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Friday, 9 December, 2011

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one 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.

ICT important for realizing a cleaner, more transparent and more effective government as it is important for national development

11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting (11th TELMIN) commences

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting (11th TELMIN) at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, this morning.

First, President U Thein Sein arrived at MICC at 9 am and received Communication Ministers of ASEAN countries including Myanmar and People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Republic of India, deputy ministers, senior officials and deputy

secretaries-general of the International Telecommunication Union-ITU and ASEAN Secretariat at the VIP Holding Room on the first floor of the MICC.

The 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Minister's Meeting (11th TELMIN) was held at MICC at 9.30 am, attended by President U Thein Sein.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Communication Ministers of ASEAN countries including Myanmar and People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Republic of India, deputy ministers, senior officials and deputy

secretaries-general of the ITU and ASEAN Secretariat, departmental heads, responsible persons of local communication companies and associations and guests.

First, Ministers of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, Korea and India, and deputy secretaries-general took the positions.

President U Thein Sein opened the meeting with the use of finger print.

Next, the National Anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ASEAN Song were played.

(See page 8)

As Myanmar's Chairmanship for ASEAN 2014 has been confirmed at the November Bali Summit, we are carrying out necessary preparations systematically. We will use ICT in all these activities. During the time of our new Government, measures are also taken to increase the spread of ICT usage to rural population.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers an address at opening ceremony of 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (11th TELMIN) at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 9 December, 2011

Trade at the forefront of economic reforms

Trade and investment are the drive for the development of a country. Only when the volume of trade and investment increase, will manufacturing industries and socio-economic status of the people follow suit.

The government is gearing up economic reforms while setting sight on trade and investment. As border trade plays a significant role in trade sector, the government focused on promotion of trade with neighbouring countries. Muse Trade Zone on China-Myanmar borderline is at the centre of border trade between the two countries as it holds the position on the main route of commodity flow. Others equally significant for the border trade are Lwejel and Kanpaiktee Trade Zones.

Myawady Trade Zone at Myanmar-Thai border has resumed its operation. It is second only to Muse Trade Zone. The reopening intends not only to revive Myanmar-Thai trade but to promote the interest of people dwelling in border areas.

Myanmar is also in the border trade with India. Kale and Tamu regions are centres of Myanmar-India border trade. Recently, Myanmar talked to India to increase in the border trade. Plans to open border trade stations in appropriate places are taking form.

The trade volume between Myanmar and Bangladesh is gradually developing. Both countries set the target for the increase to US\$ 500 million from US\$ 137 million in 2010-2011.

In shaping up market economy, the government allows tax exemption on exports for six months. Thanks to this effort, the trade has picked up.

With rapid economic reforms, the onus is on Myanmar entrepreneurs to make wise decisions for moving towards the burgeoning trade.

Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic conveyed from Maha Pasana Cave of Yangon Region to Mandalay Region



Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay pay homage to Buddha Tooth Relic at Yangon International Airport before conveyance to Mandalay Region.—MNA

YANGON, 8 Dec—A ceremony to convey Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic from the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill of Yangon Region to Mandalay Region was held at Maha Pasana Cave and Yangon International Airport this morning, attended by Patron of Yangon Region Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic Conveyance Leading Committee Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, the commander of Yangon Command and wife, the Chief Justice of the Region High Court and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay, the deputy speaker of Region Hluttaw and wife, region ministers and wives, the region advocate-general, the region auditor-general, departmental officials, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua and officials, students, social organization members and local people.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Col Tun Lwin Oo of the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of the Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department under the Ministry of Transport on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The Chairman Sayadaw and members of the Sangha consecrated the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic.

Sayadaws of China also consecrated the tooth relic. The Chief Minister and officials donated alms to members of the Sangha of Myanmar and China.

The Chief Minister donated mosaic paintings of Shwedagon Pagoda to President Master of Buddhist Association of China Chairman of the Buddha Tooth Relic Conveyance Committee Ven Chuan Yin and Religious Bureau of China through an official and the documentary photo album, photo CD and video documents to the Cultural Attaché of the Chinese Embassy.

First, celestial beings conveyed the tooth relic from Maha Pasana Cave onto decorated float.

After going round the Maha Pasana Cave, the tooth relic was conveyed to Yangon International Airport.

At the airport, Chinese members of the Sangha concentered the Buddha tooth relic.

Next, the tooth relic was conveyed on board the special aircraft by high loader.

The special aircraft carrying the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic left Yangon International Airport for Mandalay Region at 9.55 am. The Chief Minister and wife, and congregation paid obeisance to the tooth relic.—MNA

Mdy Chief Minister and wife pay homage to Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic



Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe pay homage to Buddha Tooth Relic at Mandalay International Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Patron of Mandalay Region Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic Conveyance Leading Committee Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe paid obeisance to the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic at Mandalay International Airport this morning.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Shwegyin Sangharaja Waso Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Agghiya and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay, region ministers, officials and local people.

The Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic was conveyed

from the special aircraft onto the decorated float by high loader. Chinese members of the Sangha consecrated the tooth relic. Next, the tooth relic was conveyed to Maha Atulawayyan (Atumashi) monastery and then it was kept on the Yadana throne.

Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe offered water, flowers and joss sticks to the tooth relic. State Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of the Sangha consecrated the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic. Next, Chinese members of the Sangha consecrated the tooth relic.

The Chief Minister, wife and officials donated alms to Sayadaws. The Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic will be kept at Maha Atulawayyan (Atumashi) monastery up to 23 December for public obeisance from 6 am to 9 pm daily.

MNA

Roads, bridges in under construction and maintenance

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on 3 December inspected construction of alignment between mile post No. 19/4 and 19/5 on Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Chaungnet Road.

He inspected tarmacking of the approach road on Letpanchepaw bank, preparation for opening of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), placing of asphalt concrete on the main bridge, installation of concrete floor tiles and approach road works on Pakokku bank of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Construction Project.

He viewed the detour of Pakokku by car and looked into damage of LeO creek bridge on Pakokku-Myaing Road, erosion at the shoulder of Pathein-Monywa Road and damage of Wekkhok Bridge.

The deputy minister also inspected erosion of road areas on Pathein-Monywa Road and maintenance of Chauktwinky Bridge.

MNA

Deputy Culture Minister visits State High School of Fine Arts (Yangon)

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin met the staff and students of State High School of Fine Arts (Yangon) this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were the rector, the pro-rector and officials of the University of National Culture and Fine Arts (Yangon) and principals and students of state high schools of fine arts.

The deputy minister viewed round the school building.—MNA

Twin mortars hit Baghdad's Green Zone, casualties not clear

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec—Two mortars landed at the Green Zone in war-battered Iraqi capital City of Baghdad on Thursday's dawn and casualties or damages have not been clear so far. An official of the country's interior ministry confirmed the attack, which could be heard at *Xinhua* office on the bank of the Tigris River.

The official, on condition of anonymity, said no detail could be reached at the stage. Iraqi and US authorities used to play down mortar loss which took place inside the Green Zone.

The fortified Green Zone is located in the centre of the city, accommodating key governmental offices and foreign interests including the

US embassy. Another mortar attack took place at the Green Zone last week, injuring a national parliament member. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki claimed that the attack was targeting himself. As the 31 Dec US troop withdrawal deadline is drawing near, Iraq has seen the increase of violence recently.

Xinhua



NATO supply trucks are seen at a NATO terminal in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 8 Dec, 2011. Pakistan's security forces have blocked NATO supplies to Afghanistan after a NATO air strike hit an army checkpoint in northwest Pakistan.—XINHUA

Three police killed, one in powerline sabotage

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec—Three Iraqi policemen have been killed, including one in a sabotage attack on powerlines supplying electricity from Iran, officials said on Wednesday. "The electricity supply of 400 megawatts from the Iranian City of Kermanshah to Diyala (province) has been suspended as a result of a sabotage Tuesday that destroyed four towers and cut the line," said Mussaab al-Mudares.

The electricity ministry spokesman said the attack took place in the region of Lake Hamrin, some 50 kilometres (31 miles) northeast of Baquba. The collapse of the towers killed one officer and wounded two others.

The ministry announced on Monday the establishment of a new power line of 400 megawatts between the Iranian city of Karha and Amara, 300 kilometres to the south of Baghdad.

Four lines, with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts,

now link Iran to Iraq, which suffers from severe power shortages.

In Dhuluiyah, 90 kilometres (55 miles) north of Baghdad, the town's police chief, Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Khaled, was killed by a magnetic bomb



attached to his car, said police.

The attack also wounded the town's head of security, Taleb Hamad, and two bodyguards who were in the vehicle.

In Fallujah, 60 kilometres west of Baghdad, Yasser Jumaili, captain of a police

An Iraqi man checks the many electricity wires attached to a pylon in Baghdad. An Iraqi policeman was killed and two others were wounded during a sabotage attack on powerlines in the Province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad.

INTERNET

UK troop levels in Afghanistan to drop to "hundreds" by 2014

LONDON, 8 Dec—There would only be a few hundred British soldiers left "in a training capacity" by the end of 2014, the country's deadline for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed Wednesday.

"My assessment is we are talking in hundreds and not in thousands. They will not be there in a combat role, they will be there training and mentoring and at a ministerial level in Kabul," said Hammond, who was installed only seven weeks ago after a political scandal brought down his predecessor.

But he expected Britain to make a significant financial contribution to fund

Afghan security forces.

The military spending has been cut as part of a broad budget reduction enforced by Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, as the country runs a near-record public spending deficit estimated at 127 billion pounds (about 200 billion US dollars) this year.

Hammond said details of what would be cut in the military budget over the next two years had not yet been decided, but there would be painful choices to make.

Britain's allies, especially the United States, are uneasy about the cuts, worrying that the country was getting militarily weaker.

Xinhua

Eight killed in passenger van explosion in southern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Dec—At least eight people were killed and ten others injured when a passenger van exploded on the way in Pakistan's southern City of Hyderabad Wednesday afternoon, reported local Urdu TV

channel Duniya.

Initial reports showed that it was an accident rather than a terrorist attack. Local media reports said that it was the gas cylinder containing the fuel for the van that exploded.

At least two women and two children were among the dead, said local media.

Rescue work is under way and all the injured people have been shifted to a nearby hospital.

Pakistan is an energy-hungry country. Many vehicles in the country use compressed natural gas (CNG) as alternative fuel. Though cheap in price and good for environmental

protection, such fuel when contained in cylinders often cause explosions due to poor manufacturing.

At the end of November, in Taxila, a tourist spot near the country's capital Islamabad, a CNG-powered passenger van exploded after it overturned when one of its tires blasted, causing a huge fire on the van and 14 people on board were burned to death.

Earlier this year, some 30 people in a fully packed passenger van were all burned to death following an explosion of the gas cylinder on the vehicle on the way from Islamabad to the nearby City Rawalpindi.—Xinhua



Afghans run from an explosion during a religious ceremony in Kabul City centre on Tuesday. A US citizen was one of at least 55 people killed in the blast, the US embassy in Kabul says.

INTERNET

Russia to deploy S-400s in Kaliningrad

MOSCOW, 8 Dec—A Russian military official says the country is preparing to deploy S-400 surface-to-air missiles in Kaliningrad, the western exclave that borders Poland and Lithuania, according to news reports.

The *ITAR-Tass* and *Interfax-AVN* news agencies on Wednesday cited Col Andrei Bobrun, a military spokesman, as saying the S-400s are undergoing tests in the southern Astrakhan region before deployment in Kaliningrad. He did not say when the deployment might start. S-400s are mobile-launched air-defence missiles with a range of 120-400 kilometres (75-250 miles).

The announcement comes amid rising tension between the US and Russia over Washington's plans for a missile-shield system in Europe.

Internet

Gunmen attack ambulance in Mexico, kill four people

CIUDAD JUAREZ, (Mexico), 8 Dec—Gunmen attacked an ambulance in this border city Wednesday, killing the driver, two patients and a fourth person in the vehicle, officials said.

The Chihuahua state Attorney General's Office said the ambulance driver was shot in the head and appeared to be the target of the attack. It did not provide theories about a motive.

Two of the victims were patients being taken to a Ciudad Juarez facility for kidney treatment, officials said. Also killed was a woman accompanying the patients.

Rosendo Gaytan, a spokesman for the Mexican Social Security Institute in Ciudad Juarez said a pickup truck carrying the gunmen intentionally crashed into the

ambulance, forcing it to stop. The attackers then got out of the truck and opened fire on the ambulance, Gaytan said.

Ciudad Juarez, which is across the border from El Paso, Texas, is the site of a war between the Juarez and Sinaloa drug cartels and saw some 3,100 homicides last year. Killings have gradually decreased but violence remains high.

Authorities reported six other slayings Wednesday in addition to the ambulance attack.

Elsewhere, three members of a criminal gang allied with the Zetas drug cartel have been detained in connection with the slayings of 26 people last month in the western Mexican city of Guadalajara, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Internet



Photo taken on 6 Dec, 2011 shows mechanical diggers dismantling a tottering "risky residential building" in Yuhuan County of Taizhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province. The building, delivered last January, inclined west on the afternoon of 1 Nov due to a weak pile foundation.—XINHUA

Health

Dads' depression impacts children's development: Australian study

SYDNEY, 8 Dec— Men with paternal depression can increase their children's risks of developing behavioral and social problems, according to an Australian study published on Wednesday in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

The study of more than 2600 families found children whose fathers suffered depression when they were born were three times more likely to have behavioral, emotional and social problems at age of five than those without depressed fathers.

The study leader, Richard Fletcher from Newcastle University's Family Action Centre of Australia, said the findings suggested doctors and other healthcare workers should check new dads for signs of depression so they could get treatment promptly.



"Generally, dads respond to treatment in a similar way to mums, but dads are less likely to get treatment," he said. Postnatal depression is estimated to affect about one in seven Australian mums.

The study also found 1.3 percent of dads had paternal depression when their children were born, while 2.6 percent of mothers reported postnatal depression.

Fletcher said reasons why dads with depression impacted the development of their children were unclear.

Xinhua

Prostate therapy may not up heart risk

BOSTON, 8 Dec— Hormone-blocking therapy for prostate cancer doesn't raise the risk of fatal heart attacks, as some recent studies suggest, US researchers say.

Study leader Dr Paul Nguyen and Dr Toni Choueiri of the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Centre in Boston performed a meta-analysis of randomized studies

involving 4,141 prostate cancer patients.

The analysis, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found no difference in the rate of cardiovascular deaths in men receiving androgen deprivation therapy compared with those who didn't.

The study couldn't rule out that androgen deprivation therapy might elevate the risk of fatal heart

attacks in patients with a history of heart disease. Investigators said they plan to look more closely at that population.

"This message should be reassuring for the vast majority of patients considering androgen deprivation therapy," Nguyen said in a statement. "If you need androgen deprivation therapy for your prostate cancer, go ahead and have it. Hormones can save

lives."

Androgen deprivation therapy is frequently used in combination with radiation therapy to treat men whose tumors have unfavorable characteristics or have spread beyond the gland.

Their side effects include weight gain, insulin resistance and imbalances in blood lipids like cholesterol, all of which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

Internet

Drug combo boosts breast cancer survival

SAN ANTONIO, 8 Dec— Postmenopausal women with a common type of breast cancer that thrives on estrogen survived longer when treated with a combination of two drugs rather than just one, a US study said Wednesday.

The results of the phase III trial, released at a meeting of breast cancer experts in San Antonio, Texas, show the first benefit for women with hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer in 10 years, study authors said.

Both drugs — anastrozole (Arimidex) and fulvestrant (Faslodex) — are currently used to treat breast cancer but they have typically been administered separately, not together.



Tops to prescription bottles are pictured in Clearwater, Florida in 2006.

INTERNET

The results of the randomized, controlled SWOG trial showed that the two anti-estrogen drugs given together extended the median survival time by more

than six months compared to standard treatment with anastrozole only. The study began in 2004 and included 707 postmenopausal women with metastatic hormone

receptor-positive breast cancer.

All the women took a daily oral dose of anastrozole, which works by reducing production of tumor-promoting estrogen.

About half of the women also got a 250 milligram injection of fulvestrant every 28 days.

Fulvestrant works by interfering with the receptors that allow estrogen to signal cells to grow and reproduce.

Researchers said side effects were generally similar in both groups, though the most severe side effects, including one stroke and two pulmonary embolisms, were seen in the combination group.

Internet

Chicago soybeans extend rally while corn, wheat settle lower

CHICAGO, 8 Dec — Chicago grains closed mixed on Wednesday, with soybeans further hiking while corn and wheat settling lower. Soybeans gained strength from a weaker dollar as well as drier weather forecast in South America.

The most active corn contract for March delivery closed at 5.9275 US dollars per bushel, down 3.75 US cents, or 0.6 percent. March wheat declined 12.5 cents, or two percent, to 6.005 dollars per bushel. January soybean gained 1.5 cents, or 0.13 percent, to 11.31 dollars per bushel.

Market analysts said that a drier and hot weather trend in South America for the next ten days points to stressful conditions for planting areas of Argentina and southern Brazil. The soybeans export of Brazil and Argentina were only next to that of the United States.

In contrast, both corn and wheat declined in the day with wheat even closing at the lowest level since 28 November. Analysts said that corn was pressured by a weak demand while the wheat market suffered from the idea that US wheat is still not competitive on the world market.

Xinhua

Business

App downloads top 10 billion in Android Market

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec— Google on Tuesday announced that more than 10 billion applications had been downloaded worldwide in its software store Android Market.

In a company blog post, Google said Android Market reached the milestone with a growth rate of one billion app downloads per month after app downloads hit 6 billion in July.



Partnering with some Android developers, Google also unveiled a ten-day celebration with a selection of apps for only 10 cents each day since Tuesday. "We can't wait to see where this accelerating growth takes us in 2012," said Eric Chu, director of Android developer ecosystem, in the blog. Google has been gearing up to close the gap with Apple in the mobile market.

Thanks to the broader availability of smartphones and tablets running Android, the software's mobile market share is expected to be twice as Apple's iOS in 2011, according to data from several research companies. In July, Apple said app downloads had surpassed 15 billion in its App Store.

Xinhua



A worker leaves the AstraZeneca research facility in Loughborough, on 2 March, 2010.—INTERNET

AstraZeneca slashes 1,150 US sales jobs

LONDON, 8 Dec— AstraZeneca is cutting nearly a quarter of its US sales force in a second wave of redundancies in as many months as it seeks to reduce costs. Britain's second biggest drugmaker said on Wednesday it would cut about 1,150 sales representative and management jobs at a cost of between \$50 million and \$100 million, charged in the fourth quarter.

Rich Fante, president of AstraZeneca US, said it was a difficult decision to make the reductions, which represent 24 percent of the US sales organization and come on top of 400 job US losses announced in October.

"The changes we are making, however, will help us deliver better results for our business and, most importantly, continue delivering on our mission of patient health," he said.

Since restructuring costs are not included in the company's core earnings measure, the cost of the cuts will not have any impact on its guidance for core earnings per share for 2011.

The impact of the latest US changes will vary by geography and selling teams and a company spokeswoman said AstraZeneca was looking to make greater use of alternative methods for promoting its medicines, such as online tools.—Reuters

Business

Adobe Photoshop Touch for Android app review



Adobe's Photoshop Touch app offers powerful image manipulation on an Android tablet.

INTERNET

LONDON, 8 Dec—The release of Adobe's suite of tablet applications for Android has been a long time coming — but it was well worth the wait and Photoshop Touch leads the pack, says Matt Warman. Adobe's six Android tablet reviews all have much to recommend them, but it's Photoshop Touch that is the star of the show. Although it will never replace a full, desktop version of Photoshop this £6.99 app will allow you to manipulate photographs more effectively than ever before, and significantly more intuitively than on many other rivals.

The number of features and editing techniques is helpfully complemented by a range of tutorials, lasting about 45 minutes in total — the most useful things allow users to edit layers of images, merge photos and add multiple effects. Only some of this is novel, but it's Adobe's implementation that makes Photoshop Touch so impressive. The touchscreen interface is easily used with both precision and speed. So tools can be selected simply, but then used with ease. Features such as only making tool names visible when you touch them is a handy way of

Technology

saving vital space, too.

Tested on a Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1, the only fault is, in some cases, a need for greater horsepower, but that will improve with future technological improvements. You can't download any new fonts, which some users may find frustrating, although that's a very small complaint.

Elsewhere within the suite, Collage is an intuitive programme to create mash-ups of digital content, from pictures to YouTube clips, that really does bring an element of Minority Report to the manipulation images; Debut opens Adobe files on tablets; Ideas is excellent for drawing; Kuler generates useful colour palettes and themes; Proto is aimed at website and app developers — but it's Photoshop Touch that is the real highlight.—*Internet*

Soon, 0.3mm 'bendy screened' mobile with close to reality 3D

LONDON, 8 Dec—The new video for Samsung mobiles shows off a truly out-there technology, a "tablet of the future", that offers instant translation, video, and a level of 3D beyond anything yet available.

According to the Korean company, it will start to ship "bendy screened" gadgets in the first half of 2012, with the first "flexible" gizmos on the market certain to be mobile phones, the *Daily Mail* reported.

This is where it all starts to get a little far-fetched, the 0.3mm screen seems to be able to "throw" a holographic 3D image so solid it looks like one could touch it. Glasses-free 3D does exist, but it doesn't look like this.

While Samsung's video demo might be "concept technology", factories in the Far East are already working on "real" versions, flexible phones that will hit the market in early 2012.

Layers of "Graphene", atom-thick layers of carbon, will be used to create paper-thin "foldable" screens in the Samsung Galaxy Skin.

Internet

Tata Communications launches mobile broadband solutions

MUMBAI, 8 Dec—Tata Communications, a leading provider of communication network, today launched its mobile broadband enablement framework. Nearly, 70 mobile network operators (MNOs) have signed up for the new framework, which is designed to help capitalise on the latest technology innovations in the mobile broadband space via better interprovider mobile service delivery and management a company release said.

With mobile data volume growing nearly threefold annually, and close to 50 percent of that predicted to come from mobile video, the demands on mobile broadband solutions and services are set to increase

dramatically. Tata Communications' new framework provides a converged interconnect platform, enabling end-to-end management across mobile networks for the delivery of multiple services over IP. With the IPX+ framework, MNOs can support mobile applications with greater efficiency through a consolidated network that has optimised utilisation, simplified interconnect arrangements, and managed solutions.

The framework also brings the benefits of faster time-to-new-services and leverages a smart and flexible infrastructure, the release added.—*Internet*

TATA COMMUNICATIONS



TATA Communications.—INTERNET

Last total lunar eclipse for 3 years due Saturday

CAPE CANAVERAL, 8 Dec—The last total lunar eclipse of the year is Saturday. And there won't be another one for three years.

Viewers in the western half of the United States will have the best views Saturday well before dawn. The farther west the better.

The scene from the Pacific — Australia and parts of Asia — will be prime. The action will be unfolding there Saturday night, local time.

This is the second total lunar eclipse this year, when the entire moon is in Earth's darkest shadow and will appear red. The first was in June. That's it now until 2014. Until then, stargazers will have to settle for partial eclipses.—*Internet*



The moon turns red during a total lunar eclipse as seen in Srinagar, India, early Thursday, on 16 June, 2011. The total lunar eclipse was also visible in most parts of Asia.—INTERNET



In this file photo, bedbugs are seen next to the tip of a finger in a container from the lab at the National Pest Management Association, during the National Bed Bug Summit in Washington. INTERNET

Research: Bedbugs can thrive despite inbreeding

PITTSBURGH, 8 Dec—Bedbugs aren't just sleeping with you. They're sleeping with each other. Researchers now say that the creepy bugs have a special genetic gift: withstanding incest. It turns out that unlike most creatures, bedbugs are able to inbreed with close relatives and still produce generally healthy offspring. That means that if just a few bedbugs survive in a building after treatment, they repopulate quickly.

Coby Schal and Ed Vargo are entomologists at North Carolina State University, and they presented preliminary research on genetic diversity in bedbug populations on Tuesday in Philadelphia, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Schal said that was a surprise, since an animal or insect population with limited diversity will usually build up and then crash, because genetic defects tend to magnify with inbreeding. "But somehow bedbugs are able to withstand the effects of inbreeding, and do quite well," he said. The researchers also found that while the community within a building tends to be similar, there are many different strains of bedbugs throughout the East Coast, suggesting that new colonies also get introduced through foreign travel or commerce.

Bedbugs — and other insects — develop resistance to insecticides. Schal said that if a treatment kills anything less than 100 percent of the bugs, the survivors will not only repopulate, but pass on the resistance they've developed to future generations.—*Internet*

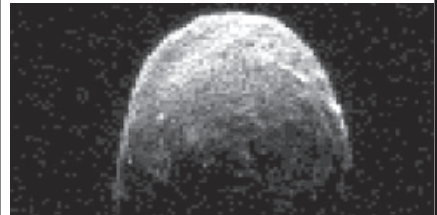
Science

NASA catalogs thousands of asteroids near Earth

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec—About 1,000 asteroids big enough to cause catastrophic damage if they hit Earth are orbiting relatively nearby, a NASA survey shows. In a project known as Spaceguard, the US space agency was ordered by Congress in 1998 to find 90 percent of objects near Earth that are 1 km (0.62 of a mile) in diameter or larger.

The survey is now complete, with 93 percent of the objects accounted for, astronomer Amy Mainzer of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco on Tuesday. Using NASA's recently retired Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) telescope, scientists also found about 20,500 smaller asteroids near Earth. Previous studies estimated there were 36,000 to 100,000 of these objects, which have a diameter of about 100 metres (110 yards).

An asteroid or comet between 5 and 10 km (3.1 and 6.2 miles) in diameter is believed to have smashed into Earth some 65 million years ago, triggering global climate changes that led to the extinction of dinosaurs and other animals.—*Reuters*



This NASA radar image showing asteroid 2005 YU55 was obtained on 7 November, 2011, at 11:45 am PST (2:45 pm EST/1945 UTC), when the space rock was at 3.6 lunar distances, which is about 860,000 miles, or 1.38 million kilometres, from Earth.—INTERNET

Underworld to mastermind opening ceremony music



Karl Hyde of Underworld performs on stage in Jersey City, New Jersey, 2008. Dance act Underworld has been chosen to produce all the music for the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony, Games organizers announced Wednesday.—INTERNET

LONDON, 8 Dec—Dance act Underworld has been chosen to produce all the music for the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony, Games organizers announced Wednesday.

The duo—vocalist Karl Hyde and keyboard player

Rick Smith—will team up again with Oscar-winning film director Danny Boyle, who is the showpiece ceremony's artistic director.

Underworld's hit "Born Slippy" featured in Boyle's 1996 cult film "Trainspotting" about a group of heroin

addicts in Edinburgh.

They also provided music for Boyle's films "The Beach" (2000), starring Leonardo DiCaprio, and "A Life Less Ordinary" (1997).

Electronic group Underworld will mastermind all the music in the three-hour ceremony on 27 July in the 80,000-seater Olympic Stadium in Stratford.

"We want to leave people with a musical memory of the show rather than a purely visual one," Hyde said. "It's a great honour to be asked to do this and one we're taking

very seriously," Boyle added: "Appointing Underworld to direct the music in the Olympic opening ceremony is the final piece of the jigsaw for the team of leading British creatives who will deliver the ceremonies."

"What's interesting about working with them is how much broader their taste is than you might imagine."

Around 20,000 performers are set to take part in the four events, which are expected to net billions in advertising revenue.

Internet



US President Barack Obama speaks during a Press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, next to the White House in Washington DC, the United States, on 7 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Obama defends delay in approving US-Canada pipeline

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec—US President Barack Obama on Wednesday defended the government's move to delay the approval process of a proposed oil pipeline between Canada and the United States.

Appearing at a joint press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper after their meeting at the White House, Obama said it is important for the US to examine the project "rigorously," and the project's environmental impact must be "properly understood."

US State Department last month delayed potential approval of the Keystone XL pipeline until 2013, falling after the presidential election due to intense opposition from environmentalists as well as public officials in the United States.

The 7-billion-US-dollar pipeline proposed by TransCanada, an energy giant based in Canada, would run 1,700 miles (2,720 km) to connect Canada's oil sands to refineries around Houston and the Gulf of Mexico.

"We've seen Democrats and Republicans express concerns about it. And it is my job as president of the United States to make sure that a process is followed that examines all the options," said Obama.—Xinhua

Technicians work at the newly-built 110-kV Intelligent Substation in Tongxiang City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 7 Dec, 2011. It is the first 110 kV intelligent substation in operation in Zhejiang Province.
XINHUA



Putin officially submits application to run for presidency

MOSCOW, 8 Dec—Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Wednesday officially submitted the paperwork required to register as a candidate in Russia's 4 March presidential election.

The documents included an official nomination from the ruling United Russia party, which chose Putin, the party's leader, as its presidential candidate in its November congress.

According to electoral laws, the Central Elections Commission (CEC) will check the papers and make a formal decision in the next five days about Putin's eligibility.

After gaining the CEC's approval, Putin will be allowed to open a special bank account to fund his campaign.

Putin, who stepped down in 2008 after two consecutive presidential terms, announced in September that he would seek the presidency again in 2012.—Xinhua



Contestants take part in the competition of "Names & Faces" during the 20th World Memory Championships in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 7 Dec, 2011. The World Memory Championships is among the highest level of competitions in the mental sport fields. The competition will last three days from 7 Dec, with 10 events including "Abstract Images", "Binary Number" and "Speed Numbers".—XINHUA

5.0-magnitude quake hits near the east coast of Honshu, Japan

HONG KONG, 8 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted near the east coast of Honshu, Japan at 22:11:42 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 40.20 km, was initially determined to be at 36.3035 degrees north latitude and 141.1421 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

6.1-magnitude quake hits Atacama, Chile

BEIJING, 8 Dec—An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted Atacama, Chile at 22:23:09 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 15.60 km, was initially determined to be at 27.8835 degrees south latitude and 70.9322 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua

Five killed in tour helicopter crash near Lake Mead

LAS VEGAS, 8 Dec—A helicopter taking people on a luxury sunset tour of the Las Vegas Strip and Hoover Dam crashed into a mountainside Wednesday, killing the pilot and the four passengers on board, federal authorities said.

The aircraft operated by Sundance Helicopters collided into the River Mountains surrounding Lake Mead just before 5 pm, said National Park Service spokesman Andrew Munoz. Numerous witnesses heard the crash and reported seeing smoke about 4 miles west of the lake's edge, Munoz said, and officials determined that all five people on board were killed.

The remote crash site, about 30 miles from the Las Vegas Strip, is not accessible by road, which slowed down the initial rescue and later prompted officials to delay any recovery and investigation until early Thursday morning.

A park ranger rode in a 4-wheel-drive truck to the crash site late Wednesday to protect the bodies and debris until the investigation resumes, Munoz said.—Internet

Flash flooding hits Australia's southern Queensland town

BRISBANE, (Australia), 8 Dec—Flash flooding has inundated several businesses in the town of Roma in Australia's southern Queensland, local media reported on Thursday.

Heavy rain caused flash flooding in Roma on Wednesday night, inundating at least three shops in the town center, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Queensland State Emergency Service regional director Bob Bundy said the town was in clean-up mode. "The floodwaters are receding in the Roma area," Bundy told the ABC.

"There was some inundation of some of the businesses in the main street but that was all sort of over and done with in a very short

period."

Meanwhile, the town of St George, near Roma, is bracing for major flooding to hit some time across the weekend.

"The major flood level is six metres and we're predicting it to reach seven and a half metres next week," Bureau of Meteorology flood forecaster Jess Carey said.

He said roads near the town area could be cut at that level. Flood warnings remain in place for Bungil Creek and the Balonne and Maranoa rivers in the Darling Downs District in southern Queensland, and for the Flinders River in north-west Queensland and the Weir River in south-east Queensland as authorities are continuing to monitor the flood levels in the areas.

Xinhua



Shocking moments of nuclear explosion in computer-generated images.—INTERNET

Top Italian mob boss nabbed in hometown bunker

ROME, 8 Dec—Police on Wednesday captured one of Italy's most-wanted fugitive mobsters, arresting the last major boss of one of Italy's bloodiest mafia clans.

Michele Zagaria, on the run since 1995, was found in an underground bunker in Casapesenna, in his hometown Province of Caserta in southern Italy, the headquarters of the Casalesi clan of the Neapolitan Camorra.

Anti-mafia prosecutor

Piero Grasso said it was likely Zagaria had spent his years as a fugitive nearby since mob bosses "can only exercise their power if they're in an environment that protects them." "This was the nightmare: We knew he was there, but it was tough to find him, tough to get him out," he told Sky TG24. "Finally we did."

Police had located the bunker some time ago and were digging around it. Zagaria was watching their

progress on closed-circuit TVs and gave up without a fight after police cut off the electricity that was pumping fresh air into the bunker, news reports said. "The government won," he told police, the ANSA news agency reported. "It's over."

Investigators contend the Casalesi family runs a lucrative illegal business in transporting and disposing of toxic waste, a murky world explored in the book and film "Gomorra." Other money-makers for the crime clan are rackets, extortion, drug trafficking, smuggling of illegal migrants and arms.

Internet



Italian policemen escort fugitive mobster Michele Zagaria, centre, at the police headquarters in Naples, Southern Italy, on 7 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET



Rescue workers inspect the debris after a shipwreck in the Caribbean Sea near Matancita beach in the municipality of Nagua, Dominican Republic, on 4 Dec, 2011. The Dominican Navy said that at least three people died, 80 were rescued and 30 are still missing, after a boat crashed against a cliff.

XINHUA

Borneo pygmy elephant fatally gores Aussie tourist

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Dec—A pygmy elephant fatally gored an Australian tourist in a remote Malaysian wildlife reserve on Borneo island, an official said Thursday.

Jenna O'Grady Donley died of injuries from the attack Wednesday at the Tabin Wildlife Reserve — the first known fatal incident of its kind in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state, said state wildlife department director Laurentius Ambu.

The wild male elephant had been roaming alone around a mud volcano when Donley, a friend and their Malaysian guide saw it while trekking near their resort, Ambu told *The Associated Press*.

Donley, 25, a veterinarian, is believed to have gone within 10 meters (30 feet) of the animal, which might have charged at her because it was alarmed by the unfamiliar humans, Ambu said.

Rangers have not seen

the elephant, but plan to drive it back into the forest, Ambu said.

Borneo pygmy elephants are considered endangered, with about 2,000 left in Sabah State.

The elephant that attacked Donley is believed to be a near-adult about six feet (two metres) tall.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

said the victim was from New South Wales.

An embassy official was to arrive in Borneo on Thursday to provide consular assistance, the department said. The Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur did not immediately respond to questions about its plans.

Elephant attacks occur occasionally in Sabah,

usually if the animals are disturbed, Ambu said, adding that it was the first incident of its kind at the Tabin reserve.

He said people should remain at least 160 feet (50 metres) away from wild elephants.

Elephants in the wildlife reserve are currently in a migration season, traveling to different locations in search of food.—Internet



In this 21 June, 2005 file photo, a pygmy elephant crosses a road in Taliwas forest in Malaysia's Sabah State on Borneo Island. A pygmy elephant fatally gored an Australian tourist in Malaysia's Tabin Wildlife Reserve on Borneo island, an official said on 8 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Grounded cargo ship still leaking oil on New Zealand beaches

WELLINGTON, 8 Dec—The New Zealand shipping authorities admitted Thursday that a "reasonably significant amount" of oil remains on a grounded cargo ship and it is still leaking more than two months after the accident.

Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) officials said the operation to remove cargo containers from the Liberian-flagged *Rena* had made no progress since 29 Nov because of bad weather, which was also causing more heavy fuel oil to leak and wash ashore.

MNZ salvage unit manager Arthur Jobard said in a statement that salvors had installed patches in the corridors of the wreck to enhance buoyancy of the vessel,

which ran aground on the Astrolabe Reef, about 12 nautical miles off the east of the North Island, on 5 Oct.

"Safety remains the number one priority and salvage operations will only be undertaken when it is safe to do so," said Jobard.

MNZ national on-scene commander Mick Courtneil said in the statement that variable winds and high swells had caused further oil leaks.

"This has resulted in some sticky tar balls coming ashore, and we have had a number of reports from members of the public," said Courtneil.

Xinhua



In this photo provided by Alaska State Troopers, fire fighters battle a blaze at a gas station convenience store near Alaska's Denali National Park that injured several people, including three who were hospitalized, on Sunday, on 4 Dec, 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

INTERNET

Citigroup lays off about 40 staff in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 8 Dec—Citigroup Singapore has laid off about 40 staff in Singapore in recent weeks, local daily *Straits Times* reported on Thursday.

The job cuts, which included senior positions, came as the American bank announced on Wednesday that it would cut 4,500 jobs globally. A spokesman for the company confirmed that there have been layoffs.

"Although there have been a few departures resulting from the review of our business, our total workforce remains stable as we continue to hire as and when needed," he said. "Citi remains committed to investing in and expanding our business in key markets

like Singapore." Citigroup said it has set aside some 400 million US dollars for the severance and other costs related to the job cuts globally.

The cuts in Singapore are believed to have come selectively across its investment bank, markets team and private bank. Citigroup has a significant presence in Singapore and has increased its headcount from 8,000 at the end of 2008 to about 10,000 now.

It is one of the largest bank employers in Singapore with operations spanning consumer banking, corporate banking, investment banking and private wealth management.—Xinhua

Brazil: Amazon destruction at lowest level

SAO PAULO, 8 Dec—Amazon destruction of the rain forest fell to its lowest recorded level this year, Brazilian authorities said Monday, hailing an enforcement crackdown for the drop. The destruction between August 2010 through July 2011 was about 2,410 square miles (6,240 square kilometres), according to the National Institute for Space Research.

That's an area about the size of the US state of Delaware. The institute has tracked Amazon destruction since 1988 by analyzing

satellite images.

The destruction peaked in 1995, when 11,220 square miles (29,060 square kilometres) were destroyed.

Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira said the government's fast action to reduce deforestation and carbon emissions led to the drop. "We'll continue with determination to reduce the illegal deforestation in the Amazon," she told a news conference in the capital of Brasilia. Brazil's government has stepped up enforcement of environmental laws in recent years, mostly by sending armed

environmental agents into the jungle to carrying out large raids on deforestation hotspots. The announcement of the drop comes as Brazil's Senate prepares to vote this week on changes to the nation's benchmark environmental laws that would loosen restrictions on how small farmers use their land in the Amazon.

Environmentalists fear the bill would bring increased deforestation and warn the current drop is likely due less to the government's crackdown and more to the global economic downturn.

Internet



Pakistani rangers take part in an anti-terror drill in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 4 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

ICT important for realizing a cleaner, more transparent...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein delivered an address. He said:

Excellency ICT Ministers and Deputy Ministers from ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partner countries, TELMIN and TELSOM delegates, invited guests, I would like to wish you all a very good morning on this opening ceremony of the 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting.

I am also very glad to meet Telecommunications and Information Technology ministers and senior officials from ASEAN and Dialogue Partners countries all gathered here in Nay Pyi Taw.

Today, the rate of use of Information and Communication Technology in the entire world is increasing exponentially. Just like the rest of the world, we have seen similar increase in ICT sector in ASEAN as well. In order to ensure continued growth of ICT sectors, ASEAN Ministers responsible for ICT had charted and endorsed ASEAN ICT Masterplan.

It is also my pleasure to note that ASEAN cooperation in ICT sector has passed over a decade. And today, besides the ten ASEAN Member states, China, Japan, Korea, India and European Union as our dialogue partners are cooperating for the ICT sector development in the region. I would like to urge all delegates to look for good measures for long term cooperation in accordance with the ASEAN visions of co-prosperity and peaceful coexistence.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein greets those present at opening ceremony of 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting (11th TELMIN) at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

istence.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a country with population about 60 million and an area of 650,000 square kilometer. Today our government is expanding basic infrastructure including ICT for national development.

The government is also establishing more transparent and visible democratic system as well as implementing market economic system for our country.

In the time of our new Government which was formed with representatives elected by the people after the 2010 November election, all the activities related to rural area development and poverty reduction are being implemented in a form of cooperation between the government and the people.

Moreover, the Hluttaws (Houses of Representatives) and the government are coordinating continuously for the socio-economic development of the nation and its citizens.

As Myanmar's Chairmanship for ASEAN 2014 has been confirmed at the November Bali Summit, we are carrying out necessary preparations systematically. We will use ICT in all these activities.

During the time of our new Government, measures are also taken to increase the spread of ICT usage to rural population.

ICT is important for realizing a cleaner, more transparent and more effective government as it is important for national development. Similarly, to empower business

operate faster and penetrate into global economy, we will need to implement e-commerce activities such as e-banking. I

would like to urge all the delegates here to include in your deliberation how ICT can help in realizing this aim of uniform

development in the region when ASEAN becomes a single community.

(See page 9)

Besides the ten ASEAN Member states, China, Japan, Korea, India and European Union as our dialogue partners are cooperating for the ICT sector development in the region. I would like to urge all delegates to look for good measures for long term cooperation in accordance with the ASEAN visions of co-prosperity and peaceful coexistence.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Telecommunications ministers, deputy ministers, high-level officials from ASEAN-member countries, China, Japan, Korea and India, Deputy Secretaries-General of ITU and ASEAN Secretariat.—MNA

ICT important for realizing a cleaner, more transparent...

(from page 8)

There will be much to discuss and deliberate to make ASEAN more developed and more integrated and to make "ICT: Engine for Growth in ASEAN". At the same time, delegates can also study the construction activities of our new capital, enjoy the hospitality of Myanmar people, and enjoy beauties of the surrounding.

With a wish that you will reach useful decisions that will benefit the whole ASEAN region, and that will improve the livelihoods of all of our citizens including the social-economic standards, I would like to conclude my opening address.

Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun and current Chairman of the ASEAN ICT Malaysian Minister for Information Communications Dr Rais Yatim delivered addresses.

Artists of the Culture Ministry presented traditional cultural songs with



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein launches 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting.

MNA

dances.

Next, President U Thein Sein, Union Minister U Thein Tun and guest ministers posed for documentary photo.

Union Minister U Thein

Tun and current Chairman of the ASEAN ICT Malaysian Minister of Communications, Information and Culture Dr Rais Yatim presented a commemorative painting to President U

Thein Sein.

After the opening ceremony, the President cordially greeted the guest ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials.

MNA



Malaysian Minister for Information Communications Dr Rais Yatim addresses 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting (11th TELMIN).—MNA

11th ASEAN Telecommunications & Information Technology Ministers Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—The 11th ASEAN Telecommunications & Information Technology Ministers' Meeting-TELMIN took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning. It was attended by communications and IT ministers from ASEAN countries.

Former meeting chairman Minister for Information Communications Dr Rais Yatim of Malaysia delivered an opening speech.

Next, the meeting chose Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Myanmar U Thein Tun as Chairman and Executive Director Mr Louis Napoleon of Information & Communications Technology Office of the Philippines as Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Union Minister U Thein Tun explained the purpose of holding the meeting.

At the meeting, matters related to ATRC,

TELSOM report and other ASEAN ICT cooperation, ASEAN Summit, AEC Council, ASEAN ICT projects to be implemented during the project period in 2011, projects to be implemented according to ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 and projects to be implemented according to ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan were discussed.

The joint statement of the 11th TELMIN and Nay Pyi Taw TELMIN titled

ICT: Engine for Growth in ASEAN were discussed and approved.

In the evening, the ASEAN ministers met Deputy Secretary-General of ITU and they discussed on ICT cooperation.

Then, Union Minister U Thein Tun hosted a special dinner to the participants at MICC.

The meeting between TELMIN and partner countries continues tomorrow. —MNA

Formation of political party allowed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Union Election Commission allowed the formation of 88-Public Force Party, made up of 19 members including U Nyunt Oo, as its application for registration as political party was found to be in accord with the laws and rules today as the UEC is scrutinizing applications for registrations and allowing formation of political parties.

MNA



Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun addresses opening ceremony of 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting (11th TELMIN) at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

Union A&I Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Head of Office of Department for International Development Mr Paul Whittingham, LIFT

Director of UNOPS Mr Andrew, LIFT Independent Consultant Mr Mike Wales and party at the ministry here yesterday afternoon. They exchange views on investment in agricultural development.

They discussed matters related to cooperation in rural development and poverty alleviation tasks being implemented by the State and helping farmers generate more income.—MNA

Union F&R Minister receives May Bank chairman and CEO of Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Chairman and CEO of May Bank of Malaysia Mr Dato Sri Abdul Wahid Omar and party at the ministry here this

morning. They discussed matters related to progress of banking industry in Myanmar, investment and monetary matters, cooperation in banking and monetary sectors and

economic development prospects. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Win Than, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials concerned.—MNA

I&P Ministry opens refresher course for township staff officers

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi addressed opening ceremony of refresher course (1/2011) for township staff officer of Immigration and National Registration Department at the department office of Yangon Region on 5 December.

The Union minister explained the purpose of the training that it aimed to improve capacity of township staff officers who have to deal directly with the public. He also highlighted the need to discharge duties in realizing objectives of the department, applying experiences and lessons

learnt in the course. The six-week course is being attended by 40 townships staff officers from Regions and States. The Union minister inspected dining room, lecture room and dormitory on arrival at training hall in Kyauktada Township. MNA

Korea Communication Commissions hands over cameras and other equipment concerning TV broadcasting to MRTV



Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win meets standing commission member Mr Yong Sup Shin of Korea Communication Commissions at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— With the aim of promoting friendly ties between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, the Korea Communication Commissions handed over cameras and other equipment concerning TV broadcasting to Myanmar Radio and Television at Delegates Listening Room of Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, at 11 am today. At VIP Holding Room of MICC, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win received standing

commission member Mr Yong Sup Shin of Korea Communication Commissions. They cordially discussed cooperation and friendly relations between Myanmar and Korea, further cooperation in the media sector between the two countries, development of human resources and technological improvement. Next, standing commission member Mr Yong Sup Shin of Korea Communication Commissions explained the purpose of handing over the materials and cooperation in

information sector of Myanmar. Deputy Minister U Soe Win thanked him for handing over of equipment to Myanmar and demanded further promotion of cooperation in technology and other sectors for development of TV and information matters between the two countries. Mr Yong Sup Shin handed over scale model of the equipment to the deputy minister who gave gifts to him. Later, they had documentary photo taken. MNA



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife being welcomed by Singaporean Ambassador to Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert at the reception to mark 45th founding anniversary of Singapore-Myanmar diplomatic relations at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon on 8 December.—MNA

Union Commerce Minister inspects SMEs and construction of Industrial Zone in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min viewed production of value-added purple-smudged stone, a local produce, at U Ye Win's house in Myawady on 5 December. They left instructions for selling the products in international markets and

displaying in international exhibitions. The stones which are found in Kayin State are used in making jewellery. They also visited 40-acre quality rubber plantation of U Khun Win Naung in Thamanya village in Hpa-an Township. U Khun Win Naung reported the need for technologies for production of quality rubber.

The Union minister and the chief minister discussed production of quality rubber, exporting rubber and providing technical assistances. They also inspected site chosen for construction of Industrial Zone in Hpa-an and Mayanchaung Commodity Inspection Station. MNA

Ayeyawady Region Government coordinates with departments

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung yesterday attended the coordination meeting between Ayeyawady Region Government and Region level departmental officials at Ayeya Shwewah Hall in Pathien. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that as

eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation are being undertaken in the region, departmental organizations are to strive for achieving success in their respective sectors; the departments included in the region budget are to levy tax and revenues for reaching the target; officials are to supervise

spending of funds without loss and wastage in line with the financial rules and regulations; the Region government will take deterrent action against the activities that undermine the prevalence of law and order; and all the departments are to join hands with the region government for all round development tasks of the region.—MNA

Paper-reading session of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference was held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— The paper-reading session of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference was held at the hall of the Ministry of Health, here, this morning, with an address by Director-General

of Traditional Medicine Department Prof Dr Aung Myint. Resource persons submitted papers to the session, and participants took part in the discussions. Director-General Dr

Aung Myint reviewed the research papers before closing the paper-reading session and the 12th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference. MNA

Selected volleyball players join Thai club

YANGON, 8 Dec— Two Myanmar selected volleyball players left here by air for Thailand yesterday evening. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, General Secretary of Myanmar Volleyball

Federation U Nyi Nyi Lwin and executives. Kyaw Kyaw Htwe (No. 2) and Aung Thu (No. 11) joined the Air Force Club of Thailand to take part in the Thailand League 2012 with US\$ 800 each as salary, during the period from 1 December 2011 to April

2012. Thailand Air Force Club will participate in the Vietnam League to be held in Vietnam. So, the club may meet with the Vietnam League clubs at which three Myanmar selected players are playing volleyball. MNA

India auto sales up in November

MUMBAI, 8 Dec—New car sales in India rose seven percent year-on-year in November, recovering from their worst slump in a decade the previous month, an industry body said on Thursday.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said that domestic passenger car sales increased to 171,131 last month, up from 159,939 in the same period in 2010.

Car sales had been slowing in India mainly due to high borrowing costs, hitting one of the world's fastest-growing auto sectors, which has attracted interest from major global players.

Between the start of the financial year on 1 April and the end of November total sales of passenger cars were down 3.5 percent at 1,219,509, compared with 1,264,142 in the same period last year, according to SIAM data.—*Internet*



An Indian man walks past an automobile advertisement near the airport in Mumbai in November 2011. New car sales in India rose seven percent year-on-year in November, recovering from their worst slump in a decade the previous month, an industry body said on Thursday.—INTERNET



London's main shares ended lower on Wednesday as pessimism set in that the upcoming EU summit would not deliver a significant breakthrough on the eurozone debt crisis.—INTERNET

FTSE closes lower before crunch EU summit

LONDON, 8 Dec—London's main shares ended lower on Wednesday as pessimism set in that the upcoming EU summit would not deliver a significant breakthrough on the eurozone debt crisis. The FTSE 100 index slid 0.39 percent to close at 5,546.91 points.

Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) was the most traded stock, seeing 194 million shares change hands, followed by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), which saw 109 million units switch owners. Jersey-based gold-mining group Randgold Resources led the gainers, closing up 3.5 percent — or 235 pence — at 6,945, followed by multinational agribusiness Tate and Lyle, which saw shares

end 2.24 percent — or 15 pence — higher at 685. Interdealer broker Icap led the fallers, shedding 4.39 percent — or 16.1 pence — to end at 350.4, followed by motor insurance firm Admiral Group, which closed 3.93 percent — or 35 pence — lower at 855.5.

On the currency markets, sterling stood at 1.5703 dollars at 17:07 GMT, sharply up from 1.5580 at the same time on Tuesday, while it reached 1.1722 euros, up from 1.1633 over the same period.

Thursday's EU talks in Brussels, set to begin at 1830 GMT before continuing into Friday, are seen as pivotal to the euro's future.—*Internet*

Indonesia's mobile phone shipments jump 68 pct in Q3

JAKARTA, 8 Dec—A recent report issued by the International Data Corporation said that mobile phone shipments in Indonesia experienced significant growth in the third quarter this year, local media reported on Thursday.

IDC's Asia/Pacific Quarterly Mobile report showed that Indonesia's phone shipments surpassed 12 million units in the third quarter, greater than the 10 million shipments made in the second quarter. The third quarter growth represented a year-over-year growth of 68 percent.

This high level of growth was attributed to the high volume of shipments of low-end mobile phones, particularly the ones with dual SIMs. Additionally, the Idul Fitri season saw an increase in spending on consumer goods.

"Continuous improvements made in the distribution channels outside Jakarta and Java Island are creating better opportunities for vendors to meet targets through sales of

low-cost handsets," Fajar Hidayat, market analyst for Telecommunications Research at IDC Indonesia said. Price wars between operators offering promotional tariffs and bonuses have also contributed to the growth in mobile phone purchases by consumers.

The third quarter shipments were dominated by feature phones.

However, smart phones maintained a positive growth trend at 5 percent quarterly and contributed 11 percent to the total of mobile phone shipments, the *Jakarta Globe* reported.

The IDC is expecting the Indonesian smartphone market to grow by 68 percent in 2012 due to the introduction of several lower-priced smart phones. "Despite the inroads made by local vendors, smartphone sales in Indonesia are still led by international brands," Hidayat added.

Xinhua



Qatari Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier "Duhail," seen here passing through the Suez Canal near the Egyptian port City of Ismailia. Qatar has made a fortune on liquefied natural gas exports along with heavyweights ExxonMobil, Shell and Total, but the emirate is now setting its sights on diversifying investments by converting gas fuels.—INTERNET

Banks urged to rein in excessive bonuses

LONDON, 8 Dec—Banks, including those bailed out at the height of the 2008 financial crisis, are under intense pressure to curb annual bonuses in light of the worsening economic climate.

The so-called bonus season for workers in the City traditionally sees traders and banks' senior executives handed bumper pay awards — sometimes running into millions of pounds.

But amid a worsening economic outlook for the country, as well as the eurozone, United States and China, calls for bonus restraint when the majority of awards are paid in January are rising fast.

"We need stronger banks not larger bonuses this winter," Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne told parliament on Tuesday.

Osborne's words come as activists from the Occupy London anti-capitalist group continue to camp outside St Paul's Cathedral, close to the London Stock Exchange, almost two months after

starting a protest.

And earlier this week, the Association of British Insurers (ABI) sent letters to Britain's listed banks, including Barclays and HSBC, to express its "continuing concern with remuneration across the banking sector."

The ABI, representing major investors in the banks, wrote: "In conclusion, it is our members' view that it can no longer be business as usual for this remuneration round.

"They expect to see significantly lower bonus pools and individual awards given the current market

circumstances. It is essential that all banks take, and are seen to take, a responsible approach."

Bank of England Governor Mervyn King has meanwhile urged banks to cut bonuses and shareholder dividends before building up their cash reserves.—*Internet*



City workers are seen here at London's Canary Wharf. Britain's banks, including those bailed out at the height of the 2008 financial crisis, are under intense pressure to curb annual bonuses in light of the worsening economic climate.—INTERNET

Gas champion Qatar to diversify investments

DOHA, 8 Dec—Qatar has made a fortune on liquefied natural gas exports along with heavyweights ExxonMobil, Shell and Total, but the emirate is now setting its sights on diversifying investments by converting gas fuels.

State-owned Qatar Petroleum and Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell aim to complete in 2012 the Pearl gas-to-liquids (GTL) plant at Ras Laffan Industrial City, north of the Capital Doha. The plant — the world's largest facility of its kind which has taken up to 52,000 people to build — delivered its first cargo of synthetic fuels in June.

Pearl will help Qatar make use of its abundance of gas reserves to produce a resource more scarce in the Gulf State — oil.

The process is expensive and a high-CO2 emitter, however, as it consumes around 40 percent of the gas to achieve liquid form.

But Shell has shown confidence in the method, which was developed in the United States, and has not hesitated to invest billions of dollars in the project.

"Over the last five years, Shell has invested almost 20 billion dollars in Qatar," Shell chief executive Peter Voser told *AFP*.

"It is a reflection of this nation's business climate that we feel confident to make such a large commitment," he said in Doha at the World Petroleum Congress, a forum for energy ministers and oil company executives.

This year the event is being hosted for the first time in the region which sits on 50 percent of the world's hydrocarbon reserves. Paradoxically, it is being held in the tiny emirate of Qatar which is home to an estimated 750,000 inhabitants — most of them foreigners.—*Internet*

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Htain Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
 E-mail: mtpp@mpmail.net.mm
 Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666 Yangon. 9 December 2011

Cambodia receives 2.31 mln int'l tourists in 10 months, up 15 pct

PHNOM PENH, 8 Dec— International tourist arrivals in Cambodia increased 15 percent year-on-year in the first 10 months this year, statistics of the Tourism Ministry showed on Tuesday. From January to October this year, the country received 2.31 million foreign tourists, up 15 percent from 2 million tourists at the same period last year, the report recorded.

About 50 percent of the visitors traveled to the country by air, 47 percent by land and the rest by water ways. Vietnam topped the chart among the top 10 arrivals with 516,400 tourists, up 22 percent, followed by South Korea with

273,600, up 19 percent, and Chinese tourists at third up 38 percent to 198,350.

During the period, Thai tourists to Cambodia declined by 26 percent to 91,350 due to the two countries' border clashes earlier this year. Meanwhile, some 573,400 Cambodians visited abroad during the period, up 37 percent from 417,200 at the same period last year, the reports said.—Xinhua

Pupils of Niansanli Second Primary School look at a papercutting in a workshop at the primary school in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 6 Dec, 2011. Artists from the Yiwu Papercutting Association set up a workshop Tuesday at the primary school to promote papercutting, a Chinese traditional art, among youngsters. More than 150 papercutting works were presented as part of the workshop.
 XINHUA



Team sees biggest black holes yet

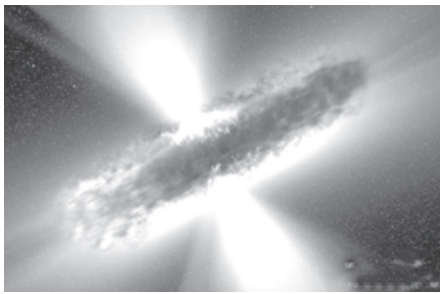
LONDON, 8 Dec — A US team has found the two biggest "supermassive" black holes known to science, *Nature* journal reports. Sitting at the centres of two nearby galaxies, the two objects have masses close to 10 billion times greater than our Sun.

Such large black holes had been suspected to exist, but, until now, the biggest known was some 6.3 billion times the mass of the Sun. The study is based on data from ground and space-based telescopes.

Most massive galaxies, including our own Milky Way, are thought to harbour supermassive black holes at their centres. But these newly discovered black holes are much bigger than would be predicted by extrapolating from observations from their host galaxies.

This suggests that the factors influencing the growth of the largest galaxies and their black holes differ from those influencing smaller galaxies. The findings come from observations of two nearby galaxies: NGC 3842 and NGC 4889.

Internet



The newly discovered black holes dwarf previously known heavyweights.—INTERNET

Antarctic's hidden world revealed

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec — Ever wondered what Antarctica would look like without all that ice? Scientists have produced the most detailed map yet of the White Continent's underbelly - its rock bed.

Called simply BEDMAP, this startling view of the landscape beneath the ice incorporates decades of survey data acquired by planes, satellites, ships and even people on dog-drawn sleds.

It is remarkable to think that less than 1% of this rock base projects above the continent's frozen veil.

In the map at the top of this page, the highest elevations are marked in red/black.

The light blue colour shows the extent of the continental shelf.

The lowest elevations are dark blue. You will note the deep troughs within the interior of the continent that are far below today's sea level.

The map is a fascinating perspective but it is more than just a pretty picture — it represents critical knowledge in the quest to understand how Antarctica might respond to a warming world.

Internet



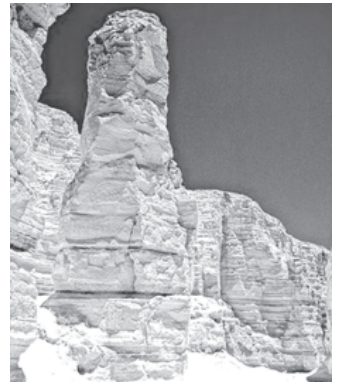
The surface of the Dead Sea is falling by about a metre a year.—INTERNET

Cores reveal when Dead Sea 'died'

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec — Sediments drilled from beneath the Dead Sea reveal that this most remarkable of water bodies all but disappeared 120,000 years ago.

It is a discovery of high concern say scientists because it demonstrates just how dry the Middle East can become during Earth's warm phases. In such ancient times, few if any humans were living around the Dead Sea. Today, its feed waters are intercepted by large populations and the lake level is declining rapidly. "The reason the Dead Sea is going down is because virtually all of the fresh water flowing into it is being taken by the countries around it," said Steve Goldstein, a geochemist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, US.

"But we now know that in a previous warm period, the water that people are using today and are relying upon stopped flowing all by itself. That has important implications for people today because global climate models are predicting that this region in particular is going to become more arid in the future," he



Aragonite and gypsum deposits at the edge of the Dead Sea record the region's climate history.—INTERNET

told BBC News.

Prof Goldstein has been presenting the results of the drilling work here at the 2011 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting, the largest annual gathering of Earth scientists. The Dead Sea is an extraordinary place.

The surface of the inland waterway sits at the lowest land point on the planet, more than 400m below sea level. Its hyper-salty waters descend in places a further 300m. And below the lake bed is layer upon layer of sediments that record the Dead Sea's history and the climate conditions that have prevailed in the region over hundreds of thousands of years.

Internet

Flakes blanket Europe's ski resorts after fears pre-Christmas holidays would be ruined

LONDON, 8 Dec — Ski companies let out a collective sigh of relief as up to 30cm of snow finally fell across France, Switzerland and Austria today after what had been a worryingly mild start to the season. In France, Val Thorens, Tignes and Courchevel all received fresh dumps of snow with Val D'Isere reporting a fall of 20cm.

And it is hoped that the snow will continue to fall with a number of French resorts expecting to receive anything between 10cm to 40cm of snowfall later this week. In Switzerland, it was snowing in both Andermatt and Arosa, which allowed riders on their slopes for the first time last weekend.

Davos had 5cm of fresh snow and Zermatt received 10cm of fresh snow. Samnaun also had a good day on Monday, and received one of the highest amounts of fresh snow in Switzerland with around 30cm. In Austria,

Obergurgl reported a fall of 10cm of fresh snow today and has 15 out of 24 ski lifts open. Lech fared less well with 5cm of snow and only four out of its 84 lifts open and St Anton

had just 3cm of snow with only two out of its 84 lifts open. Resorts in Germany, Bulgaria and Scotland are yet to open for the season.

Internet

The slopes of Val D'Isere, seen here just four days ago, had been badly affected by the warmest and driest autumn in the Alps for 147 years.

INTERNET



Lost Leonardo Da Vinci battle scene sparks row between art historians

ROME, 8 Dec — A 35-year hunt to uncover a lost work by Leonardo Da Vinci is reaching a climax in Florence, while also facing an angry protest by more than 100 prominent art historians who deplore the destructive but speculative work possibly leading to the masterpiece's uncovering.

The row centres on a wall in Florence's Palazzo Vecchio on which is painted a 16th century fresco. But, according to researcher Maurizio Seracini, this wall conceals another wall on which Da Vinci began painting The Battle of Anghiari, a monumental battle scene that is considered by some his finest work.—Internet

Alec Baldwin asked to leave flight for playing game



Actor Alec Baldwin arrives at the 30th anniversary of the People For The American Way Foundation celebration in Beverly Hills, California on 5 Dec, 2011.

Actor Alec Baldwin was involved in a dispute with an American Airlines flight attendant on Tuesday and asked to disembark an airplane because he was playing a smart-phone word game before departure.

"Alec was asked to leave the flight for playing 'Words with Friends' while parked at the gate. He loves WWF so much that he was willing to leave a plane for it, but he has already boarded another AA flight," Baldwin's spokesman Matthew Hiltzik said in a statement. Baldwin took to Twitter with several posts addressing the incident, as well as supporting rival United Airlines. "Flight attendant on American reamed me out 4 playing WORDS W FRIENDS while

we sat at the gate, not moving," tweeted the "30 Rock" actor.

He also tweeted "Last flight w American. Where retired Catholic school gym teachers from the 1950's find jobs as flight attendants."

Baldwin's tweets and his spokesman's statement came after a passenger on the flight from Los Angeles International Airport to New York City, posted on Twitter, "On an AA flight at LAX. Alec Baldwin removed from the plane. We had to go back to the gate. Terrible that everyone had to wait."

News Album

Tennessee family home burns while firefighters watch

A Tennessee couple helplessly watched their home burn to the ground, along with all of their possessions, because they did not pay a \$75 annual fee to the local fire department. Vicky Bell told the NBC affiliate WPSD-TV that she called 911 when her mobile home in Obion County caught fire.

Firefighters arrived on the scene but as the fire raged, they simply stood by and did nothing. "In an emergency, the first thing you think of, 'Call 9-1-1,'" homeowner Bell said. However, Bell and her husband were forced to walk into the burning home in an attempt to retrieve their own belongings. "You could look out my mom's trailer and see the trucks sitting at a distance," Bell said. "We just wished we could've gotten more out."

South Fulton Mayor David Crocker defended the fire department, saying that if firefighters responded to non-subscribers, no one would have an incentive to pay the fee.

Man threw alligators into pool



Darrell M Jones's mugshot.

Police in Florida said a man who threw two small alligators into his family pool was arrested after attacking his brother and threatening an officer. Investigators said they were called Saturday night to the Riviera Beach

home of Darrell Jones, 27, on a report of an alligator being thrown into a pool. *The Palm Beach Post* reported Wednesday.

Officers said they were greeted by Jones' brother, who had a cut on his forehead and told them Jones had attacked him with a knife when he called 911 because Jones had tossed two "small, live" alligators into the pool and the brother feared for the safety of his nephews. Jones was taken to Columbia Hospital for medical treatment for unspecified injuries and

while at the hospital he allegedly repeatedly threatened an officer, saying "he better wear his bullet-proof vest because when gets out of jail he was going to put one in him," the arrest affidavit states. Jones allegedly punched the officer in the shoulder at some point, police said. Jones was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, battery, battery on a police officer, possession of an American alligator and threatening a public servant.



Vicky Bell's home after it was destroyed by a fire.

Cruise faced "moment of truth" in Mission Impossible 4

DUBAI, 8 Dec—Tom Cruise hit the red carpet Wednesday for the world premiere of the fourth Mission Impossible film which had the American facing 'a moment of truth' jumping off the world's tallest building.

Paramount Pictures, a subsidiary of Viacom Inc, chose the Dubai International Film Festival in the Middle East for the unveiling of the latest episode of a franchise that has grossed over \$2 billion worldwide.

"Mission Impossible - Ghost Protocol" is shot mainly in Dubai, making use of its high-rise buildings including Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower at 828 metres (2,716 ft).

In one scene, Cruise, whose spy team is accused of blowing up the Kremlin, undertakes high-adrenalin acrobatics around the summit of the building.

Cruise spent four months training on a set before coming to Dubai to shoot the real thing. But he said it was still a challenge translating director Brad Bird's vision into reality. "It's one thing seeing it and another thing trying to accomplish that... The first



US actor Tom Cruise poses with fans as he arrives at the opening ceremony of the 8th Dubai International Film Festival for the premiere of his new movie "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol" on 7 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

moment, you know I have one little pick here and one little rope. I remember just being there saying 'this is a moment of truth', Cruise, who is known for doing his own stunts, told reporters. Reuters

Stars of "The Artist" to be honoured at Santa Barbara fest

LOS ANGELES, 8 Dec—Jean Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo, the stars of the silent film "The Artist," will receive the Cinema Vanguard Award from the 2012 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, SBIFF announced on Tuesday evening.

The award, which in the past has gone to the likes of Nicole Kidman, Christoph Waltz, Stanley Tucci and Vera Farmiga, is designed to recognize actors who are "taking artistic risks and making a significant and unique contribution to film."

In this case, perhaps, SBIFF means a contribution

to a film, since Dujardin and Bejo were little-known in the United States before "The Artist" debuted to raves at Cannes and became a major player in the Oscar race.

The Santa Barbara announcement, which was made by festival executive director Roger Durling, makes "The Artist" a rare film that will be feted at both of Southern California's January film festivals, which often compete to bestow awards on Oscar contenders.

The Palm Springs International Film Festival has already announced plans to honor "The Artist" director



Cast members Jean Dujardin (L) and Bérénice Bejo pose as they arrive on the red carpet for the screening of the film "The Artist" by director Michel Hazanavicius in competition at the 64th Cannes Film Festival, on 15 May, 2011. INTERNET

Michel Hazanavicius with its Sonny Bono Visionary Award. Internet

Michael Buble rules album chart for 2nd week



Singer Michael Buble performs songs from his new album "Christmas" at an iHeartRadio Live show at the PC Richard & Son Theater in New York, on 8 Nov, 2011.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 8 Dec— Michael Buble continued his reign at the top of the US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday with "Christmas," as Bruno Mars' single "It Will Rain" took the No 1 spot on the Hot 100 chart. Jazz-pop singer Buble's festive holiday CD, featuring old classics such as "White Christmas" as well as the singer's own song

"Cold December Night," held the top position for the second straight week, selling 293,000 copies and passing the one million sales mark since its release in October.

British singer Adele, who received six Grammy nominations last week, saw her album "21" climb the chart from No 7 to No 2, as it was announced that it had officially become the UK's top-selling CD of the 21st century. Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber's "Under The Mistletoe" holiday set also climbed the chart to No 3, while Drake's "Take Care" held steady at No 4 and Nickelback's "Here And Now" round out the top five.

Singer Bruno Mars, who also secured six Grammy nominations last week, took the top spot on the Hot 100 singles chart with "It Will Rain," the lead single from "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1," edging out Rihanna's "We Found Love" featuring Calvin Harris at No 2 and last week's top single, LMFAO's "Sexy And I Know It" at No 3. Reuters

Adele tops Rolling Stone's 2011 album and single list



British singer Adele poses on arrival at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles on 28 Aug, 2011. INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 8 Dec— British singer Adele continued on her train of success on Wednesday as Rolling Stone magazine named her album "21" and single "Rolling In The Deep" the best of 2011.

Adele, who received six Grammy nominations last week, was chosen by Rolling Stone editors for her multi-platinum selling sophomore album — officially the UK's best selling album of the 21st

century and 2011's best-selling album in the United States. "21" was this year's most stunning pop success, transmuting the young Brit's personal sorrow — the collapse of an 18-month relationship — into a 13-million-selling smash that leapt across borders and oceans and united everyone from teeny-boppers to baby boomers to hip-hop-heads," said Rolling Stone editors. Reuters

Man United stumbles out of Champions League

LONDON, 8 Dec—Three-time European champion Manchester United was eliminated from the Champions

League on Wednesday when it lost 2-1 at FC Basel. Manchester City joined its local rival on the sidelines

despite beating Bayern Munich.

United needed to avoid defeat in Switzerland to secure a 15th knockout-round appearance in 16 Champions League seasons. It now drops into the Europa League, facing the likes of Metalist Kharkiv and Legia Warsaw, while Basel advances.

"It's incredible," Basel goalkeeper Yann Sommer said. "A Swiss team, a little country, against Manchester United, one of the biggest teams in the world—it's crazy." After losing three of the last four Champions League finals, United was expected to join Chelsea and Arsenal in the next round after the London clubs progressed on Tuesday.—*Internet*



Wayne Rooney, Ryan Giggs and Park Ji-Sung of Manchester United look on after Marco Streller of Basel scored the opening goal during the Champions League soccer match.

INTERNET



Ryan Giggs of Manchester United and Alexander Frei of Basel battle for the ball during the Champions League soccer match.

INTERNET

International Sports

Napoli wins 2-0 at Villarreal to progress

VILLARREAL, 8 Dec—Gokhan Inler and Marek Hamsik scored second-half goals to secure Napoli's place in the Champions League knockout round with a 2-0 victory at Villarreal on Wednesday.

The result sealed second place in Group A for the Italian club ahead of Manchester City, which finished third despite a 2-0 home win against leader Bayern Munich.

"Nobody gave us much chance, but I think we've got a very complete team that runs and knows how to play with the ball," said Napoli striker Ezequiel Lavezzi. "This (qualification) is historic, but we want to keep advancing now." Napoli, playing in its first

Champions League, labored to find a way through the Villarreal defense, but Inler launched a 25-yard drive that left goalkeeper Diego Lopez motionless to break the deadlock in the 65th minute.

Internet



Napoli's Gokhan Inler from Switzerland (L), reacts after scoring a goal against Villarreal at the Madrigal stadium in Villarreal, Spain.

INTERNET

Lyon's Gomis nets quickest Champions League hat-trick



Lyon's Bafetimbi Gomis (R)

LYON, 8 Dec—Olympique Lyon hero Bafetimbi Gomis scored the quickest ever Champions League hat-trick to help his side pull off an astonishing 7-1 win at Dinamo Zagreb and secure last 16 qualification on Wednesday.

His three goals in seven minutes, including the first just before halftime, meant the France striker beat the previous record set by Blackburn Rovers' Mike Newell in December 1995. The 7-1 scoreline in Group D, which put Lyon through to the knockout stages for a ninth straight season, was also the French club's biggest win in the Champions League and Dinamo's heaviest defeat in all European competition.

Remi Garde's side also needed Ajax Amsterdam to lose at home to Real Madrid and hope for a seven-goal swing in goal difference which they managed comfortably as Ajax went down 3-0.—*Internet*

Vidic injury adds to United misery

BASEL, 8 Dec—Manchester United's misery at their Champions League exit at the hands of Basel on Wednesday was compounded by an injury to defender Nemanja Vidic.

The Serb was stretched off with a knee injury after a clash with Basel striker Marco Streller before halftime.

"We don't know with Vidic," manager Alex Ferguson told reporters. "It's certainly a medial ligament but hopefully that's the worst it is." Vidic looks set for an extended spell on the sidelines having also missed the opening weeks of the season for United, who have been plagued by injuries recently.—*Internet*

Manchester City's David Silva (R), fights for the ball against Bayern Munich's Rafinha (C), during their Champions League soccer match at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester.—INTERNET

Barcelona aiming for more glory at Club World Cup

TOYOTA, 8 Dec—With a star-studded squad that captured the European title in dominating fashion, Barcelona star Lionel Messi thinks his team has a duty to win the 2011 Club World Cup.

Barcelona is returning to the tournament two years after Messi led the Spanish giants to the title in the United Arab Emirates, scoring the winning goal in the 2-1 win over Argentina's Estudiantes.

"We're under an obligation to win," Messi told FIFA.com. "The Club World Cup is a highly prestigious tournament, and we want to win it."

The tournament kicks off Thursday in Japan, with J-League champion Kashiwa Reysol meeting Oceania champion Auckland City in a playoff. The winner advances to a second-round match against CONCACAF champion Monterrey of Mexico on Saturday.



FC Barcelona's Rafinha, left, duels for the ball against Bate Borisov's Marko Simic during a Champions League soccer match in Barcelona, Spain.—INTERNET

Champions League winner Barcelona and South American champion Santos are the seeded teams and don't enter the tournament until the semifinal stage begins 15 Dec.—*Internet*

Man City beats Bayern 2-0 in Champions League

MANCHESTER, 8 Dec—Manchester City bowed out of the Champions League on Wednesday despite goals from David Silva and Yaya Toure giving it a 2-0 win over Bayern Munich in the teams' final Group A match.

With City needing victory over the already qualified German side to have any chance of progressing to the last 16, Silva put the Premier League leader ahead in the 37th minute with a low shot from the edge of the area. Toure doubled the advantage seven minutes after halftime. But Napoli's 2-0 win at Villarreal put the Italians through at City's expense, leaving the English club's Italian manager Roberto Mancini to rue a missed opportunity.

"I think the players deserve to play in the Champions League but that's it, we can do nothing in this moment and our lives continue," Mancini said. "Usually with 10 points 99 per cent of teams go through but in this group it was not enough."—*Internet*



Donald aiming for money titles, history in Dubai

DUBAI, 8 Dec—Top-ranked Luke Donald will be encouraged by the memory of his father while making a run at history this weekend.

Donald, who turned 34 on Wednesday, is on the cusp of becoming the first golfer to win both the European Tour and American money titles in the same season. It would rank as his greatest achievement, he said, and one the Englishman would like to win for his late father Colin, who "taught me everything he knew."

Donald's father died last month, days before the birth of Donald's second daughter, Sophia Ann.

"When someone leaves you, you are always reminded of them in certain ways," Donald said. "I'm sure he'll be there with me. I'm not sure if I'll specifically try to think about my father, but, yeah, it would be nice to win one for him."

Internet



Nemanja Vidic of Manchester United is carried off the pitch after fighting for the ball with FC Basel's Marco Streller during the Champions League soccer match.—INTERNET

Djokovic ends season with record prize money

LONDON, 8 Dec—Novak Djokovic has ended the season with a record \$12.6 million in prize money. The 24-year-old Serb won 10 titles in 2011, including three Grand Slams, to beat the previous record of \$10.1 million shared by Rafael Nadal for his 2010 season and Roger Federer for 2007.

Djokovic moved ahead of Andre Agassi to fourth on the career prize money list with \$32.9 million. Federer leads that list with \$67.4 million.

Internet

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (9-12-2011) (Friday)

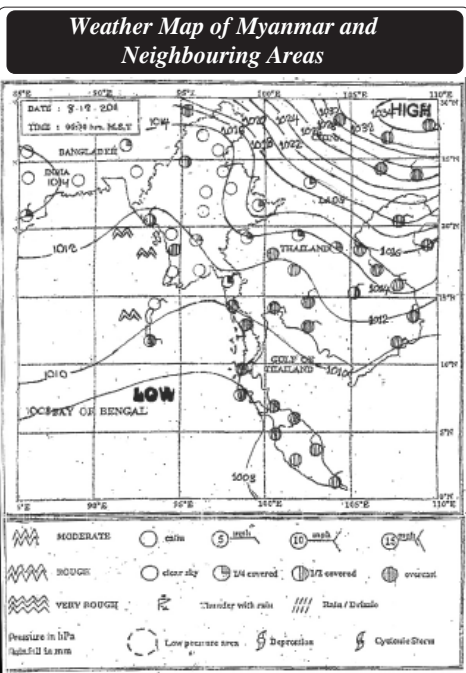
<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>Times</u>
Local	(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Overseas Transmission	(9-12-11 09:30 am ~10-12-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * The Long Lasting Royal Tradition
- * News
- * Travelling to Shan Plateau "Lwaimai Mountain"
- * News
- * X' mas Eve Festivity
- * News
- * Songs for you

- Oversea Transmission**
- * Opening
 - * News
 - * The Long Lasting Royal Tradition
 - * News
 - * Travelling to Shan Plateau "Lwaimai Mountain"
 - * News
 - * X' mas Eve Festivity
 - * Actively contribute forwards Implementation of ASEA aims

- * News
- * Songs for you
- * Chanmyay Yeik Thar Meditation Centre (Hmawbi)
- * News
- * She & Her Melodious Music
- * News
- * Hexa One
- * Music
- * News
- * Avian Antivenom Rewarding Achievement of DMR
- * News
- * A Visit to Naga New Year Festival 2011
- * Myanmar Movies "An Ugly Fate"



Friday, 9 December
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am**
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning News

- 7:40 am**
4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am**
5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am**
6. Health Programme
- 8:10 am**
7. The Mirror Images of the Musical Oldies
- 8:20 am**
8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing arts Competitions
- 8:30 am**
9. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 8:40 am**
10. International News
- 8:45 am**
11. Musical Programme

- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm**
2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm**
3. Dance of National Races
- 4:30 pm**
4. Teleplay (Agri)
- 4:55 pm**
5. Songs of Yester Years
- 5:05pm**
6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Zoology)
- 5:20 pm**
7. Songs for Upholding National Spirit

- 5:25 pm**
8. Myanmar Language
- 5:40 pm**
9. Documentary
- 6:00 pm**
10. Evening News
- 6:15 pm**
11. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
12. Internet Garden
- 7:00pm**
13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
- 15. International News
- 16. Weather Report
- 17. Just for Laughs (Gags Asia)
- 18. TV Drama Series
- 19. Song Lover

Weather forecast for 9th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/Stater	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	28/82	12/54	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	28/82	12/54	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	35/95	19/66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	19/66	08/46	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	15/59	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	30/86	19/66	Generally fair weather	
7	Taninthayi	35/95	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
8	Bago	33/91	19/66	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	32/90	20/68	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	31/88	19/66	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	36/97	21/70	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	32/90	18/64	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	11/52	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	28/82	13/55	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	11/52	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	20/68	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	20/68	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	20/68	Generally fair weather	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	31/88	19/66	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past (24) hours, wather had been generally fair in Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan, Chin and Mon States, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Pinalung (5°C) and Haka (8°C).

Bay Inference

Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea

Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of continuation of decrease of night temperatures in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Long-ignored dinosaur fossil identified

CLAREMONT, 8 Dec—A dinosaur fossil sitting for 100 years on various museum shelves has been identified as a previously unknown species, a California museum says.

Parts of the skulls of at least two horned dinosaurs were discovered in 1916 and sent to The Natural History Museum in London. However, the fossils were deemed too broken up for display and consequently were shelved for decades.

Scientists have now identified them as a new species dubbed Spinops sternbergorum that lived about 76 million years ago in southern Alberta, Canada.

Spinops was a plant-eater that weighed about 2 tons and was a smaller cousin of Triceratops, another horned dinosaur, researchers said.

A single large horn projected from the top of its nose, and a bony neck frill sporting at least two long,



Illustration of new horned dinosaur Spinops identified from skull bone fossils overlooked in the Natural History Museum collections for over 90 years.

backward-projecting spikes and two forward-curving hooks distinguished Spinops from related horned dinosaurs.

"I was amazed to learn the story behind these specimens, and how they

went unstudied for so long," said Andrew Farke, curator of Paleontology at the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology in Claremont, Calif., and lead author on the study naming Spinops. *Internet*

Union Minister oversees rural development and poverty alleviation tasks in Chin State



In-charge of Chin State Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun made cash donations for hydro electricity for Thinam Village in Haka Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Chin State In-charge of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai on 2 December donated K 10 million for generation of hydropower from Reevacreek on their arrival at Bongzone village in Haka Township.

In meeting with villageselders and responsible persons of Lanthot village, they donated K 3 million for construction of school building, K 4 million for generating hydropower in Lanthot village and K 4.5 million for generating hydropower in Thinam village.

On 3 December, the Union minister and the chief minister visited Thimit integrated farm and Htanharein mythun breeding station in Thantlang.

The Union Minister donated K 16 million for constructing canal for farms in Bontalan and Kwapilo villages, K 19 million for generating hydropower in Lonle, Zipee, Bonkwa and Monlemee villages, K8.5 million for tapping drinking water in Vambai, Lwepilo and Letat (B) villages, K1.06 million for purchasing one set

of computer and printer each in Thantlang and Narein high schools, K8.5 million for three primary schools in Thantlang and Fanhtin needing repair, K 4 million for repairing Thantlang Township Hall, and K 10 million to medical fund of Township People's Hospital through officials at the meeting.

The Union minister inspected construction site of Union Venue of Chin State in Haka Township. He comforted patients at State People's Hospital (200 beds) and presented cash assistances to them.

He met townselders, local people and departmental officials at Haka Township Hall and discussed rural development and poverty alleviation matters.

At the meeting, the Union minister donated K 9 million for repairing three primary schools, K1.06 million for purchasing one set of computer and printer each in Haka Basic Education High School (2) and Sukwa BEHS, K 1.5 million for Sukwa Station Hospital, K 8.6 million for tapping drinking water in Kwabe, Nwabwa and Dinlova villages, K 6 million for constructing canal for farms in Dinlova village, and K 7.5 million for repairing Haka-Hmantaw road.

The Union minister met townselders, local people and departmental officials in Thantlang and Haka Townships and explained about rural development and poverty alleviation.

He called for cooperation of the local people in carrying out rural development and poverty alleviation tasks. He also underscored the need to conserve invaluable natural forests.—MNA

Hospitals, rural health care centres in Mandalay Region inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin visited Kyaukme Station Hospital in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, on 5 December morning and inspected the men's ward, vaccination storehouse, medical stores, maternity room and women's ward.

educative health services, the labour room and health care for pregnant women at Pyinsa rural health centre in PyinOoLwin Township, the Union Minister stressed the need for health staff and midwives to do their tasks dutifully and to strive for cent-per-cent delivery of babies by pregnant women with the help of skilled

midwives. As a result, correct data can be collected regarding the implementation of projects on decreasing mortality rate of mothers and new-born babies, noted the Union Minister.

Next, the Union Minister inspected Banbwe rural health centre in Nawngkhio Township. At the

township people's hospital, he said aims and objectives need to be correct for meeting the success of hospital work. To achieve such success, health staff are to mobilize other departments, religious leaders, social organizations and the public by proving that they themselves are working enthusiastically for the public health. He also

spoke on the need to minimize loss and wastage of hospital equipment.

Then, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun presented K 1 million donated by the ministry for the hospital. Later, the Union Minister visited Watwun Station Hospital in PyinOoLwin Township.

MNA

Dryer of Lashio Brokerage operating to seek highest price for maize

By Yamanya Thway Mon

Local farmers of Shan State (North) mainly focusing on cultivation of maize not only extend sown acreage of maize annually but also make efforts for boosting per acre yield. As a result, amount of export maize is increasing year by year.

Last rainy season, there were 1480 acres of maize fields in Lashio Township, 722 acres in Namtu Township, 412 acres in Mongyai Township and 2547 acres in Hsenwi Township, totalling 5161. Therefore, agricultural

loans were disbursed to farmers. According to the statistics, Shan State (North) has extended over 180,000 acres of maize lands.

Although local farmers could satisfy the maize demands of foreign market they faced difficulties that maize needs dryness to the limited degree.

Buyers of customer countries exactly measured humidity of maize and do not accept the crop with high humidity. The maize with over limited humidity cannot fetch the deserved prices.

Thus, the brokerage in

Lashio considered how they could solve the problem of maize growers.

On 18-9-2011, the dryer machine for maize was built. The machine use heat to dry the maize seeds with the use of boiler and flames of fuel-wood.

The dryer can be operated to dry four to five tons of maize once. The machine can not only dry up moisture of maize seeds but also clean wastage from the products. In practical, the dryer can be used for other goods such as bamboo shoot, groundnut and sesame.

Charge for service is fixed K 30 per one viss of maize. U Kyaw Myint, in-charge of the machine from the brokerage, explained, "We fixed the charge for service K 20 peer viss of maize. But, it could not cover the cost of fuel-wood, so we

raised to K 30 per viss."

In sale of maize, the seeds with high humidity, weakness in colour and effects of smoke cannot fetch the deserved prices. That is why farmers are to use the dryer machine for processing their goods to send the best

products in the market.

In this maize season, local farmers of Shan State (North) can earn income from export of high yield maize getting best prices with the strength to enhance their economy.

Translation: TTA



Bags of maize in a row seen along the road near brokerage in Lashio before transporting them by car.