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Monday, 13 December, 2010

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

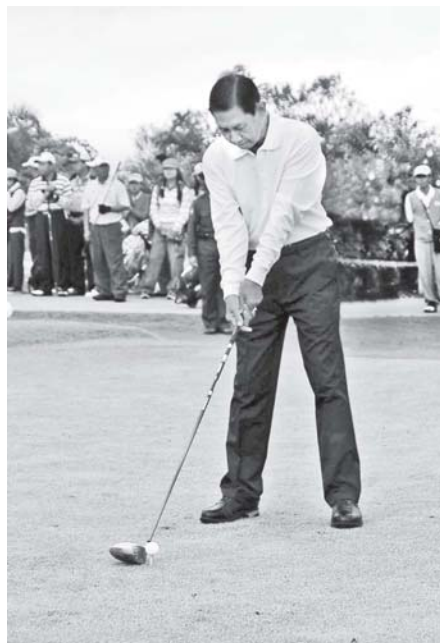
- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country 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

State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010 held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010 took place at City Golf Course and Yepyar Golf Course here on 11 and 12



Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye participates in State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010.—MNA

December. A total of 35 teams from central offices and ministries took part in the tournament.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann, Prime Minister U Thein Sein, SPDC member U Tin Aye, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers and deputy ministers also participated in the tourney at City Golf Course.

The opening ceremony of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010 was held at City Golf Course at 6 am yesterday attended by Prime Minister U Thein Sein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers,



Member of the State Peace and Development Council Thura U Shwe Mann in action at State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010.—MNA

members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, departmental heads and members of the committee for organizing the tourney.

First, golfers from the participating teams took their positions at the designated places. The Prime Minister teed off the tracer ball to open the tournament.

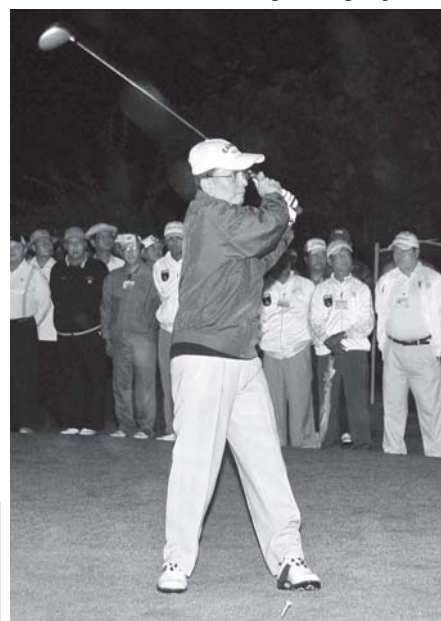
Next, Chairman of the committee for organizing the tourney Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung teed off the tracer ball to open the tourney.

The golfers from 35 teams participated in the

first round of the tourney at City Golf Course and Yepyar Golf Course alternatively. The second round was held at the same venues at 6 am today and all the events concluded this evening.

The prize-presentation ceremony took place at City Golf Course at 6 pm today and Prime Minister U Thein Sein awarded the winning teams. It was also attended by senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

First, Minister U Aung Thaung explained



Prime Minister U Thein Sein tees off tracer ball to open State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010.—MNA

the purpose of holding the tournament.

On behalf of State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, the Prime Minister presented the trophies to the leader of the Ministry of Defence, which stood first in inter-club event (handicap) and in inter-club event (scratch).

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 December, 2010

Raise State economy through agriculture sector

The government is striving for development of all sectors based on agriculture. Aim has been set to rise cultivation and production in the agriculture sector.

Emphasis is being placed on availability of sufficient water, which is essential for agriculture. So far, over 200 dams and sluice gates have been built across the nation. Over 300 river water pumping stations and over 8,000 tube-wells have been supplying water to the areas where dams cannot be built. As such, there are over 2 million acres of farmlands in the entire nation.

Moreover, fallow and virgin lands are being reclaimed. Over 11 million acres of virgin and fallow lands out of 26 million have been reclaimed to the cultivable ones. Due to favourable weather and fertile soil, farmers can successfully cultivate paddy, wheat, maize, cereal crops, sesame, groundnut, sunflower, cotton, jute and sugarcane in addition to industrial crops and beans and pulses.

The farmers apply modern agricultural technology for increasing per-acre yield of paddy and other marketable crops. Double cropping and mixed-cropping patterns benefit the growers. By using quality strains of various crops, the farmers are trying to export larger volume of high-quality crops to the foreign market.

At present, the country has over 57 million acres of arable lands. Over 16 million acres of monsoon paddy and over 3 million acres of summer paddy produce over 1566 million baskets of paddy yearly. The larger volume of green gram, pigeon pea and mung bean are being exported to the foreign market. Myanmar stands top in growing beans and pulses in the Southeast Asian region.

As the State is providing modern agricultural technology and other necessary assistance for the agricultural sector, strenuous efforts are to be made for building sound agricultural foundations to be able to shape an industrialized nation.

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

Western Command Commander inspects regional development tasks in Minbya, Myebon Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Soe Thein, accompanied by officials, visited Minbya-Myebon motor road construction project on 6 December.

He heard report on progress in construction of the road submitted by an official and left necessary instructions.

The commander also visited in Kyaukkhok, Taungshinyin and Khamaungdaw villages in Minbya Township and Wetgaung and Gaungbyu villages in

Myebon Township. He met local people, gave instructions for regional development and gave away assistances.

He attended the ceremony to present seedlings of winter crops in Myebon Township. The commander and officials presented seedlings to local farmers and cordially greeted them.

At Myebon Township PDC Office, the commander met with departmental officials and gave instructions for regional development.

MNA

A&I Minister receives Japanese Ambassador, Switzerland NGO



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Takashi Saito and Mr Kazuya Endo of Southeast Asian Department under Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Dec— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito who was accompanied by Mr Kazuya Endo of Southeast Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, at Irrigation Department in Yankin here on 10 December.

Both sides discussed boosting agricultural

production, human resources development, and Japan-Myanmar friendship and cooperation.

Similarly, the minister received Counsellor Ms Veronique Lorenzo from Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT Fund), a Switzerland-based non-government organization, at the department in the evening, focusing on promotion of agricultural production.—MNA

UMFCCI official meets Thai Minister-Counsellor (Commercial)



Joint General Secretary Dr Myo Thet of UMFCCI meets Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) of Thai Embassy Mr Prajuab Supinee. MNA

YANGON, 12 Dec—Joint General Secretary Dr Myo Thet of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) met Mr Prajuab Supinee, Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) of Thai Embassy at UMFCCI Office on 7 December.

At the call, they discussed matters to provide assistances by UMFCCI for holding Thai-made products show to be held at UMFCCI Office Tower from 16 to 19 December and to promote bilateral trade.

Interested Myanmar companies that import Thai-made products may take part in the show and contact UMFCCI Exhibition Department (ph-214344 and 214349) and Office of Thai Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) (ph-558566).

MNA

Attack kills six foreign troops in Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Dec—An insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan killed six foreign troops on Sunday, the NATO-led force said, days before Washington is due to complete a review of its war strategy.

On 29 Nov, six NATO troops were shot dead by a man wearing an Afghan border police uniform during a training exercise in the east, the worst apparent "rogue" shooting in more than a year.

A total of 521 foreign troops were killed in 2009 and more than 2,260 have died since the beginning of the war. June was the bloodiest month for foreign forces in Afghanistan, with 103 deaths.

MNA/Reuters



A woman injured in a roadside bomb blast is brought to a hospital in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan recently.

INTERNET

Car bomb kills seven, wounds dozens in Iraq's Ramadi

FALLUJA (IRAQ), 12 Dec—A stronghold of the al-Qaeda suicide car bomber killed at least seven people and wounded dozens near government

buildings in the mainly Sunni Iraqi city of Ramadi on Sunday as political leaders moved toward forming a new government.

Some officials said up to 13 people were killed and as many as 57 wounded in the blast in western Anbar Province, once a

stronghold of the al-Qaeda militant group.

Last December, twin suicide blasts killed at least 24 and wounded more than 100 just outside the provincial government headquarters in Ramadi.

The governor of Anbar Province was critically wounded in one of the attacks, but survived.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistani forces kill 11 militants in northwest

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec — Pakistani security forces killed 11 suspected Taliban militants in South Waziristan tribal region and Swat valley, official sources and local media said on Friday. Fighting between security forces and Taliban militants was reported in South Waziristan with army killing four militants, including a commander, they said.

The army had declared victory earlier this year months after thousands of troops launched major ground and air offensive against the Taliban militants in South Waziristan. The army this week started repatriation of thousands of people who fled fighting in the region. Local TV channels reported that clashes erupted at Sararogha area of South Waziristan Thursday night, killing Taliban

commander Asmatullah and three other militants.

Official sources said that four soldiers were injured in the fighting. Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq claimed that armed militants attacked soldiers who were escorting displaced persons. He also claimed that the militants inflicted losses on the forces and abducted three soldiers. Some 400,000 people were displaced from South Waziristan and the army has started repatriation and 100 families have been repatriated so far. Taliban had warned the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) not to return homes as they would launch attacks on the security forces which could harm them.

Xinhua

An Iraqi man grieves at a funeral for two slain Christian brothers in Mosul, 225 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq recently. Gunmen shot and killed the two brothers on Monday in a northern Iraqi city in the latest in a spate of attacks targeting the religious minority, Iraqi police said.

A lawmaker called on Iraq's government on Tuesday to better protect its dwindling Christian community and lambasted other nations that have offered asylum to fleeing Christians as meddling in Iraq's problems.—INTERNET



Sandstorms, high waves close 10 Egyptian ports

ISMALIA, 12 Dec — Egypt closed ten of its ports on the Red Sea and the Mediterranean on Saturday because of sandstorms and high waves, maritime officials said.

Eight of the closed ports — Port Tawfik, Adabiya, Zayteya, Sukhna, Ataka, Safaga, Hurghada and Nuweiba — lie on the Red Sea. Alexandria and Dekheila lie on the Mediterranean.

Officials at the Red Sea Ports Authority said the ports "will reopen as soon as the weather improves". —MNA/Reuters

A policeman searches a vehicle at a checkpoint on al-Sa'adoun street in Baghdad recently. Iraq's president formally asked the Prime Minister on Thursday to form a new government, giving him 30 days to choose a cabinet from among Iraq's fractious Shi'ite, Kurdish and Sunni political factions.

INTERNET

Drug shootout mars religious festival in Mexico



Federal police look at the burning car of suspected hitmen in El Alcalde in the outskirts of Apatzingan on 9 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

GUADALAJARA, 12 Dec — Suspected drug cartel gunmen attacked each other during annual religious celebrations in a small Mexican town, killing 11 people and wounding 22 others, local authorities said on Saturday.

The rival gangs shot machine guns into the packed

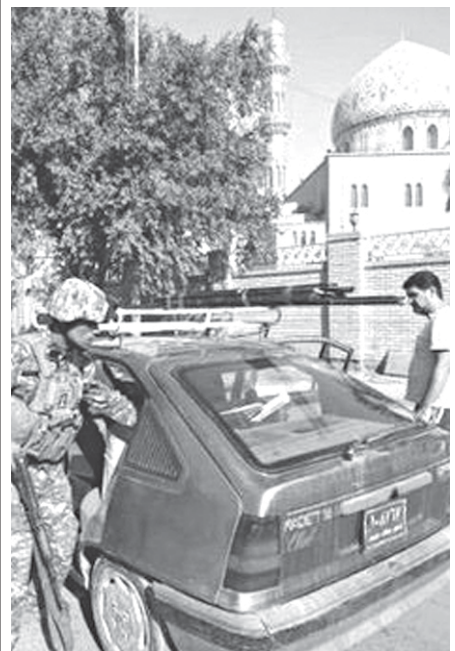
central square of Tecalitlan late Friday night and wreaked havoc on the festival in honour of the Virgin of Guadalupe, one of Mexico's most cherished national and religious symbols.

"During the celebration, a group of subjects arrived in several vehicles to attack another group in the town plaza, sparking a battle," a statement from the attorney general's office in the central state of Jalisco said. The gunmen also lobbed a grenade into the crowd.

The shootout sparked panic in the town, with people afraid to leave their houses and canceling plans to visit family on what is usually a festive holiday across the country, local radio reported.

Mexico's spiraling war against powerful drug cartels escalated this week when security forces killed one of the leaders of the cult-like drug cartel La Familia based in Michoacan, which borders the state of Jalisco. Tecalitlan is close to Apatzingan, where the worst violence flared in clashes to track down the drug lord.

MNA/Reuters



WikiLeaks says has no link to cyber attacks

LONDON, 12 Dec—WikiLeaks said on Friday it had no links to cyber attacks on global companies seen as enemies of the website and neither supported nor condemned the online campaign.

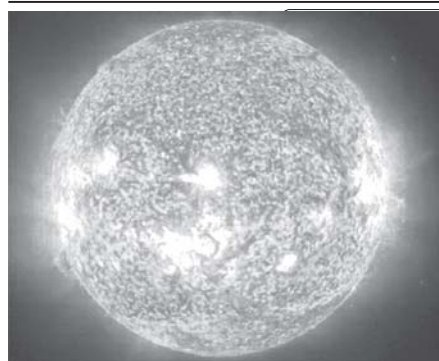
A statement on its website quoted Wikileaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson as saying the attacks were “a reflection of public opinion on the actions of the targets.”

The loosely organized campaign to avenge WikiLeaks against those who have obstructed its operations, calling itself Operation Payback, has already temporarily brought down the websites of Visa and MasterCard, and

of the Swedish Government. WikiLeaks noted the attacks were similar to those it had received since it began publishing the first of 250,000 US leaked US embassy cables on 28 November.

“These denial of service attacks are believed to have originated from an Internet gathering known as Anonymous. This group is not affiliated with Wikileaks. There has been no contact between any Wikileaks staffer and anyone at Anonymous,” the statement said.

“WikiLeaks has not received any prior notice of any of Anonymous’ actions.” — MNA/Reuters



NASA view of the Sun. After billions of years the Sun finally has an owner — a woman from Spain's soggy region of Galicia said Friday she had registered the star at a local notary public as being her property.

INTERNET

US suspends aid group in Pakistan fraud probe

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—The United States has suspended a US-based aid organization from receiving new development contracts as it investigates reports of fraud and other misconduct in development projects in Pakistan, the US Agency for International Development said.

The Office of Inspector General at the US Agency for International Development has said in a report to Congress that USAID terminated a 150-million-US-dollar development agreement in Pakistan after evidence of procurement fraud had been uncovered.

In a statement on its website on Wednesday, USAID said it had suspended the Academy for Educational Development during an inspector general investigation.

MNA/Reuters

Unusually cold weather killing Florida's manatees

ST PETERSBURG, 12 Dec—Unusually cold weather last winter killed Florida's endangered manatees at a record rate, a report said on Friday.

During 2010, a record 699 manatees have died in Florida, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Research Institute. Of those, 244 were attributed to cold weather and many of the 271 undetermined deaths were also likely caused by weather. In most years, the leading cause of manatee deaths is from collisions with power boats. The latest surveys estimate there are only about 5,000 of the chubby marine mammals left in Florida waters. The previous record of 429 manatee deaths was set in 2009 but only 56 of those were caused by cold weather.

Manatees are protected under the Endangered Species Act and the state of Florida has enacted laws to require slower motor boat speeds in some waters to prevent manatee accidents. Manatees require warm, shallow water to survive. They often swim near power plants in the winter for warmth.

MNA/Reuters

Pfizer recalls lung drug after two deaths

NEW YORK, 12 Dec—Pfizer Inc is voluntarily recalling its drug to treat a life-threatening lung condition and will end studies of the pill after it was linked to potentially deadly liver toxicity.

The European Medicines Agency on Friday said the modest-selling drug, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, was withdrawn due to “new information on two cases of fatal liver injury.”

Pfizer spokesman Curtis Allen said the drug, called Thelin, which is not sold in the United States,



A rescuer and a rescue dog walk at the scene of an earthquake drill in Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 10 Dec, 2010.

XINHUA

FM says Leaks show strength of Egyptian positions

CAIRO, 12 Dec—Egypt's Foreign Minister said on Saturday information released by the WikiLeaks website showed there was no contradiction between Egyptian officials' public and private statements, the state news agency reported.

Leaked US diplomatic cables show Egypt to be anxious about Iran's influence over its Hezbollah and Hamas

proxies and groups like Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. One said Egypt had lobbied for a delay in the referendum for South Sudan's independence.

“All the US diplomatic cables leaked on the Wikileaks site and that talk about Egypt prove that what Egyptian officials say in closed meetings is what they say in public,” MENA news agency quoted Ahmed Aboul Gheit as saying at

a joint news conference with his Australian counterpart.

“This shows the strength of Egypt's position,” he added. “These leaks are the tip of the iceberg, therefore it's too early to comment on them not necessarily everything we read is true.”

The government had previously made no comment on WikiLeaks.

MNA/Reuters



Russian Bolshoi Theatre ballet dancers perform in Moscow 2008. Four performances of the Bolshoi Ballet are to be beamed live from Moscow to 300 cinema screens around the world as part of a tie-up with French movie house giant Gaumont-Pathe, the firm said on Friday.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters



Greek-owned cruise ship 'Clelia II' is seen docked after arriving at the port of the town of Ushuaia, in Tierra de Fuego, Argentina, on 9 Dec, 2010. The ship, operated by New York-based Travel Dynamics International, was blasted by a huge wave during a storm on Tuesday in the Drake Passage between Cape Horn and Antarctica. The 88 passengers were unharmed.

INTERNET

Damaged Antarctic cruise ship in Argentine port

BUENOS AIRES, 12 Dec—A damaged cruise ship reached Argentina's southern most port early Friday with its 88 American passengers and 77 crew members safe after a large wave broke its bridge window and cut off its communications and radar. The *Clelia II* was to stay four days in Antarctica but had to sail back to its scheduled port of Ushuaia after only two days because of the incident on Tuesday,

according to passengers.

It was a very slow trip in heavy weather, said passenger Denis Smyth, a 68-year-old US Navy veteran from Rockville Point, New York. "I am an ex-Navy person, so I was used to it, but it was very rough. There were a lot of days when people were too sick to eat," he said by telephone from Ushuaia.

Smyth said a large wave broke loose a railing that smashed through the window of the bridge. Water then poured in, short-circuiting the communications and

radar.

"About five or six fell and several had black eyes and bruises," Smyth said. "When the ship lurched, several people went flying across the lounge." At another point, a half-dozen people fell off their chairs during a wildlife lecture, but no one was seriously injured, he said. The *Clelia II* declared an emergency on Tuesday when it was northeast of the South Shetland Islands and about 500 miles (845 kilometres) from Ushuaia, the Argentine Navy said in a statement.

INTERNET

Drug combo helps women with early breast cancer

SAN ANTONIO, 12 Dec—New drug combinations are helping women with early breast cancer. Using two drugs that more precisely target tumors doubled the number of women whose cancer disappeared compared to those who had only one of the drugs, doctors reported on Friday. However, another study added to the controversy over Avastin for breast cancer.

Most women who received the drug for a few months before surgery fared no better than those who did not, it found.

The studies were presented Friday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. The

good news study was the first test of Herceptin and Tykerb together for early-stage disease.

They aim at a protein called HER-2 that is overproduced in about one-fourth of all breast cancers. Herceptin blocks the protein on the cell's surface; Tykerb does it inside the cell.

Dr Jose Baselga, associate director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Centre, led a study when he previously worked in Barcelona, Spain, that tested these drugs alone and in combination in 455 patients who also were given the chemotherapy drug paclitaxel.

INTERNET

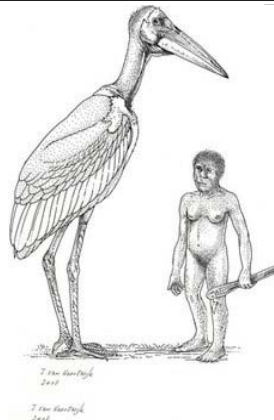
Giant stork once roamed Indonesian island

JAKARTA, 12 Dec—Fossils of a giant stork have been discovered on a far-flung Indonesian island that has been home to many extreme-sized creatures from tiny human-like "hobbits" and dwarf elephants to the world's largest-known rats and lizards.

Authors Hanneke Meijer and Rokus Due wrote in the December issue of the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* that leg bones from the marabou stork, which lived 20,000 to 50,000 years ago, indicate it stood around 6 feet (180 centimetres) tall and weighed up to 35 pounds (16 kilograms). It appears to have been primarily land-based, they wrote. The bones were found during excavations of the Liang Bua cave in the west of the island of Flores at a depth of around 15 feet (4.7 metres).

Flores, located on Indonesia's eastern edge, has never been connected to another island or mainland, shaping evolution of historic wildlife, with many small-sized warm blooded animals growing larger than elsewhere on the planet, and big-sized mammals becoming more diminutive, said Colin Groves, a professor at Australian National University who was not related to the study, citing the so-called "island rule" in biology.

With no mammalian carnivores, birds and reptiles



In this undated sketch by Inge van Noortwijk and released by John Wiley & Sons, a six-foot (180 centimetres)-tall giant stork stands next to a dwarf *Homo floresiensis* that had lived on the remote island of Flores in Indonesia.

INTERNET

faced less competition for food, accounting for some of their massive size. Even today, rats more than 16 inches (40 centimetres) from head to body can be found on Flores. It is also home to Komodo dragons, the largest lizards on earth, which grow to be up to 10 feet (3 metres) long, weighing up to 150 pounds (70 kilograms).

INTERNET

Nature's coming attraction: Geminid meteor shower

CAPE CANAVERAL, 12 Dec—Stay tuned for nature's coming attraction. Early next week, the Geminid meteor shower will make its annual appearance, just in time for Christmas. Astronomers consider it the best meteor shower of the year, with more than 100 meteors streaking through the night sky every hour. The peak of the meteor shower will occur early Tuesday, between midnight and sunrise local time. The

show will be best in the Northern Hemisphere, easily visible with the naked eye.

The Geminids are actually rocky celestial leftovers. Every December, Earth passes through this stream of debris from 3200 Phaethon, once believed to be an asteroid and now considered an extinct or iceless comet. The meteors, or shooting stars, can appear anywhere, but always seem to fall from the

Gemini constellation, thus their name. Meteors occur when bits of particles enter the atmosphere and burn up, resembling incoming fireballs.—*Internet*

In this picture provided by Wally Pacholka of AstroPics.com, a Geminid fireball explodes over the Mojave Desert in the Mojave Desert, Calif on 13 Dec, 2009.

INTERNET

Rare serpentine oarfish appears on Malibu shore

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec—The rare, ribbon-shaped sea creature was far from home when it washed ashore in Malibu this week. Darrell Rae was on a Sunday morning stroll on Malibu Colony beach when he spotted the 12-foot-long silvery fish with a brilliant red mane and scarlet dorsal fin floundering in the water a few dozen feet from the shore.

"I grew up on the beaches and I had never seen or even heard of anything like it," he said.

"I knew it had to be something that came from far away and deep in the ocean." When Rae returned with his camera, the creature had washed ashore, dead. Half a dozen people were gawking at the long, thin leviathan, wondering if it might be some kind of eel. But the first to correctly identify the serpentine creature was an 8-year-old boy who recognized it from school and strode up beside the adults to inform them: It's an oarfish.

INTERNET

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Couple wanted in dismemberment killing arrested

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec—A Pennsylvania couple wanted in the slaying of a man who was cut into pieces and stashed in a backpack and under a bed in a downtown Los Angeles hotel room was arrested on Friday, authorities said. A fugitive task force arrested Edward Garcia Jr, 36, and Melissa Hope Garcia, 25, who also goes by the name of Melissa Turner, around 3:45 pm, said Matt Brown, a supervisor with the US Marshals Service.

They had been staying in an abandoned office building in Hollywood and were living in squalid conditions, surrounded by trash, human waste and syringes. Both appeared

to have sores on their faces caused by drug use and Melissa Garcia had recently cut her hair and put red streaks in it, authorities said. "They were asleep when we kicked the door in," Brown said. "They were coherent but they looked like they were on the downside of a drug binge."

The Garcias have been charged with murder and the special circumstances of torture in the Thanksgiving killing of Herbert Tracy White, 49, of Los Angeles. A maid found his dismembered body stuffed in a backpack and under a bed in the Continental Hotel in the seedy downtown Skid Row area.—*Internet*

Malaysia may sign free trade pact with S Korea

PUTRAJAYA, 12 Dec—Malaysia is mulling over the possibility of signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with South Korea after witnessing the success of the ASEAN-South Korea FTA. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak made the remarks in Malaysia's federal administration center here on Friday. Also present was the visiting South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

Najib, also Malaysian finance minister, said that Malaysia was determined to expand its bilateral trade with South Korea, which saw a 34 percent jump this year from the same period last year. Malaysia's two-way trade with South Korea amounted to 36.75 billion ringgit (about 11.85 billion U.S. dollars) last year. The amount is expected to exceed 16 billion US dollars this year.

Xinhua

Iraq's Sadr calls for ban on bars, nightclubs

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec—Anti-American Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr called on Friday for the closure of bars and liquor shops in Iraq following a renewed campaign by authorities in Baghdad to shut down nightclubs and shops selling alcohol.

Hundreds of Sadr's followers rallied in the Husseiniya District of northern Baghdad, heeding his call to take to the streets after Friday prayers in support of a ban. Many carried Sadr's photograph and held up banners which read "We call for the immediate closure of all nightclubs and bars".

"Stand against those who want to disseminate corruption, intoxication, and addiction (to alcohol), to make

Iraq drift towards ignorance, corruption, lewdness, to make our society rot like the West."

Authorities last year ordered the closure of all Baghdad nightclubs and shops selling alcohol because of concern that the venues were undermining morals.

The provincial council has renewed its efforts to close clubs and liquor shops.

Mainly Muslim Iraq is a conservative society, where many women cover their hair and bodies and most men and women eschew alcohol, which is proscribed under Islamic law.

MNA/Reuters



Visitors tour at China International Green Industry Expo 2010 (CIGIE) in Beijing, Capital of China, on 24 Nov, 2010. The 4-day expo opened on Wednesday, with the participation of more than 200 enterprises from 25 countries and regions. The expo will serve as a platform for domestic and overseas enterprises to exchange information, and display the latest achievements in areas including energy saving, emission reduction and circular economy, etc.—XINHUA

Conn AG demands access to data grabbed by Google

HARTFORD, 12 Dec—Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal on Friday demanded that Google provide access to data the company said it accidentally collected from public Wi-Fi networks. The Democratic US senator-elect said he and the state Consumer Protection Department issued a "civil investigative demand," which is like a subpoena, that says Google must provide access to the data by 17 Dec or face being taken to court.

In May, Google announced that it had

inadvertently collected fragments of people's online activities from unsecured Wi-Fi networks in more than 30 countries while taking photographs for its Street View mapping service. Google's disclosure prompted investigations around the globe. Blumenthal and officials in nearly 40 other states have been seeking to review the information to see if Google improperly accessed e-mails, passwords and other private data.

"Verifying Google's data snare is crucial to assessing a penalty and assuring no repeat," Blumenthal said in a statement. "Consumers and businesses expect and deserve a full explanation, as well as measures shielding them from future spying."

The company apologized again in a statement Friday, saying it never wanted the information and hasn't used it in any products or services.

Internet

Oracle seeks to add to \$1.3B fine against SAP

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec—Oracle wants to make SAP's \$1.3 billion penalty for stealing intellectual property even bigger. On Friday, Oracle asked a judge to add \$211.7 million in interest to the \$1.3 billion fine that a federal jury levied against SAP last month. The judge still needs to formally impose the fine. There is a possibility she could reduce it. SAP can appeal. Oracle, based in Redwood Shores, and SAP are two of the world's biggest business software makers. Their three-week trial exposed a remarkable example of corporate espionage.

Germany-based SAP admitted a subsidiary mined the contents of password-protected Oracle websites, downloading software and customer support documents to help steal Oracle customers. SAP says Oracle shouldn't get any more money beyond the fine. Oracle declined comment.

Internet

US Attorney General defends anti-terrorism stings

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec—US Attorney General Eric Holder on Friday strongly defended undercover sting tactics like those used last month to capture an Oregon man charged with trying to plant a fake bomb at a holiday festival.

"These types of operations have proven to be an essential law enforcement tool in uncovering and preventing potential terror attacks," Holder told the annual dinner of San Francisco Bay Area community group Muslim Advocates, according to a prepared text of his remarks. The comments came in a speech broadly focused on a call for better relations between Muslims and law enforcement and a promise to prosecute hate crimes.—*MNA/Reuters*



A woman with cholera receives treatment in a clinic set up by the International Red Cross in Port-au-Prince recently.
INTERNET

California 'bomb factory' goes up in smoke

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec—A house in California containing a "bomb factory" of explosives went up in smoke on Thursday in an operation controlled by fire services, who said it was the safest way to destroy it.

Occasional blasts could be heard as flames leapt high into the air, after a bomb-arson team ignited the building in Escondido, some 30 miles (45 km) north of San Diego in southern California.

Serbian George Djura Jakubec, 54, who lived in the house for about four years, pleaded not guilty Monday to eight charges including making and possessing destructive devices, as well as robbing three banks.

Deputy District Attorney Terri Perez said Jakubec had turned his home into a "bomb factory," which he described in court as "the largest quantity of these types of homemade explosives (ever found) at one place in the United States."

A stretch of nearby freeway was closed and nearby residents were evacuated ahead of the controlled blaze.

Internet



Flames engulf the rented home of George Jura Jakubec after it was set ablaze by officials in Escondido, California on Thursday. Jakubec, 54, who lived in the house for about four years, pleaded not guilty Monday to eight charges including making and possessing destructive devices, as well as robbing three banks.

INTERNET

Newborn baby stolen from German clinic found

BERLIN, 12 Dec —A newborn baby girl was stolen from a hospital on the outskirts of Frankfurt on Thursday but was found several hours later and two suspects have been arrested, police said.

The baby was born in the clinic early Thursday morning, but around noon a woman came into the mother's room pretending to be a nurse and taking the girl away, police said in a statement. Police launched a major search operation around the Hoechst hospital, and several hours later they were tipped off to search a nearby home, where officers found two 28-year-old women with the baby, police said.

Both were arrested as they could not explain why the baby was with them, police said. A nurse from the hospital and a midwife later identified the missing girl, German news agency DAPD reported. The 20-year-old mother had given the baby away as she thought the woman was taking the 3.2 kilogram (7 pound) newborn to a medical exam.

Internet

Men fined over "indecent" fashion show makeup



Sudanese models presenting wedding dresses at the first mixed-gender fashion show in Khartoum in June 2010. A Sudanese court on Wednesday convicted eight models who took part in that fashion show with "indecent" and ordered them to pay a fine but spared them a flogging sentence.

INTERNET

KHARTOUM, 12 Dec—A Sudanese court convicted seven men of indecency on Wednesday after police accused them of wearing makeup during a fashion show in Khartoum, their lawyer said. The men, amateur models at the "Sudanese Next Top Model Fashion Show" in June, were arrested by the public order police, a body known for its crack-downs on perceived indecent dress and drinking in the Muslim north, one defendant told Reuters.

All seven were found guilty on Wednesday and each fined 200 Sudanese pounds (\$80), as was a woman who faced the same charge for applying the makeup, said lawyer Nabil Adib. "The court thought that they were

indecently dressed. The judge thought that wearing makeup could be offensive for men and allowing a woman to put makeup on men was against the law," said Adib.

The lawyer said he had argued in court that men, including religious preachers, regularly wore makeup for appearances on Sudan's state television station. The defendants could have faced a maximum punishment of 40 lashes and imprisonment, said Adib. Sudanese UN official Lubna Hussein was briefly jailed for wearing trousers in public after being found guilty for the same offence in 2009, a case that drew international criticism.

Reuters

China's Bona film group issues IPO on NASDAQ

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — China's Bona film group, Ltd, issued its initial public offerings (IPO) on NASDAQ on Thursday, raising approximately 100 million US dollars. Robert Greifeld, CEO of NASDAQ, said in the opening bell ceremony that Bona is the first Chinese film company to get listed on NASDAQ, and it has made truly remarkable progress by distributing 139 films, including 29 internationally, since its founding seven years ago.

Dong Yu, the founder and CEO of Bona, said that thanks to the rapid development of China's economy, culture and film industry, Bona has the opportunity to stand at a new starting point in history by entering the NASDAQ market. "The film industry is an industry full of dreams," Dong told Xinhua, "Since Bona's founding, we keep focusing on film making, and will keep on investing,

filming and releasing more good films."

The world's output of films is about 5,000 annually. Among them, 500 are produced by the Chinese film industry, according to Dong. "The Chinese film industry is in a rapid developing period, we are confident that we will rake in over 10 billion yuan in box office revenue in China this year." "The NASDAQ stock market provides us with an international platform," Dong said. "We look forward to enhancing cooperation with international film makers in the future, as well as promoting the convergence of the Chinese and US film market."

Bona Film Group Limited is the largest privately owned film distributor in China, with an integrated business model encompassing film distribution, production, exhibition and talent representation. —Xinhua



Twenty-seven strains of bacteria have formed a destructive blob of icicle-like "rusticles" that are slowly eating the historic wreckage of the RMS Titanic steamship. Canadian researchers told OurAmazingPlanet that the rusticles may completely destroy the remains of the ship within 15 years. Using DNA technology, the scientists discovered a new strain of bacteria among the rusticles. They named the life-forms Halomonas titanicae.

INTERNET

Germany, France "set example" to euro zone on taxes

FREIBURG, 12 Dec — Germany and France pledged on Friday to start harmonising their taxes as an example to Europe of how to avoid future crises, while ruling out joint euro zone bonds or topping up the current crisis fund. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy said after a brief summit in Freiburg on the German border with France that they both must set examples for the currency bloc via closer fiscal harmony.

"We have agreed to the convergence of German and French tax policies and I thank the German chancellor for this opening.

It is very important to be able to say to our partners, we are in the euro zone, we must converge to defend the euro," Sarkozy told a joint news conference with Merkel. "We should set an example on questions of competitiveness, how far we can go beyond pure budget policy," said Merkel.

The leaders of the two euro zone giants both rejected a proposal for joint euro zone bonds, championed by Luxembourg Prime Minister and Eurogroup chief Jean-Claude Juncker with Italian support.—MNA/Reuters



Prime Minister U Thein Sein presents trophy to leader of Defence Ministry team that stood first in the inter-club events (handicap) of SPDC Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010.—MNA

State Peace and Development Council ...

(from page 1)

Next, SPDC member U Tin Aye presented prizes to the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, which stood second and third respectively in inter-club event (handicapped).

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Transport, which stood second and third respectively in inter-club event (scratch).

Minister U Aung Thaung awarded prizes to the best loser award winning teams in the inter-club events (handicapped & scratch); Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt to most birdie, most par, longest drive and nearest pin award winners; Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence to first, second and third prize winners in individual event (handicapped); Maj-Gen Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence to first, second and third prize winners in individual event (scratch);

Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Ministry of Defence and the ministers to the best daily scorers; Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye to those who stood fourth to thirteenth in individual event (handicapped); and Sports Minister Thura U Aye Myint to those who stood fourteenth to twentieth in individual event (handicapped).

In the inter-club event (handicapped), the Ministry of Defence stood first with 657 strokes, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs second with 686 strokes, and the Ministry of Home Affairs third with 698 strokes.

In the inter-club event (scratch), the Ministry of Defence stood first with 822 strokes, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs second with 833 strokes, and the Ministry of Transport third with 859 strokes.

In individual event (handicapped), Capt Aung Min Thant of the Ministry of Defence stood first with 158 strokes, Capt Moe Kyaw Htein of the Ministry of Defence second with 125 strokes, and U Saw Myint Tun of the Ministry of

Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs third with 161 strokes.

In individual event (scratch), Capt Aung Min Thant of the Ministry of Defence stood first with 158 strokes, Maj Khin Maung Latt of the Ministry of Defence second with 160 strokes, and U Win Swe of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and

Development Affairs third with 161 strokes.

The best loser award in inter-club (handicapped) went to the Ministry of Education and the best loser award in inter-club (scratch) went to the Ministry of Health.

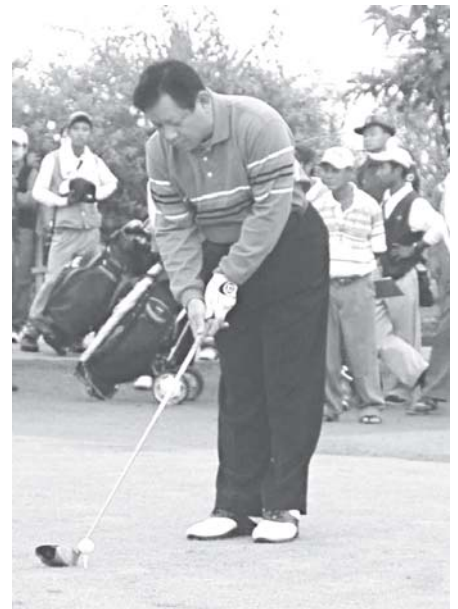
U Myo Lwin Oo of the Ministry of Transport and Captain Moe Kyaw Htein of the Ministry of Defence won Most Birdie Awards, Major Khin Maung Latt of the Ministry of Defence Most Par Award, U Zaw Min Htut of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, U Tun Thant of the Ministry of Sports, Captain Aung Min Thant of the Ministry of Defence, U Kyi Tun of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, U Myo Lwin Oo of the Ministry of Transport and U Myint Naing Oo of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue Longest Drive Award, U Soe Kyi of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, U Ye Myint Aung of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Soe Yi of the Ministry of Industry-1, U Thant Shin of the Prime Minister's Office, U Naing Win Latt of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, U

Aung Maung of the Ministry of Commerce and U Myint Thein of the Ministry of Cooperatives Nearest Pin Award.

After the ceremony, prize winning teams posed for documentary photos.

MNA



SPDC Member U Tin Aye in action at State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010.—MNA



Ministry of Defence team seen with trophies in inter-club handicap event and inter-club scratch event of State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney 2010.—MNA

School libraries development and reading-habit motivating festival celebrated

YANGON, 12 Dec—A ceremony to open school libraries development and reading-habit motivating festival, organized by Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information, No. 3 Basic Education

Department, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Village Library Foundation, was held at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Dagon Myothit (North) Township here on 9 December.

Director-General of

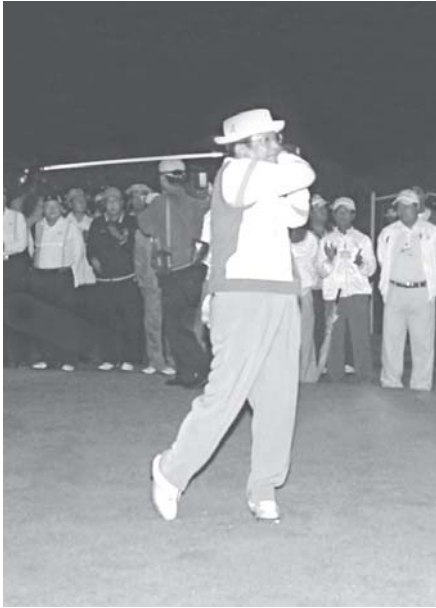
IPRD U Ye Htut, Director-General of No. 3 BED U Aye Kyu and Chairman of MWJA U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) opened the library.

The educative talks to mark opening ceremony were held at Nos.

1, 3 and 4 BEHSs.

Essay contest at middle and high school levels will be held at No. 3 BEHS on 12 December; poem-reciting contest and high school level extempore contest, at No. 1 BEHS on 15 December and prize presentation and closing ceremony will be held at No. 1 BEHS on 20 December.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung tees off tracer ball to open State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney.
(News on page 1)—MNA

Special sale at New Mobile

YANGON, 12 Dec—Special sale of New Mobile, which is annually held in December, will take place at its show room at No. 271/273 on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township, here, from 15 to 19 December. Singapore-imported GSM handsets, CDMA (450) MHz and 800 MHz handsets and fixed phones are available at reduced prices with three-month guarantees. During the sale, New mobile will offer services for those who want to apply for CDMA 450 MHz and 800 MHz in Yangon and Mandalay. For more information, dial 01-386594 and 095091282.—MNA

Staff of Forest Department donate hospital equipment to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital

NAY PYI YAW, 12 Dec—The Director-General of Forest Department and staff donated hospital equipment to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) and fed refreshments to patients for the 100th time this morning.

On behalf of the director-general, Deputy Director-General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw explained the purpose of donations.

The deputy director-general and officers donated one steel cabinet and two 10-litre oxygen cylinders and

two Nebulizers worth over K 700,000 to Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Phyu Phyu and officials who presented certificates of honour to them.

Later, patients were served with refreshments.

MNA



Harvesting monsoon paddy carried out for ensuring correct production of monsoon paddy at the plot of paddy of Farmer U Maung Ko in Hnakpyaw Taw Ward in Pintaya Township on 24 November morning.—MNA

Objectives of 63rd Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State
- All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity
- All the national people to work in concert for building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic new nation as the multiparty democracy general elections have been held successfully
- All the national people to make collaborative efforts with the Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit for further strengthening the already achieved stability and peace, security, prevalence of law and order, unity, development and democratization process with momentum
- All the national people to have greater awareness in warding off all destructive acts to disintegrate the Union and the national unity as the perpetuity of the Union plays a crucial role in building the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar contingent leaves for Guangzhou to partake in Asian Games for Disabled Persons

YANGON, 12 Dec — Myanmar sports contingent led by Deputy Leader Lt-Col Kyaw Soe of the Ministry of Defence of Myanmar Sports Federation for the Disabled yesterday left here for Guangzhou of China to participate in the 10th Asian Games for Disabled Persons to be held from 12 to 20 December.

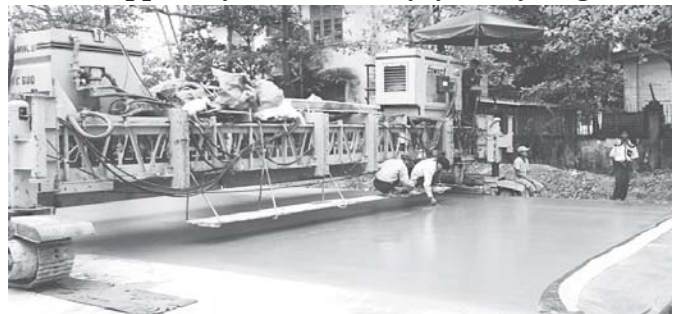
They were seen off by officials from Sports Ministry and the federation.

A contingent led by Col Htay Naing of the Ministry of Defence had already left here for Guangzhou on 8 December.—MNA



Deputy Leader Lt-Col Kyaw Soe of the Ministry of Defence of MSF for the Disabled seen with members at the Yangon International Airport before departure for China.—MNA

YCDC starts construction of No. 2 road section to link Upper Myanmar and Ayeyawady Region



Construction at No 2 road section to link Upper Myanmar and Ayeyawady Region in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Dec—With the aim of ensuring smooth transport and swift flow of commodities, the Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) under the Yangon City Development Committee has launched construction of No. 2 road section that will be a main road to link Upper Myanmar and Ayeyawady Region. No. 2 road section, which is six-lane concrete facility, starts from Botahtaung Market Road in Botahtaung Township to Maso Bridge on 2nd Street in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, along Ayeyawun Road in Dawbon Township, Shukhintha Ringroad in Thakayta Township, Bago River Road and Maungmagan Kanthaya Road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township

through Maha Bandoola Bridge.

Construction of the highway commenced on 23 November. Concrete will be placed on 25 feet wide road area with the use of Gomaco concrete paver machines. As the road will withstand 60-ton loads, containers, trucks and other heavy machinery can drive on it. YCDC is repaving No. 2 road section with 11 inches thick on the present asphalt surface for ensuring better facility, according to an official of Engineering Department (Road/Bridge).

On completion, Upper Myanmar will have easier access to Ayeyawady Region, and the road will contribute a great deal to smoother and speedier flow of commodities.—MNA

Yangon Command Commander attends opening of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Exam

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than supplicated religious affairs at the opening of 63rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination at Vizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon this morning.

The congregation led by the commander and



Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung—both supplicated religious affairs—received Five Percepts from Chairman Sayadaw of

Tipitaka Selection Ovadaçariya Group Abbot of Paukmyine Monastery in Mandalay. The commander, the minister and the director-

general of Religious Affairs Department accepted cash donation for holding the examination from well-wishers. Executive

Commander Brig-Gen Tun Than and Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung attend opening of 63rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.—MNA



Member Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Group Abbot of Chaukhtetkyi Phayakyi Monastery gave sermon to the audiences who then

shared merits. The wellwishers donated offertories to Sangha members after the ceremony.

MNA

Myanmar universities sports contingent leave for Thailand



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec— Under the leadership of Chairman of Sports Plus Education Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min, the Myanmar universities sports contingent headed by

Rector in-charge of Dagon University U Hsan left Yangon by air this morning to take part in the 15th ASEAN Universities Games to be held in Chiangmai of Thailand from 13 to 23 December. The Myanmar sports

contingent will compete in the football, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, tennis, table tennis, golf, swimming and track & field event out of 17 sports events in the games.

The sports contingent comprised 66 members— 20 members of management board, coaches and international referees and 46 athletes of universities and colleges.—MNA

Myanmar Universities Sports Contingent seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Thailand.

MNA

A visit to hill station...

(from page 16)

on the greening mountain ranges. At the hilly areas, we witnessed terrace plantations of paddy, onion, maize and vegetables. Along the downhill road, we saw trucks with the loads of vegetables, passenger buses and motorbikes. Passenger buses left Haka and Falam in early morning for Kalay. Local passengers took 12 hours for 120 miles long road between Kalay and Haka.

During our visit,

we saw villages of Chin national races along the road that rounds the hill. The houses are built with corrugated iron sheets and timbers. Flowery plants were blossoming in front of their residences.

Terrace plantations were located behind their houses. Bunches of maize were hung in front of their houses. Some people worked pounding of paddy with the use of wooden motor. They also pounded maize. We learned that Chin nationals cook maize

with meat as main meals called Saburi. Therefore, they store maize as food and strain for cultivation.

We saw pieces of fuel-wood under the houses. As Chin State is very cold in December, they stored fuel-wood to set fire for warming themselves with the use of fuel-wood. As Chin State is located at an altitude of over 5000 feet, the local people suffer -6 degree centigrade in the cold season.

Thaingngin, Lom-ban, Lompee, Lomran and Ranthalo villages are located along the



Photo shows a part of motor road at the entrance to Falam.

road stretching from Kalay to Falam. Lom-ban has one Basic Education High School. Ranthalo Village has been established as agricultural model village. Some villages are being supplied with electricity. Thaingngin Village is located at the junction.

The village has access to Falam, Haka and Kalay. We left Thingngin for Falam in the evening.

Falam Township is located at an altitude of 5200 feet. The township is constituted with four wards and 158 villages in 80 village-tracts. Falam has one 200-bed district people's hospital and Basic Education High Schools. Being a district area, Falam is facilitated with government offices such as telephones, communication station, post office, telegraphic office and police station.

As Falam is a hill station, neat and tidy residences and offices are built around the hill sides and along the ring road of hilly area. Scenic beauty of urban area can be seen in the background of lush and green mountain ranges. In fact, Falam brings prestige of beautiful scenes to Chin State.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
10-12-2010



Residences of Chin national races seen on Chin hills.

Double happiness for world economy in China trade data

BEIJING, 12 Dec—China's imports and exports were much stronger than expected in November, robust numbers that could clear the way for the central bank to raise interest rates as soon as this weekend.

The data on Friday offered a double-hit of good news for the global economy: a reminder that Chinese demand was still growing apace and an indication that the US economy was picking up steam.

"The import figures reflect continued strong domestic demand, which is not too surprising, especially as the government has been taking measures to increase imports to reduce the trade surplus," said Jian Chang, an economist with Barclays

Capital in Hong Kong.

Imports rose 37.7 percent from a year earlier, easily topping forecasts of a 24.2 percent increase. "It shows the US economy is recovering well," said Wang Han, an economist at CEBM in Shanghai. "The central bank will raise reserve requirements this weekend and then interest rates next week."

The volume of imports and exports both set monthly records, the customs authority said in a statement. That left China with a trade surplus of 22.9 billion US dollars in November, the seventh straight month in which it has been in the hefty 17 billion US dollars-29 billion US dollars range.—MNA/Reuters



A pile of bricks at a builders merchants. A German DIY enthusiast accidentally walked himself into his own basement and only managed to escape by drilling his way through to his neighbours, police said.

INTERNET



Women dressed in Christmas costume take part in a parade held in San Francisco recently. Hundreds of local residents Saturday took part in the annual Santa Claus parade held in San Francisco.—XINHUA

German police arrest two suspected Sikh militants

BERLIN, 12 Dec—German police have arrested two men suspected of being Sikh militants belonging to a group that is fighting to create a Sikh homeland, prosecutors said on Thursday.

They say the men, arrested in the western states of Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia, were part of the militant Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) that wants to create a Sikh homeland out of parts of India and Pakistan. "They are accused of having joined the KZF by 2009 at the latest and been in contact with its leadership abroad to help procure weapons," Germany's Public Prosecutor General at the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe said in a statement.

The two, described as 35-year old Sukhpreet S and 41-year old Jagtar S M, are Indian nationals and have been charged with violations of firearms laws and "membership in a foreign terrorist organization". Prosecutors say they had acquired two semi-automatic firearms and forged identity documents, and had sought to obtain more arms to help the KZF in its attacks on Indian targets and authorities.

The group aims to deliver weapons and counterfeit money to the Indian state of Punjab via networks of members in Europe, police say. The European Union considers it a terrorist organization.—MNA/Reuters

Full sequence confirms Haiti cholera came from Asia

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Detailed genetic tests confirm that the cholera strain that has killed more than 2,000 people in Haiti came from south Asia and most closely resembles a strain circulating in Bangladesh, US researchers reported on Thursday.

While they cannot trace who or what precisely carried the cholera to Haiti, the team at Harvard Medical School and Pacific Biosciences of California Inc say their findings show extra measures may be needed to help prevent the spread of cholera from one disaster area to another — a contentious issue because many Haitians have blamed the outbreak on Nepalese troops sent to help them as part of a United Nations mission.

Aid workers from more than 10,000 organizations all over the world have poured into Haiti to help after a devastating January earthquake, which levelled much of the capital and killed 250,000 people.

Writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Harvard's Dr John Mekalanos and colleagues said they also confirmed that Haiti's cholera strain carries a mutation associated with causing more severe disease.

"Our genome data puts the Haiti strain in the group that is the worst of the worst," Mekalanos said.

MNA/Reuters

Du Pont heir convicted of murder dies in US prison

NEW YORK, 12 Dec—John du Pont, a wealthy heir to his family's chemicals fortune, died on Thursday in a Pennsylvania prison where he was serving a sentence for the 1996 shooting death of Olympic champion US wrestler David Schultz.

Du Pont was one of the richest murder defendants in US history at the time of his conviction. Du Pont, 72, died of natural causes at the Laurel Highlands state prison, about 70 miles (1103 kilometres) from Pittsburgh, said Sue Bensinger, a spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He had served 13 years of his 13- to 30-year sentence, she said.

He was a great-great-grandson of

EI du Pont, who in 1802 founded the chemical firm that bears his name and created one of America's largest family fortunes. At the time of his 1997 trial, John du Pont's personal wealth was estimated at up to 250 million US dollars.

Witnesses at his trial said du Pont shot Schultz, who lived at a wrestling training facility on the du Pont estate, three times with a handgun. The shooting was followed by a 48-hour police standoff before du Pont's capture.

Du Pont was found guilty but mentally ill in connection with Schultz's death. During the trial, his attorney said du Pont suffered from delusions.—MNA/Reuters



In this image provided by the New Orleans Museum of Art/John d'Addario, visitors view 'Woman in an Armchair,' by Pablo Picasso, from 'Great Collectors / Great Donors: The Making of the New Orleans Museum of Art, 1910-2010,' an exhibit celebrating the museum's 100th anniversary in New Orleans.

INTERNET

Tale of two sisters points to changing Gypsy world

UDUPU, 12 Dec — Halfway through another 12-hour day, Narcisa Tranca scrubs the floor, one eye on her infant son and her thoughts on the tasks ahead — cleaning, cooking, feeding the pigs and chickens. Forced to abandon big dreams and marry at 15, this has been her life for



In this 25 Nov, 2010 picture. Narcisa Tranca, 22, holds one of her children in Udupu, Romania. Among Gypsies, or Roma, marrying young is a tradition born of the need to survive in an environment where young women were fair game for non-Roma men.

INTERNET

the past seven years — locked in a joyless union she has come to accept.

On the outskirts of Bucharest, the teeming capital to the west of this drab village, younger sister Claudia takes a break from her English homework. She's in her last year of high-school and preparing for college, where she plans to study languages. Asked about marriage, the straight A-student giggles, shrugs, and says: "There's time."

Though separated by only four years and a two-hour drive, Narcisa, 22 and Claudia, 18, are worlds apart. But their lives represent more than a tale of two gifted sisters going separate ways. They are Gypsies — and their story reflects creeping change within Europe's down-trodden minority. They offer a glimmer of hope that coming generations may be allowed to choose education instead of early marriage, empowering them to escape squalor on the fringes of society.

"I was wrong," says Marcel Tranca, when asked about his decision to force his daughter Narcisa into marriage. Looking at Claudia, he adds: "But I learned from that mistake." Among Gypsies, or Roma, marrying young is a tradition born of the need to survive in an environment where young women were fair game for non-Roma men. Romanian Roma, in particular, turned to early marriage during 500 years of slavery that ended only in the 19th century. —Internet

Russia's Putin raps US over leaked cables

Moscow, 12 Dec — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin attacked the United States on Thursday over secret US diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks, saying the West had no right to preach to Russia about democracy. When asked about cables which cast him as Russia's "alpha-dog" ruler, Putin asked: "Do you think the American diplomatic service is a crystal clean source of information? Do you think so?"

He then criticized the West over the arrest

of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who turned himself in to authorities in Britain this week after a warrant by a Swedish prosecutor who wants to question him about sexual misconduct accusations.

"If it is full democracy, then why have they hidden Mr Assange in prison? That's what, democracy?" Putin said, in the strongest Russian criticism of the affair. "So, you know, as they say in the countryside, some people's cows can moo, but yours should

keep quiet. So I would like to shoot the puck back at our American colleagues," Putin said at a briefing with his French counterpart Francois Fillon.

The phrase is a colloquial term which is a Russian equivalent of "the pot calling the kettle black". Leaked US cables cast Putin as a ruler who allows an elite of corrupt officials and crooked spies to siphon off cash from the world's biggest energy producer.

MNA/Reuters

File photo shows Keith Urban performing a free concert for winners of a contest conducted by his website, aboard an Amtrak train traveling from Philadelphia to New York. Urban is trying to make his fans and his family happy this summer. The multi-platinum country star is hitting the road 16 June on a 44-city arena tour in the US with a schedule that gives him time to be with his wife, actress Nicole Kidman, and their 2-year-old daughter, Sunday Rose.

INTERNET



Fingernail swabs taken of beau in NY bathtub death

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Investigators on Friday were taking fingernail swabs from the boyfriend of a fashion designer found dead in a bathtub at a posh hotel in the hopes of finding evidence that may help them determine how she died.

Police obtained a search warrant that also allowed them to take photos of Nicholas Brooks, the 24-year-old son of "You Light Up My Life" songwriter Joseph Brooks.

He has been with police since his girlfriend, Sylvie Cachay, was discovered around 3 am Thursday at the Soho House hotel. Police were looking for any possible signs of struggle or trauma, said chief NYPD spokesman Paul Browne. Nicholas Brooks has not been charged with a crime and remains cooperative with investigators.

Internet

US envoy Holbrooke feels ill, goes to hospital

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — Veteran US diplomat Richard Holbrooke, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, felt ill at the State Department and went to the hospital, the State Department said on Friday.

State Department spokesman PJ Crowley said Holbrooke, 69, began to feel unwell while on the department's seventh floor, which is where US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's office is located, but he declined to provide further details.

"He felt ill," Crowley told reporters. "He is at the hospital now. He's being evaluated. He was here this morning and

beyond that, I'll wait until we have more information." Within days of taking office in January 2009, US President Barack Obama named Holbrooke, best known for brokering the Dayton peace accords that ended the war in Bosnia, as his special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Holbrooke, who has worked as an executive in the financial sector when not at the State Department, was said to be a candidate for secretary of state before the job went to Clinton.

With a meteoric career that included stints in Vietnam as well as serving as the top US diplomat for East Asia, for Europe and at the United

Nations, Holbrooke's most notable achievement was bringing all sides in the Bosnia conflict to the negotiating table at an air base in Dayton, Ohio. The resulting 1995 Dayton accords ended the conflict.

MNA/Reuters

MP says Iran not to discuss N-issues in Istanbul talks

TEHERAN, 12 Dec — A senior Iranian lawmaker said Teheran will not discuss its "inalienable" nuclear rights with the five UN Security Council permanent members plus Germany (G5+1) in the next round of talks in Istanbul, local satellite Press TV reported on Thursday.

Chairman of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi said on Wednesday that "Iran is not supposed to negotiate its nuclear rights defined under the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) with the G5+1" in

Istanbul, according to the report.

Under the NPT, Iran was entitled to use peaceful nuclear technology, he said, adding that those countries that seek to impede Iran's access to such technology, in fact, violate the treaty, the report said.

MNA/Reuters

Bolivia rejects Uribe's accusations about nuclear programme

LA PAZ, 12 Dec — The Bolivian Government on Thursday rejected accusations by former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe that Bolivia and Venezuela were in a nuclear arms race.

"Uribe's words are ridiculous and out of context," Bolivian Defence Minister Ruben Saavedra said, rejecting Uribe's accusations. He said that "Bolivia does not have the time nor the money to be in a nuclear arms race." "We reject those statements aimed at affecting the image of Bolivia and Venezuela," Saavedra added. Saavedra lamented that former presidents like Uribe are trying to harm Bolivia with declarations that are not only out of place, but also far from the truth. Saavedra said that Uribe "uses his imagination too much, and we do not know what objective he has in mind, for saying such lies." —MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan child missing in 2004 Tsunami found

COLOMBO, 12 Dec — An infant missing after the December 2004 South Asian Tsunami tragedy has now been traced, officials said on Thursday.

Anoma Dissanayake, the chairman of National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) said the child now six years old was found in a house at Wellampitiya, a north Colombo suburb.

MNA/Xinhua

Picasso sale off after cache revealed



The sale was to have included a number of sketches and minor Picasso works.—INTERNET

PARIS, 12 Dec — A Paris auctioneer has postponed a sale of paintings by Picasso that he gave to his chauffeur after a further cache of the artist's works was revealed. Thursday's sale was to have featured works given to driver Maurice Bresnu. Meanwhile, police have confiscated 271 pieces that electrician Pierre Le Guennec claims Picasso gave to him. The sale was called off because of a bizarre twist - Mr Le Guennec is an heir to the late Mr Bresnu and stood to profit from Thursday's planned sale.

Last month, retired electrician Mr Le Guennec revealed he had a treasure trove of 271 pieces, including lithographs, cubist painting, notebooks and a watercolour thought to be worth about 60m euros (£50.2m). He installed burglar alarms at a number of the artist's homes in France in the three years before Picasso's death in 1973.

While Mr Le Guennec said the works were gifts, Picasso's family have dismissed his explanation saying the artist would not have given so many works away to one person. They have filed a legal case against Mr Le Guennec claiming "illegal possession" of the paintings.

Police have seized the art as part of their investigation. Picasso's chauffeur Maurice Bresnu, meanwhile, is well known to art scholars. Some works from Mr Bresnu's Picasso collection have already been sold at auction in the 1990s. Thursday's sale was to have included a number of sketches and minor Picasso works given to Mr Bresnu.—*Internet*



Actress Mandy Moore promotes her new movie "Tangled" at New York's Disney Store earlier this month. The film's makers say one of the biggest challenges was making Princess Rapunzel's long flowing hair seem realistic, including in 3D.

INTERNET



Woman returns 1936 library book

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec — A California woman is proving it's never too late to make things right. Hazel Severson (95) says a friend found a library book that Ms Severson's late husband had borrowed in 1936.

She decided to return the book and offer to pay the overdue fee — a whopping \$2,701. Luckily the library didn't charge her the fee, accepting a small donation.—*Internet*

File photo shows Colombian singer Shakira performs on stage at the Hallenstadion in Zurich, Switzerland, on 17 Nov, 2010.

INTERNET

Climate draft proposes \$100b financing

CANCUN, 12 Dec — A draft accord from a UN climate conference Friday proposed a raft of modest deals, including a 100-billion-US-dollar in financing to help developing nations by 2020, a temperature target and payments to protect tropical forests.

The draft aimed to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F), and would deliver "adequate and predictable support, including financial

resources" for developing countries that protect their forests. To become a UN decision, the draft, agreed by groups of ministers, would have to be cleared by a conference of about 192 countries at a full meeting in Cancun, Mexico, Friday or Saturday. The draft moves forward a pledge that wealthy nations made last year in the Copenhagen Accord of 100 billion US dollars per year in financing, starting in 2020, for developing countries.

The money would help developing countries mitigate emissions and adapt to the worst effects of global warming, like heatwaves, droughts and stronger storms. The text also sets up a "green climate fund" to help channel some of the money to developing countries. The text drops a demand from developing countries that rich countries offer 1.5 percent of their gross domestic product in financing.

MNA/Reuters

Airbus senior official accused for insider trading

PARIS, 12 Dec — Airbus Chief Operating Officer John Leahy is being investigated for alleged "insider trading" by French authorities, local media reported on Friday. The senior Airbus officer, a US citizen, was placed under investigation on 5 November, and is suspected to have received privileged information about the financial prospects of Airbus, which linked with the significant delay of super-jumbo A380 in 2006.

The announcement of A380 delay was followed by a plunge in Airbus share prices by 26 percent in June 2006. Before the share price drop, Leahy, one of the few non-Europeans in Airbus high-level, sold 260,000 shares for 3.1 million euros (4.1 million US dollars) while exercising his options in EADS, Airbus' parent company, according to a report by French stock market supervisor Autorite des Marches Financiers.

When called by *Xinhua* for comment on the case, Pierre Bayle, the communication director of EADS said he couldn't give more information because he himself heard of the news but now. If convicted, 60-year-old Leahy will face two years in prison and heavy fine proportional to his gain from the sale of EADS shares, local media reported.—*Xinhua*

OPEC ministers signal no output shifts

QUITO, 12 Dec — OPEC oil ministers signaled ahead of a Saturday meeting that they see no reason to change output targets given current global economic sluggishness, though they expect demand for crude will continue to grow. "What's missing right now is equilibrium in the price of oil," Angola's oil minister, Jose Maria Botelho de Vasconcelos, said Friday after arriving in this Andean capital. "I think \$90 dollars (a barrel) is a comfortable price." OPEC, which is responsible for 35 percent of global oil production, has not changed its output quotas since late 2008. And last month, Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi said oil between \$70 and \$90 per barrel was tolerable for consumers. He echoed that sentiment upon arrival in Quito on Friday. The 50-year-old cartel has had a good year, with prices hovering in the mid-\$80 range and profits up 32 percent over 2009 to \$750 billion, according to US Energy Department estimates.

Oil reached a two-year high of nearly \$91 on Tuesday as traders gauged the dimensions of 2011 demand and responded to a particularly harsh onset of winter in Europe.

Internet

Rescued killer whale will not be returned to sea

AMSTERDAM, 12 Dec — A young killer whale rescued in Dutch coastal waters will not be returned to the sea, the marine park where she recuperated said.

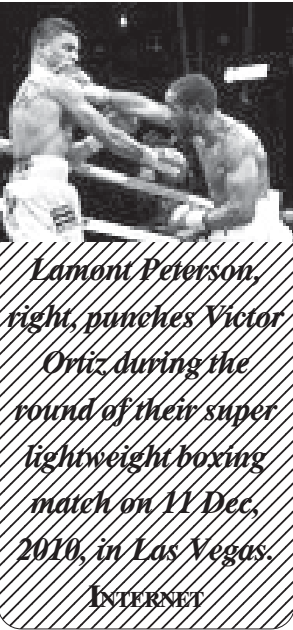
The female whale had strayed into Dutch coastal waters in June and was rescued in a weakened state. She was taken to the marine park Dolfinarium and named Morgan, becoming a popular attraction for visitors.

The Dolfinarium said a report drawn up by international academics indicated a successful return to the sea would be impossible after DNA tests and photo and sound identification efforts failed to locate her family with sufficient certainty.

"Orcas are extremely social animals that usually stay their entire life with their birth group," the marine park said in a statement. "Integration in her birth group is essential for a successful return." The marine park said it would now examine what was the best solution for Morgan.

MNA/Reuters

Ortiz, Peterson fight to majority draw



Lamont Peterson, right, punches Victor Ortiz during the round of their super lightweight boxing match on 11 Dec, 2010, in Las Vegas. INTERNET

LAS VEGAS, 12 Dec—Victor Ortiz and Lamont Peterson fought to a majority draw Saturday night, with Peterson coming back from two knockdowns to keep alive his 140-pound title aspirations.

Also, Joan Guzman remained unbeaten, stopping journeyman Jason Davis in the second round on the undercard of Amir Khan's WBA 140-pound title defence against Marcos Maidana

at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Ortiz (28-2-2) knocked down Peterson against the ropes twice in the third round and pressured his opponent throughout, while Peterson (28-1-1) did his best work counterpunching against Ortiz's strength. INTERNET

Eriksson reveals Beckham bid

LONDON, 12 Dec—Sven-Goran Eriksson confirmed Thursday he has tried to bring former England captain David Beckham back to English football with Leicester.

Eriksson, who as England manager worked closely with Beckham, is now in charge of second-tier Leicester, whose ambitious Thai owners have made it clear they are prepared to back their Swedish boss in the transfer market.—INTERNET



The Ivory Coast coach Sven Goran Eriksson speaks during a press conference.—INTERNET

Sun 12th Dec 2010 BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Bolton	2-1	Blackburn
Wolves	1-0	Birmingham
Tottenham	1-1	Chelsea

Barcelona to advertise Qatar Foundation on jerseys

BARCELONA, 12 Dec—Barcelona will sell advertising on its shirts for the first time next season after reaching a five-year, 150 million euro (\$200 million) deal with the Qatar Foundation.

Barcelona will receive 30 million euro (\$40 million) per season from 2011-12 from the nonprofit organization, located in the tiny gulf state where the 2022 World Cup will be played. Unlike other top soccer clubs,



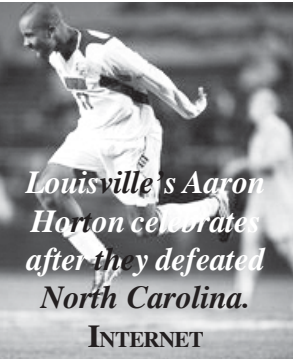
Barcelona's Argentinian forward and Ambassador of Unicef Lionel Messi takes part in a children's session. INTERNET

Barcelona has previously refused to sell advertising space to a shirt sponsor, but has been putting children's charity UNICEF on its front for free since 2006. INTERNET

Akron, Louisville advance to men's soccer final

SANTA BARBARA, 12 Dec—Akron advanced to the College Cup final for the second consecutive year, coming from behind to beat Michigan 2-1 on Friday night.

The third-seeded Zips (21-1-2) will face



Louisville's Aaron Horton celebrates after they defeated North Carolina. INTERNET

top-seeded Louisville on Sunday for the NCAA men's Division I soccer championship. Louisville (20-0-3), trying to become the first unbeaten champion since Santa Clara in 1989, scored in the final minute to oust North Carolina 2-1 in the first semifinal.

Akron was unbeaten in 2009 when it played Virginia to a 0-0 draw in the College Cup final, but the Cavaliers took the title by winning on penalty kicks at Cary, NC.—INTERNET



Manchester City's Yaya Toure, No 42, shoots and scores a goal against West Ham United during their English Premier League.—INTERNET

Results of respective leagues on 11 December

Italy - Serie A	
Palermo	3 - 1 Parma
Udinese	2 - 1 Fiorentina
Genoa	0 - 1 Napoli
Spain - Laliga Division	
Getafe	1 - 0 Villarreal
Sevilla	1 - 3 Almeria
Atletico Madrid	2 - 0 Deportivo La Coruna
Germany - Bundesliga I.	
FC Cologne	1 - 0 Eintracht Frankfurt
Bayern Munich	3 - 0 St. Pauli
Hamburger SV	2 - 4 Bayer Leverkusen
Hoffenheim	1 - 1 Nurnberg
Kaiserslautern	0 - 0 Wolfsburg
Borussia Dortmund	2 - 0 Werder Bremen
France - Ligue 1	
Arles-Avignon	0 - 1 Lille
Brest	0 - 0 Montpellier
Caen	0 - 0 Nice
Lorient	3 - 0 Lens
Nancy	1 - 0 Sochaux
Valenciennes	1 - 2 Paris S.G.
Auxerre	1 - 1 Marseille

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

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Manchester City wins 3-1 in Premier League

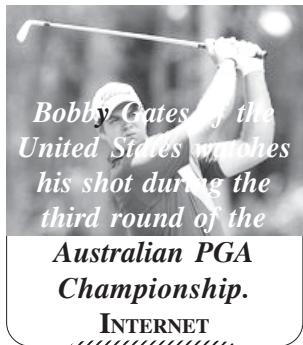
LONDON, 12 Dec—Manchester City won 3-1 at last-place West Ham on Saturday to strengthen its hold on a place among the Premier League's top four teams.

Yaya Toure put City ahead in the 30th minute before an own-goal by goalkeeper Robert Green and an 80th-minute score by Adam Johnson. West Ham

scored with a minute left. Aston Villa beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 and Blackpool won 1-0 at Stoke. But two weeks after a record-equaling 41 goals over a Premier League weekend, there were just eight in Saturday's first five games.

Everton drew 0-0 with Wigan and Fulham drew 0-0 with Sunderland.—INTERNET

American Gates leads Australian PGA



Bobby Gates of the United States watches his shot during the third round of the Australian PGA Championship. INTERNET

COOLUM, 12 Dec—American Bobby Gates shot a 1-under 71 in windy conditions Saturday to maintain a one-stroke lead after the third

round of the Australian PGA.

Gates, the New Zealand Open winner in January who earned a 2011 PGA Tour card with a 16th-place finish on the Nationwide Tour money list, had a 12-under 204 total on the Coolum course.

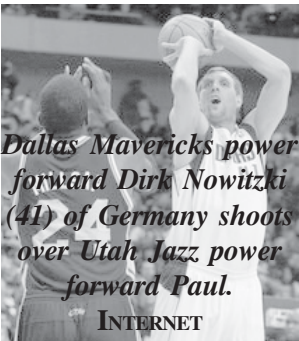
Gates finished with a 10-foot par putt after missing the 18th green with his approach. INTERNET

Nowitzki gets 31, leads Mavs to 12th straight win

DALLAS, 12 Dec—Dirk Nowitzki had 31 points and 15 rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks extended their winning streak to 12 games with a 103-97 victory over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night. The Mavericks rallied after wasting a 25-point first-half lead. DeShawn Stevenson added a season-high 17 points, going 5 of 7 from 3-point range, and Caron Butler had 16 points for Dallas.

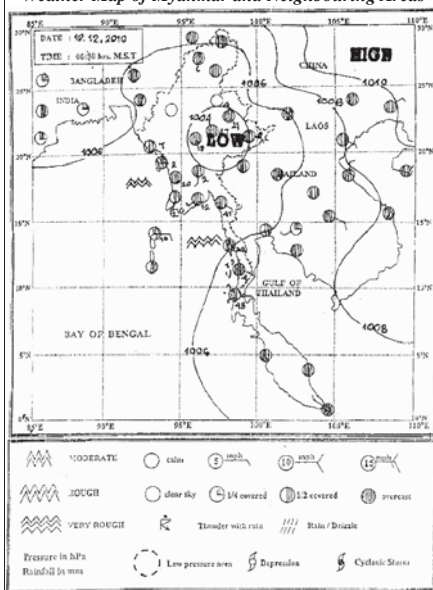
The Mavericks put on a long-range shooting clinic, hitting 14 of 26 from beyond the arc to

prevail in a matchup of Western Conference heavyweights. Dallas-area native Deron Williams scored 19 of his 34 points in the first half and paced the Jazz, who had won nine of 11. Paul Millsap added 16 points and Ronnie Price scored 14 for Utah.—INTERNET



Dallas Mavericks power forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) of Germany shoots over Utah Jazz power forward Paul. INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 12th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Chin, Kayin and Rakhine States, Bago and Upper Sagaing Regions and widespread in the remaining States and Regions with isolated heavy falls in Mon State, Mandalay and Magway Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine States, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, Bago and Yangon Regions, (7°C) to (8°C) above December average temperatures in Mon State and Upper Sagaing Region and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperature was Hakha (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin) (1.03) inches, Kyeikkhame (3.62) inches, Mudon (2.95) inches, Nyaunglebin (2.87) inches, Yamethin (2.56) inches, Kyeikmaraw (2.43) inches, Myaungmya (2.17) inches, Kawthoung (1.97) inches, Pinlaung and Pyin Oo Lwin (1.93) inches each, Taungdwingyi, Shwegyin and Mawlamyine (1.89) inches each, Bago (1.61) inches, Hsipaw (1.49) inches and Mandalay (1.46) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 11-12-2010 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 12-12-2010 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 12-12-2010 was (92%). Rainfall on 12-12-2010 was (1.03) inches.

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 11-12-2010 was 90°F.

Minimum temperature on 12-12-2010 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 12-12-2010 was (84%). Total sunshine hours on 11-12-2010 was (3.0) hours.

Rainfall on 12-12-2010 was at (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-12-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mingaladon, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 11-12-2010.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy over elsewhere Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 13th December 2010: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States, scattered in Rakhine State, Saging, Mandalay and Magway Regions and fairly widespread in the remaining States and Regions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State and Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-12-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-12-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-12-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Life expectancy slips, stroke dips to No 4 killer

NEW YORK, 12 Dec—US life expectancy has dropped slightly by about a month after mostly inching up for many years, the government reported Thursday. The preliminary report indicates that a baby born in 2008 can expect to live to 77.8 years if current trends continue. That's down a bit from an all-time high of 77.9 years for 2007. A similar dip occurred in 2005, and life expectancy also dropped in 1993.

The lead author of the report, Arialdi Minino, called the 2008 change minuscule and said it would take years of data to determine if that's a trend. Life expectancy was down for both men and women. The gap between blacks and whites closed a little, to a 4.6-year difference in life expectancy; black men for the first time topped 70 years. Overall, women continue to live longer, until about 80, compared to 75 for men.

What's behind the slip in overall life expectancy isn't known. "It's something to keep our eyes on," said Ken Thorpe, a health policy professor at Emory University in Atlanta.—Internet



Korean pop sensation Rain (pictured) will sing and dance at the closing ceremony of the Asian Games as part of a promotion for the 2014 Incheon Asiad.

INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(13-12-2010)(Monday)

Transmissions

Times

Local - (09:00am ~ 11:00am) MST
 Oversea Transmission - (13-12-10 09:30 am ~ 14-12-10 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Exceptional Monywa & Excellent Resort
- * News
- * Festival of kahtain (Part-1)
- * News
- * Monastery Yot Son Kyaung (Sa-Le)
- * News
- * Songs for You

Oversea Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
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- * News
- * Festival of kahtain (Part-1)
- * News
- * Monastery Yot Son Kyaung (Sa-Le)
- * News
- * Songs for You
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Destined Couple"
- * News
- * Youth & Music (Part-3)
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Floral Lovers' paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
- * News
- * Elegant Myanmar Dance
- * Myanmar Movie "An Ugly Fate"



**Monday,
13 December
View on today**

7:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw

7:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning News

7:40 am

4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am

6. Health Programme

8:10 am

7. Dance Of National Races

8:20 am

8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

8:30 am

9. Cute Little Dancers

8:40 am

10. International News

8:45 am

11. Musical Programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:10 pm

2. Musical Programme

(The Radio

Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

4:20 pm

3. Teleplay (Industry)

4:25 pm

4. Dance Variety

4:35 pm

5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)

4:45 pm

6. Song For Upholding National Spirit

4:50 pm

7. Musical Programme

5:05 pm

8. Myanmar language

5:30 pm

9. Myanmar Idol

6:00 pm

10. Evening News

6:15 pm

11. Weather Report

6:20 pm

12. Sing & Enjoy

7:00 pm

13. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International News

16. Weather Report

17. World's Stars

(Part-2)

18. TV Drama Series

19. Fine Arts Square

- ★ 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 killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

A visit to hill station Falam

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



Residences of local people seen in Falam with lush and green mountain ranges.

Falam is a famous town in Chin hill region, northwest of Myanmar.

Falam District of Chin State is constituted with Haka, Tonzang, Kyikha, Thantlang and Reedkhoda. Chin State is sharing border with India in the northwest, Bangladesh in the west, Rakhine State in the south and Magway and Sagaing Regions in the east.

Chin State is beautiful with high and steep mountain ranges and valleys. However, we had never been to Chin State before. Recently, we have an

opportunity to tour Chin State.

We, the news crew of Myanma Alin, arrived in Falam via Kalay by car. Kalay shares its border with Tiddim. We faced the uphill road onto Chin Hill by car from the mile post No. 8/7 at the end of the area of Kalay. The road is an asphalt facility. Despite a narrow one, the road is two-way facility.

After one hour drive from Kalay, we saw back Kalay rounded with lush and green paddy fields. Pine, oak, sweet chestnut and other plants were seen
(See page 10)

Model monsoon paddy plot harvested in NyaungU District

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—A ceremony to harvest model paddy plot for ensuring correct production of monsoon paddy in NyaungU District was held at the plot of farmer U Aung Min in Twinywa field of Shwetwin Village-tract in NyaungU Township on 27 November.

The paddy plot was supplied water from Lawkananda River Water Pumping Station.

It was attended by chairmen of NyaungU District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, the head of District Planning Department, the District Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service, the Assistant Director of Water Resources Utilization Department, heads of District and Township Settlement and Land Records Departments, service personnel and members of District and Township Agricultural Coordination Committees.

Model paddy plots were classified into three levels. After the harvest, 90/30 paddy strain plantation produced 93.71 baskets per acre.

MNA

**Significant night temperature
(12-12-2010)**

Haka

(6° C)