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Tuesday, 14 December, 2010

Senior General Than Shwe inspects No. 4 Steel Mill (Myingyan) and Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) construction project

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers, senior military officers and departmental heads, left Tada U International Airport for No. 4 Steel Mill (Myingyan) of

Myanmar Economic Corporation of the Ministry of Defence yesterday by helicopter and arrived at the plant at 2 pm.

The Head of State and party were welcomed by Deputy Minister U Aye Myint, MEC Managing-Director U Khin Maung Soe, Factory manager U Win Myint and officials.

At the meeting hall of the No. 4 Steel Mill (Myingyan), Senior General Than Shwe heard report on production of billets and slabs at the Mill since its opening on 21 March 2010 submitted by Managing-Director U Khin Maung Soe.

Deputy Minister



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction project of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).—MNA

U Aye Myint presented that it has planned to implement phase two of the project in order to ex-

tend production of the plant based on types and numbers of steel products; the phase two will

include ten main factories — Direct Reduction Iron Plant, Steel Making Plant, Hot

Strip Mill, cut to length line, Push and Pull Picking Line, (See page 8)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 14 December, 2010

Donate blood

Blood donation is a kind of noble donation by giving one's own blood to another for the latter's survival.

Donating blood to those who are in need out of goodwill and sympathy means doing meritorious deeds.

Those who donate blood do so of their own accord and they never expect anything in return. They donate blood only out of pure goodwill.

Out of blood donors ages between 18 and 60, the number of those aged between 18 and 29 has increased year by year. This year, blood donations have been made by more and more young people. As a result of this, there can be benefits such as more unity among the youth, the spirit of helping sick people, taking care of personal hygiene and avoidance of unhealthy living style.

All are therefore urged to donate blood, and by doing so, it means they are fit and healthy and they can get the benefits from the noble donation.

Transport Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — Minister for Transport U Thein Swe received Vice President Mr Liu Jianhai of China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) and party at the ministry here this morning.

They discussed production of ARJ-21 jet aircrafts in China, test flying and plans to export the aircrafts.—MNA

Minister for Transport U Thein Swe receives Vice President Mr Liu Jianhai of China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC).—MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint on inspection tour of Nyaungbingyi main power station

YANGON, 13 Dec— Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Dr Win Myint on 9 December inspected extension of control station and switch yard of Nyaungbingyi sub-station of Nyaungbingyi main power station in Salingyi Township in Sagaing Region.

The deputy minister met with staff at the Chief

Engineer's office in Myaing Township after viewing construction site of 230 KV Nyaungbingyi-Chaungku main power station. On 10 December, the deputy minister visited

construction sites of 230 KV Chaungku (Pauk) main power station in Pauk Township and Chaungku-Kyaw power grid, and met with staff in Kanma and in Pakokku District and Township. MNA

Peoples' 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

14th DGICM, 6th AIIF held

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — The 14th Directors-General of Immigration Department and Heads Consular Meeting (DGICM) and the 6th ASEAN Immigration and Intelligence Forum (AIIF) were opened at Golden Palace Hotel here this morning. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Home Affairs and for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Sein, Director General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than and officials, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries and guests.

Minister U Maung Oo extended greetings on the occasion and had a documentary photo taken together with those present.

Next, the 14th DGICM and the 6th AIIF were held according to the agenda. In the evening, Deputy Minister U Win Sein hosted a dinner to the attendees at the hotel and artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture entertained those present with songs and dances.—MNA

Minister U Maung Oo addressing opening ceremony of 14th DGICM and the 6th AIIF.

MNA



Yangon Mayor oversees concrete paving

YANGON, 13 Dec— Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected progress of concrete paving on Yegyaw Street, Pazundaung Township here.

The mayor looked around progress of construction of the damayon, the library, the two inches-diameter tube well and tanks in Pazundaung Housing Complex in

Ward 7 in Pazundaung Township, and progress of concrete paving on Sathwarphu Street with 216 feet in length and 14 feet in width in Ward 6, and cleaning of cast iron (CI) six inches-diameter pipes.

He extended his inspection tour to Thingangyun Township in which he inspected progress of paving of concrete on Tharaphi Street and Thazin Street.—MNA

Educative talks on traffic rules given

YANGON, 13 Dec —A group led by No (1) Traffic Area In-charge Police Major Khin Maung of Wireless and Traffic Police Squad of Yangon Region Police Force gave educative talks on traffic rules to 25 drivers of Mya Pan Wah Company Limited in Mayangon Township here yesterday afternoon.

MNA

Six police among 14 killed in Iraq suicide attacks



Iraqi security forces survey the damage at the scene of a suicide attack in the western city of Ramadi.—INTERNET

RAMADI, 13 Dec — Suicide attacks targeting a police checkpoint and a Shiite Muslim procession in western and central Iraq killed up to 14 people on Sunday, including six policemen and a journalist.

The violence comes two weeks ahead of a deadline for premier-designate Nuri al-Maliki to

form a cabinet in a bid to end months of government impasse, and days before the climax of the Shiite commemoration of Ashura. In the western city of Ramadi, a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with explosives near Anbar provincial government offices, killing 11 people, including six policemen, a doctor said.

“Lots of people were waiting to go into the governorate building when the car exploded close to the checkpoint,” said Ahmed al-Dulaimi, a police officer who suffered a leg injury in the attack.

Internet

S Korean trawler sinks in Antarctica, 22 feared dead

WELLINGTON, 13 Dec—A South Korean trawler sank suddenly and without warning off Antarctica Monday, killing up to 22 fishermen, with its owners saying it may have collided with an iceberg. Rescuers said the 22 men from the *No 1 Insung* had no chance to don protective gear as they scrambled to escape the trawler and were presumed dead as they had only 10 minutes’ survival time in the icy waters.

The trawler went down so fast it did not even have a chance to send an SOS before

plunging to the depths of the Southern Ocean, Maritime New Zealand said. Insung Corporation spokesman Ryan Kim said

are trying hard to find the reason why it sank so quickly,” he told AFP.

“We believe the vessel might have been

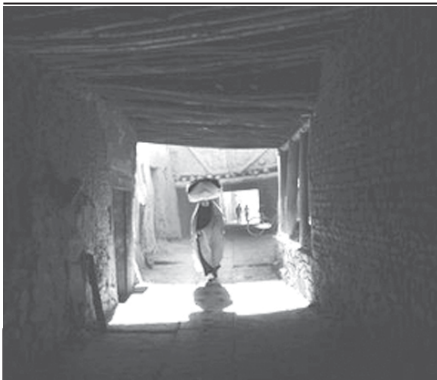


An Insung Corporation-issued photo shows the South Korean fishing boat Number 1 Insung which has sunk in Antarctic waters. Information received from a rescue vessel states that the South Korean trawler went down very quickly.—INTERNET

the company was trying to understand what happened. “The boat sank in about 30 minutes. We

hit by an iceberg or a strong wave, although we have yet to secure any evidence of this.

Internet



An Afghan woman walks towards a market in the old city of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 12 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

Midwest in deep freeze after storm cancels flights

CHICAGO, 13 Dec—A powerful storm that unleashed snow and strong winds across the upper Midwest left behind dangerously cold temperatures, promising a new set of challenges for people working to dig out.

The weekend storm closed major highways in several states, canceled more than 1,600 flights in Chicago and collapsed the roof of the Minnesota Vikings’ stadium. At least six weather-related deaths were reported. Nearly 2 feet of snow fell in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin before marching east into Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

The storm was headed northeast toward Canada, according to the National Weather Service, with some snow possible Monday in Michigan, northern Indiana through parts of Pennsylvania and New York. Nearly 2 feet of snow fell in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin

during the weekend.

Officials said plunging temperatures and winds could make clearing roads even more difficult and could lead to a slow morning commute, even in places where the storm had passed. With the wind chill, temperatures in some areas were expected to be well below zero.

“With the snow, pretty much the worst of it’s over, but we’re going to get cold temperatures through Tuesday,” said Jim Taggart, National Weather Service meteorologist in Chanhassen, Minn.

He said the weather the region is experiencing is what it “normally would get in January” but not December.

In Minneapolis, heavy snow caused the inflatable roof of the Metrodome to collapse Sunday.

Video inside the stadium aired by Fox Sports showed the inflatable Teflon roof sagging before it tore open, dumping massive amounts of snow across one end of the playing field.

Internet

Bomb kills bus driver, wounds two kids in Pakistan



A boy looks out onto the street from his residence in Old Town of Lahore on 12 December, 2010.

INTERNET

PESHAWAR, 13 Dec—A roadside bomb exploded near a school bus in northwest Pakistan’s main city on Monday, killing the driver and wounding at least two children, police said.

The city of Peshawar lies near the militant-riddled tribal regions of Pakistan and the Afghan border, and it

has long been a favourite target of Taleban attacks. Militants in the northwest have frequently attacked schools — especially those for girls — but usually when children are not at the scene.

Police did not rule out the possibility that the bomb may have missed its intended target.

The bus was hit near a private school in the Bhana Mari neighbourhood, police official Shakir Khan said. Senior police official Ejaz Khan confirmed the death and wounded tolls.

The blast ripped through the vehicle, leaving a charred shell and a crater on the ground nearby. The words, painted in English, “Islamia Model High School” were still visible on the side of the green bus.

Internet

Moderate quake strikes off Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 13 Dec—An Earthquake with magnitude of 5.9 struck off Sumatra Island of Indonesia’s Lampung Province on Monday, but there is no potential for tsunami, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported.

The quake jolted at 16:18 pm Jakarta time (0818 GMT) with epicenter at 158 km southwest of Krui of Lampung and with the depth at 25 km under the seabed, an official of the agency said.

Xinhua

Traffic travels slowly on northbound Hwy 45 on 12 Dec, 2010 north of Fond du Lac, Wis.

INTERNET



Shanghai aims to launch 24-hour trading by 2020

SHANGHAI, 13 Dec—Shanghai plans to be Asia's top stock market by 2013 and launch 24-hour trading by the end of the decade as it works towards setting up an international board, state media said Monday.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange aims to be "one of the most influential" bourses in the world by 2020, the *Shanghai Securities News* said, citing a long-term development plan for the stock market.

Over the next three years, Shanghai will "vigorously promote the construction of the international board", which will allow foreign companies and overseas-registered Chinese firms to list shares.

No official timeline has been announced for the launch of the board.

"Round-the-clock trading is a dream for any stock exchange," Liu Xiaodong, deputy general

manger of the Shanghai Stock Ex-change, was quoted as saying in the *China Daily* at the weekend.

"Based on our current technology, it is very likely that we will launch it within 10 years. We are devoting great efforts to

achieve that goal."

Liu said the 24-hour trading service would help facilitate transactions on the country's planned international board, helping overseas traders overcome time differences.

Internet



Chinese investors watch changing values on an electronic board at a trading house in Shanghai. Authorities in the city plan to make it Asia's top stock market by 2013 and launch 24-hour trading by the end of the decade as it works towards setting up an international board, state media said Monday.

INTERNET



A Pakistani vendor wrapped with a shawl to avoid the cold sits next to his stall waiting for customers in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 11 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

Oil rises above \$88 as OPEC leaves output stable

SINGAPORE, 13 Dec—Oil prices rose above \$88 a barrel Monday in Asia after OPEC left its crude output quotas unchanged, citing slowing demand and abundant supplies.

Benchmark oil for January delivery was up 53 cents to \$88.32 a barrel at late afternoon Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 58 cents to settle at \$87.79 on Friday.

Ministers from the 12-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said at a meeting in Quito, Ecuador on Saturday that a "fragile global economic recovery" and "fears of a second banking crisis in Europe" kept the cartel from raising oil production.

Many OPEC nations depend on oil sales for foreign currency reserves and government spending and are reluctant to take measures to

undermine prices. However, a jump in crude prices would spark inflation and hurt global economic growth.

"The ministers generally love existing prices," Cameron Hanover said in a report. "Some insiders have hinted at a quota increase if crude oil prices break above \$100 a barrel."—Internet



World oil prices fell toward 88 dollars on Wednesday as many traders took profits and digested a mixed US energy report, after the market had struck recent two-year peaks, analysts said.

INTERNET

Reckitt buys India's Paros Pharmaceuticals

LONDON, 13 Dec—Household goods firm Reckitt Benckiser on Monday announced an agreement to buy Indian company Paros Pharmaceuticals for about 460 million pounds (\$599 million euros, 726 million dollars).

Reckitt Benckiser (RB) said it had agreed to buy Paros Pharmaceuticals Limited for 32.6 billion Indian Rupees from the current shareholders, including the Patel family and Actis, the emerging markets private equity investor.

"The acquisition of Paros is another step forward in RB's growth strategy in consumer health care," Reckitt Benckiser chief executive Bart Becht said in a statement.

"It creates a material

health care business in India, one of the most promising health care markets in the world with the addition of a number of strong and leading brands," added the head of the Anglo-Dutch company.

Paros is a privately-owned Indian company whose core products include D'Cold flu remedy, prickly heat treatment Dermicool and anti-fungal cream Itch Guard.

Internet



File photo of an Indian pharmacy shop assistant counting a strip of tablets in Calcutta.

INTERNET

Three bodies found at construction site in Jamaica

KINGSTON, 13 Dec—Jamaican police say they have discovered three bodies buried in shallow graves at a construction site outside the capital and expect to find more.

Assistant Police Commissioner Les Green says the bodies were found in an area on the outskirts of Kingston where authorities believe rival gang members waged deadly battles.

The first body was uncovered Thursday as developers cleared the site to build a private hospital. The remains were identified as those of 32-year-old Desmond Morris, who had not been seen since Monday.

He had a gunshot wound in the back of the head. Green said Saturday that police did not know whether Morris had any links to gangs or could have been a gang victim.

The two other bodies were found Friday.

Internet

Sanofi-Aventis extends Genzyme takeover offer

PARIS, 13 Dec—French pharmaceutical group Sanofi-Aventis said Monday it has extended its unsolicited \$18.5 billion takeover offer for US-based biotech company Genzyme.

Sanofi's Previous tender offer for Genzyme shares expired just before midnight Friday, and now the French company says it has extended the \$69-per-share offer until 11:59 pm ET on 21 January.

Sanofi said in a statement before the open of the Paris stock exchange on Monday that 2.21 million Genzyme shares were tendered by Friday or about 0.9 percent of the US company's outstanding shares.

Sanofi spokesman Jean-Marc Podvin said such a low percentage of acceptance was "typical" in such tender offers, adding that executives at



A sign marks the headquarters of Genzyme in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 3 August, 2010.

INTERNET

the French company "are not surprised."

"The key message is that we want to engage in a constructive dialogue with Genzyme to reach a transaction," said Podvin, insisting on the "strategic fit" that it would offer. Shares of Sanofi were down 0.3 percent to euro49.16 in late morning trading in Paris.

Genzyme shares closed on Friday at \$69.82 on the Nasdaq exchange.

Internet

Portugal Prime Minister says no need for IMF aid

LISBON, 13 Dec — Portugal's economic problems can be resolved without seeking help from the International Monetary Fund, Prime Minister Jose Socrates was quoted as saying on Saturday by the daily *Diario de Noticias*.

"We don't have any problem that requires that we turn to the International Monetary Fund," Socrates told the paper.

Socrates, whose country many economists see as the next likely euro zone candidate to need a bailout after Greece and Ireland, said the crisis was part of a wider problem.

"Our problem is just a budget problem that has to be corrected, as in other countries," Socrates said. "Whoever doesn't understand that what we are seeing is a systemic question, regarding the euro, hasn't understood anything about this crisis."

Portugal has adopted an austere 2011 budget — which includes tax rises and 5 percent civil

servant wage cuts — aimed at cutting the budget deficit to 4.6 percent of gross domestic product from 7.3 percent this year. Socrates said the euro zone crisis is a "problem of all European countries", and urged joint action to resolve it.

"If anybody thinks this is a problem of this or that country, they are not seeing how the sovereign debt crisis is affecting the euro," Socrates said.

Socrates said the IMF's presence in Portugal twice in recent decades had been a negative experience.

"The government doesn't need this, we know exactly what to do and we don't need anybody to come and tell us what we should do," Socrates said.

Risk premiums on Portuguese bonds reached euro lifetime highs last month but fell sharply last week.

MNA/Reuters



A man rides a bicycle through the steam funneling out from the heating system along a street in Beijing on 7 December.

INTERNET

OPEC ministers make no change in output

QUITO, 13 Dec — OPEC ministers decided Saturday to keep oil output at current levels, citing ample inventories amid persisting global economic uncertainty and a price of just under \$90 a barrel.

The 12-member cartel said after an unusually short meeting that it based its decision on projections showing demand for crude would grow more slowly in 2011 than this year.

It's statement also cited the "challenging risks to the fragile global economic recovery" including "fears of a second banking crisis in Europe."

The world's major industrialized nations continue to face "lower industrial output, lagging private consumption as well as persistently high unemployment," the



Ali L. Naimi, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, right, answers questions of the media during the 158th extraordinary meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, in Quito, Ecuador, on 11 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

ministers added. "The market is in balance and is stable," Oil minister Ali Naimi of Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, told reporters.

"The fundamentals are good." Suffering a cold, he left quickly after the closed-door meeting, which lasted less than two

hours.

OPEC's next scheduled gathering is 2 June in Vienna, its home. Asked whether it could convene earlier if prices were to shoot up, the group's secretary-general, Abdulla Salem El-Badri said that is always a possibility.—Internet

OECD warns eurozone on debt

PARIS, 13 Dec — Eurozone nations are enjoying a sustained if muted recovery but need to adopt biting sanctions to correct economic imbalances and must soon begin to cut their massive debt loads, the OECD said on Monday.

The eurozone should also put in place a permanent crisis resolution mechanism that would force nations to carry out reforms to get aid, the OECD said, an issue European leaders are expected to tackle at a summit later this week.

In its latest survey of the 16 nations which share the euro, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development said a "gradual and sustained recovery" is underway in the but that "the pace of recovery is likely to be muted."

Growth in the

eurozone is likely to come in at 1.7 percent this year and in 2011 and then rise to 2.0 percent, according to the OECD's latest forecast.

Internet



A view of the skyline of the banking district in Frankfurt. Eurozone nations are enjoying a sustained if muted recovery but need to adopt biting sanctions to correct economic imbalances and must soon begin to cut their massive debt loads, the OECD has said.—INTERNET

GE to buy UK oil pipe maker Wellstream for \$1.3 billion

LONDON, 13 Dec — General Electric Co has agreed to buy British oil drilling pipe-maker Wellstream Holdings Plc for 800 million pounds (\$1.3 billion), as GE continues its push into the offshore oil services industry.

The deal is the latest in a series of GE buys in the oil services sector in recent years and shows that, despite the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico this summer, the industry expects deep water drilling to continue apace.

The acquisition would also give GE a strong footing in Brazil, where Wellstream has a manufacturing facility.

Brazil has made a series of multi-billion barrels oil discoveries in recent years in very deep water — traditionally high cost for oil producers and high opportunity for equipment makers — and Brasilia

encourages the use of locally produced materials.

GE and Wellstream said in a joint statement on Monday that GE would pay Wellstream investors 780 pence in cash plus a special dividend of 6p, per Wellstream share, up from a bid of 750 pence/share tabled in September that Wellstream rebuffed.

Reuters



A GE logo is seen in a store in Santa Monica, California, on 11 October, 2010.—INTERNET



Members of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner remove the body of Mark Madoff from the apartment building where he lived in New York on 11 Dec, 2010.—INTERNET

Former Bridgestone Americas CEO takes Tenn post

KNOXVILLE, 13 Dec—The former president and CEO of Bridgestone Americas has been hired by Tennessee Gov-elect Bill Haslam as commissioner of finance and administration.

Mark Emkes retired in February after 33 years with the company, which is the Japanese tire-maker's subsidiary based in Nashville. As chief budget officer, he will play a key role in shaping a \$1 billion reduction in state spending when federal stimulus money runs out next year.

"We're going to have to do state government differently, and having people who have experience running large organizations will be really helpful," Haslam said.



former Bridgestone Americas CEO and President Mark Emkes.—INTERNET

"I've always admired people who serve others," Emkes said in a release. "I'm proud that I now have the opportunity to serve the governor and the people of Tennessee."

Internet

White House says Obama calls WikiLeaks' "deplorable"

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec — President Barack Obama told Turkish and Mexican leaders on Saturday that WikiLeaks' actions were "deplorable" as the US Administration kept up damage control efforts over the website's embarrassing release of masses of secret US cables. In Obama's separate calls with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, the leaders all agreed that WikiLeaks' campaign would not harm their countries' ties with Washington, the White House said.

The leaks touching on US relations in virtually every part of the world have threatened to increase tensions with allies, spurring US officials to seek to prevent foreign friends from reducing engagement on sensitive matters. Documents relating to Turkey showed US diplomats casting doubt on the reliability of their NATO ally and portraying its leadership as divided.

MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill two police officers in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 13 Dec—Gunmen on motorcycles shot dead two police officers Saturday in northwest Pakistan, while security forces killed four militants in fighting elsewhere in the region, officials said.

The policemen were killed in Hayyatabad, on the outskirts of the northwestern city of Peshawar, area police chief Mir Afzal Khan said. The assailants fled to the nearby Khyber tribal region after the attack, he said.

Police were investigating a possible motive for the shooting.

Overnight, a gunbattle between militants and security forces broke out in the northwestern town of Mohmand, near the Afghan border, a security and an intelligence official said Saturday. Four militants were killed in the fighting and another three were wounded.

The officials said the troops retaliated after insurgents attacked a security checkpoint in the Sagi village area.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

Pakistan has carried out operations against Taliban militants in Mohmand, but violence persists in the region and other parts of the tribal belt in the country's northwest.— *Internet*

Swine flu returns to UK with ten deaths in six weeks

LONDON, 13 Dec—The swine flu virus that swept the world last year causing a global health emergency has returned to claim the lives of 10 adults in the UK in the past six weeks. The 10 deaths were in younger adults under 65 and associated with H1N1 swine flu. Most had underlying conditions but "a small proportion" were healthy before getting the virus, according to the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Seasonal flu normally causes severe illness and death in the elderly. The H1N1 swine flu virus targets pregnant women, younger adults, and those with chronic conditions, making it a cause of particular alarm. No other similar reports of deaths linked with swine flu have been received from elsewhere in Europe. Official figures show GP consultations for flu-like illness in England were at 13.3 per 100,000 population last week, well below baseline levels.— *Internet*



A crew member prepares iPod Nanos for sale at the Apple store at the Glendale Galleria in Glendale, California on 8 December, 2010. The store, on the second floor of a 70s-era brown-brick shopping mall in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale, is listed as store 001 in Apple rankings.—INTERNET

A noble feud reflects India's royal ambivalence

LUCKNOW, 13 Dec—Their tale begins in the 18th century, with an ancestor who served a Mogul emperor and an aristocratic family's rise to immense wealth and power.

It ends with the two brothers-in-law, white-haired men living in adjoining apartments in a palace that long ago passed the point of crumbling, and both claiming the throne of a kingdom that hasn't existed for 150 years.

The whisper of angry words echoes across tattered brick courtyards.

"I think he's obsessed," said Ibrahim Ali Khan, former oil company executive and the leading claimant to the title in question Nawab of Awadh. "Once you realize you are not the Nawab, and the whole town knows that you are not, even then you want it. What would you call it? You'd call it an obsession."

His brother-in-law, though, calls it something else.

"There is this thing known as megalomania," said Jaffar Mir Abdullah, the more recent aspirant to the long-gone throne. He is a former medical equipment salesman whose younger sister is married to Khan. More than anything, he is furious that Khan has made their fight public. "He needs consultation with a psychiatrist."

Internet

More cold-stunned sea turtles rescued

NORFOLK, 13 Dec — Volunteers in Virginia and North Carolina say they've been busy rescuing cold-affected sea turtles and finding them temporary homes in aquariums.

A sudden onset of freezing temperatures has caught many of the creatures too far north and left them lethargic and unable to move.

"I think the temperature's just dropped so quickly that they haven't gotten out yet," Christina Trapani of the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Centre told the

(Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot. "They should be going somewhere warm."

Cold weather stuns some turtles every year, said Mark Swingle, director of research and conservation at the aquarium, but the number of turtles this year is "a little unusual."

"We're very close to having a full house," Swingle said. "By the end of the weekend, we're going to be full."

On Friday 11 turtles, including Kemp's ridleys, green turtles and loggerhead turtles, were

taken in by the aquarium.

Six had been transferred from facilities in New England, and the rest were found in Hampton Roads. Two more arrived from North Carolina on Saturday, aquarium workers said.

The Network for Endangered Sea Turtles in Kitty Hawk, NC, operates a rehabilitation centre for cold-stunned and injured turtles at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island.

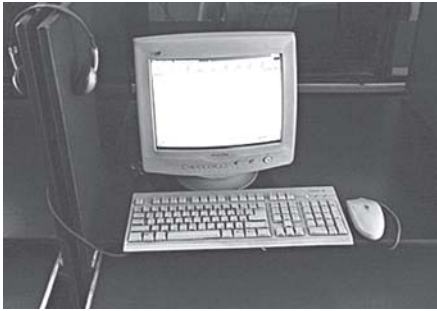
Once there, the turtles are gradually warmed up.

Internet



A street performer dressed as the character Darth Vader from the film 'Star Wars' stands in front of the Brandenburg Gate during snowfall in Berlin.

INTERNET



File photo Shows a Samsung's Galaxy Tab tablet computer is displayed at a Samsung Experience shop in New York, the United States. This Google Android-powered tablet computer has hit US market this month, competing Apple's iPad.

INTERNET

Algerian army kills ten rebels

ALGIERS, 13 Dec— Algerian troops killed 10 rebels on Friday in the eastern Kabylie region known as a stronghold of Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM), a security source told *Reuters* on Saturday.

Between 3,500 and 4,000 troops backed by helicopters attacked a site between the cities of Boumerdes and Tizi Ouzou after intelligence officials heard that AQIM was planning to hold a meeting in the region. "The operation is still ongoing and ten terrorists have been killed," the source, who asked not to be named, told *Reuters*.

The source said there was no confirmation of foreign media reports that the head of AQIM had been killed in Algeria, either in the Zabylie attack or another operation.

Algerian security forces have been fighting an militancy for two decades and some 200,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the conflict, which was at its peak in the 1990s.

MNA/Reuters

Russia offers China Amur leopard cooperation

ST PETERSBURG, 13 Dec— Russia has offered to work with China to create a joint nature reserve to help prevent the extinction of the Amur leopard, a Russian official said on Saturday.

"We have sent our proposals to China," said Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, in charge of a state-sponsored programme to save the Amur leopard. Ivanov said the leopards' habitat had shrunk by half in the last 20 years with only 30-35 remaining in the Russian Far East and about 10 in neighbouring China and North Korea.

"The Amur leopard is on the brink of extinction," Ivanov told the Russian Geographical Society, blaming poaching, logging and forest fires. "We need to take urgent measures to save the leopard." Ivanov outlined some of the measures, including construction of a 100-million US dollar railroad tunnel under a hill where leopards live so that the wild cats can roam freely.—MNA/Reuters

Amanda Knox says Italy murder sentence a mistake

ROME, 13 Dec— Amanda Knox, the American jailed in Italy for the murder of her British flatmate, insisted at the second hearing of her appeal trial on Saturday that she was innocent, and said it was a mistake to keep her in prison.

Knox was sentenced to 26 years in prison in December 2009 for her part in the killing of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher after what judges said was a frenzied sex game that spiralled out of control. Her then boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, and another man, Rudy Guede, were also convicted for their roles in the murder.

"I and Raffaele are paying with our lives for a crime we did not commit," an emotional Knox told the court on Saturday. "It's unjust that I have spent three years in prison. It was all a mistake," she added, speaking in Italian.

Knox, 23, appeared in court in a

grey sweater for the second hearing in her appeal, which began on 24 November. She broke down in tears as she sympathized with Kercher's family. "I am very sorry that she is not here any more, I also have younger sisters and the thought of losing them terrifies me," she said.

Kercher died in November 2007. Her half-naked body was found locked in her blood-splattered bedroom in the house she shared with Knox and two other students in the university town of Perugia. She had a deep stab wound in the throat.

Knox, whose case drew huge interest around the world, said on Saturday that a false image had been painted of her. "I am not a mean, devilish, uncaring or violent person, I have never been that girl," she said. Further hearings in the appeal trial are scheduled for 18 December and 15 January. —MNA/Reuters



Visitors watch a performance of seals in the Tianjin Haichang Polar Ocean World in Tianjin, north China recently. The Tianjin Haichang Polar Ocean World, the largest of the kind in the world, opened to the public on Thursday, displaying tens of thousands of rare polar marine species collected from more than 10 countries

INTERNET

Nissan delivers 1st electric car in challenge to GM

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Dec — Japan's Nissan Motor Co delivered the first mass-market all-electric car to a technology entrepreneur in California on Saturday as the company tries to get a jump in the nascent green vehicle race.

The first customer, Olivier Chalouhi, has been riding an electric bicycle to work, and he plugged his new car in for the cameras outside San Francisco City Hall. The charge point, one of 400 in the region, had a green official city sign near it that said, "Green Vehicle Showcase: Cars that make a difference."

The Leaf is one of a

handful of mass-market fully electric or extended range plug-in vehicles slated to reach consumers in the next year. The battery-powered Leaf, with an EPA-certified battery-only range of 73 miles (120 kilometres) is due to hit showrooms this month in a limited roll-out — along with Chevy Volts by General Motors Co Ford Motor Co expects to deliver its first electric Focus compact cars late next year.

Carlos Taveras, the North American head of Nissan, said his company would focus on satisfying the first 20,000 Leaf customers

before opening up for more orders next year. "We are not in a rush," he told reporters, reasserting Nissan's plan to go straight to zero-emission cars, as opposed to the Volt with its gasoline engine that can recharge the battery to give it more range.

MNA/Reuters



Representatives of ethnic groups cheer at the flag-raising ceremony to mark the National Pavilion Day for China at the Shipway Square of Puxi section of the World Expo Park in Shanghai, east China, on 1 Oct, 2010, during the 61st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.—INTERNET

Wikileaks: Brazil vulnerable to terrorism

SAO PAULO, 13 Dec—The 2009 crash of a stolen plane near the capital city of Brasilia exposed Brazil's vulnerability to terrorist acts, said a US diplomatic cable released Sunday by WikiLeaks.

On 12 March, 2009, a man kidnapped his 5-year-old daughter, hijacked a small plane, and flew around of the city of Goiania for two hours before crashing into the parking lot of a shopping mall, killing himself and the girl. The crash "highlighted a vulnerability to potential terrorist actions," then-Ambassador Clifford Sobel wrote in a memo.

Brazilian authorities considered shooting down the plane, which had no flight plan and was viewed as a threat, according to the 28 March, 2009, report. Air defence authorities followed the country's shutdown procedure, illustrating "the extreme caution with which a possible shutdown is approached, the broad understanding of the shutdown policy among air traffic controllers and the fact that the procedures are executed as written," Sobel said.

However, the procedure wasn't fast enough: The plane went down while the decision went up the chain of command.—Internet



Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe giving guidance to officials at the meeting hall of No.4 Steel Mill (Myingyan).—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects No. 4 Steel Mill...

(from page 1)

Cold Strip Mill, Cut to Length Line, Batch Annealing Line for Cold-Rolled Coils, Reheating Furnace for Slab thickness up to 250 mm and Slab Molding Machine.

It will also include Galvanizing/ Aluzinc Line, Colour Coating Line, Slitting Line and Sheet Forming Line.

He also said that the implementation of the phase two of the project has started.

He continued to say that Continuous Casting Plant upgrading will be carried out as phase three of the project so that the Mill could produce 180mmx180mm and 200mmx320mm slabs — raw materials for production of L-shaped, I-shaped and U-shaped slabs and railway tracks — for it can currently produce only 130x130x12000 mm slabs. The phase three will be composed of Section Mill which can produce 380,000 tons of I-, L-, U- and H-shaped slabs annually; Rail Mill which can produce 300,000 tons

of railway tracks per year and the plant which can produce 28,000 tons of high-pressure steel pipelines and rectangular steel pipelines.

He added that upon completion of the implementation of the phase three of the project, the mills will produce angle irons used at joints of railway tracks and power pylons, 8-26-inch-diameter ERW pipes for distribution of oil and natural gas, API-Standard pipes, high-pressure pipes and general pipes and will contribute to oil and natural gas distribution, rail transportation and electricity supply.

After that, the Secretary-1 reported the matters on completion of the construction of the factory and arrangements made for running gas-fired electric turbine stations at full capacity in order to meet the requirements of electric power supply of new factories.

Afterwards, the Head of State gave instructions on meeting the demands of the State, having equilibrium, arrangements to be made for production of more iron and steel wares, minimizing wastes and running at full capacity.

Then, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected proposed sites for construction of new fac-

tories in the compound of No.4 Steel Mill (Myingyan). The Steel Mill (Myingyan) is located near Sarkhar village about 3.3 miles west of milepost No.450/0 of Yangon-Myingyan road in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, and has an area of 1043.79 acres. The factory started running on 21 March, 2010.

The Senior General and party then proceeded to the construction Project site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) by helicopters.

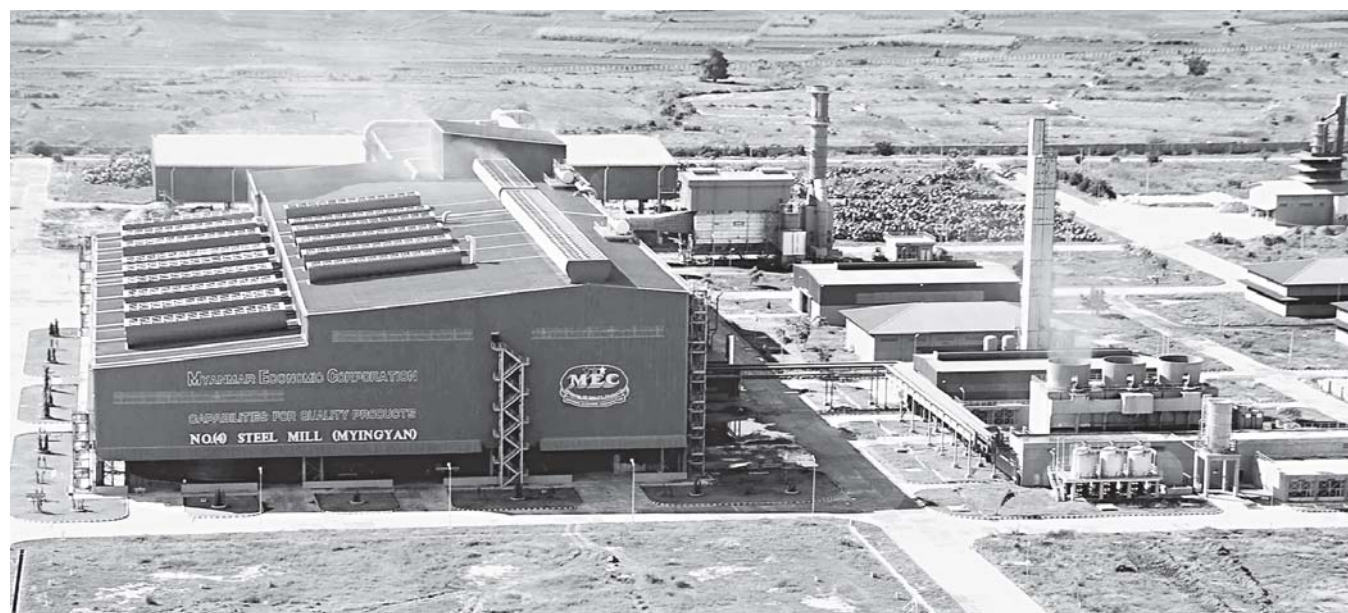
There, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Chairman of Magway Region PDC U Phone Maw Shwe, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than and region-level departmental officials. At the briefing hall, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint reported to the Senior General. He said, "In line with the guidance of the Head of State, the ministry of construction is building five Ayeyawady River-Crossing Bridges namely, Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan, Pakokku, Malun, Nyaungdon and Yadanatheingha). Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will lie on India-Myanmar-Thai Tripartite Highway. He also explained the facts about the bridge project, completion of main bridge, approach bridges, rail road and motor approach bridge on the banks of Letpanchepaw and Pakokku, steel trusses for Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) and (Nyaungdon), installations of steel trusses, highest water level of NyaungU and annual rainfall and progress in construction of five Bridges.

After that, the Senior General gave instruction on site safety, timely completion, safety and systematic supervision and coordination between the ministries for completion of rail road and motor road simultaneously.

The Senior General and party viewed the construction site of Ayeyawady River (Pakokku) from the observation platform.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party left the site by helicopter. Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) is situated in NyaungU Township of NyaungU District in Mandalay Region and Pakokku Township, Pakokku District, Magway Region. Main bridge is 11,431 feet long (2.16 miles). The motor road is 13,537 feet long and rail road 20,597 feet long. The approach bridge (motor road) on the Pakokku bank is 1,378 feet long and on the Letpanchepaw bank, 728 feet long.

(See page 9)



No. 4 Steel Mill (Myingyan) of Myanmar Economic Corporation of the Ministry of Defence.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects No. 4 Steel Mill...

(from page 8)

The approach road (railroad) on Pakokku bank is 5,420 feet long and on the Letpanchepaw bank, 3,746 feet long. The bridge has a 28 feet wide two-lane motor road, 14 feet wide rail road and 3.3 feet wide pedestrian lane on both

sides. Its water clearance is 262 feet wide and 52 feet high. Bore piles and the lower structures of the bridge are RC Type bore piles and its upper structure is steel truss. It can withstand 75 tons of loads and the project started on 15 December 2009.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) has been completed by 68 percent, Pakokku by 57 percent, Malun by 46 percent, Nyaungdon by 53 percent and Yadanatheinga by 32 percent.

There will be a total of 14 Ayeyawady River-crossing Bridges, including five bridges that are under construction.

MNA

Dy Minister U Maung Myint attends 3rd Bali Democracy Forum

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec— A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint attended the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum held in Bali, the Republic of In-

ments under the theme of "Democracy and Promotion of Peace and Stability", and group photograph was taken with the President of the Republic of Indonesia. In the evening, the Deputy Min-

November 2010 and the country is determined to continue implementation of the remaining process of the political road map in accordance with the Constitution.

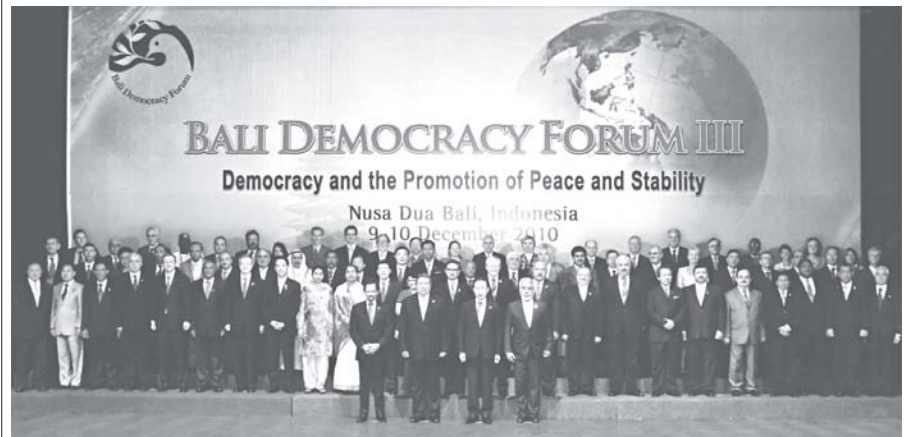
Dr Marty

Appointment of Chinese Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Li Junhua as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Ye Dabo.

Mr Li Junhua was born in August 1962 and obtained post-graduate degree of international public policies. He joined the International Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985 and served as a staff until 1986. From 1986 to 1996, he had served in various capacities in Permanent Office of the People's

Republic of China to United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific and International Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. He studied at the School of Advance International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University in the United States of America from 1996 to 1997. From 1997 to 2001 and 2003 to 2008, he had served in various capacities in Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to United Nations. From 2001 to 2003, he served as Division Director and from 2008 to present, he is serving as



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint poses for documentary photo with those present at 3rd Bali Democracy Forum.—MNA

Deputy Director General of International Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

He is married.

MNA

donesia, from 9 to 10 December 2010.

The opening session of the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum was held in the morning of 9 December at Bali International Convention Centre. It was attended by the President of the Indonesia, the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, the President of Korea, the Prime Minister of Timor Leste, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials from 44 countries from the Asia region and representatives from 24 countries outside Asia. At the opening session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Marty Natalegawa reported account on activities taken place after the 2nd Bali Democracy Forum and, on the programme of this year's Forum. Then, Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, gave an opening statement.

At the morning session, leaders of the delegations delivered state-

ments under the theme of "Democracy and Promotion of Peace and Stability" was held. At the session, the heads of delegation made their statements. In his statement, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint stressed that prevalence of peace and stability is necessary for fostering democracy, and democracy helps peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue. In Myanmar armed groups have returned to the legal fold and joined hands with the Government for the development of their regions. As prescribed by the new State Constitution, there will be one unified armed forces in the country, hence other armed groups have been transforming themselves into Border Guard Forces. The free and fair general elections were successfully held on 7

Natalegawa hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum at Bali International Convention Centre in the evening of the same day.

On 10 December, interactive sessions under the theme of "How A Democratic System Helps Prevent the occurrence or Escalation of Violent Conflicts" and "Why Democracy and Economic Development are Essential for Peace Building" were held in the morning and in the afternoon respectively.

During the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint met separately with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Mr Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan and Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of Maldives Mr Ahmed Naseem at Bali International Convention Centre on 9 December and discussed the issues pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—MNA

Model monsoon paddy plot harvested in Yedashe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — A 7.94-acre-model monsoon paddy plot of farmer Daw Kyi Sein of Thabyedan Village-tract in Yedashe Township, Bago Region, was harvested on 25 November. The model paddy plot was able to produce 70.43 baskets of paddy per acre.

Likewise, a model monsoon paddy plot of farmer U Win Oo of Nyaungbintha Village-tract was har-

vested on 6 December, and it produced 84.78 baskets per acre.

Also present at the harvesting were the Head of Taungoo District Land Records Department, the Head of the Township Land Records Department, the Manager of the Township Myanmar Agriculture Services and staff, members of the Village Peace and Development Councils, farmers and others.

Kyemon



Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe attends opening of Tatmadaw Agriculture course No. 69

YANGON, 13 Dec—Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of the Ministry of Defence made a speech at the opening of Tatmadaw Agricultural Course No. 69 held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Paddy Research Department of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Hmawby Township, Yangon North District this morning.

After that, Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe viewed drying of paddy with the use of dryer, and left necessary instructions.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than, officials from Myanmar Agriculture Service, Irrigation Department, Water Resources Utilization Department, Agriculture Mechanization Department, Settlement and Land Records Department and Agriculture Research Department and trainees.

MNA

Objectives of 63rd Anniversary Independence Day

- (a) All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State
- (b) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity
- (c) 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
- (d) 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
- (e) All the national people to have greater awareness in warding off all destructive acts to isintegrate the Union and the national unity as the perpetuity of the Union plays a crucial role in building the Union of Myanmar



Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of the Ministry of Defence addresses the opening of Tatmadaw agricultural course No. 69.

MNA

Commander partakes in December mass walk activity

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than took part in mass walk activity in Thingangyun Township here on 11 December.

He then addressed the

ceremony to honour Red Cross members who lent helping hands in rescue missions in Giri cyclone-hit Rakhine State at University of Nursing (Yangon) in Lanmadaw Township.

The commander enjoyed final match and attended the prize

presenting ceremony of Region PDC Chairman's Cup Football Tournament.

MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Tun Than participating in December mass walk activity.—MNA



YMBA holds respect-paying, prize presenting ceremony



Respect-paying ceremony of Young Man Buddhist Association in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 13 Dec — Young Man Buddhist Association held ceremony to pay respects to the elders and to award students who had passed 2010 matriculation examination with good marks in Myanmar at the hall of the association in Pazuntaung Township here yesterday morning.

YMBA Chairman U Tin Win (Mingala Dhamma Jotikadhaja) delivered an address.

After being paid tribute, Rama U Ohn Maung spoke word of thanks.

The prizes were presented to students who earned first, second and third places in Myanmar's marks ranking in 2010 matriculation for the whole Myanmar. One of the prize winning students expressed gratitude.

Wellwishers then donated cash for respect-paying ceremony.—MNA

Outstanding rubber farm owner in 2010

(from page 16)

collected rubber latex from 13-14 years old rubber plants five years, and he will have to take out latex for 25 more years. Rubber, the best perennial tree, stands

for business among the local people.

Shan State (North) is growing rubber plants in line with the motto "Let's cover Shan State (North) with white gold". It can be said that the state has achieved success to some extent. As such, the local entrepreneurs are to grasp the opportunity of growing rubber in the state.

Rubber farm owner U Kyan Ko Saik is to be pride of taking risk in cultivation of rubber as new item crop among the local people in Shan State (North).

Translation: TTA

(Kyemon: 10-12-2010)

Famous Christian landmark tree chopped down in UK

LONDON, 13 Dec—Legend has it that the rare thorn tree on a hill in southern England had ties to the earliest days of Christianity, and pilgrims often left offerings at its base. In more recent times, local children honored its current incarnation each year by cutting sprigs to place on Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas dining table.

Now British police want to know who sawed the limbs off the Glastonbury Holy Thorn Tree, reducing it to a stump. And they want to know why. "I've just driven past the site, and people are coming out in tears," said Glastonbury Mayor John Coles. "I've never seen a sadder sight, or a more serious act of vandalism, in my 60 years in Glastonbury."

Glastonbury, 125 miles (200 kilometres) west of London, is well known for its annual rock music festival, which has drawn artists such

as Bruce Springsteen since the 1960s. Its mysterious landscape — including the Glastonbury Tor hill, which is believed by some to have magical qualities — has drawn pagan worshippers for many years.

Katherine Gorbings, the director of Glastonbury Abbey, said the tree originally came from the Middle East and is a type of thorn tree common in Lebanon as well as in Europe. It typically lives about 100 years, but Gorbings said locals have kept Glastonbury Holy Thorn Tree going by taking grafts and clippings from it to plant new trees when the existing one neared the end of its natural life. "It's a sacred tree," she said. "Not only for the Christian church, but for many other people." The tree itself, located near the summit of Wearyall Hill, is visible from many parts of rural Somerset.—*Internet*



Local residents view the vandalized Glastonbury Holy Thorn Tree which has been hacked down and reduced to just a stump in Glastonbury western England on 10 Dec, 2010.—INTERNET

British helicopter pilots killed in crash

LONDON, 13 Dec—Two British pilots were killed when their helicopter crashed in France on a return flight from Italy, where it had been on display in a showroom, officials say.

Martin Rutty and Simon Lichtenstein, who won at least five British Championships while flying together more than 10 years, came down in France's densely wooded Tourrettes-sur-Loup valley Thursday, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Friday.

At 9 am local time the pilots left the French town of Sospel near the Italian border and crashed their American-made Robinson R22 helicopter shortly after takeoff. The aircraft suffered a catastrophic mechanical failure exacerbated by strong headwinds, witnesses say.—*Internet*

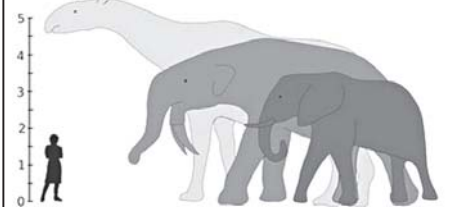


A male white rhino grazes at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy on 18 November Free from competition from massive reptiles, mammals ate a lot and used their new size to stay warm and fend off predators, according to a global study released Thursday on how mammals grew after the extinction of the dinosaurs.—INTERNET

Delta offers no-fee flight change in Midwest

ATLANTA, 13 Dec—Delta Air Lines said Friday that it is letting customers whose flight plans may be affected by winter weather in five Midwest states this weekend make one-time changes to their travel schedules without having to pay fees. The initiative applies to customers booked on Delta flights that take off, arrive or fly through Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin on Friday and Saturday.

Those passengers may rebook for travel before or after their original travel dates as long as they get their tickets by Saturday, the company said. Travel for changed itineraries must begin by Monday and any changes to the flight's point of origin or destination may result in a higher fare. Delta shares slipped 19 cents to \$13.12 in afternoon trading.—*Internet*



Lost civilization may have existed beneath the Persian Gulf

LONDON, 13 Dec — Veiled beneath the Persian Gulf, a once-fertile landmass may have supported some of the earliest humans outside Africa some 75,000 to 100,000 years ago, a new review of research suggests. At its peak, the floodplain now below the Gulf would have been about the size of Great Britain, and then shrank as water began to flood the area. Then, about 8,000 years ago, the land would have been swallowed up by the Indian Ocean, the review scientist said.

The study, which is detailed in the December issue of the journal *Current Anthropology*, has broad implications for aspects of human history. For instance, scientists have debated over when early modern humans exited Africa, with dates as early as 125,000 years ago and as recent as 60,000 years ago (the more recent date is the currently accepted paradigm), according to study researcher Jeffrey Rose, an

archaeologist at the University of Birmingham in the UK. "I think Jeff's theory is bold and imaginative, and hopefully will shake things up," Robert Carter of Oxford Brookes University in the UK told *LiveScience*. "It would completely rewrite our understanding of the out-of-Africa migration. It is far from proven, but Jeff and others will be developing research programmes to test the theory."

Viktor Cerny of the Archaeogenetics Laboratory, the Institute of Archaeology, in Prague, called Rose's finding an "excellent theory," in an e-mail to *LiveScience*, though he also points out the need for more research to confirm it. The findings have sparked discussion among researchers, including Carter and Cerny, who were allowed to provide comments within the research paper, about who exactly the humans were who occupied the Gulf basin.

—*Internet*

Camel falls in Nativity re-enactment

PALM BEACH, 13 Dec—A camel used in a Nativity scene fell into pews at a rehearsal of the First Baptist Church's Christmas show in Florida, but no one was injured, officials said. Lula Bell, who weighs about 1,000 pounds, may have had a bum knee, forcing her to stumble, a pastor told *The Palm Beach (Fla) Post*.

Neither the camel, nor its rider, Alex James, was injured in the accident, and the West Palm Beach church has decided not to use her in its upcoming Christmas production, said worship Pastor Chuck Lewis.

"Everybody's OK," Lewis said about Thursday's incident. "That's the most important thing." The camel belongs to Citra, Fla.-based Animals in Motion, a company that trains animals for movies, private parties and other shows. It provided animals for the "Evan Almighty" movie. Animals in Motion owner Timothy Rivers has been the target of animal welfare supporters, and he declined to comment on Lula Bell's fall.

In 2002 he plead guilty to illegally selling a pair of federally protected black leopards and was sentenced to six months in prison, the report said.

He was charged with animal cruelty, but not convicted, over a "high-diving mules" act. "I don't know what's going on," Rivers told the newspaper. "I don't want to know what's going on over there," he said, before hanging up.—*Internet*

This undated diagram image provided by the journal Science shows the largest land mammals that ever lived, from left, Indricotherium and Deinotherium, that would have towered over the living African Elephant. Indricotherium. They just needed some leg room: New research shows the great dinosaur die-off made way for mammals to explode in size — leading to creatures that would have towered over today's elephants. The largest land mammal ever: A rhinoceros-like creature, minus the horn, that stood 18 feet tall, weighed 17 tons and grazed in the then-forests of what is now Eurasia. It makes the better known woolly mammoth seem a bit puny.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (64)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (64) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (361)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (361) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (181)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (181) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

German robber couple killed in shootout

BERLIN, 13 Dec — Authorities in southwestern Germany say they believe a man and a woman who were killed in a shootout with police after robbing a bank in Karlsruhe were a notorious couple known as the "Gentlemen Thieves."

Karlsruhe police said a 28-year-old officer who suffered a gunshot wound in the incident on Friday was in stable condition on Saturday.

Prosecutors said that

papers on the robbers' bodies identified them as a 38-year-old woman and her 40-year-old husband. Both were Czech citizens. They believe the pair had committed more than 21 robberies in southwestern Germany since 1995, making off with some euro 2 million (\$2.65 million). Police said they found the money stolen on Friday on the man's body and returned it to the bank. — *Internet*

Rare photo of JFK with Monroe sold at auction

NEW YORK, 13 Dec — Thousands of photographs of John F Kennedy taken by White House photographer Cecil Stoughton, including a rare image of Marilyn Monroe with the president and Robert Kennedy at a Democratic fundraiser, sold for \$151,000 (£114,000) at auction.

The Monroe photograph, contained in an envelope labelled 'Sensitive Material' — on 19 May, 1962' with 22 other gelatin silver prints of the event, sold for \$9,150, above its pre-sale estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000.

"It's the only image of the three of them together," said Matthew Haley, Bonhams' expert for books, manuscripts and historical photographs. "There are very few prints of this photo." The collection was offered by Stoughton's estate at Bonhams auction house. It included 12,000

photographs.

Stoughton was the first official White House photographer. He captured public as well as intimate Kennedy moments. About 60pc of the images are of public events.

The rest are of private moments: the children's birthday parties; family Christmases, and vacations in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts.

One of Stoughton's most famous images

shows Lyndon B Johnson being sworn in aboard Air Force One following Kennedy's assassination on 22 November, 1963.

The photo shows Johnson with his hand raised taking the oath of office surrounded by his wife and Jacqueline Kennedy — still wearing her blood-splattered dress. It sold for \$13,420, above its pre-sale estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Internet



Chef Ken Frank shaves Burgundy black truffles onto a mushroom soup at his La Toque restaurant during the inaugural Napa Truffle Festival in Napa, Calif, on 11 Dec, 2010. — INTERNET

110-year-old Honolulu Symphony seeks to liquidate

HONOLULU, 13 Dec — The 110-year-old Honolulu Symphony is preparing to sound its own death knell.

Lawyers are set to appear Monday in US Bankruptcy Court to ask a judge to convert the symphony's Chapter 11 reorganization to a Chapter 7 liquidation.

The symphony's board of directors voted unanimously on Thursday to convert the filing. Under Chapter 7, the symphony would shut down, then sell all its remaining assets to pay creditors.

The Honolulu Symphony has been operating under Chapter 11 protection for about a year after canceling all of its concerts. Officials had said they hoped to come back as a leaner and more efficient operation. — *Internet*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Citizen Holdings Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Citizen Holdings Co., Ltd.) a Japanese corporation duly organized, and existing under the laws of Japan of 1-12, 6-chome, Tanashi-cho, Nishi-tokyo-shi, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-



Reg. No. 6883/2010 in respect of "Class 14: Watches, clocks, and parts and fittings thereof".



Reg. No. 6884/2010 in respect of "Class 14: Watches, clocks, and parts and fittings thereof, jewelry".

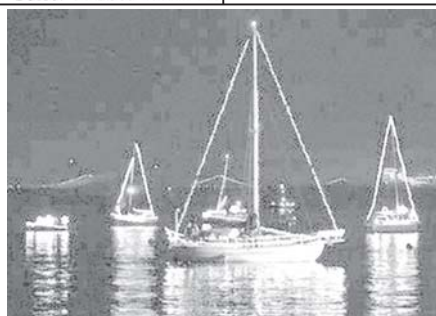
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.I.
for Citizen Holdings
Kabushiki Kaisha
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 14 December 2010

Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen possibly died from botched robbery

LOS ANGELES, 13 Dec — Veteran Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen may have had been killed by a gunman as a result of a robbery that has gone bad, and no known connections have been established between a man who committed suicide after the slaying and the dramatic incident, Beverly Hills police said on Wednesday.

Harold Martin Smith, 43, a man labeled by police as "person of interest," committed suicide on 1 Dec in the lobby of the Harvey Apartments as a tip from the television show "America's Most Wanted" led Beverly Hills police to approach him to discuss the Chasen murder. — *Internet*



A group of boats make their way along the waterfront during the annual lighted boat parade in Sausalito, Calif, on 11 Dec, 2010. The parade had some 30 entries in the 22nd annual holiday event. — INTERNET

Coal mine explosion kills 26 in central China

BEIJING, 13 Dec — An explosion at a coal mine in central China killed 26 miners who were working despite an order to halt production, officials said on Wednesday, while a mine tunnel collapse elsewhere left four dead in the latest accidents to strike the country's mining industry.

The death toll from the blast that struck on Tuesday evening at the operation in Henan province's Mianchi County doubled after 13 more bodies were found, said an official surnamed Li from the Henan Administration of Coal Safety.

Another 20 miners managed to escape from the mine, he said, adding it was unclear why the mine had initially reported that only 33 miners were working underground at the time of the blast.

A police investigation is under way, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Most such accidents are usually blamed on a buildup of coal gas or methane ignited by sparks or open flames.

Xinhua

American Film Institute announces 2010 honourees

LOS ANGELES, 13 Dec— In the wake since the drama “The Social Network” was awarded with four awards at the National Board of Review earlier in the month, the Columbia Pictures’ release was once again named best picture of the year by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association (LAFA) on Sunday.

The film, which deals with the founding of the internet social networking website Facebook and the resulting lawsuits, beat out runner-up “Carlos,”

a French epic length treatment of the life and times of “Carlos the Jackal,” to prevail at the award event.

The film also walked away with best director, best screenplay and best music score.

However, the film’s hero, Colin Firth, did not win the best actor for his portrayal in “The Social Network.” He was the choice for his role as King George VI in “The King’s Speech.” Runner-up for the prize is Edgar Ramirez for “Carlos.”

South Korean actress Kim Hye-ja was named

best actress for her role in “Mother” while Jennifer Lawrence received runner-up for “Winter’s Bone,” an indie which is adapted from Daniel Woodrell’s 2006 novel and winner of the 2010 Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

“Carlos” was chosen as foreign language film of the year. South Korean film “Mother” was runner-up.

“Toy Story 3” was LAFA’s choice for best animation. “The Illusionist” was runner-up in the category.

Xinhua



Actors (L-R) Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Timberlake, Max Minghella and Andrew Garfield pose backstage after accepting the Hollywood Ensemble Cast Award for the movie “The Social Network” at the 14th Annual Hollywood Awards Gala in Beverly Hills, California 25 October, 2010.—INTERNET



Russian students show collages featuring Chinese words at the No 1 Middle School in Heihe city in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province in April.—INTERNET

40 million foreigners learning Chinese

BEIJING, 13 Dec— More than 40 million foreigners around the world are learning Chinese, a senior official with the Confucius Institute Headquarters said at the organization’s fifth annual conference in Beijing, which ended on Saturday. This year, 40 new Confucius Institutes and 97 Confucius Class-

rooms opened worldwide, while eight countries also joined the program, Xu Lin, the headquarters’ chief executive and director-general of the Office of Chinese Language Council International, or Hanban, told *China Daily*.

And more expansion is on next year’s docket,

she added. “We expect to dispatch 2,000 teachers and 3,000 volunteers from China, train 10,000 Chinese teachers and 10,000 local teachers, and release revised Standards for Teachers of Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (TCS-OL) next year,” she said.

“A better benefits package will be offered

to teachers from China. Tentative efforts will be made to establish a team of full-time directors and teachers for Confucius Institutes.”

Confucius Institutes are affiliated with the Ministry of Education and are committed to educating people worldwide about Chinese language and culture.—Xinhua

Vietnam receives 4.6 mln foreign visitors in 11 months, up 36.5%

HANOI, 13 Dec—Vietnam received 4.6 million foreign tourists in the first eleven months this year, up 36.5 percent year-on-year, according to a report by Vietnam’s General Statistics Office Monday. In November alone, the number of foreign visitors to Vietnam reached 430,000 people, up 10.31 percent against the October’s figure, said the report,

Major tourist sources for Vietnamese tourism include China, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States. China

topped Vietnam’s market of foreign tourists in the first eleven months with 833,000 person-times, up 76.7 percent year-on-year, according to the report. It was followed by the Republic of Korea and Japan with 450,000 person-times and 398,000 person-times respectively.

Last year, Vietnam received 3.8 million foreign visitors, down 10.9 percent year-on-year, according to the office.

Xinhua

Indonesia, Japan reaches deal on 24 bln USD infrastructure projects

JAKARTA, 13 Dec— Indonesia and Japan have signed agreement on developing infrastructure in Jakarta valued by up to 2 trillion yen or 24 billion US dollars, as Indonesia is attempting to build its transport link to support economic growth, local media reported Monday.

The projects would include transportation infrastructure such as the construction of a road,

electricity generator, airport and seaport, as well as the supply of clean water, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economy Hatta Rajasa was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying.

A technical team is to be established to design a master plan for the projects development, which is expected to complete by the end of 2011.

The feasibility study is targeted to complete in 2012 before the project commences in 2013.

“This area (Jakarta) shows rapid economic growth, but it still needs more infrastructure development,” said Hatta.

The project would be carried out in two phases, with the first one from this year to 2014 and the second one from 2014 to 2020, he said.

Xinhua

‘Ancient’ Philippine boats complete Asian odyssey

MANILA, 13 Dec— Three wooden-hulled replicas of boats made 1,700 years ago ended a Southeast Asian odyssey in Manila on Monday, having followed the routes and methods of ancient sea gypsies for more than a year.

The vessels, called Balangay, were made of carved wooden planks held together by wooden pins and pegs, and the 37-man crew navigated using the timeless methods of their ancient predecessors, team leader Art Valdez said.

“Why did I launch into the expedition and the Balangay? To capture the imagination of the people and send the message that we (Filipinos) can do so much,” Valdez said after the boats sailed into Manila harbour.

The 14,000-kilometre

(8,700-mile) journey began in September 2009 and took them to Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The vessels were replicas of boats discovered on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao in the 1970s that were carbon dated to 320 AD, the oldest seafaring vessels

ever to have been found in the country. Valdez said the voyage retraced the trading routes used by the sea gypsies who would have used the ancient boats as they roamed the Pacific.

The modern-day crew sailed using the stars as charts, and with the vessels powered only by the wind gusting into sails.

Internet



Filipino adventurers arrive on a replica of an ancient Philippine wooden boat called a Balangay in Manila after a sea voyage following the routes and methods of ancient sea gypsies.—INTERNET

I want to quit Manchester City, insists Tevez



Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez

LONDON, 13 Dec — Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez said on Sunday he wanted to leave the English Premier League high-flyers as his relationship with "certain executives and individuals" at the club "has broken down beyond repair".

But City captain

Tevez, in a statement issued by his agent Kia Joorabchian, stressed he had "no personal issue" with manager Roberto Mancini despite their seemingly fractious relationship, and thanked owner Sheikh Mansour for his "understanding and support".

It is understood that one of the people Tevez, who is reportedly homesick and looking for a move back to Argentina where his two daughters live, has fallen out with at Eastlands is City chief executive Garry Cook.—Internet

Barcelona keep Real at bay in Spanish league

MADRID, 13 Dec — Barcelona produced another magical display of attacking football to sweep aside Real Sociedad 5-0 and return to the La Liga summit on Sunday.

Following Real Madrid's 3-1 victory over Real Zaragoza, the onus was on Barcelona to maintain their two-point advantage and they took the game to their opponents from the start.

With just eight minutes gone David Villa gave them the lead by converting a Pedro Rodriguez



Barcelona's forward David Villa celebrates after scoring a goal during their Spanish League football.—INTERNET

cross and from there it only got worse for Sociedad.

Barca added to their total when a fine passing movement culminated with an Andres Iniesta goal from a tight angle.

Internet

Tennis star Hingis marries French showjumper

GENEVA, 13 Dec — Retired tennis star Martina Hingis has married French showjumper Thibault Hutin in Paris, Swiss celebrity magazine *Schweizer Illustrierte* said.

According to the magazine's website, the 30-year-



Retired Swiss tennis star Martina Hingis hits a return at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing in 2007. Hingis has married French showjumper Thibault Hutin in Paris, Swiss celebrity magazine *Schweizer Illustrierte* says.—INTERNET

old former Grand Slam champion and the 24-year-old rider held their civil wedding on Friday in the presence of close family.

"Our wedding came as a surprise for many, but it has been in planning long in advance," Hingis told the magazine, which said it would publish on Monday exclusive photos of the event.—Internet

Chelsea pay penalty against Spurs in Premier League

LONDON, 13 Dec — Chelsea missed the chance to go top in the English Premier League after Didier Drogba saw a late penalty saved in a 1-1 draw away to Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Spurs goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes, who'd let substitute Drogba's shot go through his hands for Chelsea's 70th minute equaliser, brought down Ramires in stoppage time.

But the Brazilian then produced a fine save to deny Drogba, who took the spot-kick even though fellow substitute and regular penalty-taker Frank Lampard was on the field.

Had the penalty gone in and Chelsea won, the Blues would have gone top.—Internet



Chelsea's Ivorian Didier Drogba (L) he heads the ball against Tottenham Hotspurs' Michael Dawson.

INTERNET

Neuer the hero as resurgent Schalke stun Mainz

BERLIN, 13 Dec — Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was the hero for Champions League last 16 qualifiers Schalke on Sunday as his second-half penalty save sealed his side's 1-0 win at Mainz.

After striker Jefferson Farfan put Schalke ahead with a goal after 30 minutes, there was drama when Neuer had a penalty awarded against him after he brought down Hungary striker Adam Szalai with just over 20 minutes left.

But he saved the day



Mainz's striker Sami Allagui (R) and Schalke's Japanese defender Atsuto Uchida vie for the ball.—INTERNET

for the Royal Blues when he stopped the spot-kick from Mainz's Germany squad member Andre Schuerrle to give Schalke their fourth win from their last six league games.

Internet

Senior wins Australian PGA in playoff

COOLUM, 13 Dec — Australia's Peter Senior won the rain-delayed Australian PGA on Monday, beating Geoff Ogilvy with a par on the second hole of a playoff to become the oldest player to win a major professional

tournament in Australia.

The 51-year-old Senior, a regular on the Champions Tour, made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation for a 1-under 71 to match Ogilvy, the Australian Open winner last week in Sydney, at 12-under 276. Ogilvy finished with a 66.

Both players parred the 18th hole on the first hole of the playoff, and Ogilvy three-putted for a bogey on the second extra hole to give Senior his third Australian PGA title. He won the 1989 event at Riverside Oaks near Sydney and the 2003 tournament at Cooloom.—Internet



Peter Senior holds up the Kirkwood trophy after winning the Australian PGA golf championship.

INTERNET

Lyon into third, St Etienne down Monaco

PARIS, 13 Dec — Lyon, struggling in the French first division relegation zone back in September, moved up to third on Sunday on the back of a 2-0 home defeat of Toulouse. Lisandro Lopez, whose injury time winner earned the seven-time former champions a 2-1 win over Montpellier in their last league run out, opened the scoring in the fifth minute.

The in-form Argentinian bagged his fourth goal in a week when pouncing on Toulouse keeper Mathieu Valverde's failed clearance after Michel Bastos' acute angled shot from the left. Half an hour later Bafetimbi Gomis burst through the Toulouse defence to bag Lyon's second to seal a convincing win which lifted Claude Puel's side on to 29 points, one behind Paris Saint Germain and two behind leaders Lille.—Internet



Lyon's French forward Bafetimbi Gomis (R) vies with Toulouse's French defender Daniel Congre.

INTERNET

Milan pull away, Juve's Krasic downs Lazio

ROME, 13 Dec — AC Milan went six points clear at the top of Serie A on Sunday after winning for the 10th time in 12 league games with a 3-0 success at Bologna while Lazio slumped to a last-gasp 2-1 defeat at Juventus.

Goals from Kevin-Prince Boateng, Robinho and Zlatan Ibrahimovic eased Milan to a comfort-



AC Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates after scoring against Bologna.—INTERNET

able victory which also guarantees top spot in a week's time when Serie A shuts down for its winter break.

Ibrahimovic said the 12.30 kick-off time had presented a new challenge.

"We won 3-0, it was a hard game. It's the first time we've played at midday, it wasn't easy but we won and that's the most important thing," he said.

Internet

SPORTS

Results of respective leagues on 12 December

England - Premier League

Bolton W.	2 - 1	Blackburn R.
Wolverhampton W.	1 - 0	Birmingham C.
Tottenham H.	1 - 1	Chelsea

Italy - Serie A

Bologna	0 - 3	AC Milan
AS Roma	1 - 0	Bari
Brescia	1 - 0	Sampdoria
Cagliari	3 - 0	Catania
Lecce	3 - 2	Chievo
Juventus	2 - 1	Lazio

Spain - Primera Division

Athletic Bilbao	2 - 1	Espanyol
Hercules	4 - 1	Malaga
Mallorca	0 - 1	Racing Santander
Sporting Gijon	1 - 1	Levante
Zaragoza	1 - 3	Real Madrid
Barcelona	5 - 0	Real Sociedad

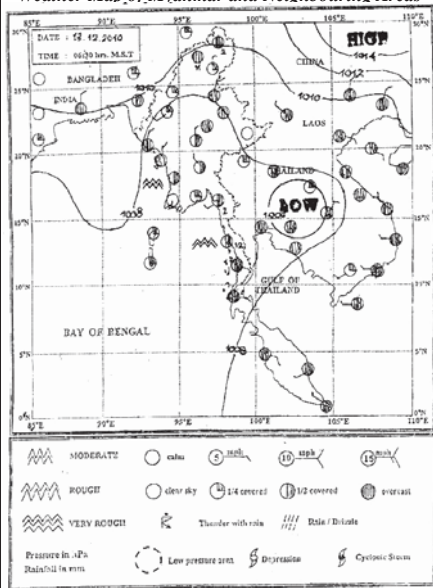
Germany - Bundesliga I.

Freiburg	3 - 0	Monchengladbach
Mainz	0 - 1	Schalke

France - Ligue 1

Lyon	2 - 0	Toulouse
Monaco	0 - 2	Saint-Etienne
Bordeaux	0 - 0	Rennes

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 13th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin, Mon and Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions and partly cloudy in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Northern Shan States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions (5°C) above December average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Mon States, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperature was Haka (4°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kyeikkhame (1.30) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 12-12-2010 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 13-12-2010 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-12-2010 was (82%). Rainfall on 13-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 12-12-2010 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 13-12-2010 was 63°F. Relative

humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-12-2010 was (50%). Total sunshine hours on 12-12-2010 was (7.2) hours.

Rainfall on 13-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 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 (6) mph from Northwest at (12:30) hours MST on 12-12-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 14th December 2010: Light rain are likely to be scattered in Mon State and Taninthayi Region, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, Upper Sagaing Region and partly cloudy in the remaining States and Regions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Somali pirates hijack cargo vessel near India

NAIROBI, 13 Dec — The European Union's anti-piracy force says pirates have captured a vessel about 1,000 miles (1,610 kilometres) east of Somalia.

The EU Naval Force said Sunday that the attack happened only 550 miles (885 kilometres) from the coast of India.

Pirates launched the on Saturday attack from two skiffs that were supported by a mother ship. The pirates fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades at the vessel.

The MV Renuar is a Panama-flagged, Liberian-owned cargo vessel. The EU Naval Force says the condition of the 24 Filipino crew is not known.

Somalia has not had an effective government for 19 years, allowing piracy to flourish off its coast.

Internet



An armed Somali pirate keeping vigil on the coastline near Hobyo, northeastern Somalia in January 2010. Somali pirates fired rocket propelled grenades and small arms before seizing a cargo ship and its 24 Filipino crew in the Indian Ocean, the EU's anti-piracy force said Sunday.—INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (14-12-2010)(Tuesday)

Transmissions

Times

Local - (09:00am ~ 11:00am) MST
 Oversea Transmission - (14-12-10 09:30 am ~ 15-12-10 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * From "Putao" to "Machan Baw"
- * Record Album
- * News
- * Festival of Kahtain (Part-2)
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Foods (Aung Thu Kha Myanmar Rice Meal)
- * News
- * Artist Hla Tun Aung's Milestone

Oversea Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * From "Putao" to "Machan Baw"
- * Record Album
- * News
- * Festival of Kahtain (Part-2)
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Foods (Aung Thu Kha Myanmar Rice Meal)
- * News
- * Artist Hla Tun Aung's Milestone
- * News
- * Youth and music (Parts-4)
- * News
- * Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Guphaya
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Beach Resort of Chaung Tha
- * Modernized Umbrellas evolved from the Yesteryear
- * News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Aloe vera)
- * Myanmar Movie "Who Really Win"



Tuesday,
14 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. Paritta By
Venerable Min Gun
Sayadaw

7:15 am

2. Dhamma Puja
Song

7:25 am

3. To Be Healthy
Exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning News

7:50 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am

6. Health Programme

8:05 am

7. Songs Of Yester
Years

8:15 am

8. Myanmar Traditional
Cultural Performing
Arts Competition

8:25 am

9. Song Of National
Races

8:30 am

10. Teleplay (Traffic)

8:40 am

11. International News

8:45 am

12. Musical Programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:10 pm

2. Musical Programme

4:25 pm

3. Myanmar
Traditional
Cultural Performing
Arts Competition

4:45 pm

4. University Of
Distance Education
(TV Lectures)
-Fourth Year
(Law)

5:00 pm

5. Song For
Upholding
National Spirit

5:10 pm

6. The Mirror Images
Of The Musical
Oldies

5:20 pm

7. Teleplay (Health)

5:30 pm

8. Songs
Commemorating
Blood Donation

Day

5:45 pm

9. Sweet Melody

6:00 pm

10. Evening News

6:15 pm

11. Weather Report

6:20 pm

12. Kya Pwint Myaye
Yin Khone Than

6:50 pm

13. Sing A song

7:00 pm

14. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International News

17. Weather Report

18. Just for Laughs

19. TV Drama Series

20. Movie Quiz

21. Mytta Pawana By
Mingun Sayadaw
Phayagyi

- ★ 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

Outstanding rubber farm owner in 2010



A worker collecting rubber latex at a farm.

Perennial Crops and Farming Enterprise (Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise) of Myanmar Industrial Crops Development Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation awarded outstanding farm owners in rubber, oil palm and cashew farms recently. Of them, U Kyan Ko Saik of Hopang Township won the out-

standing rubber farmer award.

In an interview, U Kyan Ko Saik said that he was engaged in growing rubber as new item crop in Shan State (North) in 1996-1997. The region had never grown rubber before. He took a risk in cultivation of rubber and he became the first rubber farmer, he said.

Due to encouragement and technological as-

sistance of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise, he had confidence to grow rubber there. He established his rubber farm in 200 acres and then extended it on 385 acres.

As a result of choosing quality rubber strain, applying correct cultivation methods and nurturing the farm, rubber latex could be produced from rubber plants

Article & Photo: Yamanya Thway Mon

at the age of about eight. So far, he has been collecting rubber latex for five years.

In its establishment, the rubber farm cost about K 200,000 per acre. Therefore, the farmer spent K 30 million on growing rubber. At present, his income from collecting rubber latex can cover the cost of establishment.

We have learned that he will gain a substantial amount of profits in coming rubber latex collection seasons. Indeed, rubber latex can be produced from a plant for 30 years. Therefore, U Kyan Ko Saik has

(See page 10)

Armed group members exchange arms for peace

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec— Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the State Peace and Development Council has made earnest efforts for ensuring national reconsolidation and for bringing about equitable development throughout the nation. Realizing endeavours and genuine goodwill of the government, the armed groups exchanged arms for peace individually and in groups after understanding their wrong acts.

As small groups from KNU have been returning to the legal fold, a total of 51 persons—12 led by Naing Lwin, 13 led by Saw Hla Da, 11 led by Saw Aung San, and four led by Nawtayar on 9 December, 2010, four led by Chinlon on 10 December, 2010, six led by Saw Sein Than on 11 December, 2010, and Soe Moe on 12 December, 2010—exchanged arms for peace in South-East Command area. Officials of military units and camps warmly welcomed 51 persons who exchanged arms for peace and have been providing necessary assistance.

There are still members of armed groups who are going to follow suit.—MNA

Significant night temperature (13-12-2010)

Haka

(4° C)