at the global level.

Various types of media tried to disrupt the referendum. However, they were unable to sway the people in that regard, because international and domestic affairs are transparent to the people.

The people know well that they are being deceived.

They also realize that show of force without strength is in reality in vain.

If a person says he wants to make friends, but sticks to the policy of sanctions against the nation, he will never put his words into deeds. If so, he will never achieve success.

Some people found to their dismay when they learnt the demand for amendments to the constitution through dialogue between the government and them. Then, the people made comments that why they wanted to amend the constitution approved by the public, and are they crazy out of conceit?

However, the people showed their maturity. The Head of State had great patience and benevolent attitude; showed consideration; fulfilled some of their demands; exercised forgive and forget policy to them; did not harbour any grudge; and still restored his loving-kindness and friendship toward them. He and they are somewhat like parent and children, so it was impossible for him to terminate his attachment for them.

An editor of a local journal in the editorial of the 5-12-2009 issue reminded that showing all hands was the key to national reconsolidation. They should have quit disguising themselves.

The people are to collectively generate their better future. If they really favour national reconsolidation and democracy, they should not apply any trickery for political gains.

All should deal with each other without any political tricks and devious means. And they should have stopped practising circumlocution and coercing the government.

They should show honesty and uprightness.

We live in the saying that goes "Honesty is the best policy".

Translation: ST + MS

The demand for amendment to the constitution through discussions and a dialogue with them is beyond fulfillment. A group of people alone has no exclusive right to amend the constitution that has been approved in a democratic way by the people.

MR always trying for convenience...

(from page 16)

Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe also addressed the opening ceremony of the railroad section. The chairman thanked staff of MR under Ministry of Rail Transportation for their work and stressed the need for durability of the railroad. Next, a local spoke words of thanks.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, Chairman

the special train and greeted local people at stations along the railroad.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State for rapid and harmonious development of the regions on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady river, MR of the Ministry of Rail Transportation today inaugurated Magway-Kanpya railroad section of Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe railroad con-

Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Kanpya railroad, 132.50 miles long Dawei-Myeik railroad, 245.54 miles long Minbu-An-Yechanbyin railroad, 87 miles long Pathein(Begayet)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon railroad, 120 miles long Pyay (Shwedaga)-Toungoo (Kyaytaw)-Nay Pyi Taw railroad and Hinthada-Zalun-Danubyu-Nyaungdon (across Ayeyewady).—MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min presents gifts to passengers who are on the special train.

MNA



A train running on Magway-Kanpya railroad section.—MNA

of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe and Managing-Director U Thein Swe of MR cut a ribbon to open the railroad and posed for documentary photos together with local people.

Afterwards, the ministers, the chairman and personnel sprinkled scented water on special train for opening ceremony of the railroad. They then presented commemorative gifts to passengers who were taking

construction project and three railway stations namely Ngwargu (Education College) station, University of Medicine (Magway) railway station, Kanpya (Technological University) railway station.

Railroad construction projects being implemented by MR are 183 miles long Thayet-Kyungyoung railroad, 98 miles long Katha-Bhamo railroad, 226 miles long Mone-Kengteng railroad, 87.32 miles long

Ngwargu (Education College) Station on Magway-Kanpya railroad section.

MNA



2nd round of Tatmadaw Football Tourney (2009) continues

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The second round matches of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at designated places this evening.

In No.1 Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw, the match between Western Command (A) and Camp Commandant Office of the Ministry of Defence ended 2-2 draw. In Paunglong Sports Ground, North-West Command won over No.11 LID 2-0.—MNA

Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Business Forum held

YANGON, 19 Dec—Kaung Kyaw Say Company organized the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Business Forum at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, on 14 December. Chairman of Myan-

mar Industries UPaw Hein spoke on the occasion. Chairman of Kaung Kyaw Say Co U Tun Naing Aung explained the purpose of forum and the facts about energy. Managing Director Daw Thet Thet San expressed thanks to the resource persons of the papers submitted to the forum, companies that displayed their products at the booths and attendees. Responsible persons formally opened the renewable energy booth. Resource persons submitted seven papers at the forum and replied to the queries raised by those present. The booths on renewable energy were displayed at the forum.

MNA



University of Medicine (Magway) Station on Magway-Kanpya railroad section.—MNA

El Salvador, Israel sign cooperation agreement

SAN SALVADOR, 19 Dec—The governments of El Salvador and Israel have signed a cooperation agreement to promote the exchange of technical and scientific knowledge in agriculture, local media reported on Friday. The agreement was signed on Thursday by Salvadorian Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez and Israeli Ambassador to El Salvador Mattanya Cohen.

The agreement is aimed to boost the cooperation among the two countries' official agencies as well as public and private agriculture associations, and to promote El Salvador's agriculture-livestock development.

Xinhua

An anti-narcotics police agent watches the burning of seized drugs in Panama City, on 18 Dec, 2009.

According to police, authorities burned a total of 6.5 tons of cocaine and 107.16 kilograms of marijuana seized over a period of 22 days nationwide.

INTERNET



Spain's Prisa, Telecinco to merge TV stations

MADRID, 19 Dec—Spanish media giant Prisa and Telecinco, whose main shareholder is Italy's Mediaset, said Friday they agreed to merge their television operations in Spain in a deal worth over one billion euros.

Under the deal Telecinco, Spain's top television station by audience, will take control of Prisa's television channel Cuatro as well as a 22 percent stake in its pay-

TV unit Digital+, the two companies said in a statement. Debt-laden Prisa, the publisher of Spain's leading newspaper El Pais, will receive around 18.3 percent of Telecinco estimated to be worth of 550 million euros (792 million dollars) as well as 500 million euros in cash.

Telecinco will issue new shares worth 500 million euros to finance the deal. Mediaset is owned by Italian

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The two channels have a combined audience share of around 25 percent and a merger will give them stronger bargaining power to negotiate with advertisers at a time when Spain's media is being hammered by the country's worst recession for more than five decades.

The economic contraction has led to a significant drop in advertising revenues and next year's switch to digital terrestrial television will multiply the number of competitors.—Internet

The Mediaset transmission tower is pictured, in Cologno Monzese, seen here in 2007. —INTERNET



Baby car seat carriers recalled

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—A baby product manufacturer recalled on Friday about 447,000 of its infant car seat carriers, including some branded with Eddie Bauer and Disney logos, after dozens of reports of the carrier's handle coming loose.

There have been at least three injuries to babies, including bumps, bruises and a head injury. Dorel Juvenile Group Inc, of Columbus, Ind, received 77 reports of the child restraint handle fully or partially coming off the products.

In announcing the recall, the government said consumers should immediately stop using the seat's carrying handle.

The bolts that attach the handle to the seat can loosen, causing the handle to possibly separate and creating a fall hazard for babies.

The recall involves Safety 1st,

Cosco, Eddie Bauer and Disney branded infant car seat carriers with certain model numbers. They were sold at department and children's product stores nationwide from January 2008 through this month.

The recall was announced on Friday by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Dorel Juvenile Group.

Internet

Video gamers sharpen speed

ROCHESTER, 19 Dec—Avid video game players get faster not only on their game of choice, but on a variety of unrelated laboratory tests of reaction time, US researchers say.

Psychological scientists Matthew Dye, Shawn Green and Daphne Bavelier of the University of Rochester in New York examined research on video gaming and found gamers don't lose accuracy — in the game or in laboratory tests — as they get faster.

The researchers say they believe this is a result of gamers' improved visual cognition. Playing video games enhances performance on mental rotation skills, visual and spatial memory, and tasks requiring divided attention, the researchers said.—Internet

China Merchants, Qingdao Port form JV

BEIJING, 19 Dec—Port operator China Merchants Group and Qingdao Port would be setting up a 6.22 billion yuan (911 million US dollars) joint venture to build and operate a container terminal in Qingdao of East China's Shandong province, China daily reported on Saturday.

Qingdao Port and China Merchants Holdings (International) Ltd, will hold stakes of 50 percent each in the new venture. The venture called Qingdao Qianwan United

Container Terminal Co Ltd will develop, operate and manage a total of nine berths with a shoreline of 3,163 m in Qingdao.

It would benefit China's second-largest trade port during worldwide industry restructuring amid the global financial crisis, said Chang Dechuan, chairman of the board of Qingdao Port Group. The Qingdao Port, the world's seventh largest in terms of trade volume, shipped more than 300 million

tons of goods in the year to Dec 13, a year-on-year increase of 5 percent.

Container throughput rose 2.3 percent in the first 11 months to 9.4 million twenty-foot equivalent units. "The new venture is a combination of strength, which will not only increase its ability to deal with the economic crisis but promote the development of Qingdao Port," said Fu Yuning, president of China Merchants Group.

Internet

Needles successfully extracted from Brazil boy

SAO PAULO, 19 Dec—Surgeons successfully removed the four most life-threatening needles from the lung and heart area of a Brazilian toddler, and

are evaluating when to extract dozens more allegedly stuck deep into the boy by his stepfather.

Police say 30-year-old bricklayer Roberto Carlos Magalhaes confessed to pushing the metal sewing needles into the 2-year-old child because his lover told him to while in trances. The rituals were performed over a month supposedly to keep the couple together.

Late Friday, the child was in stable condition after nearly five hours of surgery to remove the four needles, which were up to 2 inches (5 centimeters), said Susy Moreno, a spokeswoman for the hospital in the northeastern city of Salvador where the boy was in intensive care. "He's OK, the surgery was a success, he's doing fine," she said in a telephone interview.

Dozens more needles remain inside the boy's body, but the four removed were considered the most life-threatening.

Doctors will evaluate the boy's recovery before deciding when to perform at least two more surgeries to remove more needles, she said.

Police say they believe the lover, Angelina Ribeiro dos Santos, told Magalhaes the ritual would keep them together, but she was really seeking revenge on Magalhaes' wife by having him hurt her son.

Internet



A 2-year-old boy, found with 42 needles inside his body, arrives to a hospital in Salvador, northeastern Brazil, on 17 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

World air travel falls record 3.1 percent in 2009

MONTREAL, 19 Dec — World airline passenger traffic fell 3.1 percent in 2009, the biggest drop in aviation industry history, fuelled by the global financial downturn, the International Civil Aviation Organization said.

Preliminary figures for airline travel this year showed that international traffic declined by about 3.9 percent and domestic traffic by 1.8 percent, despite sharp growth in

some regions. Total passenger traffic — both domestic and international — fell in all regions except the Middle East, which posted 10 percent growth. All other regions recorded negative growth, with Africa hardest hit at minus 9.6 percent overall, the ICAO said.

The 3.1 percent drop in passenger traffic this year compared to 2008 was the largest on record for the industry and “reflects the

one percent drop in the world gross domestic product for the year,” the organization said in a statement.

“The double-digit domestic passenger traffic growth in the emerging markets of Asia and Latin America, and the relative strong performance of low cost carriers in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific helped curtail the decline in total traffic.”

Internet



Passengers check flight schedules at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport. World airline passenger traffic fell 3.1 percent in 2009, the biggest drop in aviation industry history, fuelled by the global financial downturn, the International Civil Aviation Organization said.—INTERNET

Machine could replace plant sorters

PITTSBURGH, 19 Dec — A machine with computer vision could replace human workers in sorting strawberry plants, engineers in Pittsburgh said.

To maintain good quality, commercial US growers must replace several hundred million strawberry plants each year. To date, the plants have been sorted — good from the bad — by humans, engineers at Carnegie Mellon said in a release on Thursday.

The engineers have developed a machine that inspects and grades plants, and then sorts them mechanically. The plant sorter uses computer vision and algorithms to teach it to classify plants of varying sizes, varieties and stages of growth, said Liz Ponce, head of Lassen Canyon Nursery, Redding, Calif, one of five strawberry plant producers sponsoring the project.—Internet

Three men push a car on a snow-covered road near Brix, northwestern France. Europe shivered under a snowy pre-Christmas cold snap that closed airports, caused chaos on the roads and gave some school kids an early start to their holidays.—INTERNET



Storm warnings as snow bears down on mid-Atlantic

CHARLESTON, 19 Dec — A major storm moving up the Atlantic Coast on the last shopping weekend before Christmas threatened to shut down much of the region as officials warned of up to 20 inches of snow and significant power outages.

People stocked up on groceries and other staples on Friday after the National Weather Service issued

winter storm warnings from the Carolinas to Rhode Island.

In Virginia, Gov Tim Kaine declared a state of emergency ahead of the storm, placing the National Guard and other agencies on standby. Philadelphia officials also declared a state of emergency and the school district cancelled all weekend activities.

Washington, DC, declared a snow emergency.

The Federal Aviation Administration said departing flights at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport were delayed by as much as an hour on Friday because of rain and wind. United Airlines said it had already cancelled more than 140 on Saturday flights on the East Coast ahead of Saturday's weather.

Internet

Snow swirls around the Amtrak train station near downtown Richmond, Va, on Friday night 18 Dec, 2009. A storm is expected to dump up to 10 inches of snow in the area.

INTERNET

ALBA rejects documents of UN climate conference

CARACAS, 19 Dec — The countries of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA) on Friday rejected the climate change document the UN Climate Change Conference is discussing in Copenhagen.

The rejection, led by Venezuela and Bolivia, was announced during a press conference broadcast live by Venezuelan TV.

During the joint Press conference, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said the document was “tricks” supported by the United States.

The ALBA representatives, also including Bolivian President Evo Morales, Cuban Vice President Esteban Lazo and Ecuadorean National Patrimony Minister Maria Fernanda Espinoza, criticized the Capitalist model dominating the world's economy which put human life at risk.

“It is about the hegemonic model, and that is why the United States made a tricky proposal, offering money as if that was the problem,” Chavez added.

According to Chavez, 40 percent of the vehicles in the world are in the United States, which has five percent of the world's population consuming 25 percent of energy on the planet.

“Obama said he did not come here to talk but to take action. But, first he should fulfill the Kyoto Protocol and use the money for saving lives instead of killing. Then we will believe him,” said Bolivian President Evo Morales. “What we are discussing here is if we are going to live or die,” he added.

“We know how to do things, but we ask them to stop harming us,” said Cuban Vice President Esteban Lazo.—Internet

China to fund 12,000 students for overseas study in 2010

BEIJING, 19 Dec—China will fund 12,000 students for overseas study next year, offering favourable scholarship policies for learners majoring in arts, foreign language and international affairs, according to the Ministry of Education on Friday.

Among the 12,000 students, 6,000 seats are saved for postgraduates while the other 6,000 are for senior scholars, including postdoctoral researchers.

According to the ministry, those in fields of energy, resources, environment, agriculture, manufacture, life science, space science, oceanography and nanometer enjoy high priority during the application.

Statistics from the ministry show that from 1996 to Nov. 2009, China supported a total of 58,419 scholars for overseas study, among which 97.16 percent returned to the country. In 2009, a total of 12,715 applicants were granted the scholarship, among which 44 percent were pursuing PhD degrees.—Xinhua



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, 3Ø, 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**



Lebanese rescuers evacuate a survivor of a ship accident off the Lebanese waters at the port of Tripoli in northern Lebanon.—INTERNET

Lebanon ship rescuers find 14 survivors, 11 bodies

TRIPOLI, 19 Dec—Rescuers on Friday battled rough seas off Lebanon in the hunt for survivors from a freighter which went down in a storm, finding 14 more people alive but also retrieving 11 bodies.

Teams from three countries and the United Nations were taking part in the rescue operation after the Panamanian-flagged *Danny F II* capsized and sank in bad weather late on Thursday with its cargo of livestock, officials said.

“So far we have recovered (in total) 11 bodies and rescued 39 people” from among the passengers and crew, Tripoli port authority chief Ahmad Tamer told AFP.

Tamer said rescue operations were still under way for 32 people unaccounted for, amid “very difficult work conditions” as storms continued to lash Lebanon. On Thursday waves were reported to be three metres (10 feet) high.

“We hope that more survivors will be found,” Tamer said. Uruguay cattle boat went down in half an hour: survivor

A statement from the Lebanese Red Cross said that most of the survivors now in hospital were suffering from “exhaustion, broken bones and concussion.”

The army had said earlier that nine bodies were plucked from the sea on Friday and 14 people were rescued, but two more bodies were recovered later in the day.—INTERNET

Pa Capitol cafeteria closed due to mice

HARRISBURG, 19 Dec—The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture said it ordered the state Capitol to shut down its cafeteria due to a rodent infestation and other violations.

Justin Fleming, a spokesman for the department, said inspectors found numerous violations at the cafeteria, including the presence of droppings indicating a rodent infestation, The *Patriot News* in Harrisburg reported on Friday.

“There were mouse droppings around the facility too numerous to mention,” Fleming said.

Fleming said other violations at the cafeteria, which is operated by food service company Aramark, included dishwashers lacking the necessary heat to sterilize.—INTERNET



Two girls of the Miao ethnic group play the reed flute together in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 17 Dec, 2009, as the Miao people welcome their new year according to their own calendar.—XINHUA

Low omega-3 linked to schizophrenia risk

BETHESDA, 19 Dec—Deficiencies in omega-3 fatty acids may be a factor in mental illnesses, US researchers suggest.

The study, published in *Behavioral Neuroscience*, named two omega-3 fatty acids — docosahexaenoic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid — as key to maintain-

ing a nervous system capable of avoiding sensory overload.

The researchers suggest low omega-3 may be linked to the information-processing problems found in people with afflictions of the nervous system including schizophrenia and bipolar, obses-

sive-compulsive, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorders.

The researchers looked at nervous system function in the offspring of four groups of pregnant mice that had been fed different diets with no or varying types and amounts of omega-3s. Only the mice raised on the two omega-3 fatty acids showed normal, adaptive sensorimotor nervous responses that did not result in the animals being perpetually startled and easily overwhelmed by sensory stimuli.—INTERNET

Jury awards \$100 million verdict against BP in chemical case

HOUSTON, 19 Dec—A federal jury in Texas on Friday ordered BP Plc (BPL) (BPN) to pay \$100 million to 10 workers who were sickened by a 2007 chemical release at its Texas City refinery.

BP spokesman Ronnie Chappell said the com-

pany was “shocked and outraged” by the verdict and would appeal.

“We believe the evidence showed that BP did not cause harm to anyone on 19 April, 2007,” Chappell said in a statement. “The verdict, and punitive damages award

in particular, is utterly unjustified, improper and unsupportable.”

“They’re like an ostrich with its head in the sand,” said Tony Buzbee, the workers’ attorney, of BP. “They don’t understand the meaning of responsibility.”

The workers said they were exposed to the chemicals while repairing two refining units damaged in a plantwide 2005 shutdown prior to Hurricane Rita’s strike on the Texas Coast.—INTERNET

A bullet-riddled truck used by drug hitmen during a shooting against soldiers, is displayed to the media at a military base on the outskirts of Monterrey 18 December, 2009.

INTERNET



Fighting obesity with food aromas

EDE, 19 Dec—A new weapon in the war on obesity may be the satiating effect of food aromas, Dutch researchers suggest.

Rianne Ruijschop and colleagues at NIZO Food Research in Ede, the Netherlands, report in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* that certain food aromas released as people chew food can make people feel full and may prevent overeating.

The researchers say their analysis found that molecules from the aroma released during chewing activate areas of the brain that signal fullness. That contribution to the feeling of being satiated possibly helps people decide to stop eating, they say.—INTERNET

Invasive species threaten Great Lakes

MILWAUKEE, 19 Dec— A call to re-establish the natural barrier between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River to restrain non-native species is gaining ground, officials say.

Fifty members of Congress representing the Great Lakes states wrote to the US Army Corps of Engineers and US Environmental Protection Agency on Friday urging them to “immediately consider” such a project,

the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported.

The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, built in 1900, allowed the city to discharge its sewage away from Lake Michigan, its source of drinking water, by reversing the flow of the Chicago River, the newspaper said.

But the artificial channel linked the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins, and created a route for invasive species such as

Asian carp, zebra mussels and round gobies to move from one to the other.

These species can ravage native ecosystems, experts say. Asian carp can grow to 50 pounds and consume 20 percent of their weight in plankton per day.

Closing locks on the canal would create a barrier, but with severe economic impact on industries using the canal to move their products and cargo to all areas of the United States, the *Journal Sentinel* said.

The Army Corps says it will explore the feasibility of recreating such a separation, and the EPA has pledged \$13 million to combat the Asian carp threat to the Great Lakes’ \$7 billion fishing industry.

Internet

Gene identified for deafness in boys

BETHESDA, 19 Dec— The discovery of a gene linked to a form of hearing loss primarily in males could lead to early treatment, US scientists said. The gene PRPS1 is linked to DFN2, a progressive form of deafness that begins in boys between the ages of 5 and 15, said the study published on Thursday in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

Mothers who carry the defective PRPS1 gene may experience hearing loss as well, but much later in life and in a milder form, said James Battey, Jr., director of the Maryland-based National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. PRPS1 appears to be crucial in inner ear development and maintenance, Battey’s team found.

“This discovery offers exciting therapeutic implications,” he said. “Not only does it give scientists

a way to develop a targeted treatment for hearing loss in boys with this disorder, it may also open doors to the treatment of other types of deafness, including some forms of acquired hearing loss.”

Internet

Celebrex may affect low-dose aspirin use

ANN ARBOR, 19 Dec— US researchers suggest celecoxib or Celebrex may keep low-dose aspirin from limiting blood clots.

Researchers at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor say their study used biochemical measurements and X-ray crystallography to discover Celebrex binds to COX-1 — an enzyme that promotes clotting — and slows aspirin’s COX-1-blocking action.

“There are many people who take low-dose

aspirin, perhaps as many as half of men over the age of 50.

If they are also prescribed Celebrex for arthritis or other pain, our results suggest that the Celebrex will probably interfere with the aspirin’s action,” senior author William Smith said in a statement.

“The greatest risk is having people take Celebrex who are taking aspirin for cardiovascular problems that are known to be mitigated by aspirin, including pa-



A worker polishes an ice sculpture before the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Dec, 2009. The 26th Ice and Snow Festival will kick off on January 5, 2010, local media reported.

Picture taken on 18 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

A/H1N1 kills three in Abkhazia

TBILISI, 19 Dec — Three people have died of A/H1N1 and the number of infected now exceeds 1,000 in Georgia’s breakaway republic of Abkhazia, RUSTAVI2 TV reported on Friday.

Abkhazian health authorities said the situation was alarming and local health care facilities had been strained in dealing with rising infection numbers. Five suspected cases were now in a grave state, they said.

Officials urged local residents to seek medical treatment in Zugdidi, a Georgian Province bordering Abkhazia. —Xinhua

H1N1 flu tests down 75 percent

MADISON, 19 Dec—H1N1 flu is on the decline, but close to 4-in-10 US children tested positive last week for the pandemic, officials of a laboratory testing company say. A report by Quest Diagnostics Inc., a leading provider of diagnostic testing services, released on Friday said the rates of H1N1 influenza virus testing in the United States has declined more than 75 percent since the second peak in late October.

Dr Jay M Lieberman, medical director of infectious diseases at Quest Diagnostics, said the data suggests the “second wave” of virus infection that began four months ago may be coming to an end.—Internet

11 states have widespread H1N1

ATLANTA, 19 Dec— Eleven states report widespread influenza activity, down from 14 states a week earlier, US health officials said on Friday.

The weekly flu surveillance report, completed during flu season by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, says for the week ending 11 Dec, 20 states reported regional influenza activity, and 11 states reported local influenza activity. For the week of 6-12 Dec, nine confirmed influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.—Internet

Death toll of A/H1N1 flu rises to 47 in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 19 Dec— The Costa Rican Health Ministry announced here on Friday that A/H1N1 flu death toll in the country had reached 47, while the number of the flu infected patients rose to about 1,500.

Costa Rican Health Minister Luisa Avila, in an interview with *Xinhua*, also said that the Costa Rican government has established a special commission to review the records of the dead who had the symptoms of the disease.—Xinhua

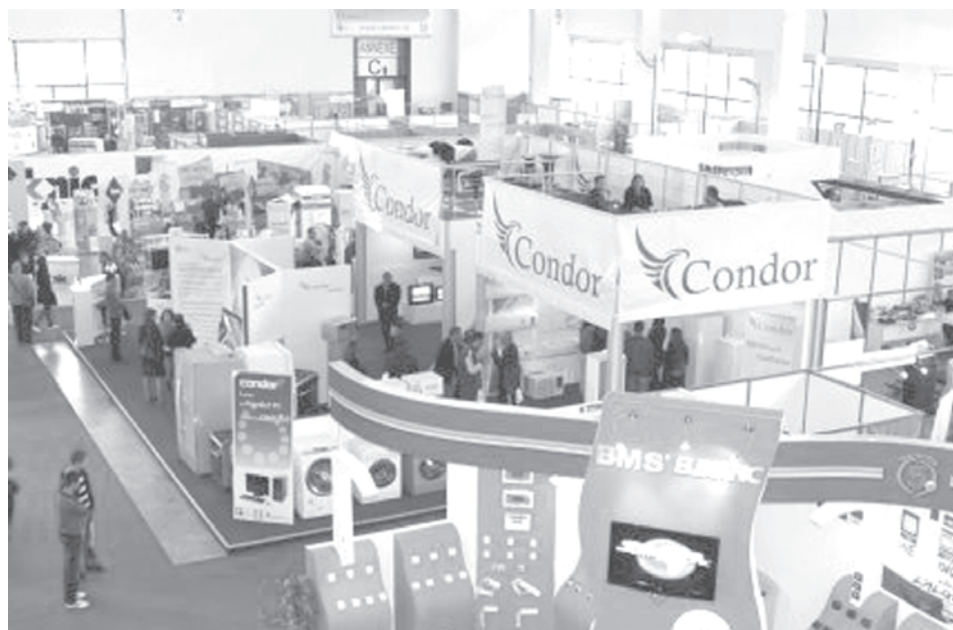


Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2009 shows a partial view of the 20th Algerian product exhibition in Algiers, capital of Algeria.

XINHUA

SPORTS

Rangers' best to come, says Novo

GLASGOW, 19 Dec—Nacho Novo has warned the rest of the Scottish Premier League that the best is yet to come from Rangers as they bid to increase their lead at the top of the table.

Walter Smith's side leapfrogged leaders Celtic when they won their game in hand against Dundee United on Tuesday.

Rangers produced their best performance of the season in the 3-0 win at Tannadice with striker Novo playing a starring role in a win that puts them one point clear of Celtic.

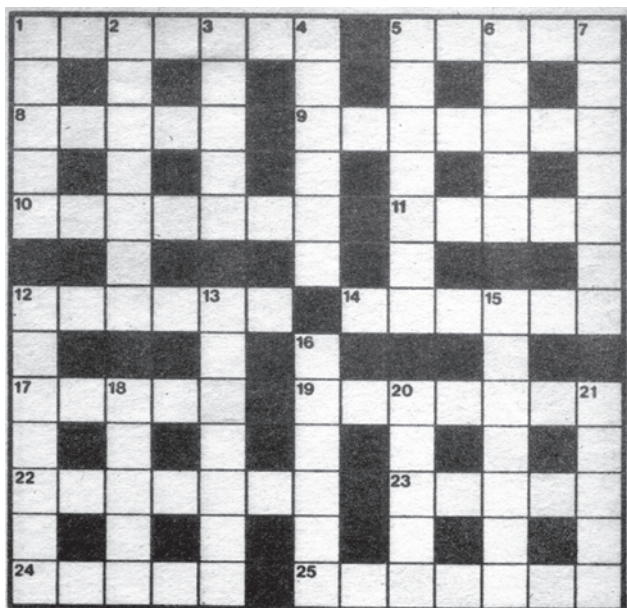
The Ibrox side now have a crucial run of games over the Christmas period starting with Saturday's visit of Motherwell but Spaniard Novo insists the squad are getting better all the time. "I think we are coming into form at the right time. It is a crucial series of games and we need to be up for them," Novo said.

"We were delighted to beat United, but we need to hit that level every game, and look to be even better as we have so many tough matches. The boys have been working really hard to get it right after some bad performances. I think the signs are better now, but we can improve.—Internet



Ranger's forward Nacho Novo (right) speaks with his coach Walter Smith during a training session in Sevilla, on 8 December. INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Parts of harness
- 5 Source of flour
- 8 At no time
- 9 Bitterness
- 10 Vacation
- 11 Scandinavian
- 12 Huckster
- 14 Wandering
- 17 Rascal
- 19 Early form of jazz
- 22 Chosen by vote
- 23 Astound
- 24 Tendency
- 25 Esteem

DOWN

- 1 Seat of justice
- 2 Disabled person
- 3 Enticed
- 4 Sprinkles
- 5 Royal town
- 6 Make runaway marriage
- 7 Torture
- 12 Ideal
- 13 Aided
- 15 Stir up
- 16 Buyer and seller
- 18 Diving bird
- 20 Drinking vessel
- 21 Throw out



Barcelona players gather around coach Pep Guardiola (3rd L) during a training session in Abu Dhabi on 18 Dec, 2009. Lionel Messi's match-winning gene can inspire European champions Barcelona to victory over Estudiantes in the Club World Cup final on Saturday (1600 GMT), according to the Spanish side's coach Guardiola. XINHUA

Antic extends Serbia deal to 2012

BELGRADE, 19 Dec—Serbia coach Radomir Antic has extended his contract with the Serbian Football Federation (FSS) until 2012, to lead the national squad to the 2012 European championships, officials said on Friday.

"This is a sign of great trust and I hope that both myself and the players I lead will live up to it," Antic said after signing the contract at the FSS offices in Belgrade.

Last month, the FSS said they had decided to extend Antic's deal until 2011 based on his results which were "on the whole excellent and positive."

Antic who once coached Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona, was also awarded with the "Golden Ball" for the best coach in Serbia.

Former player for a number of Serbian, Turkish, Spanish and English teams, Antic took over the helm of the national squad in August 2008 after two disastrous campaigns by Serbia for the 2006 World Cup and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Under his guidance Serbia qualified directly for the 2010 World Cup and face Germany, Australia and Ghana at the finals.

Internet



Serbia coach Radomir Antic

Chelsea seek to consolidate lead at West Ham

LONDON, 19 Dec—Fresh from putting Chelsea's Premier League title drive back on track, Frank Lampard returns to West Ham this weekend admitting he fears for the future of his relegation-threatened former club.

Hammers boss Gianfranco Zola was one of Chelsea's greatest ever players but that will not stop Lampard and co. from trying to push his second-from-bottom squad a little closer to the drop as they seek to consolidate their three-point lead over Manchester United at the other end of the table. By the time Chelsea kick off at Upton Park on Sunday, United could be level with them on points provided Sir Alex Ferguson's injury-hit squad collect all three points from their trip to Fulham 24 hours earlier.

Lampard, whose penalty

clinched a nervy 2-1 win over Portsmouth in midweek, said: "It's difficult for West Ham at the moment. They have a lot of financial difficulties and have had to sell a lot of players.

Internet



Chelsea's Frank Lampard (right) vies with Portsmouth's Aaron Mokoena during their Premier League match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 16 December. Chelsea travel to West Ham on Sunday while Portsmouth play Liverpool on Saturday. INTERNET

Soni sets new world record on 200m breast stroke

LONDON, 19 Dec—US swimmer Rebecca Soni set a new 200m breast-stroke short course world record in Manchester of England on Friday, clocking 2 minutes 14.57 seconds at the "Duel in the Pool" event.—Xinhua



US swimmer Rebecca Soni celebrates after winning the womens 200m breaststroke during the first day of the 'Duel in The Pool' swimming competition between the USA and Europe at the Manchester Aquatics centre in Manchester.—XINHUA

Olympic champion Cielo sets 50m freestyle world record

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Dec—Brazil's Olympic champion Cesar Cielo completed his sprint record double on Friday by setting a new world mark in the men's 50m freestyle at the Brazilian swimming championships in Sao Paulo.

The 22-year-old Cielo marked 20.91 second to better the previous world record of 20.94 achieved by France's Frederick Bousquet on 26 April, 2009 in Montpellier, France.—Xinhua

Smit marks 400 individual medley world record

LONDON, 19 Dec—Julia Smit of the United States has set a new world record in the 400m medley on the short-course at the "Duel in the Pool" exhibition meeting in Manchester on Friday. Smit clocked four minutes, 21.04 seconds to win the race and broke the mark of 4:22.88 set by Kathryn Meaklim of South Africa in Singapore last month.—Xinhua

Phelps helps US set new world record on 4x100m medley

LONDON, 19 Dec—Michael Phelps helped US team set a new short course world record in 3 minutes 20.71 seconds in the 4x100m medley relay at the "Duel In the Pool" event in Manchester of England on Friday.

The previous record of 3:23.33 was set by Canada in August this year in Leeds.—Xinhua



Michael Phelps of the US swimming team competes in the men's 4 X 100m medley relay during the Duel in the Pool competition at the Manchester Aquatics Centre in northern England on 18 Dec, 2009.—XINHUA

Health declarations for arriving passengers cancelled in HK

HONG KONG, 17 Dec —Incoming passengers will not be required to fill in Health Declaration Forms at the Hong Kong International Airport and boundary control points from next Monday, the *Hong Kong Special Administrative Region* authority announced here Thursday.

A government spokesman said the move took into consideration the spread of A/H1N1 flu around the world and in Hong Kong. "It is an opportune time to fine-tune Hong Kong's boundary prevention and control measures and redeploy resources," he said.

The Department of Health (DH) will continue to conduct temperature screening for all incoming passengers at the airport and boundary control points while health messages on A/H1N1 flu will also be posted and broadcast, the spokesman said.—*Internet*



Barcelona's coach Pep Guardiola speaks with Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) during a training session in Abu Dhabi 18 December 2009. Lionel Messi's match-winning gene can inspire European champions Barcelona to victory over Estudiantes in the Club World Cup final on Saturday (1600 GMT), according to the Spanish side's coach Guardiola. —INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (20-12-2009) (Sunday)

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

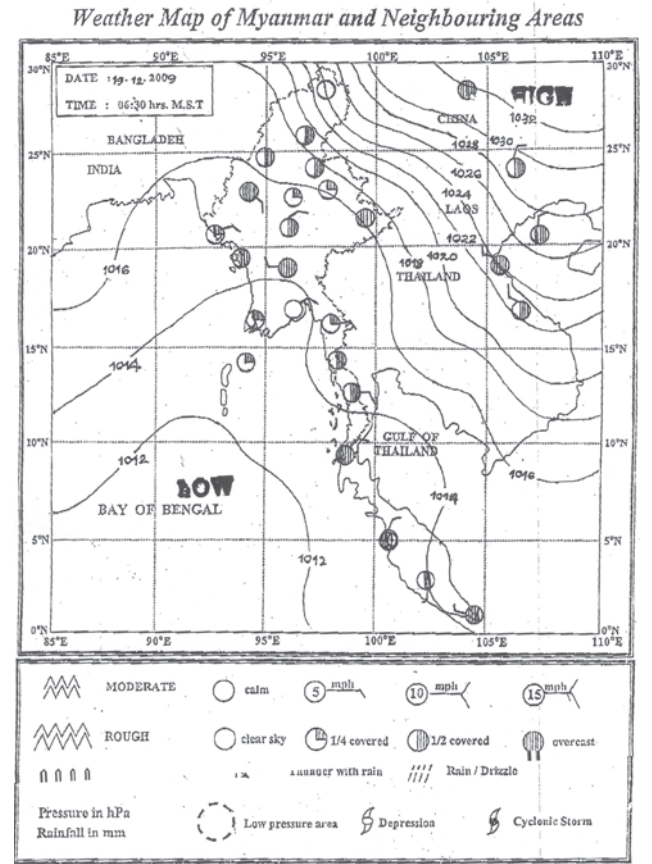
Local Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * A Salient Myin Ma-hti
- * Our Coffee Town
- * Myanmar Movies Impact
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Innovative Skills Of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-One)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * A Salient Myin Ma-hti
- * Our Coffee Town
- * Myanmar Movies Impact
- * Smogless Sky, Enchanting Smiles (Circular Myanmar Modern Song Road, Mandalay)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Innovative Skills Of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-One)
- * Honourable Composer Myoma Nyein
- * Future Stars (Loikaw, Kayah State)
- * Heart & Soul of Myanma Culture
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * National Progress through Regional Development
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



WEATHER

Saturday, 19th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) below December average temperatures in lower Sagaing and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Mon States, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (2°C), Loilem (4°C), Namhsam and Lashio (5°C) each and Pinlaung (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2009 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 19-12-2009 was 59°F. Relative Humidity at (09:30) hours M.S.T on 19-12-2009 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 18-12-2009 was (8.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 18-12-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 20th December 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Chin States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Shan States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-12-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Sunday, 20 December
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:15 am</p> <p>2. အောင်တော်မူ (စောမင်းနောင်စိုင်းညိုမင်း၊ တေးရေး-ပိုလ်ကလေး တင့်အောင်)</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To Be Healthy Exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning News</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာ</p>	<p>မင်္ဂလာ</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>6. Nice & Sweet Song</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:10 am</p> <p>8. မြောင်းမြမြို့ရဲ့ ကျက်သရေဆောင် ကံကြီးတံတားက အလှူဂုဏ်ဆောင်</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>9. Musical Programme</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>10. International News</p> <p>8:35 am</p> <p>11. Crossroads Cafe (Episode-16) (The Bottom Line)</p> <p>11:00 am</p> <p>1. Martial Song</p> <p>11:10 am</p> <p>2. Musical Programme</p> <p>11:25 am</p> <p>3. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News</p> <p>11:40 am</p> <p>4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဟာသကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၅၆)</p> <p>12:30 pm</p> <p>5. Golf Magazine (TV)</p>
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<p>12:40 pm</p> <p>6. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း "လန်းနဲ့လမ်း" (နိုင်ငံခြားအခြားကျော်ဇင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်ဦး (စန္ဒီဦး))</p> <p>2:30 pm</p> <p>7. "မြန်မာ့အလင်းတိုက်ကွန်း ရေမြေ"</p> <p>2:45 pm</p> <p>8. Dance Of National Races</p> <p>2:50 pm</p> <p>9. International News</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial Song</p> <p>4:10 pm</p> <p>2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>4:20 pm</p> <p>3. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>4. Musical Programme</p> <p>4:40 pm</p> <p>5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ရေးရှင်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ်(စိတ်ပညာ အထူးပြု) (စိတ်ပညာ)</p> <p>4:55 pm</p> <p>6. Songs For Uphold National Spirit</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>7. "ကုသမနွေးတီဘီတေး"</p>	<p>5:15 pm</p> <p>8. Musical Programme</p> <p>5:25 pm</p> <p>9. Sing & Enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>10. Evening News</p> <p>6:15 pm</p> <p>11. Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm</p> <p>12. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "ဟာသယလက်ဖက်ရည်ပိုင်း" (ကောင်းခန့်ပြာလောင်၊ သိန်းဇံကျင့်ဝက်၊ ရာဇာပေါက်စီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- သော်ကိုကိုကျော်)</p> <p>6:40 pm</p> <p>13. Musical Programme</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မိုးမြေချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>15. News</p> <p>16. International News</p> <p>17. Weather Report</p> <p>18. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "ပိုင်ပိုင်ဆောင်ဆောင်စွန့်စားခန်း" (အပိုင်း-၇၀)</p> <p>19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွေဦးကဗျာချစ်သံသာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)</p> <p>20. "ရုပ်သံကြယ်ပွင့်များ"</p>
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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

MR always trying for convenience of passengers, improving facilities

Magway-Kanpya railroad section inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day in 2010, Ministry of Rail Transportation opened Magway-Kanpya railroad section of Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway railroad construction project at Magway railway station in Magway Township, Magway Division this morning.

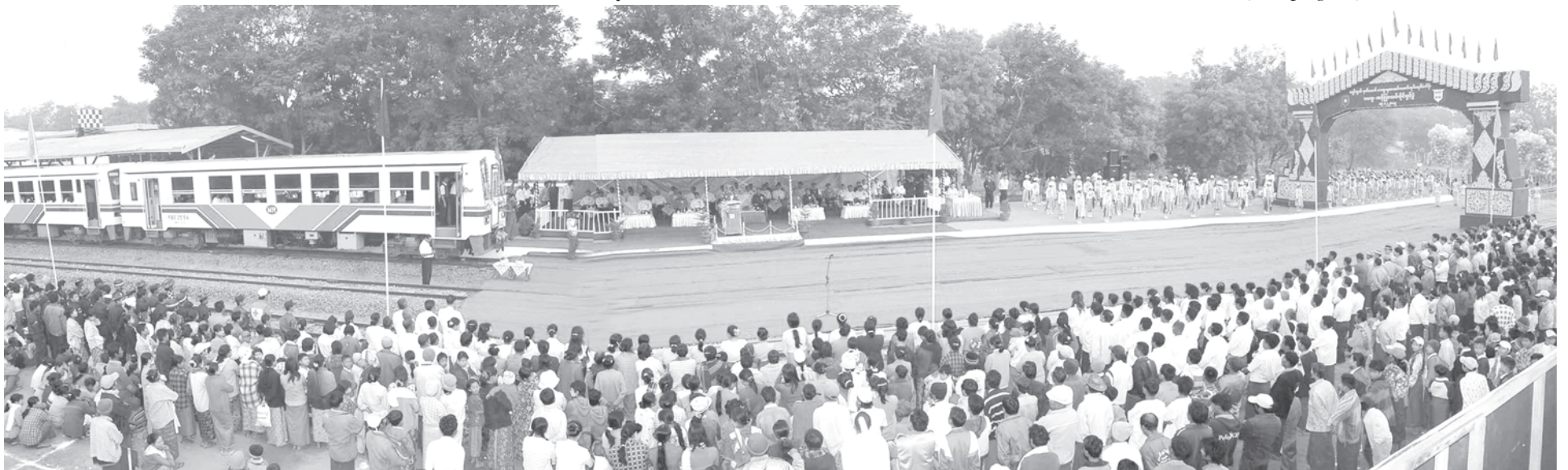
It was attended by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, departmental personnel, guests, officials and staff of Myanma Railways, social organizations, teachers, students and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min said that 7.68 miles long Magway-Kanpya railroad section opened today was first part of the 95 miles long railroad construction project linking Magway, Natmauk and Pyawbwe.

He said that the railroad section was composed of eight big and small bridges and three railway stations; that Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe railroad would emerge as railroad network linking Mandalay Division, Sagaing Division, Kachin State, Shan State, Kayah State, Bago Division, Yangon Division and Taninthayi Division.

He went on to say that before 1988, there were only 1976.35 miles of railroad, but 1336.98 miles had been extended in the time of Tatmadaw Government and, thus 3313.33 miles of railroad had so far constructed; that there were only 487 railway stations before 1988 but the number now had reached 843 including three opened today; that there were only 5,650 big and small bridges before 1988, but the number had reached 10,635 as 4,985 more bridges were built; that MR had always been trying for convenience of its passengers and improving its facilities.

(See page 9)



The opening ceremony of Magway-Kanpya railroad section in progress.—MNA