



# 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

## International-standard Mount Pleasant Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw

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

In making the endeavors for development of Nay Pyi Taw in all aspects, the government is building Nay Pyi Taw, starting from building it up.

There have emerged departmental buildings, houses, main roads, markets, hotels, motels, and resorts around Nay Pyi Taw.

At the same time, new towns called Ottara Thiri, Pubba Thiri, Dekkhina Thiri, Zeya Thiri and Zabu Thiri are being built in Nay Pyi Taw. Now, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Water Fountain Garden, Herbal Garden, National Landmark Garden and Ngalikekantha resort have been opened there.

Under the guidance of Special Projects Implementation Committee, international-standard Mount Pleasant Hotel was successfully

opened on 19 December morning. It is also called hilly resort hotel.

The sky was full of colourful gas balloons when Mount Pleasant Hotel was opened. Mount Pleasant Hotel was built by Original Group, A-1, ACE and TZTM Cos.

Director U Yan Win of G-4 Group of Companies which is formed with Original Group, A-1, ACE and TZTM Co explained to us, "We started building Mount Pleasant Hotel on 28 May 2009. It has an area of 25 acres. Main building is the three-storey structure Viewing Tower. It also consists of Reception Hall in which international meetings can be held.

As the first phase, 10 bungalows have been opened. The remaining 21 bungalows are to be opened in March 2010. (See page 8)



*Photo shows beautifully designed Mount Pleasant Hotel.*



*Spic and span bungalows with attractive design in a row.*

## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 24 December, 2009

### Constantly turn out well-qualified human resources and good citizens

In the world today, science, information and communications technologies are developing rapidly. The economy of the entire human society has also come to be based on knowledge. Therefore, every nation is striving to produce such human resources as intellectuals and intelligentsia.

In Myanmar, the government is taking all the necessary measures for the nation to become developed in every way. And it is accelerating the process of transforming the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one based on Union Spirit, national discipline and high educational standard.

Teachers, the major force of the education sector, are to nurture the youth in order that they have good morals, right way of thinking and good behaviour and habits. Moreover, it is necessary to train them to possess Union Spirit, sacrificing spirit for the sake of national interests and spirit of safeguarding national prestige and integrity.

National discipline begins at school. Therefore, teachers are required to teach the youth to observe school discipline, community discipline, religious teachings, social ethics and the law. Only then will the youth of today become law-abiding citizens of the future nation.

In shaping a new nation, it is necessary to uplift the morale and morality of the entire nation in accordance with the characteristics of citizens of an independent, sovereign nation. At the same time, it is also necessary to train the youth to be well-informed and well-versed in their studies.

Nowadays, plans are being implemented for the uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. Educational institutions are being built across the Union. As a result, educational opportunities have opened up for national youths living in various parts of the Union. Therefore, we would like to call on teachers to try to the best of their abilities to constantly turn out well-qualified human resources and good citizens.

#### Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses graduation ceremony.

MNA



## People's Desire

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

### Commander inspects regional development undertakings in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye inspected roadwork on Sittway-An-Minbu Road between mile post Nos. 181/0 and 164/6 and Ponnagyun-Kyauktaw Road, Kanzauk river-water pumping project, roadwork on Sittway-Yangon Road, growing Ngwechi-6 Long Staple Cotton on 13 December.

On 14 December, he looked into roadwork on An-Padegyaw-Maei Road and rubber plantations on both sides of Taungup-Thandwe Road. On 15 December, he inspected beautifying the entrance to Ngapali Airport in Thandwe.—MNA

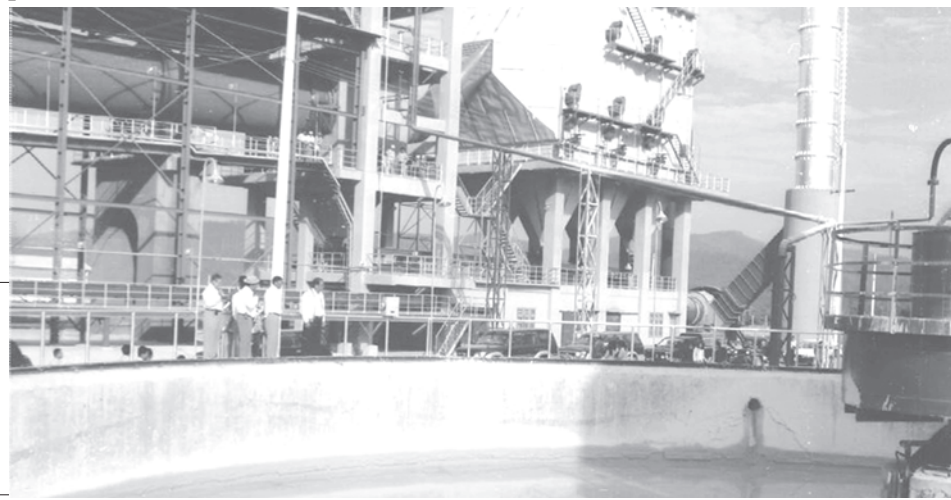
### Cement Plant Project (Nay Pyi Taw) on test-run

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung visited 500-ton cement plant project (Nay Pyi Taw) being implemented by Myanma Ceramics Industries, 8 miles and 6 furlongs from Thawuthti in Nay Pyi Taw-Lewe Township on 19 December morning.

The minister heard reports on progress in construction work, test-run of machines and stockpiling of raw materials. The minister then inspected the work

completed and gave instructions on safety measures and maintenance of machines.

The minister also visited 500-ton cement plant project (Taungphila) being implemented by Max Myanmar Group of Companies.—MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects 500-ton cement plant project (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

### 104<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of MFC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The graduation ceremony of 104th batch of Myanmar Forestry Centre (PyinOoLwin) of Forest Department under Ministry of Forestry took place at the parade ground of Land Survey School in PyinOoLwin on 21 December, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Brig-Gen Zeya Aung of PyinOoLwin Station, directors-general and managing director of the ministry, rector, senior officials and families of graduates.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung awarded best bachelor U Win San Naing, second best bachelor U Phone Myint Ko and excellent in sports U Nyi The Aung and spoke on the occasion. Next, the minister gave a speech at the ceremony to present completion certificates and officials concerned gave certificates to graduates.

Next, Chairman U Sein Lwin of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs' Association presented K 2 million fund for instructors of the centre to the principal. Director Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw of Forest Department and General Manager U Wai Lin Aung of Myanma Timber Enterprise accepted K 10 million—K 2.5 million each for Myanmar Forestry School, University of Forestry, Nanchun Timber School and fund to medicines for elephants presented by U Tin Win of Tin Win Tun Company. Afterwards, U Tin Win of Tin Win Tun Company presented K 0.5 million to U Win San Naing who won best trainee award and other four awards. Next, completion certificates were presented to graduates.

MNA

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organization shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myint Aung Chief Engineer Electric Power Supply Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power No (2)	Managing Director Electric Supply Department Electric Power Supply Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power No (2)
(b) U Myo Thet Shwe General Manager Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Product Enterprise Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	Managing Director Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Product Enterprise Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
(c) U Soe Min General Manager Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank Ministry of Finance and Revenue	Managing Director Foreign Investment and Commercial Bank Ministry of Finance and Revenue

### Four wounded in separate bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — Four people were wounded, including a member of a city hall, in separate bomb attacks in Iraq on Tuesday, police said.

Hameed Abdul Hadi al-Ersson, member of Fallujah city council, was wounded when a bomb stuck to his car detonated in the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, a local police source said.

In Baghdad, two people were wounded in the capital when a roadside bomb struck a civilian car near the Um al-Tubool intersection in southern Baghdad, the police said.

In Salahudin Province, a police officer was wounded when a bomb stuck to his car went off as he was driving near his home in northern Tikrit, the capital city of the province in north of Baghdad, a provincial police source said.

Also in the province, Iraqi security forces detained four Iranians at a checkpoint in Tal Kseiba area near Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, the source said.

The Iranians were arrested for illegally entering the country, the source added.

Xinhua



**Iraqi police search a driver as trucks queue for inspection of goods coming from Iran through Al-Shib Port, a land entry point which handles around 150 trucks per day, 145 kms from the city of Amara, recently.—INTERNET**

### At least two killed in explosion in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 23 Dec—At least two people were killed and five injured on Wednesday in a powerful explosion near a church in central Mosul, the capital of northern Iraq's Nineveh Province, a police source said.

The blast took place in the morning near a church in the al-Sa'ah neighbourhood in central the city, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The police could not immediately say whether the powerful blast was caused by a car bomb or a roadside bomb, the source said. Eight days ago, Mosul was the scene for a twin bombing, carried out by a booby-trapped cart and followed by a roadside bomb explosions near another church in the city, killing five people and wounding 40 others.—Xinhua

### Pakistan Taleban say fighters going to Afghanistan

SHAKTOI, 23 Dec — A top Pakistani Taleban commander says he has sent thousands of militants to neighbouring Afghanistan to rebuff incoming US troops. The claim comes as an army offensive has apparently pushed many of his fighters to flee their main redoubt.

Waliur Rehman told The Associated Press in an exclusive face to face interview on Monday that the Pakistani Taleban are still waging a guerilla war against the army in South Waziristan tribal region.—Xinhua

### Conflicts leave two Afghan soldiers, four militants dead

KABUL, 23 Dec — Conflict and Taleban-related activities left two Afghan soldiers and four Taleban militants dead in Khost Province east of Afghanistan, a Press release of Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

In the first incident, according to the press release occurred in Bak District on Monday when a mine planted by militants went off, killing two soldiers and wounding two others. In another incident in Yaqubi District of the same province Khost, militants opened fire on a patrol team and the soldiers returned fire, killing four Taleban fighters, the Press release added.—Internet

### NATO troops wound two civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 Dec — Troops with NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) shot and injured two civilians in Afghanistan's western Herat Province on Tuesday.

Both victims were taken to the Herat hospital for treatment, with one of them receiving five bullets while the other two, said surgeon Barakatullah Mohammadi.

Maryam, mother of the brothers, blamed the international troops for the atrocity. "Foreign soldiers shot and wounded my sons," she told Xinhua by telephone.

Locals, however, said that the troops signaled them to keep clear but the two brothers ignored and continued driving on motorbike prompting the troops to open fire.

The ISAF media officers were not available for comment.

The NATO-led force have asked passersby in the war-torn Afghanistan to take distance from military vehicles, otherwise the troops would fire. Ignoring the warning has claimed the lives of scores of civilians over the past couple of years in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

**A woman hugs her children after a bomb attack in central Baghdad, on 15 Dec, 2009. Three car bombs killed four people and wounded 15 on Tuesday in central Baghdad, close to heavy morning traffic around the Green Zone government district, police said.—INTERNET**



### US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec— There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

#### Casualties of Iraqi people

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 23 December reached 699762 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1263170, according to the news on the Internet.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Death toll of Iraqi people	699762
2.	The total number of seriously injured people	1263170

Internet



**Iraqis react at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq recently. A series of car bombs ripped through down-town Baghdad near the heavily fortified Green Zone. INTERNET**



**Relatives of the wounded Afghan look after him at a hospital in Herat Province, Afghanistan, on 22 Dec, 2009. NATO troops shot two Afghan people riding a motorbike in Herat on Tuesday.—XINHUA**

### Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 23 Dec—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

#### Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 32400 Afghan people were killed and 38113 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 23 December.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Number of Afghan people killed	32400
2.	Seriously injured Afghan people	38113

Internet



**Stranded passenger sleep at Frankfurt airport. Mass flight cancellations heaped fresh misery on European travellers, as the freezing weather that has caused at least 90 deaths brought chaos to Christmas holiday plans.—INTERNET**

### US soldiers in Iraq could face courts-martial for getting pregnant

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—A new order from the general in charge of US troops in northern Iraq makes getting pregnant or impregnating a fellow soldier an offense punishable by court-martial.

The directive, part of a larger order restricting the behaviour of the 22,000 soldiers under Maj Gen Anthony Cucolo's command, is meant to prevent losing soldiers at a time when troop strength is stretched thin, Cucolo explained in a statement sent to the troops under his command and provided to CNN.

"I need every soldier I've got, especially since we are facing a drawdown of forces during our mission," Cucolo wrote. "Anyone who leaves this fight earlier than the expected 12-month deployment creates a burden on their teammates. Anyone who leaves this fight early because they made a personal choice that changed their medical status — or contributes to doing that to another — is not in keeping with a key element of our ethos."—Internet

### Blast injures 3 Gaza militants

GAZA, 23 Dec—A blast wounded three Palestinian militants in the central Gaza Strip on Tuesday, medical sources and witnesses said.

The witnesses said an explosive device went off prematurely as the fighters were carrying it in al-Burij refugee camp.

According to the witnesses, the militants were apparently going to plant the explosives on a route the Israeli army uses when entering the border areas east of the camp.

One of the fighters was seriously injured, the medical sources added.—Internet

### No deaths in Jamaica American Airlines accident

MIAMI, 23 Dec—An American Airlines Boeing 737 overshot the runway while landing in driving rain at the international airport in Kingston, Jamaica on Tuesday night, but the company said there were no fatalities or serious injuries.

The Jamaica Observer newspaper reported 40 injured passengers but did not give details about their condition.

CNN said four of the passengers were in serious condition.

"The injured passengers have been taken to the Kingston Public Hospital," Jamaican Information Minister Daryl Vaz told the Jamaica Observer. "There are no reports of fatalities."

The plane crashed and broke up into two or three pieces after landing at 10 pm local time and



**Colombian police officers inspect the wreckage of a pickup truck allegedly burned by FARC guerrillas after kidnapping Luis Francisco Cuellar, governor of Colombia's southern department of Cauca, in Alto Brasilia District. A body found on Tuesday in southern Colombia is that of Cuellar, who was kidnapped on Monday by leftist guerrillas, local authorities said.—INTERNET**

### Bolivia seeks good ties with US, but without interference

LA PAZ, 23 Dec—The Bolivian government said on Tuesday it preferred friendly relations with the United States based on mutual respect to being tied to its aid programmes. Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca made the comment during a Press conference in relation to a US

decision to suspend Bolivia from Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Enforcement Agency (Atpdea) programme.

"This frame agreement must be of mutual respect, it has to respect the Bolivian decision. We are a small country, but we are a dignified country, we do not accept more

intrusions, no more submission to the United States," Choquehuanca said.

Ties between Bolivia and the United States were cut after the US ambassador to Bolivia, Philip Goldberg, was expelled in 2008, accused of interfering in internal issues.—Internet

## Russia may double bombers on strategic patrol

Moscow, 23 Dec—Russia may double the number of bombers on strategic patrols as long as the General Staff agrees, the commander of Russia's strategic aviation said on Tuesday.

"As a rule, up to four strategic bombers perform patrol flights simultaneously. However, under specific circumstances and on orders from the General Staff,

their number could be increased to up to eight aircraft," Russian Long-Range Aviation Commander Major-General Anatoly Zhikharev said at a Press conference.

Russia resumed strategic bomber patrol flights over the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans in August 2007, following orders from then-President Vladimir Putin.

The patrols are consid-

ered a counter-measure against threats faced by Russia, as well as a response to NATO's continued eastward expansion that is approaching Russia's western border.

"Our planes also carry out missions to detect and pinpoint the location of foreign aircraft carriers, as well as to supply missions to support the activities of (Russian) polar stations in line with the concept of the development of our Arctic zone," the general said.

Xinhua

### Weeks of fighting Yemen rebels killed 73 Saudis

RIYADH, 23 Dec—Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday that 73 Saudis have been killed and 26 have gone missing since the kingdom launched an offensive against Yemeni Shiite rebels along the border last month.

The announcement was the first indication that the US ally had suffered such heavy losses in the remote area, where it is difficult to independently confirm details of the fighting.

The rebels, known as Hawthith, have alleged dozens of civilian deaths in Saudi air assaults.

Internet



**On 13 April, 2009 file photo shows an American Airlines Boeing 737-800 parked at a gate at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine, Texas. An American Airlines spokesman says a flight using a 737-800 from Miami has overshot the runway in Kingston, Jamaica, on 22 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET**



Passengers queue to get aboard at Kings Cross St Pancras station in London, on 22 Dec, 2009. Eurostar trains between Britain and France resumed on Tuesday after three days of cancellations because of heavy snow.—XINHUA

## All Items from Xinhua News Agency

### Strong quake hits W Sumatra, Indonesia, no casualty

JAKARTA, 23 Dec—A shallow earthquake with the magnitude of 6.1 on the Richter's Scale rocked West Sumatra Province of Indonesia on Wednesday morning, but there was no report of damage or fatalities, officials said.

The quake struck at 08:15 am Jakarta Time (0115 GMT) with the epicentre at 56 km Siberut of Mentawai island of the

province and at a depth of 10 km under sea bed, an official of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency Arief Nursalim told *Xinhua* over phone.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 2 to 3 MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) at Padang Panjang town of the province and at 1 to 2 MMI in Sibolga of the nearby province of North

Sumatra, he said.

Spokesman of Disaster Management Agency Priyadi Kardono told *Xinhua* over phone from the province that no buildings were destroyed.

"There was no panic as the quake was very light here," spokesman of the provincial administration Nuzul Putra told *Xinhua* over phone from the province.—*Xinhua*

## Russian manned spaceship docks with space station

Moscow, 23 Dec—A Russian spaceship carrying three astronauts successfully docked with the *International Space Station (ISS)* early on Wednesday, the Mission Control Centre outside Moscow said.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> *ISS* mission on board the *Soyuz TMA-17* spaceship, consisting of Russian Oleg Kotov, NASA's Timothy Creamer and Japanese astro-

naut Soichi Noguchi, will join Maxim Surayev and Jeffrey Williams already working at the space station.

After two days of flight, the spaceship docked with the *ISS* in an automatic mode at 01:48 Moscow Time (2248 GMT on Tuesday), said Valery Lyndin, spokesman for the Mission Control.

The three astronauts were scheduled to open

the hatch and enter the space station at around 03:40 Moscow Time (0040 GMT) after checking on airtight conditions and pressures of the sealed cabin.

A *Soyuz-FG* rocket carrying the *Soyuz TMA-17* spaceship lifted off at 00:52 Moscow Time on Monday (2152 GMT Sunday) from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan.—*Xinhua*



Two visitors learn to pose under the direction of a Beijing Opera performer during the open day at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), or the National Grand Theatre, in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Dec, 2009.—XINHUA

### Hamas, Israel exchange views over prisoner swap

GAZA, 23 Dec—Israel and Hamas are exchanging views through the German and Egyptian mediators over a prisoner exchange deal, as talks between the two sides are intensifying, a source close to Hamas told *Xinhua*.

"The coming hours are decisive" to overcome obstacles that prevent the prisoner swap, the source said.

The source said he expected that a final decision on the prisoner exchange would be clear by the end of this week. The German mediator, currently in Israel, is expected to arrive in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip to hear Hamas' final response to undeclared results of discussions inside the Israeli government.—*Xinhua*

### India, Israel discuss counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, arms delivery

NEW DELHI, 23 Dec—India and Israel on Tuesday began a meeting of joint defence working group focused on counter-terrorism and intelligence sharing, delivery of weapons and enhancement of cooperation in research and development, reported the *Indo-Asian News Service*.

The group is co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Pradeep Kumar and Israeli Defence Ministry director-general, retired Brig Gen Pinchas Buchris, said the report. The report quoted a defence official at the meeting as saying that the main focus of the talks was on enhancing the counter-terrorism cooperation based on intelligence sharing especially after the Mumbai terror attacks.

This meeting followed a low-profile visit of Israeli chief of defence staff, Lt Gen Gabi Ashkenazi, earlier this month to India, during which he had met the top brass of the Indian armed forces.—*Xinhua*

### Finland to build first zero carbon dioxide emission shopping mall

HELSINKI, 23 Dec—Finland's first shopping mall claiming to put out zero emissions of carbon dioxide is to be built in Pori, a western coast city in Finland, according to daily newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat* on Tuesday.

Construction on the complex with a surface area of about 55,000 square metres is to begin in the autumn 2010. The estimated cost is about 100 million euros. Sustainable development has been taken into consideration in the project in the fact that the complex is within walking distance from Pori's central square. This avoids unnecessary driving typical to markets located out in the fields.

The shopping mall will not be connected to the district heating network. Instead, the energy for both heating and cooling will come from geothermal energy.—*Xinhua*

### Three killed, 13 injured in Indonesian shopping centre collapse

JAKARTA, 23 Dec—Three people were killed and 13 others injured when a building under renovation collapsed in the old shopping centre of Tanah Abang in Indonesia's capital Jakarta on Wednesday, local media reported here.

According to police, the construction's supporting columns collapsed around 10 am, which led to the collapse of the building.

"Most of the victims were construction workers. Many are still buried under the rubble," Kasno, a police officer was quoted by the *Kompas.com* as saying.

The bodies of the dead people have been rushed to the police's hospital in East Jakarta for further identification.

The 13 injured have been sent to hospital after they had been taken out of the rubble.

*Xinhua*



Three people were killed and 13 were injured after a building collapsed in central Jakarta on 23 December, according to police. City officials said the building, which was still under construction, was an unauthorized annex to a shopping mall.—INTERNET

## Shanghai Expo tickets sell out fast

BEIJING, 23 Dec— Although there are still five months left before the Shanghai World Expo, tickets are going fast. The organizer says that 12 million tickets have already been sold.

Ms Shan came to the Bank of Communications to buy tickets, but was told that tickets for the first few days of the Expo have already been sold out. She had to settle for a later date.

Ms Shan said, "I bought five tickets. I bought them now because the prices will be higher next year."

The Expo organizer says that from January 1st 2010, the price of an ordinary ticket will go up from 140 to 150 yuan. The ticket is good for a single admission on a given day. Prices at the gate during the six-month event will be 160 yuan.—*Internet*

## Somali pirates to hold British couple over Christmas

LONDON, 23 Dec— Somali pirates holding a British couple hostage said they would be allowed to celebrate Christmas, as the pair appeared set to enter their ninth week in captivity, according to a report on Wednesday.

Paul and Rachel Chandler were kidnapped on 23 October when their yacht, the *Lynn Rival*, was boarded in the Indian Ocean by pirates patrolling the waters.

The pair have been moved between safe houses close to Haradheere in Somalia to prevent their capture by other gangs or Islamist insurgents, *The Times* said.

*A woman watches video footage of the British couple, Paul and Rachel Chandler, that were kidnapped while sailing off the coast of Somalia.*

INTERNET

A pirate commander, who is Muslim, told the newspaper that the Chandlers would not be prevented from praying or marking the Christian Christmas holiday.

"We will never deny them their Christmas," he said.

"We respect their liberty, their life (sic) and their religion because no religion allows violation against another one," he said.

"We will prepare their favourite food if they want to eat for the occasion," he said, adding that they could have something like chips, pasta, fish or beer.

"I think all their orders will not be available but we shall try to make them happy with their Christmas in captivity."

The couple said in a video broadcast last month that their captors were "losing patience" and could kill them within a week if no ransom was paid.—*Internet*

## Two police officers wounded in another "ambush" in US state of Washington

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Dec— Two police officers were shot and badly wounded on Monday night in another alleged "ambush" attack on law enforcement personnel in the US state of Washington, local media reported on Tuesday.

The two Pierce County sheriff's deputies were responding to a domestic violence call near Eatonville, a town about 100 kilometres south of Seattle, when the suspect, identified as 35-year-old David Crable, opened fire.—*Xinhua*

## Death toll in shipwreck in Brazil reaches seven

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Dec— The number of deaths in the boat accident in the Amazon River in Brazil's northern Para state reached seven, authorities said on Tuesday.

The rescue teams man-

aged to find five bodies earlier in the day.

During the morning, the bodies of a woman and a child had been taken from the water as well.

The victims have yet to be identified.

According to the local authorities, the shipwreck took place in late Monday between the municipalities of Prainha and Monte Alegre, when the boat named *Almirante Barroso* overturned and sank.

It is not known what caused the ship to overturn.

One of the possibilities is that the boat may have hit a sandbank and the waters at that point of the Amazon River are muddy, which may have hindered visibility.

Additionally, the fact that the number of passengers had surpassed the ship's maximum capacity may also be the cause of the tragedy.

The *Almirante Barroso* had a maximum capacity of 100 people, but was transporting at least 101.—*Xinhua*



## Man shoots suspected prowler with arrow

Kelso, Wash, police said a man used his compound bow to interrupt an apparent break-in at a nearby vacant home, wounding a fleeing man in the buttocks.

Police said the man grabbed his hunting bow late Sunday night and chased a suspected prowler for more

## Money robbed from western Pa bank mailed back

Someone mailed an envelope filled with money to a western Pennsylvania bank that was robbed earlier this month, and the FBI suspects it was either the repentant robber or an acquaintance of his.

Special Agent Jeff Killeen says the returned money doesn't cancel out the crime that was committed 9 Dec at the PNC Bank in West Newton, a tiny borough about 20 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

The FBI won't say how much the robber took, but say the money in the envelope was about 80 percent of the amount stolen. It was separated into stacks of \$5s, \$10s, \$20s and \$100s.

The FBI announced the mailing on Tuesday and says it is checking the package for fingerprints and other clues. They believe the robber is local because he was wearing a yellow Pittsburgh Steelers T-shirt.

than three blocks.

When the fleeing man refused to stop, the bowhunter shot him with a broadhead arrow.

A 32-year-old Longview man later sought treatment at St John Medical Centre for an arrow wound to the left buttock. Doctors removed the arrow tip and the man was listed in satisfactory condition on Monday.

Kelso Police Capt. Vern Thompson said there were no immediate arrests and the investigation continues. He said charges against both men are possible.

## 1881 gold coin found in Conn donation kettle

A Connecticut Salvation Army chapter got a pleasant surprise when its members were counting change dropped into one of the organization's holiday donation kettles.

Members found a rare 1881 "half eagle" coin last week while counting donations made somewhere in Torrington on the day after Thanksgiving.

The half eagle was the country's first-ever gold coin and had a face value of \$5. It was in circulation from 1795 to 1929.

## Teen runs up dad's cell bill to nearly \$22,000

A 13-year-old teen was probably in hot water with his father after running up a cell phone bill of nearly \$22,000.

Ted Estarija said he was expecting his bill to be higher this month after adding his son to his plan, but wasn't expecting a bill of \$21,917 in data usage charges. The Hayward man said his Verizon Wireless bill soared after his son apparently downloaded about 1.4 million kilobytes of data last month.

His plan didn't cover data usage, so he was charged by the megabyte.

Estarija said after the first media reports, Verizon said they would credit his account for the entire amount.

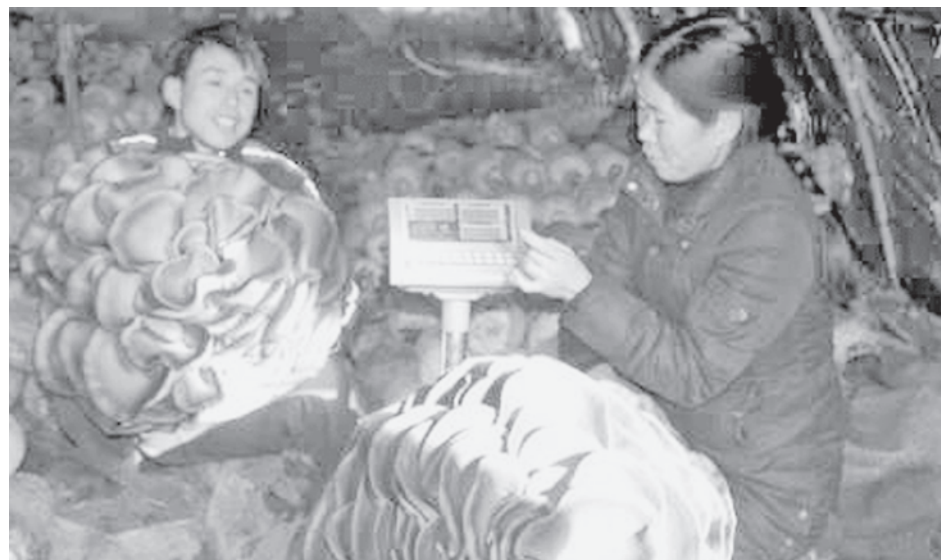
## Master's degree at 17 for precocious Austrian

A high school diploma at 15 and a bachelor's degree at 16: precocious teenager Marian Kogler has now become Austria's youngest master's graduate at the age of 17.

Vienna's University of Technology (TU) announced on Monday that the young man had completed his master's degree in computational intelligence.

He also holds a bachelor's degree in software and information engineering, and has now embarked on a doctorate in computer science at the TU.

The son of a writer and an administrative assistant, Kogler could read and write at the age of three.



*A farmer weighs a giant mushroom in Ruanxiang village, Changfeng county, Anhui Province on 21 December, 2009. Farmer Li Qingli has adopted a new method in growing mushroom, where the mushrooms are not too close to each other during the cultivation period. Li's mushrooms on average weigh 10 kilograms, the largest weighing 20 kilogrammes.*

NEWS ALBUM

## Bollywood looks to Aamir Khan to end 2009 on a high

MUMBAI, 23 Dec—Bollywood is looking to Aamir Khan to bring festive cheer to the industry after a disappointing 2009 hit by a producers' strike, swine flu fears and a lack of box office success.

The actor-producer-director's heavily-marketed "3 Idiots", based on Chetan Bhagat's best-selling debut novel "Five Point Someone" about three struggling students at a business school, is released on Friday, Christmas Day.

Bollywood watchers hope Khan — known for only making one big film per year in an industry where leading actors can be working on several films at the same time — can replicate his previous year-end successes.

His 2008 Christmas offering, "Ghajini", became Bollywood's highest grossing film and followed the acclaimed "Taare Zameen Par" (Stars on Earth) in 2007.

"We hope he creates a hat-trick this year," said

Amod Mehra, a Bollywood trade analyst.

Another leading critic, Taran Adarsh, gave the film 4.5 stars on his bollywoodhungama.com site and said it "easily ranks amongst Aamir, (director) Rajkumar Hirani and (producer) Vidhu Vinod Chopra's finest films". Bollywood began 2009 after a muted end to 2008 due to the deadly terror attacks in Mumbai, which saw the cancellation of a number of films.

Internet



Indian Bollywood actors R Mahadevan (left), Aamir Khan (centre) and Sarman Joshi at the release of the first song from Hindi film "3 Idiots" in Mumbai in November 2009. Bollywood is looking to Aamir Khan to bring festive cheer to the industry after a disappointing 2009 hit by a producers' strike, swine flu fears and a lack of box office success.—INTERNET

## Gas blast at Istanbul high school injures four

ANKARA, 23 Dec—A gas explosion at a high school in the Turkish largest city of Istanbul injured four people on Tuesday, the semi-official *Anatolia news agency* reported.

The small explosion resulted from a gas leak and occurred in the food court of the Maltepe Technical and Vocational High School for girls in the Maltepe District of Istanbul, according to the report.

Two teachers and two other employees were hurt, said the report, adding that the investigation into the blast was underway.—Internet



Chinese Navy soldiers participate in a training on Ma'anshan frigate of the fourth Chinese naval flotilla in the Gulf of Aden, on 16 Dec, 2009.—XINHUA

## Turkmenistan to resume gas supplies to Russia

MOSCOW, 23 Dec—Turkmenistan has agreed to resume its gas supplies to Russia in January, after halting them last April, Russian news agencies reported on Tuesday.

The reports said up to 30 billion cubic meters would be delivered annually.

Contract amendments on gas supplies, at European level prices, were

signed between the two countries' gas monopolies, Gazprom and Turkmengaz, on Monday, as the Russian and Turkmen presidents met in the Turkmen capital of Ashgabat.

The documents "set down all the terms for resuming supplies, their volume and prices and status," said Gazprom Deputy Chief Executive

Alexander Medvedev.

"For the first time in Russian-Turkmen gas relations, gas supplies will be based on a formula that corresponds fully to the terms of the European gas market," said Medvedev.

The gas supplies should resume "from 1 January or no later than 10 January, 2010," he added.

Xinhua

## India tightens tourist visa rules

NEW DELHI, 23 Dec—India has tightened its rules for long-term tourist visas in a move that will hit thousands of foreigners living in the country or planning lengthy stays, a foreign ministry official said on Wednesday.

Under previous rules, tourists on five- or 10-year visas were required to leave the country every 180 days. But many would simply fly to a neighbouring country such as Nepal for a brief stay before returning.

Now they will still face the same 180-day deadline, but will have to stay out of the country for two months before they can reenter.

"We have changed the

rules to prevent the misuse of the long-term tourist visa," a senior official at the foreign ministry told *AFP*, asking not be named.

The new rules have been implemented since 4

November, he said, although the US embassy in New Delhi said the changes were being applied inconsistently and had caused problems for a number of its nationals.

Internet



Foreign tourists in Srinagar in May 2009. India has tightened its rules for long-term tourist visas in a move that will hit thousands of foreigners living in the country or planning lengthy stays, a foreign ministry official said on Wednesday.—INTERNET

## S Korea, Russia sign agreement on preventing illegal fishing

SEOUL, 23 Dec—South Korea and Russia signed an agreement on Tuesday on stemming illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, Seoul's Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said.

Under the accord, South Korea will provide information on imports from Russian fishermen operating illegally in Russia's exclusive economic zones (EEZs) to help the country keep track of illegitimate fishing activities, according to the ministry statement.

The pact, slated to take effect next year, is part of efforts to address issues South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev discussed at summit meeting in September last year, the ministry said.—Xinhua



A visitor views an exhibit during the national treasure exhibition, organized by the National Museum of China, in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 22 Dec, 2009.

XINHUA

## S Korea to use English-teaching robots at local schools

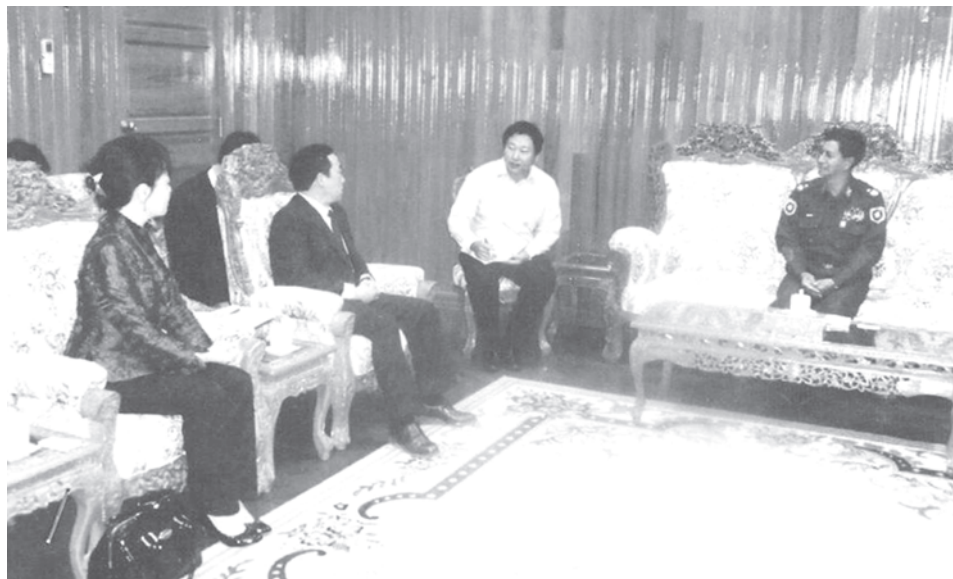
SEOUL, 23 Dec—South Korea's Ministry of Knowledge Economy said on Tuesday that English-teaching robots will be used at local schools in the country.

The ministry said robots with English-teaching abilities will be used at local schools in the city of Masan and Daejeon till February next year on a trial basis, in an attempt to better serve students in provincial cities.

The ministry introduced two types of robots for this project, an "autonomous" unit with voice-recognition features and a "tele-presence" unit that a teacher can remotely control and communicate through a built-in camera and microphone with the students.

Xinhua

## EP-2 Minister receives Chinese guests



**Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint receives Chairman Mr Li Chao of Central China Power Grid International Economic & Trade Co Ltd.—MNA**

**NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—**Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Chairman of Central China Power Grid International Economic & Trade Co Ltd (CCPG) Mr Li Chao and party from the People's Republic of China at the ministry here on 21 December. They discussed matters related to cooperation between the ministry and CCPG. **MNA**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Inter School Senior Cricket Challenge Shield 2009 commences

**YANGON, 23 Dec—**Jointly organized by Department of Basic Education No (3) and Myanmar Cricket Federation, 4<sup>th</sup> Inter School Senior Cricket Challenge Shield 2009 was opened at the sports ground of No (1) Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township here yesterday morning. It was attended by officials of the Department of Basic Education No (3), patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Chairman of MCF U Nyunt Win, General Secretary U Kyi Min and executive members, principals, guests and fans. Chairman of MGF U Nyunt Win gave a speech at the ceremony. The matches started at designated pitches. The tourney continues at the school till 27 December.—**MNA**

## Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd honours sale agents

**YANGON, 23 Dec—**Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd hosted a dinner in honour of its sale agents for lower Myanmar along with a ceremony to say goodbye to the year 2009 at the Sedona Hotel here on 18 December evening. Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein and wife Dr Moe Myat Win chose first prize (1 million kyat) and three second prizes (500,000 kyats) by chance; and Sales & Marketing Consultant U Min Tala Nyan, National Sales Manager U Myo Htet, actor Ye Htaik, actress Wut Hmon Shwe Yi and guests, six third prizes (200,000 kyats) and 40 fourth prizes (50,000 kyats). Since 1997, Myanmar national-owned Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd has distributed high quality products throughout the nation such as Gold Roast Coffeemix, Gold Roast Gold Coffeemix, Ben Café coffee mix, Café 21 Coffeemix, Calsome Quaker, Royal Myanmar Teamix, Fresh Up Lemon Teamix, winning the customer satisfaction at home and abroad.—**MNA**



**MD U Aung Maw Thein presents award to a sale agent. MNA**

## Thingangyun BEMS No. 4 holds respect paying ceremony

**YANGON, 23 Dec—**Old students of Thingangyun BEMS No. 4 held the first ceremony to pay respects to school heads and teachers who taught the pupils from 1970 to 2006, at the school on 20 December. Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Oo and retired Headmaster U Than Htut formally opened the ceremony. Next, the headmistress gave an opening speech. Old students paid respects to 115 teachers and presented gifts to them. Teachers U Than Htut, Daw San Lwin and U Zaw Win spoke words of advice. Treasurer of the organizing committee Maung Kyaw Thura reported on the financial statement and chairman U San Htay explained the purpose of the ceremony.—**MNA**

# International-standard Mount Pleasant Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw

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

*(from page 1)* The customers who stay at the Hotel during the first six months of the opening can enjoy 40 percent discounts." One can see pleasant views while looking round from the Viewing Tower, which is the Main Building. The hotel being situated on Phozaung Mountain near Ottara Thiri, the climate is cool. Yezin Dam, Ottara Thiri and Pubba Thiri can be seen to the east of the Hotel, Uppatasanti Pagoda to the south, Chaungmagyi Dam, Pyithuhluttaw, Ngalike Dam, Bago mountain ranges and sunset view to the west".



**A well-furnished room in Mount Pleasant Hotel.**



**Photo shows bungalows in Mount Pleasant Hotel.**

"Plans are under way to build walkways and sports ground in order that the visitors may enjoy the natural beauty of the mountain. Food, hotel services like any other hotels and high speed Internet are available at the Hotel. It is a place where people should relax in comfort individually, in groups or in families. **Translation: MT Myanma Alin (20-12-2009)**



## Culture Ministry holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The Ministry of Culture yesterday held work coordination meeting at the ministry here, with an opening speech by Minister for

Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

The directors-general reported on implementation of resolutions, and ongoing and future plans, which are decided from the

last meeting; rectors of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon and Mandalay), staff and academic affairs. The officials concerned also submitted reports to the

minister. The minister then gave necessary instructions.

The work coordination meeting ended after giving concluding remarks by the minister.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint addresses coordination meeting of the Ministry of Culture.—MNA

## Premier Coffee Singing Contest, Ginsetin Pageant finalized

YANGON, 23 Dec— Premier Coffee Company and Ginsetin Korea Ginseng Tonic finalized Premier Coffee Singing Contest and Ginsetin Pageant at Capital Hypermarket here on 15 December.

A first prize winner was awarded 1 million kyats, 200,000 kyats worth of gift voucher, and 100,000 kyats worth of product; a second prize winner, 500,000 kyats, 100,000 kyats worth of gift voucher, and 100,000 kyats worth of product; and a third prize winner, 300,000 kyats, 100,000 kyats worth of gift voucher, and 100,000 kyats worth of product. Ginsetin added Miss Energetic prize and Miss Best Complexion prize.

Composer Naung Naung (Sunflower), Composer Nyi Nyi Thwin and Vocalist Khaing Shwe Wah acted as judges for the singing contest, and Actor Nay Aung, Daw Nan Ei Ei Zar, and film star Wut Hmon Shwe Yi, for the pageant.

Vocalists: L Lun Wah, Nau Naw, Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, L Hsai Zi, Chit Thu Wai, Khaing Shwe Wah and July entertained the visitors to the accompaniment of COBRA-H Music Band.

MNA

## Traditional Myanmar Gold Embroideries valued by international nations

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Tha Nyan & Yan Gyi Aung (MNA)

(from page 16)

Myanmar arts and crafts. It flourishes most in and around Mandalay, Amarapura and Sagaing. Nowadays, more and more crafts can be seen in and around Yangon.

In the past, gold and silver embroideries were used with reverence in religious ceremonies and royal palace. Nowadays, they are used in ordinations, gear worn by dancers and marionettes in plays and puppet shows as well as for patterns sewn on various designs of embroidered hats, cellular bags, wallets, bags, waistcoats, neckties, and gloves. Those who can afford and company owners also purchase embroidery artworks as adornments to the drawing room.

Stones from mines used to be raw materials of embroidery whereas oyster shell, different kinds of pastes and glass are used today. In some places, wooden beads and plastic beads are used instead.

Cotton is the main material in sewing fig-



U Sein Myint  
Craftsman (Gold  
Embroidery)

ures in relief on clothes. Other materials are gold-coloured thread, silver-coloured thread, sequin, cloth, velvet, thread, wax-paper, coarse paper made from paper mulberry pulp, paste and gum powder.

Most of main raw materials are of local but some are mixed of local and foreign while some are ordered from abroad. Embroideries sewn on clothes are in demand in the market, embroideries made by pasting things together followed second and gear for marionettes third.

Embroidery artworks of high value are put on sale in souvenir shops in major towns like Yangon,

Mandalay and Bagan. Some businessmen and co-operative societies also export them whereas embroidery artworks of low value are sold in shops in pagodas, stores and department stores. Especially, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia are fond of collecting Myanmar embroidery artworks.

While we were in Mandalay last month, we grasped the opportunity and met with famous craftsman U Sein Myint who said, "Currently, there are 14 or 15 dealing in gold embroidery industry in Mandalay. I've been dealing in the industry for 24 years. I work at home. Gold Embroidery is part of ten traditional arts and crafts of Myanmar. It has flourished since Bagan Period and has been handed down from generation to generation."

"Originally, my hobby was painting. I entered the gold embroidery industry in 1985. I value my work and do my work all by myself according to traditions as well as depending on tide of

changes."

"It is really an unforgettable experience that I made 17"x7"-sized embroidery artwork for State to be presented to the United Nations in 1990. As it was to be hung in the UN, I depicted olive branch as well as pagodas, agricultural produce, and Lawkanat (celestial being noted for peace-keeping). I am pleased for leaders of global countries will see my work."

"Currently, I'm running gold embroidery business with 40 full-time workers and 20 part-time workers. Mainly, quality is at the top of the list. I have been giving training to women in the ward wishing to run handicraft business, female nationalities from Social Welfare Department and border regions. It can be learnt within six months to a year as a vocation."

"I conducted embroidery courses in the USA, Japan and ASEAN countries. What's more, I was able to exhibit some of my embroidery artworks in World Trade Fair in South Africa in

1996." We then observed Myanmar embroidery artworks museum of U Sein Myint next the embroidery shop. There we found century-old traditional Myanmar embroidery artworks, silk paintings and utensils of old rural folks.

U Sein Myint's daughter said, "The museum was founded in 1991 with collection of antique gold embroideries. This one is silk painting depicting display of prowess in horsemanship by members of the royal cavalry over hundred years ago. I re-bought it from a foreigner. This one is gold embroider painting made of felt. It is

adornment of the royal palace some 80 years ago. We also have embroidery paintings that depict the Buddhoo. And this is a sickle used by ancient rural folks. You can see the figure of a mongoose at the handle. It was assumed that it can protect the danger from snakes."

Despite its small size, the museum is full of interesting things. Looking round the museum, time of glory of Myanmar people appeared in my mind's eyes and nationalistic sentiment arose out of my flesh.

Translation: TKK  
Kyemon (1-12-2009)



In the past, gold and silver embroidery artworks were used in royal palace.



**Businessmen smoke cigarettes during their lunch-time break in Tokyo in 2003. Japan, long considered a smokers' paradise, is planning to raise tobacco tax from next October in a bid to repair its tattered public finances, officials said on Tuesday.—INTERNET**

## Brain tissues help scientists understand Parkinson's

BEIJING, 23 Dec—Scientists can understand the progression of the condition of the Parkinson's disease from an earlier stage, Britain's Parkinson's Disease Society (PDS) said after studying the brain tissue along with the lifestyle histories of youngsters with Parkinson's, according to news reports on Wednesday.

Director in PDS's R&D, Dr Kieran Breen, said that they are optimistic about finding a treat-

ment for people with the Parkinson's.

Breen, together with his colleagues, indicated that they are delighted with the response to their appeal to the brain tissues so far.

"Scientific research on brains from people both with and without Parkinson's is essential to help us move closer to our goal," said Dr Breen.

Earlier last month, published in the *Cell Transplantation Journal*,

a research suggested that nerve cells lost in Parkinson's could be supplemented using cells from a person's own brain.

Xinhua

## New warbler identified in Southeast Asia

VIENTIANE, 23 Dec—A tiny colourful bird with a loud and distinctive sound has been discovered living in the forests of Laos and Vietnam, scientists said.

The bird has been nicknamed the "limestone leaf warbler" because it breeds in region of Laos known for its limestone deposits, scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society said in a release on Tuesday.

The olive-green bird, with a yellow breast and striped crown, has a distinctive sound and is smaller with shorter wings and a larger bill than other warblers found in Southeast Asia, the scientific team wrote in the *International Journal of Avian Science*.

"The discovery of this new species is very exciting and underscores the importance of this region of Indochina for conservation," society spokesman Colin Poole said, calling the region the "Lost World for new and unusual wildlife."

Internet

## Brazilian consumer confidence index falls 2.4% in December

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Dec—Brazil's Consumer Confidence Index (ICC) fell to 112.3 points in December, down 2.4 percent from the 115.1 points in November, Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) reported on Tuesday.

It is the index's first decline in seven months. The November reading was the highest since May 2008.

According to the FGV, the fall showed Brazilians had become more concerned about the country's economic situation.

The ICC is based on the Present Situation Index (ISA), which measures the level of satisfaction with the present economic scenario, and the Expectation Index (IE), which indicates the expectation for next six months.

In December, the ISA was down 2.7 percent to 120.6 points, while the IE fell to 107.8 points, the lowest figures registered since May.

The most significant decrease, however, appeared in consumers' family financial situation satisfaction index, which saw a 4.3 percent slump in December.

Compared with the numbers in November, fewer consumers in December believed the country's economy would improve in the following months, while more people thought the economy would get worse.

The ICC survey was carried out from 30 Nov to 18 Dec, involving about 2,000 households in Brazil's seven main metro areas.

Xinhua



**A shoe vendor is seen arranges his mobile stall in Ho Chi Minh City in 2007. The European Union, the world's biggest market, on Tuesday extended punitive taxes on imports of Chinese and Vietnamese shoes.**

INTERNET

## Twenty years left to prevent orangutan from extinction

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec—The orangutan will become extinct if no action is taken to protect its jungle habitat in the next two decades, a Malaysian conservationist has warned.

There are some 60,000 orangutan still living in the wild in Malaysia and Indonesia but deforestation and the expansion of palm plantations have taken a heavy toll, the *Star* newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing

Tsubouchi Toshinori from the Borneo Conservation Trust. The orangutan habitat is fragmented and isolated by plantations, which makes them unable to migrate and find mates to produce babies, Tsubouchi said.

He noted that although studies predicted that the orangutan would disappear within 50 years if their habitat continued to

vanish, action needed to be taken within the next two decades to stall that process.

Environmentalists are calling for the creation of wildlife "corridors" in Malaysia to link the scraps of jungle where the orangutan have become trapped by decades of encroachment by loggers and oil palm companies.

Xinhua

## China considers compulsory green energy purchases by grid operators

BEIJING, 23 Dec—China's top legislature on Tuesday discussed a legal amendment to require electricity grid companies to buy all the power produced by renewable energy generators.

The State Council energy department and the state power regulatory agency should supervise the purchases, said the

draft amendment to the Renewable Energy Law, which was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) for its second reading

It is an important official measure to support the country's fledgling renewable energy sector, experts say.

According to the

draft, the State Council energy department, in conjunction with the state power regulatory agency and the State Council finance departments, should "determine the proportion of renewable energy power generation to the overall generating capacity for a certain period."

Xinhua



**A view of Auckland. New Zealand's economy grew 0.2 percent in the three months to September, in the second straight quarter of sluggish growth following a long recession, according to official figures.—INTERNET**



**Ruth Grierson, a 2010 volunteer team leader for the 2010 Winter Olympics at the Vancouver Uniform and Accreditation Centre on 14 December in Vancouver, Canada. Organizers of the Winter Olympics have launched a link on its website for the public to resale any unused tickets for February's Games.—INTERNET**

## More small-business bankruptcies reported in California

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—As credit lines have shrunk and consumers have cut back on spending, thousands of small businesses have closed their doors in California over the last year, it was reported on Tuesday.

The latest data show that small-business bankruptcies shot up 81 percent in the state for the 12 months ended on 30 Sept, compared with the previous year, according

to the *Los Angeles Times*.

About 19,000 small businesses filed for bankruptcy in California during the 12-month period, up from 10,500 the previous year, the paper said.

Filings nationwide were up 44 percent, said the paper, citing figures from the credit analysis firm Equifax Inc. The Obama Administration's new plan to give a boost to small businesses reflects continued trouble

in that sector, which is facing new failures even as much of the nation's economy is stabilizing, the paper noted.

The plight of struggling firms has been aggravated by the reluctance of banks to lend money, said Brian Headd, an economist at the Small Business Administration's office of advocacy. "While bankruptcies are up, overall, small-business closures are up even more," Headd said.

*Xinhua*

## Vietnam set for middle income status

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—The World Bank said it had approved its biggest ever loan to Vietnam as it virtually endorsed the once war-ravaged Southeast Asian nation's impending elevation to middle income status.

The 500 million dollar loan was the first to the fast-growing Communist country from the bank's low-interest lending arm, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which provides credit to mainly middle income nations. Vietnam has set

itself a 2010 target of embracing middle-income status.

Until now, World Bank support to Vietnam had come from the International Development Association (IDA), which provides interest free loans to the world's poorest countries.

The newly approved loan is aimed at supporting a programme of public investment reforms in Vietnam, the Washington-based bank said in a statement.

*Internet*



**A worker at the International Auto Expo in New Delhi in January 2008. India's auto show next month will be the largest ever staged in the country, organizers said on Tuesday, as global vehicle makers accelerate toward the fast-expanding market.—INTERNET**

## Kuwait discovers new light crude, gas field

KUWAIT CITY, 23 Dec—Oil-rich Kuwait said on Tuesday it has discovered a light crude and gas field in the northwest, as the country moves toward a target of four million barrels per day of crude by 2020. The field is located in the area of Mutreba and its primary production is estimated at 80,000 barrels per day of light crude and 110 million cubic feet per day of gas, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Chairman Sami Al-Rushaid said.

"Preparations are underway to drill for specific wells to test the promising layers in this field," Al-Rushaid said during a ceremony marking KOC's 75th anniversary.

Kuwait sits atop with around 10 percent of the world's proven oil reserves and oil export is the backbone of the emirate's economy.—*Xinhua*

## Oil holds above \$74 after OPEC output unchanged

SINGAPORE, 23 Dec—Oil prices held above \$74 a barrel on Wednesday in Asia after OPEC left output levels unchanged and a report showed US crude inventories fell last week.

Benchmark crude for February delivery was down 7 cents to \$74.33 at midday Singapore Time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract rose 68

cents to settle at \$74.40 on Tuesday.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said on Tuesday that the 12-nation cartel won't change production quotas, a move widely expected by investors.

OPEC leaders called on group members to adhere more closely to current quotas and reduce cheating.

Prices were boosted by signs US oil demand may be picking up. US crude inventories fell more than expected last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday.

Crude stocks fell 3.7 million barrels while analysts had expected a drop of 2.0 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

*Internet*

## Singapore, EU to negotiate FTA

SINGAPORE, 23 Dec—Singapore and the European Union (EU) have agreed to start negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA), Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry said on Tuesday.

Calling it a milestone in Singapore's relationship with the EU, the ministry said that an FTA with the EU will be a key addition to Singapore's network of FTAs, as the EU is Singapore's largest trading partner.

The ministry said that the bilateral FTA will not only promote the flow of goods, services and investment, it is also likely to enhance collaboration in areas such as trade facilitation and technical

regulations. The FTA will also contribute to regional economic integration by paving the way for an FTA between the EU and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

*Xinhua*



**The Air France Airbus A380 lands at JFK International Airport in New York in this on 20 November, 2009 file photo, on its first commercial air flight from Paris. Airports need to ramp up their expansion projects that were put on hold during the recession, an airports industry body said on Tuesday.—INTERNET**

Two people look at the scene of a multiple vehicle collisions along Interstate-10 during a dust storm near Casa Grande, Arizona, on 22 Dec, 2009. Several motorists were dead as others were rushed to local hospitals.

INTERNET



## Three dead as dust storm, snow blast Arizona

PHOENIX, 23 Dec—A strong winter storm wreaked havoc in Arizona on Tuesday, leaving at least three people dead and six injured in a series of fiery crashes caused by thick, blowing dust on Interstate 10 and shutting down I-40 for hours with slick conditions. One of the dead was a 25-year-old man whose vehicle was rear-ended by his father's truck.

The midday I-10 wrecks, about 40 miles south of Phoenix near Casa Grande, left the eastbound lanes littered with the smoldering remains of several big rigs, passenger cars and vans. Both directions of the freeway connecting Tucson to Phoenix were closed for hours as crews freed the injured and dead from the tangled wreckage.

Along I-40 west of Flagstaff, dozens of cars and trucks were involved in collisions or slid off the highway as snow began falling on Tuesday afternoon. A stretch of the highway between Williams and Ash Fork was closed intermittently. Snowy and slippery conditions were also reported on I-17 north of Sedona.

Internet

File photo shows a bushfire burning out of control in Victoria, Australia. Residents were "fleeing for their lives" on Wednesday as wildfires burned out of control in South Australia, a witness said, as the state endured catastrophic fire conditions.—INTERNET



## 13 people warned or fined over e-cigarettes in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 23 Dec—The Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HSA) evicted 13 people for bringing in and selling the much-hyped e-cigarette, local media reported on Wednesday.

Among the 13 individuals investigated are four local suppliers who set up websites to hawk the product. The other nine ordered the device online from overseas suppliers, local newspaper *The Straits Times* reported.

Touted as a "healthy" way to beat rising cigarette prices and a widening ban on smoking here, the electronic cigarette comprises a cartridge of liquid nicotine inserted into a battery-operated steel tube. A heating coil vaporizes the nicotine into a fine mist, which is then inhaled.

Xinhua

## Int'l Elephant Polo in Nepal to kick off

KATHMANDU, 23 Dec—The International Elephant Polo will kick off from 26 Dec at Sauraha of Nepali Chitwan District, some 85 km southwest of capital Kathmandu, local media reported on Wednesday.

Nine countries as well as associations including India, German, United Kingdom, Australia, Holland have already booked

their names as the participants of the game, local newspaper *The Rising Nepal* cited Hari Bhakta Ghimire, president of Reginal Hotel Association as saying.

The task of construction of a link road, making of a compound, setting up of stalls, management of the ground at Bagmara Community Forest, where the game will be held have

been completed, *The Rising Nepal* reported, citing the coordinator, Shankar Saiju as sources.

Saiju said that along with the elephant polo, preparations for holding the elephant football was also has been completed.—Xinhua

## Catastrophic fire threatens South Australia

CANBERRA, 23 Dec—Catastrophic fire danger ratings have been issued for eight South Australian districts on Wednesday, with temperatures expected to reach 40 degrees Celsius and strong winds forecast around much of the state.

The eight catastrophic districts are: mid-north, Flinders, Yorke Peninsula, upper south-east, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands, West Coast.

Severe or extreme fire danger ratings apply in the state's seven other districts of Riverland, north-west Pastoral, Mount Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island, lower south-east, Adelaide metropolitan and north-east pastoral.

A helicopter and 55 police patrols have been deployed across South Australia as part of police efforts to curb arson on high fire danger days.—Xinhua

## China considers ratifying UN protocol to combat human trafficking

BEIJING, 23 Dec—China's top legislature has begun reviewing a United Nations protocol to combat human trafficking.

The State Council submitted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to the ongoing session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) for ratification.

The protocol was adopted by the United Nations in 2000, and had been acceded to or ratified by 132 countries and the Eu-

ropean Community by October this year.

According to the bill submitted to the NPC Standing Committee, ratification of the protocol

would improve cooperation between China and other countries and international organizations in combating human trafficking.—Xinhua

## Frankfurt airport re-opens after being closed by wintry weather

BERLIN, 23 Dec—Frankfurt International Airport, an aviation hub for both Germany and Europe, re-opened on Tuesday after a seven-hour overnight shutdown caused by wintry weather.

Snow, ice and severe cold in southwestern Germany had hampered takeoffs and landings in the Frankfurt airport in recent days. Ground crews constantly cleared falling snow and de-iced waiting aircrafts, but some flights had to be cancelled or delayed when workers could not keep up the pace.

The runways were closed late Monday after they became too icy to use. The closures stranded about 8,000 passengers.

Xinhua



Two men atop a roof look at a fire at the La Saline market in Port-au-Prince, on 22 Dec, 2009. Fifteen shops were burned and no injuries were reported.

INTERNET

## Stem cells treatment helps regain eyesight

BEIJING, 23 Dec — A new stem cells treatment has cured eight people who had nearly lost their eyesight in the English city of Newcastle, according to news reports on Wednesday.

Russell Turnbull, one of the cured patients whose right eye was burned in an ammonia attack after intervening in a fight on a Newcastle bus 15 years ago, said, "This has transformed my life...I'm working, I can

go jet skiing and also ride horses."

Doctors experimented on a treatment at the North East England Stem Cell Institute in Newcastle, in which stem cells were taken from Turnbull's healthy eye and grown on a layer of amniotic tissue.

When the cells had covered the membrane, a piece of it was transplanted onto his damaged eye. Seven to eight weeks later, the membrane had broken down, leaving his damaged eye

with a fresh material of healthy stem cells, which repaired the cornea.

Six month later, eye tests showed Turnbull's eyesight was as good as it had been before the attack.

The scientist named Sajjad Ahmad, who developed the Newcastle method, said its success indicated the scope for using the patient's own stem cells to cure his own eye.

Xinhua



British female teacher Hannah Quinn (front) conducts the Mulan Children's Chorus, during their successful debut performance in the Tianjin Musical Hall of Tianjin, north China, on 22 Dec, 2009. Founded in early on November 2009, the Mulan Children's Chorus of Tianjin Musical Hall has improved the stage performance capacity of over 40 little chorus members.—XINHUA

## Study casts doubt on TB spore theory

CHICAGO, 23 Dec — US researchers say their work has cast doubt on a theory that tuberculosis bacteria have the ability to turn into armour-plated spores.

The tuberculosis bacterium is an insidious germ that can lie dormant for many years, then suddenly emerge and cause potentially fatal disease.

The spore theory was proposed in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in June by researchers in Sweden. The theory tied the ability of tuberculosis to infect decades before the disease emerges to the formation of spores — thick-walled, "armour-plated" — cells that can lie dormant until con-

ditions allow them to shed the armor and grow again.

However, study co-author Adam Driks of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and colleagues at Boston's Harvard University say in their study, also published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, they have not been able to find any evidence of spores in TB cultures.

The researchers demonstrate the TB bacterium doesn't contain genes related to those needed to produce spores. Also, the researchers said they failed to find spores in frogs infected with TB bacteria.—Internet

## Abdominal surgery higher risk in elderly

SEATTLE, 23 Dec — Older adults may have a higher risk of complications and death after abdominal surgery, US researchers found.

Dr Nader N Massarweh and colleagues at University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, examined complication and death rates of 101,318 adults age 65 or older who underwent com-

mon abdominal procedures such as gall-bladder removal, hysterectomy and colectomy from 1987-2004.

Complications were recorded within 90 days of discharge and deaths were recorded within 90 days of hospital admission.

The study, published in the *Archives of Surgery*, found advancing age was associated with increasing

frequency of complications — ages 65-69 had a 14.6 percent complication rate, while those age 90 and older had a 22.7 percent complication rate, Massarweh said.

The death rate following surgery was 2.5 percent for those ages 65-69 to 12.6 percent for those age 90 and older, the study said.

Internet

## Effects of binge drinking linger

PROVIDENCE, 23 Dec — Heavy drinking adversely affects a person's performance and perception hours after alcohol has left the body, researchers in Rhode Island said.

Researchers at Brown University recruited 95 healthy adults ages 21 to 35 who had reported having a hangover at least one time within the month before the research began.

The participants were randomly assigned bourbon or vodka and told to drink until their breath tests indicated a blood alcohol level of 0.11 percent, well over the legal driving limit for most states, *Medpage Today* reported on Tuesday.

After eight hours of sleep and breakfast, the participants showed poorer performance in

simulated driving tests than participants who had consumed only cola with several drops of alcohol the night before.

"We found that people were impaired in their ability to do tasks that require both vigilance and making rapid decisions and that people were not aware that their performance was impaired," researcher Damaris Rohsenow told *Medpage Today*.—Internet

## Canada seeks anti-cancer additive comment

OTTAWA, 23 Dec — Health Canada is asking the public for comment on putting the cancer-fighting enzyme asparaginase in baked and fried food.

McCain's, Frito Lay and other companies are urging the Canadian government to approve

the food additive that cuts down on the levels of L-asparagine — a precursor of acrylamide — which forms in starchy food that is baked or fried including bread, crackers, cookies, French fries and potato chips, the *Toronto Star* reported on Tuesday.

In 2002, a Swedish study discovered high levels of what was considered a probable carcinogen, acrylamide, formed in some food after high-temperature frying or baking.

In 2005, the *UN Food and Agriculture Organization* and the *World Health Organization* approved adding asparaginase to potato chips, French fries and packaged cookies, the *Star* reported.

A year ago, food industry groups including the Baking Association of Canada, McCain Foods and Frito Lay Canada told the government it approved of adding the food additive and asked Ottawa to "treat the approval of all tools with the potential of reducing acrylamide formation in food as a high priority," fries and packaged cookies, the *Star* reported.—Internet

## More clinical trials use computer records

OTTAWA, 23 Dec — Canadian health officials found 41 percent of clinical trials have moved away from managing trial data using only paper records.

Study leader Dr Khaled El Emam,

the Canada research chairman in electronic health information at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, evaluated the use of technology in Canadian clinical trials.

From 2006-2007 there were approximately 950 clinical trials registered with sites in Canada — about half funded by the pharmaceutical industry. Industry funded trials were more likely to use electronic data capture tools.—Internet



People look at pictures during the 2009 Universal Children's Day photo exhibition in Hohhot, capital city of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 22 Dec, 2009.—XINHUA

## SPORTS

## Terry like Baresi and Maldini, says Ancelotti

LONDON, 23 Dec—Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti has likened John Terry to Italian greats Franco Baresi and Paolo Maldini in his latest show of support for his beleaguered captain. The England skipper has been having to defend himself from accusations of money-grabbing after the News of the World tabloid on Sunday alleged he'd accepted a financial payment to provide a tour of Chelsea's training ground.

The paper claimed Terry, who captained the Premier League leaders in Sunday's 1-1 draw at West Ham, arranged the visit to Chelsea's Cobham training complex for three undercover reporters posing as businessmen without permission from Ancelotti.

It is claimed that Terry took a 10,000 pounds payment, 8,000 pounds of

which he wanted to go to the 'Make A Wish' charity for children with the other 2,000 pounds going to a middleman.

Ancelotti dismissed the report and the former AC Milan coach went further by telling Tuesday's London Evening Standard that centre-back Terry reminded him of Rossoneri defensive greats Baresi and Maldini, whom he played alongside at the San Siro.—*Internet*



Chelsea's captain John Terry

## Coach Del Bosque to stay with Spain through 2012

MADRID, 23 Dec—The Spanish football federation has extended national team coach Vicente del Bosque's contract by two years. The 59-year-old Del Bosque will stay with the team through 2012 after he led Spain to the World Cup finals next year in South Africa.

Del Bosque replaced Luis Aragones after Spain's European Championship triumph in June last year.

Federation president Angel Villar says Del Bosque's extension was a unanimous decision.

*Xinhua*

## Federer and Serena named ITF World Champs

PARIS, 23 Dec—Roger Federer has been named International Tennis Federation (ITF) champion for the fifth time with Serena Williams taking the women's award for the second time.

They will receive their awards at the annual ITF World Champions Dinner on 1 June in Paris, during the French Open.



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates his quarter-final victory over Russia's Evgeny Korolev at the Swiss Indoors tournament in Basel.—*INTERNET*

Federer had an outstanding year regaining the world No.1 ranking from Rafael Nadal after completing a career Grand Slam at Roland Garros with victory over Robin Soderling in the final.

He went on to surpass Pete Sampras by winning his 15th Grand Slam title at Wimbledon after a memorable final contest against Andy Roddick.

Federer was also runner-up at the Australian Open, where he lost in five sets to Nadal, and the US Open, where he also went down in five sets to Juan Martin del Potro, and helped his country retain its World Group status in Davis Cup.

"It is an honour for me to be named ITF World Champion for a fifth time. It was an incredible year for me both on and off the court," the 28-year-old Swiss star said.

*Internet*

## Wenger willing to wait on Van Persie



Dutch striker Robin van Persie

LONDON, 23 Dec—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Tuesday he'd all but given up on the idea of Dutch striker Robin van Persie playing for the English Premier League club again this season.

However, he stressed the player would regain full fitness and once more be a force at top-flight

level. The 26-year-old forward suffered a right ankle injury while on international duty in November.

The Gunners had hoped the striker might be out for six weeks but instead he needed surgery and now Wenger believes the best van Persie and Arsenal can hope for is a return towards the end of the current campaign. "If you are very positive you would say (he'll be back in) April," Wenger told the club's website. "If you're a bit cautious you say May. It is virtually the rest of the season.—*Internet*

## Manchester City deny chief executive lied to fans

MANCHESTER, 23 Dec—Manchester City insisted on Tuesday they had not lied to their supporters over when they approached Roberto Mancini to become their new manager. In a prepared statement at Monday's news conference to present

Mancini as the replacement for the sacked Mark Hughes City chief executive Garry Cook claimed the Italian had agreed to join the club on Friday, two days after a 3-0 defeat to Spurs.

Mancini appeared to contradict that statement, however, by revealing that he had first met with City chairman Khaldoon Al-Mubarak in London a fortnight ago.

British press reports Tuesday were overwhelmingly critical of the way in which City had gone about sacking Hughes and bringing in Mancini, while fans phoned up Eastlands to complain about the club's conduct.—*Internet*



Roberto Mancini

## Biasi replaces Marino as Udinese coach

ROME, 23 Dec—Udinese's coach Pasquale Marino stepped down and was replaced by Gianni De Biasi, the *Italian Serie A club* said on Tuesday.

Marino had directed Udinese for two years and led the team with a flying start of the current season. However, Udinese won only two games since early October and is standing 14th.

The 53-year-old De Biasi has been out of work for a year after being sacked by Torino.

*Xinhua*

## Blood test could derail Pacquiao-Mayweather clash

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—A much-anticipated fight between Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao could be in danger because of a standoff over drug-testing procedures, reports said on Tuesday.

Filipino Pacquiao had agreed to have blood taken for testing before the initial media conference and after the fight but would not agree to have blood drawn within 30 days of the bout, *Golden Boy Promotions* said in a statement on Tuesday.

Golden Boy is representing the Mayweather camp, while Top Rank are Pacquiao's promoters.

The Mayweather camp wants Olympic-style testing procedures to be adopted, as mandated by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which involve random blood and urine sampling prior to and after the fight.

Richard Schaefer, CEO of Golden Boy, said Top Rank President Todd duBoef had informed him that Pacquiao did not want to have blood taken within 30 days of the fight.

*Internet*



File photos show US boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr, left, prepares to spar at a gym in east London on 22 May, 2009, and Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, weighs in for the junior welterweight boxing match against British boxer Ricky Hatton, on 1 May, 2009, in Las Vegas.—*INTERNET*

## Sunderland's Turner banned for four games



Sunderland defender Michael Turner

LONDON, 23 Dec—Sunderland defender Michael Turner will now serve a four-game ban for his sending-off against Manchester City after the Football Association (FA) added an extra match to the usual suspension.

He will miss the Boxing Day Premier League clash with Everton, the trip to Blackburn two days later as well as the FA Cup third round tie against non-league Barrow and

the home game against Bolton on 9 January.

Turner won't be available again until Sunderland face current Premier League leaders Chelsea on 9 January.

He was sent-off by referee Andre Marriner during the closing stages of Sunderland's 4-3 Premier League loss away to City at Eastlands on Saturday after catching Gareth Barry with an elbow.

Sunderland manager Steve Bruce branded the decision a joke and announced the club would appeal.

The Black Cats argued the standard three-game ban is excessive but an independent FA regulatory commission landed Turner with a four-game ban on Tuesday, effectively for wasting their time, as they said the appeal had no chance of success.—*Internet*



File photo shows, a scallop dish made by Susan Spicer in New Orleans which uses LSU's Jazzmen rice.—INTERNET

## iPhone most used mobile phone in US: Nielsen

BEIJING, 23Dec—The iPhone 3G is crowned the most-used mobile phone in the U.S., according to data published by market research company Nielsen on Wednesday. Owing 4 percent of an “embedded base of all subscribers” from Jan. to Oct. in the U.S. market, Apple’s device tops a list that includes several competing handsets such as RIM’s BlackBerry and mobile phones made by LG, Motorola, and Samsung iPhone 3G’s

accumulative sale is just past the BlackBerry 8300 series (3.7 percent), followed by the RAZR V3 series (2.3 percent) and the LG enV2 (2.1 percent). Though this Apple handset ranks first on the list, both LG and RIM hold a higher total market share when all of their handsets are combined. Apple also scored in the top 10 of the most accessed brands over mobile phones, said Nielsen.

Internet

### MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (24-12-2009) (Thursday)

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

#### Local Transmission

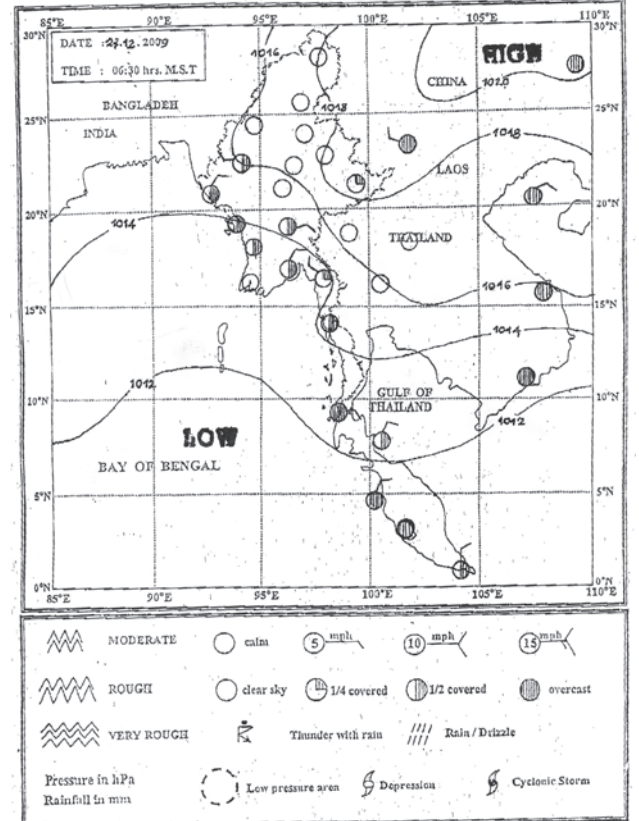
- \* Signature Tune
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- \* Lacquer painting workmanships from Sandadaw Pyae Pagoda
- \* Blue Sea
- \* A Mirror Reflecting Rakhine Architecture (Shitthaung Stupa)
- \* Enjoy our Shan Food
- \* Myanmar Modern Song
- \* The Legacy of Painting
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

#### Europe/ North America Transmission

- \* Signature Tune
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- \* Lacquer painting workmanships from Sandadaw Pyae Pagoda
- \* Blue Sea
- \* A Mirror Reflecting Rakhine Architecture (Shitthaung Stupa)
- \* Enjoy our Shan Food
- \* Myanmar Modern Song
- \* The Legacy of Painting
- \* Myanmar Modern Song
- \* Let's go to the Zoo (Animal Show)
- \* Myanma Traditional Musical Instruments: Timing Bell, Si & Wa
- \* Village Libraries: Constant Source of Knowledge for rural people
- \* Everyone has a life
- \* Myanmar Modern Song
- \* Memory of Good Time imprinted on My Mind
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

#### Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2009

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (7°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) below December average temperatures in Lower Sagaing Division, (3°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-3°C), Namhsam and Loilem (0°C) each, Pinlaung, Heho and Mogok (3°C) each, Lashio and Katha (4°C) each and Pyin Oo Lwin (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-12-2009 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 23-12-2009 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-12-2009 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 22-12-2009 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-12-2009 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 22-12-2009.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

**State 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 24-12-2009:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-12-2009:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-12-2009:** Partly cloudy.



Thursday, 24 December  
View on today

#### 7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

#### 7:15 am

- မြတ်ဂုဏ်တော်သခင် (သန်းမြတ်စိုး-တေးရေး-မောင်မောင်လတ်)

#### 7:25 am

- To Be Healthy Exercise

#### 7:30 am

- Morning News

#### 7:40 am

- Nice & Sweet Song

#### 7:55 am

- Dance of National Races

#### 8:05 am

- အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

#### 8:15 am

- Dance Variety

#### 8:30 am

- Musical Programme

#### 8:40 am

- International News

#### 8:45 am

- “မပြောမပြီးမတီးမမြည်”

#### 4:00 pm

- Martial Song

#### 4:10 pm

- Musical Programme

#### 4:25 pm

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

#### 4:40 pm

- Cute Little Dancers

#### 4:50 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ရေးရှပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ်(စီးပွားရေးပညာ အထူးပြု) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)

#### 5:05 pm

- Songs For Uphold National Spirit

#### 5:15 pm

- ပြည်သူ့နိတိ “ကိုယ်ချင်းစာ”

#### 5:45 pm

- မူလန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

#### 5:55 pm

- “မိမိဆန္ဒအလျောက်နှစ်သိမ့် ဆွေးနွေးခြင်းနှင့် HIV ပိုးရှိမရှိစစ်ဆေးခြင်း”

#### 6:00 pm

- Evening News

#### 6:15 pm

- Weather Report

#### 6:20 pm

- ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောနေ့ရက်များ “ကျွန်တော်နှင့် ကောက်ညှင်းပေါင်း” (မိုးမိုးသူရလင်း၊ သခင်၊ ယမင်းမြင့်သိန်းကစ်ကစ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်သူရ)

#### 6:35 pm

- ထူးဆန်းတွေ့လာများကိုသိပုံ ဖြင့်ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း

#### 7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာလောင်းရိပ်” (အပိုင်း- ၂၃)

#### 8:00 pm

- News
- International News
- Weather Report
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကိုယ်ရံတော်” (အပိုင်း- ၂)
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်တေးသံသာ” (အပိုင်း-၆)

- ★ 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

### Traditional Myanmar Gold Embroideries valued by international nations

Article: *Maung Maung Htwe (MNA)*;  
Photos: *Tha Nyan & Yan Gyi Aung (MNA)*

Myanmar has stood as a country with its monarchs and culture since the time immemorial. Myanmar arts and crafts have been handed down from generation to generation in the course of history and as a

result, it has been able to preserve cultural heritage of motherland till now.

Traditional Myanmar gold embroidery is one of  
(See page 9)



Traditional Myanmar embroidery artwork.

### Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tourney continues

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec— The second round robin of the 48<sup>th</sup> Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament for 2009 continued at No (1) football ground here this evening.

In the match, Southern Command team beat No 11 LID team 3-1.

MNA

### Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—According to the observations at (07) hrs (42) min and (02) sec MST today, a moderate earthquake of intensity 5.8 Richter Scale jolted outside Myanmar (Indonesia) about 1300 miles south-southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

### Significant night temperatures

(23-12-2009)

Haka	(-3°C)
Namhsan and Loilem	(0°C)
Pinlaung, Heho and Mogok	(3°C)
Lashio and Katha	(4°C)
PyinOoLwin	(5°C)