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Thursday, 23 December, 2010

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Emperor of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2010, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan.—MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein felicitates Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2010, U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan.—MNA

Winners urged to attend prize-presenting ceremony for National Literary Award 2009

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—The National Literary Award and the Life-time Achievement for National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award ceremony will be held at the hall of the Ministry of Information, here, at 9 am on 31 December (Friday).

The winners are to appear in the rehearsal at the ministry at 1 pm on 30 December (Thursday) without fail.

Those outside Nay Pyi Taw may contact any receptions at Nay Pyi Taw Station, Airport and Bus

Terminals, Tel: 067-412205, 412202 or 412375, and the prize winners in Yangon, except those who had made the trip themselves, may contact Secretary of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutiny Committee, Ph: 01-381448, Chief Editor, Ph: 01-376569, Deputy Chief Editor, Ph: 01-249230 and Head of Branch (Admin) Ph: 01-381449 for the trip to Nay Pyi Taw. All the winners are reminded to come No 7, Ywadow Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 29 December evening (Wednesday).—MNA

True patriotism

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

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



**Grandma
Daw Mya
Kyi,
119.**

It is very heartening to learn that a citizen of Myanmar, Daw Mya Kyi, is 119 now. She lives in Paukchaing Village in Amarapura Township. Her home is in the easternmost part of the village, close to the village pagoda and the village monastery.

When our car stopped in front of her home, we got a welcom-

ing smile from her. And when we paid respects to the centenarian, she said prayers for our wellbeing. To my surprise, her voice was still clear and vigorous. She said, "I saw your car from afar. So, I just laid the bamboo mat and put the green tea pot and some snacks on it. Would you have some?" She does not need to wear eyeglasses,

but her eyesight is in good condition. It seemed to me that just as she saw our car, she guessed we might be her guests.

We three made cash donations separately to her, which filled my heart completely with pleasure.

When asked if she still remembered the names of her parents and her native town, she said, "Of course, I do. My father is U Kar and my mother is Daw Phwar Ohn. I was born in Hteingon Village. Of the four siblings, I am the youngest. The eldest is a male. Our siblings are a male and three females including me. Our parents were farmers. Our family business was agricultural farming."

I asked if she went to school in her youth, she answered with a smile, "My parents enrolled me in school. But, I always stayed hiding on the way to school because I was in no mood to get school education. So, I am illiterate." "And didn't you attend any Three 'Rs' course?"



**Daw
Mya Kyi
and her
little
home.**



An interview with Daw Mya Kyi aged 119

Byline & photos: Ni Ni (Mandalay)

"No, I didn't, either because I was too shy to do so. But, now I am eager to be literate." "What is your name, please?" "My real name is Daw Mya Gyi. But, when I registered for my national registration

card, the clerk wrote down my name as Daw Mya Kyi. So, I was also registered as Daw Mya Kyi when I applied for my Citizenship Scrutiny Card."

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 December, 2010

Promote national prestige and integrity

A ceremony to pay respects to old musicians and doyen literati will be organized soon. Paying respect to whom respect is due is a way to blessings. Paying respects to older artistes is, indeed, preserving a fine tradition of Myanmar.

The presenting of donations to organize the second ceremony to pay respects to octogenarian musicians to be held by the Myanmar Music Association (Central) took place at the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Yangon on 19 December. On the occasion, well-wishers donated cash and kind to doyen literati and old musicians. Throughout successive periods, eminent literati and musicians threw themselves into national movements by creating literary and music works with the aim of inculcating the people with a sense of nationalistic spirit and awareness.

The government is doing everything possible for artistes held in high esteem in order that their living standard become high, and to improve the arts world. Music professionals have to improve the music world and the music community. They are under a responsibility for contributing to the music world. They have to serve not only national interests but also that of the music world and their own.

Music is delicate and its power is too great in organizing people. It is required to make harmonious cooperation among related individuals and associations for Myanmar arts including Myanmar music to become popular worldwide. Today, alien music and decadent costumes are penetrating the nation. Accordingly, it is obligatory for musicians to preserve fine traditions and national culture.

Achieving modern things is a sign of development. However, a noteworthy point in that regard is that copying alien culture, lifestyle and behaviours can have adverse effects on Myanmar culture and Myanmar music. The onus is, thus, on every music professional to preserve and promote Myanmar music, traditions and national culture.

BIG M Group to offer technology, input, market guarantee for growers

YANGON, 20 Dec—BIG M Group Services Co., Ltd will produce and export good quality vegetables and fruits for foreign markets in 2011 in cooperation with Myanmar Agriculture Service (MAS) and FAO.

BIG M Group has arranged to give agricultural technologies, inputs, packing technology, market guarantees for fruits and vegetables grown in Aungpan, Taunggyi, Hsipaw, Lashio, Tatkon, Meiktila, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Mandalay, Kyaukse, Kume and Hanmyintmo regions.

For more information, contact BIG M Group Services Co., Ltd, No.B (4), Shwekeinnay housing, Narnattaw street, Kamayut Township, Yangon and dial 01-503937, 09-49251634, 02-71729, 09-2044003, 09-6710218 and 09-5280635.—MNA

People's Voice

- * 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

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2010, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Seiji Maehara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.—MNA

Dy FM attends 3rd Political Consultations between Myanmar and Philippines

YANGON, 22 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here this morning after attending the 3rd Political Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Republic of the Philippines held in Manila, the Philippines, from 19 to 21 December at the invitation of Ms Erlinda F Basilio, Undersecretary for Policy of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.

The meeting was held at Diamond Hotel in Manila on 20 December. The two sides had a friendly discussion and exchanged of views on domestic developments, bilateral relations and promotion of co-operation on trade and investment, agriculture and forestry, information, culture, tourism, air services and human resources development.

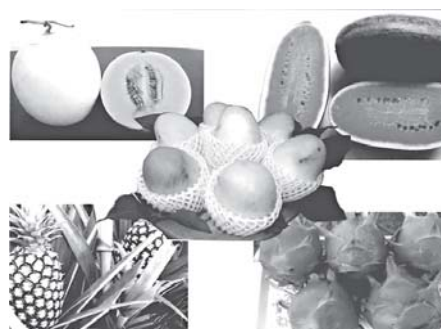
Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Aung Khin Soe also attended

the meeting. In the evening, deputy minister Ms Erlinda F Basilio hosted a dinner to Myanmar delegation at Diamond Hotel.

Deputy Minister U Maung Myint paid courtesy calls on Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Dr Alberto G Romulo on 20 December and Undersecretary of Trade and Industry Mr Gregory L Domingo. Also present at the calls was Ambassador U Aung Khin Soe.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Maung Myint participates in 3rd Political Consultations between Myanmar and the Philippines.—MNA



Boneal and Haicneal to be on display

YANGON, 22 Dec—The EMP Co Ltd will exhibit Boneal embrocation and Haicneal anti-dandruff shampoo coming from China at Yangon Expo-2010 on U Wisara Road, Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon from 23 to 26 December and at World Christmas Eve Festival in Karaweik Garden from 24 to 28 December.

The address of EMP Co Ltd is No. 222, Bo Myat Tun Street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon (Ph: 73037194, 73037196, 296995, 291839 and 203008).

MNA

Clash leaves dozen dead including five civilians in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, 22 Dec—A clash between Taliban and NATO-led forces left a dozen people dead including five civilians in the southern Helmand Province on Tuesday, Daud Ahmadi, the spokesman for the Helmand Provincial administration, said Wednesday.

"The clash happened in Sangin District on Tuesday when the militants opened fire and the international troops responded, leaving seven rebels dead," Ahmadi told *Xinhua*.

"Unfortunately five innocent

civilians including three children and two women were also killed as they were caught in the cross fire," the official added.

Meantime, the NATO-led forces confirmed in a press release the civilian casualties, adding the troops had discovered five civilian casualties following an militants attack.

"The International Security Assistance Force is looking into civilian casualties in Sangin District, Helmand Province," the press release said.

Xinhua



Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometres) west of Baghdad, Iraq recently. A suicide bomber blew up his car Sunday outside government offices in a Province west of the Iraqi Capital, killing and wounding scores of people, including women and elderly people waiting to collect welfare checks, officials said.

INTERNET

US and allies kill, injure Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

Casualties of Iraqi people

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 22 December reached 704561 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1275269, according to the news on the Internet.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Death toll of Iraqi people	704561
2.	The total number of seriously injured people	1275269

Internet

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

KABUL, 22 Dec—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

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

Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 33519 Afghan people were killed and 40689 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 22 December.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Number of Afghan people killed	33519
2.	Seriously injured Afghan people	40689

Internet

Afghan official rebukes NATO for civilian deaths

KABUL, 22 Dec—An Afghan Provincial governor says NATO needs to exert greater caution in its operations following the death of five civilians during a battle with militants.

The office of the governor of Helmand Province said in a statement on Wednesday that the five civilians killed during the clash a day

earlier included three women and two children. NATO says it is investigating the deaths, which Afghan officials say occurred during a Taliban raid on an Afghan national police checkpoint.

Afghan officials have repeatedly spoken out about civilian deaths, arguing that the international forces are not

being careful enough to avoid such casualties as the war nears its tenth year. Militants also try to use the civilian death toll as a way of rallying support for their cause.

Internet

Afghan forces kill 27 militants

GHAZNI, 22 Dec—Afghan forces backed by NATO-led troops eliminated 27 Taliban militants in the eastern Ghazni Province, an army officer in the Province Daud Shah Wafadar said Wednesday.

"The combined operation launched Monday has so far killed 27 Taliban militants including four local commanders," Wafadar who served as Colonel with the third Brigade of the army in Ghazni Province told *Xinhua*.

Seven more militants have been captured, he added. He further said that 36 pieces of assault rifles and nine anti-tank mines had also been seized during the operation.

Covering five districts namely Dayak, Waghaz, Andar, Qarabagh and Muqar, the operation would last until security is returned to the above areas.

Xinhua



Local residents look at burning oil tankers carrying fuel supplies for NATO forces, caused by a militant attack near Jamrud, in the Khyber tribal region along the Afghan border, Monday, on 20 Dec, 2010. A Pakistani government official says militants have fired rockets at a NATO convoy carrying supplies to Afghanistan, destroying two oil tankers and wounding two people.

INTERNET

NATO service member killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Dec—NATO says one of its service members has been killed following a roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan.

The military coalition said the attack occurred Tuesday. It provided no further details.

More than 690 NATO service members have been killed in Afghanistan so far this year, according to a tally by *The Associated Press*. That makes this the deadliest year for international forces in the almost 10-year-old war.

The international coalition has been pouring troops into Afghanistan's south, mainly in Kandahar and Helmand Provinces, where the Taliban remain particularly active.—*Internet*

Killed in Afghanistan

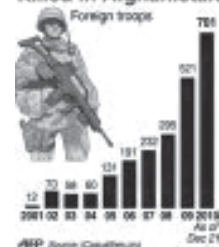


Chart showing the death toll for foreign troops in Afghanistan since 2001. International troop deaths in Afghanistan topped 700 in 2010, an independent website said Tuesday.

INTERNET



Science



African elephant' actually two separate species

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—Everyone is taught that there are two species of elephants - the African and the Asian - but new research is suggesting this isn't the whole truth. The "African elephant" is actually two species, as evolutionarily different as lions and tigers are from one another.

"It's really a remarkable degree of divergence between the two," said study leader Alfred Roca of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "The forest and savanna [elephants] are as different as the Asian elephant and woolly mammoth."

Roca and his collaborators discovered the evolutionary discrepancy by analyzing DNA of the living elephant species and two of their

extinct evolutionary cousins, the woolly mammoth and mastodon. The study is published in this week's issue of the journal *PLoS Biology*, and is the first sequence of these extinct animals' nuclear genomes, which is the DNA that resides in the nuclei of cells and gets passed down to offspring by both parents. (By contrast, mitochondrial DNA hides out in the energy-making structures of cells and is only passed down by females.)

The species, which can be divided by their habitat into the forest elephant and savanna elephant, seem to have separated several million years ago, about the same time that humans diverged from chimps.

Internet



Michael Wieser, a professor at the University of Calgary, is contributing to changes to the periodic table.—INTERNET

How penguins got their cold-weather coats

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—Those tuxedo-wearing birds that inhabit Earth's coldest continent may have evolved a means of retaining heat when they were still living in warm climates, scientists now suggest.

A key adaptation that helped modern penguins to invade the cold waters of Antarctica within the last 16 million years is the so-called humeral arterial plexus, a network of blood vessels that limits heat loss through the wings.

The plexus routes blood coming into the body from the wings past the blood traveling from the body to the wings. As such, the cooler blood from the wings, which get cold in the water, is heated up by warmer blood from the body, thus conserving heat.

Internet

Global rivers release huge amounts of potent greenhouse gas

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—Rivers may be a significant source of the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide, scientists now find.

Their calculation suggests that across the globe the waterways contribute three times the amount of nitrous oxide to the atmosphere as had been estimated by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations scientific body charged with reviewing climate change research.

They found that the amount of nitrous oxide produced in streams is related to human activities that release nitrogen into the environment, such as fertilizer use and

sewage discharges.

"Human activities, including fossil fuel combustion and intensive agriculture, have increased the availability of nitrogen in the environment," said Jake Beaulieu of the University of Notre Dame and the US Environmental Protection Agency in Cincinnati, Ohio, and lead author of the paper published this week in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"Much of this nitrogen is transported into river and stream networks," Beaulieu said. There, in a process called denitrification, microbes convert the nitrogen into nitrous.

Internet



Technology



Synology announces new 15TB NAS device

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—Synology America Corp on Tuesday announced the release of its newest server, the Disk Station DS1511+. Synology, a manufacturer of network attached storage devices for homes and businesses, has a reputation for creating feature-rich NAS solutions for a variety of audiences, and this latest unit should satisfy small businesses, prosumers, and network administrators. Capable of storing up to 15TB of data, this expansive NAS device is for those with serious storage demands.

The \$900 DS1511+ is the successor to Synology's DS1010+ server model. Alone, the new device can hold up to five 3TB SATA hard drives that can be configured in a variety of RAID arrays for maximum performance or maximum redundancy. When it is connected with two of Synology's DX510 server storage expansion units, it can manage and process the storage of a whopping 15 3TB

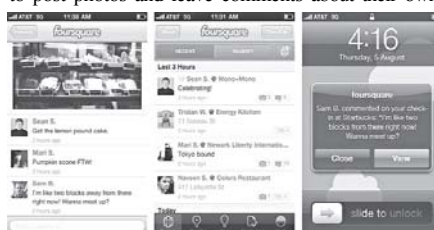
drives. According to Synology's press materials, in a RAID 5 configuration the DS1511+ can write the drives at a rate 165.91 MB/sec, and reads them at 197.8 MB/sec. The device is also reportedly able to host up to 30 websites on its hard drives.

The new server runs Synology's Disk Station Manager (DSM) 3.0 operating system. The DSM 3.0's user interface (UI) is designed to look like a common household desktop UI, and sports features such as multi-tasking, multimedia streaming, and Time-Machine-like back-up options. According to Synology, the UI's User Home Feature makes it easy for office administrators to create secure, shared folders for a large amount of server users to access information from. The DSM 3.0 can be remotely accessed via any Windows, Mac, or Linux workstation.

Internet

New foursquare update adds support for photos, comments

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—On Monday, Foursquare, one of the more popular location-based social networks, launched an updated app for the iPhone that allows users to post photos and leave comments about their own



check-ins and friends' check-ins. That opens up a new level of communication for Foursquare that may enhance the "social" experience in the eyes of some users.

Foursquare says the addition of photos will allow users to, for example, "see dishes before ordering them, figure out if a venue looks fun, or easily identify a hard-to-find spot." Foursquare has already partnered with a few companies to push photos to users' devices when they check-in to certain places.

The comment feature allows users to post thoughts about friends' check-ins to, say, share plans to meet at a particular neighborhood bar later in the evening. With the iPhone's push notification enabled, Foursquare will update users about their friends' comments on the fly, even if the app isn't currently active.

Internet

Zynga's mafia wars hits android in two new ways

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—Over 4 million users have downloaded at least one app from the Android Market, giving Google (GOOG) quite a boost for its mobile platform. With games topping the most popular apps category, you can be sure a good chunk of those 4 million users have several games on their Android device. Let's take a look at what's going on in Android's gaming industry.

loophole for fans. You can also play Mafia Wars directly through a browser, with Zynga launching an optimized HTML5 format version of the game.

Other platform news, we have Yo Yo Games support heading to Android, for their popular Game Maker software. What Game Maker does is enable developers to easily create games, enticing beginners into this industry.

With a Lite and Pro option, you have some variety around the games you can create with this tool. On another side of the spectrum, we have OpenFeint taking cues from Groupon.

The gaming platform is incorporating group buying, social promotions into its feature set. This programme lets gamers buy games for a fraction of the retail price, and encourages social interaction around the games.—Internet



First up we have some big news from Zynga, with its first Android access for the promised Mafia Wars. You won't find it in the Market just yet, but GetJar's gaming platform has offered a handy

Health

Gene activity may affect acute myeloid leukemia outcome

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—For acute myeloid leukemia patients, overactive genes in their leukemic stem cells (LSC) can translate into a more difficult struggle to overcome their disease and achieve prolonged remission, new research reveals.

"In many cancers, specific subpopulations of cells appear to be uniquely capable of initiating and maintaining tumours," the study authors explained in their report. The researchers identified 52 LSC genes that, when highly active, appear to prompt worse outcomes among acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients.

The finding is reported in the 22/29 Dec issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Between 2005 and 2007, study author Andrew J Gentles, of Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif, and colleagues examined gene activity in a group of AML patients as well as healthy individuals. Separate data concerning AML tumors in four groups of patients (totaling more than 1,000) was also analyzed.

In one of the patient groups, the investigators found that higher activity levels among 52 LSC genes meant a 78 percent risk of death within a three-year period. This compared with a 57 percent risk of death in the same time frame for AML patients with lower gene activity among these specific "signature" genes.

Internet

In this photo taken on 9 Nov, 2010, Cara Farlow, left, and Catherine Lewis practice yoga at Yoga on High yoga centre in Columbus, Ohio. Yoga on High has free yoga classes for people who are unemployed.

INTERNET



Sudden infant deaths most common on New Year's Day

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec—More babies die of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in the United States on New Year's Day than any other day of the year, a new study finds.

Researchers at the University of California, San Diego analyzed a database of 129,090 deaths from SIDS

from 1973-2006 and 295,151 other infant deaths during that time period.

They found that the highest number of deaths from SIDS occur on New Year's Day, increasing by almost a third above the number of deaths that would be expected on a winter day.

It's not clear why, but the researchers suspect it has something to do with parents who drink heavily the night before and put their children in jeopardy.

"Alcohol-influenced adults are less able to protect children in their care," study author David Phillips, a sociologist, said in remarks published by *HealthDay News* on Tuesday. "We're saying the same thing is happening with SIDS: They're also less likely to protect the baby from it. It seems as if alcohol is a risk factor. We just need to find out what makes it a risk factor."—Xinhua



Hunter High School students show off their breast cancer awareness bracelets outside the school in West Valley City, on 17 Dec, 2010. As part of a national breast cancer awareness campaign aimed at youth, rubber wrist bands emblazoned with that message have become trendy teen wear.—INTERNET

Taking whole-fat dairy products may lower Type 2 diabetes risk

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—People who consumed the highest levels of whole-fat dairy a day had a 60-percent lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes than people who ate the lowest amounts of dairy, according to the study published in the 21 Dec issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Whole-fat dairy products contain trans-palmitoleic acid which promotes healthy levels of blood cholesterol, normal insulin levels and increased insulin sensitivity, said study researcher Dr Dariush Mozaffarian, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"These findings do suggest that we should think of dairy as more than a carrier of calcium and vitamin D," Mozaffarian said.

The finding is based on 20 years of health data from 3,736 people who participated in the Cardiovascular Health Study, funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.—Internet

Business

Nike future orders disappoint, shares fall



Nike shoes are displayed at a Niketown store in Beverly Hills, California, on 16 March, 2010.—INTERNET

DETROIT, 22 Dec—Nike Inc (NKE.N) posted future orders data that missed many analysts' expectations Tuesday, sending shares of the world's largest athletic shoe and clothing maker down almost 6 percent.

Nike also said it might undertake some targeted price increases to help offset rising cotton costs.

Future orders, excluding currency exchange rates—a key measure of sales growth—rose 11 percent.

"They didn't beat rising expectations for future orders and that's why the stock's down," said Jon Fisher, portfolio manager with Fifth Third Asset Management, which owns Nike shares. Wall Street was looking for future orders growth of 12 to 13 percent, he said.

Nike executives also repeated comments made in the previous quarter that rising cotton, labor and transportation costs would hurt profit margins in the second half of the fiscal year despite rising demand. They said the cost pressures would ease over the next 12 to 18 months.

"As supply and demand find a new normal in the

recovering economy, our industry is going to experience margin pressure due to rising input costs," Nike Chief Executive Mark Parkers said on a conference call. Executives again said the company is working to boost capacity at supplier factories and it would continue to incur higher-than-normal air freight costs at least through the first half of fiscal 2012 as it tries to meet strong demand.—Reuters

China frets about EU debt woes

BEIJING, 22 Dec—China urged European policymakers to back their tough talk with action on Tuesday by showing they can contain the euro zone's festering debt problems.

China, which has invested an undisclosed portion of its 2.65 trillion US dollars reserves in the euro, said it backed Europe's efforts so far to tackle the debt problems, but made clear it would like to see the measures having more effect. "We are very concerned about whether the European debt crisis can be controlled," Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming said during a dialogue between China and the European Union (EU), its biggest trade partner.

"We want to see if the EU is able to control sovereign debt risks and whether consensus can be translated into real action to enable Europe to emerge from the financial crisis soon and in a good shape." China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan said Beijing had played its part to ease Europe's plight and held out hope that a turning point was near. "The EU has taken active measures to deal with the debt crisis, and we hope the measures can achieve some results as soon as possible," Wang said at the opening of the trade dialogue.—MNA/Reuters

TD Bank to buy Chrysler Financial for \$6.3b

TORONTO, 22 Dec—Toronto-Dominion Bank has agreed to buy Chrysler Financial, the automaker's old lending arm, from private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management LP for \$6.3 billion.

The deal announced Tuesday is the latest example of a healthy Canadian bank using their muscle to snap up US institutions battered by the financial crisis.

Toronto-Dominion CEO Ed Clark said Canada's second-largest bank is looking to accelerate growth in the US and this deal makes them a top five North American auto lender.

"We're taking advantage of a disruptive market to add on assets that in the heyday you could never buy for these kind of prices," Clark said in an interview with *The Associated Press*.

New York-based Cerberus bought Chrysler Financial in 2007 as part of the \$7.4 billion deal to take over Chrysler's automaking business and lending business. Cerberus handed over control of Chrysler's automaking operations to the government, when the automaker nearly ran out of cash and faced liquidation in 2008.—Internet

In this 12 Nov, 2009 file photo, a sign for TD Bank is shown in New York.

INTERNET



Oil rises above \$90 amid US crude supply drop



World oil prices fell back on profit-taking a day after jumping sharply as official data showed a huge decline in US crude inventories.—INTERNET

SINGAPORE, 22 Dec—Oil prices rose above \$90 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed US crude supplies dropped more than expected for a second week, which suggests demand is improving.

Benchmark oil for February delivery was up 20 cents to \$90.02 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose

45 cents to settle at \$89.82 on Tuesday.

The American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday that crude inventories fell 5.8 million barrels last week while analysts surveyed by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos, had forecast a drop of 2.4 million barrels. Inventories of gasoline decreased 2.9 million barrels and distillates rose slightly, the API said.

The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration reports its weekly supply data later Wednesday. The EIA said last week that supplies dropped 9.9 million barrels the previous week, the biggest drop in eight years. Oil prices, which rose to a two-year high above \$90 earlier this month, have been supported by rallying stock markets. Meanwhile, a strengthening US dollar, which makes crude more expensive for investors with other currencies, has weighed on oil.

Internet

1.5 million Windows 7 phones sold in six weeks

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—Microsoft on Tuesday released its first sales figures for new Windows Phone 7 smartphones, saying more than 1.5 million of the handsets were sold by manufacturers in the first six weeks.

Achim Berg, vice president of business and marketing for Windows Phones, said sales were "in line with our expectations — especially when compared to other new platform introductions."

"We are pleased that phone manufacturers sold over 1.5 million phones in the first six weeks, which helps build customer momentum and retail presence," Berg said in a statement.

Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its mobile phone operating system in October as it seeks to claw back lost market share from Apple's iPhone, the Blackberry and devices powered by Google's Android software.

South Korea's Samsung and LG



A person holds a phone with the new Windows Phone 7 mobile operating system.—INTERNET

Electronics, Taiwan's HTC and US computer giant Dell are among the companies manufacturing Windows Phone 7 handsets.

The new device launched in Europe and the Asia Pacific region on 21 October and in the United States and Canada on 8 November.

Internet

Japan's GDP growth to slow in 2011

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Japan's economic growth will slow in fiscal 2011 to a real 1.5 percent from 3.1 percent in this year on soft private consumption and the ebbing impact of stimulus measures, the government said Wednesday.

In its outlook report, the Cabinet Office also said consumer prices will remain unchanged in the year starting April.

Recent year-on-year falls in the consumer price index will halt in the middle of next year, it said, but suggested this would not represent the defeat of chronic deflation in the economy.

The growth projection for the current year was upwardly revised to 3.1 per cent from an earlier estimate 2.6 percent in real, or price-adjusted, terms.

The revision came after government stimulus measures helped boost domestic production and consumption, including subsidy programmes for purchases of environmentally friendly vehicles and appliances.

Japan's economy grew 4.5 percent in the July-September quarter, amplified by a rush by car buyers to use expiring subsidies and smokers who stocked up on cigarettes ahead of a tax hike during



A view of the Shinjuku area of Tokyo, a commercial and administrative hub.

INTERNET

the period.

The hottest summer on record also drove sales of items such as air conditioners, helping spur growth in the quarter. Private consumption accounts for around 60 percent of gross domestic product.

However, analysts warn of a contraction in the fourth calendar quarter as the removal of such one-off factors highlights Japan's exposure to a weakening export picture and slow domestic demand.—*Internet*

Belgium to shift EU rotating presidency to Hungary

BRUSSELS, 22 Dec—Belgium is set to shift a six-month rotating presidency of the European Council to Hungary at the end of the year, with the latter vowing to promote a "strong Europe with a human touch."

"More than 50 agreements have been met over the last 6 months," Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme said about his country's presidency of the EU. "It is definitely a very good score." In the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis, the Belgian presidency managed to facilitate the consensus in the area of economic governance as well as the adoption of an important financial supervision package,

including the establishment of a permanent crisis mechanism, he said.

The presidency succeeded in settling long-standing disputes, in particular the adoption of the 2011 budget, and the perspective of getting to a single European pattern in 2011, after a blockage of over 10 years. With external relations high on the agenda, the presidency contributed to signing a free trade agreement with South Korea, reaching an accord with Russia on the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and launching the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Xinhua

Panama issues sanitary alert due to cholera

PANAMA CITY, 22 Dec—Panama's government Tuesday declared a sanitary alert to prevent the spread of cholera, which has been sweeping across Haiti since October.

"Panama is not immune from this disease since it is a transit country," Panamanian Health Minister Franklin Vergara said when announcing the

measure.

Vergara said the measure includes the reinforcement of health checks at the main entry points into the country.

"We have not relaxed (our vigilance), and we maintain checkpoints in ports and airports in the entire country," Vergara said.

Vergara also urged people to maintain strict hygiene measures, especially in the zones

affected by the flooding.

The alert also includes a campaign to raise awareness about the disease, reinforced by surveillance, epidemiological, laboratory, and environment sanitat-ion, as well as food safety measures.

The Health Ministry also distributed oral rehydration packs, gastric tubes, and catheters, as part of the alert.—*Xinhua*

Honda Motors' headquarters is reflected on the rear window of a Honda mini van, displayed outside in Tokyo. Japan, which heavily relies on exports of cars, electronics and machines, has been battered by a strong yen, which makes its goods less competitive abroad and erodes companies' overseas profits when repatriated.

INTERNET





Nepalese girls from Newar, an ethnic community, attend a rally marking Yomari Punhi festival in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 21 Dec, 2010. Yomari Punhi is the festival of full moon day especially celebrated by Newars community in Nepal. Yomari is a sweetmeat dough made of rice flour from the new harvest, shaped like fish and filled with brown sugarcane and sesame seeds. Punhi is known as full moon day. According to Newari tradition, during this festival people of Kathmandu valley offer worship to Annapurna, the Goddess of food grains, for the rice harvest.—XINHUA

Australian man jailed for lying about being a POW

BRISBANE, 22 Dec—An elderly Australian man has been sentenced to four years in jail for lying about being a prisoner of war in order to claim hundreds of thousands of dollars in pension payments.

Judge Marshall Irwin of the Brisbane District Court on Tuesday said 84-year-old Arthur Crane would be released after six months on a good behaviour bond.

Crane claimed he was captured and tortured by the Japanese during World War II. In reality, he had never served in the military.

Before his lies were uncovered in 2009, Crane claimed nearly 690,000 Australian dollars (\$687,560) in war pension and disability payments. He was not entitled to A\$464,409 of that amount and has been ordered to repay the money.

Crane pleaded guilty to defrauding the Commonwealth.—Internet

Navy rescues nine people in Fiji waters

SUVA, 22 Dec—The Fiji Navy said on Wednesday that its patrol boat RFNS Kiro on Tuesday night rescued nine people who were drifting in waters between capital Suva and Kadavu, one of the islands in the Fiji Group.

The nine, including two children aged 13 and 11 and an 11 month old baby, were travelling in a fibre glass boat from Suva to Dravuni in Kadavu when they encountered engine problems resulting in them drifting for several hours, according to the navy.

The master of the fibre glass boat said they may have used wrong fuel as their outboard engine had locked. Two children traveled without their parents.

The Fiji Navy has warned people in the country to refrain from taking risks when traveling to their villagers this Christmas weekend.

It was shocking to know that parents in the island nation exposed these children to a risk by taking the trip to the islands and this is something common during the festive season, said Navy Commander Frances Kean.

Xinhua

Panamanian vessel stranded in seas off northeast Japan, no injury reported

TOKYO, 22 Dec—A Panamanian cargo ship was left stranded in seas off Japan's Fukushima Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, on Wednesday morning, local media reported.

The 15 crew members aboard the ship "Sea Ace," including 11 Chinese, were not injured, local authorities said.

The local coast guard officials in the prefecture said the vessel met with strong wind and was stranded about five kilometres southwest of the Onahama port. The officials added it did not leak oil but was unable to sail on its own.

The coast guard authorities were ready to rescue the crew members on board.

Xinhua



A train covered with ice and snow leaves the train station of Halle, eastern Germany, Monday 20 Dec, 2010. Frustrated travelers in Europe expressed fury Monday at transportation officials' inability to clear snow and ice from planes, runways and high-speed train tracks, failings that have caused holiday travel chaos and fears that many will not get home in time for Christmas.—INTERNET

Strong earthquake hits off southern Japan

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Residents of southern Japanese islands scrambled to community centres early Wednesday when a strong offshore quake briefly triggered a tsunami alert, but the 7.4-magnitude temblor prompted only a mild swelling of waves.

There were no immediate reports of damage from the quake, which struck at 2:20 am (1720 GMT Tuesday) about 80 miles (130 kilometres) off the southern coast of Chichi Island in the Pacific Ocean and was felt as far away as Tokyo.—Internet



Vehicles travel on the road in fog-shrouded Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 22 Dec, 2010. Heavy fog hit Dalian Wednesday morning, disrupting the traffic in the coast city as visibility was reduced to less than 50 metres. The city's international airport and seaports became fogbound as the fog alert level was elevated to "Red", the highest in China's weather warning system.—XINHUA



An aircraft is de-iced on the snow covered tarmac of Zaventem international airport near Brussels on 19 December, 2010. Heavy snow and freezing temperatures caused travel chaos across northern Europe during the weekend, with about 1,500 passengers being stranded for the night in Brussels due to bad weather conditions.—XINHUA

Snow reveals "weak link" in EU travel chain

BRUSSELS, 22 Dec—The severe travel disruption caused by heavy snow reveal a weak link in the European travel chain, European Commissioner for Transport Siim Kallas said here on Tuesday.

Heavy snowfalls and black ice have wreaked havoc upon air, rail and road links across Europe these last few days, resulting in the canceling of numerous flights and trains in major European cities and leaving thousands of passengers to their fate.

"I am extremely concerned about the level of disruption to travel across Europe caused by severe snow. It is unacceptable and should not happen again," Kallas said.

Major airports in England, France,

Belgium, and the Netherlands are still operating very limited services Tuesday due to the snow and freezing weather. Thousands of passengers were even forced to sleep in airports.

The commissioner pointed out the problems relating to airlines infrastructure during this severe snow wave as a "weak link" in the travel chain. "I intend to convene a meeting with airports representatives in the coming days to ask for further explanations and to take a hard look at what is necessary to make sure they would be able to operate more effectively in the similar situations in the future," the commissioner said.

Xinhua

A&I Minister receives ROK delegation



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo receives delegation members of Republic of Korea.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo held discussion with a delegation from the Republic of Korea today over the agriculture and rural areas development sectors in Myanmar.

During the meeting held at the Ministry here, today, Minister U Htay Oo and the delegation discussed matters related to boosting agricultural production, promoting bilateral technical cooperation in the agricultural sector, development of human resources and

rural area development.

The Korean delegation includes Vice-Chairman of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Mr. Ahn Dong-Won, President of Han Kyong National University Dr. Kim Sung-Jin and Ex-Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries Mr. Chang Tae-Pyong and Resident, Representative of KOICA Ms. Kim Jin-Hua.

MNA

Toll gates use solar panels

YANGON, 22 Dec—Solar panel has become popular in some regions that have not had access to regular electric power supply yet.

Many toll gates use solar panels, some of which are on Katha-Inndaw-Nant-si-aung road section in Sagaing Region, which is being undertaken with B.O.T system by Hsu Htoo Pan Construction Co. Sanyo solar system of OK Myanmar Co was introduced at the toll gate in Katha exit.

A solar unit is composed of three 186-watt Sanyo

panels, with which 14 fluorescent lamps can be lit and television and DVD play can be operated the whole night. Hsu Htoo Pan Co will install solar panel system in all toll gates on the road sections in Sagaing Region it is building with B.O.T system. OK Myanmar Co offers a 20-year guarantee for Sanyo solar panels.

For further detail, contact the head office at 9-G, MGW Tower, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Botahtaung Township (Ph: 01 256501 to 06).

MNA

Commander's Shield Volleyball Championship concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec —The final match and prize presentation of the Triangle Region Command Commander's Shield Men's and Women's Volleyball Championship took place at the stadium of the command on 17 December.

After the final matches, officials awarded the players and Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo presented the duplicate shield and cash awards to the players of the champion men's team.

The commander also participated in the December Mass Walk activities in Kengtung the next day together with military officers and other ranks and their families, departmental officials, teachers and students. —MNA

Photo shows toll gate with solar panels on Katha-Inndaw-Nant-si-aung road section in Katha.—KYEMON



An interview with...

(from page 1)

She said, "I turned 118 on the first Waxing of last Thidingyut. I am now 119." "When did you get married?" "I got married

lived alone then, and the abbot of the village monastery and her neighbours took care of her.

When asked what the key to her long life was, she said, "I engaged

in agricultural farming with my husband when I was at the working age. I worked as a paddy transplanter. I do not eat meat of large animals and fish. I eat only vegetables and fingerlings. I have observed the precepts without having dinner for 17 years."

She said that her favourite dishes were spicy roselle soup, pickled sesame paste salad, and fairly-burnt fingerlings. She said that she got sick only one time in her life.

In response to my question "What sort of religious deeds do you do?", she said, "I do meditation. I



Daw Mya Kyi's house seen from some distance (between two pagodas).



Citizenship Scrutiny Card (front side and back side) of Daw Mya Kyi.

at 25. My husband was U Ni. He was one year older than me. We had three daughters. The eldest daughter is Ma Nyo Tin. The second daughter is Ma Kalama. And the youngest is Ma Thay Mar. Even my youngest daughter is 60 now." She said that she



count beads. I save all the donations others make to me, and I do charity. I also say prayers for wellbeing of others."

"What is your strongest desire now?" "Annual meals-offering ceremony will take place on the 10th Waxing of coming Pyatho. I want to donate a brick tank to the monastery ahead of the ceremony." She said that according to a mason, it would cost around 800,000 kyats. I am desirous of fulfilling her wish



Her National Registration Card for which she registered when she was young.

by making collective donations with my friends.

Anyone who wants to make cash donations to fulfil her wish

may contact me, dialing 09-2000554.

Translation: MS Myamma Alin: 22-12-2010

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 disintegrate the Union and the national unity as the perpetuity of the Union plays a crucial role in building the Union of Myanmar

Christmas Dinner hosted

YANGON, 22 Dec — A Christmas dinner hosted by Myanmar Association of Seventh-Day Adventists took place at the association on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township yesterday.

First, Rev. U Shine Tha Dwe announced the opening of ceremony. Next, Rev. U Maung Maung Htay extended greetings and Rev. U Memory Tun, President of Myanmar Association of Seventh-Day Adventists

said prayer.

Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs made an address. Rev. U Muller Kyaw said a merry X'mas to all and the treasurer of the associa-

tion spoke words of thanks.

Next, those present enjoyed the dinner and received X'mas gifts. **MNA**

Archaeological paper-reading session held in ancient Sriekstra city

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—The International Paper-reading Session on Perspectives on Buddhism in Myanmar, jointly conducted by the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department and the Historical Research Department, took place at the Archaeological Technology Training School (Pyay) in ancient Sriekstra city of Pyay on 18 and 19 December.

In the first-day session on 18 December, Principal U Win Kyaing of Archaeological Technology Training School (Pyay) submitted the paper entitled "A long standing pottery tradition, with the sustainability in danger", Director U Sein Myint of Historical Research Department on "The spread of Buddhism and attempts of King Dhammageti in lower Myanmar 15th Century AD", Dr Elizabeth Moore, on "Shweguys Temple, Kyaukse: The wider boundaries of Bagan Art" and Deputy Director Daw San San of Historical Research Department on "Evidences of Buddhism found from old ancient cities' sites in Myanmar".

On 19 December,

Director U Myo Nyunt of ANMLD submitted the paper entitled "Buddhist architecture and its conservation", Associate Professor Mr Vinay Kumar of History Department of Assam University in India "Depiction of Nibbana scenes comparative study between India and Myanmar", Deputy Director U Than Zaw Oo of ANMLD "Cultural context of Buddhist relic-casket", Adviser Mrs Savitri

Resource persons replied to the queries raised by those present. Foreign resource persons and officials visited Bawbawgyi Pagoda, Laymyethna Cave Pagoda, Bebegu Pagoda, Phayathaung Cave Pagoda, East Market Cave, West Market Cave and the excavated mounds in the precinct of ancient Sriekstra City.

MNA



Dr Elizabeth Moore reads her paper at International Paper-reading Session on Perspectives on Buddhism in Myanmar.—MNA

Suwansathit to Ministry of Culture of Thailand "The Shwedagon: Some perspectives on its tangible and intangible Buddhist heritage and its universal significance", and Curator Ms Heidi Tan of Asian Civilization Museum of Singapore "Collections of Buddhist artifacts of Asian Civilization Museum".

Mandalay Mayor inspects production process of Aratic bottled water plant

MANDALAY, 22 Dec—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor U Phone Zaw Han looked into the production process of Aratic bottled water plant under the MCDC and production capacity of R.O water purifier machines, No. 1 Malun Water Pumping Station and water supply.

Next, the mayor inspected the construction of routes for slow-moving vehicles (bicycles, motorcycles) on either side of Mandalay-Yangon Highway.

During his inspection, the mayor heard reports on structures of bottled water plant, production capacity of Reverse Osmosis Water Purifier Machines, power supply, steps taken for acquisition of raw materials presented by officials.

After inspecting the production process of the bottled plant, the mayor proceeded to No. 1 Malun Water Pumping Station and water tank where he observed the running of the water pumping station, sanitation tasks and proper drainage in the environs of the facility and gave necessary instructions.—**MCDC**



Chairman of MCDC Mayor U Phone Zaw Han inspects Aratic bottled water plant.—MCDC

M.S.T. to open Networking courses in Mandalay

YANGON, 22 Dec —M.S.T Computer Centre will open ICT/ Network-

ing courses which may help Mandalarians hold international certificates in

Mandalay.

Developing days after days, networking becomes engaged in offices today and a subject which can guarantee many job opportunities. After the courses, the trainee will be ready to sit for international examinations which can also be done in Mandalay. One may contact the M.S.T at No (B-3/6), between 77th and 78th streets, between 33rd and 32nd streets, Zawtika lane, Mandalay (09 5504532, 09 49224255, 09 6806911 ext: 207 and 095126108).

MNA

Model paddy plot in Buthidaung Township harvested

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—With a view to ensuring the right production of monsoon paddy per acre, the 2.05 acre model Myedon paddy plot of farmer U Aye Tun in Pyinshay Village-tract, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State was harvested, and its per acre yield was 77.57 baskets.

At the harvesting of the model paddy plot were Deputy Head of Rakhine State Settlement and Land

Records Department U Tin Naing Tun, Head of Maungdaw District Settlement and Land Records Department U Oo Kyaw Nyunt, Head of the Township Planning Department U Soe Naing, Deputy Head of the Township GAD U Pyi Thein, Head of the Township SLRD U Mya Aung Tha, members of the Township Agricultural Produce Promotion Committee and others.—**MNA**

Subways in US capital area start random bag inspections

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—US law enforcement officers on Tuesday began conducting random inspections of carry-on items on the Metro system in the capital area. It's the first time such measures have been adopted in the region to enhance transportation security.

Random inspections were conducted early Tuesday morning in at least two Metro stations in Maryland and Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC.

Last week, the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) announced its decision to add this new security measure aimed to detect explosive materials and other dangers.

The inspections are expected to take only minutes and are designed to be non-intrusive, as police will randomly select bags or packages to check for hazardous materials using ionization technology as well as K-9 units trained to detect explosive materials, the MTPD said while announcing the plan.

Carry-on items will generally not be opened and physically inspected unless the equipment indicates a need for further inspection, it added.

Anyone who is randomly selected and refuses to submit their carry-on items for inspection will be prohibited from bringing those items into the station.

Xinhua

India successfully testfires two Prithvi-II nuclear capable ballistic missiles

NEW DELHI, 22 Dec—India Wednesday successfully testfired two nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface Prithvi-II ballistic missiles off the coast of the eastern state of Orissa, official sources said.

"Both the missiles were tested successfully from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Balasore District off the Orissa coast at 08:15 am and 09:15 am respectively. The missiles, which have already been inducted into Indian armed forces, were a users trial by the Indian Army," the sources said.

Prithvi, the first ballistic missile developed under the country's prestigious



India on Monday morning successfully testfired in quick succession two nuclear-capable 'Prithvi-II' surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 350 km from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, about 15 km from Balasore.—INTERNET

Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, is propelled by liquid propulsion twin engine and capable

of carrying a payload of 500-1,000 kg warhead.

With a length of nine-metre and one-metre diameter, Prithvi-II

uses an advanced inertial guidance system with maneuvering trajectory.

MNA/Xinhua



Staff members of a restaurant makes dumplings in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 21 Dec, 2010. Dumplings became popular among buyers as Dongzhi, the traditional Chinese winter solstice festival which falls on 22 Dec this year approaching. Traditionally, many Chinese eat dumplings on the festival to protect their ears from frostbite. XINHUA

Bomb found in Rome's subway station

ROME, 22 Dec—A suspecting bomb was found Tuesday morning at a subway station of Rome, according to local news agency ANSA.

An operator of the Rome's ATAC Company which operates the capital's public transportation service found a suspecting object in a coach in the subway Line B station Rebibbia at around 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. Pipes and gun-powder were found inside the object.

Police and Fire Department, which were immediately alerted, intervened on the spot taking measures to isolate the area and carrying out inspections. The Rome's

subway system has never been closed after the suspecting bomb was found. Checks were still under way by the police to determine if the pack could

be exploded and its possible potential.

Meanwhile, other reports said the device may not explode as it has no detonator.—Xinhua



Passengers chat with on-duty police officers at the Rebibbia metro station in suburban Rome, Italy, on 21 Dec, 2010. A suspicious bomb was found Tuesday morning at the subway station here. Police and Fire Department took measures on the spot to isolate the area and carry out inspections.—XINHUA

Six feared dead in guard copter crash in Puerto Rico

A Coast Guard vessel searches for survivors in an area believed to be the crash site of a Puerto Rico National Guard helicopter in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, on 22 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

raid. The body of one of the six people on board has been found and the remaining five are feared dead, officials said Tuesday.

The body was found nearly a mile (1.5 kilometres) off the coast

the Emergency Management Agency. The victim has not yet been identified.

Crews are searching for the remaining passengers, and Police Chief Jose Figueroa Sancha told *NotiUno* radio station that officials found the fuselage of the UH-72 Lakota heli-copter just north of the island.

It is unclear what caused the crash. The helicopter was headed for the neighbouring island of Vieques when it disappeared late Monday just north of the coastal city of Rio Grande.—Internet



SAN JUAN, 22 Dec—A Puerto Rico National Guard helicopter crashed in the ocean while en route to a drug

in front of the Grand Melia resort late Tuesday morning, said Nino Correa, search-and-rescue director of

Eurozone consumer confidence drops in December

BRUSSELS, 22 Dec—Flash consumer confidence for the euro area dropped in December after six months of improvement, the European Commission said on Monday.

The consumer confidence indicator dropped from -9.4 in November to -11.0 in December, according to the monthly survey conducted by the European Commission.

Confidence of consumers among the 27-member European Union (EU) declined from -11.0 in November to -12.1 in December.

But the European Commission said that the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI), which reflects overall economic confidence of both consumers and producers, increased further in both the euro area and the EU in November.

The ESI climbed by 1.3 points to 105.2 in the EU and by 1.5 points to 105.3 in the euro area, driven by strong positive readings in Germany.

Among the seven largest member states, Germany saw the most significant increase of 2.8 points, followed by Italy, up 1.4 points.

Xinhua



A train runs past the Badong station along the Yichang-Wanzhou railway in central China's Hubei Province, on 22 Dec, 2010. The Yichang-Wanzhou railway, linking Yichang in central China's Hubei Province and Wanzhou in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, started operation Wednesday. The 377-kilometer-long railway, considered to be China's most difficult and expensive to build, snakes through 159 tunnels and 253 bridges in southwestern China's mountainous regions.

XINHUA

Indonesia commemorates National Mother's Day

JAKARTA, 22 Dec—Indonesia on Wednesday commemorated the 82nd National Mother's Day 2010, the Antara News Agency reported here.

The commemoration was centred in the Miniature Garden of Beautiful Indonesia where President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and First Lady Ani Yudhoyono attended the event themed "equality between men and women to build national character."

The commemoration was a yearly momentum to evaluate and to appreciate stakeholders in implementing various development programmes aimed to materialize

gender equality and to increase women's life quality. An award called Anugerah Parahita Ekapraya was awarded to heads of local governments and ministries/institutions managed to implement the strategy of gender mainstreaming.

The event was also attended by Vice President Boediono and his wife Herawati Bordiono, Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection Linda Ameliasari Gumelar and other ministers as well as Governor of Jakarta Fauzi Bowo, among others.

Xinhua

Indonesia's volcanoes keep emitting ashes, smoke

JAKARTA, 22 Dec—Two volcanoes in Indonesia's East Java Province, Mount Raung and Mount Bromo, keep emitting volcanic ashes and smoke, the Kompas daily reported on Wednesday.

Mount Raung in Banyuwangi regency has been emitting volcanic ashes since Wednesday last week while the same material emitted by Mount Bromo in Probolinggo regency has caused minor damage to agriculture and plantation sectors in the Province.

Even though Mount Bromo keeps emitting smoke, tourism players are optimistic that the sector will regain its strength.

"Tourism in Bromo recovered following recent reports. Tourists, especially foreign ones, want to see smoke from Bromo crater," said Chairman of the Association of Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant of Bromo Chapter Digidoyo Djamaludin Putra.

Xinhua



A police officer shows the way to Malaysian national Lai Wong Chun, centre, and Chen Yui Chung as they step out of an ambulance at the police hospital on 22 Dec, 2010 in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines. Filipino gunmen with ties to al-Qaeda linked militants have freed the two Malaysian labourers from 10 months of jungle captivity.

INTERNET

Two killed, two injured in coal mine collapse in east China

JINAN, 22 Dec—A coal mine collapse has left two people dead and two injured in east China's Shandong Province, local authorities said Wednesday.

A pit in a mine in Taian City caved in at 10:45 pm Monday when four work safety supervisors were inspecting production facilities underground, said officials with Shandong's mine safety supervision administration.

The four were hit by falling debris and were immediately taken to hospital. Two died early Wednesday and the other two were both stable, doctors said.

The mine was undergoing business restructuring and was licensed.—Xinhua



Soldiers on camels take part in a military parade during Qatar's National Day in Doha, Qatar, on 18 Dec, 2010.

XINHUA

United Nations building evacuated due to gas leak

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Dec — The UN Security Council and General Assembly were evacuated on Tuesday because of a suspicious odor, a UN spokesman said.

Spokesman Farhan Haq said the evacuation was a precautionary measure. "We are currently trying to identify the odor with local authorities," he said.

Security officials told a crowd of reporters and UN officials in the street outside the UN compound in Manhattan that there was a gas leak. Haq, however, said he could not confirm that.

Both the Security Council and the General Assembly had scheduled meetings on Tuesday, which were relocated to a building adjacent to the UN secretariat. The UN complex on the banks of New York's East River is undergoing a 2-billion-US-dollar refurbishment.

MNA/Reuters



Shoppers walk at Harbour City, a shopping centre in Tsim Sha Tui, south China's Hong Kong, on 21 Dec, 2010. With the Christmas and new year approaching, more tourists are expected to come to Hong Kong for shopping. The registered number of tourists to Hong Kong in 2010 was to reach 35 million, an 18 percent increase compared with that of last year, according to Hong Kong Tourism Board.

XINHUA

Flood damage in S Thailand estimated at 1 bln USD

BANGKOK, 22 Dec—The estimated damage caused by recent flooding in 12 southern Provinces was 35.37 billion baht (1.17 billion dollars), a Bank of Thailand official said on Tuesday.

Praneet Chotikiratavech, Bank of Thailand's Southern Region Office senior director, said the heavy flooding, inundated the southern part of the country since October, slowed down the southern economy and resulted in a loss of revenue of 14.19 billion baht (470 million US dollars).

The revenue loss for the agricultural sector was estimated at 8.40 billion baht (278 million US dollars), the industrial sector at 400

million baht (13 million US dollars), the commercial sector at 3.91 billion baht (130 million US dollars), and the tourism sector at 1.48 billion baht (49 million US dollars).

Flood damage to properties was about 21.18 billion baht (702 US million US dollars).

The rising waters had increased the prices of rubber sheets to 129.67 baht (4.3 US dollars) a kilogram and palm oil to 7.38 baht (0.25 US dollars) a kilogram, the central bank official said.

Heavy flood, caused by heavy rainfall has hit the southern part of the country since 10 Oct, has killed about 80 people.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (079)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (079) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2010 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI PRESTIGE VOY NO (30411)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRESTIGE VOY NO (30411) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Briton stabbed and US tourist killed in Israel knife attack

JERUSALEM, 22 Dec — An American woman was knifed to death and her British Israeli companion seriously injured when they were attacked by two assailants while walking in the wooded hills near Jerusalem over the weekend. Briton Kaye Wilson, who narrowly survived the assault, claimed that two Arab men attacked her and her friend before trussing them and stabbing them repeatedly.

Suspicion for the attack appeared to fall on Arab militants. Micky Rosenfeld, a police spokesman, said it was probably a "terrorist attack" given the way in which the two women were tied up and stabbed. "The main line that we're looking at is that it's a nationalistically-motivated attack, but we

haven't ruled out possible criminal motives," Mr Rosenfeld said. Israeli soldiers raided a Palestinian hospital in nearby Bethlehem, in case the attackers were injured and sought treatment. No arrests were made.

Ms Wilson, a 46-year old Briton who emigrated to Israel in 1991, described how she and her friend, identified by police as US citizen Christine Logan, also in her 40s, were hiking near archaeological remains in the forested hills southwest of Jerusalem when two Arabic-speaking men approached and asked for water in Hebrew. — *Internet*



The body of a US citizen, is carried from a wooded area near Mata, outside Jerusalem, on Sunday.

INTERNET

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(Reg. No. IV/9419/2010)

used in respect of — "Anti-malarials and/or anti-bacterials"

MALARONE

(Reg. No. IV/5020/1998)
(Reg. No. IV/9420/2010)

used in respect of — "Pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances"

ROTACAPS

(Reg. No. IV/1423/1981)
(Reg. No. IV/9421/2010)

used in respect of — "Pharmaceutical preparations and substances"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of these trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

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Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon. 23 December 2010

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Johnson & Johnson, a corporation incorporated in the United States of America, of One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08933 U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

IKESTRO

Reg. No. 7883/2006

in respect of "Human pharmaceutical for treating central nervous system disorders".

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

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Johnson & Johnson
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 23 December 2010

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SANG THAI GLORY VOY NO (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI GLORY VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-1 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: SANG THAI SHIPPING
CO, LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Drive safely



Life on Earth dramatically surged around three billion years ago, possibly when primitive forms developed more efficient ways to harness energy from sunlight, according to a study published on Sunday in *Nature*. — *INTERNET*

Two die in private jet crash

BEVER, 22 Dec — A private jet crashed during an aborted landing in Switzerland on Sunday, killing the two people on board, authorities said. The Swiss newspaper *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* reported the twin-turbo aircraft went down near a power transformer station located at the edge of Bever, a village of about 650 people in the Upper Engadine, a valley in the Swiss Alps. The crash caused a power outage in the area that lasted for several hours, the newspaper said. Police said it was snowing and visibility was poor at the time, apparently causing the pilot to approach at too high an altitude. The aircraft crashed and burst into flames, witnesses said. — *Internet*



A view shows containers at the Longtan port in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in this on 10 November, 2010. — *INTERNET*

Israeli air force sonic booms ignite crocodiles' sex drives

JERUSALEM, 22 Dec — Sonic booms created by Israeli air force planes breaking the sound barrier have stimulated the sex drive of a group of crocodiles on a local farm.

The males have already begun their mating calls,

described by the newspaper as "the sound a vehicle breaking," normally reserved for the crocodiles' spring mating season, Israeli newspaper *Maariv* reported.

David Golan of the Hamat Gadar crocodile farm in the Golan Heights, believes the reptiles were responding to the sonic booms, wrongly believing they were the calls of rival males encroaching on their territory. The farm is home to around 100 crocodiles and stands beneath airspace used to train Israeli air force pilots. — *Internet*

Several feet of snow bury US mountains

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec — Several feet of new snow had piled up in California's mountains by Sunday afternoon and it was still coming down, meteorologists said. Accuweather.com reported Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort said it had received 9 feet of new snow since Friday at its peak elevation of about 11,000 feet, and at the 8,000-foot level, there was 6.5 feet.

"Measuring snow in inches is *so* last week we busted out the yardstick," the *Los Angeles Times* reported @MammothMountain touted on its Twitter page. The *Times* said the heavy snowfall in the Mammoth and Lake Tahoe ski areas prompted forecasters to issue back country avalanche warnings.

The snowfall had reached 2-5 feet at many locations across the Sierra Nevada range with 1-3 feet more expected through on Monday night, Accuweather.com said. Even more is possible on some peaks above 6,000 feet, the weather service said. — *Internet*



One of seven lion cubs, born at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Washington, looks at the crowd watching it's public debut there on 18 Dec, 2010. — *INTERNET*



A judge looks at a cat during the Borneo International Cat Competition in Kota Kinabalu in east Malaysia's Sabah, on 12 Dec, 2010.

Running red light leads to 500-pound marijuana bust

Police stopped a driver for running a red light and discovered more than 500 pounds of marijuana inside his minivan, authorities said on Monday.

Clement Hunter, 30, was awaiting arraignment on Monday following his arrest on drug charges, authorities said.

Hunter ran a red traffic light in the city's Queens borough early on Sunday morning and tried to evade police for several blocks, police said. When he was pulled over, the

513 pounds of marijuana stuffed into large garbage bags was partly visible inside his minivan, police said.

He faces 50 counts of felony possession of marijuana as well as charges of reckless endangerment and fleeing officers.

The source of the marijuana and Hunter's destination were still under investigation, police said.

News Album

Rider pulls knife on California cabbie, leaves tip

A California taxi passenger may have an anger problem, but he's no Grinch. Police in Sacramento got a report that a man pulled a knife on a cab driver during a dispute over the weekend but still made sure to pay his fare — plus tip.

The *Sacramento Bee* says the rider argued with the driver about his desired destination on Saturday then pulled out a folding-blade knife, prompting the driver to run away on foot. The passenger also fled — after leaving his cab fare and a tip. Police say the passenger has not been found.

A pet rabbit is dressed as Santa Claus at a photo event to celebrate Christmas and the Year of the Rabbit at a pet rabbit shop in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 21 December, 2010. The year 2011 is the Year of the Rabbit on the Chinese zodiac calendar.



Shot-up prop car causes brief Philadelphia scare

Police officers in downtown Philadelphia who came across a shot-up car with exposed wiring inside were about to call the bomb squad when they found out it was a movie prop.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reports police

stopped Friday morning in the Old City section when they saw the car riddled with bullet holes and side windows shot out. They also saw wires running from the trunk into the dashboard.

The officers were ready to close the street

and call the bomb squad when a security guard told them it was for a film.

The thriller "Safe," starring Jason Statham, wrapped Thursday night after shooting in the city in recent weeks.



US pop singer Lady Gaga (R) walks out of a store in Paris, capital of France, on 21 Dec, 2010. Lady Gaga's concert scheduled on 19 Dec in Paris was canceled because trucks delivering sets for the pop diva's extravagant event couldn't get to the city's Bercy stadium. XINHUA

Zhao Wei announces new film

BEIJING, 22 Dec—After devoting an entire year to her family, actress Zhao Wei has announced her comeback role, actually two roles.

Zhao Wei will play two roles in "Underground Resistance", a film that involves romance and time travel, the actress said 21 December, 2010 at a Press conference held for the film in Tianjin.

"But I can't say more at the moment. The scripts are still undergoing some changes," Zhao Wei was quoted in a report on Sina.com.cn.

The film, directed by Li Xin ("Dazzling"; 2002), will also star actor Huang Xiaoming ("Sacrifice"; 2010), Zhao Wei's classmate from the Beijing Film Academy.

It will be the first collaboration between them, who are both now A-listed stars.

Shooting is scheduled to start in February, with a release date set in the second half of 2011.

Xinhua



Compere Zhu Dan performs during the initial singing for her album in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 Dec, 2010.—XINHUA

Susan Boyle to sing in China

BEIJING, 22 Dec—Susan Boyle will sing live in China on New Year's Eve, a local television broadcaster has announced.

The much-loved Scottish singing sensation has agreed to perform on 31 December in Nanjing, eastern China's Jiangsu Province, at the New Year's Eve concert hosted by Jiangsu Satellite TV, the broadcaster said on its website.

Boyle will sing three songs during the gala, including her signature song, "I Dreamed a Dream". This will be Boyle's debut on the Chinese mainland, after the 49-year-old impressed the world with her stunning voice during the 2009 season of the TV talent show "Britain's Got Talent".—Xinhua

Rehab staffer accuses Lohan of battery, then fired

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec—A day that began with authorities confirming Lindsay Lohan was being investigated for battery on a female staffer at a California rehab facility treating the starlet ended with the worker fired after giving an interview about the incident.

Riverside County sheriff's detectives said Tuesday they are investigating the "Mean Girls" star for an alleged altercation with a worker at a Betty Ford Centre facility in Palm Desert that occurred after 1 am on 12 Dec.

The agency declined to say what prompted the fight, but said the worker was interested in pursuing charges against Lohan.—Internet

Actress Lindsay Lohan



Singers perform on stage during a dress rehearsal of music drama "Fall In Love With Teresa Teng" in Dongguan, south China's Guangdong Province, on 21 Dec, 2010.

XINHUA

No loan for weary Donovan

CARSON, 22 Dec — USA and Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Landon Donovan will be staying Stateside this offseason, passing on any chance to be loaned to a European club. "While I enjoyed my time at Everton last season and still appreciate all the support their fans have given me, I feel that it is



No loan for weary Donovan.—INTERNET

important to continue to rest and recover this offseason as opposed to going on loan," Donovan said in a statement on Tuesday.

The American was loaned to English Premier League club Everton from January-March, scoring two goals in 13 matches. That spell in England launched a 10-month campaign that included the World Cup finals in South Africa - where Donovan scored three goals for the United States - and a run to Major League Soccer's playoffs with the Galaxy.—Internet

Gustavo not a done deal

BERLIN, 22 Dec — Bayern Munich president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has insisted no decision has been made concerning the signing of Brazilian midfielder Luiz Gustavo from Bundesliga rivals Hoffenheim. "I can confirm that discussions have taken place but a decision has not yet been taken," Rummenigge told Wednesday's edition of the *Munchner Merkur* daily.

German millionaire Hopp, who bank-rolls Hoffenheim, had said he "was clear as spring water that Luiz Gustavo would rejoin Bayern during the summer".

"Mr (Dietmar) Hopp's comments surprised me,"

Rummenigge countered.

Bayern are reported to be ready to pay 15 million euros to recruit the 23-year-old. Rummenigge also cast further doubt on the future of Bayern captain Mark van Bommel. The 33-year-old Dutchman is out of contract next June and speculation is rife he is set to switch to Wolfsburg, coached by ex-England boss Steve McClaren, to bolster their midfield.



Gustavo not a done deal.—INTERNET

Robben to return against Wolfsburg

MUNICH, 22 Dec — Bayern Munich coach Louis van Gaal said on Tuesday he was counting on Arjen Robben returning to action for the first Bundesliga game after the winter break against Wolfsburg on 15 January.

The Dutchman has not played since returning from the World Cup in South Africa with a torn hamstring. "He's very good in training and he feels absolutely no pain," said van Gaal.

"He's very impatient to play, it's normal after six months out, but he has to wait until 15 January."

Robben will feature in a friendly against a German

regional side on 12 January and if he holds up will play for up to 30 minutes against Wolfsburg. But van Gaal ruled out the 26-year-old playing during Wednesday's German Cup tie against Stuttgart. "If I do that I think that Dr Muller-Wohlfahrt would have a heart attack," joked the Dutch coach.



Robben to return against Wolfsburg

Barcelona held by Bilbao in Spanish Cup football

MADRID, 22 Dec — Barcelona were held to a goalless draw by Athletic Bilbao at the Nou Camp in the Spanish Cup last 16 on Tuesday.

Barcelona, missing Lionel Messi and David Villa, dominated their Spanish first division rivals but failed to find the decisive goal although a 25 metre shot by Andre Iniesta was only kept out by the quick thinking of Bilbao's keeper Gorka Iraizoz.

Second division outfit Cordoba contained their first division rivals Deportivo La Coruna to a



Barcelona were held to a goalless draw by Athletic Bilbao at the Nou Camp.—INTERNET

1-1 stalemate while in Tuesday's third cup tie, Villarreal and Valencia also ended in a goalless draw.

This was a rare blank day at the office for Barcelona who have scored 18 goals in their last four league outings.—Internet

Rogne strikes late to snatch point for Celtic



GLASGOW, 22 Dec — Celtic blew the chance to top the Scottish Premier League as they needed a late Thomas Rogne goal to snatch a 1-1 draw with Kilmarnock at Parkhead on Tuesday.

It was the Hoops' third successive draw in the league at home and means rivals Rangers top the

league at Christmas by two points despite their game against Dundee United being postponed due to the weather.

Killie hadn't won at Celtic Park in 55 years but Connor Sammon gave them hope when he fired them into a 54th minute lead completely against the run of play. The Ayrshire side desperately hung on to their lead until the 86th minute when Rogne headed Ki Sung-Yeung's free-kick home to grab a point as Celtic were left ruing a host of missed opportunities in both halves.—Internet

Italy World Cup-winning coach Bearzot dies at 83

MILAN, 22 Dec — Enzo Bearzot, who in 1982 coached Italy to its first World Cup triumph in 44 years, died on Tuesday. He was 83. He died in Milan and had been ill for several years. Bearzot, a beloved coach in Italy, first guided the national team in 1975 and led the squad at the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups.

At the 1982 World Cup in Spain, Italy beat West Germany 3-1 in the final after defeating Argentina and Brazil in the second round and Poland in the semifinals. It was



Italy World Cup-winning coach Bearzot dies at 83.—INTERNET

Italy's third World Cup title following success in 1934 and 1938. Italy won a fourth in 2006.

Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian prime minister and AC Milan owner, said in a statement that Bearzot was an "unforgettable coach" who was able to unite his team for the 1982 crown.

Internet

Benitez still Inter coach - Moratti

ROME, 22 Dec — Rafael Benitez remained coach of Inter Milan on Tuesday, insisted club president club president Massimo Moratti, despite renewed speculation that the Spaniard had been sacked.

After attending a meeting at the club's Milan offices Moratti declared in answer to a question whether Benitez was still Inter boss "Yes, yes. There are no other thoughts."

"I have heard of and read about contacts being made with other coaches, but the club has not made contact with any other coach and will not until the situation is clarified."

Earlier Benitez's agent also dismissed rumours

suggesting the Inter Milan coach's days at the club were numbered.

"No one called me and I've had no meeting scheduled with Massimo Moratti," Manuel Garcia Quilon told the ANSA news agency.

Internet



Inter Milan's coach Rafael Benitez addresses a news conference at Zayed Sports City on the sidelines of the FIFA Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi on 11 December.—INTERNET

Cologne sign former Bayern keeper

COLOGNE, 22 Dec — Bayern Munich's former goalkeeper Michael Rensing is joining struggling Cologne in the January transfer window.

The 26-year-old, out of contract with the German champions since June, has

accepted a contract with Cologne, third from bottom of the Bundesliga, until the end of the season.

Rensing replaces Colombian Faryd Mondragon who has quit Cologne to take up a post between the nets at American outfit Philadelphia.

Rensing was the successor to Oliver Kahn at Bayern in 2008 but he failed to live up to then coach Jurgen Klinsmann's expectations and lost his place in Klinsmann's starting XI to Jorg Butt.—Internet



Cologne sign former Bayern keeper.

INTERNET

Anelka, Henry hold out on World Cup bonuses

PARIS, 22 Dec — Nicolas Anelka and Thierry Henry are the only two members of France's disgraced World Cup team not to have forfeited their bonuses from the tournament, a French Football Federation (FFF) source told AFP on Tuesday.

"They are the last two," the source said.

FFF president Fernand Duchaussoy announced last month that the 23-man France squad had agreed to forfeit their bonuses linked to the use of their image rights at the tournament in South Africa.

"A lot of them have

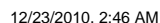
signed, it's moving forward," Duchaussoy had said.

Chelsea striker Anelka is currently serving out an 18-match ban after being sent home in disgrace from the World Cup after a foul-mouthed tirade at then coach Raymond Domenech leading to his teammates' infamous training strike.—Internet



Anelka, Henry hold out on World Cup bonuses.—INTERNET

S P O R T S



- ★ 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

Dam projects being implemented in States, Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — As the State has set availability of irrigation water as priority, a total of 233 dams — which supply irrigation water to 2,827,255 acres of farmland — were opened from 1989 to 2010.

It continues implementing dam projects in respective States and Regions as well. The 30 ongoing projects are Paungnet Dam in Kachin State; Manipur Yazagyo, Htamanthi, small dams, Inginthapoe, Theinyin and Minmyin Dams in Sagaing Region; Anyaphyar Dam in Taninthayi Region; Pyuchaung, Motekhaw and Kodukwe Dams and Bagaitar Sluice Gate in Bago Region; Kyeeohn-Kyeewa, Myithar, Buywa, Upper Buywa, Pakokku Region Greening, Pwekauk and Netka Dams and canals of Meiktila Plain Greening Main Canal in Magway Region; Tanaw Dam in Mon State; Myogyi and Kengkham Dams in Shan State; Kanyin and Phayahla Dams in Ayeyawady Region. Upon completion of the projects, the dams will irrigate 1,241,890 acres of farmland in total. —MNA

Model paddy plots harvested in Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 22 Dec — Ceremonies to harvest model monsoon paddy plots were held in two paddy fields at Gyongyonkya Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township on 15 December morning.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Htay Maung, Staff Officer U Han Myo Win of Township Settlement and Land Records Department and staff, Staff Officer U Myint Htay of Township Agricultural Mechanization Department, Head of Township Fisheries De-



Departmental officials and local farmers participate in harvesting of model monsoon paddy plot in Mawlamyinegyun Township. —MYANMA ALIN

partment U Myint Aye, Deputy Manager U Thant Zin of Township Myanmar Agriculture Service and staff, responsible persons participated in harvesting

monsoon paddy together with local farmers. At field No.1301, Hsin thwelat paddy strain (good) of farmer U Thein Shwe produced 95.44 baskets

of paddy per acre, and Hnan -kar paddy strain (low-grade) of farmer U Aye Naing, 64.23 baskets of paddy per acre.

Myanma Alin

Second round matches of Tatmadaw football tournament go on

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — The second round matches of the 49th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at designated sports grounds, here, today.

Yangon Command team routed Camp Commandant's Office

team of the Ministry of Defence 3-0 at Paunglaung Sports Ground.

At No. 1 Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw, Defence Services (Air) team trounced North-East Command team 5-0; and Southern Command team beat Defence Services (Navy) 3-2 at Paunglaung Sports Ground.

MNA

Basic tailoring course opened in Thongwa Tsp

YANGON, 22 Dec — The opening of basic tailoring course and ways of hand-washing poem competition (primary level) was held at Thongwa Township gymnasium in Yangon South District on 12 December.

It was attended by Chairperson of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Myat Htwe and chairpersons of districts and

township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations. At the ceremony, chairperson of Township MCWA explained the purposes of opening the courses.

After that, chairperson Daw Khin Myat Htwe and the chairpersons of district/township MCWAs presented prizes to winning teams. The course is conducted by the Thongwa Township MCWA. —MNA