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Sunday, 26 December, 2010

Implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project in Kachin State launched

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—A ceremony to launch the implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project of Kachin State was held at the project site on 22 December, attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung

Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Zaw, officials, responsible persons of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) of the People's Republic of China, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, responsible persons of the Asia World Co Ltd and local people.

(See page 8)



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 tranquility, 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

Photo shows bird's eye view of Chipwe Hydropower Project in Kachin State.

MNA

Conquest of Bago mountain range

Bago mountain range is stretching from Yangon Region to Bago-Magway-Mandalay Regions. It has been a natural barrier for the people residing both on its east and west sides.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Construction is speeding up construction of roads and bridges across the nation. Likewise, the ministry has conquered the mountain range by building seven roads across Bago mountain range that had only pavements and timber extraction ways in the past.

On 9 December 2010, I spent the night at the 19th-mile camp of the mountain range crossing road project of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road where I arrived in the evening by car with the assistance of Project Chief Engineer U Tin Hsan.

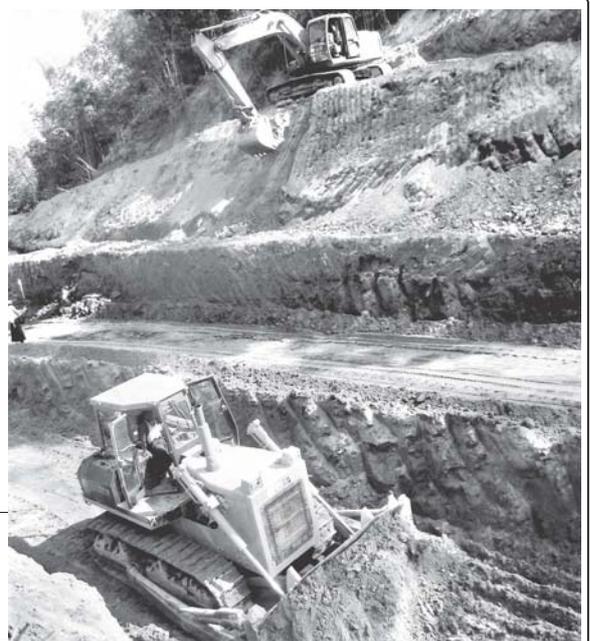
Article: *Kayan Soe Myint;*
Photos: *Moe Myint Hlaing*

In the morning of the following day, I took photos of progress in construction of the road with the use of heavy machinery by Public Works and construction companies.

Senior Engineer U Thuang Han Soe explained that Special Projects Construction Group (1) of Public Works cooperates with 15 construction companies in

(See page 7)

Heavy machinery at work in construction of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road.



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 December, 2010

Produce proficient physicians and victorious soldiers

The Defence Services Medical Academy is producing qualified medical military officers with physical and mental attainments who will uphold Our Three Main National Causes.

The Passing out of the Parade of No. 12 Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of DSMA in Yangon on 24 December.

In his guidance at the parade, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, "You are the junior leaders in medical matters. Leadership is personality trait. You yourselves have to be models of hard work and win the respect and the admiration of your subordinates. In the same way, as medical professionals, you have to win the trust and confidence of patients. Only then will you comrades be successful as proficient physicians and victorious soldiers."

As the mission of the Medical Corps is "make fit to fight", the medical professionals are to constantly study military affairs and medical education together to be able to provide effective health care services at the battlefields. They have to do research on put record on common diseases of respective regions and threats of new weapons in warfare and injuries at the battles.

Moreover, the medical officers are to issue health and hygiene regulations for battlefields for strict adherence of all ranks. Health knowledge about prevention against infectious diseases is to be disseminated to subordinates. Furthermore, health care services are to be provided to servicemen and people.

Health plays a key role in development of a human society. The government is producing highly-qualified medical professionals and building health infrastructures so as to uplift public health care services. At the same time, the good medical officers with full physical and mental attainments are being produced.

Junior leaders of Tatmadaw Medical Corps with combat ability, loyalty, unity, discipline and noble-mindedness are to constantly serve State defence duty and add the prestige to the Medical Corps.



Members of Myanmar Universities Sports Contingent being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

People's Defence

- * 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

Industry-2 Minister receives Executive Director of Sino Truck Import & Export Co Ltd of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein received a Chinese delegation led by Executive Director of Sino Truck Import & Export Co Ltd Mr Yang Zheng Xu of the People's Republic

of China at his office here at 11 am yesterday.

They touched upon industrial and technological matters for producing of trucks.

MNA

Stakes driven for upgrading stadium of YTC (Thuwunna)

YANGON, 25 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint attended the ceremony to drive stakes for implementation of the project for extended construction of the stadium at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township yesterday morning.

MOC Chairman Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw, Chairman U Tint Hsan and Managing Director U Phyo Ko Ko Tint Hsan, of ACE Construction Co Ltd Chief Executive Officer of MFF U Than Zaw, Sports Ground Director of MFF U Zaw Lin, Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Tun Myint Oo, Principal of Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yongon) U Tin Win and Deputy Director of SPED U Zaw Win drove stakes at the designated places.

The YTC (Thuwunna) was built in 1987 by spending ¥ 5500 million and K 169.5 million. The stadium of the centre can accommodate 20000 spectators. At present, the stadium is being upgraded to meet the international standard under the arrangement of the State.

The tracks of the stadium will be built to meet the international standards. As the grand stand on the west of the stadium has roof, a plan is under way to extend seats. The eastern stand will be extended with roof and seats. The southern and the northern stands will be added with seats. In addition, the masts will be upgraded at the stadium.—MNA



MOC Chairman Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint drives stake for implementation of project for extended construction of stadium at YTC (Thuwunna).—MNA

Myanmar universities sports team arrives back

YANGON, 25 Dec—The Myanmar universities sports contingent led by Chairman of Sports and Physical Education Organizing Committee

Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min, after taking part in the 15th ASEAN Universities Games from 13 to 23 December, arrived back here on 23 December.

It was the first time for Myanmar to take part in the ASEAN Universities Games that takes place once every two years.

The Myanmar team comprising 66 players clinched bronze medals in football, tennis and Sepak Takraw.

MNA

Reminder for watercraft

YANGON, 25 Dec—PTTEP International Ltd which is undertaking joint venture in oil exploration with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise will sink two oil exploration wells in M-3 and M-7 blocks with the use of Jack-up Drilling Rig West Juno from 15 January to 15 April 2011.

Aung Sinkha-1 oil well at Block M-7 is located at point A between north latitude 15° 13' 35.6" and east longitude 96° 23' 50.6", point B between north latitude 15° 13' 35.6" and east longitude 96° 26' 04.4", point C between north latitude 15° 11' 25.4" and east longitude 96° 26' 04.4", and point D between north latitude 15° 11' 25.4" and east longitude 96° 23' 50.6"; and Aung Sinkha-2 oil well at Block M-3 is located at point A between north latitude 15° 24' 22.80" and east longitude 95° 12' 30.32", point B between north latitude 15° 26' 32.98" and east longitude 95° 12' 29.83", point C between north latitude 15° 26' 33.45" and east longitude 95° 14' 44.04", and point D between north latitude 15° 24' 23.27" and east longitude 95° 14' 44.51".

Any watercraft is advised not to pass through the areas of oil wells in M-3 and M-7 blocks and not to anchor and go fishing, according to the Department of Fisheries.—MNA

Bus crash kills 35 people in Ecuador

QUITO, 25 Dec—Rescue workers say a bus ran off a foggy, rainy mountain road in Ecuador and plunged about 1,100 feet (350 metres), killing at least 35 people and injuring 34 others.

Red Cross worker Jorge Arteaga says by telephone that Friday's accident occurred before dawn in the western province of Manabi.

The Red Cross sent 30 volunteers and five ambulances to the scene.

Police said late Friday that at least 35 people were killed in the accident and another 34 were injured. Authorities said an earlier total of 34 deaths did not include the driver.

Attorney General Washington Pesantez said last month that there are 43,000 road accidents a year in Ecuador, producing about eight deaths a day.—*Internet*



At least 35 people died and 23 were injured on Friday when a passenger bus in the Ecuadorian coastal province Manabi went off the highway and fell 200 meters, local television station Telemazonas reported Friday.—XINHUA

Blast rocks E Afghanistan, killing two

KHOST, 25 Dec—An explosion rocked Khost City the capital of Khost Province in east Afghanistan on Friday killing two people and injuring two others, an official said.

"It was a roadside bomb struck a vehicle of Afghan army in Khost City the capital of Khost Province at 4:15 pm local time as a result two persons including an army soldier were killed," an officer with the Afghan army in Khost Province Raz Mohammad Oryakhil told *Xinhua*.

Two more civilians sustained injuries in the blast, he added. The incident took place while some soldiers on the vehicle were on routine patrol, he further said.

He also blamed the enemies of peace, a term used against Taliban fighters for organizing the attack but the outfit has yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Afghan officials probe NATO raid

KABUL, 25 Dec—Afghan authorities said Friday they were investigating an overnight raid by NATO troops on a private security company that killed two Afghan guards in an operation that NATO said was conducted following a threat against the US Embassy. Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeru Bashary said the probe was looking into why international forces raided the compound of Tiger International, an Afghan

private security company, killing two Afghan guards and wounding another two.

But NATO said the operation was conducted jointly with Afghan forces after receiving "a credible threat to attack the US Embassy." It said coalition forces "coordinated with Afghan security forces" and moved into an area where intelligence reports had located two vehicles thought to be loaded with explosives.

The coalition forces were fired on after they had announced their arrival, and they returned fire, killing two of the shooters, NATO's statement said. Two others were wounded, it said, and 15 people were detained in the operation.

The detained were released after a senior Afghan army official arrived and "personally vouched" for them, NATO said. A large amount of weapons was also seized.—*Internet*



Afghan policemen inspect the site of a suicide bombing in Kunduz on 23 December. Three people died in northern Afghanistan Thursday as a NATO helicopter opened fire on a car and a suicide bomber blew himself up at a busy city centre traffic checkpoint, officials said.

INTERNET

Iraqi dad says killed daughter linked to al-Qaeda

BAGHDAD, 25 Dec—When police came hunting for a 19-year-old woman they believed had been recruited by al-Qaeda to be a suicide bomber in a town north of Baghdad, they found she was already dead: Slain by her father, who told police he strangled his daughter out of shame and then cut her throat.

The killing of Shahla al-Anbaky, reported by police Friday, appeared to be from an unusual melding of motives — part to defend the family honour, part to prevent her from joining the militants.

But how much of each weighed in her father's mind remains unclear, with police still investigating the details.

Al-Qaeda has been recruiting women for suicide attacks because they can pass police checkpoints more easily than men by concealing explosives under an abaya, a loose, black cloak that women wear. Suicide bombers have been al-Qaeda's most lethal weapon in Iraq, killing hundreds of civilians and members of Iraq's security forces.

Internet



A firefighter, centre, leaves after extinguishing a small fire at the creche started by fireworks during Christmas celebrations in Beirut's Christian sector of Ashrafieh, Lebanon, on 23 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

Soldiers walk past a bus destroyed after a suicide attack in Kabul on 19 December, 2010. Five Afghan army training officers were killed and nine wounded in an attack by two Taliban suicide bombers in Kabul on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said.

INTERNET



42 killed, 72 injured in suicide blast in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Dec—At least 42 people were killed and 72 others injured in a suicide blast that took place Saturday morning in front of a World Food Programme office in Pakistan's northwest city of Khar in Bajaur Agency, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo.

According to the local media reports, the blast occurred at about 8:40 am when a female suicide bomber, aged at about 23, blew herself up among the large crowds of people gathering at a checkpoint in front of the office of the World Food Program near Civil Colony in Khar, the main city in Bajaur Agency bordering Afghanistan.

An estimated 1,100 to 1,500 people were gathering in an open area in front of the World Food Programme office, waiting for the food tokens to be distributed, said local media reports.

Xinhua



Science

Weird and wonderful plant and fungal discoveries of 2010



Helixanthera schizocalyx specimen (Wild Mozambican Mistletoe).—INTERNET

they've made this year from the rainforests of Cameroon to the UK's North Pennines.

But it's not just about the new — in some cases species long thought to be extinct in the wild have been rediscovered. Professor Stephen Hopper, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew says, "Each year, botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,

working in collaboration with local partners and scientists, continue to explore, document and study the world's plant and fungal diversity, making astonishing new discoveries from microscopic fungi to canopy giants.

"This work has never been more relevant and pressing than in the current era of global climate change and unpreced-ented loss

of biodiversity. Without a name, plants and fungi go unrecog-nized, their uses unex-plored, their wonders unknown.

"On average, 2,000 new plant species are discovered each year, and Kew botanists, using our vast collection of over 8 million plant and fungal specimens, contribute to the description of approximately 10 per cent of these new discoveries.

Internet

How past experiences subconsciously influence behaviour



Researchers report for the first time how animals' knowledge obtained through past experiences can subconsciously influence their behaviour in new situations. INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—Researchers at MIT's Picower Institute for Learning and Memory report for the first time how animals' knowledge obtained through past experiences can subconsciously influence their behaviour in new situations.

He work, which sheds light on how our past experiences inform our future choices, will be reported on 22 Dec in an advance online publication of *Nature*.

Previous work has shown that when a mouse explores a new space, neurons in its hippocampus, the centre of learning and memory, fire sequentially like gunpowder igniting a makeshift fuse.

Individual neurons called place cells fire in a

specific pattern that mirrors the animal's movement through space. By looking at the time-specific patterns and sequences recorded from the firing cells, researchers can tell which part of the maze the animal was running at the time.

Internet

Honeybee virus may threaten wild cousins

UNIVERSITY PARK, 25 Dec—Eleven species of wild pollinators in the United States have turned up carrying some of the viruses known to menace domestic honeybees, researchers say. Scientists at Penn State University say the findings raise the specter of diseases moving between domestic and wild pollinators, dashing hopes that viral diseases afflicting honeybees will stay in honeybees, *ScienceNews.org*

reported Friday.

In domestic honeybees, viruses rank as one of the possible contributors to the still-mysterious malady known as colony collapse disorder that abruptly wipes out a hive's workforce, Penn State's Diana Cox-Foster says. Cox-Foster and others are investigating what the viruses might do to wild pollinators, and initial studies are said to be a cause for worry.—*Internet*

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—As the UN's International Year of Biodiversity draws to a close, scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew are celebrating the diversity of the planet's plant and fungal life by highlighting some of the weird, wonderful and stunning discoveries



Technology

China's first robot restaurant



A hotpot restaurant in China's northern Shandong province has unveiled its new staff - a team of robots. INTERNET

BEIJING, 25 Dec—A hotpot restaurant in China's northern Shandong Province has unveiled its new staff - a team of robots. Automated waiters and female robot dancers move between tables, offering trays of food and drinks.

The Dalu Robot Restaurant in Jinan City

has over a dozen robots serving curious customers.

The project was set up by the Shandong Dalu Science and Technology Company, which designed and built the mechanical waiters from scratch.

Each one costs around 6,000 US dollars to build, and has motion sensors

designed to stop when objects or people are in its way.

Their robotic serving powers are limited - they cannot physically serve customers or refill their cups. But most patrons find them amusing.

Li Xiaomei, customer of Dalu Robot Restaurant, said, "They have a better service attitude than real people. Humans can be impatient. These don't get tired, they just keep working and moving round and round."

Xinhua

21 million Skype users back online



Skype was recovering on Thursday from a major outage that left millions of people unable to use the popular Internet communication service.—INTERNET

SEATTLE, 25 Dec—Internet calling and messaging service Skype SA mostly recovered Thursday from an outage caused by an undisclosed glitch, but problems lingered for its worldwide user base.

The service went down for almost all of its users starting at midday Eastern time on Wednesday. By Thursday afternoon, things had improved to the point where about 21 million users were logged in, said CEO Tony Bates. That was 10 percent less than the usual traffic for the time of day, as some people still could not log on.

Voice calling, video-chatting and text-based instant messaging are working for most users, Bates said, but other features, such as offline instant messaging and group video calls, are still down.

Speaking through a computer running Skype, Bates declined to say what caused the software on individual users' computers to crash, which in turn caused network issues. He also would not say whether the problem originated from within Skype or was caused by external factors. On the company blog, Bates said he believes the outage was not caused by a malicious attack.

"We have a very good handle on what caused the problem," Bates said. "We are still doing an in-depth post-mortem."

Internet

IE9 blocks malware, but older versions are vulnerable

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—It's one step forward and one back for security on Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. A new report from a security firm found that IE9 beta offers "vastly" more protection from malware than other browsers, while Microsoft on Wednesday issued a warning that there is a vulnerability in IE 6, 7 and 8 that could allow someone to take remote control of the computer.

The software giant said there is no evidence this vulnerability has actually been used. Dave

Forstrom, director of Microsoft's Trustworthy Computing group, said Microsoft was "currently unaware of any attacks trying to use the claimed vulnerability or of customer impact."

The attack could be hidden as malicious code in a web page, and involves the way computer memory is managed when the browser processes Cascading Style Sheets. CSS is widely utilized to control how a page is presented.

Internet

Health

Health Tip: Why do my joints hurt?

Joint pain and stiffness are classic symptoms of osteoarthritis, but there are many other factors that can make your joints hurt.

The University of Maryland Medical Centre says other causes of joint pain include:

- * An autoimmune disease, such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis.
- * Gout, which commonly causes pain the big toe.
- * Bursitis, an inflammation of the sac between a bone and tendon.
- * Diseases such as chickenpox, the flu or Lyme disease.
- * A joint injury.
- * Tendinitis, an inflamed tendon.
- * An overuse injury, or suffering a strain or sprain.—Internet

Do all contraceptives lower ovarian cancer risk?

NEW YORK, 25 Dec—Birth control pills have long been known to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, but a new study suggests any type of contraceptive - even, surprisingly, vasectomy - may also be protective.

After comparing women with ovarian cancer to those without, researchers found that women who used any type of

contraception — birth control pills, tubal ligation (getting your “tubes tied”), intrauterine devices (IUDs), barrier method (such as diaphragms) or male vasectomy — had between a 40 and 65 percent lower risk of ever developing ovarian cancer.

It's not a surprise to see an association between birth control pills and ovarian cancer, and even to see one for tubal ligation, since other studies have shown the same thing, study author Dr. Roberta Ness of the University of Texas School of Public Health told *Reuters Health*.

But to see a similar trend for women who relied on IUDs, the barrier method, or a partner's vasectomy to avoid pregnancy is somewhat surprising, Ness acknowledged.—Reuters

Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk said Thursday it planned to put a new insulin product on the market by 2013 after tests showed advantages to the widely sold diabetes drug Lantus.

INTERNET



People walk in the street at Kouganji Temple in Tokyo. On current trends, Japan's population of 127 million will by 2055 shrivel to 90 million, warns the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

INTERNET

Obese drivers at higher risk of death in car crashes

NEW YORK, 25 Dec—Here's another reason not to pile on too many excess pounds: A new study finds that the obese and very obese are at raised risk of death in severe car crashes.

According to the research, published in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, a moderately obese driver is 21 percent more likely to die in a severe motor vehicle crash compared to non-obese drivers, while being severely obese hikes the risk of death by 56 percent.

However, being just slightly overweight seemed to lower the odds for death in a severe crash these drivers were actually less

likely to die than either underweight or normal-weight drivers, according to researchers at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

In the study, the researchers analyzed data from the national Fatality Analysis Reporting System involving almost 156,000 drivers in severe motor vehicle crashes occurring between 2000-2005. The researchers included all fatalities occurring within 30 days of a crash.

The link between obesity and death risk was found for both men and women, the researchers noted.—Internet

Business

No sign of OPEC concern with oil heading for \$100



In this 17 Nov, 2010 photo Chinese technicians man drilling equipment on an oil rig in Paloich, southern Sudan. Sudan's oil industry may soon see a major shake-up.—INTERNET

CAIRO, 25 Dec—Core OPEC ministers said on Friday they saw no need to supply the world with more crude as oil prices traded near a two-year high and some consumers said they fear a rally above \$100 per barrel would spur inflation. OPEC's most influential oil minister, Saudi Arabia's Ali al-Naimi, said he was still happy with an oil price of \$70-80 per barrel and there was no need for an extra OPEC meeting before the next scheduled one June. US crude closed at over \$91 per barrel on Thursday and Brent closed 48 cents down at \$93.46 on Friday after hitting \$94.74

a barrel, its highest level since October 2008. Arab OPEC ministers are meeting in the Egyptian capital this weekend where they are expected to discuss oil production and prices, but no formal decision on output will take place.

Reuters

S Africa formally invited to join BRIC

PRETORIA, 25 Dec—South Africa announced on Friday it has been formally invited to join the Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) group of key emerging nations, bolstering its image as the economic gateway to Africa.

Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-



Russia's President Dmitri Medvedev, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, China's President Hu Jintao and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pose for the family photo of the II BRIC Summit at Itamaraty Palace in Brasilia, on 15 April, 2010.—INTERNET

Toyota aims to lower break-even point for Japan operations

NAGOYA, 25 Dec—Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) is aiming to significantly lower the break-even point for its Japanese operations through a slew of improved manufacturing processes, a top executive said on Friday.

Toyota President Akio Toyoda has said he wants to maintain domestic production of at least 3 million vehicles a year in Japan to protect jobs and the tradition of manufacturing, or “monozukuri,” at home despite headwinds from a stronger yen.

Toyota is more exposed to a firm yen than rivals Honda Motor Co (7267.T) and Nissan Motor Co (7201.T) since it produces a bigger portion of its vehicles in Japan, and is under intense pressure to

lower costs or take the politically difficult step of shifting more of its production overseas.

Nissan has especially been aggressive in pursuing ways to shield itself against a strong yen by importing more parts, as well as some cars, from overseas.

Reuters



An employee walks at Toyota Motor Corp's showroom in Tokyo on 5 November, 2010.—INTERNET

Mashabane said China, which currently chairs BRIC, invited South Africa to join the group, whose current members will account for 61 percent of global growth in 2014, according to the International Monetary Fund.

“China, in its capacity as rotating chairperson of the BRIC formation, based on agreement reached by the BRIC member states, invites South Africa as a full member into what will in future be called BRICS,” she told journalists in Pretoria.

Internet

Snow storm heading south, some flights canceled



Sydney Baltyn, 9, slides off a snow jump as she sleds with her family at Stephens Lake Park in Columbia, Mo on 24 Dec, 2010. Christmas Eve snow blanketed the area allowing Greg and Michelle Baltyn to take their daughters Sydney, 9, and Mollie, 6, sledding.

INTERNET

NASHVILLE, 25 Dec—A Christmas Eve snow storm that blanketed parts of the Midwest was expected to bring rare Christmas Day snowfall to parts of the Southeast, prompting some airline flight cancellations and delays.

After dumping at least 7 inches of snow in parts of Iowa by Friday morning, the storm was expected to dip south into Tennessee and Georgia on Saturday, then move north Sunday. Winter weather advisories were in effect from

Kansas east to Kentucky and from Minnesota south to Arkansas on Friday.

The National Weather Service said that for the first Christmas in 17 years, Nashville and Atlanta could get more than just a dusting of snow. The storm was expected to intensify and move northeast on Sunday to the mid-Atlantic states and New England.

Delta Air Lines spokesman Morgan Durrant said 500 weather-related flight cancellations were planned for Saturday nationwide. That included 300 of the 800 scheduled departures from the Atlanta hub. Durrant said those affected had been notified.—*Internet*



A baby's high chair lays along a debris covered beach in Long Beach, Calif on 23 Dec, 2010. INTERNET

Californians start cleaning up mud, water, debris

HIGHLAND, 25 Dec—Leslie Constante burst into tears when she saw a red tag slapped on her parents' garage in Highland, deeming it unsafe to enter.

"My mom and dad worked so hard for this," said the 29-year-old pharmacy technician, wearing knee high rubber boots. She couldn't get inside to see how bad the damage was to Christmas presents and other belongings. Out front, two holiday reindeer were enveloped in mud several feet deep.

Many California residents who endured flooding, mudslides and

evacuations during a weeklong onslaught of rain must now clean up or even rebuild — and some face the prospect of not being able to spend Christmas at home.

The storm's push across the West left a muddy mess Thursday across Southern California and the threat of avalanches in Nevada, where Clark County officials urged residents of Mount Charleston, near Las Vegas, to leave after snow slides near two mountain hamlets.

Internet

Floods cause displacement in eastern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 25 Dec—Flash floods in eastern Sri Lanka have left over 30,000 people marooned, relief officials said Saturday.

Pradeep Kodippily, a top disaster management official said that more than 17,000 families have been affected in Eastern Province.

"We run six camps with relief services maintained throughout", Kodippily said.

Rains lashed the province as heavy monsoons fell upon most parts of the island.

The irrigation department said most of the main reservoirs such as Randenigala, Bowatanna, Rathkinda had reached spill levels, with a few sluice gates being opened.

The island has been experiencing heavy rains since early November. Floods sent most parts of the capital including the island's parliament building under water in mid November.

Xinhua

People walk by a shop's window advertisement of discount during the Christmas sale in Toronto, Canada on 24 Dec, 2010. —XINHUA



People wearing heavy clothes walk on a street in Seoul, capital of South Korea, on 24 Dec, 2010. Seoul will encounter a cold Christmas as low as 15 degrees Centigrade below zero.—XINHUA

Blast in Nigerian flashpoint city kills at least eight

JOS, (Nigeria), 25 Dec—An explosion in central Nigeria on Friday killed at least eight people, police said, with the incident having occurred in an area where sectarian clashes have left hundreds dead this year.

It occurred on the same day suspected members attacked a church during Christmas Eve services in northern Nigeria, but there was no immediate indication they were linked. No one was reported killed in the church attack.

Police also cautioned that the cause of the explosion had not been established.

"It has been confirmed that eight people were killed and eight injured," national police spokesman Yemi Ajayi told AFP of the blast in the flashpoint city of Jos. "There was an explosion."

The state information commissioner said by phone he had received reports of several explosions and some 20 people killed, but police cast doubt on the information.

The commissioner, Gregory Yenlong, also said there had been rumours of attacks aimed at disrupting Christmas celebrations in recent days.—*Xinhua*

5.4-magnitude quake shakes PR; no damage reported

SAN JUAN, 25 Dec—A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck the US Caribbean territory on Christmas Eve, rattling windows and doors across the island but causing no major damage, officials said.

The quake occurred at a depth of 102 kilometers (63 miles) south-southwest of the capital of San Juan, according to the US Geological Survey.

Blanca Saez, Ports Authority spokeswoman, told *The Associated Press* that the international airport is operating as usual. She said six ceiling panels fell at the American Airlines terminal, but that no one was injured.

The earthquake was centred just a couple of miles from the central mountain town of Aguas Buenas.

Emergency officials and police told local media that no damage or injuries have been reported.

Heriberto Sauri, emergency management director, told *El Nuevo Dia* newspaper that crews would inspect buildings at daylight if necessary. He could not be reached for comment late Friday.—*Xinhua*

Six killed in fire accident in Bangladesh's Capital

DHAKA, 25 Dec—Six people were killed and many injured in a fire accident in a mosquito coil factory on Friday night in Bangladesh's Capital Dhaka, fire brigade officials said.

Police and fire brigade officials said the fire broke out at Good Night Mosquito Factory in northern Dhaka at 9:35 pm local time. Ten units of the Fire Brigade controlled the blaze at 10:12 pm local time.

Fire Brigade Director General Abu Nayeem confirmed the death of six people who were all factory workers.

Six seriously burn-wounded people have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Xinhua

Industry-1 Minister inspects paper mills in Yeni

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang inspected production of the 20-ton cardboard paper mill of Yeni Paper Mill No. 2 of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries this morning and stressed the need to produce quality products for exceeding the target.

He visited the 50-ton Newsprint Mill and the 80-ton Packaging Paper Mill and looked into maintenance of machines and systematic storage of raw materials.

MNA

Passenger vehicles collide, plunge following negligence of drivers

YANGON, 25 Dec—A Hilux passenger truck of Letpadan-Yangon Bus Line collided a head-on with another vehicle of Taikkyin-Thirimingala Market Bus Line at the mile post No 28/1 on Yangon-Pyay road near Tatkyikon village, Hmawby Township at 8 am on 20 December when it overtook a vehicle in front of it.

In the incident, passengers on board the two vehicles suffered cuts and bruises and they were admitted to Yangon General Hospital and

Hmawby Hospital. Action is being taken against the driver of passenger vehicle of Letpadan-Yangon Bus Line by the Hmawby Township Police Station.

Likewise, a Canter passenger vehicle of Myinkaseik-Pathein Bus Line happened to scrub with Shwewathon Air-con passenger bus at 9 am on 20 December and overturned on the road side when it overtook the Air-con bus. The Air-con bus also plunged into the drain on the left side of the road.

Conductor Chit

Sports Minister partakes in December mass walk activities

YANGON, 25 Dec— Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint this morning took part in December Mass Walk activities held in front of Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Yangon Region.

All together 12170 participants—including Chairperson of Central Work Committee of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, officials of the Ministry of Sports and their families, Principal and Phwe (a) U Win Kyi died in the incident and 27 passengers on board the two vehicles sustained cuts and bruises. Action is being taken against the driver of Canter passenger vehicle.

Most of traffic accidents were caused by negligence on the part of the driver. The drivers are, therefore, advised to be more mindful while taking the wheel in order to avoid the adverse consequences.—MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint participates in December mass walk activities.—MNA

teachers and students of Sports and Physical Education Institute, teachers and students of Education College (Yankin) and Basic Education Schools in Tamway Township, local people in Bahan Township and Yankin Township— took part in the activities.

After taking physical exercises, the minister, the chairperson, officials of the ministry awarded prizes to those who won prizes in the fun fairs.—MNA

Continuing Professional Development Forum on 29 Dec

YANGON, 25 Dec— Continuing Professional Development Forum, organized by Society of General Practitioners of Myanmar Medical Association (Central), will be held at the hall of MMA on Theinbyu Road here from noon to 3 pm on 29 December (Wednesday).

Paper reading session on "Q&A on Common OB/GY Problems in General/ Family Practice" will be held.—MNA

Conquest of Bago...

(from page 1)

construction of 89 miles and six furlongs long Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road under the supervision of Chief

Engineer (Road) U Tin Hsan and Deputy Superintendent Engineer (Civil) U Kyi Zaw Myint as project engineers together with himself.

He further explained

that Public Works is taking responsibility for construction of Kyungon (Peinzalok)-Pado-Myochaung section and Seinkantlant-Minhla Tarzon section. The Ministry of Forestry built Myochaung-Seinkantlant

earth road from 2001 to 2003 and handed it over to Public Works.

Special Projects Construction Group (1) was assigned duty to construct 22 miles and six furlongs long section of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road, Aung Htet Lwin Co eight miles long section, Tun Lin Co five miles long section, Dragon Empire Co five miles long section, Smooth Life Co four miles long section, Kyaw Co five miles long section, Mya Shwekyar Co two miles long section, Myat Noe Thu Co four miles long section, Myat Eindray Co four miles long section, Ayeya Shwewa Co five miles long section, MMM Co five miles long section, Express Highway Co two

miles long section, GPG Co eight miles long section, and NGR Co two miles long section.

One 270 feet long bridge, one 120 feet long bridge, one 90 feet long bridge, one 50 feet long bridge, six 40 feet long bridges, four 20 feet long bridges, five 15 feet long bridges, 192 100-foot retaining walls and 149 conduits are under construction.

Assistant Engineer (Civil) U Toe Toe said that a total of 20 excavators, 25 bulldozers, 60 dumpers trucks and 50 shift-foot rollers are being used in construction worksites.

On completion of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road, Thayawady, Thonze, Letpadan, Minhla, Okpo,

Zigon, Gyobingauk, Shwedaung, Nattalin, Paungde and Pyay on the western areas of Bago mountain range will enjoy fruits of social, economic, health and education sectors. The local people will have easy access to Bago and Yangon in a short time.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Public Works is making preparations to conquer the Bago mountain range by building seven roads. These facilities will contribute to transport of teak, ironwood and other woods from the forests and ensure strengthening of national unity in the near future.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
23-12-2010



Photo shows completion of an earth road section on Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Road.

Implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project...

(from page 1)

The commander and Minister U Zaw Min delivered addresses. The Economic and Commercial Counsellor and the CPI Chairman spoke words of thanks.

The commander, the ministers, the CPI Chairman and officials formally launched the project works.

After giving rice and edible oil to the local

people, they posed for a documentary photo.

The commander, the ministers and party cordially greeted the local people and viewed the progress of project from the observing desk.

At the construction site of Chipwenge Hydropower Project being implemented by CPI Yunnan International Power Investment Co Ltd, the commander, the



Commander Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Ministers U Zaw Min, U Khin Maung Myint and U Thein Zaw and Chairman of CPI and officials concerned formally open Chipwe Hydropower Project.—MNA



Minister U Zaw Min delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Chipwe Hydropower Project.

MNA

ministers, the CPI Chairman and party viewed progress of power station, and installation of machines at the power station.

At the briefing hall, engineers of the project reported on implementation of Chipwenge Hydropower

Project and future tasks. Minister U Zaw Min attended to the needs and gave instructions to officials. Later, the commander, the ministers, the chairman of CPI and party visited the construction site of main embankment for the project.

MNA

7309.93 acres of poppy plantations destroyed in 2010-2011 season

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—In 2010-2011 poppy cultivation season, a total of 5745.03 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed up to 13 December 2010.

During the period from 14 to 20 December, a total of 1564.9 more acres of poppy plantations were

destroyed in States and Regions. Therefore, 7309.93 acres of poppy plantations have been destroyed till 20 December.

Out of 1564.9 acres of poppy plantations, a total of 1270.35 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed in Pekhon, Pinlaung, Hsihseng and

Kalaw townships in Shan State (South), 199.1 acres in Monghsat, Mongkhat, Mongping, Kengtung, Tachilek and Mongton townships in Shan State (East), and 1564.9 acres in Lashio, Tangyan, Hsenwi, Namhkam and Kutkai townships in Shan State (North).—MNA

www.yoyarlay.com on radar

YANGON, 25 Dec—Tun New Technology Company held a press-meeting to introduce yoyarlay.com website at No. 132, Queen's Park Hotel on Anawrahta Street, Botahtaung Township, on 22 December.

Managing Direc-

tor of the company Ko Tun Tun clarified fact about the website. In-charge Ma Tin Aye Khaing and web developer Ko Waing Chit elaborated on technology coded on the website.

The website helps upload journal news as an e-Paper for enabling local

and foreign readers to read them with ease.

For more information, contact No. 132, 7th floor, Anawrahta Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon (Ph: 09-5097008 and 298101), Email: news@yoyarlay.com.

MNA

Hole-in-one at No (1) Tatmadaw Golf Course

YANGON, 25 Dec— U Thein Aung today scored hole-in-one with Tour Special (2) ball and Callaway Wood (7) driver at hole No (17) from 155-yard distance at No (1)

Tatmadaw Golf Course (Mingaladon), while playing together with Brig-Gen Aung Thein (Retd), Col Soe Win (Retd), U Than Tun and U Aung Soe.

MNA



Photo shows bird's eye view of Chipwe Hydropower Project in Kachin State.—MNA

One dead, four injured, one vehicle damaged in two mine blasts

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — A villager named U Shan Kalar died on the spot in a land mine blast when he stepped on the mine planted by KNU insurgents yesterday in Shwegyin, Bago Region.

Another villager named Ko Zaw lost his leg in another land mine blast when the body of U Shan Kalar of Zidaw Ward, Shwegyin, was carried from the scene

about 10 miles south-east of Shwegyin, Bago Region. The injured lives in Ngakyiai Ward, Pyuntanza.

Similarly, on 22 December, a driver and three conductors were injured in a mine blast while they were on board the vehicle passing on the mine planted by KNU insurgents about 2 miles north-west of Maungdaigy Village,

Bawgaligy Sub-township, Thandaung Township, Kayin State.

The blast damaged the floor, gear box, air compressor cylinder and frame of the vehicle.

The injured in the separate blasts are receiving treatment at Bawgaligy sub-township hospital and the People's hospital in Shwegyin Township.

MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives Korean guests

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein received a delegation led by Vice Minister for Trade and Energy Mr Park Young-June from Ministry of Knowledge Economy of the

Republic of Korea at the ministry yesterday.

They held discussions on cooperation in industrial and technological development.

MNA

SWRR Minister inspects departmental tasks in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Maung Maung Swe yesterday morning arrived Vocational Training School of Social Welfare Department in Central Fire Services Training School in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay

Region. There, the minister fulfilled the needs after hearing reports by Principle of VTS on emergence of the training school. He looked round the school installed with educational aids. On his arrival of the construction site of staff quarter and Fire Brigade in

Yatanabon Satellite Town, he looked into progress of the construction and fulfilled necessities.

Afterwards, he observed progress of seats for the students and lecturing of Youths Training Centre of Social Welfare Department in Mandalay.—MNA

Country will be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with world nations if education sector takes responsibility to forge patriotism and Union Spirit among nationals

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The concluding of Special Refresher Course No. 39 for basic education teachers was held at Yadana Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin District of Mandalay Region yesterday.

On behalf of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman U Kyaw Thu of Civil Service Selection and Training Board delivered an address on the occasion and awarded outstanding trainees.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Labour U Tin Tun Aung, CSSTB members U Nyi Tun and U Kyaw Aung, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court (Mandalay), rector and faculty members of CICS (upper Myanmar), and trainees.

CSSTB Chairman U Kyaw Thu said that education is integral part to possess well qualified human resource necessary for building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, and keeping abreast of global countries.

So, the government sets down 30-year long term plan inclusive of short term plans and procedures so as to systematically



CSSTB Chairman U Kyaw Thu presents diligence award to JAT U Phone Hsint Than of Paukpinkwe Village BEPS in Kyaukse Township.—MNA

bridge basic education and higher education sectors. With today's climatic science and technology, the government implemented e-Learning system and built e-Education learning centres in universities, colleges and high schools to have easy access to educational information and lessons.

Moreover, education staff can now catch up globally changing technology and subjects thanks to Internet access in universities, colleges and some schools.

The chairman continued to say that the country will be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with world nations if the education sector takes the responsibility to forge patriotism and union spirit among the nationals.

The State assumes the teachers as architects of the future nation who are nurturing brilliant human resources.

Through the special refresher course, the teachers may learn the State's strides in public interests, historical backgrounds, future plans, policy and national aspirations and will be able to disseminate the acquired knowledge to students and lead them towards understanding the reality, the chairman added.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu presented awards to outstanding trainees and completion certificates.

After the ceremony, the ministers cordially greeted the trainees.

A total of 1495 trainees had completed the five-week course.

MNA



President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win awards championship trophy to Mingaladon BEMS No. 6 in Cricket Competitions. (News on page 16).—MCF

Sawe Taw expands territory in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 25 Dec—Sawe Taw Distribution Group opened its new office at No. 3058, Razahani Road, Nay Pyi Taw on 17 December. The

celebrities and responsible persons formally opened the new office.

Sawe Taw Distribution Group, sole agent of KTM RO drinking wa-

ter in Myanmar, also held a press meeting at Sky Palace Hotel & Café in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

Those wishing to distribute KTM drinking water retail and wholesale may contact Sawe Taw Distribution Group at the new office (Ph: 067-25307, 067-25766, 09-49212224, 09-49212225 and 09-49212226) and at No. A-6/001, Shwegaba Housing, Mindhamma Road, Yangon (Ph: 09-49315261 and 09-49312562).—MNA



The opening ceremony of Sawe Taw Distribution Group office in progress.—MNA

Taking fire preventive...

(from page 16)

It is learnt that the reason for most fire outbreaks around the country is negligence followed by kitchen fire and short circuit.

Measures to be taken when the fire breaks out, he said, are to report nearest fire brigade, to control fire with water and sand bags before the fire engines arrive, to make traffic clear, spraying water on spreading fire and to help the fire brigade from any disturbances.

It is learnt that fire engines are alerted to be

ready whenever the fire breaks out. For curbing the threat of fire, it is vital for public to learn fire preventive measures and measures to be taken when fire breaks out via any media.

Translation: HKA

Myamma Alin: 22-12-10



Resident Scott Anderson walks over one of the many trees that have fallen during storms in the Lakeview Terrace neighbourhood of Los Angeles, California on 22 December, 2010.
XINHUA

Mexican village evacuated due to pipeline leak

MEXICO CITY, 25 Dec— Local authorities evacuated San Jose Ayotla, a village of 120 people in central Mexican state Puebla, following a pipeline leak reported near 1:30 am Friday morning, Mexican broadcaster Milenio reported.

“At around 1:30 am villagers perceived a strong smell of gasoline, and because of that they called Public Security and Civil Protection officials, and saw fuel spurting several meters into the air from one pipeline,” Puebla’s Civil Protection Director Miguel Angel Martinez

told Milenio.

The incident took place just days after 28 people were killed after an oil pipeline exploded in San Martin Texmelucan, a larger town in Puebla.

The explosion was triggered by an attempt to steal fuel from Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), the state-run oil giant. Pemex said it had sent staff to the area to put the leak under control.

Fuel supply to the pipeline has been cut and barriers have been placed to prevent the spread of oil on the ground.

Xinhua



Mick Zeni (L) performs during the dance drama Marco Polo in the National Centre For The Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Dec, 2010. The NCPA’s first original dance-drama Marco Polo was on show Wednesday to celebrate the NCPA’s 3rd Anniversary.—XINHUA

Credit Suisse offloading property loans



Cranes active on a building site operate near Berlin’s landmark TV tower on 29 November, 2010.

Credit Suisse is selling a \$2.8-billion property portfolio in one of the largest bank sales of distressed loans since the 2008 financial crisis, the Wall Street Journal reported.—INTERNET

PARIS, 25 Dec—Credit Suisse is selling a 2.8-billion-dollar property portfolio in one of the largest bank sales of distressed loans since the 2008 financial crisis, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

The Swiss banking giant is to sell the portfolio for 1.2 billion dollars

(913 million euros) to Apollo Management LP, the newspaper reported.

The loans were for apartment buildings in Germany and hotels in a number of European countries in areas hard hit by the economic crisis, it said citing sources familiar with the sale.

Credit Suisse declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

Since the onset of the 2008 financial crisis there have been relatively few sales of distressed property loan portfolios by banks to private equity firms, who often later make large profits after restructuring the loans or seizing the properties.

The Wall Street Journal cited sources as saying the Credit Suisse had already written down the value of the portfolio and that the bank may share in any gains realized by Apollo as it is taking an equity stake in the company as part of the deal.

Internet



A woman does morning exercise on a foggy day in Suining City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 21 Dec, 2010. Heavy fog cloaked Suining Tuesday, reducing the visibility in some places of the city to less than 200 metres.—XINHUA

Six wounded in an explosion in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 25 Dec—Six people were wounded in an explosion that rocked a church in southern Philippines on Christmas Day Saturday, police sources here said.

The improvised explosive device (IED) exploded at around 7:15 am during a Christmas morning mass on the right side of the roof of the Asturias chapel in Jolo town, Sulu Province, said police sources, adding the victims, including a priest, were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Initial investigation showed that the IED was placed on the roof, where it damaged the metal roof and the ceiling.

Police investigators were already on site to conduct crime scene investigation.—Xinhua

Internet

Angola state airline grounds 777s

LUANDA, 25 Dec—TAAG Angola Airlines has grounded its three Boeing 777s following an emergency landing by one of the jets.

The airline, which is 100 percent owned by the government, said a jet bound for Dubai was forced to return to Luanda because of engine problems, the BBC reported. Engine trouble on another jet was reported while it was at Lisbon, Portugal.

Rui Carreira, an airline spokesman, told the state radio network the step was taken “for the sake of caution and international security.”



Whooper swans are seen at the Wetland of Yellow River National Nature Reserve in central China’s Henan Province, on 22 Dec, 2010. Thousands of whooper swans migrated here from Siberia for wintering this year.
XINHUA

GM recalling about 109,000 vehicles on passenger airbag concerns

CHICAGO, 25 Dec—General Motors (GM) on Thursday announced that it is recalling about 109,000 vehicles due to concerns of the passenger air bag failing to deploy.

The company said in a statement that the recalling covers

Cadillac CTS models from the 2005-2007 model years, adding that there are no known injuries or fatalities related to this condition.

GM said that a kink, bend or fold in the front passenger presence system mat could lead to the

passenger air bag failing to deploy, which could result in increased injury for the occupant.

Dealers will replace the passenger presence system in affected vehicles at no charge to the customer.

Xinhua

Bangladesh's once plentiful rivers run low on fish

CHAR PALAMARY, 25 Dec—Bangladesh's rivers have provided for fisherman Rafiqul Islam's family for generations but a few years ago the 27-year-old noticed his nets were coming up empty.

This year, Islam was forced to leave his small fishing community in northern Mymensingh District to find work, an early victim of what scientists are warning is an alarming decline in freshwater fish stocks.

"Eight, ten years ago it was possible for a fisherman to make a decent living all year round — now, our catches are tiny and most people are having to find other seasonal work to survive," Islam said.

Surveys of fish stocks paint a gloomy picture.

According to a report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2000, Bangladesh is home to 266 species of freshwater fish, 54 of which are classified as "threatened" in the group's Red List.

But a more recent study by the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) stated that at least 25 of the freshwater species of fish are now extinct and over 100 species should be classified as threatened.

"We are losing our freshwater fish at an alarming rate," said Professor Mostafa Ali Reza Hossain of the BAU, whose team has spent a decade travelling the country to track the decline in fish species.

The dwindling of freshwater fish has major



This photo taken on 28 October, 2010 shows a Bangladeshi fisherman throwing his net to catch fish in Mymensingh, some 120 kms from Dhaka.
INTERNET

repercussions for low-lying and deeply impoverished Bangladesh, home to numerous rivers, floodplains, lakes and lowland areas.

It puts over a million jobs at risk, will accelerate migration of the estimated 1.4 million fishermen to Bangladesh's already overcrowded cities, and removes a crucial, free source of protein for the rural poor.

It also risks having a catastrophic effect on overall biodiversity as the impact ripples up the food chain to birds and reptiles, Hossein said.—*Internet*

13 Vietnam sailors rescued from sinking vessel in East China Sea

BEIJING, 25 Dec—Thirteen of 17 Vietnamese crew members were saved by a Chinese rescue team after strong winds sank the Vietnamese ship, the *Hung Cuong 168*, near Minjiang estuary in the East China Sea on Friday evening, the Chinese rescue centre said.

According to the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre (CMSRC), the Vietnamese ship, which was overloaded with 5,200 tonnes of stone materials, had an engine breakdown this afternoon and overturned at around 5:00 pm due to high winds, with 17 crew members falling into the sea.

Being alerted about the accident, China's East China Sea Rescue Bureau and the local maritime search and rescue centre in the coastal Fujian Province sent professional salvage vessels and helicopters to the scene where they rescued 13 sailors, as of 6:18 pm.

The rescue team is still searching for the remaining four sailors, according to the CMSRC.

Xinhua



An elephant dressed as Santa Claus distributes candies to students during Christmas celebrations at Jirasart school in Ayutthaya, 70 km (44 miles) north of Bangkok, on 24 December, 2010.
XINHUA

Mount Bromo's eruption in Indonesia paralyzes tourism

JAKARTA, 25 Dec—Mount Bromo's eruption in Indonesia's East Java Province on Friday paralyzed tourism industry as hotels were closed due to thick ashes, detikcom online news reported on Friday.

Hotels of Lava View, Cemara and Bukit Cemara have not received any guest in the past couple of

days as ash on the streets was as thick as 15-40 centimeters.

Besides, blackout since Tuesday has been posing difficulties for the hotels to operate. The condition was worsened by disturbed water supply, leaving no choice for the hotels but to cancel reservation.

"We have to shut

power down since Tuesday. Increasing eruption is feared to trigger power shorting," said head of local police of Probolinggo regency Adj Comm Zulfikar.

The volcanic centre also warned air operators against volcanic ashes which could disrupt flight.

Xinhua

TSA probes pilot critical of airport security

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Dec—Federal authorities are investigating a pilot who posted videos on YouTube that were critical of security at San Francisco International Airport, the pilot's attorney said Friday. Don Werno of the Santa Ana-based law firm Werno and Associates said the Transportation Security Administration is looking into whether his client revealed sensitive information. The pilot remains employed with a major airline, but he has withdrawn from a programme that trains flight crew to help prevent hijackings after authorities confiscated his federally issued firearm, Werno said. He declined to release the pilot's name, citing

concerns about the man's job.

The TSA wouldn't answer questions but said in a statement it is responding to the situation and is confident in the security at San Francisco International Airport.

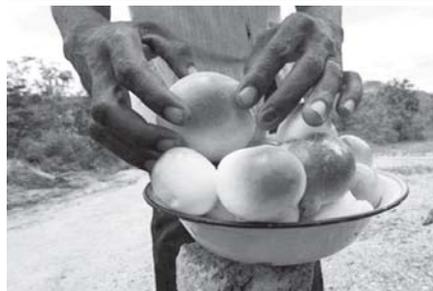
"As to access control at SFO, TSA is confident in the tools the airport has implemented and reminds passengers there are security measures in place that are both seen and unseen."

The pilot posted several videos on YouTube in late November or early December that showed how ground crew members can enter secure areas by swiping security cards and without undergoing further screening.

Internet

A parking complex is seen in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Dec, 2010. The parking complex is expected to be finished next January, able to accommodate 169 vehicles.

Xinhua



Zimbabwean villager Webster Kurwaisimba sells wild mushrooms on the roadside in the rural district of Zimunya in Mutare, 280 kms east of Harare, taking home six dollars on a good day.
INTERNET

Angola to reopen war-ravaged railway after 18 years

LUANDA, 25 Dec—An Angolan railroad destroyed during the country's 27-year civil war is set to resume service next month, nearly two decades after the 125-year-old line was forced to close, officials said Friday.

Passenger service between the capital Luanda and the eastern city of Malanje will resume on 13 January after an 18-year hiatus, with freight service to follow two days later, a Luanda Railroad official told state radio station RNA.

The 424-kilometre (263-mile) line, which colonial power Portugal began building in 1885, was one of three major railroads destroyed during Angola's 1975-2002 civil war. It will be the first to reopen as part of a four-billion-dollar (three-billion-euro) reconstruction project carried out by Chinese firms, officials said.

"Next year, we'll also reopen the Mocamedes Railroad and in 2012, the Benguela Railroad," Transport Minister Augusto Tomas told RNA, referring to two other major rail links to the southern port city of Namibe (formerly Mocamedes) and the central province of Benguela.—*Internet*

Passengers arrive at Benguela in May 2007 to make the 30 km, two-hour train journey to Lobito from Angola's second city.

INTERNET





Ryanair flight FR701 from London Stansted on the runway at Kerry Airport on Wednesday . — INTERNET

Air passengers evacuated after smoke fills cabin

LONDON, 25 Dec — Passengers escaped without injury on Wednesday when they were forced to make an emergency evacuation from an aircraft.

There were dramatic scenes at Kerry Airport shortly after 9am as all 160 passengers on board Ryanair flight FR701 from London Stansted had to make their escape via the aircraft's emergency chutes.

Passenger Richard Hartnett said there was

“panic” on board when passengers saw “black smoke” coming from the cockpit. He said people fled the scene in terror after firemen told them to “keep running”.

“The whole cabin filled up with a fog and it felt like five minutes had passed before anyone did anything,” Mr Hartnett told the *Irish Independent*. “The pilot came out and told us we were in an evacuation procedure and the slides came out.

“When I came down the slide the firemen at the end of it said ‘keep running’ and we had to run to the green bit of ground off the runway. “Tears were running down my face but I think it was from shock,” said Mr Hartnett who was making his way home from London to spend Christmas with his family in Ballyheigue.

Internet

Nepalese celebrating Christmas “Nepali way”

KATHMANDU, 25 Dec—The greatest of the Christian festival around the globe marking the birth of Jesus Christ, “Christmas” is also being marked in Nepal but in the Nepali way.

Nepalese following the Christian religion are busy going to the Church and celebrating the Christmas along with their family and friends.

However, in the present time in Nepal the non-Christian communities also celebrate Christmas marking the festival with enthusiasm.

Talking to *Xinhua* on Saturday after the celebration of Christmas, Father Silas Bogati of The Assumption Church (Catholic) in Kathmandu said that they celebrate Christmas in the Nepali way. “I have been serving as a father for 10 years and we celebrate Christmas as per the tradition but in the Nepali way just like other Nepali festival”, Bogati said.

He informed that there are around 2 million Christians around Nepal but among them there are only 7,000 Catholic Christians.

However, according to the population census of Nepal held in 2001, the number of Christian was only 100,000.

“Christmas means a lot to me and other Nepali Christians, we gather along with family, friends just like Dashain and worship our lord through holy songs and so on,” Bogati added.

Jenifer Bajracharya, an English literature student told *Xinhua* that she is Christian by birth and she is really excited for Christmas celebration with her family members at home.

“We are having party at home like previous years, we share gifts and this is what I love most”, she added.

Xinhua

Wash man accused in theft of game cards

SEATTLE, 25 Dec — Police in Washington State say they’ve charged a former employee of a collectible card games company with stealing \$45,000 worth of rare promotional cards.

Donald J Henry, 26, formerly employed by games publisher Wizards of the Coast, is accused of stealing hundred of rare cards from the company’s “Magic: The Gathering” game, *Seattlepi.com* reported on Wednesday.

Police seized the cards after an acquaintance of Henry allegedly tried to sell them at a Magic tournament in Portland, Ore.

Police said Wizards of the Coast contacted authorities in September after another employee reported seeing a vendor selling dozens of rare, promotional cards at the Portland event.

Henry, hired in December 2009, allegedly stole the cards out of a storage locker at Wizards of the Coast. Henry was fired after an investigation was launched in September, the online newspaper said.

A card store owner who was an acquaintance of Henry returned hundreds of rare, promotional Magic cards to police, authorities said.

Internet



Two African elephants use their trunks to greet each other. A New Zealand elephant handler won a wrongful dismissal claim Wednesday against a circus that falsely told him it had lost his beloved animal and his services were no longer required.— INTERNET

One in three ‘believes in angels’

LONDON, 25 Dec — Nearly one in three Britons believe they have a guardian angel watching over them, according to a new survey. Online research for the Bible Society and Christian Research into the views of 1,038 people has shown 31% believe in angels, with 17% saying they are not sure. A further 5% or one in 20 told the ICM poll conducted last week that they believe they have seen or heard an angel, with 29% saying they think a guardian angel is watching over them.

The research shows the London Region has the highest levels of belief in

angels at 40%, with the North East scoring the lowest at 17%. People in the London region also scored the highest for belief in a guardian angel watching over them, at 37%, compared to 22% in Scotland and the North East.

Internet



One in three Britons believes in angels, a survey has found.— INTERNET

French farmer jailed in shooting over truffles

PARIS, 25 Dec — French police have arrested a farmer who fatally shot a trespasser he suspected of trying to steal highly



In this 31 Jan, 2008 file photo, truffles are seen at the Aups truffles market, southern France.— INTERNET

coveted truffles from his land on the edge of France’s southern Provence Region.

The 32-year-old farmer told authorities he was guarding his truffle patch in the town of Grignan when he was frightened by the intruder and shot him in the legs and head with a hunting rifle, police said on Wednesday.

Police said the farmer believed the man was armed. The 43-year-old victim died shortly after Monday’s shooting.

Authorities did not release the names of either man. Truffles are a fungus found mainly

in forests in France and Italy that grow underground, in the root systems of host trees.

They are prized for their rich, earthy flavours and can fetch astronomical prices — making them a prime target for thieves.

Didier Chabert, a local truffle-grower who has known the accused farmer for many years, said the man had already been hit by thieves two or three times this truffle season, which runs from December through March.

Internet



Serenade : Bolshoi Ballet dancers performing during a rehearsal of Russian choreographer, co-founder and balletmaster of New York City Ballet George Balanchine’s Serenade at the theatre’s New Stage in Moscow.— INTERNET

Russian central bank increases deposit operations rate by 0.25 pp

Moscow, 25 Dec— Russia’s Central Bank (CB) announced on Friday its decision to raise deposit operations rate by 0.25 percentage points to 2.75

percent while leaving the refinancing rate unchanged at 7.75 percent.

The CB said that inflation risks remained moderate but still worth attention from the monetary authorities.

“Inflation disturbs us. For twenty days of December the consumer prices rose 0.7 percent against 0.4 percent for the same period last year,” CB head Sergei Ignatiev said, adding that the main contribution to the inflation speeding-up was food prices hike.

In November, inflation rate in Russia reached 8.1 percent. The CB forecast that the cost of money loans would not rise and the volatility of the loan market would flatten.—Xinhua



Korean artist Sung Yeonju has made dresses entirely out of a variety of foods, such as tomatoes, bananas, mushrooms, red cabbage, bread, and chicken.

Purse that hit gunman sells for \$13,100

A purse used by a Florida school board member to strike a gunman sold for \$13,100 on eBay to benefit charity, the TV station behind the auction said.

The online auction for the purse, which Bay County School Board member Ginger Littleton used to strike gunman Clay Duke, was won by an unidentified man in Alexandria, Va, and New England handbag company Brahmin said it would match the winning bid with a contribution to Salvage Santa, the charity selected by Littleton, the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* reported Thursday.

Salvage Santa was started by security guard Mike Jones, who shot and wounded Duke during the incident. Duke later killed himself with a gunshot.

Salvage Santa restores old bicycles to give to children in low-income households for Christmas.

Studio lets customers build bamboo bikes

A business with studios in New York and San Francisco is offering weekend classes for people who want to make their own bicycles out of bamboo.

Marty Odlin, one of the co-founders of Bamboo Bike Studio, said the classes, which start at \$600, allow people to make eco-friendly bikes. Odlin said bamboo makes for a strong and comfortable bike frame, *ABC News* reported.

"Most people nowadays, they don't really get to build things. And they especially don't get to see things start to finish," Odlin said. "Some of the original bikes were bamboo.

Bikes started as wood and then they went to bamboo. That was back in the 1880s, and now it's coming back," he said. Odlin said the company is working to bring affordable bikes to Ghana, where bamboo is plentiful.

"A bicycle there means the same thing that a car might mean for someone here," Odlin said. "People can access 25 times more area on a bike ... that's 25 times as many healthcare opportunities, 25 times as many educational opportunities, 25 times as many markets to sell their goods. Basically, giving somebody this cheap transportation can open up a whole world for them."

Dutch police welcome snow as crime busting aid



View of the traffic jams on the A2 highway before it was closed by police due to heavy snowfalls near the Dutch City of Eindhoven.

While commuters complain of disruptions caused by recent heavy snow, Dutch police have welcomed it as an unusual aid in catching illegal cannabis growers and other criminals.

"A clean roof amid others covered in snow is often an indication of the presence of attic growing lights for a cannabis plantation," police spokesman Henri van Pinxteren of the south eastern Brabant region told *AFP* on Friday.

Police on patrol would list the addresses of homes with clean roofs for later inspection, he

said. "It often leads to arrests. This is a well-known tool for the police in winter," Van Pinxteren said.

The snow of the last week has also allowed police to literally track down several fleeing criminals.

Restaurateur takes photo of food critic

A Los Angeles restaurant critic said her 40-minute wait for a table ended with the owner of an eatery snapping her picture and telling her to leave.

Los Angeles Times restaurant critic S Irene Virbila said she went to Red Medicine in Beverly Hills with her husband and two friends Tuesday at 8 pm and waited about 40 minutes for a table, the *Times* reported Friday.

Virbila said the wait ended with Red Medicine managing partner Noah Ellis snapping a surprise picture and telling her to leave the establishment. She said the photo was posted on several Web sites by Wednesday afternoon.

News Album

Lichtenstein, Warhol works stolen from NY home



This undated photo provided by the New York City Police Department shows Roy Lichtenstein's 'Thinking Nude.' The print was stolen, along with a surveillance video recorder and other artworks by Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and Carl Fudge, from a chic home in Manhattan's Meatpacking District between 24 Nov and on 28 Nov, 2010, while the owner was away during the Thanksgiving holiday.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 25 Dec— Authorities are ramping up their effort to solve a Manhattan mystery: Who drilled a hole into the home of a beef fortune heir and stole a collection

of iconic artworks by Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol?

The culprits also made off with surveillance video footage that might have caught them

in the act.

The New York Police Department released images of the art on Thursday, hoping someone might help solve last month's crime in the trendy Meatpacking District by recognizing works like a well-known Lichtenstein print called "Thinking Nude." Authorities estimate the five-story apartment was burglarized sometime during Thanksgiving week, when owner and art collector Robert Romanoff was away.

Internet

Hollywood A-listers Scarlett Johansson, pictured in July, and Ryan Reynolds filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences, a week after they announced their amicable split, documents showed.—INTERNET

Kevin Smith to screen horror film

PARK CITY, 25 Dec— Director Kevin Smith says he will screen his first-ever horror film at Utah's Sundance Film Festival in January.

"Red State," Smith's departure from comedy and satire, stars Michael Parks, John Goodman

and Melissa Leo as people who run afoul of religious zealots in the Midwest, the *New York Daily News* reported.

Adding to the aura of Smith as provocateur, the movie references the Ku Klux Klan in its one-sheet, which shows a



Director Kevin Smith arrives for the "Cop Out" Premiere at the AMC Loews Lincoln Square Theater in New York on 22 February, 2010.

INTERNET

figure covered in a white sheet standing in front of a cross under the tagline: "FEAR GOD," the *News* said Thursday. Smith's movie will play in the Premieres section known for potentially high-profile films rather than in the genre-based Park City at Midnight programme.—Internet

Hollywood stars Johansson, Reynolds divorce

LOS ANGELES, 25 Dec—Hollywood A-listers Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences, a week after they announced their amicable split, documents showed. The couple — named sexiest man and woman alive in separate polls in recent years — both filed papers the same day to dissolve their two-year marriage, according to the documents obtained by the TMZ celebrity news website. The legal documents, filed at the Los Angeles Superior Court, gave the date of separation as 14 December — the day they announced their split last week — and ticked the box citing "irreconcilable differences" as the reason.

Internet



Hughes has no fear of Fulham axe

LONDON, 25 Dec — Fulham manager Mark Hughes insisted on Friday that he has no fears of the



Fulham manager Mark Hughes, pictured here on 12 December, insisted on Friday that he has no fears of the axe falling should his struggling side lose to rock-bottom West Ham on Sunday.—INTERNET

axe falling should his struggling side lose to rock-bottom West Ham on Sunday.

Fulham are just one place above the Premier League relegation zone but Hughes, the former Manchester City and Wales manager, said that chairman Mohamed Al Fayed has not discussed the team's plight.

"I haven't spoken to the chairman this week. It hasn't been discussed with me," said Hughes, who was appointed in July.

Internet

Japan to play Montenegro, New Zealand in friendlies

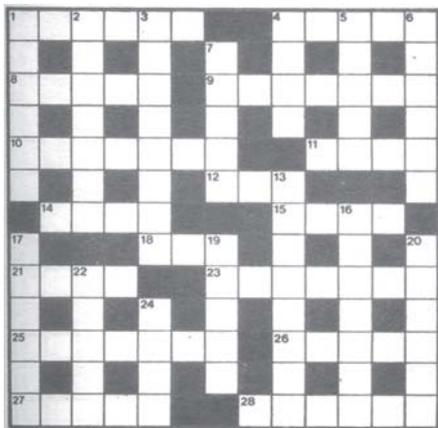
TOKYO, 25 Dec — Japan will play friendlies against Montenegro and New Zealand in March to prepare for the World Cup qualifiers, the Japan Football Association said on Friday.

Japan will play Montenegro on 25 March in Shizuoka, followed by the New Zealand game four days later at the national stadium in Tokyo, the organisation said.

"Former Yugoslavia have produced a lot of young and talented players. Montenegro are very tough opponents," said Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni.— Internet



CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 A happening
- 4 Give medical attention
- 8 Correct
- 9 Remainder
- 10 Model of excellence
- 11 Study hard
- 12 Extremity
- 14 Polish river
- 15 Hot-headed
- 18 Droop
- 21 Vermin
- 23 Accomplish
- 25 Excessive
- 26 Police weapon
- 27 Nervous
- 28 Emphasise

DOWN

- 1 Sudden
- 2 Calculated
- 3 Whole number
- 4 Large tooth
- 5 Bequeath
- 6 Pact
- 7 Line of battle
- 13 Ban
- 16 Phantom
- 17 Monetary gain
- 19 Confined to college
- 20 Ball game
- 22 Claw
- 24 Deep affection

Hughton still stunned by Newcastle axe

LONDON, 25 Dec — Chris Hughton admitted on Friday his sacking as manager of Newcastle United had come as a total shock but he vowed to bounce back and continue his career in football.



Chris Hughton, seen here on 5 December, admitted on Friday his sacking as manager of Newcastle United had come as a total shock but he vowed to bounce back and continue his career in football.—INTERNET

Hughton was axed by the Premier League club on 6 December despite having guided the north-east club from the Championship back to the top flight of English football this season.

Newcastle were in 11th place when Hughton, who'd several times stepped in as caretaker boss during some typically turbulent times in the club's recent history, was sacked to the widespread disbelief of many leading English football figures.

And Hughton, in an interview with Sky Sports on Friday, admitted he hadn't seen his departure from St James' Park coming.

"I got a phonecall in the morning from the managing director (Derek Llambias)," Hughton said.—Internet

Hodgson backs Torres to rediscover goal touch

LIVERPOOL, 25 Dec — Liverpool manager Roy Hodgson believes key striker Fernando Torres will rediscover his deadly accuracy in front of goal, starting with Sunday's trip to Blackpool.

The Spanish World Cup winner has scored just five Premier League goals this season and wasted a golden chance in Liverpool's 3-1 loss at Newcastle two weeks ago in the team's last away game.

But Hodgson insists Torres is not struggling.

"The case all through the season is we have not been very lucky in front of goal - I don't think our goal return is not a fair measure of what we have created," said the manager.—Internet



Liverpool's Spanish forward Fernando Torres eyes a ball in the training session.—INTERNET

Besiktas sign second Portuguese star

ISTANBUL, 25 Dec — Turkish football giants Besiktas signed their second Portuguese international this week when on Friday they secured the services of striker Hugo Almeida from Bundesliga side Werder Bremen for 2million euros.



Portugal forward Hugo Almeida

The 26-year-old - scorer of 12 goals in his 33 international appearances - signed a three year contract with Besiktas after his wage demands were refused by the Werder Bremen board. Almeida, who had been at Werder since 2006, joins experienced compatriot Simao at the 13-time Turkish champions, who are way off the pace in the Turkish championship this season lying fifth, 14 points adrift of leaders Bursaspor after 17 matches.—Internet

Maradona threatens legal action against Grondona



Diego Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Dec — Diego Maradona threatened legal action against Argentine football association president Julio Grondona on Friday as their bitter post-World Cup war of words took another dramatic twist.

"I am not going to go on about Grondona. I am going directly to see my lawyers to start an action after

all he has said. He has lost control," Maradona told the Clarin newspaper.

Maradona and Grondona have been at loggerheads since the Argentine football legend was deposed as coach following the team's 4-0 defeat to Germany at the World Cup quarter-finals.

On Thursday, the 79-year-old Grondona hit back at Maradona for describing him as "senile".

"I am not senile, I am not an informer and I never will be," said the federation chief.

Internet

Inter look to Leonardo to launch renaissance

ROME, 25 Dec — Leonardo on Friday crossed the great San Siro divide, the former AC Milan coach being named as the successor to Rafael Benitez as boss of Inter Milan.

The appointment makes him the fifth man to have coached both Milan giants.

Long on personality, short on managerial experience, Leonardo Nascimento de Araujo was appointed AC Milan manager in May 2009, as successor to Chelsea-bound Carlo Ancelotti still lacking the required managerial badges. He imposed a characteristic attacking system of play but



Leonardo, seen here in May 2010, on Friday crossed the great San Siro divide, the former AC Milan coach being named as the successor to Rafael Benitez as boss of Inter Milan.—INTERNET

was barely settling into the job when he and the club parted company at the end of the 2009-2010 season, his last game in charge a 3-0 win over Juventus.

Internet

SPORTS

Couture, Boyle score in Sharks' win over Oilers

SAN JOSE, 25 Dec — Logan Couture and Dan Boyle scored 3:28 apart in the second period, leading the San Jose Sharks past the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 on Tuesday night. Antero Niittymaki stopped 26 shots to beat the Oilers for the

third time this season and give the Sharks their first three-game winning streak.

Dustin Penner scored for the Oilers, who lost for the third time in four games. Nikolai Khabibulin made 28 saves, but Edmonton's three-game winning streak on the road ended.

Couture netted his fourth goal in three games against fellow NHL rookie of the year contenders Jordan Eberle and Taylor Hall. Eberle had four goals in his previous three games, and Hall had three assists in the Oilers' 6-3 victory over Columbus on Thursday.

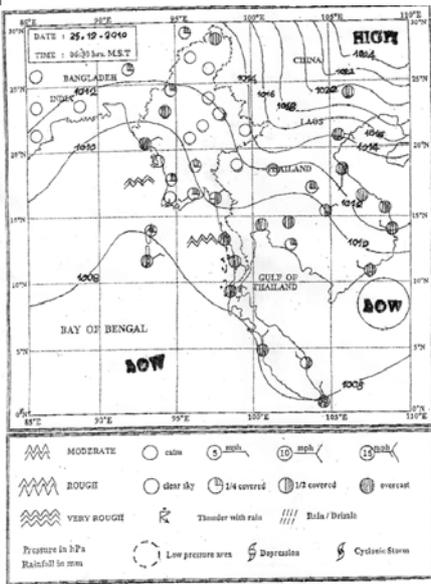


Edmonton Oilers center Colin Fraser, front, reaches for the puck next to San Jose Sharks center Jamal Mayers.

INTERNET

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 25th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather has been generally fair in Chin and Kayah States, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and partly cloudy in the remaining States. Night temperatures were (4°C) above December average temperatures in Taninthayi Region, (6°C) above December average temperature in Mon States and (3°C) to (5°C) below December average temperatures in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (-2°C), Namhsan, Heho and Loilem (0°C) each and Lashio (3°C) each, Haka (1°C) and Taunggyi (3°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthaung (0.28) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2010 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 25-12-2010 was 54°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-12-2010 was (64%). Rainfall on 25-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2010 was 93°F.

Minimum temperature on 25-12-2010 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-12-2010 was (54%). Total sunshine hours on 24-12-2010 was (9.8) hours.

Rainfall on 25-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mingaladon, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (12:30) hours MST on 24-12-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 26th December 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin, Rakhine and Mon States, Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Over 450 evacuated after land sinks in E China, salt mining blamed

NANCHANG, 25 Dec—A land cave-in prompted the evacuation of more than 450 villagers Friday night in east China's Jiangxi Province, said local authorities.

Excessive salt mining caused the land to sink, according to an initial investigation.

With a diameter of 50 meters and a maximum depth of 5 meters, the cave-in occurred 8:40 p.m. Thursday in Zhoutian Township, Huichang County in Jiangxi, said a local government spokesman.

Villagers said they had seen water sprouting out of the ground, with jets reaching up to 2 meters high, and 500-meter-long cracks in the ground since Thursday.

Xinhua



Firefighters work to neutralize leaking chemicals at a road accident site on the Guizhou-Xinzhai Express way in Duyun, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 23 Dec, 2010. A tank truck carrying toxic chemical titanium tetrachloride slid and overturned on the provincial expressway here Thursday morning, killing the driver and his colleague on spot. Leaking chemicals forced the residents living within a radius of 1000 meters from the accident site to be evacuated.

XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (26-12-2010)(Sunday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	(09:00am-11:00am)MST
Oversea Transmission	(26-12-10 09:30 am ~ 27-12-10 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Nay Pyi Taw's First Art Gallery
- * News
- * As a White Candle
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Sour Soup with Fish Head"
- * MI People's Celebrities "Aung Ye Lin & A Thin Cho Swe"
- * News
- * Ancestor and Successors
- * Let's Go to the Fish Show

Oversea Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Nay Pyi Taw's First Art Gallery
- * News
- * As a White Candle
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Sour Soup with Fish Head"
- * MI People's Celebrities "Aung Ye Lin & A Thin Cho Swe"
- * News
- * Ancestor and Successors
- * Let's Go to the Fish Show
- * News
- * A Visit to Htan Hsan Cave : A Miraculous Place
- * News
- * Surprising Myanmar (Gifts)
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Festival of Kahtain (Part-I)
- * A Visit to A Laungdaw Kassapa in Modern Days
- * News
- * A Days in Yangon (A recreation and relaxation centre Kandawgyi National Garden)
- * The Splendour of Mt. Victoria (Natmataung)
- * Myanmar Movies "That's why We're"



Sunday, 26 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw Uppatathandi Paritta
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning News
- 7:40 am
- 4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am
- 5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 6. Health Programme

- 8:10 am
- 7. (38) Phyar Mingalar
- 8:25 am
- 8. Musical Programme
- 8:40 am
- 9. International News
- 8:45 am
- 10. Teleplay (Health)
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am
- 2. Musical Programme
- 11:20 am
- 3. Round Up Of The Week's International News
- 11:30 am
- 4. TV Drama Series
- 12:30 pm
- 5. Golf Magazine (TV)
- 12:50 pm
- 6. Myanmar Movies
- 2:40 pm
- 7. Myanmar Traditional Culture Performing Arts Competition

- 2:50 pm
- 8. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Song Of National Races
- 4:25 pm
- 3. Instrumental Music
- 4:35 pm
- 4. Myanmar Traditional Culture Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:40 pm
- 5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Public Policy)
- 4:55 pm
- 6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
- 7. Musical Programme

- 5:10 pm
- 8. One village and one Product
- 5:20 pm
- 9. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening News
- 6:15 pm
- 11. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 12. Cartoon Series
- 6:40 pm
- 13. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 7:00 pm
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. International News
- 17. Weather Report
- 18. Documentary
- 19. Cartoon Series
- 20. TV Drama Series

- ★ 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

Taking fire preventive measures, key to cut fire outbreaks

Article: Kyaw Zeyar Myint; Photo: Aye Min (Fire Services Department)



Firefighters putting out fire in Mingala Market fire outbreak in Yangon.

As a number of fire outbreaks were reported around the country on these days, I made an interview with officials at Fire Services Department (Headquarters) to inform the public of fire preventive measures and measures to be taken when fire breaks out.

Assistant Director Ye Kyaw Thu Tin Aye of the headquarters said, "It is much effectual that the media joins us in preventing fire. Oxygen, heat and fuel are required to make a fire. I want the public to know that one of those is needed to be removed to put out fire."

When asked about the dissemination of fire preventive knowledge, the assistant director explained that 91 factories in Yangon which are assigned as first priority for fire risk are under supervision of the assistant director's team and educative talks will also be given in 61 factories with second priority of fire outbreak potentials. In each markets and wards, respective auxiliary fire brigades are giving talks and demonstrating fire drills. The dangers of fire were shown on projectors in schools.

(See page 9)

Yangon Region Inter-school Cricket Competitions end

YANGON, 25 Dec — Yangon Region Inter-school Cricket Competitions concluded on 23 December, and Mingaladon No. 6 Basic Education Middle School won the first prize in the girls' open event while Mingaladon No. 5 Basic Education High School seized the first prize in the boys' open event.

The competitions was organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No. 3 Basic Education Department. The final matches and prize presentation of the competitions were held at the sports ground of Lanmadaw No. 1 BEHS.

Mingala Taungnyunt No. 3 BEHS and Ahlon No. 4 BEHS won the second and third prizes in the girls' open event. Ahlon No. 4 BEHS won the second while Dagon No. 2 BEHS and Kyauktada BEHS shared the third in the boys' open event.

The deputy director-general of No. 3 BED and the president of MCF awarded the winners.

MNA

Monsoon paddy harvested in Maubin

YANGON, 25 Dec — The harvesting ceremony was held at Yadana Win quality-strain monsoon paddy model plot of farmer U Nay Win in Tamalo village of Maleto village-tract in Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

It was attended by Township Manager U Nyi Lay Maung of Myanma Agriculture Service, Assistant Staff Officer U Myint Tun of Township Settlement and Land Records Department, officials and local farmers. The 30-acre farmland has yielded 73.26 baskets of dried paddy per acre.—MNA