



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

University of Medicine (Magway), a source of human resources in medical field

Byline: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos: Htay Aung (Kyemon)

The Tatmadaw Government is accelerating the tasks to upgrade old hospitals and to construct new ones all over the country with a view to uplifting health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. Medical staff members give health care to the patients. The govern-

ment has been opening new universities of medicines to produce educated young generations in health care.

While in Magway Division, we, Kyemon Daily news crew, made an observation about University of Medicine (Magway).

The three-storey building of University of

Medicine (Magway), which was inaugurated on 22 May 2001, is located to the east of Magway between Magyikan Village and Kanhla Village.

Rector Dr Maung Maung Win of University of Medicine (Magway) explained, "We accept all students from states and divisions apart from

Yangon and Mandalay Divisions who are qualified to join our university."

We have learnt that the study period of the university takes six years inclusive of five years from first year to final year (Part-B) and one year as a house surgeon. Four Masters Degree

courses will be opened in December 2009. A total of 317 students from first year to final year are pursuing education this academic year. Up to now, convocation has been held for three times, and the first convocation took place on 3 November 2007, at which completion certificate of ba-

sic traditional medicine course was conferred on the students at the same time.

Altogether 271 students in first graduation ceremony, 343 students in second and 431 students in third totaling 1045, were nurtured by the university.

He continued, "A total of 530 doctors out of 614 who got degree from the university are currently discharging their duties across the country."

In University of Medicine (Magway), 281 professors and tutors, 62 education staff and 105 members from admin department including a rector are making efforts to operate the education mechanism of the university at full capacity.

To facilitate the learning system, the university had been equipped with modern education aids including 40 computer sets, 20 projectors. To keep in touch with advanced medical subjects, students are

(See page 9)



University of Medicine, Magway.

INSIDE

Infinite Gross Stupidity

The bomb attack committed by KNU cast a shadow on the Kayin New Year Day Festival, which was held across the nation with special consideration by Kayin nationals.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 22 December, 2009

Towards deeper friendship and closer cooperation

The Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China have a common border stretching more than 1,300 miles. The peoples of the two countries have mutual respect and deep friendship as they have been dealing with each other like brothers for a long time. With reciprocal goodwill visits by the leaders of the two nations, bilateral relations and cooperation are thriving.

At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 December.

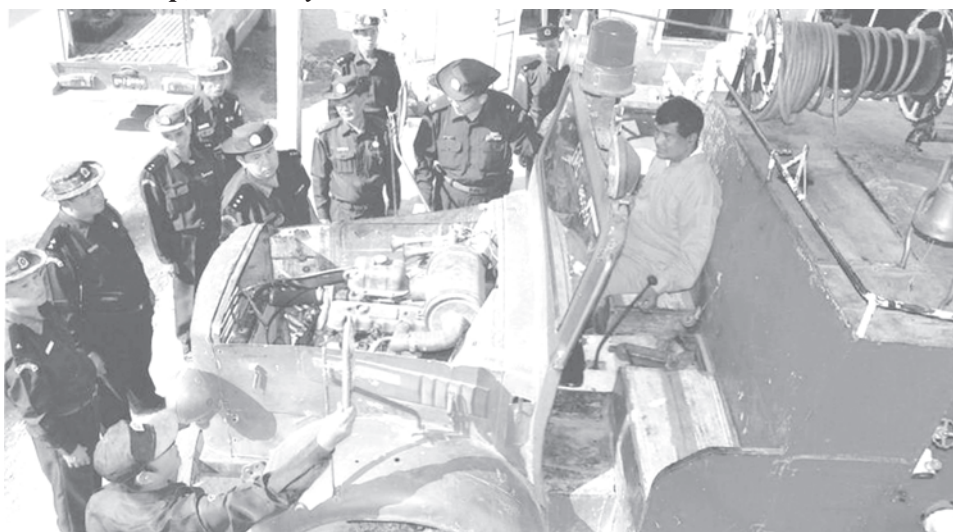
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the goodwill delegation led by Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping had a discussion at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 20 December. They discussed matters related to further improvement of bilateral relations and cooperation in agriculture, transport, energy, electricity and communications sectors.

Moreover, the two leaders exchanged views on matters to which the two countries should pay serious attention, regional and international cooperation and the two countries' stand on climate change.

At the end of the discussion, officials of the two countries signed five agreements on development of trade, economy, transport infrastructures, technological cooperation and purchase of machinery, seven financial agreements, three agreements on hydroelectric power and one agreement on energy sector and oil and natural gas pipeline.

We believe that the visit to the Union of Myanmar by the goodwill delegation led by Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping will contribute a great deal to mutual friendship existing between the two nations and bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

Head of Mandalay Division Fire Services Department U Tin Min inspects fire engine at Mawyagiwah ward fire station in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay on 9 December.—H



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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Tatmadaw Agriculture Course No. 66

YANGON, 21 Dec—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening ceremony of Tatmadaw Agriculture Course No. 66 at Myanma Paddy Research Department in Hmawby in Yangon North District at 9 a.m. today.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by officials concerned, inspected nurturing methods for summer paddy and characteristics of groups of high-yield local Pawhsanmwe paddy strains put on show at the hall of Myanma Paddy Research Department.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe made an opening speech at the



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects nurturing methods for summer paddy and high-yield paddy strain displayed at Myanma Paddy Research Department.—MNA

opening ceremony of Tatmadaw Agriculture Course No. 66.

It was also attended by Chairman of Yangon

Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, senior military of-

icers from Hmawby station, departmental officials, course instructors and trainees.

MNA

Health care and educative talks given in Toungoo

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Hla Min attended the ceremony to give health care and educative talks by

Specialists from Division General Hospital in Toungoo on 16 December.

Officials gave educative talks. The commander encouraged patients receiving medical treatment.—MNA

Manuscripts invited for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award 2009

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—The closing date for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Competition

2009, which was first set 31, December this year is extended up to 31 January, 2010.

Those from state/division wishing to vie for manuscript award

may order registration form and rule papers of the competition with K 200 for stamp charge and enter the competition in compliance with rules. Competitors are to mail

their works to Secretary, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Scrutinizing Committee, at No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Sarpay Beikman, Yangon.—MNA

MCBA to hold 13th annual general meeting

YANGON, 21 Dec—The 13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Custom Brokers' Association will be

held at Mingala Hall of UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township here at 10 am

on 27 December. All the members have been invited to attend the meeting without fail.

MNA

Drive Safely

Russia to start research on spacecraft nuclear engines next year

MOSCOW, 21 Dec — Russia will start next year research on nuclear engines for spacecraft, the head of Russia's Federal Space Agency Roscosmos said on Sunday.

"Nuclear engines for spaceships are a very promising area. Such engines should be created to make flights to Mars and other planets," said Anatoly Perminov at the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan, as cited by the Russian news agencies.

"Russia will start research work from 2010 in this sphere," he added.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said earlier that Russia will prioritize the development of nuclear energy, especially the use of nuclear technology in spacecraft. Perminov also said previously that the development of Megawatt-class nuclear power systems for manned spacecraft was vital if Russia intends to maintain its leading position in the space industry.

He said the draft design of the spacecraft would be finished by 2012, and at least 17 billion rubles (more than 580 million US dollars) were needed for further development over the next nine years.

Analysts believe the key scientific and technical problem in sending manned missions to the Moon and Mars is the development of new propulsion systems and energy supplies with a high degree of energy-mass efficiency. —Xinhua



In this 24 Nov, 2009 photo, a severely malnourished baby named Nureema waits for treatment in her aunt Rabiya's arms, in a feeding centre run by the UN World Food Programme in Aqcha, Afghanistan. —INTERNET

Despite aid, hunger still stalks Afghan children

AQCHA, 21 Dec—While international forces in Afghanistan battle militants hiding in the mountains, aid agencies are fighting an even more elusive enemy: malnutrition.

The World Food Programme and UNICEF have launched a project to feed thousands of mothers and children — some too weak to cry. Aid workers hope a high-protein diet distributed through a network of village clinics can help them through the winter.

Despite the billions spent in Afghanistan since the 2001 US-led invasion to oust the Taliban, the country is still comparable to the worst humanitarian crisis zones in Africa. Afghanistan has the world's highest maternal mortality rate and the second-highest child mortality rate — and hunger is a major reason why, the United Nations says. This year, centres across the country will feed 100,000 children and 35,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Dozens of mothers, many clad in full burqa body veils, crouched in the clinic in Aqcha waiting for rations. The room was early silent except for gusts of wind that howled through the open door. Dozens of toddlers in their arms didn't make a sound.

"Most of the children are too tired and hungry, they don't have the energy to cry," said Dr Nasrullah Sulfane, who oversees the programme here.

The mothers received their weekly ration: 25 grammes (0.88 ounces) of cooking oil with 215 grammes (7.58 ounces) of corn and soya flour per child. The food doesn't cover all the children's needs, but it aims to provide the extra calories needed to avert the worst consequences of hunger. —Internet

Chavez accuses US of sending spy plane into Venezuela's airspace

CARACAS, 21 Dec — Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday a US unmanned spy plane violated Venezuela's airspace and he had ordered the military to shoot down similar air-

craft in the future.

Chavez said in his weekly television and radio speech that the spy plane took off from Columbia and overflew a Venezuelan military base in the western state of Zulia. But he didn't disclose the specific date of the violation.

The US military sent

the unmanned spy plane to Venezuela for espionage, he said.

Last May, Chavez declared that a US patrol plane violated Venezuela's airspace, though the United States said the patrol plane had "mistakenly entered" Venezuela's airspace because of "navigation problem." —Internet

Quake hits Malawi, killing three, injuring about 200

BLANTYRE, 21 Dec — A strong earthquake destroyed several buildings in Malawi on Sunday, killing at least three people and injuring about 200, a government official said.

The quake struck the southeast African country at 1:19 am, and the victims included students who were sleeping in a dormitory at a government school, said Gasten Macheke, the commissioner of Karonga District.

Macheke said about 270,000 people have been urged to leave their homes for their safety, and that the hard-hit district in northern Malawi urgently needs at least 48,000 tents and medical supplies.

Xinhua

Taliban in suicide vests attack Afghan city



Map locating Gardez in Afghanistan. Armed militants wearing suicide vests a building near police headquarters in Gardez, capital of eastern Paktia Province, at about 9:00 am (0430 GMT) and began firing at security forces as they surrounded the building, an official said. —INTERNET

KHOST, 21 Dec — Armed Taliban militants wearing suicide vests stormed a building in an Afghan provincial capital on Monday, sparking a gun battle with police, officials said.

The militants seized a building near police headquarters in Gardez, capital of eastern Paktia Province, at about 9:00 am (0430 GMT) and began firing at security forces as they surrounded the building, an official said. Eastern Afghanistan is one of the worst flashpoints of violence in the Taliban-led insurgency plaguing the country and now at the worst levels since US-led troops invaded in late 2001 to oust the Taliban regime in Kabul.

Coordinated gun and suicide attacks, usually targeting Afghan government officials and security installations, have become increasingly frequent.

At least two militants were killed during on Monday's incident, a spokesman for the interior ministry told AFP in the capital Kabul. —Internet



Rescuers salvage a capsized sand carrier vessel on Jingkou section of the Yangtze River, in Jiangxia District of Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, on 20 Dec, 2009. —XINHUA

Two NATO soldiers killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Dec — Two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in the militancy-ridden southern region of Afghanistan, a Press release of the alliance said on Sunday.

One of these soldiers is from Britain and the other is from Poland, the Press release said.

"An ISAF member from the United Kingdom was killed when his unit encountered an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in southern Afghanistan yesterday," it added without naming the exact place of incident.

ISAF in the Press release also confirmed that a service member from Poland was killed on Saturday when his unit was attacked by insurgents' small arms fire. However, it did not say the exact place of the attack.

Meantime, a senior police officer in Ghazni Province Mohammad Asif Sediqi told Xinhua that a Polish soldier was killed as a mine struck a military vehicle in Andar District on Saturday night. —Internet

Japan logs trade surplus as US, China demand recovers

TOKYO, 21 Dec—Japan logged a trade surplus for the 10th straight month in November, backed by recovering demand from the United States and China, official data showed on Monday.

Japan posted a surplus of 373.93 billion yen (4.1 billion dollars) in Novem-

ber, reversing the year-before deficit of 227.51 billion yen and above market expectations of 319 billion yen.

Exports slipped 6.2 percent from a year earlier to 4.99 trillion yen, the smallest drop in 14 months. Imports fell 16.8 percent to 4.62 trillion yen.

Against the United States, Japan's surplus grew 10.6 percent to 404.54 billion yen, the

first rise in 27 months, thanks to higher exports of automobiles and heavy machinery, the finance ministry said.

Japan's overall exports to the United States fell 7.9 percent against a 19.8 percent drop in imports.

Internet



Longshoremen unload containers from a ship at a port in Tokyo. Japan logged a trade surplus for a 10th straight month in November as exports fell at the slowest pace in more than a year, supported by recovering demand from Asia, government data showed on Monday.

INTERNET

Africans call for support to fight world economic crisis

MARRAKECH, 21 Dec—Participants at a summit of African cities called on developed countries and international institutions to support Africa's efforts to minimize the effects of the world economic crisis, local channel 12M reported on Sunday.

They stressed the need for industrialized countries and regional and international financial institutions to back up African countries to carry on the development process in an economic situation characterized by recession and difficulties to have access to loans.

The participants made the remarks at a meeting on the margins of the fifth summit of African cities, which began on Wednesday in the third largest Moroccan city of Marrakech.—Xinhua



Customers walk past Honda cars at the company's showroom in Tokyo.

INTERNET

France's Safran to sign major deal to equip Chinese jet

BEIJING, 21 Dec—French aerospace and defence industries group Safran on Monday will sign a five-billion-dollar contract to provide engines for China's first large passenger jet, chief executive JeanPaul Herteman said.

The C919—built by state-linked Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) and due to be ready for service in about 2016, according to state media—is seen as a future competitor to the Airbus A320 and the Boeing 737.

"This is a significant contract—the launch of a new aircraft only happens once every 10 or 15 years," Herteman told reporters.

The contract was due to be signed later Monday during an official visit to China by French Prime Minister Francois Fillon.—Internet

Hyundai Motor announces China truck venture

SEOUL, 21 Dec—Hyundai Motor Co said on Sunday it has agreed to launch a \$400 million truck manufacturing venture in China with a local partner as it seeks further inroads in the world's biggest auto market.

Hyundai Motor, South Korea's largest automaker, said it signed an initial agreement with Chinese commercial vehicle manufacturer Baotou Bei Ben Heavy-Duty Truck Co and has set a sales target of 100,000 heavy duty trucks in China by 2014. Under the deal, signed Saturday in Seoul, the two companies will invest a total of \$400 million to set up the 50-50 joint venture next year, Hyundai said. It will take over the Chinese company's existing large truck business that can manufacture 40,000 vehicles a year.—Internet

Oil hovers above \$73 ahead of OPEC meeting

SINGAPORE, 21 Dec—Oil prices hovered above \$73 a barrel on Monday in Asia ahead of an OPEC meeting where investors expect the cartel to keep production levels unchanged.

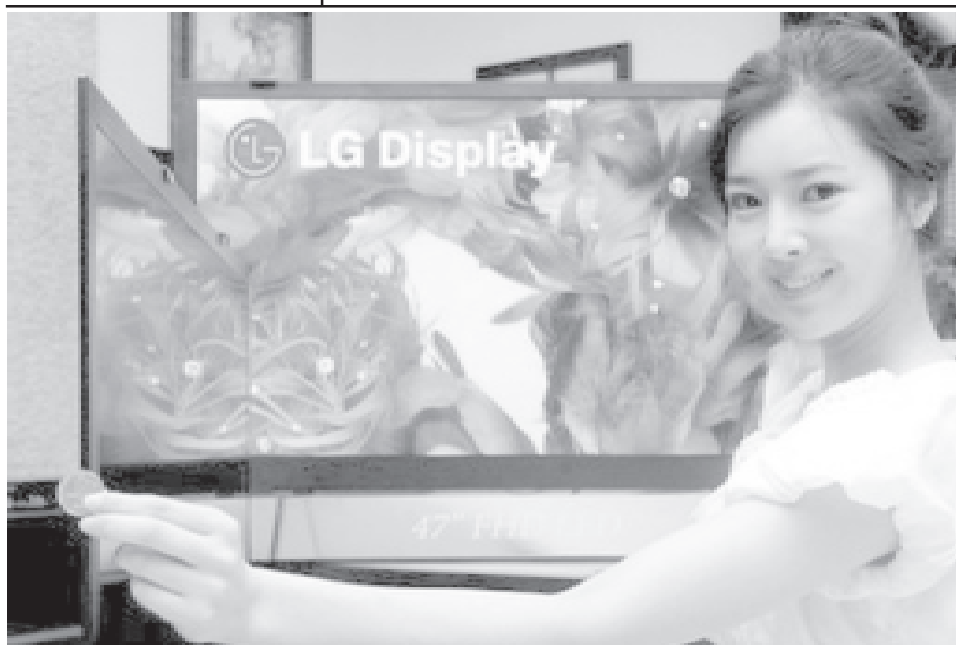
Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 5 cents to \$73.41 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Ex-

change. The January contract, which expires later on Monday, rose 71 cents to settle at \$73.36 on Friday.

Traders have begun to also watch the February contract, which rose 24 cents to \$74.67 on Monday. Leaders of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have signaled in recent weeks the group doesn't plan to change output lev-

els at its meeting on Tuesday in Luanda, Angola.

"The market would be surprised if there was any change to output," said Clarence Chu, a trader with Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "At near \$75, the price is high enough to fund governments and investment, but not so high it damages the global economic recovery."—Internet



A promoter shows off liquid crystal display (LCD) television panels in Seoul earlier this year. South Korea's LG Display said on Monday it has developed the world's thinnest LCD television panel, measuring 2.6 millimetres (0.1 inches).—INTERNET

LG Display develops world's thinnest LCD TV panel

SEOUL, 21 Dec—LG Display Co announced on Monday that it has developed the world's thinnest LCD panel "Extreme Slim," that measures only 2.6 mm, local media reported.

The breakthrough panel was developed through the application of an ultra-slim, edge-lit light emitting diode (LED) backlight system and propriety optical film technology developed by LG Display, it was an-

nounced in a statement.

The new LCD panel weighs less than 4 kg, which makes it a better fit for wall-mounted TVs, and offers full HD resolution delivering crisp and sharp images, LG Display officials said.

"Through the development of the world's thinnest LED LCD TV Panel, LG Display demonstrated its ability to lead customer trend in the high resolution and slim design market," Chung In-jae, LG

Display's Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President was quoted as saying by local media. Prior to Monday's announcement, Samsung Electronics held the record for the world's thinnest LCD panel with its "Needle Slim," measuring at 3.9 mm.

LG Display said the new LCD panel will be showcased at the 2010 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Xinhua



Children play on a snow gala slop at the Beijing Olympic Green on 20 Dec, 2009. XINHUA



Pacific islanders fear rising sea levels

SUVA, 21 Dec—People living in coastal areas in the Pacific island countries including Tuvalu and Fiji are indeed worried that one day their homes may be washed away as a result of climate changes but at the moment they are reluctant to move as their dwellings have sentimental meaning to them.

It is difficult for Pacific islanders to leave their ancestral homes for many reasons including the fact

that their loved ones are buried there and some of them have never travelled overseas.

Such sentimental attachments are best described by the islanders but the emotions that flow when you talk to someone affected reflects just how passionate they are about their land.

Tuvalu Island reporter Diana Semi said on Monday that while the decision to relocate them had been

discussed, Tuvaluans themselves were reluctant to move elsewhere.

She said last year the islanders were coming to terms with the factual realization of climate change and its implications.

“I think old people of my country are getting to understand this issue of climate change but they do not want to leave their homeland, where they were brought up,” she said.—Xinhua

Chinese, African jurists discuss cooperation in first FOCAC legal forum

CAIRO, 21 Dec—Chinese and African jurists and lawyers gathered in a forum here on Sunday to exchange views on legal affairs and explore approaches to enhance legal cooperation with the expectation to make it a long-acting platform serving the development of China-Africa relations.

Nearly 100 jurists and lawyers from China and more than 20 African countries participated in the first Forum on China-Africa Cooperation — Legal Forum, which is a

sub-forum of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and was initiated by the China Law Society. Given the theme of the forum “Strengthening China-Africa Legal Exchange and Promoting All-round Development of China-Africa Relationship”, participants in the two-day forum held dis-

cussions with various topics including the important role of law in China-Africa Cooperation, the impact of legal systems on China-Africa trade and investment relations, and the dispute resolution mechanisms between China and African countries.

Xinhua

Hariri’s visit to Damascus ends years of bitterness between Lebanon, Syria

BEIRUT, 21 Dec—Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri ended on Sunday a landmark visit to Damascus, pledging with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to open new prospects on bilateral relations.

“Syria and Lebanon will not benefit from negative perceptions,” said Hariri to reporters at

the end of his trip to Syria, adding that “Lebanon should learn from past experience and look positively toward the future in an effort to open new horizons for both countries.”

The 39-year-old prime minister’s visit to Syria ends nearly five years of

bitterness with Damascus. Relations between Hariri and Syria have been edgy since 14 Feb, 2005, when Hariri’s father Rafik Hariri, the former Lebanese prime minister was assassinated in Beirut. Syria is suspected of being involved in the killing.—Xinhua

Hamas, Fatah trade accusations over supporters’ arrest

GAZA, 21 Dec—Hamas and Fatah, the rival Palestinian factions, on Sunday traded accusations over arresting followers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Hamas forces, controlling Gaza since 2007, detained 24 members and supporters of President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah party over the past couple of days in northern Gaza Strip, Fatah said in a statement. In the West Bank,

Hamas said pro-Abbas forces have nabbed three of its members in Nablus city and summoned tens of people, including academics, loyal to the movement.

The two movements have been hunting down their opponents since Hamas routed pro-Abbas forces and seized control of the coastal Gaza Strip. Abbas’ rule is confined to the West Bank.

In October, Hamas re-

jected to sign an Egyptian proposal to settle down the power struggle with Fatah and demanded an amendment to the offer. Egypt refuses to put its proposal for discussions.

The politically-motivated arrests was one of the obstacles that the factions tried hardly to overcome during a series of Cairo-hosted negotiations to broker a reconciliation deal.

Xinhua

The Russian Soyuz TMA-17 spacecraft, carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew of US astronaut Timothy J Creamer, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kotov and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi, blasts off from its launchpad at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 21 Dec, 2009. —XINHUA



With its rich tourism resources, Macao is one of the few holiday destinations in the world to have sustained stable development despite ongoing uncertainties in the world’s financial markets.—XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Mexico recovers from flu, financial crisis

MEXICO CITY, 21 Dec—The A/H1N1 flu outbreak and the world financial crisis battered Mexico’s economy in 2009, but there are indications of a recovery in 2010 thanks to a rebound forecast for Mexico’s main trading partner, the United States.

The A/H1N1 flu outbreak in the Latin American country in the second quarter of 2009 forced the Mexican government to shut down all its businesses, schools and gov-

ernment offices for three weeks beginning on 26 April. As a result, the nation’s economy started to slow down, with the second quarter’s economy registering a 10.3 percent decrease compared with the first quarter.

The shutdown policy hit businesses directly, having a knock-on effect on sectors like tourism, which was threatened by public perceptions of danger caused by the A/H1N1 flu.

Last week, Mexico’s Tourism Minister Rodolfo Elizondo told media that Mexico’s tourism would end the year with around 10.5 percent less income than 2008.

The immediate post-crisis impact also hit the tourism industry, causing the hotel occupancy rate to cut down to only five percent, while the figure for a typical May should be as high as up to 65 percent, said the Mexico City Tourism Department.—Xinhua



Four rare northern white rhinos relocated to Kenya

OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY, 21 Dec— Four of the world's last known eight northern white rhinos landed in Kenya on Sunday and were transported to a game park where officials hope the endangered mammals will reproduce and save their subspecies.

No white rhinos are known to remain in the wild, and the animals transported on Sunday have produced no offspring after nearly 24

years in a Czech zoo. So wildlife workers hoping to save the subspecies loaded two males and two females into wooden crates and began the effort to return them to what was once their savannah homeland.

When teams of Kenyan wildlife workers opened the crates on Sunday, two of the rhinos lingered several minutes before moving to a larger pen as Czech animals handlers coaxed them out

with soothing words and treats. The other two exited immediately.

The rhinos' handlers and park officials said they hoped the two females will bear as many young as possible for several years, but all those involved acknowledged it was not a sure bet that the rhinos would reproduce.

Internet



Rhino keeper Jan Zdarek calls Suni, a 29-year-old male white rhino, after it arrived at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya on 20 Dec, 2009.

INTERNET

One dead, five hurt in Coast Guard boat collision in SD

SAN DIEGO, 21 Dec— A 33-foot Coast Guard vessel and a recreational boat collided on Sunday as a Christmas watercraft parade was going on in San Diego Bay, killing an 8-year-old boy and seriously injuring five people, authorities said.

No one aboard the Coast Guard patrol boat was hurt in the crash just

before 6 pm, and everyone on the recreational craft was accounted for, said Fire Department spokesman Maurice Luque.

Authorities have not released details on how the accident occurred, but

it came just after sundown in clear weather with light winds.

The injured were rushed to University of California, San Diego Hospital, where the boy was declared dead, Luque said.—*Internet*

Indian Navy thwarts pirates attempt on foreign vessel

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec— An Indian Navy warship in the Gulf of Aden thwarted a piracy attempt on a foreign vessel, the *Indo-Asian News Service* reported on Sunday.

The news service quoted an Indian Navy officer as saying the INS Godavari got a distress call at 17:30 pm (1200 GMT) on Saturday that a pirate's skiff was approaching them and it sent a helicopter which fired warning shots at the pirates.

The Indian Navy warship also sent a team on board the pirates' skiff and all the materials like ladders used to board ships were seized.

The seven to eight pirates had thrown all their weapons in the sea before they were released, said the report.

The nationality and name of the vessel which asked for help were not mentioned in the report.

This was the second successful anti-piracy operation by INS Godavari in the Somali waters since mid-November, said the report.—*Xinhua*

21 militants killed in Afghan operations

KABUL, 21 Dec—The Afghan Defence Ministry says 21 militants have been killed in three separate operations in the Central Asian country's fight to combat the resurgent Taliban.

The ministry said in a statement that attacks by Afghan and NATO forces on Sunday killed eight militants in southern Helmand Province and six in eastern Ghazni Province.

Afghan forces also killed seven militants in northern Kunduz Province on Sunday. The north has become more violent in recent months as the Taliban and other militant groups have expanded their targets beyond the turbulent south and east.

The ministry did not report any casualties for Afghan or NATO forces, and did not go into detail about the attacks.—*Internet*

Egypt antiquities chief to demand Nefertiti bust

Egypt's antiquities chief said he will formally demand the return of the 3,300-year-old bust of Queen Nefertiti from a Berlin museum after confirming it was sneaked out of Cairo through fraudulent documents.

Zahi Hawass, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, has been aggressively campaigning to reclaim treasures that he says were stolen from Egypt and purchased by some of the world's leading museums.

Hawass' campaign yielded a huge success this week with the return of



In this file photo, the 3,300-year-old bust of Queen Nefertiti is seen at the 'Neues Museum', New Museum, on the so-called Museum Island during a media preview in Berlin, Germany. Egypt's antiquities chief said he will formally demand the return of the 3,300-year old bust of Queen Nefertiti kept in a Berlin museum after confirming it was sneaked out of Cairo through fraudulent documents.

painting wall fragments from a 3,200-year-old tomb from the Louvre in Paris. Hawass had cut ties with the French museum and suspended its excavation in southern Cairo to pressure it to return the artifacts.

Highlighting the importance of the efforts, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak traveled to Paris to oversee the handover of the fragments, which arrived in Cairo.

The limestone bust of Nefertiti, wife of famed monotheistic Pharaoh Akhenaton, topped the list Hawass has drawn for high-profile items he wants back. Since the bust was displayed in Germany in 1924, Egypt has been demanding its return. German authorities have declined, saying the bust is too fragile to move.

Book returned to Ohio library after 60 years

A book has been mailed back to an Ohio library after six decades, accompanied by an anonymous letter of remorse.

The biography "Napoleon" by Emil Ludwig recently arrived at Toledo's main library, with a brief note that read: "I removed this book

from your stacks in 1949 and did not check it out. I apologize.

It's an excellent book and in good condition."

The person who signed it "An ex-Toledoan" also wrote, "Carrying guilt for 60 years is a terrible thing."

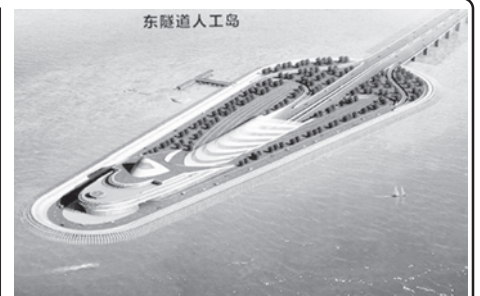
Library spokeswoman Rhonda

Snake in hire car gives Swedish man fright

A Swedish motorist fled terrified from his hire car after a snake suddenly slithered out from behind the dashboard onto the steering wheel, German police said.

The 33-year-old Swedish man ran to safety late on Monday at traffic lights in Hamburg, and the snake, who had lurked undetected all the way from Sweden, then darted out of the open door into nearby trees.

The reptile was then recovered by staff from a local animal rescue centre, and turned out to be a non-venomous corn snake. Police said it was unclear how it had come to be in the vehicle.



This design sketch shows the man-made island of east tunnel of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge. China began construction of the world's longest cross-sea bridge linking its southern economic hub Guangdong Province to Hong Kong and Macao on 15 Dec, 2009. The Y-shaped Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge will have a total length of almost 50 km, of which about 35 km will be built over the sea.

Baby alligator, snakes found in university dorm

A baby alligator, a diamond-back rattlesnake, six pythons and three chameleons have been found in a University of Arkansas dorm room.

Campus police

Lt Gary Crain said on Monday the reptiles—and four white mice that were apparently intended as lunch—were found in Maple Hill West. UA student Jacob Miller of Marion told police that he and roommate Michael Robbins of West Memphis were getting the

reptiles free online and selling them for a profit.

Crain says the two were not arrested but were fined by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission because it's illegal to possess alligators or rattlesnakes without certification as a handler.

NEWS ALBUM



Thousands warned to flee Philippine volcano zone

LEGASPI, 21 Dec—More than 3,000 villagers who are refusing to quit a no-go zone around the Philippines' rumbling Mayon volcano risk forcible evacuation if they do not leave, officials said on Monday.

Scientists warned that powerful booms emanating from the Southeast Asian country's most active volcano, located about 330 kilometres (200 miles) southeast of Manila, indicated that a major eruption was

imminent.

The eerie glow of crimson lava could be seen oozing from the volcano overnight, and relief officials said farmers and other residents who had refused to evacuate faced the additional danger of suffocating ash explosions.

"We will physically remove the residents who refuse to evacuate to their designated evacuation centres," Albay provincial Governor Joey Salceda said after volcanologists

raised the alert level to four on a five-point scale.

Level four means that an "explosive eruption is possible within hours or days", according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

There are still 729 families or more than 3,000 people staying put on the edges of an eight-kilometre danger zone that has been declared around Mayon, local disaster preparations chief Cedric Daep told AFP.—Internet



A resident gathers sand near Mayon volcano in Legazpi City, Albay Province, southeast of Manila. Several thousand villagers in the firing line of the Philippines' rumbling Mount Mayon volcano risk forcible evacuation unless they leave the danger zone, officials said on Monday.—INTERNET



French PM arrives in Beijing to bolster co-op with China

BEIJING, 21 Dec—French Prime Minister Francois Fillon arrived in Beijing Sunday afternoon to start his first official visit to China since he took office. Chinese President Hu Jintao, top legislator Wu Bangguo, Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice Premier Li Keqiang are expected to meet or hold talks with Fillon during his three-day stay in

Beijing.

More than 40 French cultural figures, legislators and entrepreneurs will also accompany Fillon's visit. Observers believe Fillon's China trip will further improve bilateral ties that were frozen in 2008 due to frictions over issues relating to Tibet and other affairs concerning China's core interest.—Xinhua

People are seen on the beach covered by snow in Nice, southeastern France, on 19 Dec, 2009. Temperature is 3 degrees celcius (37.2 Fahrenheit).—INTERNET

Saudi Prince Alwaleed ranks on top of Arab rich list

ABU DHABI, 21 Dec—Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud remains the wealthiest Arab this year with a fortune of 18 billion US dollars, a business journal of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reported on Sunday. The 2009 Arabian Business Rich List showed that Prince Alwaleed, chairman of Kingdom Holding Company (KHC), tops the list for the sixth consecutive year.

He has managed to increase his wealth by nearly 1 billion US dollars despite the global economic downturn, the *Arabian Business* said. It said that although the value of shares in KHC is slightly less than the same period last year, an increase of Prince Alwaleed's cash deposits and a rise in value of some assets mean that his wealth has actually increased.—Xinhua

Missing Dutch sailor girl found on St Martin

AMSTERDAM, 21 Dec—A Dutch teenager who went missing after child welfare authorities thwarted her attempt to become the youngest person to sail singlehanded round the world has been found in the Dutch Antilles.

The Dutch Council for the Protection of Children said on Sunday that Laura Dekker, 14, had been found on the Caribbean island of St Martin after being reported missing by relatives in The Netherlands last week.

"We found her," council spokesman Richard Bakker said. "She is still on St Martin and she is in the custody of police." Bakker said the council and the Dutch government were working to

Bus drivers fall victim to brutal Guate malan gangs

GUATEMALA CITY, 21 Dec—Bus driver Mynor Gonzalez ignored the threats: "200 quetzales a week, or we'll kill you."

He knew drivers who didn't pay the roughly \$24 "protection" fee had been murdered, but always on other routes. He knew his job—once considered secure and well-paying for Guatemala's poor—had become deadly.

Then it happened on his route. The gangs used his friend, driver Miguel Angel Chacon, 34, to show they meant business.

"He saw them approaching the bus, so he jammed on the brakes and started run-

ning toward the back," said Gonzalez, 30. "They shot him twice in the back, right there in the aisle in front of all the passengers." Gunmen have killed more than 170 bus drivers this year to scare them and transportation companies into paying extortion fees that fuel the country's multimillion-dollar organized crime network.

It's a small number of

deaths given Guatemala's roughly 6,200 murders a year—a homicide rate that puts the Central American country among the world's 10 most dangerous, according to UN crime studies. But the public execution of bus drivers—often witnessed by as many as 50 passengers—adds a new level of brutality to an already terrorized nation.—Internet

Mortar shell attacks kills at least 14 in Somalia

MOGADISHU, 21 Dec—Artillery shelling between rebels and Somali government forces killed at least 14 people and wounded 28 others in Mogadishu on Sunday, residents and a rights group said.

Insurgents fired mortars at government troops, prompting a heavier response of shells that killed civilians in several suburbs of Mogadishu and made residents cower indoors.

"Fourteen civilians died and 28 others were wounded on Saturday night and Sunday morning in mortar shell exchanges in Mogadishu," Ali Yasin Gedi, vice chairman of Mogadishu's Elman Peace and Human Rights Organization, told *Reuters*.

"Most of these people died this morning after an exchange of heavy shelling," he said.



Air China planes taxi on the tarmac in front of the new terminal building at Beijing Capital International Airport. China will treat talks on a binding global climate change pact in 2010 as over the "right to develop".

INTERNET



Infinite Gross Stupidity

Myint Soe (Na-Ta-La)

I arrived in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on duty on 15 December 2009. After I had completed office work there, I was taken to famous pagodas in Hpa-an and surrounding areas by Deputy Director U Thet Naung of the Supervisory Office for Progress of Border Areas. Our itinerary first took us to historic ancient Kawgongu pagodas on the other bank of Hpa-an. We went there through Thanlwin Bridge.

En route for Kawtgongu, I had a glance over my shoulder to enjoy the beauty of Thanlwin Bridge with Mt. Zwegabin in the background. There, the dim outlines of Tayokehla Island and Tayokehla Village loomed up in the distance. The scene brought to my mind the helicopter crash that cost the lives of Lt-Gen Tin Oo and entourage, and local Kayin nationals rescuing the survivors.

We proceeded to Maha Bodhi Aungmye Pagoda at the foot of Mt. Zwegabin through Kyaung Kam Lab Pagoda. It was at dusk, so we returned to Hpa-an along the road at the foot of the mountain. On the way, I learnt some past experiences of Hpa-an from my friend U Saw Chit Tun. In mourning, he told me, **"From this mountain pass we are taking now, KNU fired a launcher, and the shell hit the residence of the principal of Hpa-an College. In the attack, he was injured at the fence to**

close the gate, while waiting for return of his son who he had asked to buy some betel quid outside. As soon as we learnt the bad news, we rushed to the hospital to donate blood, but he was already dead." Some of my friends told me, "Why don't you stay on in Hpa-an? Tomorrow is Kayin New Year Day. Join us in the New Year Day celebration, please." However, I had no choice but to decline their kind invitation because the time was very limited.

We left Hpa-an for Yangon on Kayin New Year Day. We witnessed Kayin nationals were enjoying themselves in Kayin New Year Day celebration not only in Hpa-an but also in suburbs. On our way back, we dropped in Bayin Nyi-naung Hlaingudaw (cave) Pagodas. As it was Kayin New Year Day, the pagodas were packed with Kayin nationals, old and young. I was delighted to have a gaze at them. Kayin State was not the only place where Kayin New Year Day was celebrated. We noticed that it was also held in the villages along the road in Thaton, Bilin and Kyaikto in Mon State. Like Kayin State, Mon State is a multicultural state, home to various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan who live together in amity. That reflects the fact that the states in the Union

are like mini-unions.

I returned with joys I had gained watching the scenes. But, my pleasures based on Kayin New Year Day commemorative festivities were brought to an end on 18 December morning. That morning, I noticed a tragic news story in the newspaper. The story said "A time bomb went off at the row of shops in front of No (2) Basic Education High School in Ward (2), Papun, Kayin State, on 16 December evening, leaving seven innocent civilians dead, and 10 men and one woman, injured." **The bomb attack committed by KNU cast a shadow on the Kayin New Year Day Festival, which was held across the nation with special consideration by Kayin nationals. I was completely puzzled by KNU that had just launched a bomb attack at a Kayin festivity to kill their own nationals.**

From 1989 onwards, national race armed groups have been returning to the legal fold one after another and unconditionally abandoning their arms. Many groups including DKBA have broken away from KNU and returned to the legal fold. The development of the regions, and local people's aspiration and admiration for peace are tangible. Other national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold, and have been joining hands with the government in regional development tasks. And they have transformed themselves into border guard forces for doing their bit in the tasks for ensuring perpetuation of the Union. It is strange that KNU still sticks to terrorist acts such as bomb attacks, and massacre.

I have written several articles about KNU, including "How can I dissuade Bo Mya from sticking to insurgency?" and "No positive results from 50-year insurgency". Late Bo Mya could not lead peace-building movements, but he handed down the legacy of peace to his son Captain Saw Nay Soe Mya to please Kayin nationals. KNU has entered 61 years, but remnant KNU troops are still thick-headed. Therefore, I would have to write an article for such KNU members. The article's title is the same as that of the video film starring film star U Kyaw Hein "Infinite Gross Stupidity".

Translation: MS

From 1989 onwards, national race armed groups have been returning to the legal fold one after another and unconditionally abandoning their arms. Many groups including DKBA have broken away from KNU and returned to the legal fold. The development of the regions, and local people's aspiration and admiration for peace are tangible. Other national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold, and have been joining hands with the government in regional development tasks. And they have transformed themselves into border guard forces for doing their bit in the tasks for ensuring perpetuation of the Union. It is strange that KNU still sticks to terrorist acts such as bomb attacks, and massacre.

MTV EXIT introduced for fighting trafficking in persons



Police Colonel Sit Aye explains facts about alert for awareness of human trafficking at MTV EXIT distribution ceremony.

MNA

YANGON, 21 Dec—A ceremony to distribute MTV EXIT was held at Sedona Hotel here on 18

December, attended by representatives of Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, personnel of US Embassy and AFXB, narrator vocalist Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, journalists and observers.

MTV EXIT, a 30-minute documentary video with narration of vocalist Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, jointly produced by Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and AFXB, is aimed at fighting against on human trafficking and raising public awareness about human trafficking in Asia and Pacific region. Charge d' Affaires Mr

Larry Dinger made an introductory speech and Police Colonel Sit Aye, Head of Transnational Crime Department under Myanmar Police Force gave an account of cooperation with international community in the fight against human trafficking, activities at home, collaboration with international organizations regional countries to combat human trafficking.

Country Director Daw Kay Thi Shein of AFXB explained background history of AFXB, and birth of MTV EXIT, and said that the MTV would achieve great

success as it was narrated in 12 different languages by Lucy Lieu of Hollywood, Rain of Korea, Ta ta Young of Thailand, Karen Mok of China, Lara Dutta of Bollywood, and Myanmar vocalist Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein.

Vocalist Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein said that she was proud of herself being engaged in meaningful activity that would raise awareness of Myanmar women in human trafficking and expected that the MTV would produce a good outcome for Myanmar youths.

MNA

University of Medicine (Magway), a source of human resources in medical field

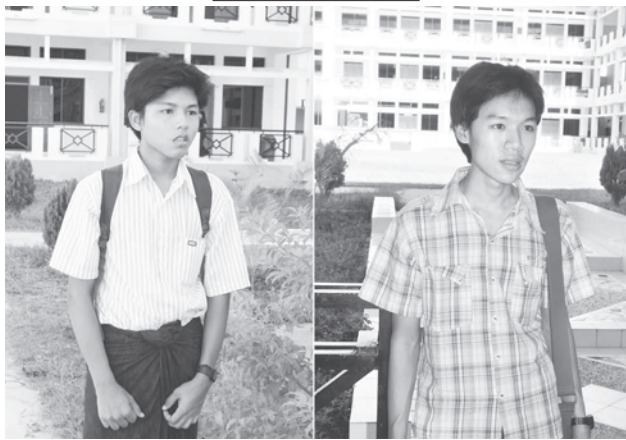
Byline: *Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*; Photos: *Htay Aung (Kyemon)*

(from page 1)
studying them on the Internet under the supervision of teachers. Constant discussions are also being held for improving the abilities of the students. House surgeons are also being dispatched to local hospitals for saving expenditures, he said.

We had a chance to interview students on the ground floor. A student said, "I am Ma Aye Mya Thuza attending 2nd M.B. I come from Hopong of Southern Shan State. In the past, local students had difficult access to attending Medical University, for such a university were only in Yangon and Mandalay. Now, we have an even chance of taking education due to emergence of the University of Medicine in Magway. The hostel, opened by Maternal and Child Welfare Asso-



Rector Dr Maung Maung Win of University of Medicine (Magway).



Medical students say that they are very pleased to learn education under the good guidance of teachers and persons concerned.

ciation, is providing safe accommodation."

Another student also told us, "My name is Ayeya Kyaw and attending 3rd M.B. I am from Maubin Township of Ayeyawady Division. I chose this university because my relatives are liv-

was next to me again and said, "The honorable fact of this university is that a total of 30 tutors who graduated from this university are now giving education in this university."

So, we interviewed Dr May Zaw, there she said,



I take pride to be a lecturer after learning education here. (Lecturer Dr May Zaw)



Students explaining that they are pleased to pursue education in their own region with the aid of modern facilities.

ing here. On close supervision of the faculty members, it is easy to learn the lessons."

At that time, the rector

"I attended this university since its inception in 2001 and I got degree in 2006. I became a teacher in 2009. I'm very happy

to have a chance of relaying education to local students residing in our own region.", a smile and bloom on her face is showing thanks to the Tatmadaw Government for making strenuous efforts to get involved in brighter future of the youth generations.

Translation: ZZS (Kyemon:1-12-2009)

Paunglaung multi-purpose dam, backbone of agriculture

Article: *Myint Maung Soe*; Photos, *Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*

(from page 16)
Recently, our Myanma Alin news crew made a study tour of the Paunglaung multi-purpose dam ten miles to east of Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana. We had an interview with Assistant Director-1 U Hla Shwe of Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation about the aim

of building the dam. He explained, "Paunglaung multi-purpose dam was constructed to generate electricity as well as to supply irrigation water. Now, Paunglaung dam and Paunglaung diversion weir were commissioned into service and channels for supplying irrigation water are under construction, complete 25 per cent so

far. Those channels are expected to be totally completed in 2011-2012. When completed, they can supply irrigation water to 35,000 acres of farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Yedashe Township in Bago Division."

We had learnt that the construction of Paunglaung multi-purpose dam situated on

Paunglaung River near Kyitaung-Khawma Village about 10 miles to east of Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana, began in 1998-1999 and completed in 2004-2005. It was inaugurated on 25 March 2005. With 1700 square miles of catchment area, the dam can store 549,420 acre feet of water at its maximum level. The embankment of the dam

is of earthen type with height of 430 feet and length of 3100 feet. The dam includes 410 feet wide reinforced concrete type spillway.

The Paunglaung multi-purpose dam is outfitted with four generators, each can generate 70 megawatt. The dam can produce 911 million kwh annually.

Paunglaung diversion weir opened in March 2009 was constructed near Thitsaikpin Village 10 miles downstream from the Paunglaung dam to store the water for running the turbines.

The 750 feet long embankment of Paunglaung diversion weir is of RC type. The facility can also supply irrigation

water to 35,000 acres in Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Yedashe of Bago Division annually. The right and left channels each of which is 29 miles long are being constructed at the lower area of the diversion weir. The tributaries of the main channels have now been completed 25 per cent, and it is scheduled to be completed in 2010-2012.

Thanks to the emergence of Paunglaung multi-purpose dam local residents are now enjoying bountiful water supply and their socio-economic status has improved all the more.

Translation: ZZS Myanma Alin: 19-12-2009



Photo shows the spillway of Paunglaung multi-purpose dam.

Commander inspects regional development tasks in Buthidaung, Yathedaung Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye on 12 December met officers and other ranks, and their families at the hall of Buthidaung Station. After viewing collective reaping and harvesting monsoon paddy, the commander inspected retaining wall along Strand Road, construction of road that leads to Sittway-

Yathedaung Road and left instructions.

On 13 December, he inspected construction of Kwuntaung Station and roadwork in Kwantaung Village of Ponnagyun Township, and progress in construction of Ponnagyun Station and regional development tasks. After that, the commander gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

MNA

Minister receives Chinese delegation of CTTIC Group

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received a delegation led by Vice Chairman and President Mr Chang Zhenming of CTTIC Group of the People's Republic of China at the Ministry this morning. They frankly discussed matters related to transportation services between the two countries.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receiving Vice Chairman and President Mr Chang Zhenming of CTTIC Group of PRC and party.

MNA

Chavez wants to rename world's tallest waterfall

CARACAS, 21 Dec—President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday that the world's tallest waterfall has been called Angel Falls too long and should revert to its original indigenous name instead of commemorating the US pilot who spotted it in 1933. He called for renaming the Venezuelan falls Kerepakupai-Merú,

saying during his weekly tele-vision programme that Indians had a name for the majestic waterfall long before adventurer Jimmie Angel flew over it.

How can Venezuelans could accept the idea that "the highest waterfall in the world was discovered by a man who came from the United States in a plane?"

Chavez asked.

"We should change that name, right? With all respect to that man who came, who saw it."

Internet

**Say
No
to
Drugs**

Snowstorm cuts into sales, may mean stronger week

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—The snowstorm that blanketed the East Coast, closing malls and snowing in shoppers, spelled trouble for retailers, but else where in the country stores saw a strong turnout on the last weekend before Christmas.

Eager to win business from snowed-in easterners, retail Web sites including Macy's and JC Penney offered free express shipping on Sunday.

Traffic to retail Web sites spiked all weekend. Elsewhere in the country, crowds looking for discounts found some, but far less than the 60 to 70 percent off sales they wanted.

Retailers head into the

home stretch hoping the storm leaves pent-up demand that will give them one last gift.

Internet

Australian northwest on red alert as cyclone looms

SYDNEY, 21 Dec—Australia's remote northwest was on alert on Monday as Cyclone Laurence was expected to bring destructive winds of up to 260 kilometres (160 miles) an hour and flooding to some areas, officials said.

The cyclone, which formed in the Timor Sea last week, was moving south towards the Pilbara region, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia said.

There will be "a period of very destructive winds

with gusts to 260 kilometres per hour developing late this morning or early this afternoon," the authority said in its alert warning. "People in the area are specifically warned of the very dangerous storm tide expected as the cyclone centre approaches the coast."

"Tides are likely to rise significantly above the normal high tide mark with damaging waves and dangerous flooding." The authority said gales were already beginning to build in

the Eighty Mile Beach area, just north of the iron-ore rich Pilbara region, and heavy rain was expected.

Miner BHP Billiton said it expected the cyclone to disrupt its iron ore operations in the Pilbara region. "We expect that there may be some production interruption at some operations due to heavy rainfall but otherwise we are mainly keeping watch on the cyclone's path at this stage," a BHP spokeswoman told Dow Jones Newswires.—Internet

Cyclone Laurence Australia's northwest on red alert



Graphic showing the path of Cyclone Laurence in Australia, packing winds of up to 260 kilometres per hour and moving towards Pilbara region in the northwest. INTERNET

Valero remains WBC lightweight champion

LA GUAIRA, 21 Dec—Edwin Valero stopped veteran Hector Velazquez after six rounds Saturday night to keep his WBC lightweight title in a town on Venezuela's Caribbean coast.

The 28-year-old Valero (26-0, 26 KOs) was bleeding from an eyebrow and his nose after a pair of accidental head-butts early in the fight. But the feisty Venezuelan kept attacking, giving Velazquez (51-14-2) his third loss in four fights.—Internet

Japan's Hasegawa retains WBC bantamweight title

KOBE, 21 Dec—Hozumi Hasegawa successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title on Friday in the Japanese city of Kobe with a technical knock-out of Alvaro Perez.



The knock-out came two minutes 38 seconds into the fourth round when the Japanese champion connected with a left to the face twice, sending the challenger from Nicaragua onto the floor.

"I was ready to fight the 12 rounds because many people have complained that my bouts finish too quickly. I don't think they will this time," said Hasegawa, 29, after a fifth straight knockout.

Internet

World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight champion Hozumi Hasegawa of Japan (rear) punches Mexican challenger Alejandro Valdez (front) during their title bout in Tokyo, in 2008. Hasegawa has successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title in the Japanese city of Kobe with a technical knock-out of Alvaro Perez.

INTERNET

Pavlik stops Espino in fifth round

YOUNGSTOWN, 21 Dec—American Kelly Pavlik stopped Miguel Espino in the fifth round of their World Boxing Council middleweight fight on Saturday.

Pavlik, 27, floored Espino three times including twice in the fourth round. He sent Espino to the canvas again in the fifth and that's when the challenger's corner threw in the towel.

Pavlik (36-1, 32 KOs) traded punches with Espino from the opening bell in an entertaining fight that was stopped by referee Steve Smoger at 1:44 of the fifth.—Internet



Kelly Pavlik (R) knocks down Miguel Espino during their match at the Beeghly Center in Youngstown, Ohio. Pavlik stopped Espino in the fifth round of their World Boxing Council middleweight fight on Saturday.—INTERNET



Participants are engrossed in the contest of flower arranging, or ikebana, during the 2009 Shanghai Vocational Skill Flower Arrangement Contest, which opens in Shanghai, east China, on 20 Dec, 2009. The contest is aimed at bringing up and selecting outstanding ikebana professionals adaptable to the need of 2010 Shanghai World Expo.—XINHUA

Panama advances on free trade dialogue with European countries

PANAMA CITY, 21 Dec— Panama will negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) with members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Panaman's Ministry of Commerce and Industries said on Sunday.

The EFTA Council announced it would offer a joint declaration on cooperation with Panama, which repre-

sented the first step to FTA negotiations, the ministry said.

Panama Minister of Commerce and Industries Roberto Henriquez said he would order Panamanian negotiators to start coordination and work out an agenda for negotiations.

Meanwhile, Vice Minister of International Trade Negotiations Francisco Alvarez de

Soto expressed confidence in Panama's capacity to do a deal that some nations had been pursuing with EFTA for years.

EFTA is a commercial bloc created in 1960 by Austria, Denmark, Britain, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland as an alternative to the European Economic Community.

Xinhua

S Korean conglomerates see 57% surge in market cap

SEOUL, 21 Dec— South Korea's 10 major business groups reported a 57.3 percent increase in market capitalization from a year ago, Seoul's bourse operator said on Monday. According to the Korea Exchange (KRX), the total market value of 10 conglomerates stood at 472.6 trillion won (401.2 billion US dollars) as of 17 Dec, up from 300.5 trillion won (255.1 billion US dollars) tallied at the end of last year.

Among the ten tycoons, Samsung Group saw the steepest rise in stock value, which gained 73.2 trillion won (62.1 billion US dollars) from last year's 117.5 trillion won (99.7 billion US dollars).

Hyundai Motor Group and LG Group also marked a market cap jump of 175.5 percent and 70.3 percent to 63.8 trillion won (54.2 billion US dollars) and 71.4 trillion won (60.6 billion US dollars), respectively.

Hyundai Heavy

Industries Co and Kumho Asiana Group, however, posted a loss in market value, seeing a fall of 2.98 trillion won (2.5 billion US dollars) and 690 billion won (585.7 million US dollars), respectively.

In the meantime, the total share of 10 conglomerates' market value with respect to all traded stocks increased only 1.40 percent from last year's 48.23 percent, standing at 49.63 percent.

Xinhua



Di Huanran, 51, leaps into the 25-m-high Diaoshuilou Waterfall in Heilongjiang province. This is the same place where Di, then 25, made his first dive. Photos courtesy of Di Huanran.—INTERNET

Philippine Gov't optimistic on economic outlook

MANILA, 21 Dec— The Philippine government on Sunday expressed confidence that next year's growth target of up to 3.6 percent is attainable, giving credit to the endless stream of shoppers into the country's malls and markets during this Christmas season.

"Shopping has become more active. The malls are filled with people, mostly buying gifts. These are all good signs of a better future for us next year," said Presidential Spokesperson for Economic Affairs Gary Olivar.

He said in a radio interview that domestic consumption and demand is expected to increase next year since the global economic recovery is consolidating.

"With this, our trade with our major partners will grow together with our own domestic consumption and domestic demand," Olivar said, adding that the government remains hopeful the 2.6 - 3.6 percent growth target for 2010 can be achieved.

Xinhua



Passengers queue at an airport in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 20 Dec, 2009. Snowstorms hit large areas of Europe in recent days, impacting highway, railway and air traffic. The Brussels airport was closed due to heavy snow, causing a number of passengers stayed here.—XINHUA

Heavy snowfall causes traffic chaos in SW Norway

OSLO, 21 Dec— Road, railway and air traffic in southwestern Norway have fallen into chaos after two days of heavy snowfall, reported the Norwegian newspaper *Aftenposten* on Sunday.

Several people were seriously injured in Saturday's accidents involving cars driven on

snow-covered roads in the southern and southwestern parts of this Nordic country and railway service there was also interrupted as trees broken in snow-storms were lying on tracks.

Airports in Bergen, Stavanger and Haugesund were closed periodically for cleaning snow, the newspaper said.

In the county of Rogaland, people were advised to stay at home while traffic control censer officials in Agder told drivers to avoid taking roads in the western county, especially when power supply to tunnels was cut off.

The traffic condition in Bergen showed some signs of improvement.

Xinhua

Storm crawls into New England, leaving mess behind

PROVIDENCE, 21 Dec— A fierce weekend storm dropped record snowfall and stranded travelers up the coast from Virginia to New England, but its timing helped minimize headache-inducing work commutes and left many with the prospect of a very white Christmas.

Residents throughout the mid-Atlantic and Northeast mostly holed up for the weekend, then dug out from as much as 2 feet

of snow to find sunny, mostly calm skies under a blanket of white unspoiled by car exhaust and passers-by.

Matthew Laquinta was vindicated by the 15 inches of snow outside his Providence home, where his daughter Emma, 7, didn't believe the night before that the weather might keep them from visiting relatives on Sunday.

Internet



Telescope viewers are covered in snow overlooking Lighthouse Beach Sunday in Chatham, Mass on 20 Dec, 2009, during the first major snowstorm of the season.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV CORAL HERO VOYNO (99)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CORAL HERO VOYNO (99) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 22.12.2009 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: EASTERN CAR LINER
SINGAPORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV OCEAN CORAL VOYNO (48)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN CORAL VOYNO (48) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 22.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER
SINGAPORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DUCKY SCIENCE VOYNO (SC 176)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUCKY SCIENCE VOYNO (SC 176) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 21.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: RO RO LINE LTD., S.A**

Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADE MARK CAUTION

McNeil Healthcare (UK) Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales, and having its registered office at c/o Johnson & Johnson Limited, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3UG, U.K., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 2779/2006

in respect of "Int'l Class 5: Antiseptics, ointments, dentifrices, shaving cream, medicated soap pastilles, bronchial antidote, colloidal emulsion, scalp treatment".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for **McNeil Healthcare (UK) Limited**

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 22 December 2009

Ex-conjoined twins leave hospital on birthday eve

MELBOURNE, 21 Dec—Formerly conjoined twin sisters Trishna and Krishna were discharged from an Australian hospital on Monday, five weeks after their separation surgery and just in time to celebrate their third birthday. Doctors said the Bangladeshi-born girls had made amazing progress since the 17 Nov surgery and were already using walkers to move around the hospital. The girls had been joined at the top of their heads and shared brain tissue and blood vessels before their separation in a 30-hour operation.

"I look forward to seeing them live a long and happy life; that's my wish for them," neurosurgeon Wirginia Maixner said in a statement released by the Royal Children's Hospital.

They will spend their birthday on Tuesday at home in Melbourne with their legal guardian, Moira Kelly.

The girls will continue to receive care as outpatients at the hospital.

In the statement, Kelly expressed her gratitude to the doctors and staff.

"They have given these two little girls a new life. I can't wait to take them home," she said.

Internet



Former conjoined twins Krishna (front) and Trishna (back) with guardian Moira Kelly (C) at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne last month. The Bangladeshi girls left hospital on Monday, after Australian doctors who separated their fused brains decided they should celebrate their third birthday at home.—INTERNET

Shell plans \$5 billion sale of assets in Nigeria

LONDON, 21 Dec—Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA L), Europe's largest oil company, is planning to sell oilfields in Nigeria valued at up to \$5 billion, *The Sunday Times* reported, citing sources linked to companies interested in the assets.

The newspaper said the auction comes as Nigeria prepares to impose harsher terms on foreign operators and hand greater control to domestic firms.

The oil giant, which declined to comment on the report, is the biggest and longest standing Western oil producer in Nigeria.

But production has been hampered by insecurity in the oil-rich Niger Delta, government funding shortfalls and an uncertain regu-

latory environment.

The report coincided with a group led by Shell pledging on Sunday to spend tens of billions of dollars developing Iraq's Majnoon supergiant oilfield over the next two decades.

The Sunday Times said it understood Shell recently launched a formal

sales process overseen by Ann Pickard, head of Shell Nigeria.

Chinese state-owned oil group Sinopec had requested information, it said, and Nigeria's independent oil group Oando (OANDO.LG) and London-listed Afren (AFRE.L) could also be interested.—Internet



A Nigerian schoolboy walks past the logo of Dutch oil giant Shell near Warri in the volatile Niger-Delta region on 17 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Iraq's northern oil exports halted by pipeline sabotage

BAGHDAD, 21 Dec—Iraqi crude oil exports from northern oilfields to Turkish port of Ceyhan have been halted by a sabotage attack on a main pipeline in northern the country, Oil Ministry spokesman said on Sunday. "The crude oil exports have been stopped by a sabotage to a pipeline near the Sherqat area, some 325 km north of Baghdad," Assem Jihad told *Xinhua*.

He said that the attack took place at about 8:30 pm on Saturday (1730 GMT) and was apparently carried out by an explosive charge near the pipeline causing a large oil spillage.

"Teams of Iraqi technicians from the northern oil company (NOC) have gone to the site to survey the damages and to do the necessary repairs to resume the oil exports as soon as possible," Jihad said. Most of Iraq's crude oil exports flow through the pipeline from Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, which has been frequently targeted by insurgents since the US-led invasion in 2003.—*Xinhua*

Italy uses all channels to free Mauritania hostages

ROME, 21 Dec—Italy is using political and diplomatic channels to try to secure the release of a couple kidnapped in Mauritania, the foreign ministry said.

In a statement posted on its website late on Saturday, the ministry asked for media discretion "to guarantee the safety of the hostages and favor a positive solution to the case."

Separately, an EU official said it was possible the couple were now in neighbouring Mali, where three Spanish aid workers who went missing in Mauritania last month are thought to be held by al Qaeda's north African wing along with a French hostage.

Italian media named the two as 65-year-old Sergio Cicala and his 39-year-old wife Philomene Kabouree, who is from Burkina Faso and has dual Italian and Burkina Faso citizenship.

Internet

Gas could be the calvary in global warming fight



Workers for Atmos Energy tend to a natural gas drilling sight in Grapevine, Texas.—

INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — An unlikely source of energy has emerged to meet international demands that the United States do more to fight global warming: It's cleaner than

coal, cheaper than oil and a 90-year supply is under our feet.

It's natural gas, the same fossil fuel that was in such short supply a decade ago that it was deemed unreliable. It's now being uncovered at such a rapid pace that its price is near a seven-year low. Long used to heat half the nation's homes, it's becoming the fuel of choice when building new power plants. Someday, it may win wider acceptance as a replacement for gasoline in our cars and trucks.

Natural gas' abundance and low price come as governments around the world debate how to curtail carbon dioxide and other pollution that con-

tribute to global warming. The likely outcome is a tax on companies that spew excessive greenhouse gases. Utilities and other companies see natural gas as a way to lower emissions — and their costs. Yet politicians aren't stumping for it.

In June, President Barack Obama lumped natural gas with oil and coal as energy sources the nation must move away from.—Internet



A dog is carried by his owner during the 10th Pets contest in Rincon de la Victoria, near Malaga, Spain, on 20 Dec, 2009. —INTERNET

Maine to consider cell phone cancer warning

AUGUSTA, 21 Dec — A Maine legislator wants to make the state the first to require cell phones to carry warnings that they can cause brain cancer, although there is no consensus among scientists that they do and industry leaders dispute the claim. The now-ubiquitous devices carry such warnings in some countries, though no US states require them, according to the National Conference of State Legislators.

A similar effort is afoot in San Francisco, where Mayor Gavin Newsom wants his city to be the nation's first to require the warnings.

Maine Rep Andrea Boland, D-Sanford, said numerous studies point to the cancer risk, and she has persuaded legislative leaders to allow her pro-

posal to come up for discussion during the 2010 session that begins in January, a session usually reserved for emergency and governors' bills. Boland herself uses a cell phone, but with a speaker to keep the phone away from her head. She also leaves the phone off unless she's expecting a call. At issue is radiation emitted by all cell phones.

Under Boland's bill, manufacturers would have to put labels on phones and packaging warning of the potential for brain cancer associated with electromagnetic radiation.

The warnings would recommend that users, especially children and pregnant women, keep the devices away from their head and body.

Internet

Influenza A/H1N1 virus kills three more Gazans

GAZA, 21 Dec — Palestinian health ministry on Sunday announced that three people have died of influenza A/H1N1 virus in the Gaza Strip, putting the death toll to 13 in less than two weeks since the disease was found in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

Dr Hassan Khalaf, deputy health minister in the deposed Hamas government, said the three patients have suffered from chronic illnesses that reduced their immunity.

The number of people infected with the virus has also increased to 185 and more than two-thirds of them had recovered, according to Dr Khalaf.

Due to the Israeli closure that restricted the movement of people in and out of Gaza and the absence of swine farms, the virus, which was discovered universally in April, has reached Gazalater.

Xinhua

New York researchers testing MS theory

BUFFALO, 21 Dec — Officials of the Buffalo, NY, Neuroimaging Analysis Centre say they hope to have the results of unique study on multiple sclerosis finished within months.

The centre's Dr Robert Zivadinov, the principal investigator on the study, told Sunday's *Buffalo News* that he views early evidence on their MS theory as compelling — that the complex, incurable disease is caused by blocked or narrowed veins that prevent the brain from draining blood properly, adding he hoped to have results early next year.

If the theory is correct, MS sufferers could be treated with angioplasty, the same procedure used to open clogged arteries around the heart, the newspaper said.

"The idea looks encouraging, but even if it turns out to be right, people need to remember that miracles don't happen overnight. We have to prove it first," Zivadinov said.

The newspaper said Zivadinov's team is trying to replicate to findings of Dr Paolo Zamboni of the University of Ferrara in Italy in a much larger group of patients.

The study will recruit 1,100 patients with all types of MS, including children, as well as 300 healthy volunteers and 350 people with other neurological diseases.—Internet

A man fishes at a pier near a cargo area in Tokyo on 21 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET



Commuters on a country road ride through a wind farm developed by state-owned China Energy Conservation Investment Corp in Zhangbei, north of Beijing in Hebe Province.—INTERNET

Reading not linked with IQ

NEW HAVEN, 21 Dec — Reading ability does not track with intelligence among people with dyslexia, US researchers say.

Researchers at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Conn, and the University of California, Davis, find IQ and reading in typical students not only track together, but also influence each other over time. However, in children with dyslexia, IQ and reading are not linked and do not influence one another.

This explains why a dyslexic can be bright and still unable to read well, the researchers say.

"For the first time, we've found empirical evidence that shows the relationship between IQ and reading over time differs for typical compared to dyslexic readers," Dr Sally Shaywitz of Yale says in a statement.

The findings "support the concept that dyslexia is an unexpected difficulty with reading in children who otherwise have the intelligence to learn to read."

Shaywitz and colleagues base their study, scheduled to be published in *Psychological Science*, on 12 years of data from the ongoing Connecticut Longitudinal Study of cognitive and behavioral development

in a representative sample of 445 Connecticut school-children. Each child was tested each year in reading and every other year for IQ.—Internet

SPORTS

Miraculous Messi in line for FIFA honour



Barcelona's Argentine superstar Lionel Messi

PARIS, 21 Dec—Barcelona's Argentine superstar Lionel Messi is the hot favourite to win the FIFA World Player of the Year award, which will be announced by world football's governing body in Zurich on Monday.

The dazzling winger has already been honoured with the prestigious Ballon

d'Or, the European Player of the Year trophy, and he picked up his sixth prize of an unforgettable year with Barcelona after scoring the winning goal in their 2-1 win over Estudiantes in the final of the World Club Cup on Saturday.

"We've just ended a historic year, a perfect year in which we've won every competition we've played in," said the 22-year-old, who vanquished his Argentine compatriots Estudiantes with an innovative chested finish in extra-time of their Abu Dhabi showdown. "We just needed to take this last step and everything has worked out how we wanted. It's amazing. It's difficult to put into words."

Internet

Ronaldo planning year to remember

MADRID, 21 Dec—Cristiano Ronaldo, the world's most expensive footballer, believes Real Madrid are perfectly-placed to snatch the Spanish title from bitter rivals Barcelona.



Real Madrid's forward Karim Benzema is congratulated by teammate Cristiano Ronaldo (R) after scoring during their Spanish league football match against Zaragoza at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, on 19 December.

INTERNET

The Portuguese star scored a memorable goal in Real's 6-0 demolition of Real Zaragoza as his side closed the gap to leaders Barcelona to just two points ahead of the winter break.

"I'm working well and I want to carry on this way until the end of the season. I'm doing better every day. I missed two months and coming back was difficult, but things are working out for me," Ronaldo told the club's official website. "It was important to seal the year with a victory, so we are happy about that. We must now think of the New Year, which we should start as well as we've ended this one."

Internet

Hamburg win northern derby 2-1 against Bremen

BERLIN, 21 Dec—In a rough match with many fouls, 10-men Hamburg defeated Bremen 2-1 at HSH Nordbank Arena at German Bundesliga on Sunday.

Hamburg climbed from fifth to fourth position while Bremen slipped from fourth to sixth at the outcome of the northern German Bundesliga derby.

From the start Hamburg took over control while Bremen needed some time to fit into match. Hamburg defender Joris Mathijsen gave his squad an early lead. Mathijsen headed home a corner at the 9th minute.

With 32 minutes played, Hamburg defender Jerome Boateng was sent off with a straight red card after he committed a harsh foul against Werder midfielder Marko Marin. Hamburg wasn't shocked and doubled the lead at the 36th minute. Defender Marcell Jansen slotted home from 26 meter into open goal.—Xinhua



Werder Bremen players leave the pitch after the German Bundesliga first division soccer match against Hamburg SV in Hamburg on 20 Dec, 2009.—XINHUA

Bayern Munich striker Toni hopes to return to his Italian belt

BERLIN, 21 Dec—Italian striker Luca Toni could be on his way out of Bayern Munich, club president Uli Hoeness said on Sunday.

Toni has hardly featured this season. He missed much of the early part due to a heel injury before falling out with coach Louis van Gaal over his substitute role.

"I do not know what will happen with Luca," Hoeness told DSF television, "We still do not have any specific offer but we are prepared to loan him or sell him because we want the team to be calm. "His issue will continue to draw media attention and that does not bring the tranquility we want", he added.

The Italian, who scored 24 league goals in his first season in Germany helping Bayern win the 2008 Bundesliga title, was fined last month when he drove home after being substituted at halftime against Schalke 04.

The 32-year-old, whose contract runs until 2011, has repeatedly said he wants to return to Italy to play matches under his belt in the hope of playing in next year's World Cup.—Xinhua

Ancelotti expects festive cheer for gritty Chelsea

LONDON, 21 Dec—Carlo Ancelotti believes Chelsea's hard-fought 1-1 draw against West Ham will prove the springboard for a successful run over Christmas. Ancelotti's side moved four points clear of second placed Manchester United ahead of the busy festive schedule thanks to Frank Lampard's controversial penalty at Upton Park on Sunday.

Once again the Blues were below their best and they trailed to Alessandro Diamanti's first half penalty, but former Hammers midfielder Lampard equalised when referee Mike Dean and one of his

assistants ruled that Matthew Upson's clean challenge on Daniel Sturridge was worthy of a spot-kick.

Internet



Chelsea's Frank Lampard celebrates after scoring a penalty against West Ham during their Premier-ship match at Upton Park football Boleyn Grounds stadium in east London.—INTERNET

Juve Serie A title hopes dented, Inter cruise

ROME, 21 Dec—Juventus suffered a serious Serie A title setback on Sunday when rock-bottom visitors Catania clinched a 2-1 win, handing the Turin giants a third straight defeat. Substitute Mariano Izco escaped three minutes from time to hammer the final nail in Juve's coffin on a dreadful day for



Juventus' Diego (C) fights for the ball with Catania's Jorge Martinez (L) during their Serie A football match at Olympic Stadium in Turin.—INTERNET

Ferrara's team in which their fans once again chanted racist slogans.

That loss was compounded later in the day when league leaders Inter Milan beat Lazio 1-0 at the San Siro to open up a nine-point gap over Juve heading into the winter break. AC Milan remained second, eight points behind Inter, despite their game at Fiorentina on Saturday being called off due to the weather.

Ferrara's side came into Sunday's match with four defeats from their last five games in all competitions, and with goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and defensive rock Giorgio Chiellini both out injured. "I feel the same disappointment as the fans. We're going through a bad period, we're not getting the results expected of this team so of course I'm not happy," said Ferrara.

Internet

Torres warns pressure could hurt Spain at World Cup

MADRID, 21 Dec—As one of the favourites to win the 2010 World Cup, Spain could end up hurting the squad's chances, Liverpool's Spanish international Fernando Torres said in an interview published Sunday.

"Everyone expects a great deal from us and that pressure is not always good for a player," the 25-year-old striker told XL Semanal, the weekly magazine supplement of daily Spanish newspaper ABC.

"We have good players who have played harmoniously for three or four years now. If we miss this chance to win the World Cup, it is possible that we will not have a second opportunity. The pressure is enormous," he added.

Spain, the winners of Euro 2008, are ranked number one in the year-end FIFA standings for the second straight year, making them the only side to ever claim the top spot in the rankings without winning a World Cup.

Often accused of under performing at an international level, their best placing remains fourth in 1950 World Cup.

Xinhua

Italian brothers make the Masters

AUGUSTA, 21 Dec—Francesco and Edoardo Molinari of Italy will finish the year in the top 50 in the world and become the first set of brothers in 10 years to compete in the same Masters.

The Masters invites the top 50 in the final world ranking of the year, which was finalized Sunday after the South African Open, the last official tournament of 2009. Francesco Molinari will finish at No. 38, while Edoardo Molinari will be No. 48. The World Cup winners in China last month, they will be the first brothers at Augusta National since Jumbo and Joe Ozaki in 2000.

Internet



File photo of a newly born ape at a orangutan sanctuary in Bukit Merah lake town in the northern Malaysian state of Perak. The world has less than 20 years left to save the orangutan, according to conservationists who predict the charismatic red ape will become extinct if no action is taken to protect its jungle habitat.—INTERNET

Astronauts blast off for Christmas space mission

BAIKONUR (KAZAKHSTAN,) 21Dec—A Russian rocket blasted off from a cosmodrome in Kazakhstan lighting up the frigid Central Asian steppe Monday, shuttling an American, a Russian and a Japanese to the International Space Station.

Standing in the early morning cold, the astronauts' family and friends watched as the Soyuz craft soared atop a tower of bright orange flames. The Soyuz TMA-17's three astronauts will take the orbiting laboratory's permanent crew to five following the early-hours launch, the first-ever blastoff of a Soyuz rocket on a winter night.

Timothy J. Creamer, Soichi Noguchi and Oleg Kotov are to join current inhabitants, American Jeff Williams and Russian Maxim Surayev, who have been alone on the space station for three weeks. This was a "spectacular launch, a great Christmas present," NASA spokesman Rob Navias said after space officials confirmed the rocket had entered into orbit. "A great way to finish the year."

A NASA television Webcast showed the crew giving a thumbs up sign as the vessel hurtled skyward.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (22-12-2009) (Tuesday)

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

Local Transmission

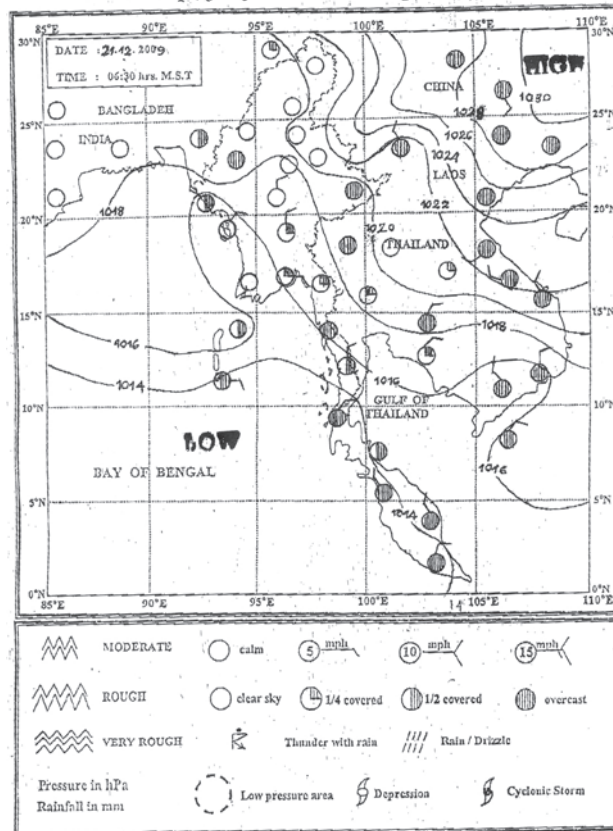
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Exquisite Silver Jewellery
- * Sights to see in Pyin - Oo - Lwin
- * Yeywa Hydropower Project to be completed on schedule
- * Myanmar's Jade Wonderland
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Exquisite Silver Jewellery
- * Sights to see in Pyin - Oo - Lwin
- * Yeywa Hydropower Project to be completed on schedule
- * Culture Stage
- * Myanmar's Jade Wonderland
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * 50-ton Paper Mill (Thabaung)
- * Melodious Flute Tunes of the Villages
- * Jewelled Handiworks
- * Bayin Nyi Naung Yadana Cave
- * Song on Screen
- * Boost Crop Production for Agricultural Development
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 21st December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Mon States, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Loilem (0°C) each, Mogok (2°C), Namhsam (3°C), Pinlaung (4°C), Lashio and Mindat (5°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Minesat (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-12-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 21-12-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-12-2009 was 68%. Total sun shine hours on 20-12-2009 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 21-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 20-12-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22nd December 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Shan State and Bago Divisions and weather will be fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2009: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Tuesday, 22 December
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:10 am 2. အဝံ့ဇယမင်္ဂလံ (ယဉ်ဝေယံထွန်းတေးရေး-ဝိတစာဆိုမျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)</p> <p>7:25 am 3. To Be Healthy Exercise</p>	<p>7:30 am 4. Morning News</p> <p>7:40 am 5. Nice & Sweet Song</p> <p>7:50 am 6. “ကျွမ်းတိုင်းမကြမ်းနဲ့”</p> <p>8:00 am 7. Songs Of Yester Years</p> <p>8:10 am 8. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဝိတတေး</p> <p>8:25 am 9. Musical Programme</p> <p>8:40 am 10. International News</p> <p>8:45 am 11. Dance Of National Races</p> <p>8:55 am 12. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial Song</p> <p>4:10 pm 2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p>
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<p>4:20 pm 3. The Mirror Images Of The Musical Oldies</p> <p>4:35 pm 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ စတုတ္ထနှစ်(ဥပဒေပညာ အထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)</p> <p>4:50 pm 5. Songs For Uphold National Spirit</p> <p>5:00 pm 6. “စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတိုင်း ပြည်အကျိုး”</p> <p>5:20 pm 7. Musical Programme</p> <p>5:35 pm 8. “မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်လူ့ရန်စွယ် ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက် လက်ချင်းယှက်”</p> <p>5:45 pm 9. ရင်မှာထွင်တေးအလှသံစဉ်</p>	<p>6:00 pm 10. Evening News</p> <p>6:15 pm 11. Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm 12. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ</p> <p>6:35 pm 13. ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့</p> <p>7:00 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အဆိပ်သင့်တဲ့အချစ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၉)</p> <p>8:00 pm 15. News</p> <p>16. International News</p> <p>17. Weather Report</p> <p>18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဆူးလွမ်းသောချစ်နှင်းဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)</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

Paunglaung multi-purpose dam, backbone of agriculture

Article: *Myint Maung Soe*; Photos, *Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*

Paunglaung multi-purpose dam was successfully inaugurated near Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana to make certain of contributing not only to supplying irrigation water but also to generating power supply. The government is building a stream of dams and reservoirs across the country with a view to raising the living standard of the farmers.

Water is a prerequisite for agriculture. The water can be obtained from rains, creeks, rivers, lakes and dams and reservoirs. It is of great importance to effectively use the rain water. So, building dams and reservoirs find

it essential not only to boost national economy but to uplift socioeconomic status of rural people.

Due to emergence of dams, rural people can enhance growing from single-crop to double-crop and mixed-crop. Moreover, monsoon and summer paddy, edible oil crops, export beans and pulses, long staple cotton, and kitchen crops can also be cultivated in full swing. Those benefits come out owing to materialization of dams built by the government in earnest.

(See page 9)



Diversion weir of Paunglaung multi-purpose dam.

Reminder for literary award winners (2008)

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—The ceremony to present Life-time Achievement Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2008 will be held at the Ministry of Information here at 9 am on 31 December. All prizewinners are to attend without fail the rehearsal that will take place at the same venue at 1 pm on 30 December.

Prizewinners from the states and divisions wishing to come to Nay Pyi Taw directly may contact members of the reception committee at Nay Pyi Taw Central Railway Station, Nay Pyi Taw Airport, and bus terminals. For more information, dial 067-412205, 412374, 412375. Literati and prizewinners from Yangon may contact the secretary of the Committee for Selecting National Literary Awards (01-381448), Deputy Chief Editor (01-249230), Head of Division (Admin) In-charge (01-376569) of Sarpay Beikman.

All the prizewinners are to report to No (7) Transit Centre in Ywadow, Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 29 December.—MNA

Significant night temperatures

(21-12-2009)

Haka	(0°C)
Loilem	(0°C)
Mogok	(2°C)
Namhsam	(3°C)
Pinlaung	(4°C)
Lashio and Mindat	(5°C)