



# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 26 December, 2009

### 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

## Prime Minister receives Member of House of Councillors of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a Japanese delegation led by Member of the House of Councillors Mr Hideo Watanabe at the Government Office here yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call together with the Prime

Minister were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, and departmental heads. The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa.

MNA

## True patriotism

- \* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- \* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

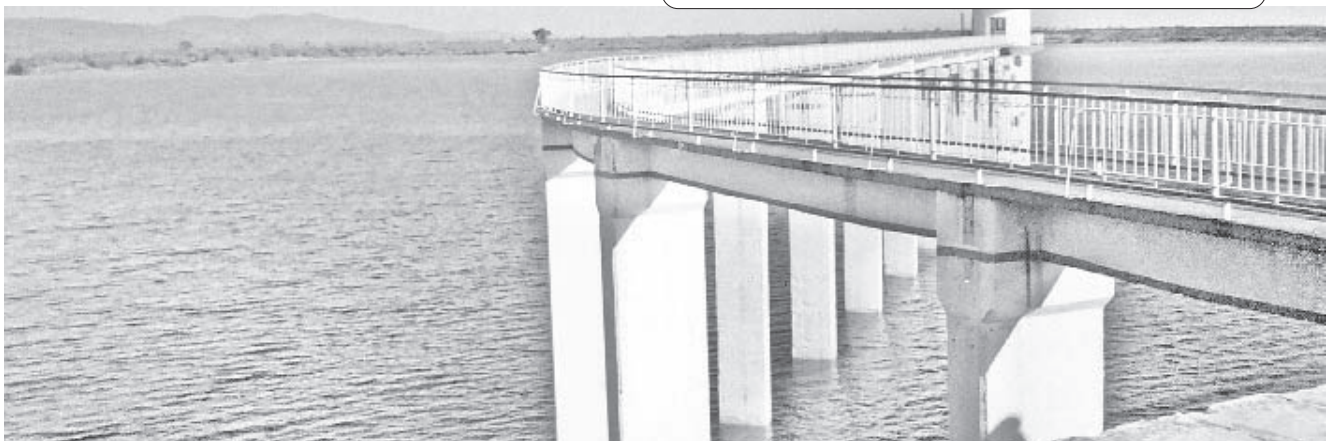


*Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Japanese delegation led by member of the House of Councillors Mr Hideo Watanabe at the Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.*

MNA

## Ma Mya Dam benefits 10,000 acres of farmlands

Byline & Photos: *Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)*



*Photo shows Ma Mya Dam.*

(See page 7)



## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 26 December, 2009

### For sustainable exploitation of marine resources

Myanmar is blessed with aquatic and territorial resources in abundance. With the 2832 kilometers long coast, and four large rivers: Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Chindwin and Sittoung, Myanmar is a land where marine resources are inexhaustible.

Due to the growing population, the consumption of fish and prawn is on the increase, and water resources such as fish and prawn are in demand.

In its bid to achieve the objective of all-round development in producing meat and fish at home, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has been taking a variety of measures such as breeding fish and prawn extensively, and boosting fishing in the sea, rivers and creeks in line with the rules and regulations. It exports fish and prawn surpluses to earn foreign exchange.

Now, the ministry not only fulfils the domestic demand of fish, prawn and marine resources, but also exports the surpluses to help the nation earn more foreign exchange. It will be able to distribute marine resources on a broader scale at home and abroad, if it has more access to advanced fishing methods.

The Fisheries Department is now very careful to ensure sustainable exploitation of marine resources for adequate local supply and export. In order to achieve the goal, the department releases fingerlings and shrimps into natural lakes, rivers, creeks, dams and the sea, prohibit fishermen from fishing in the in which female fish and prawns go upstream to lay eggs and designating prohibited areas and periods, and giving talks on prevention of catching, collecting and transporting fish.

The people are therefore to conserve the water resources in collaboration with the government for ensuring sustainable harness of fish and prawn.

## PEOPLE'S VOICES

- \* 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

### Ayeyawady Myitsone Dam Project launched



Minister Col Zaw Min addresses the launching of Myitsone Dam Project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Soe Win, together with Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, and President Mr Lu Qizhou of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) and members visited Ayeyawady Myitsone Dam Project site, downstream of the confluence of the Maykha and Malikha rivers near

Tanphe Village in Myitkyina on 21 December.

The director and officials of No (5) Construction Group under the Hydropower Project reported on the project, ongoing pre-engineering work, follow-up programmes, and arrangements for the launch of the project. The commander and Minister Col Zaw Min fulfilled the requirements.

The commander, the minister and the president of CPI attended the ceremony to launch Myitsone Dam Project. Also

present on the occasion were departmental heads at state level, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China Mr Zong Hua, and CPI Vice President Mms. Zhang Xiaolu.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Win, Minister Col Zaw Min and the president of CPI delivered speeches. The commander, the minister, the CPI president and officials formally launched the project, and inspected construction tasks, and the site chosen for the main dam.

On 22 December, Commander Maj-Gen Soe

Win, Minister Col Zaw Min, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mr Lu Qizhou and members inspected Power of Chibwenge Dam Project in Chibwe. In response to the reports by officials concerned, Minister Col Zaw Min attended to the needs.

At the site chosen for Panwah Border Trade Camp in Panwah, the official of the Directorate of Border Trade reported on work progress, and plan to accommodate staff members. The commander and the minister attended to the requirements.

MNA

### 70 companies take part in Electronics & Lifestyle 2009 Exhibition

YANGON, 24 Dec—Electronics and Lifestyle 2009 was opened at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road this morning.

Managing Director U Thet Lwin Shwe of IEMS Co Ltd, Managing Director Dr Aung Thein of Nibban Electric & Electronics and responsible persons cut a ribbon to open the exhibition and looked round the booths.

A total of 140 booths from 70 companies are being displayed in the exhibition which is mainly sponsored by Nibban Electric & Electronics. Energy saving products of Panasonic, Chang Hong and Mitsubishi, latest laptops and software systems of Acer, Lucky Bird, Blu Ray, KMD, King Empire, Cyber City,

NCTC, Unique, Red Link, P.I.T, Trust Net, Sm<sup>3</sup>, MBC, Integra, Golden Rain, Ubifind, Micro Peacock, transformers of Asia General Electric, Online U.P.S of Golden Lion and I.E.M, induction cookers of Future Step, Fudak, and AEK, printers and copiers of Cannon and Concordia, modern electronics and household utensils of Ever Seiko, Amtt Company, Lifeline, Smart Electronic Dictionary, Toshiba Kyaw Win, Three Friends Trading, Setra, Revo, Rinnai, Aung Myanmar, Atlas, Romanson, Rhythm, Moon Fancy,

MNZ, Khind, Maco, Mistral, Asahi, Omical, Polytron, Standard, Zulex, Universal Computer, Myanmar Alpha, and Peninsula Enterprise (Citizen), mobile handsets and accessories of New Mobile, DO CO MO, Great Mobile, Mobile Friend, and Hisense, furniture of Ocean Glory (Lecco). Universal Furniture, Nat Ray (Gold Coil), Coffer Manufacturing, and Golden Hook are on display in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be opened from 9 am to 6 pm daily till 27 December.—MNA

Electronics & Lifestyle 2009 Exhibition packed with visitors.—MNA





Newport Beach firefighters work at scene of a fatal accident on the East Coast Highway east of Bayside Drive in Newport Beach on 24 Dec, 2009. One person was killed and others were injured.—INTERNET

## Pakistan to try five Americans over terrorism charges

ISLAMABAD, 25 Dec — Pakistani will try five American men over terrorism charges who were believed to have gone missing from the Washington, DC area last month, and arrested earlier this month in the South Asian country, a senior official said on Thursday.

District Police Officer Dr Usman told a news conference in the north-eastern Pakistani city of Sargodha that interrogation of the suspects has been completed and they would be tried over terrorism charges. The men,

between 18 and 20, were taken into custody earlier this month in a raid on a house in Sarghoda, 190 kms southeast of the Pakistani capital Islamabad, in the eastern Punjab province.

Usman said that all men will be produced in an anti-terrorism court Friday

and the court will be requested to hand over the accused to police for further questioning. Usman said that links of the arrested men with Pakistani banned groups have been proved during investigation and terrorism charges have been registered against them. — Xinhua

## Iraq attacks kill scores on eve of Christmas, Ashura

HILLA, 25 Dec — Twenty-seven people were killed and more than 100 wounded in a string of attacks across Iraq on Thursday ahead of Christmas and the Shiite commemoration ceremonies of Ashura. In the worst attack, 15 people including a provincial councillor were killed and 70 wounded when twin bombs struck outside a busy bus station in Hilla, south of Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.—Internet

## PM says Pakistan not to allow Taliban to re-organize

ISLAMABAD, 25 Dec — Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that his government will not allow Taliban to re-organize after the death of their leader Baitullah Mehsood. Taliban network has been eliminated after the death of Baitullah Mehsood, and we will not allow them to reorganize," Gilani told a news conference.

Xinhua



Afghans check buildings destroyed in a suicide bombing attack the previous night in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 25 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

## Afghan senator killed by police

KABUL, 25 Dec — An Afghan senator was shot dead by police when his



car failed to stop at a checkpoint, the Interior Ministry says. Senator Mohammad Younus was driving home when he was shot in Pol-e Khomri, capital of northern Baghlan Province. Police say they ordered Mr Younus's car to

stop and opened fire when it failed to do so. A gun battle then broke out with his bodyguards, they say. The checkpoint had been set up as part of a planned ambush of Taliban fighters following a clash on Tuesday.— Internet

## Taleban video claims to be of captured US soldier

KABUL, 25 Dec — The Taleban released on Friday a video purporting to show a US soldier who was captured more than five months ago in eastern Afghanistan.

The media arm of the Afghan Taleban announced last week on an affiliated Web site that a new videotape of Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl was forthcoming. They did not name the American captive, but the only one known is airborne infantryman who was captured by the Afghan Taleban in

Paktika Province on 30 June.

It could not be confirmed immediately that it was Bergdahl in the new video, which was released to *The Associated Press* and other news organizations.

A man is shown seated, facing the camera, wearing sunglasses and what appears to be a US military helmet and uniform. A caption below the man speaking says "War prisoner: Bowe Robert Bergdahl."

On one side of the im-

age it says: "An American soldier imprisoned by the Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan." The man identifies himself as Bergdahl, born in Sun Valley, Idaho, and gives his rank, birth date, blood type, his unit and mother's maiden name before beginning a lengthy verbal attack on the US conduct of the war in Afghanistan and its relations with Muslims. He appears healthy, and doesn't appear to have been abused.

Internet

*This image made from surveillance video released by the Dickson City Police via WNEP-TV, shows an unidentified woman leaving a Wal-Mart with a purse that contained about \$5,000 in cash, on 24 Dec, 2009, in Dickson City, Pa. Police released the image in hopes of identifying the woman who took the purse from a bench inside a Wal-Mart store in Dickson City.— INTERNET*



## Bomb blast wounds three civilians in Taleban birthplace

KABUL, 25 Dec — Three civilians were injured as a bomb went off in Kandahar, the birthplace of Taleban in south Afghanistan on Thursday, a police officer said. "In the incident which occurred at 01:30 pm local time three civilian passersby were injured," Mohammad Anwar told Xinhua.

He blamed Taleban militants for carrying out the blast, saying militants by organizing subversive activities want to sabotage peace in the province. Taleban outfit has yet to make comment.

Xinhua

## Afghanistan suicide bomber kills eight in Kandahar

KABUL, 25 Dec — A suicide bomber in a horse-drawn cart has killed eight people in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, police say. Police officers apparently tried to stop the bomber but he was able to detonate his explo-

sives near a hotel and local government office.

Five of the dead were in a nearby car, with three pedestrians also killed. The car was destroyed, leading police to initially think the bomb was inside it. Previous attacks in

Kandahar Province have been blamed on Taleban militants. — Internet



## Russia launches website for 2010 World Expo pavilion

Moscow, 25 Dec — An official website of the Russian Pavilion for the 2010 World Expo was launched on Thursday, providing info support for Russia's participation in the global grand gatherings. The website www.expo2010-russia.ru set in Russian, English and Chinese languages, contains the blueprint of the Russian Pavilion.

zans can know about not only the design idea and construction updates of the pavilion, but also the preparation work of the Shanghai Expo and news about other participant states.

Those Russians who are interested in visiting the Expo site can also log in the website to get information on visa, boarding and tourism.

From the website citi-

The state joint-stock company "All-Russia ex-

hibition centre" is fully responsible for Russia's entire exhibition work of the 2010 World Expo.

According to the company, during the Expo Russia will display the largest amount of items since Soviet-era.

Construction for the Russian Pavilion, with a total area of 6,000 square metres, was started in June.

Xinhua



The Indian Navy ship INS Vidhut (K48) is seen during an exercise in the Arabian Sea off the Porbandar coast on 2 December. India announced plans on Thursday to shift control of a major shipyard to the military to boost naval warship production amid complaints of delays in existing projects.—INTERNET

## China to enhance supports to small, medium enterprises in 2010

BEIJING, 25 Dec — China would enhance supports to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) next year with preferential tax policy and easier channels to raise fund, a senior official said on Thursday.

Li Yizhong, Minister of Industry and Information Technology, told members of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee that the government has set up a special fund under the central budget to promote the development of SMEs and increased input into the fund each year.

The government earmarked 10.89 billion yuan (1.59 billion US dollars) from the central budget to support SMEs development this year, more than doubled from 4.99 billion yuan in 2008, Li said.

At the end of September, China has 10.3 million registered enterprises, of which the SMEs accounted for more than 99 percent, he said.

Xinhua



Vehicles travel in blizzard conditions on Dodge Street in Omaha, Neb, on 24 Dec, 2009. A powerful storm spreading snow, sleet and rain across the nation's midsection glazed roads and disrupted flights on Thursday.—INTERNET

## Chinese motorcycle company operating in Vietnam eyes opportunities in China-ASEAN FTA

HANOI, 25 Dec — In a motorcycle shop on the Tay Son Street in Vietnamese capital city of Hanoi, two young attendants were busy introducing motorcycles with the logo of Chinese brand Lifan to customers.

The motorcycles sold in this shop were all produced in an industrial zone in Hung Yen Province thirty kilometres away from Hanoi. Eyeing

the market opportunities in Vietnam, Chinese motorcycle company Lifan established a production base in Hung Yenseven years ago. It has now grown into an industrial zone comprising of 11 factories making motorcycle parts and assembling motorcycles.

"As Vietnam and China embrace the upcoming China-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Free Trade Area (FTA) in the beginning of next year, the competitiveness of Lifan products will be further enhanced in Vietnamese market," Chen Jianyu, general manger of Lifan Vietnam told Xinhua in a recent interview. "The FTA will facilitate the two-way trade and investment, and thus lower the operation cost of the company," said Chen.

Xinhua

## Japan's jobless rate rises for first time in four months

TOKYO, 25 Dec — Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent in November from 5.1 percent in October, official figures showed on Friday. November marks the first rise in unemployment rate in four months, according to the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry.

The ratio of job offers to job seekers was at a three-month high, standing at a seasonally adjusted 0.45, up from 0.44 in October.

A total of 3.31 million people remain out of work in Japan, a rise of 750,000 people from a year earlier, according to a preliminary report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.— Xinhua

*Unemployed Japanese people search through job vacancies at an employment bureau in Tokyo. Japan's unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent in November from 5.1 percent in October, worsening for the first time in four months, the government said on Friday.*

INTERNET

## PetroVietnam to earn over \$14b this year

HANOI, 25 Dec — The Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group, PetroVietnam, is expected to earn a total revenue of 265 trillion Vietnamese dong (14.34 billion US dollars) this year, exceeding the yearly target by 25 percent, the group said in an emailed statement to Xinhua here on Friday.

Of its revenue, the group is estimated to pocket 7.82 billion US dollars from crude oil export turnover, overshooting this year's target by 34 percent. PetroVietnam will contribute 91 trillion Vietnamese dong (4.92 billion US dollars), or 34.3 percent of its total revenue, to the state budget this year, said the group.—Xinhua

## Jobless claims, goods orders signal modest rebound

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec — A fitful economic recovery is drawing strength from a stabilizing job market and signs that manufacturing will contribute to the rebound. The evidence signals a better than expected end to the year, though doubts remain about growth in 2010.

The latest signs of improvement came in two reports on Thursday. The

Labour Department said the number of newly laid-off workers filing claims for unemployment aid fell more than expected last week. The four-week average for claims, which smooths out fluctuations, fell for the 16th straight week, to its lowest point since September 2008, when the financial crisis hit with full force.

Further evidence of a

gradually healing economy was a Commerce Department report that orders to US factories for big-ticket durable goods rose in November. The overall increase was less than expected. But excluding the volatile transportation category, the gains were twice what economists had forecast.

Internet



## 23 killed in traffic accident in N Nigeria state

LAGOS, 25 Dec—Twenty-three persons aboard a trailer loaded with cattle were confirmed dead after a crash in northern Nigeria's Zamfara State, local media reported on Friday.

Twenty passengers were killed on the spot in the accident on Wednesday night at the Gidan Kano village along the Sokoto Gusau road. Another three died in a hospital. An witnesses said the trailer's driver lost control when he approached a very sharp bend at high speed at Gidan Kano and could not control it. The articulated vehicle then skidded off the road and somersaulted, witnesses said.

The witnesses said the trailer, which was conveying cattle to Lagos, was also overloaded with passengers who were poor travelers mostly hanging along the edges of the truck's body.— *Xinhua*

## 85 illegal weapons seized in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Dec—The Afghan authorities have recovered 85 rifles and ammunition from the Taleban and other militants groups over the past several months. The country's interior ministry here on Wednesday handed over the seized arms to the defence ministry.

Maj Abdul Waheed, an official with the defence ministry, told *Xinhua* at the hand-over ceremony that security forces and police personnel captured the illegal weapons during operations conducted in various parts of the nation. Some of the weapons were abandoned by the militants after hostile engagement with the law enforcement teams, said the officer. The seized weapons and ammunition are normally handed in to the interior ministry, which is in charge of the security and police forces.— *Xinhua*

Visitors try a digital game on the WMG3 Digital Game Expo in the Zhejiang World Trade International Centre in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 24 Dec, 2009. The expo lasts from 24 to 27 December with mainstream game products with digital interactive entertainment technologies.— *XINHUA*



## Ecuadorian police raid drug lab

QUITO, 25 Dec—The Ecuadorian Anti-Drug Police said on Thursday that it had discovered an illegal laboratory used to process cocaine hydrochlorate in Guayas province, west of the country. There were no detainees during the operation.

However, the police found chemical precursors, scales, microwaves and 1.5 kg of cocaine hydro-chlorate, used to produce drugs. According to local police, the lab, covering 100 hectares of land, was modified to process alkaloid, but it did not say when it was found.

The police currently is investigating if this lab was related to the largest Colombian rebel group — the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The Ecuadorian police so far has seized a total of 67.9 tons of drugs this year, a record amount in the country, and discovered five drug labs including this one.— *Xinhua*

## Texas refinery catches fire, no injuries reported

HOUSTON, 25 Dec—A crude unit at US refiner Valero Energy Corp's plant at Texas City was shut down after two small fires on Thursday morning, a spokesman for the company said. The initial fire was extinguished quickly, and a second small fire in a gas line was also out by about 10:30 am local time, company spokesman Fred Newhouse said.

There were no injuries and no environmental impact to the community caused by the fires, the company said. It said it's assessing the impact of the fires on its production.

The production capacity of the shut unit, one of the three crude units at the Texas City refinery, is 90,000 bpd, and the company has not set a timeline for the unit's reopening, according to Newhouse.

*Xinhua*

## Beef "Made in China" up with "Created in China"

BEIJING, 25 Dec—Beating Ericsson to a telecommunications bid in Sweden is like beating Toyota to an auto-making bid in Japan.

Yet an up-and-coming Chinese firm did beat Ericsson on its home turf, for what is still the Swedish company's forte.

And guess what, China's Huawei Technologies Co, Ltd landed with a 4G mobile phone infrastructure contract not because of its inexpensive "Made in China" products but thanks to its val-

ued "Created in China" technologies.

A 4G cellular system, successor to systems of 3G and 2G standards, must have target peak data rates of up to 100 megabytes per second and up to 1 gigabyte per second for low and high mobilities. It is therefore more technology than product that helps to materialize the ultra-broadband Internet access to mobile phone users. Telenor, offerer of the bid, chose Huawei for its unfailing technology and service rather than its competitive pricing.— *Xinhua*



## Over 2,000 French nationals detained in foreign countries

PARIS, 25 Dec—French State Secretary of Cooperation Alain Joyandet said on Thursday that there were 2,230 nationals detained in foreign countries and the government was trying to pull them back.

French authorities, including President Nicolas Sarkozy and Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, have committed themselves to "try all means to bring back those French nationals detained

abroad," Joyandet said at a news conference.

He specially mentioned Clotilde Reiss, a French woman lecturer charged of espionage and provoking unrest in Iran, and Michael Blanc, a French man confined in Indonesian prison after convicted for drug trafficking.

Arrested at Teheran airport on 1 July, Reiss stood trial on Wednesday for the third time in Iranian court, but no verdict

was issued as the judge demanding further hearing in spite of France's reiteration of her innocence.

Sentenced to life imprisonment in Indonesia, Blanc has served 10 years' confinement since being arrested in 1999. Also on Thursday, two French women charged of drug trafficking in 2008 were released from the Caribbean island nation Dominica.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## All Items from Xinhua News Agency

### Commonwealth Games rugby stadium on fire

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec—The rugby stadium under construction for next year's Commonwealth Games was on fire late Thursday in the Indian capital, according to local media.

Fire fighters took about two hours to extinguish the fire, which started in the venue seats and no casualties were reported, local media reported on Friday.

The Commonwealth Games take place during 3-14 Oct next year.— *Xinhua*

Technicians from Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, work on an ice sculpture in Hexigten Qi in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 25 Dec, 2009. Over 30 ice sculpture makers from Harbin arrived in Hexigten Qi to set up an ice sculpture park. *XINHUA*

## Russia test-launches RS-20V intercontinental missile

MOSCOW, 25 Dec—Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) successfully test-launched an RS-20V heavy intercontinental ballistic missile on Thursday, said a Defence Ministry spokesman. The missile was launched at 09:30 Moscow Time (0630 GMT) from a site in the southern Ural region of Orenburg. It accurately hit the target on the Kamchatka Peninsula of the Far East region, said the spokesman Vadim Koval.

Designed to test the missile's performance with extended service, the launch has proven the stability of the RS-20V's technological structure, and its readiness to perform combat duties, Koval said. The missile has been in operation for more than 21 years, the spokesman added. The RS-20V missile, usually referred to as SS-18 Satan by the West, is currently the world's most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile.—Xinhua

## Twelve militants killed in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Dec — At least 12 militants were killed on Friday during military operations in north-west Pakistan, local TV channel reported. Gunship helicopters and warplanes bombed the hideouts of the militants in Ferozkhel Mela region of Orakzai tribal agency, as a result eight militants were killed and 10 others injured, the private channel ARY News reported.

In the airstrikes, four hideouts and three vehicles were also destroyed. Meanwhile, sources said that the exodus of population continued from Orakzai regions, and the number of the displaced persons has reached to 2,70,000. Besides, at least four militants were killed in clash with security forces in Swat valley, North West Frontier Province.—Xinhua



Officials from the Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services stand on the edge of a collapsed bridge in Talaja town, some 270 kms from Ahmedabad, in August 2009. At least 17 people were killed and 30 others were feared trapped or drowned after a bridge collapsed in western India, officials said on Friday.—INTERNET

## 17 die as Indian bridge collapses

ODHPUR, 25 Dec —At least 17 people were killed and 30 others were feared trapped or drowned after a bridge collapsed in western India, officials said on Friday. The accident happened late on Thursday when the bridge under construction over the Chambal River in the state of Rajasthan collapsed.

The site of the accident was around 350 kilometres (220 miles) from Rajasthan city Jodhpur. "Rescue teams have found 17 bodies trapped between the collapsed bridge and many labourers are feared to have drowned," State Home Minister Shanti Dhariwal told AFP. Naval divers were conducting search operation in the river. The army, police and fire personnel were also assisting in the search.

Internet

## Ecuador to accuse Spanish Air Comet of alleged fraud

QUITO, 25 Dec — The Ecuadorean government will file an appeal against Spain's Air Comet for alleged fraud, the Migration Ministry said on Thursday. Ecuador is to accuse Air Comet and its legal representative in Ecuador, Germanico Maya, of alleged fraud, Acting Migration Minister Alexis Rivas said at a Press conference.

Clearly there were dishonesty and irresponsibility in Air Comet's operations, which caused damages, and in this case, to passengers who had bought its tickets, Rivas said, adding that his government demanded a preventive imprisonment of Maya. According to Rivas, Ecuador had evidence that Air Comet had a series of irregular operations, and the company continued offering services despite its liquidity and financial problems lately.—Xinhua

## New Zealand glider pilots break world distance record

Two New Zealanders have smashed a world distance gliding record, beating temperatures as low as minus 35 deg C to fly 2,500 km over nearly 15 hours.

Christchurch pilot Terry Delore and John Kokshoorn, originally from Christchurch but now living in Australia, touched down in Omarama in Central Otago Sunday night, having glided 2,501 km. They smashed the previous record by Klaus Ohlmann by about 80km, the Timaru Herald reported on Monday.

They took off from Omarama, flew to Ward in Marlborough, back to Clyde, near Alexandra, and then back up and level with Taihape in the North Island, before turning around and landing at Omarama. During the trip, the pair hit speeds of up to 200 km/h, but a rough patch over the Canterbury plains slowed the glider to about 80 km/h.

Flying at 28,000 feet, or 8.5 km high, for most of the way, the pair's water bags froze solid during the record-breaking flight.

They relied on "electric socks, hand warmers, three hats, polyprops, three shirts, gloves and all that sort of thing", Delore said. Delore bought the Ash 25 glider from Steve Fossett, a millionaire adventurer who died in a light plane crash in the Nevada desert two years ago.

## Twin murder phones police for an interview

After allegedly stabbing to death his ex-wife and her mother in Ordos, the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, the suspect phoned the cops, saying he wanted to interview them.

The accused is now in police custody. The suspect went to his ex-wife's house in the early hours of last Saturday and following a quarrel stabbed her and

her mother.

Neighbours phoned the police, who rushed to the scene and found the two bodies bathed in blood.

The police launched a manhunt for the suspect, who, a day later, phoned them, asking for an appointment for an interview. He was arrested when he arrived at the police station.

## Jackson death date popular in Spain's Christmas lottery

Spaniards hope ticket number 25609, the day pop star Michael Jackson died, is a winner in their annual Christmas lottery "The Fat One" which is billed as the world's richest, a website said.

The ticket, corresponding to 25 June, 2009, "is one of the most requested" this year, according to a statement from Ventura24.es, a website for lottery ticket sales.

The combination 66666 "charged with superstitious and demoniac symbolism", like every year is also a very popular choice, said the statement.

"The Fat One" — "El Gordo" in Spanish — is a national institution, with millions glued to their television screens on 22 December watching the old-fashioned ritual of schoolchildren chanting in Gregorian-style the numbers



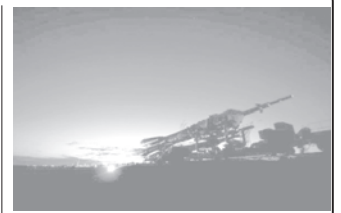
Pop star Michael Jackson.

and prize amounts.

According to national statistics, 80 percent of Spaniards play "El Gordo", using half their annual lottery spending on the festive draw.

The Spanish lottery gave out over two billion euros (2.9 billion dollars) in prize money last year, nearly twice the amount distributed in 1995.

Although other draws around the world have bigger individual top prizes, lottery experts rank "El Gordo" as the world's richest lottery for the total sum paid out.



The Soyuz TMA-17 spacecraft is rolled out by train to the launch pad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The launch of the Soyuz spacecraft with Expedition NASA Flight Engineer Timothy J Creamer of the US, Soyuz Commander Oleg Kotov of Russia and Flight Engineer Soichi Noguchi of Japan, is scheduled for 21 December, 2009 at 3:52 am.

## Sherlock Holmes unveiled at London premiere

London's Leicester Square stepped back in time. Old fashioned street lamps and even fog could be seen at the premiere of Guy Ritchie's new movie Sherlock Holmes. HYPERLINK "http://uk.news.yahoo.com/4/20091215/toddly-sherlock-holmes-unveiled-at-london-p-cc3a409.html" \l "ynw-article-part2" Skip related content.

While this is a move away from the gangster films that Madonna's ex husband is famous for, it is not a complete diversion.

## NEWS ALBUM

## Minister inspects Central Printing Press, Photolitho Printing Press

YANGON, 25 Dec— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met the staff members of the divisions at the Central Printing Press under Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

He spoke words of encouragement and presented cash awards to them.

The minister inspected maintenance work and performances of the printing presses. Officials concerned conducted the minister

round the Central Printing Press.

On arrival at the photolitho printing press on Ngahtatkyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, the minister spoke words of encouragement and presented cash awards to the staff members.

He inspected the printing of exercise books, weekly and monthly journals, and magazines, maintenance of the printing presses, and storage of raw materials in the stores, and gave instructions,



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects photolitho printing press on Ngahtatkyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township.—MNA



calling for regular maintenance of the machines of the printing presses, regularly supervising tasks ranging from the beginning to the finishing touch for quality control and cooperation and coordination, minimizing loss and wastage, improving staff welfare, preventive measures against fire, and keeping the press clean.—MNA

## Ma Mya Dam benefits 10,000 acres of farmlands

Byline & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

(from page 1)

For the people to enjoy development in all aspects, the government is undertaking regional development tasks. In that regard, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is implementing large, medium and small dam projects for economic development of the country and regional development as well as for extended growing of paddy, sugarcane, cotton and beans and pulses.

Ma Mya Dam was built in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Division by embanking Ma Mya Creek. The embankment is 11,800 feet long and 150 feet high and it is of earthen type. The dam can store 70,000 acre feet of water. It was built in order to prevent farms in both sides of Mamy Creek from flood and to irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland in Myanaung and Ingapu Townships.

Our news team left Kunchaung Dam along Patheingyi Road. About one and a half miles north of the road was Ma Mya Dam. Two entrance roads to Ma Mya Dam were built. They are 24 feet wide and five miles long gravel roads and serviceable all the year round. On arrival at the hall of Ma Mya Dam, we were welcomed by staff officer U Khin Maung Than (Civil), deputy staff officer U Myo Myint (Quality Control) and party. They explained us about supply of water.

The dam was built by Construction Group-9 of the Irrigation Department. We were pleased to see roads, gardens, bank, control tower and water surface. They explained to us, "Pre-engineering works such as road construction and land survey was com-



Main right canal of Ma Mya Dam.

pleted in February 2002. Geological survey was finished in May 2002, buildings in 2001-2002 financial year, earthen embankment on 21 April, laying stones and construction of Cofferd Dam on 31 May 2007, outlet conduit in 2004-2005.

There are 11 Micro Hydropower Stations in one drop on the right main canal. It was able to supply electric power to two villages in the past and now can supply electric power to 1,085 households in nine villages. Supply of water from right canal for summer paddy is 731.21 acres in 2006-2007, 1999.39 acres in 2007-2008, 65.00 acres in 2008-2009 (due to major repair to the embankment) and 4450 acres in 2009-2010.

The left main canal has completed by 50 percent. So, it can supply water to 50 acres. It is 16 miles long. Now, a total of 4,500 acres of summer paddy be grown with the supply of water from the two canals. Although the region has an average annual rainfall of 50 inches, it is dry in summer. Ma Mya Creek is a good source of water for the dam. The government has spent million of kyats on the Dam. Now, the state, the people and the farmers are enjoying the fruits of the dam. Local people, on their part, are to preserve the long existence of the dam and the canals.

Translation: MT  
Kyemon (24-12-2009)

## Second liver transplant surgery performed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addressed the preliminary meeting with surgeons and assistant surgeons, who would engage in the second liver transplant surgery in Myanmar, at New Yangon General Hospital on 23 December morning.

In his address, the minister said that the second liver transplant surgery will be a landmark in the medical history of Myanmar; that in the first surgery, the liver was

The minister attended to the submissions on requirements presented by Professor Dr Norman Hla and Professor Dr Tun Oo and members, surgeons and medical superintendents.

The second liver transplant surgery was performed at the hospital at 10.30 am yesterday. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe and officials observed it.

Nine surgical specialists led by Myanmar surgical

anaesthetic specialists: Professor Dr Tin Myint and Associate Professor Dr Kyi Lin and Surgical Specialists performed an operation at 9 am to cut half the liver of the donor U Lin Htet Hlaing, 32, who is brother-in-law of the patient. The operation was over at 7.46 pm.

The piece of the liver was kept by the liver keeping team to avoid any damage to it.

The anaesthetist team gave the patient anaesthetic at 9.20 am, and the liver transplant surgery

CCTV. They met the surgeons and anaesthetists and fulfilled the requirements.

The operation was reinforced by 12 nurses led by Matron Daw Saw Yu May, In-charge of the operation theatre.

Cardiovascular Surgery Specialist Professor Dr Khin Maung Aye, Professor Dr Khin Maung Lwin, and Associate Professor Dr Win Win Kyaw; the team of physicians led by Professor Dr Nyunt Thein and Associate Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun, and the liver treatment team led by Professor Dr U Than Sit, Associate Professor Dr Win Naing, and Associate Professor Dr Mya Mya Yee; Professor Dr Lin Lin Tun of the X-ray Department, Professor Dr Daw Aye Aye Myint of



Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets Member of the House of Councillors Mr Hideo Watanabe at the Government office in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1)—MNA



Surgical specialists led by Dr Norman Hla performing liver transplant to patient U Aung Myint Naing.—HEALTH

obtained from a late person, but this time, a piece of liver will be obtained from a donor; and that the medical experts are urged to work hard for successful completion of the operation.

specialists: Professor Dr Norman Hla, Professor Dr Tun Oo and Associate Professor Dr Daw Tin Tin Mar performed the surgery on patient U Aung Myint Naing, 49.

Before the operation, eight anaesthetists led by

began at 10.45 am. The piece of the liver was transplanted at 10.15 pm, and the operation was completed at 6.15 am today.

The minister, the deputy minister and party watched the operation on



Surgical specialists cut half of liver out of donor U Lin Htet Hlaing.

HEALTH



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe pose for a documentary photo together with surgical specialists, anaesthetists and nurses at new Yangon General Hospital.—HEALTH

Pathological Department, and pathologists, Pathologist Dr Daw Thida Aung of the National Blood Department, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Kyin, Acting Medical Superintendent Professor Dr Thein Lwin of Yangon General Hospital, and Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Than Mon contributed to the surgery.

At 9.30 am today, the minister, the deputy minister and directors-general inspected the condition of the patient and the donor,

and health care to them and comforted them, and fulfilled the requirements.

The second liver transplant surgery was carried out with the funds of the State. The minister, the deputy minister and officials concerned are attending to the needs of the patients. The patient and the donor are receiving treatment from specialists in-charge and 14 nurses in the Intensive Care Unit. Now, they are getting better.

MNA

Donate blood



## New Year Special Sales of Gamon Pwint launched

YANGON, 25 Dec—Gamon Pwint Department Store has launched special sales in which customers can enjoy up to 50% discount for men, women and children's wear all of its branches including Gamon Pwint Shopping Mall on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. The branded men's wear like Vanson, Luigi batai, Valention Rudy, Venheusen, Pierre Cardin, Monza and Port Land are also on sale with up to 50% discount with buy one get one programme and 2010 calendar present for every customer who purchase over K 10,000. Various kinds of

foodstuff and household utensils are on sale at the car park of the shopping mall with over 30 stalls where shoppers can also enjoy food of Myanmar,

Shan and Thailand. Moreover, on 25, 26, 27, 31 December of 2009 and 2, 3, 4 January of 2010, model show, product show,

entertainments of comedians and vocalists can be enjoyed in addition to interesting games for children.

MNA



Gamon Pwint Department Store launching its special sales.

MNA

## Myanmar Police Force Chief's Shield Myanmar martial arts, Karatedo and Taekwondo competitions conclude

YANGON, 25 Dec—The opening and concluding ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Police Force Chief's Shield Myanmar martial arts, Karatedo and Taekwondo competitions in conjunction with prize presentation were held at Aung San Gymnasium yesterday, with an address by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi. Managers and players of battalions and units of states and divisions, and training school participated in the events.

The chief of MPF, and officers presented awards to Myanmar martial arts champion Battalions Control Command team, Taekwondo and Karatedo champion Yangon Division Police Force team and individual prize winners in the events.

MNA

# Machanbaw, little hilly township in Kachin State

Byline: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: U Hta Man Yon (Putao)



Kaunghmulon Bridge under construction over Malikha River near Kaunghmulon Village.

(from page 16) gardens and 2,041,875 acres of tea saplings and grafts from 2009-2010 to 2015-2016. So far, 55 acres have been put under

tea in some wards and vil-

lages. The township has 10 acres of tung oil plants that grow naturally. So far, departments concerned

have grown 80 acres and houses in the villages, 182 acres, totalling 262. The township is saving seeds to grow tung oil plants.

It gets extra incomes from farms 55 acres of persimmon, 147 acres of lemon, 35 acres of orange, and 20 acres of pear along with livestock farms.

According to Township Engineer U Tin Win Hlaing, Machanbaw Township has got hundreds of miles of new laterite, gravel and tarred roads.

In the township are a basic education high school, two basic education middle schools, 33 basic education primary schools, a 25-bed township hospital, a 16-bed station hospital, two rural health centres, and eight health centres (branches). A health centre each is appointed with a doctor,



U Khaung Lan Dee, Chairman of Machanbaw Township Peace and Development Council.

million kyats on road projects; 9.2 million kyats, on bridge projects; 370,000 kyats, on rural bridge projects; and 5.8 million kyats on rural bridge projects. Much of the plain area in the township is occupied by motorways. Houses are built on slopes of mountain ranges.

It grows summer paddy on a large scale along the bank of the Malikha River. Local people of Machanbaw



A road indicator on Machanbaw-Khaunglanphu-Pannandin-Nagmon Road.

four nurses, two health assistants, one female health assistant, and five midwives.

From 1988 to date, the government has spent 38.84 million kyats on the health sector; 25 million kyats, on the education sector; 136.68

and Putao townships will be able to enjoy a higher socio-economic life if they extend growing crops, reclaiming the vacant lands.

**Translation: MS**  
Myanma Alin:  
22-12-2009



A pleasant view of Malikha River from the side of Machanbaw Township.

# Anya Thihadaw Yeylei Pagoda

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

There is a pagoda of some antiquity on a beautiful island in the Ayeyawady River in Shwebo District, Upper Myanmar. It is well known as "Anya Thihadaw Phaya". "Anya" is a prefix to denote Upper Myanmar. Thihadaw is the name of the pagoda. The original name of the pagoda was "Theinkadaw" but because the pagoda is situated at Thihadaw Village, it came to acquire the village's name. Of the three Yeylei pagodas [pagodas in the mid of water] in Upper Myanmar—Shwe Myitzu Pagoda on the island in Indawgyi Lake, Kachin State, Phaungdaw Pagoda on the island in Inlay Lake, southern Shan State and Anya Thihadaw Pagoda on the island in the Ayeyawady River in Shwebo District, the last mentioned is by far the oldest and most venerated pagoda.

The island on which Anya Thihadaw Pagoda stands is in the centre of the third defile of the Ayeyawady River, and it is only three miles south of Thabeikkyin, a thriving junction town on the Mandalay-Mogok motor highway that zigzags 99 u turns on the lofty forested hill ranges reaching out to the famous ruby mines area.

"Tradition ascribes the foundation of this Yeylei pagoda to the Buddhist Emperor Asoka in the third century B.C." But Myanmar history frequently mentions this pagoda in connection with Myanmar kings of Bagan, Inwa, and Konbaung dynasties.

King Alaungsithu of Bagan (1112-1167 AD) was a traveller king who toured not only his domains but also beyond them by land and water and sea. His travels at home, abroad and overseas were recounted in Myanmar chronicles with authentic facts decorated with fabulous fictions. Like *Odyssey*, sea adventures of an ancient Greek hero Ulysses, Alaungsithu's maritime voyages were crammed with tall tales. It was Sakka Deva, the Thunder God who persuaded him to abandon his crazy attempt to reach Mt. Maru the legendary mountain of the universe upon which was believed to be Tavatimsa the Celestial Kingdom of Sakka Deva. Alaungsithu was presented by Sakka Deva a piece of Tharetkhan wood (sandal wood) out of which five Buddha images were carved. In these images were encased sacred relics of the Buddha. On reaching his kingdom, the king enshrined the images "in five pagodas in 1115 AD four were in the neighbourhood of Pakhangyi in Pakokku District, the fifth and most picturesque is at the Thihadaw on an Ayeyawady island in Shwebo District. Two Buddha images, Shinbyu and ShinHla also given him by Sakka Deva were enshrined at Sagaing. All these pagoda sites were chosen by the wanderings of the white elephant as by the flight of birds," wrote GH Harvey in his *History of Burma*, 1925, quoting Myanmar historical sources.

The next king who was associated with Thihadaw Pagoda was king Alaungpaya, the founders of the Third Myanmar Union and of the Konbaung dynasty. He reigned and ruled 1753-1760 AD. He was the conqueror king and the unifier of the country. He led many triumphant military campaigns, reconsolidating the domains of his predecessors and carried out economic, social and religious works, wherever he marched with his victorious armies. He visited sacred

sites and pagodas to venerate, to repair and to renovate them such as Shwekyet Yet, Yang Aung Myin, and Shwe Taung U Chantha. Next he went upstream the Ayeyawady River to receive homage and allegiance from Shan Sawbwas (Chiefs) and to draw levies. He worshipped the Thihadaw Pagoda in the beautiful island and Zina Aung Char Shwebontha Pagoda at Tagaung.

Thihadaw Pagoda was a favourite place of pilgrimage for kings of Konbaung dynasty not only because of the sacredness and antiquity of the Buddha Image enshrined in it, but also because of the pleasant environment of the island it occupies. King Singu (1776-1782 AD) the third successor to king Alaungpaya was devout worshipper and renovator of Thihadaw Pagoda. Himself a poet and nature lover he spent most of his time out of his place on pilgrimage to distant pagodas. King Bodawpaya (1781-1819 AD) and King Mindon (1853-1878 AD) did not fail to repair and renovate the pagoda, though they could not visit and worship it personally.

During the reign of King Mindon, European envoys and economic prospectors arrived in Mandalay. With the royal permission, they toured distant places around the capital to prospect the natural resources of the country. In 1855 AD, Mr. Oldham, a geologist, visited Thihadaw Pagoda. The following account of him about this pagoda was reproduced in Colonel Henry Yule's book *Narrative of the Mission to the Court of Ava*. Colonel Henry Yule was the secretary of the British Diplomatic Mission to King Mindon, headed by Sir Arthur Phayre in 1867 AD.

"About thirty miles above Tsengoo, is Thihadaw a small village of not more than 19 houses on the west bank and exactly opposite to a small island in the stream, on which is situated an old pagoda and some Kyaungs which is protected by large piles and a framework of timbers, but even with this precaution it appears to be gradually wearing away. Round about the pagoda on Thihadaw Island are some very good bells not very large but very well cast. Of these there are seven and they form very nearly a correctly attuned chime. In fact a little filing from one of them would put them in perfect tune. They are sufficiently near being in tune to give by no means an unpleasant effect when struck in succession in chimes."

Having gone over the island I returned to my boat where a sight awaited me that I confess astonished me more than anything I have ever seen before."

"On nearing the island as we descended the river the headman in the boat had commenced crying out 'tet-tet' 'tet-tet', as hard as he could, and on my asking him what he was doing he said he was calling the fish. My knowledge of Burmese did not allow me to ask him further particular, and my interpreter was in the other boat unwell."

"But on my coming down to the boat again, I found it surrounded on both sides with large fish, some three or four feet long; a kind of blunt-nosed, broad-mouthed dog-fish. Of these there were, I suppose some fifty. In one group which I studied more than the others there were ten. These were at one side of the boat, half of their bodies, or nearly "half protruded vertically from the water, their mouths all gaping wide. The men

had some of the rice prepared their dinners and with this they were feeding them, taking little pellets of rice, and throwing there down the throats of the fish. Each fish, as he got something to eat, sank and having swallowed his portion came back to the boat-side for more. The men continued occasionally their cry of 'tet-tet'; 'tet-tet' and putting their hands over the gunnels of the boat, stroke down the fish on the back precisely as they would stroke a dog."

"This I kept up for nearly half an hour moving the boat slightly about and invariably the fish came at call and were fed as before. The only effect which the stroking down or patting on the back of the fish seemed to have was to cause them to gape wider for their food. During March I am told there is a great festival here and it is a very common trick for the people to get some of the fish into the boat, and even to gild their backs by attaching some gold leaf, as they do in the ordinary way to pagodas, etc. On one of these fish remains of the gilding were visible. I never was so amused or astonished. I wished to have one of the fishes to take away as a specimen, but people seemed to think it would be a kind of sacrilege, so I said nothing more on that point. The Phoongyis are in the habit of feeding them daily, I was informed. Their place of abode is the deep pool formed at the back of the island by the two currents meeting round the sides. And it is it appears quite a sight, which the people from great distances come to see, as well as to visit the pagoda which is said to be very ancient and much venerated."

When the British occupied Mandalay in 1885 AD, the sacred Tharetkhan Image is found in the royal shrine of Mandalay Palace. With other Buddha images of the Mandalay Palace, the Tharetkhan Image was moved to Shwe Kyee Myint temple outside the walled palace city where it has been in the custody of the successive Pagoda Trustees.

On fullmoon days, during Buddhist lent and on special occasions, Tharetkhan Image is taken out of the vault to receive public veneration. The image is crammed with gems and jewellery that fill the casket which encases it. The reason of its removal to Mandalay Palace was not recorded. It seems that King Mindon or his predecessor kings who could not visit Thihadaw Pagoda might have removed Tharetkhan Image to their palace shrines for daily worship.

As to the seven bells at the pagoda with seven musical tones in sequence and the tamed dog-fish around the island, they were objects of much wonder and admiration by later western visitors to that place and recorded in their travelogues.

Every year in March, Thihadaw Pagoda Festival is held. It is a big fair drawing pilgrims, visitors and petty traders far and near, to worship the pagoda, to strike the seven-tone bells, to feed and gild sacred god-fish around the island.

Due to new infrastructures installed in the last two decades, the pagoda is accessible at anytime of the year. A modern highway from Mandalay to Mogok takes you to Thabeikkyin easily, from where you cross by a ferry to the island to enjoy the sublimity of the pagoda and the serenity of the environs.

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Two high-speed trains stop at the high-speed railway maintenance base in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 22 Dec, 2009.

INTERNET

## Wuhan-Guangzhou high speed railway to open

BEIJING, 25 Dec—The Wuhan-Guangzhou high speed railway will go into operation on Saturday with 28 passenger trains carrying an estimated 1,300 people.

Travel time between Wuhan, the capital of central China's Hubei Province, and Guangzhou, the capital of south China's Guangdong Province, will be cut to only three hours.

The high speed rail link is nearly nine-hundred and

90 kilometres in length and is built to the highest technical standards.

The stations along the line have distinct designs representing local styles and are built to be envi-

ronmental-friendly with easy access for disabled people. On Thursday, the first batch of five hundred passengers got to take a test ride.

Xinhua

## Search of car turns up gift-wrapped marijuana

JOPLIN, 25 Dec — Some people won't be getting the Christmas presents they were expecting. Missouri troopers seized about 20 pounds of marijuana from a car this week — some of it in luggage, and some in boxes wrapped as Christmas gifts.

The Highway Patrol says troopers found the marijuana in the car they stopped for speeding on Interstate 44 near Joplin. Two California women in the car gave troopers permission to search the vehicle. Both were charged on Tuesday with one marijuana-related count and released on \$1,000 bond.—Internet

## Dozens killed in Yemen air strike on al-Qaeda suspects

SANAA, 25 Dec — At least 30 suspected al-Qaeda militants have been killed by an air strike in a remote mountainous area of Yemen, security officials say. An unnamed official told reporters the strike took place as dozens of militants gathered in Shabwa Province, east of the capital, Sanaa.

Two senior al-Qaeda commanders in the Arabian Peninsula could be among the dead, he said. Al-Qaeda has carried out frequent attacks in Yemen in recent months. The Saudi government has recently expressed its concern about the resurgence of the movement in the region.—Internet



## Five killed as heavy rain, winds lash Morocco

TANGIERS, 25 Dec — Heavy rains and gale force winds battered parts of Morocco, killing at least five people and flooding large parts of the northern city of Tangiers, local authorities said on Thursday. Torrential rains lashed the Agadir region, where three people were killed when the vehicle they were travelling in was swept away by flood waters close to the Tazentout River, officials said.

In Casablanca, western Morocco, two buildings collapsed in the city's old quarter, killing two people and injuring 19, media reports said on Thursday. Several roads were blocked and rail traffic around Tangiers was suspended, the rail service said. Winds of up to 80

kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour) hit the Strait of Gibraltar, creating seven-metre high waves.

Traditional ferry services between Morocco and Spain are so far unaffected, said Ahmed Atmani, regional director for the North African country's national port authority. Atmani added, however, that high-speed catamaran links had been suspended until weather conditions improve.—Internet

*Heavy rains and gale force winds battered parts of Morocco, killing at least five people and flooding large parts of the northern city of Tangiers, local authorities said on Thursday.—INTERNET*



## A/H1N1 flu continues decline in US state of Illinois

CHICAGO, 25 Dec — H1N1 flu in the US state of Illinois declined with only two new deaths from the virus in the last week, according to an official report issued on Thursday.

Thursday's weekly update by the Illinois Department of Public Health also includes 41 new hospitalizations related to H1N1 flu. Last week, in comparison, state officials were reporting two new deaths and 99 new hospitalizations.

However, the department warned though H1N1 flu activity is decreasing in the state, residents still should get vaccinated.

Official sources said that the state director of public health, Dr. Damon Arnold was vaccinated on Wednesday for swine flu. Arnold says swine flu is still circulating and holiday parties and family get-togethers are a good opportunity for the flu to spread.—Xinhua

## A/H1N1 pandemic death toll rise in South Korea

SEOUL, 25 Dec — The death toll from A/H1N1 influenza in South Korea has increased for the second consecutive week while cases of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) have declined, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Family Affairs said on Thursday.

The ministry said in a Press release that an additional 22 deaths from the A/H1N1 virus were reported last week, increasing the total number of fatalities to 170 as of 19 Dec, and that 50 patients are currently being treated for severe flu complications at intensive care units.

However, the Ministry also said cases of ILI per 1,000 outpatients have dropped by 34.8 percent from the previous week to 12.32 patients, adding that the average number of daily antiviral prescriptions cut down by 25.4 percent to 15,258 cases.

"The prevalence of A/H1N1 flu disease has continued to diminish as we actively distributed antiviral drugs, but we're seeing more fatal cases in high-risk groups where proper vaccination is unavailable," a ministry official was quoted as saying by local media Yonhap news agency.—Xinhua

## Cambodia reports 544 cases of A/H1N1 flu with 6 deaths

PHNOM PENH, 25 Dec — The Cambodian government said on Friday that the number of A/H1N1 flu cases in the country has risen to 544 with six deaths. Ly Sovann, deputy director of the communicable disease control department of Ministry of Health said, as of Friday, six Cambodians died of A/H1N1 flu and the total cases reached 544.

Earlier this month, the government announced that five people died of the disease and 480 cases were confirmed. The infected cases were reported from 13 out of the country's 24 provinces and cities across the country.

The Cambodian Ministry of Health and WHO have continued their efforts in advising people around the country to protect themselves and the families, by saying each individual should cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of tissue in a bin; wash hands regularly with soap and hot water; do not spit in public; and avoid close contact with sick people.—Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GATI MAJESTIC VOYNO (92410)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI MAJESTIC VOYNO (92410) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 26.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV XIANG DA VOYNO (9050)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA VOYNO (9050) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 26.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING  
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**  
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**Arenas investigated after storing weapons in locker**

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—Washington Wizards star playmaker Gilbert Arenas was investigated after he admitted put unloaded guns in his locker, the NBA club said on Thursday.

"Arenas and the club are cooperating fully with law enforcement during its review of this matter and will have no further comment at this time," the club said in a statement.

The club said no ammunition was in his locked container. NBA labour regulations allow players to own firearms but ban them from having weapons at league facilities or while travelling on NBA-related matters.

All-Star guard Arenas told the *Washington Times* that he wanted his guns out of his house after his daughter Hamiley was born earlier this month, so he brought them to the locker. Arenas said he handed the guns to team security about a week after he took them there.

*Xinhua*

**Some struggles, a lot of hope, for tsunami orphans**

BANDA ACEHN, 25 Dec—The 2004 tsunami obliterated Pipit's village, wiped out her family and swept her through churning waters, cascading debris and hurtling bodies. On her first night as an orphan, at the age of 13, she slept next to a row of corpses. Five years later, she still has moments of sadness, especially during

holidays. But like many of Indonesia's more than 5,200 known tsunami orphans, she is making a life for herself. She has enrolled in university, plays the violin and plans to tackle German.

"Most of the time, I don't think about the tsunami," said Pipit, who lives in a comfortable orphanage in Banda Aceh,

the capital of Aceh Province and close to the epicentre of the earthquake that unleashed one of the worst natural disasters in history. "I'm trying to be strong," said Pipit, who like many Indonesians uses one name.

The 26 December, 2004, quake registered at least 9.1 on the Richter Scale and unleashed towering waves that levelled communities from Indonesia to Thailand, India and Sri Lanka.

About 230,000 people died, more than half of them in Aceh on the island of Sumatra.

More than \$13 billion in donations poured in from around the world, nearly half for Aceh.

In some Indonesian communities, only the mosque was left standing. They have been rebuilt.

*Internet*

**One year jail term for paedophile Briton in Cambodia**

PHNOM PENH, 25 Dec—A Cambodian court on Friday sentenced a British man to one year in prison for sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl. Judge Ke Sakhan of Phnom Penh Municipal Court convicted 51-year-old Gareth Ashley Corbett, arrested in the popular seaside town of Sihanoukville in July, of committing indecent acts.

He handed Corbett the one-year jail term and ordered him to pay a 1,000-dollar fine. Corbett was arrested after the underage girl, who was also allegedly abused by a US man, told authorities that the Briton had sex with her. A trial date for the US man, Scott Alan Hecker, 44, has not yet been set, court officials said.

*Internet*

**Peru bus crash kills 42 passengers**



LIMA, 25 Dec — A bus carrying mostly Quechua farmers and merchants home for Christmas plunged 250 feet (80 metres) into a ravine in Peru's southern Andes on Thursday, killing 42 people and injuring at least eight, authorities said.

The accident took place near dawn on a stretch of mountain highway 380 miles (610 kms) southeast of Lima that was so remote the nearest village didn't have a doctor.

"The bus is completely destroyed at the bottom of the ravine, and the worst of it is that we are isolated here like many towns in Peru, without the communication" that could have saved lives, said Cornelio Coaquira, mayor of Velille, who along with dozens of villagers tried to rescue survivors.

Victims were transported by truck to Espinar, where a doctor urged the governor to send gasoline for the town's one ambulance.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation, said Alberto Palomino of the Cusco Highway Police, who raised the death toll to 42 late Thursday. Most of the passengers on the bus were farmers and merchants returning to their homes for Christmas and a tradition Incan celebration called "Takanakuy" held between 24-26 Dec.

*Internet*



*Achenese men walk amid the debris of their devastated houses following the 2004 tsunami at a housing complex in Kajhu on the outskirts of Banda Aceh, in this 3 April, 2005 file photo.*

*Internet*

**Food safety a priority as Shanghai officials get ready for Expo**

BEIJING, 25 Dec — The city of Shanghai is stepping up its efforts on food safety control as it looks forward to next year's World Expo.

"A better control of overall food safety and proper preparation for next year's World Expo are our current top tasks," said Xie Minqiang, deputy director of Shanghai Food and Drug Administration at a news conference on Thursday.

"We will start trial operations in April and all the food supervision procedures including drills will be tested repeatedly before the World Expo officially kicks off," said Gu Zhenhua, director of Shanghai FDA's food supervision department. "The six-month event puts a lot of pressure on local food safety issues, as the event runs from May to October, the hottest and wettest weather, has such a big number of visitors and offers different styles of food, which may have hidden risks."—*Xinhua*



*The 2009 Volvo XC60 sits at a preview at the New York International Auto Show in 2008.*  
*INTERNET*

## Breast cancer not a single disease, scientists find

LONDON, 25 Dec — Breast cancer is not a single disease but a collection of at least five separate conditions that differ in prognosis and response to treatment, a genetic study has revealed. A comparison of the genomes of 24 breast tumours found several distinct patterns of DNA damage, each of which appeared to be characteristic of a sub-type of cancer.

The findings, from a British team that unveiled last week the first comprehensive genetic maps of two tumours, offer insights into the biology of breast cancer. Scientists expect to be able to classify tumours according to their DNA signatures and thus establish how aggressive

the tumour will be, and which therapy is most likely to work.

Mike Stratton, of the Cancer Genome Project at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, said: "Our work supports the view that breast cancer is not one but several diseases. If this diversity is associated with a different prognosis, or sensitivity to drugs, it will become very useful on a clinical level." Oncologists already recognise that there are three to four broad groups of breast cancers, which differ in their responses to particular drugs.

Internet

## Two Siberian tigers among dead circus cats



Advertising of the Dream Circus is seen in the rubbish in the city of Yakutsk, about 4,800 kilometres (3,000 miles) east of Moscow, on 24 Dec, 2009. —INTERNET

Moscow, 25 Dec — Siberian tigers were among a group of big cats in a Russian travelling circus that died during a 20-hour truck journey this week, a circus administrator said on Thursday. Veterinarians suspect the animals were suffocated by exhaust fumes in the enclosed truck, which was heated to counter outside temperatures below minus-30 degrees Fahrenheit (Celsius). Circus officials and police initially said that eight Bengal tigers had died.

But Mechta circus administrator Yevgeny Kudashkin said there were seven tigers and two were Siberian tigers, which some conservationists fear may be approaching extinction. The loss of the endangered tigers — also known as Ussuri, Amur or Manchurian tigers — was certain to increase the outrage over the animals' deaths. Lioness also died during the trip across Siberia to the city of Yakutsk, where the circus was due to perform.

Internet

## Holiday blizzards wreak havoc in central United States

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec — A "humongous" winter storm is rolling across the central US, bringing chaos to road and air transport from Texas to Minnesota. Icy roads were blamed for the deaths of 14 people, mostly in Nebraska and Kansas. Some 100 flights leaving Minneapolis were cancelled.

The US weather service said the storm was spanning two-thirds of the country. It advised against non-essential travel and scores of churches cancelled Christmas services. Up to 2 ft (60 cm) of snow was possible in some areas by Christmas Day (Friday), forecasters said.

Scott Blair, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Topeka, Kansas, said the wind was becoming a serious issue in the central part of that state, with gusts reaching 40mph (64km/h). "We're going to see blowing snow," he said. "The big concern comes later when we see snowfall with the wind, causing reduced visibility." The US East Coast is still recovering from record snowfall last weekend, which brought much of the capital Washington DC to a standstill. The new storm is expected to glaze highways in the east with ice over Christmas, the Associated Press reported. — Internet

## Rescuers hunt for missing in Philippine ferry sinking



Photo taken on 24 December by the Philippine Coastguard shows survivors of a vessel that sunk off the coast of Limbones Islaand, south of Manila, as they are transferred to a rubber dinghy. —INTERNET

MANILA, 25 Dec — Rescuers combed waters off the Philippine capital on Christmas Day for at least 23 people missing after a ferry smashed into a trawler in an accident that called the crew's competence into question. The Coast Guard said it planned to spend 10 days searching for survivors and would also look into the fitness and discipline of the crew involved in the crash, which topped off a year of deadly disasters for the struggling nation.

The 79-tonne *Catalyn B*, a flimsy, wooden vessel taking holidaymakers to their home village on a small island off the mouth of Manila Bay, smashed into 369-tonne *Anathalia*, a metal-hulled fishing boat, killing at least four people. Officials are hoping that at least some of the other passengers and crew may have survived and are afloat in tropical waters, in what is usually the calmest period of the year. — Internet

## Last round of China's Spring Festival Gala held

BEIJING, 25 Dec — In Beijing, organizers and performers are gearing up for the 2010 CCTV Spring Festival Gala. Some of the nation's most ambitious acts are taking part in the latest round of auditions, although the moment of truth is still more than a month away.

Round three of the Spring Festival Gala audition was held on Tuesday night.

Being scrutinized are six acts. They include breathtaking acrobatics, sidesplitting comic sketches and crosstalk performances. Among the hopefuls are star entertainers Jiang Kun

and Dai Zhicheng. Apart from a stream of jokes and gags, they brought to the show much-needed new blood, a promising young comedian.

Jiang Kun, comedian, said, "This time, we have brought a new entertainer to the show. He's not very young to be sure, but he's new to the national audience. He's Zhao Jinsheng from Tianjin. If our act can pass the test, viewers across the country will be able to meet him on the small screen."

Another favourite act is unexpected crosstalk by four of China's top vocalists. Titled "The

Choir", it features an episode preparing for the National Day celebration. As with most of the acts staged on Tuesday night, it has seen substantially improved from earlier auditions.

The CCTV Spring Festival Gala has been the most influential variety show in China for more than two decades.

It brings together some of the most illustrious entertainers in the Chinese-speaking world to give the audience a night of joy and amusement on Chinese New Year's Eve.

Xinhua

## Donkeys escape from live nativity scene in Colo

VAIL, 25 Dec — A living nativity scene in near the Colorado ski resort of Vail almost had to go without two crucial actors when two donkeys escaped.

The nativity scene is an annual tradition for Eagle River Presbyterian Church in the Vail Valley. Pastor Rob Wilson says two borrowed donkeys were being held in a fenced-in paen for the event on Wednesday night, but the animals pushed their way through it.

Internet



The storm is expected to cause widespread disruption. —INTERNET

# SPORTS

## Benitez admits talks with Liverpool stars over slump

LIVERPOOL, 25 Dec — Rafad Benitez admits he has held talks with Liverpool's stars in a bid to end his team's dismal run. The Reds, already knocked out of the Champions League, have won just four of their last 17 games and face an uphill battle to secure a top four finish in the Premier League.

They are currently eight points behind fourth placed Aston Villa and Benitez has come under fire for failing to build a squad capable of challenging for the title, while Spain striker Fernando Torres has conceded Liverpool will continue to struggle unless they sign several top players in January.

In response to the



Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafael Benitez.

slump, Benitez has spoken with several key players to assess the team's morale and discuss exactly how they can get back on track. "I have spoken to several players, not just Gerrard and Torres.

Internet

## Ferguson lays into City over Hughes sacking

MANCHESTER, 25 Dec— Sir Alex Ferguson has slammed neighbours Manchester City for the way in which they handled the sacking of his former player Mark Hughes this week.

City have been widely pilloried in the football community for the manner in which the highly-respected Hughes was forced to take control of his team in last Saturday's 4-3 victory over Sunderland before being sacked and replaced by Italian Roberto Mancini immediately after the game.

Now the Manchester United manager, an influential figure at the League Managers' Association, has added his voice to the general condemnation of City's behaviour while praising the actions of Sunderland manager Steve Bruce, a former team-mate of Hughes' at United in the 1990's.

"That is one thing I do not need to discuss, it is so obvious, that kind of behaviour is unacceptable," said Ferguson when asked for his reaction to Hughes' treatment last Saturday.

"It doesn't matter whether you have lost 20 games or, as in the case of Mark Hughes, two games.

There is a way to treat people, surely. But Christmas time seems to bring the worst out of directors.

Sitting there throughout the game, knowing something was going on, must have been terrible.

Brucey felt that himself, the rumour mill was working overtime."

Internet



Ex-Manchester City manager Mark Hughes.

INTERNET

## Hodgson dazzled by Bobby's form

LONDON, 25 Dec— Fulham manager Roy Hodgson believes Bobby Zamora's dazzling goal-scoring form has been instrumental in the Cottagers' push into the top half of the English Premier League as well as into Europe.

The 28-year-old striker scored his 10th goal of the season in Saturday's 3-0 shock win over Manchester United, justifying his decision to turn down a move to Hull in the summer.

His form has also left Hodgson unconcerned about his failed nine-million-pound bid to buy England striker Peter Crouch from Portsmouth before the season got underway.—Internet



Fulham manager Roy Hodgson believes Zamora's dazzling goal-scoring form has been instrumental in the Cottagers' push into the top half of the English Premier League as well as into Europe.

INTERNET

## Wenger takes pride from Arsenal's barren years

LONDON, 25 Dec— Arsene Wenger has claimed that Arsenal's last four trophy-less seasons have given him more satisfaction than any other spell in his long career with the Premier League team.

Wenger's side have failed to win major silverware since lifting the FA Cup in 2005, but the Gunners boss, who arrived in north London 1996, believes the progress made by the club on and off the pitch makes it the most rewarding time.

The Frenchman has overseen Arsenal's move to the Emirates Stadium,



Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger.

the construction of a new training ground and the development of a hugely successful youth academy.

"For me the best period at the club is the last four years but unfortunately it is also the period where we have not won trophies," Wenger said.

Internet

## Ancelotti doesn't fear Chelsea axe

LONDON, 25 Dec— Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti insists he doesn't fear being sacked

by Blues owner Roman Abramovich despite his team's recent struggles.

Ancelotti's side head into the Christmas programme on the back of a disappointing run of just one win in their last six matches.

Exiting the League Cup at the quarter-final stage against Blackburn was never likely to be taken too seriously, but lacklustre displays against the likes of Everton, Apoel Nicosia and West Ham were more worrying for Ancelotti.

Internet



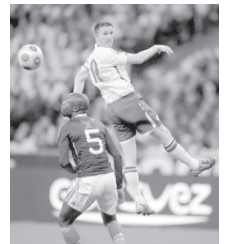
Chelsea's Manager Carlo Ancelotti

## Redknapp won't sell Keane despite party row

LONDON, 25 Dec — Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp insists he has no intention of selling Robbie Keane despite the striker's role in his squad's controversial Christmas party.

Keane is reported to have gone against Redknapp's express wishes and organised for his team-mates to have a festive party in Dublin earlier this month.

Redknapp ordered the players involved to make a donation to charity but did not consider taking the club captaincy away from Keane or selling him to



French defender William Gallas vies with Irish captain Robbie Keane during the World Cup qualifier at the Stade de France.

INTERNET

Celtic, who are believed to be keen on a loan deal for the Republic of Ireland forward.—Internet

## City stars back me, insists Mancini

MANCHESTER, 25 Dec—Roberto Mancini insists there has been no dressing room rebellion at Manchester City in response to his arrival as replacement for sacked boss Mark Hughes. Mancini arrived at Eastlands on Monday following Hughes's dismissal last weekend and reports in England claimed a number of senior players including Craig Bellamy and Shay Given had protested about the decision to City chief executive Garry Cook.—Internet



New Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini poses for photographers at the City of Manchester stadium on 21 December.

INTERNET

## Hull boss Brown furious at FA charge

HULL, 25 Dec— Hull manager Phil Brown has hit out at the English Football Association after his club were charged with misconduct following last weekend's brawl at Arsenal. Brown's team and Arsenal were both hit with the FA Charge of failing to control their players after a mass confrontation involving 21 of the 22 players on the field at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

The row started after Arsenal's Samir Nasri appeared to tread on the ankle of Hull midfielder Richard Garcia late in the first half. But Brown, whose side lost 3-0, has defended the reaction of his players and made it clear the club will be contesting the charge. "There was an incident for some reason, and I can't answer the accusations against Nasri. He decided to light the touchpaper," Brown said.

"It was there for everybody to see. It needed to be dealt with more severely and hasn't been. "Why we are up for a charge I don't know.

I defend the players to the hilt. As far as I am concerned that lad has gone in there with the intent to start a fight, to start a ruck.

"Maybe it was because Arsenal were hitting a brick wall in terms of the way they were playing, I don't know." "We were doing our job to the best of our ability and maybe that's why they've decided to light the touchpaper, I've no idea."

For us to come under criticism yet again is absolutely scandalous, and we'll be defending it.—Internet

### Sea-crossing bridge links China's island city with mainland

HANGZHOU, 25 Dec — A sea-crossing bridge linking Zhoushan City, China's only city of more than 1,000 islands in eastern Zhejiang Province, with the country's mainland went into trial operation Friday.

Costing 13.1 billion yuan (1.9 billion U.S. dollars), the 46.5 km-long Zhoushan Sea-crossing Bridge, so far the longest of its kind in the country, was completed after 10 years of construction.

The bridge starts at the Zhoushan island, passing the island of Lidiao, Fuchi, Cezi and Jintang and traversing several watercourses, and connects with the

national expressway network at Zhenhai District in Ningbo, an economically strong city of Zhejiang Province.

The opening of the bridge will improve the life of Zhoushan residents and facilitate the development of the deep-water harbors of Zhoushan and Ningbo, said Lu Zushan, governor of Zhejiang.

Rich in marine resources, Zhoushan is one of China's major fishing grounds. The Zhoushan Port is a natural communications hub for ships sailing from south to north. It handled more than 10 million twenty foot-equivalent units (TEUs) last year.

Internet



The artwork of paper sculpture artist Peter Callesen. —INTERNET

### MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (26-12-2009) (Saturday)

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

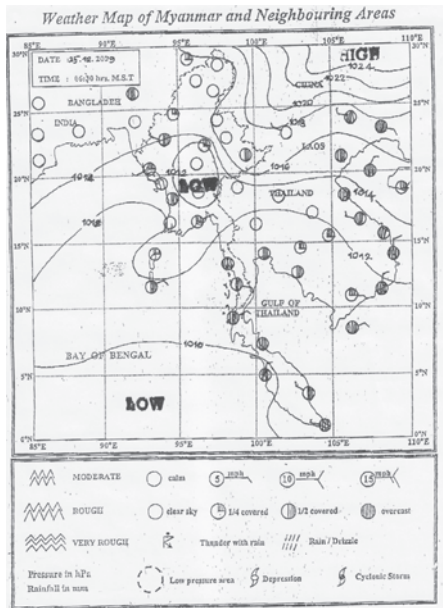
#### Local Transmission

- \* Signature Tune
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- \* Beautiful Myanma Silver Bowl
- \* Mollusc Mosaics
- \* A Little Village of Kyar Ton
- \* From "Putao" to "Machan Baw"
- \* Myanmar Modern Song
- \* Modernized Umbrellas evolved from the Yesteryear
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

#### Europe/ North America Transmission

- \* Signature Tune
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- \* Beautiful Myanma Silver Bowl
- \* Mollusc Mosaics
- \* A Little Village of Kyar Ton
- \* From "Putao" to "Machan Baw"
- \* Myanmar Modern Song
- \* Modernized Umbrellas evolved from the Yesteryear
- \* Panning Gold in Thabeikkyin Township
- \* Myanmar Movie Impact
- \* Songs On Screen
- \* Let's Savour Strawberry Milkshake
- \* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



### WEATHER

Friday, 25<sup>th</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 Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Rakhine State, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Mon State and Bago Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Loilem (-2°C) each, Namhsam (1°C), Heho and Mogok (3°C) each, Pinlaung, Mindat and Katha (4°C) each, Machanbaw and Lashio (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 25-12-2009 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-12-2009 was 68%. Total sun shine hours on 24-12-2009 was (9.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-12-2009 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 24-12-2009.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 26<sup>th</sup> December 2009:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-12-2009:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-12-2009:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-12-2009:** Partly cloudy.

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



Saturday, 26 December  
View on today

- 7:00 am**  
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:10 am**  
2. အောင်တော်မူ (စောမင်းနောင်စိုင်းညိုမင်း၊ တေးရေး-ပိုင်ကလေး တင်အောင်)
- 7:25 am**  
3. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am**  
4. Morning News

- 7:40 am**  
5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am**  
6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
- 8:05 am**  
7. Musical Programme
- 8:15 am**  
8. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**  
9. International News
- 8:40 am**  
10. Crossroads Cafe (Episode -17) (United We Stand)
- 11:00 am**  
1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am**  
2. Musical Programme
- 11:25 am**  
3. Game For Children
- 11:50 am**  
4. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News
- 12:30 pm**  
5. Yan Can Cook
- 12:50 pm**  
6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- "ဟာသကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၅၇)
- 1:50 pm**  
7. မူဇာတ်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 2:00 pm**  
8. ပန်းချီသရုပ်များရဲ့ပန်းမြို့တော်
- 2:10 pm**  
9. Dance Of National Races
- 2:20 pm**  
10. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:40 pm**  
11. Internationa News
- 3:45 pm**  
1. Myanmar National League MNL Cup (2009)ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ရတနာပုံ FC အသင်းနှင့် Southern Myanmar FC အသင်း)
- 5:45 pm**  
2. Musical Programme
- 6:00 pm**  
3. Evening News
- 6:15 pm**  
4. Weather Report

- 6:20 pm**  
5. အလှူရှာမယ်၊အလှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 6:40 pm**  
6. ယဉ်တစ်ကိုယ်မယ် "အလင်းလျှောက်တဲ့လမ်း" (ပင်တီကိုမီဒီကိုစွဲတီကို) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းယောလင်း)
- 7:00 pm**  
7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မိုးမြေချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၂)
- 8:00 pm**  
8. News
9. International News
10. Weather Report
11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "မိုင်းနိုဆောမိသားစုစွန့်စားခန်း" (အပိုင်း-၇၁)
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ခွေးဦးကဗျာချစ်သံသာ" (အပိုင်း- ၂၃)
13. ဝီတတ်ခါးလေးမွှင်ပါဦး

- ★ 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

## Machanbaw, little hilly township in Kachin State

Byline: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: U Hta Man Yon (Putao)

On our recent trip to Machanbaw Township, Putao Township in Kachin State, we were briefed on about 14 miles from the region by Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Khaung Lan Dee.

He said, "Our township stands at an altitude of 1400 feet. It is bounded by India and Nagmon Township in the north; Khaunglanphu Township,

in the east; Sumprabum Township, in the south; and India and Putao Township, in the west. It has an area of 1104.22 square miles."

Machanbaw Township is constituted with four wards and 103 villages of 26 village-tracts. Local people are by nature honest and live on agricultural farming.

In 2008-2009, the region put 7,381 acres under monsoon paddy, and harvested more than 360,108 baskets of paddy and its rice sufficiency percentage touched 107.39. In the township, farms of corn, beans and pulses, vegetables, fruit, and sugarcane were found thriving.

In order to help achieve Putao District's target of becoming a tea land, Machanbaw Township has a plan to set up 12,500 acres of tea (See page 9)



Malikha suspension bridge across Malikha River links Putao and Machanbaw townships.