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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.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects completion of Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section, Mandalay advanced stadium and gymnasium



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects Dagundaing Roundabout.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin and officials, this morning left here by car along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and arrived at Sagar-in Roundabout in Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay Region at 9.30 am today.

They were welcomed by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Minister for Region Development Affairs U Phone Zaw Han, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and officials.

After looking into progress in construction of Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and Dagundaing Roundabout, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo gave necessary instructions.

Chief Engineer (Road) U Tint Hsan of Public Works reported that Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section will link the Nay Pyi Taw-Sagar-in Expressway opened on 29 December 2010 and Mandalay, and it will be 13 miles and five furlongs long. The road section comprises one 600 feet long bridge, six 90 feet long bridges and 17 under-50 feet long bridges. He also submitted reports on progress in construction of the concrete road, retaining walls, shoulder of the traffic island, road curb and surface layer, conduits, Sagar-in Rest Camp, police station, toll gate and staff quarters, completion

of Dagundaing Roundabout at mile No. 366/3, extension of the Ohtoktan-HsayOhbo Road to the 100 feet wide facility, and preparations for opening of the road section.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint gave a supplementary report on progress of road section and plan for opening ceremony.

After hearing the reports, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo instructed officials to construct water retaining walls as necessary after observing the highest levels of overflow of Ayeyawady and Dokhtawady rivers as Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section is the filled soil, grow suitable shade trees that cannot damage the road section and nurture all saplings.

(See page 8)

Model monsoon paddy harvested in Myeik Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Model monsoon paddy plot of farmer U Ba Soe of Ingamaw village-tract in Myeik Township yielded 106.01 baskets of damp Manaw Thukha rice per acre and that of farmer U Maung Nge of Sandawut village-tract of the same township gave the per-acre yield of 83.34 baskets of damp Paw Hsan Mway rice when the plots were harvested on 25 November.

MNA



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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 December, 2011

A peaceful and pleasant Yangon city

Yangon city dwellers are delighted with the news that measures will be taken to upgrade Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar, into a modern city like Singapore.

In 1755, King Alaung Phaya built an old city named Dagon into a new wooden-walled

city called Yangon. From that time on, the history of Yangon has started and it is now 250 years old.

During the colonialist period in 1874, modern Yangon city was built with the introduction of municipal rule after a city building plan had been drawn up. As a result, it became famous and was called the queen of the cities by foreigners.

Yangon city, which was first built to house about 100,000 people, has a population of about six million. That accounts for 10 percent of the nation's total population. With the dense population, transport, energy, water and sanitation have become a major challenge.

"In reality, the city sanitation tasks had been a failure in the times of successive

municipalities and mayors. Mayors had changed but the city remained dirty," recorded in the book on the history of Yangon by journalist U Thein Maung about 50 years ago.

Anyhow, big cities are the image and glory of a nation. So with a nation accumulating wealth and prosperity, it is necessary to upgrade those cities and all city dwellers need to become the citizens of discipline. They are to participate in building a modern, clean and tidy city by obeying civic rules and paying off their taxes on a regular basis.

The motto of Yangon City Development Affairs Committee is 'Yangon is a peaceful and pleasant city to live'. Therefore, keeping Yangon city peaceful and pleasant is concerned with emotional feelings of the city dwellers.

Union Minister meets Myanmar Music Association

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met the chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Music Association and officials of classic music, modern music, stereo music, mechanical and production groups at meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San Nwe, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, officials and guests.

The Union minister explained about measures taken for development of music industry, future plans, reforms the government is making in accordance with

the Constitution and desire of the people, and steps for peace, stability and development.

Chairman of Myanmar Music

Association U Mauang Maung Latt reported to the Union minister on the organizational set-up, objectives, undertakings, future plans and matters

related to five groups of the association. Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Thein Aung, Managing Director of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and officials

participated in the discussion.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the Union minister. He cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan meets the chairman and CEC members of MMA and officials of classic music, modern music, stereo music, mechanical and production groups.

MNA

Priority given to combat Tuberculosis in national health plan

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—As Myanmar is one of the list of 22 high TB burden countries across the world, of 27 high MDR TB burden countries and of 41 high TB/HIV burden countries, priority is to be given to combat the disease in the national health plan; at present, five years national TB strategic plan is being drawn; the TB/HIV collaborative activities are being undertaken in 17 townships, and the scale-up plan will be extended; a total of 300 patients were treated with MDR-TB in the two-year plan that commenced in July 2009; during the period from 2011 to 2015, 1800 MDR-TB patients will be given treatment with the contribution of Global Fund, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin

at the Advocacy & Workshop on Childhood TB Management at the hall of the Ministry of Health, here, yesterday morning.

The meeting was presided over by Professor/Dean Professor Dr Tin Myint. Technical Officer Ms Eva Nathanson of WHO discussed Overview of Childhood TB and Dr Myo Zaw of WHO, WHO Rapid Advice on Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children. Those present took part in the discussions.

The group meetings were held on the Rapid Advice on Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children, Recommendation 1-10 and the 1. Diagnosis of Childhood TB, 2. Contact Tracing IPT (Isoniazid Preventive Therapy).

MNA

YMCA serves X'mas dinner

YANGON, 10 Dec—Yangon Young Men Christian Association hosted Christmas dinner at M-3 Food Centre in Bahan Township in Yangon Region yesterday evening. YMCA Chairman Dr U

Tin Hla extended greetings at the dinner. Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung delivered a speech at the dinner.

MNA

Myanmar to host second Southeast Asian men's hockey tournament on 13-17 December

YANGON, 10 Dec—A work coordination meeting for holding the second Southeast Asian men's hockey tournament in which Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia will take part was held at Theinbyu hockey pitch yesterday evening in conjunction with a ceremony to donate bottles of drinking water for athletes. The tournament is scheduled to be held at Theinbyu hockey pitch in Mingala Taungnyunt Township from 13 to 17 December

under the supervision of Asian Hockey Federation and Myanmar Hockey Federation.

First, Win Economic Group Co presented 2000 bottles of Aqua-K drinking water to MHF President Yangon City Development Committee member U Htin Zaw Win. Next, respective committees discussed their tasks and preparations. Then the president and executives viewed the preparations being made at the pitch. —NLM

CEO Classic Golf Tournament on 5-8 Jan

YANGON, 10 Dec—Sponsored by CEO Group and organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, CEO Classic Golf tournament will take place at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club here from 5 to 8 January, 2012.

Golfers with handicap ranging from 0 to 8 will be allowed to play

professional and amateur games which will be held in St. Andrew and regional rules.

Golfers are to enlist with the fee of K20000 in Myanmar Training Golf Range not later than 2 January.

Champions are qualified for Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Tasks for holding the second Southeast Asia men's hockey tournament on schedule.—NLM



Pakistan truckers back NATO supply route blockade

CHAMAN, (Pakistan) 10 Dec—Sleeping in a freezing cab, running out of money and worried about militant attacks, Ghulab Jan is one of thousands of truck drivers stranded as a result of Pakistan's blockade of the Afghan border to NATO and US war supplies.

But they and the businessmen who run what has been a lucrative trade for most of the last decade say they support the decision to shut the frontier in retaliation for coalition airstrikes almost

two weeks ago that killed 24 Pakistani troops in two remote border outposts.

"We risk our lives and take these supplies to Afghanistan for NATO, and in return they are killing our soldiers," said Jan, whose fuel truck is parked in a terminal in the dusty, dangerous border town of Chaman in southwestern Baluchistan.

"This is unacceptable, and we unanimously support the government over closing the border."

Given the current anti-



Pakistani truck drivers and their assistants gather at a terminal in Karachi, Pakistan. —INTERNET

US sentiment in Pakistan, drivers might not want to call publicly for the border to reopen. There is broad anger throughout the country over

the attack, and the US faces a challenge in repairing a relationship critical to its hopes of ending the Afghan war.—Internet

United Nations personnel investigate the site of a roadside bomb attack on a UN peacekeepers' vehicle in Bourj al-Shamali, near the port city of Tyre, Lebanon, on 9 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET



Three killed, six injured in suicide bombing in E Afghanistan

ASADABAD, 10 Dec—Three people including a district police chief were killed and six others were injured Friday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque during Friday prayer in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province, police said.

"A suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest inside a mosque in Ghazi Abad District of Kunar Province at about 02:00 pm local time when people were holding a special Friday praying, as a result three people were killed and six others injured," provincial police chief, Aiwarz Mohammad Nazari told Xinhua. He said that Ghazi Abad district police chief Ismahil Khan, a police officer and a civilian were confirmed dead in the blast while a policeman and five civilians were wounded in the attack in the province with Asadabad as its capital, 185 km east of capital city of Kabul.

"The suicide bomber was killed on the spot and the injured were transported to a district hospital by police," the police chief said, adding "an investigation was launched by police into the case."

Internet

Bomb wounds French peacekeepers in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 10 Dec—A roadside bomb wounded five French UN peacekeepers on patrol in southern Lebanon on Friday, in an attack the Lebanese president said was

Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The bomb targeted a French UNIFIL patrol on the southern outskirts of the coastal city of Tyre, a security official said. Five peacekeepers and two civilians were hurt, officials said.

An AFP correspondent in Tyre saw three peacekeepers — a woman and two men — standing by their badly damaged white vehicle with bandages on their heads. One had a bloodied face. None had life-threatening injuries, officials said.

"This vile and despicable act not only aims to cause harm to the peacekeepers but also to undermine the stability and peace that have been prevailing in the south,"

UNIFIL commander Major-General Alberto Asarta Cuevas said in a statement.

UNIFIL patrols have been the target of a string of unclaimed roadside bomb attacks in recent years.

Friday's blast took place amid heightened tension over the revolt in Syria, with politicians and diplomats warning the unrest could spill into Lebanon, whose government is dominated by the pro-Syrian militant group Hezbollah.

The UNIFIL force stationed in the south of the country is considered an easy target if unrest did spread to Lebanon.

The office of Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, who is on a visit to Armenia, issued a statement denouncing the attack.

Internet

Four victims in small plane crash in Sioux Falls ID'd

SIoux FALLS, 10 Dec—A plane leaving the Sioux Falls Regional Airport nosedived into the ground Friday and burst into flames so powerful that there was never a chance the four people trapped inside could survive, officials said.

Witnesses described a bloody and charred scene.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Tony Molinaro said the Cessna 421-C departed Joe Foss Field for Rapid City at

2:24 pm Shortly after, the small, two-engine plane began experiencing problems and started circling back to the airport before it slammed into the ground, killing the pilot and three passengers.

Sioux Falls police identified those killed in the crash as pilot Brian Blake, 54, of Sioux Falls, and passengers Kevin Anderson, 50, of Sioux Falls; Joshua Lambrecht, 30, of Brandon; and Daniel Swets, 47, of Sioux Falls. According to

Augustana College in Sioux Falls, Swets, a computer science associate professor at the school, was headed to Rapid City for a robotics meeting. He was president of the South Dakota Robotics Association. Anderson, an alumnus of the school, was a staff member of the Sioux Falls School District.

Sioux Falls Fire Chief Jim Sideras said investigators do not yet know what problems the plane was experiencing or whether the pilot radioed for help. The plane was a charter, and Sideras said he did not know who the owner was.

"Right now, it's a shell of a plane. It's essentially just a charred area right now," Sideras told reporters gathered in a parking lot overlooking the crash site. "That amount of fire is not survivable."

FAA records indicate it was registered to an Ipswich, SD, business. Attempts to reach that business were unsuccessful Friday.

Internet



Emergency personnel respond to a plane crash in a field off Westport Ave and 60th St N just west of the Sioux Falls Regional Airport in Sioux Falls, SD, on 9 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Russia intends no arms race with West on missile defence

Moscow, 10 Dec—Russia doesn't intend to start any new arms races but wants to reach agreement with the US and NATO on their European anti-missile defence system, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Friday.

"We hope our signal has reached the target. This is our phase-to-phase response to their phase-to-phase plan. But we do not pull ourselves into the arms race," Ryabkov told Russia-24 TV.

He said there is time for both sides to continue their dialogue and reach agreement, although Moscow does not see the West's readiness to take Russia's interests into account.

"We see statements saying that the (NATO missile) plans being implemented do not target Russia," Ryabkov said. "We have a historical experience that the promises and the statement ought not to be trusted and it is better to have firmer guarantees."

Moscow, Ryabkov said, has not been surprised with the acute reaction from the West on the counter-measures announced earlier by President Dmitry Medvedev.

"This is important for us to make it clear that we consider our security very seriously," Ryabkov said.

Medvedev warned last month that Russia might station missile defence systems, including intermediate range Iskander missiles, in western and southern parts of the country if there were any additional US missile deployments in Europe.

Moscow has long opposed the deployment of US-led NATO missile defence facilities near its borders, and intends to seek legally binding guarantees from the US and NATO that the missile defence shield is not targeting Russia.

Xinhua



This photo taken in June 2011 shows the No 3 reactor building of Kyushu Electric Power Co's Genkai plant in the town of Genkai, southwestern Japan.—INTERNET

Radioactive water leaked at second Japan plant

TOKYO, 10 Dec—An Japanese nuclear plant leaked 1.8 tonnes of radioactive water from its cooling system, the government said, heightening worries over nuclear safety as an atomic crisis continues at another plant. The leak, discovered Friday, caused no environmental impact as it was contained within an idled reactor at the Genkai nuclear plant in Saga prefecture in the southern Kyushu region, officials said.

Workers are still scrambling to contain an ongoing crisis at the Fukushima No 1 nuclear plant, triggered by the March earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan.

The operator of the Genkai plant, Kyushu Electric Power, said Friday that one of the water pumps connected to its number three reactor was taken offline after it sounded an alarm for increasing temperature.

But the utility did not announce leaked water at that time. The water kept around the pump and was later collected, said an official with the Nuclear and Industry Safety Agency.

The utility was not legally required to report the water leak, but the mayor of the small Genkai town hosting the plant voiced concerns. "It should have reported properly" to the Genkai town and Saga prefecture, mayor Hideo Kishimoto told local media, according to Kyodo News.

Officials with the utility could not immediately be reached. The utility's officials told newspaper the *Mainichi Shimbun* that water leaks can take place even in a safe operating environment.

But public concerns about nuclear safety came to the fore after the Fukushima crisis forced evacuations of tens of thousands of residents and left large areas of land uninhabitable.—Internet

Health

Meningitis epidemic in Brazil's Bahia state kills 109

SALVADOR, 10 Dec—A meningitis epidemic has killed 109 people in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia since the start of the year, according to a report released by local authorities Friday. And Brazil's superstar singer Ivete Sangalo revealed that she had contracted viral meningitis, a mild form of the disease, press reports said. The 39-year-old, best-selling singer, who hails from Bahia, reportedly left hospital after undergoing treatment. But authorities said 109 people, most of whom contracted cerebro-spinal meningitis, have died since January. The mortality rate for cerebro-spinal meningitis, characterized by an



View of Salvador, the capital of the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia. A meningitis epidemic has killed 109 people in Bahia since the start of the year, according to a report released by local authorities.

INTERNET

inflammation of the membranes of the brain and spinal cord, is around eight

to 10 percent of cases.

A total of 1,670 people have been hit by bacterial meningitis, the most serious form of the disease, officials said. In the tourist resort of Costa do Sauipe, dozens of tourists have canceled their bookings as a result of the epidemic, hotel staff told the media.—*Internet*

US urges shorter treatment for TB

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—US health authorities on Thursday urged a 12-week drug regimen for people with latent tuberculosis as an effective alternative to the current nine-month regimen which many people do not finish. People age 12 and over who test positive for TB or have been exposed but show no symptoms are among those who could benefit from the shorter treatment, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said.

A total of 8.8 million people around the world fell ill with the contagious lung disease last year and 1.4 million died, according to the World Health Organization. Three randomized controlled trials have shown that a new combination regimen that includes isoniazid (INH) and rifapentine (RPT), given weekly under a doctor's supervision, "is as effective for preventing TB as other regimens," the CDC said.

The shorter treatment "is more likely to be completed than the US standard regimen of nine months of INH daily without" a doctor's supervision, it added in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Tuberculosis develops in five to 10 percent of people who get infected by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, usually after a period of six to 18 months when the infection lies dormant, but it can endure decades in some people.—*Internet*

People with arthritis need more exercise



People who engage in no leisure-time physical activity can produce important improvements in health with small increases in activity, US health officials say.

INTERNET

ATLANTA, 10 Dec—People who engage in no leisure-time physical activity can produce important improvements in health with small increases in activity, US health officials say. A report, published in

the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, published Thursday, said some subgroups, such as adults with arthritis, have exceptionally high rates of

no leisure-time physical activity.

"In 2009, adults with arthritis had a 53 percent higher prevalence of no leisure-time physical activity compared with adults without arthritis," the report said. "Rates of no leisure-time physical activity among adults with arthritis were significantly higher in every state and the District of Columbia compared with adults without arthritis. In addition, adults with arthritis accounted for 25 percent to 47 percent of all adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity."

To reduce the prevalence of no leisure-time physical activity among all adults, physical activity promotion initiatives should target adults with the use of evidence-based, arthritis-tailored interventions, health officials said.

Internet

Scientists kick off debate over barefoot running

LONDON, 10 Dec—Despite the cold and many other potential hazards, naked from the ankle down is the way Anna Toombs likes it, and she gets plenty of catcalls in the street as a result.

The 35-year-old co-founder of the personal training company Barefoot Running UK says she's lost count of the times people yell "where are your shoes?" as she and partner David Robinson negotiate London's parks and pavements to indulge their passion and train their clients.

"People give you a lot of weird looks," says Robinson. They are also getting a lot of inquiries. A surge of interest in "natural," or barefoot, training has seen runners around the world kick off their arch-supporting, motion-controlling, heel-cushioning shoes and try to feel the ground beneath their feet. Top scientists - from sports physicians

to podiatrists to evolutionary biologists - are jumping in too.

At a recent sports science conference in London, hundreds of participants, many of them shod but a few daringly barefooted, flocked to a two-hour long discussion about the merits or otherwise of running without shoes.—*Reuters*



David Robinson (R) and Anna Toombs run barefoot in a park in south London on 1 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Business

Consumer sentiment up, trade gap narrows

NEW YORK, 10 Dec—An index of consumer sentiment rose to its highest in six months in early December and the trade deficit narrowed in October in the latest signs that the US economy's health is slowly improving.

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan preliminary December reading on consumer confidence on Friday climbed for a fourth straight month to 67.7 from 64.1 in November.

"US consumers appear to be ending the year in a better mood," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics in London.

Improved confidence could lead Americans to spend more readily, which would add to the recent momentum gained from strong retail sales and factory output.

Also supporting growth, the narrowing in the trade deficit showed that more goods and services bought by US businesses and consumers were produced within the country.

Employment has also made gains in recent months, although some economists expect the pace of improvement will be too slow for consumers to ramp up spending for long.

"Although the recent increase may provide that little bit of support to spending in the malls in the coming weeks, it won't lead to a long and lasting acceleration in consumption growth," said Dales.

US economic growth appears to be accelerating, even as the global economy slows. The euro zone, for example,



Children run past a storefront decorated for the holidays in New York, on 22 Nov, 2011.

INTERNET

is widely believed to be slipping into recession as it struggles to contain a sovereign debt crisis.

That crisis, as well as the possibility that the United States will not renew extended unemployment benefits and a payroll tax cut next year, amount to dark clouds looming over the economy.

With signs US growth is quickening coming against big risks to the outlook, the US Federal Reserve is expected to hold monetary policy steady at a meeting on Tuesday.

Despite the improvement, the consumer sentiment gauge remains well below its historical average, underscoring the fragility of US household budgets as many struggle with a weak jobs market.

Reuters

Sri Lanka's consumerism to grow in 2012

COLOMBO, 10 Dec—International market research company Nielsen expressed optimistic views on 2012 economic progress in Sri Lanka, noting that rapid growth and consumer spending would be seen.

Nielsen, launching its 2012 Outlook this weekend, remarked upon the aggressively growing consumers who are moving towards lifestyle products that have now become essentials and engaging in impulse buying.

The company's Managing Director in Sri Lanka Shaheen Cader told the gathering at the report launch that companies should work to leverage the growth momentum.

"Sri Lanka is slightly different from the rest of the world in that we see more

growth in 2012. There is an emergence of a savvy rural consumer that companies need to consider," he said.

Other key points found by Nielsen include the large-scale buying of vehicles with over 50 percent of households owning at least one vehicle in Sri Lanka. However, Nielsen warned that consumers were moving more towards borrowing for their spending and saving levels are remaining static at 8 percent.

Inflation effects resulting in higher food prices remain the main concern moving forward into 2012 even though Sri Lanka has managed to maintain a rate of 7 percent on average this year.

Xinhua

NASA clears SpaceX for trial run to space station

Science



Elon Musk, CEO of Space Exploration Technologies Corp, speaks in April 2011 in Washington, DC. SpaceX will fly its Dragon capsule on an unmanned mission to the International Space Station in February, marking the first-ever bid by a private company to dock at the orbiting lab, NASA said Friday.—INTERNET

CAPE CANAVERAL, 10 Dec—A private company will make a trial cargo run to the International Space Station in February, a key step in a new US programme to buy spaceflight services on a commercial basis, NASA said on Friday. California-based Space

Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, plans to launch a Falcon 9 rocket carrying a Dragon cargo capsule from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on 7 February.

The mission would mark the second flights of the Falcon 9 and Dragon, which debuted in December 2010.

“SpaceX has made incredible progress over the last several months preparing Dragon for its mission to the space station,” NASA associate administrator William Gerstenmaier said in a statement. “We look forward to a successful mission, which will open up a new era in commercial cargo delivery for this international orbiting laboratory.”

Since the retirement of the space shuttles this summer, the United States is relying on partner countries like Russia to transport supplies and crew to the space station. To encourage commercial cargo runs, NASA has hired SpaceX and a second company, Virginia-based Orbital Sciences Corp to fly cargo to the space station, a \$100 billion project of 16 countries, which orbits about 240 miles above Earth.

Internet

Members of the media and corporate staff wait outside the Herbst Pavilion at the Fort Mason Center for the HP/Palm webOS event in San Francisco 9 February, 2011.—INTERNET

Technology

HP opens webOS mobile software to others

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Dec—Hewlett Packard Co has decided to open its webOS mobile operating system to developers and companies, potentially taking on Google Inc’s free Android platform that is popular with handset makers. HP, which acquired webOS in a \$1.2 billion purchase of Palm in 2010, had been trying to figure out how to recoup its investment after a failed foray into the smartphone and tablet market.

HP Chief Executive Meg Whitman said the company looked at a number of options for webOS, including a sale and shut down of the division. The technology giant will make webOS available under an open source licensing agreement, but it has still not hashed out the terms of the licensing deal it plans to offer.

There are a number of open source projects that can be used as examples for deciding the structure of licensing, including Android and browser Mozilla.

The company plans to solicit ideas from developers before deciding on the licensing terms, Whitman said. “We like the adoption of Android. It’s growing like wildfire with a big developer community and hardware community,” Whitman said, adding that HP would like to avoid fragmentation of the software that currently plagues Android. Whitman also said HP may get back into the consumer tablet market in 2013 but it will not be making any more smartphones.

The future of webOS had been in limbo since August after HP killed its flagship webOS-based TouchPad tablet following poor sales. While Google has the world’s most-used mobile system with over 550,000 devices activated every day, HP’s webOS could be an alternative to companies apprehensive that the Web search giant may compete with them directly in the smartphone handset market through its \$12.5 billion purchase of Motorola Mobility.—Reuters



NASA’s Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity used its navigation camera to record this view at the end of a 111-meter (364-foot) drive on the 2,353rd Martian day, or sol, of the rover’s mission on Mars, on 6 September, 2010.—INTERNET

Mars rover finds more evidence of water

PASADENA, 10 Dec—The Opportunity Mars rover has found powerful evidence of liquid water activity on the planet’s surface, NASA says.

The rover has found and photographed bright veins of a mineral, apparently gypsum deposited by water, evidence of a past wet environment on Mars, a NASA release said Thursday.

“This tells a slam-dunk story that water flowed through underground fractures in the rock,” Steve Squyres of Cornell University said.

“This stuff is a fairly pure chemical deposit that formed in place right where we see it,” said Squyres, principal investigator for Opportunity.

“That can’t be said for other gypsum seen on Mars or for other water-related

minerals Opportunity has found. It’s not uncommon on Earth, but on Mars, it’s the kind of thing that makes geologists jump out of their chairs.”

The vein of gypsum, or calcium sulphate, is about the width of a human thumb and 16 to 20 inches long, protruding slightly from the bedrock on either side of it.

“To me, this is the single most powerful piece of evidence for liquid water at Mars that has been discovered by the Opportunity rover,” Squyres said.

“This stuff formed right here. There was a fracture in the rock, water flowed through it, gypsum was precipitated from the water. End of story. There’s no ambiguity.”—Internet

Study links tropical cyclones to earthquakes

Science

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—US researchers said Thursday they have found evidence that tropical cyclones in Haiti and Taipei were followed by earthquakes, suggesting that heavy rains and landslides may unleash temblors. “Very wet rain events are the trigger,” said University of Miami scientist Shimon Wdowinski, an associate research professor of marine geology and geophysics.

“The heavy rain induces thousands of landslides and severe erosion, which removes ground material from the Earth’s surface, releasing the stress load and encouraging movement along faults.” Wdowinski and a colleague from Florida International University analyzed data from major earthquakes — magnitude six and higher — in Taiwan

and Haiti over the past 50 years and found that large quakes tended to follow within four years of a very wet tropical cyclone season. In some recent cases, quakes happened sooner, such as in 2009 when Typhoon Morakot in Taiwan was followed the same year by a magnitude 6.2 quake and another 6.4 quake in 2010. Morakot killed 614 people and left 75 missing, burying entire villages and dumping a record three meters (120 inches) of rain in what is considered one of the island’s worst natural disasters. Typhoon Herb hit in 1996, killing hundreds in China and Taiwan, and was followed two years later by a 6.2 earthquake, and then a 7.6 earthquake in 1999.

After 1969’s Typhoon Flossie was followed three years later by a magnitude 6.2 quake in 1972, the



A tropical storm hits the beaches of Playa del Carmen, Mexico in October 2011. INTERNET

researchers said.

The team also looked at the 2010 magnitude seven earthquake in Haiti and found it came a year and a half after two hurricanes and two tropical storms drenched the island nation within 25 days. The quake hit in January last year and leveled the capital Port-au-Prince,

killing more than 225,000 people and leaving one in seven homeless. An ensuing cholera epidemic left over 5,000 people dead. The researchers said their theory is that the heavy rains and landslide shift enough weight away from the surface load above the fault that a quake is triggered.—Internet



The Jorge Montt glacier is seen in Southern Patagonia, some 1,800 km south of Santiago. The Jorge Montt glacier in southern Chile is melting at a rate of a kilometer (0.6 miles) per year, making it one of the world’s most visible milestones of global warming, according to researchers.—INTERNET

Science

Chile glacier in rapid retreat

SANTIAGO, 10 Dec—The Jorge Montt glacier in southern Chile is melting at a rate of a kilometer (0.6 miles) per year, making it one of the world’s most visible milestones of global warming, according to researchers. Chile’s Centre for Scientific Studies (CECs) said Wednesday that several glaciers in the country’s south have shrunk because of global warming but that the 454-square-kilometre Jorge Montt is one of those shrinking the fastest.

The withering glacier is part of the 13,000-square-kilometre (5,020 square mile) Southern Ice Field, the third largest frozen landmass after Antarctica and Greenland. During the 1990s, the glacier retreated some seven kilometres, but its rate of melting has “accelerated,” releasing an increasing number of icebergs into the fjord where the glacier lay, according to Andres Rivera, of the CECs. The latest study of the glacier took place between February 2010 and January of this year, during which two stationary cameras timed to shoot four times a day took some 1,445 pictures of the glacier.—Internet



Photo shows a worker sitting on a new electric pylon in Lhunzhub County, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The Qinghai-Tibet electricity network project was completed and put into use Friday, by which the power grid of the Tibetan plateau is connected with power lines in other parts of China.
XINHUA

Heavy rains in Venezuela cause at least eight deaths

CARACAS, 10 Dec—Floods and mudslides unleashed by torrential rains have caused at least eight deaths in Venezuela, a government official said Friday. Thousands of families have left their homes to take refuge in government disaster shelters, Interior and Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said.

Five people died in western Zulia state, while three others died in Caracas and adjacent Miranda state,

while others were moved into new public housing. El Aissami said President Hugo Chavez's government has ordered the military and rescue teams to be on alert in several regions of the country that have seen heavy rains this week. El Aissami said at a news conference that Chavez has been closely monitoring the government's efforts to help flood victims.

Heavy rains at the end of 2010 also forced tens of thousands of Venezuelans into shelters. Some are still in shelters nearly a year later,

while others were moved into new public housing.

El Aissami said about 29,000 families are being housed in hundreds of shelters due to this week's rains and more than 1,000 homes have been seriously damaged.

He said the government is providing about \$350 in cash assistance to each family. The government ordered schools closed due to the deluges.

Internet

Fighting endangers 20,000 refugees in South Sudan

GENEVA, 10 Dec—Some 20,000 refugees in South Sudan are increasingly at risk as fighting raged near the northern border with Sudan, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said on Friday. Ongoing military confrontations in the border area of Jau took place only several kilometers away from Yida refugee settlement, which has sent some refugees fleeing into the bushes, disrupting humanitarian assistance to the settlement.

"We fear that the fighting could spread to Yida, which was hit by air strikes in November," UNHCR spokesperson Melissa Fleming told media at a Press conference held in Geneva.

The UN Refugee Agency has been providing humanitarian assistances, including food, water and health care, for refugees in Yida, who had fled Sudan's Southern Kordofan region in recent months. Possibility for refugees to travel further inland to safer locations is limited by landmines found on roads. "To ensure safe passage, the UN Mine Action Centre is doing mine surveys and clearance. We hope to relocate a first group of willing refugees very soon," said Fleming.—Xinhua

Philippine gov't assures contingency measures with entry of La Nina

MANILA, 10 Dec—The Philippine government assured on Friday that related agencies, including the local government units (LGUs), are ready to implement contingency measures in the wake of the La Nina phenomenon.

The national and local officials are all ready to carry out disaster preparedness plans to reduce the impact of natural disasters on people's lives and properties, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said during the regular press briefing.

"We can see that even if it's not rainy season, there

were heavy rains and typhoons. Our disaster preparedness continues, especially with the entry of La Nina," she said.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) officer-in-charge and Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said that Metro Manila and some areas in the Bicol and Visayas regions will continue to experience heavy rains in the coming days.

Reports showed that

local officials are ready to evacuate people living in areas declared as "highly susceptible" to flooding and landslides by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to protect people's lives.

The LGUs started monitoring areas prone to flooding in their respective municipalities especially during heavy rains. The local officials will install early warning systems that will monitor water level in the rivers.—Internet

A Pakistani policeman stands guard as firefighters extinguish burning NATO supply oil tankers and goods trucks at a terminal following an overnight attack by gunmen in Quetta. Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani Friday warned the US and its NATO allies that any future cross-border attack would meet with a "detrimental response".
INTERNET



Bomb alert forces evacuation of Eiffel Tower

PARIS, 10 Dec—The Eiffel Tower and its immediate surroundings in Paris were evacuated on Friday after an anonymous caller phoned in a bomb threat, local media reported.

On Friday afternoon police received a call around 5:00 pm local time (1600 GMT) from a man presenting himself as a member of al-Qaeda reporting a package bomb, the local broadcaster Europe 1 said in its report.

French police forced 2,000 visitors to quit the tower for more than an hour but they did not find bombs as described by the phone call.

In 1995, two explosions taking place at Paris metro and in an ashbin near the Triumphal Arch had caused several casualties.

Paris has been harassed by a series of emergent operations due to bomb alerts since 2010, including two fake bomb alerts on the Eiffel Tower within two weeks in September, another bomb alerts triggering chaos and evacuation at the Champs-Elysees Avenue and a central railway station of the Saint-Michel.

The 324-meter icon tower that was built in 1889 is one of the world's most popular tourist attractions.

Xinhua

Miami health executive gets stiff sentence for fraud

MIAMI, 10 Dec—A former Miami health care executive was sentenced to 35 years in prison for her role in a \$205 million healthcare fraud scheme, authorities said on Friday.

Judith Negron, the owner of American Therapeutic Corp, a chain of mental health care centers shut down after a raid on its Miami headquarters in October 2010, was convicted in August on charges that she helped mastermind what prosecutors described in court documents as "one of the largest and most brazen healthcare fraud conspiracies" in US history.

Her sentencing in federal court on Thursday by US District Judge James Lawrence King followed the sentencing in September of her co-defendants and co-owners. Lawrence Duran received a 50-year sentence and Marianella Valera received a 35-year sentence.

The prison sentences have been described by prosecutors as the harshest ever for defrauding Medicare, the federal insurance plan for the elderly and disabled. In addition to their time behind bars, Negron, Valera and Duran were ordered "jointly" or with other co-defendants to repay more than \$87 million in restitution, covering the amount of fraudulent bills that Medicare actually paid out to American Therapeutic over eight years.—MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, fully-armed Chinese police officers line up on their boats as their patrol missions along the Mekong River are ready to start in Guanlei, Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 9 Dec, 2011. China said joint Mekong River security patrols with forces from Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand will begin on Saturday, a development likely to deepen Beijing's influence in the region on its southern flank.
XINHUA

India probes hospital fire as death toll reaches 90

KOLKATA, 10 Dec—Indian police are investigating the cause of a fire that killed 90 people in a hospital in Kolkata when poisonous fumes spread from the blaze in the building's basement.

Patients were lowered down the outside of the

hospital on ropes after the fire broke out in the early hours of Friday at the privately-run AMRI hospital, engulfing the multi-storey premises in thick smoke.

Firefighters and staff smashed glass windows to evacuate some of the 160 patients, with local media alleging that fire alarms and extinguishers had not been working.

"In all, 90 bodies have been extricated from the hospital. 88 of these bodies have been identified and handed over to the relatives," Damayanti Sen, joint

commissioner of police, told AFP on Saturday.

Sen, who is heading the team appointed to investigate the tragedy, added that all the deaths were due to the inhalation of toxic fumes which filled the wards in the middle of the night. Four staff were among the dead.

Initial investigations suggested the fire might have been started by a short circuit in the basement, which was used to store oxygen cylinders, plastic pipes, fibre coils, chemicals and medical equipment.

Internet



People help carry a patient out of a hospital after it caught fire in Kolkata, India, on 9 Dec, 2011. The fire swept through the multistory hospital in eastern India early Friday, trapping many elderly patients in the smoke-filled building, an official said.—INTERNET

A Tribute to 20th Anniversary of the University of Medical Technology

Khin Maung Tin

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary (Virgintennial) or Emerald Jubilee of the University of Medical Technology, which arrives in December 2011, I would have privilege to write a short essay in honour of this auspicious occasion. It is about a modality which is universally recognized and one of the family members of the medical imaging. That is medical ultrasound or sonography.

What is Diagnostic Sonography?

Sonography is a highly evolving profession with continuously developing technologies. Ultrasonography, commonly called sonography, is a diagnostic imaging technology. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce dynamic visual images (Real time images) of organs, tissues, or blood flow inside the body. This type of procedure is often referred to as a sonogram or ultrasound scan. Sonography can be used to examine many parts of the body, such as abdomen, breasts, female reproductive system, prostate, heart and blood vessels. Sonography is increasingly being used in the detection and treatment of heart disease, heart attack, and vascular disease that can lead to stroke. This technology can also visualize pregnancies from five weeks gestational age to term. Unlike X-rays, sonography is an ionizing radiation free imaging modality. So this is most suitable for obstetrics cases. Sonography can also assist with the taking of cells from an organ (biopsy) for laboratory testing.

Who operate the ultrasound machine?

It is a good question. This question was asked to me by a visiting administrative official from a reputed hospital in Singapore. According to the present situation in Myanmar radiology atmosphere, I could not give the answer properly because there is no centre for producing sonographer. I told

to her that universally, diagnostic medical sonography is performed by sonographer who has the basic knowledge of imaging techniques. She agreed and said that in her country medical ultrasound is also performed by medical sonographers. In UK and USA, sonography is a specialized modality and to those who wish to become a sonographer may have the basic medical imaging diploma. Then he can continue for sonography courses. There are many sonography courses such as basic certificate course, diploma course and degree courses of sonography throughout the world. However, in our country at this time the role of sonographer is absolutely no place for them. Why?

There are no specialized diploma or degree courses only for sonography. Shouldn't we organize to set up a postgraduate diploma or degree courses in diagnostic medical sonography under the umbrella of medical imaging within the frame work of the University of Medical Technology in Yangon and Mandalay.

What are the requirements of the sonographers?

A sonographer requires a wide general knowledge in:

- Human anatomy, embryology, physiology and pathology and a detailed knowledge of the anatomical regions in which he/she specializes. In particular it is a necessity to have a three dimensional conceptual understanding of sonographic anatomical appearances, normal variations and pathological processes, in order to develop differential diagnoses.
- The physical principles of diagnostic ultrasound, including how the image are formed and recorded, and the associated artifacts which can be encountered.

What is the role of a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

A Diagnostic Sonographer is a health care professional who has undertaken an appropriate postgraduate course of practical and theoretical study specific to the practice of diagnostic ultrasound and is practicing that specialty. He performs diagnostic ultrasound examinations and provides sonographic images of the normal anatomy and pathologic conditions as well as a written technical impression of their findings. These are then interpreted by the **Radiologist** in order to provide the patient diagnosis. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required of sonographers because they must be able to explain technical procedures and results to the patients, some of whom may be nervous about the examination or the problems it may reveal. With sonography as an imaging modalities there are subspecialties within this field. Vascular sonographers specialize in imaging arteries and veins throughout the body. Cardiac sonographers (or echocardiographers) image cardiac structures and all other soft tissue structures., (i.e. abdominal, pelvic, etc) are imaged by generalist sonographers. One must also provide patient education related to medical ultrasound, promote principles of good health, act in professional and ethical manner, and demonstrate kind and compassionate communication skills with patients and colleagues. Nowadays, the Sonographer's responsibilities have increased by working hand-in-hand with radiologists. Sonographer is treated with high respect with high respect within the medical community throughout the world. Their jobs are never dull and always challenging.

In conclusion, by the nature of sonographers, compared with other imaging technologist, are accorded a high level of autonomy and responsibility in obtaining accurate diagnostic information from the ultrasound examinations.

Union Minister U Win Tun reduces poverty alleviation in Chin State with his donations

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Together with Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Chin State In Charge of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation, made cash donations, K 6.3 million for necessary assistance of the station hospital in Tiddin Township in Chin State on 6 December, K 2.5 million for the People's Hospital in Rekhawda Sub-township, K 5 million for repairing tasks of the post-primary school in Kyawthe Village, and K 4 million for the construction of a middle school (branch) in Ti-O Village.

The Union Minister visited Reak Lake in Chin State, where he left the officials concerned instructions on safeguarding against loss of natural beauty of the lake to be perpetuated for promotion of tourism industry.

He presented the officials concerned K 5 million for holding Chin State Inter-

Township Football Tournament and K 1 million for repairing of the golf course in Tiddin Township and then comforted the patients receiving medical treatment with cash assistance in the People's Hospital in Reak Sub-Township.

The Union Minister had made donations— K 47.82 million for education, K 57.31 million for health, K 56 million for electricity supply, K 19.1 million for purified drinking water, K 22 million for irrigation water, K 7.5 million for smooth transportation, K 4 million for township multi-purpose development tasks, and K 6 million for sports, totaling K 219.73 million— during his tour of Chin State from 2 to 6 December.

On 7 December morning, he proceeded to his inspection tour of Pinhtaung Forest Reserve in Kani Township in Monywa District in Sagaing Region, where he left necessary instructions for forest plantation.

MNA

Deadly Tasmanian Devil cancer found in 'clean' area

SYDNEY, 10 Dec—A deadly cancer riddling Australia's Tasmanian Devil has been found in an area thought to be free of the disease, troubling officials struggling to keep the animal alive in the wild.

The facial tumour disease has so far been confirmed across more than 60 percent of the small island state of Tasmania, but it came as a surprise that it was found in one animal in the Zeehan area in the state's west.

"Although our monitoring does indicate a westward movement of the disease, and we expected to continue to detect cases west of the known perimeter, this detection is not in an area we expected to see the disease at this stage," Save the Tasmanian Devil Programme's Howel Williams said Friday.

The furry marsupials were declared endangered in 2009 after the contagious cancer began sweeping through the population, disfiguring their faces so badly they are unable



A deadly cancer riddling Tasmanian Devil has been found in an area thought to be free of the disease, troubling officials struggling to keep the animal alive in the wild.—INTERNET

to eat and starve to death. Estimates suggest that some 70 percent of devils have already been lost to the infectious disease, which is spread by biting.—Internet

Cleft lip and palate patients provided with cash assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Magway Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee provided cash assistances to cleft lip and palate patients and honoured surgeons who performed cleft lip and palate repair operations on 8 December.

The ceremony held in University of Medicines in Magway Region was attended by MMCWA Chairperson Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung, Patron of Magway Region Supervisory

Committee Daw San San Myint, Region level departmental officials and wellwishers.

The chairperson extended greetings and wellwishers donated cash through officials.

Head of Region Head Department Dr U Zaw Htay spoke words of thanks and presented gifts to the surgeons.

The officials then cordially greeted and gave away gifts to the patients. The donation of wellwishers amounted to K 10917000.

MNA

Anarchists claim bomb at Italy tax office

ROME, 10 Dec—A letter bomb exploded Friday at an office of Italy's tax collection agency, wounding the organization's director. Police said an Italian anarchist group that sent a letter bomb to Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt earlier in the week claimed responsibility for the attack.

A Rome police official, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, said Friday's bomb was contained in a yellow bubble envelope mailed to the director's attention at an Equitalia office on the outskirts of Rome.

The tax agency director, identified by the government as Marco Cuccagna, underwent surgery after suffering injuries to a hand and his face, caused when a glass desktop was shattered by the explosion, Equitalia official Angelo Coco told the ANSA news agency.

Italy's Informal Anarchist Federation claimed

responsibility. The claim included in the package was "very similar" to that which was contained in the Deutsche Bank letter bomb, which didn't explode, a police official said. The group, known in Italy as FAI, had warned in its Deutsche

Bank claim that there would be three "explosions" in its latest campaign. Last year around Christmas, the anarchist group sent package bombs to three Roman embassies, injuring two people.

Internet



Italian bomb expert police officers leave Equitalia tax agency building in Rome, on 9 Dec, 2011, after a letter bomb exploded, lightly injuring the director general to whom it was addressed, police say.—INTERNET



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo hears reports presented by officials concerned on Mandalay Advanced Stadium and Gymnasium construction project.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects completion...

(from page 1)

The vehicles that turn from Yangon-Mandalay Expressway may enter down-

town Mandalay along Sagarin-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section with clear traffic facility, and the road section

will be inaugurated soon.

Next, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party left there and arrived at Mandalay Advanced Stadium and Gymnasium construction project in Chanmyathazi Township and inspected progress of the stadium.

At the briefing hall, the Vice-President heard reports on completion of the Mandalay Advanced Stadium and Gymnasium presented by Managing Director U Ohn Kyaw of Max Myanmar Group of Companies.

Union Minister U Tint

Hsan gave a supplementary report on the project.

Next, the Vice-President said that two international level stadiums are under construction in Nay Pyi Taw to upgrade national sports standards of Myanmar and to host SEA Games.

At the same time, Youth

Training Centre (Thuwunna) is being upgraded with extended construction of the stands to meet international standard stadium. In building the international stadium, it is necessary to construct parking lot, recreation room, canteens and pavements and

(See page 9)

Tatmadaw delegation led by Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win arrives back after attending 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2011 (LIMA-11)



Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Commander-in-Chief's Office being welcomed back by officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—The Tatmadaw delegation led by Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win from the Commander-in-Chief's Office arrived back at 11:30 am today, after attending The 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2011 (LIMA-11) held in Malaysia from 6 to 10 December, 2011.

They were welcomed back by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, senior military officers, and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.

Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win was accompanied by delegation members Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Brig-Gen Oo Kyaw of Myitkyina station and senior military officers.—MNA

Ygn, Taninthayi witness mass walk activities in second week of December

YANGON, 10 Dec—The mass walk activities for second week of December in Yangon was launched in front of the grand stand of Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region ministers and their wives, departmental officials, local people and students, totaling over 16,000 took part in the mass walk activity.

After walking along Alanpya Pagoda street, Kandawgyi ringroad and upper Pansodan Street, they practiced physical exercises at Aung San Stadium. Similar activities started in front of the office of Taninthayi Region Government this morning.

Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myat Ko, Region ministers, departmental officials, local people and students, totaling over 10,200 participated in the mass walk activity.—MNA

Union Health Minister visits detoxification hospital, central women's hospital in Mandalay Region

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin visited Amarapura Township Detoxification Hospital in Mandalay Region on 6 December morning and met with acting medical superintendent Dr Tin Oo, doctors and nurses. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister stressed the need for health staff to cooperate with other departmental staff, townsenders, religious leaders, social organizations and the public for successful provision of health care

services. He then spoke of the need for the staff members to be kind-hearted in dealing with patients.

The Union Minister also visited Chanayethazan Township Central Women's Hospital and met with medical superintendent Dr Kyaw Shwe, specialists, doctors and nurses. Afterwards, the Union Minister left necessary instructions to officials concerned.

MNA

Paper reading session on engineering science held

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—The Ministry of Electric Power No.2 held its first paper reading session on engineering science at the ministry here this morning. First, Deputy Minister

U Aung Than Oo delivered an opening speech. Then followed the paper reading session which was chaired by Managing Director U Myint Aung and five resource persons submitted

their papers.

The afternoon's session was chaired by Chief Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw and five other resource persons submitted their papers.

MNA

By Construction Minister on inspection tour of Mandalay, Sagaing Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on 6 December morning inspected road work being carried out by the special group 13 for construction (Road)

between milepost No. 9/3 and milepost 9/4 on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road.

Then, he viewed Sabanatha-Kanbalu Road in Shwebo Township in a car, and inspected progress of Kanbalu bypass in Kanbalu

Township.

Afterwards, the deputy minister proceeded to his inspection tour of Sakarinn roundabout-Takhondine road section on Yangon-Mandalay Express way.

MNA

AIDS is a national concern.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects...

(from page 8)

other necessities. Moreover, he stressed the need to form the work completion inspection team, the quality control team and audit team for ensuring systematic construction of the buildings and timely completion of the works.

The Mandalay Advanced Stadium located in Chanmyathazi Township has 473,535 square miles of area including 76826 square feet of main football ground and



1408 feet long and 32 feet wide track.

The stadium can host 30589 spectators and the facility is constituted with

147 rooms.

Later, the Vice-President and party left Mandalay by car and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects Panchaung Bridge in Sagar-in-Tada U-Dagundaing Road Section.

MNA

Information Ministry drafting amendments for Print Media and TV Laws beginning April 2011 with the aim of granting relaxation for motion picture and video censorship in conformity with new era and system

YANGON, 10 Dec—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met patrons of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board, and responsible persons of script writers, film directors, actors,

tasks for those of motion picture field and the future plan. He said that the Myanmar motion picture field and those of film industry have fine traditions in dutifully carrying out the national task for serving the interests of the State and the people during the period of independence struggles and

amounts to K 917.8 million compared with K 90 million from 2004 to 2006.

Moreover, he said that the organization has property worth K 2000 million. On other hand, he said that the ministry has been focusing on enhancement of life of those from the motion picture world

the State has spent Euro 1.5 million on purchase of modern machines, cameras and other equipment for improvement of the motion picture world.

Furthermore, he said that encouragement was given to undertaking social tasks of those from the motion picture field such as Myanmar Motion Day celebrations,

students of film industry.

Moreover, he said, disputes among those of motion picture field, between those of motion picture world and other organizations and governmental departments were solved with genuine goodwill. It is necessary to place emphasis on securing achievements in processes of

efforts have been made for cooperation with the international community from 2004 to date after holding discussions with Chairman of the organization U Sein Tin.

He said that the motion picture academy award presentation ceremony was held on a grand scale for uplifting prestige of those from the motion picture world. Academy awards were systematically scrutinized by the Motion Picture Promotion Board and the Academy Award Scrutiny Board, he added.

Moreover, he said that special care was taken for smooth process between the Motion Picture Censor Board and those of motion picture world and that between the State and the people, and those of motion picture world. He said that the Ministry of Information on its part will cooperate with (See page 10)



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan meets patrons of MMPO, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board.—MNA

supporting actors, technicians, producers, managers, editors, video (central) and background music layers at the hall of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise (Head Office) in Bahan Township, here, this morning and gave necessary instructions on improvement of Myanmar motion picture and video field.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads of Ministry of Information, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and executives, guests and media personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said that he met them to coordinate the future

defending the independence of the State.

He noted that the governments in successive eras have improved the life of those from the movie world including presentation of movie academy awards to the winners as much as possible.

With regard to the cooperation with those of motion picture world, the Ministry of Information met the majority of those from the motion picture field has been fulfilling their wishes from 2004 to date, he said. Arrangements have been made for the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization to walk on its better way, and fulfillments were provided to the organization in all sectors, he added. In consequence, he said that the fund of the organization

and development of the motion picture world as much as possible since 2004.

He continued to say that

Kathina robe offering ceremonies, respect paying ceremonies and prize presentation for outstanding

shooting, producing and showing Myanmar movies not only at home but also abroad. Therefore, relentless



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan greets those present at the meeting with patrons of MMPO, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann...

(from page 16)

Dagon Township Constituency as Chairman, U Thein Swe of An Constituency and U Htay Myint of Myeik Constituency as Vice-Chairmen. Commission members are retired Ambassador (Retd) U Lin Myaing, Director-General (Retd) U Mya Thein of the Supreme Court of the Union, Director-General (Retd) U Than Tun of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor (Retd) Dr Aung Tun Thet, Lt-Col Aung Khin Thein of Judge Advocate-General's Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Professors Dr Tin May Tun and Dr Thida Oo of the Ministry of Education, Director (Retd) U Tin Win of the Supreme Court of the Union, Region Law Officer (Retd) U Khin Maung Oo, Advocates U Myint Lwin and U Than Maung, and Deputy Director (Retd) Daw Than Than Yi of Attorney-General's Office.

MNA



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo accepting computer accessories donated by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua for the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Information Ministry drafting...

(from page 9)

them for enabling the motion picture world to secure the best development in the future.

He noted that one modern studio is needed for improvement of the motion picture world. He recalled that he himself has been giving instructions on establishment of the modern studio for many years; he discussed with the persons for putting investments in the studio through various ways and means; and he will make strenuous efforts for implementing the plan.

A coordination meeting was held with officials of the People's Republic of China to enable the motion picture world not only to produce movies and TV series at home but also to join hands with international film community, he said. At present, he said, the plans are under implementation for production of one movie and one TV series on a basis of Myanmar-China friendly ties. He recalled that he himself had instructed officials to produce Myanmar TV series to be broadcast on MRTV at the motion picture outstanding award presentation ceremony in 2009. The plan will be implemented to achieve success, he said. Moreover, he said that strenuous efforts will be made for establishment of film processor and refreshment machine for the movie world.

After the new government has taken responsibilities of the State, the Ministry of Information is drafting the amendments for the Print Media and TV Laws beginning April 2011 with the aim of granting relaxation for motion picture and video censorship in conformity with the new era and system, he said.

After granting relaxation, it is inappropriate for restriction of censorship for movies and video, he said. Hence, the relaxation of rules and laws will be made step by step.

Some are saying that there should be no censor board regarding the film and video censorship and that the artistic works produced freely and openly will be assessed and supervised by those from the film world, artists and the people. However, it will have to take time to create such a society with

good practices.

This is why the film and video censor board will remain while the censor rules are being relaxed. When the citizens mature into democratic practices, they will be able to create their artistic works in accord with the forthcoming relaxed rules and laws.

Looking back to history, those from the film world participated in the national causes in cooperation with the successive governments. And their participation and cooperation are still going on. If such cooperation continues based on nationalistic spirit and patriotic spirit in the interests of the nation, the people and the film world, success will be achieved for sure.

The Union Minister went on to say that when it comes to censorship, any malpractices and weaknesses can be reported and action and measures will be taken to ensure the best and most convenient ways in doing the business.

He added that he would like to clarify the government's efforts for the development of the nation and the people. The government is taking measures for reforms, stability and development aspired by the people.

As regards to reforms, it is passing new laws and amending and supplementing the existing laws as necessary. So far, fifteen laws have been approved and promulgated. Those laws have contributed a lot to many sectors such as politics, economy, investment, trade, tax reduction, education, health and agriculture.

Step-by-step measures are being taken to ensure good governance and clean government in the public interests. In the judiciary sector also, the government is supervising to ensure correctness and uprightness in accord with the law. As for human rights, the National Human Rights Commission has been formed. Moreover, the government is gradually relaxing the censor rules and laws regarding the press media and film censorship as well as making reforms in education and health sectors.

With regard to peace and stability, efforts are being made to make peace with national race armed groups, to ensure stable domestic politics (to cooperate in domestic

politics) and to ensure stable international politics.

For national development, sound environments are being created to acquire foreign investments, to relax procedures for taxes and revenues and to promote trade procedures.

The government has increased pensions for pensioners and is implementing tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation by laying down eight work programmes. Measures are also being taken for development of industry, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors.

The government on its part is fulfilling the requirements of the people. In the country, democratic practice has not been matured and strong.

As the term of the new government in office has just entered its ninth month, it is just in its infancy in democratization. It is carefully undertaking reforms step by step with the view to bringing about progresses peacefully.

It is believed that Myanmar Motion Picture Association and men of film industry will cooperate in democratization process of the new administration in national outlook and spirit.

Director (Admin) of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise reported policies and regulations of Movie and Video Censor Board which will continue to be kept in force and which will be relaxed.

Chairman of MMPA U Myint Thein Pe reported organizational structure of the association, current undertakings, weaknesses and advantages, and future plans; Secretary of MMPA, production of films and videos; Chairman of Video Basic Board (Central) U Khin Htay, production and screening of videos; Patron of MMPA, joint production; Member of Movie and Video Censor Board Director at Yangon Region Advocate-General Office Daw Khin Cho Ohn, offences and sentences in film and video industry. The Union minister, the managing director of MMPE and officials participated in the discussion.

After making concluding remarks, the Union minister cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

MNA

Plane crashes onto Philippine slum, killing 13



File picture shows firefighters dealing with a fire in a Manila suburb. A four-seater cargo plane crashed onto a Philippine slum on Saturday, sparking a fire that killed 13 people including three children and left at least another 20 injured, officials said.—INTERNET

MANILA, 10 Dec.—A four-seater cargo plane crashed onto a Philippine slum on Saturday, sparking a fire that killed 13 people including

three children and left at least another 20 injured, officials said.

Rescuers recovered the burned bodies of nine adults,

a child and an infant from the crash site near Manila airport, Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general of the Philippine National Red Cross, told AFP.

"The crash set fire to at least 30 houses.

These are shanties, made of light materials," Pang told AFP in a telephone interview.

She said those killed included the pilot and the co-pilot of the aircraft, which aviation regulators described as a locally-owned Beechcraft that had taken off from Manila airport minutes earlier.

Florencio Bernabe, the mayor of Paranaque district where the crash occurred, said at least 20 other injured victims had been taken to hospital.

Internet



Photo taken on 7 Dec, 2011 shows villagers of the Ganvie water village walk on a dock near Cotonou, economic capital of Benin, nicknamed "Venice in Africa" and with a history of more than 300 years, the Ganvie water village on the Nogue lake in Cotonou is a water residential area that has been well-preserved in Africa.—XINHUA

US trade deficit shrinks for fourth straight month

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—The US trade deficit narrowed in October to its lowest point of the year as Americans bought fewer foreign cars and imported less oil. Exports of American-made autos also fell. The Commerce Department said Friday that the trade deficit shrank 1.6 percent to \$44.5 billion. That's down from September's revised figure of \$44.2 billion.

Exports slipped 0.8 percent to \$179.2 billion, the first drop after three months of gains. Shipments of

March.

A lower deficit can boost economic growth because it typically means foreign nations are buying more American goods. That can lead to more jobs and higher consumer spending, which fuels 70 percent of economic activity. The deficit shrank every month in the July-September quarter, as exports grew. That contributed almost a half-point to the economy's 2 percent annual growth rate in the quarter.

Rising consumer demand in the United States

could push imports higher, particularly as the holiday shopping season gets under way. Retailers reported that shoppers got off to a healthy start over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. And consumer confidence rose sharply last month, though it is still below levels that are consistent with a healthy

economy. There are also signs hiring is picking up. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level in nine months. That suggests companies are more confident about the economy's growth and are laying off fewer workers.

Internet

Ford recalls 129,000 sedans; wheels may fall off

CHICAGO, 10 Dec—Ford Motor Co has recalled nearly 129,000 of its Mercury Milan and top-selling Ford Fusion in the United States because their 17-inch steel wheels may fall off, US safety regulators said on Friday.

In some vehicles from model years 2010 and 2011, the wheel studs may fracture and make the car shake. If ignored, the wheels may fall off a moving car, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a posting on its website.

Ford, the No 2 US automaker, said the issue may stem from wheel mounting pads or rear brake discs that have been incorrectly built and cannot support the wheel. The sedans were built at Ford's Hermosillo stamping and assembly plant in Mexico in April 2009 and from December 2009 through November 13, 2010.

Fusion sales were up about 15 percent for the first 11 months of 2011. The car competes against Honda Motor Co's Accord and Toyota Motor Co's Camry.

The recall also affects vehicles with service steel wheels likely sold between mid-April 2010 and mid-November 2010.—Reuters



The 2010 Ford Fusion is seen in front of a sign that reads "Drive Green" at the 2010 North American International Auto Show during press days in Detroit, Michigan on 11 January, 2010.—INTERNET



Iyanka Marie Trump (born on 30 October, 1981) is an American businesswoman, socialite, heiress, and fashion model. She is the daughter of the American business magnate Donald Trump and Executive Vice President of Development & Acquisitions at The Trump Organization. INTERNET

India to step up oil import from Africa

NEW DELHI, 10 Dec—India will step up its oil and gas imports from Africa to reduce dependence on any particular region by forming joint ventures, a senior official said Friday. "We have been trying to diversify our sources of oil and gas imports so as to reduce our dependence on any particular region of the world," the Indo-Asian News Service quoted Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee as saying.

"To meet the growing demand for crude oil and gas in India, Africa will play a major role in the coming years," he said at the third India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference here. The Middle East accounts for around 70 percent of India's oil and gas imports, with Saudi Arabia being the largest supplier of oil to India, followed by Iran.

Africa accounts for over one-fifth of India's oil imports,

with Nigeria being the country's second largest source of oil after Saudi Arabia. Nigeria sells about 10 billion US dollars worth of oil product to India annually.

Import of crude oil from Africa has increased from about 22 million tons per annum during 2004-05 to more than 35 million tons in 2010-11. "Today, more than one-fifth of India's crude oil imports are from Africa, with the major suppliers being Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan," said the Indian finance minister.

He added India's refining capacity is set to increase to 238 million tons per annum by 2013 from around 194 million now, which means that India needs 40 million tons of additional crude per annum.—Xinhua



industrial supplies, such as natural gas, copper and chemicals, fell. Exports of autos and agricultural goods also dropped.

Imports fell 1 percent to \$222.6 billion, reflecting a 5 percent decline in oil imports. The average price of imported oil fell for the fifth straight month to \$98.84, the lowest since

In this 8 Dec, 2011 photo, a container ship is docked at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, Calif. The US trade deficit narrowed in October to its lowest point of the year as Americans bought fewer foreign cars and imported less oil. Exports of American-made autos also fell.

INTERNET

Chinese newspaper wins British media award

LONDON, 10 Dec—China Daily European Weekly, Europe's first English-language Chinese paper, was awarded on Friday by a British anti-jargon group for its "clear communication of business news to a global audience."

The independent, self-funding group based in New Mills, High Peak, gave its International Media Award to China Daily European Weekly. It is the first time that a Chinese media has won the award.

"The language of commerce can be very complicated, especially for new business people," said Chrissie Maher, founder of Plain English Campaign.

"We do need clear and accurate information, and this is what we find in China Daily. A newspaper that brings business into our daily lives in a way that is easy to read and understand for a wide and varied audience," Maher said.

China Daily European Weekly was launched in Britain and continental Europe in December last year. It now covers 38 countries in Europe.—Xinhua

Indonesia losses over 3 bln USD in embezzlement in 5 years

JAKARTA, 10 Dec—The country's financial watchdog said that in the last five years it had uncovered 318 cases of embezzlement that have cost the country trillions of rupiah, local media reported on Saturday.

Speaking at a Press conference at the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to mark International Anti-Corruption Day, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) Hasan Bisri said on Friday losses to the state amounted to 29.5 trillion rupiah (about 3.3 billion US dollars) and 480 million US dollars in foreign currency.

Hasan said that all the findings by the BPK had been forwarded to law enforcement authorities, but he was continuing to monitor whether any action was being taken.

He said the BPK would continue to identify areas where state funds were being pilfered.—Xinhua

KATHMANDU, 10 Dec—A portly business consultant takes an inch-perfect pass from a balding banker, slots the ball home with clinical precision and punches the air with both arms, David Beckham style.

This is "Champagne polo", the commentator yells as the steed now lumbering behind the goal lets go of a large pile of dung.

We are approaching the climax of the World Elephant Polo Championships, with players from across the globe gathering in a remote airfield in southern Nepal for a week of one of the most unusual sports around.

"Some players are looking very tired out there," says Peter Prentice, a Hong Kong-based veteran of the tournament who chairs the World Elephant Polo Association (WEPA) and doubles up as an urbane

commentator.

"I recommend a few repetitions of light weights to warm down and certainly a half a Carlsberg is about the right weight to relax those weary muscles.

"A Sauvignon Blanc

and then a Chablis over ice or two should also do the trick."

Meanwhile a former Miss Nepal is told she is holding her stick the wrong way around.

Thus the tone is set for the exclusive business of



Elephant polo players from Team EFG Switzerland, in red, and Tiger Tops, in green, vie for the ball during the final of the 30th World Elephant Polo Championships at Meghauly Forest. For one week a year, Nepal's Chitwan National Park is home to playboys and aristocrats who pay around \$3,500 each to attend the tournament.

INTERNET

elephant polo in Nepal's Chitwan National Park, home to Bengal tigers, rhinos and, for one week a year, playboys and aristocrats.

The annual event, hosted by the Tiger Tops jungle resort, has attracted models, celebrities and other glitterati over the years, including former Beatle Ringo Starr and comedians Billy Connolly and Max Boyce.

But at the business end of the tournament the participants take their sport seriously. "Players don't take it lightly if a umpiring decision doesn't go their way," says Dubai-based former Gurkha and logistics consultant Nigel Lea, 33.

"But the joy of elephant polo is that because you are all together as a community that only sees each other once a year, 30 seconds after walking off the pitch we calm down, shake hands and have a beer together."—Internet

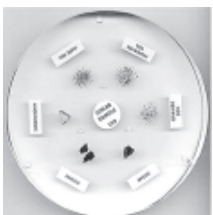
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 Yangon. 11 December 2011

NASA admits losing hundreds of moon rock samples

NEW YORK, 10 Dec — NASA Inspector General Paul Martin issued a report detailing foibles such as the US space agency making loans to researchers who never used the samples, or simply losing track of rare pieces dating back to the first US trip to the Moon in 1969. "According to NASA records, 517 loaned astromaterials have been lost or stolen between 1970 and June 2010," said the report.

Astromaterials include moon rocks and soil; meteorites from asteroids, Mars, and the Moon; ions from the outer layers of the Sun; dust from comets and interstellar space; and cosmic dust from Earth's stratosphere. "These samples constitute a rare and limited resource and serve an important role for research and education," it added. "Specifically, we found that NASA records were inaccurate, and that researchers could not account for all samples loaned to them and held samples for extended periods without performing research or returning the samples to NASA." —Internet



A six-inch lunar sample disk containing three rock pieces and three clumps of lunar dirt, similar to the one shown here, went missing after it was loaned to a Delaware observatory in 1978.—INTERNET

Snakebite called the most neglected of all tropical diseases

NEW DELHI, 10 Dec — Poisonous snakebites kill many more people in South Asia than is ever reported, and so the problem isn't being treated like a critical public-health issue, a group of snakebite experts say.

India, which has one of the biggest snakebite problems in the world, registered 2,000 deaths from venom in 2005. But a "verbal autopsy"

project that sought to establish cause of death of one million people found that 46,000 of them died of snakebites — with that level of underreporting typical across the region, according to David Warrell, co-author of research presented in the journal PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. The real numbers show one Indian dies of a snakebite for every

two who die of AIDS.

And it's a growing problem in the region. Climate change is causing an increase in natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, which force people and snakes to seek shelter on the same remaining dry land. In the Bangladesh floods of 2007, snakebites were a greater cause of death than waterborne diseases. "In the 21st century, snakebite is the most neglected of all the neglected tropical diseases," said Prof. Warrell, who is emeritus professor of tropical medicine at the University of Oxford. He joined other experts in a special session on the neglect of snakebite at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's annual meeting.

"The deaths and suffering from venomous snakebites remain largely invisible to the global health community." —Internet



In this 2007 photo, an Indian villager removes a snake found beside a parked cycle at the entrance of a house in the village of Choto Poshla, about 130 kilometres northwest of Kolkata.—INTERNET

New drugs prolong life for women with breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — Breast cancer experts are hailing what could be some of the biggest advances in more than a decade — two new medicines that significantly delay the time until women with very advanced cases get worse.

In a major international study, an experimental drug called Pertuzumab, from the company Genentech, held cancer at bay for an average of 18 months when given with standard treatment, as opposed to 12 months for others who were given only the usual treatment. It also strongly appears to be improving survival rates. Patients are being followed up to confirm this.

"You don't see that very often. It's a spectacular result," said one study leader, Dr Sandra Swain, medical director of Washington Hospital Centre's cancer insti-

tute. In a second study, another drug kept cancer in check for an average of seven months in women whose disease was worsening, despite treatment with hormone-blocking drugs. Everolimus, which is sold as Afinitor by Novartis AG, has long been used in organ transplants but had not previously been tried against breast cancer.

A comparison group who received only hormonal medicine had just a three-month delay in disease progression. Afinitor works in a novel way, seems "unusually effective" and sets a new standard of care, said Dr Peter Ravdin, breast cancer chief at the UT Health Science Centre in San Antonio, Texas. Most patients have tumours like those in this study — their growth is fuelled by oestrogen.

Internet

Nanoparticle hollowing method promises medical advances

LONDON, 10 Dec — A process to "carve" highly complicated shapes into nanoparticles has been unveiled by a team of researchers. It involves a chemical process which hollows out the particles into shapes such as double-walled boxes and multi-chambered tubes. The researchers said this would aid the creation of more complex nano-objects. They said these could ultimately be used to revolutionise medical tests and aid drugs treatments.

The research was carried out by the Catalan Institute of Nanotechnology in Bellaterra, Spain and is published in the latest issue of Science. To deliver their results the scientists refined a series of existing corrosion techniques including the "galvanic effect". This involved treating tiny silver cubes with

cationic gold — a type of gold that had had some electrons removed from its atoms, turning it into an ion. When brought together at room temperature the cationic gold "attacked" the silver, stealing its electrons.

Internet



Abortion 'does not raise' mental health risk

LONDON, 10 Dec — Abortion does not raise the risk of a woman suffering mental health problems, a major review by experts concludes. Data from 44 studies showed women with an unwanted pregnancy have a higher incidence of mental health problems in general. This is not affected by whether or not they have an abortion or give birth. But anti-abortion campaigners said the review sought to "minimise" the psychological effect of terminating a pregnancy.

Experts from the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCMH) used the same research methods they use to assess evidence on other mental health issues for NICE. The work — funded by the Department of Health — came after concerns that abortion may adversely affect a woman's mental health. Usually, a woman's risk of suffering common disorders such as anxiety or depression would be around 11-12%. But the research-



Women who have unwanted pregnancies have three times the risk of mental health problems.

INTERNET

ers said this rate was around three times higher in women with unwanted pregnancies.

The director of NCCMH, Prof Tim Kendall, said: "It could be that these women have a mental health problem before the pregnancy. On the other hand, it could be the unwanted pregnancy that's causing the problem.

Or both explanations could be true. We can't be absolutely sure from the studies whether that's the case — but common sense would say it's quite likely to be both. The evidence shows though that whether these women have abortions — or go on to give birth — their risk of having mental health problems will not increase.

"They carry roughly equal risks. We believe this is the most comprehensive and detailed review of the mental health outcomes of abortion to date worldwide."

Internet

90yo banned after refusing breath test

FORBES, 10 Dec — A 90-year-old woman has been put on a good behaviour bond after allegedly being caught driving while more than four times the legal blood-alcohol limit. Police say they had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit by Beryl Lavis as they tried to stop her for a random breath test on the New South Wales south coast in September. Lavis was pulled over on the Princes Highway at Batemans Bay, about 20 kilometres from her home at Moruya.

She allegedly returned a blood-alcohol reading of 0.23 and later refused a second test at the local police station. The 90-year-old was charged with refusing a breath test and pleaded guilty today in Moruya Local Court. A drink-driving charge was withdrawn. Lavis had her licence cancelled for one year and was put on a nine-month good behaviour bond. She is appealing against the severity of the sentence.

Internet

Nick Ravenscroft visited the derelict house near the mysterious Pendle Hill.—INTERNET



'Witch's cottage' unearthed near Pendle Hill, Lancashire

LONDON, 10 Dec — Engineers have said they were "stunned" to unearth a 17th Century cottage, complete with a cat skeleton, during a construction project in Lancashire. The cottage was discovered near Lower Black Moss reservoir in the village of Barley, in the shadow of Pendle Hill. Archaeologists brought in by United Utili-

ties to survey the area found the building under a grass mound. Historians are now speculating that the well-preserved cottage could have belonged to one of the Pendle witches. The building contained a sealed room, with the bones of a cat bricked into the wall. It is believed the cat was buried alive to protect the cottage's inhabitants from evil spirits.

Carl Sanders, United Utilities' project manager, said: "It's not often you come across a fairytale cottage complete with witch's cat." "The building is in remarkable condition.

You can walk through it and get a real sense that you're peering into the past." Pendle Hill has a real aura about it, and it's hard not to be affected by the place. "Even before we discovered the building, there were lots of jokes from the lads about broomsticks and black cats. The find has really stunned us all."

Internet



Funny moments caught on camera.

College essay questions get weird

US colleges are adding unusual questions to their applications, including the University of Maryland asking to share "my favourite thing about last Tuesday."

The question, which the university asks applicants to answer in 25 words or less, is part of a recent trend of schools asking short answer questions on subjects atypical for a college application, such as New York's Columbia University asking applicants to describe "the best movie of all time" with brevity, the *Chicago Tribune* reported Friday.

"Imagine you have to wear a costume for a year of your life. What would you pick and why?" asks Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

"What is your favourite ride at the amusement park? How does this reflect your approach to life?" Emory University in Atlanta asks applicants.

Woman threw cappuccino at clerk

Police in Michigan are seeking a 22-year-old woman accused of throwing hot cappuccino in the face of a gas station clerk.

Battle Creek police said the clerk at the Marathon station told investigators the woman came into the store with a man around 9:49 am Wednesday and they argued with her about the price of the cappuccino drinks they had chosen, the Battle Creek Enquirer reported Friday.

Police said the man left his cup on the counter and began to leave, but the woman continued to argue with the clerk and then ran after throwing the hot drink at the clerk.

Investigators said the man and woman were identified from security footage. The 25-year-old man was arrested on outstanding warrants and told officers he only knew the woman casually. However, police said the pair have a child together and have been involved in domestic violence calls.

Police said they are seeking the woman for questioning and she is likely to face an assault charge.

News Album

Man return flags stolen in 1976

Four men who stole two flags from an Illinois college in 1976 said they always knew they would have to return the items someday.

Brian Carney, 55, who returned the flags to Joliet Junior College this week with the blessings of his co-conspirators, said the men have taken good care of the flags, a US flag and a bicentennial flag, since they rowed a canoe along a creek onto the school's campus in July 1976 and made off with them, the *Chicago Tribune* reported Friday.

"We cherished them and took care of them," Carney said. "The flags meant something to us and we knew eventually they had to be returned." Carney said he and his fellow pranksters wanted to set a good example for their children by returning the pilfered flags.



Ötzi the Iceman, a 5300-year-old mummy, was found in the Italian Alps 20 years ago.

Closed road, watery eyes after onion spill

A highway near Sacramento was closed after thousands of onions spilled from a truck and caused watery eyes among witnesses and police, authorities said.

Police said the big rig truck was travelling north on Highway 65 Thursday evening when the driver tried to maneuver around a curve, lost control and went through the median. The vehicle overturned and crashed into the southbound lanes, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The spilled onions and their strong smell closed the highway for several hours, authorities said.

The truck driver was taken to a local hospital but there was no report on his condition, the *Times* said.

Foster's father gets 5 years in prison



Jodie Foster's estranged father Lucius has been sentenced in a Los Angeles court to five years in jail, *People.com* said Friday.

INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—Jodie Foster's estranged father Lucius has been sentenced in a Los Angeles court to five years in jail,

People.com said Friday. The 89-year-old building contractor was convicted this week of grand theft and contracting without a license.

He was found guilty of swindling \$130,000 from poor and elderly people in a home-building scam and faced as much as 25 years in prison at sentencing.

Foster, who divorced Jodie's mother before the actress was born, told TV's "Inside Edition" he didn't steal the investors' money and blamed the bad economy for the charges against him.

Internet

Lohan's Playboy spread leaked on Web

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—Editors at Playboy magazine are upset images from a photo shoot of Hollywood actress Lindsay Lohan have been leaked on the Internet, TMZ said Friday.

The pictorial features Lohan paying homage to late screen icon Marilyn Monroe.

TMZ said Playboy executives are "freaking out" because they fear the leaked images might damage sales of the magazine, which paid the "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls" star \$1 million to pose for its layout.

The issue, due out next week, is expected to be the



Editors at Playboy magazine are upset images from a photo shoot of Hollywood actress Lindsay Lohan have been leaked on the Internet, TMZ said Friday.—INTERNET

magazine's best-selling copy of 2011, the entertainment news Web site said.

Internet



In this 7 Dec, 2011 file photo, actress Kirsten Dunst poses at The Hollywood Reporter's 20th annual Women in Entertainment Breakfast in Beverly Hills, Calif. INTERNET

Judge orders man to stay away from Kirsten Dunst

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—A judge on Friday granted Kirsten Dunst a temporary restraining order against a French man who has repeatedly written to the actress and travelled to Los Angeles at least five times to try to meet her.

Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson ordered Jean Christophe Prudhon of Dijon, France, to stay 100 yards away from the "Spider-Man" star and to stop trying to contact her.

In letters accompanying Dunst's petition, Prudhon wrote that he sold his home in France so he could continue to travel to meet Dunst, who has not responded to any of his more than 50 letters. He wrote that he is in love with the actress and that he has repeatedly waited outside Dunst's home to try to meet her and has been mistaken for a paparazzo.

Internet

"Young Adult" is not women behaving badly, just real

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—Nowhere is the old saying "beauty is only skin deep" less understood than in Hollywood where for years women have tried with sporadic success to overcome the notion that looks count for more than brains.

This past year two female-starring film comedies, "Bridesmaids" and "Bad Teacher," became smash hits based on the idea that women can behave badly and on Friday, a third, "Young Adult," hits theaters with a head-turning performance by Charlize Theron and

written by Oscar winner Diablo Cody.

But Theron, Cody and director Jason Reitman are loathe to pigeonhole the film as just another funny story about a woman acting in impolite and socially incorrect ways. Instead, they see Theron's character, Mavis Gary, as a real-life person who is as flawed as anyone. And their take on Gary is winning praise from critics.

"I don't really see it as women behaving badly so much as multifaceted female characters," Theron said at a recent news conference. "You're

Zimmer, Williams to arrange Oscar music

BEVERLY HILLS, 10 Dec—Composer Hans Zimmer and songwriter-producer Pharrell Williams are to serve as music consultants for Hollywood's 84th Academy Awards ceremony.

Their participation was announced Friday by telecast producers Brian Grazer and Don Mischer.

This will be the first time the composers have worked on the Oscar show.

"Hans is one of the most accomplished and creative film composers of our time and Pharrell is a phenomenal songwriter with an amazing list of credits," Grazer and Mischer said in a statement. "This is an exciting and prestigious collaboration that promises to take the



Composer Hans Zimmer and songwriter-producer Pharrell Williams are to serve as music consultants for Hollywood's 84th Academy Awards ceremony, organizers said Friday.—INTERNET

audience on a musical journey."

"It is a great privilege to serve the academy in this role and to help celebrate and honor this year's incredible artistry," added Zimmer.

Internet



Cast member Patrick Wilson and his wife Dagmara Dominczyk arrive for the premiere of the film "Young Adult" in New York on 8 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET

actually seeing women in complicated, funny situations where you would normally see a man."—Reuters

Manchester United 4-1 Wolves



Nani & Wayne Rooney hit doubles as hosts make perfect response to Champions League exit

LONDON, 10 Dec — Wayne Rooney and Nani both scored twice as Manchester United gave the perfect response to their Champions League exit with a commanding win over Wolves. Nani cut inside from the left and blasted the opener into the corner before Rooney made it 2-0 with a low drive from the edge of the area. Steven Fletcher gave Wolves a lifeline with a header just after half-time. But United hit back with Antonio Valencia setting up Nani for a tap-in and crossing for Rooney to rifle home. United put their miserable surrender in Basel behind them in a display

Arsenal	1 - 0	Everton
Bolton	1 - 2	A Villa
Liverpool	1 - 0	QPR
ManU	4 - 1	Wolve
Norwich	4 - 2	Newcastle
Swansea	2 - 0	Fulham
West Brom	1 - 2	Wigan

brimming with positive intent and attacking verve. Wolves' sixth away league defeat in eight games leaves them just three points clear of the relegation zone.—*Internet*

Barclays Premier League 10-Dec-2011 Saturday

Norwich City 4-2 Newcastle

LONDON, 10 Dec—Grant Holt struck two headers as injury-hit Newcastle slumped to their third defeat in four top-flight games.

Ten-man visitors fall to second straight league defeat as Grant Holt scores twice in thriller



Holt's two second-half goals sealed Norwich's victory.
INTERNET

Norwich led when Wes Hoolahan's effort was diverted in by Danny Simpson, but Demba Ba steered in an equaliser. The home team scored twice early in the second half from headers by Holt and Steve Morison.

Newcastle's Dan Gosling was sent off for a foul on Russell Martin, but Ba fired in to cut the deficit. Holt then nodded in the clincher.—*Internet*



Stiliyan Petrov celebrates putting Villa 2-0 up at the Reebok Stadium.
INTERNET

Bolton 1 - 2 Aston Villa

LONDON, 10 Dec—Goals from Marc Albrighton and Stiliyan Petrov helped Aston Villa bounce back to form at the Reebok, piling the misery on for Bolton.

Albrighton steered home a cross from the left and Petrov scored from 30 yards out in a one-sided first half.

Ivan Klasnic's neat turn and finish offered hope of a comeback, but a late injury to the striker all but ended his side's chances. Victory moves Villa up to eighth,

Liverpool 1-0 QPR



Second-half Luis Suarez header helps hosts end frustrating run of Anfield draws

AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani dismisses talk of Carlos Tevez and Alexandre Pato swap with Manchester City

MILAN, 10 Dec — AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani has dismissed claims that Alexandre Pato will be joining Manchester City in a swap move with Carlos Tevez.

The Italian giant is interested in signing the Argentine on loan but City is holding out, preferring to sell its want-away striker on a permanent basis.

Speculation had mounted that City was considering signing Pato or another top player from the Italian side but Galliani played down such talk.

"There is an offer sent to Manchester for Tevez,"

he told milannews.it. "However, we have not spoken about any of our players going to City or any other club. "Our fans can be calm because this is the truth." Galliani is aware that City is unwilling to loan its player but insists his club won't back down if the Eastlands team refuses to accept the proposed offer. "We know



AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani that City's desire is to sell the player but our offer is to get the player on loan with an option to make that deal permanent." he added.
Internet

Vidic to miss rest of season

MANCHESTER, 10 Dec—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed that injured skipper Nemanja Vidic will miss the rest of the season. The Serbian defender injured his knee in United's Champions League defeat in Basel in midweek. And Ferguson said he will need an operation after suffering ligament damage that will keep him out for the remainder of the 2011/12 campaign. "We thought it was a bad one," said Ferguson. "He's out for the season. It's not unexpected but it's still bad news."

Vidic fell awkwardly challenging Basel forward Marco Streller in the opening half of their crucial Champions League group match and was stretched off the field. The 30-

year-old has already had one spell on the sidelines this season, having spent two months out with a calf problem he suffered against West Brom on the opening day of the Barclays Premier League season.—*Internet*



Manchester United skipper Nemanja Vidic injured himself against Basel

Calcavecchia-Price, Bradley-Steele share lead

NAPLES, 10 Dec—Nick Price had a hole-in-one and teamed with fellow Champions Tour player Mark Calcavecchia for a 9-under 63 and a share of the lead with PGA Champion Keegan Bradley and Brendan Steele on Friday in the Franklin Templeton Shootout. Price also made a 30-foot birdie putt on the final hole in the modified alter-

nate-shot format. Bradley and Steele played the final six holes in 7 under in the first round on Tiburon Golf Club's Gold Course.

Jerry Kelly and Steve Stricker, the long-time friends from Madison, Wis, who won the 2009 event, were a stroke back, and Rickie Fowler and Camilo Villegas were two shots back. The 12 two-man teams will play a better-ball round Saturday and close with a scramble Sunday in the \$3 million event. Price's 4-iron shot from 213 yards on No. 12 hopped a couple of times and rolled right into the cup. "We're 4 under through 11 holes, which we didn't really take advantage I think of the good start we got off to," Price said. "And then what can you say when you make a hole-in-one? We go from 4 to 6 under, and now we're really looking at shooting a decent score today or a low score. It just got better and better."—*Internet*

Sebastian Vettel holds a trophy awarded at the annual FIA prize-giving gala in Delhi, on 9 Dec, 2011. Vettel collected the trophy for a second straight year at the FIA Prize Giving Gala in New Delhi.
XINHUA



International Sports

Arsenal to celebrate 125th anniversary

LONDON, 10 Dec—Arsenal have planned a day of celebrations around their Barclays Premier League match against Everton to mark their 125th anniversary. The Gunners were formed in 1886 and alongside club legends and notable supporters a number of descendants from the original team will be guests of honour at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

of Fred Beardsley, who sourced kit for Arsenal from his former team Nottingham Forest, will join current kit manager Vic Akers in setting up the dressing room pre-match.

The two great-grandchildren of David Danskin, Arsenal's founding father, will carry out the duty of handing over the match ball to referee Howard Webb, who will decide the kick-off with a sixpence to commemorate the founding team members who each gave a sixpence to buy a football.

A souvenir edition of the matchday programme will be available and anyone purchasing will be in with a chance of finding one of 125 golden tickets to win one of the 18 commemorative shirts worn by the squad on the day or a souvenir leather football. Supporters are asked to arrive at the stadium early to experience the special events take place.

The great-great-grandson



Fans will take part in a day of celebrations to mark Arsenal's 125th anniversary.

Internet

Kenya's U20 women soccer team off to Lesotho

NAIROBI, 10 Dec—Kenya's U20 women football team on Friday left for Lesotho for the next round of the U20 World Cup qualifiers. Coach Florence Adhiambo said they will be keen to safeguard their 2-0 goal aggregate advantage when they clash with Lesotho on Sunday in the second leg. This is the first women team that Kenya is sending out to an international event, after they pulled out of the All Africa Games

qualifiers in April. "We believe in our strength. It will not be easy against Lesotho away, but we hold on to our principal and we will try to make it hard for them to score," Adhiambo said in Nairobi. Adhiambo said they have had adequate training to help them finish the job on Sunday. "Despite several challenges, we are confident the amount of work we have put in training is enough to help

us achieve our objective. We must get past our opponents in the return match," she said. "We already have two goals in the bag and we must do everything to ensure we maintain the same. Our training has mainly focused on defensive tactics," she added. The 2012 Under-20 Women's World Cup will be held in Uzbekistan and a total of 16 teams will compete in the final stage of the tournament.
Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (11-12-2011) (Sunday)

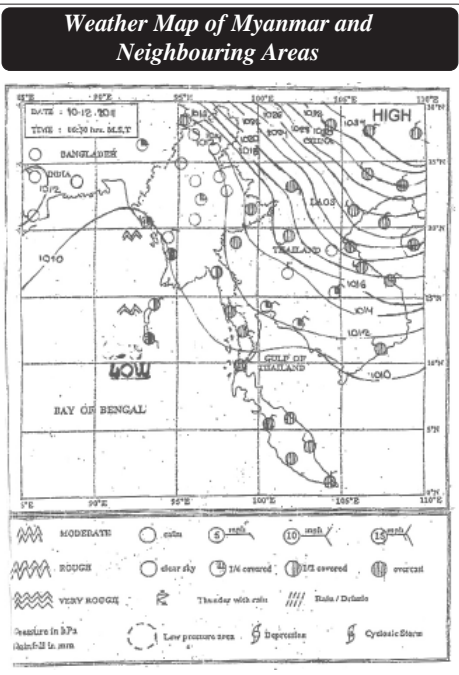
	<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>Times</u>
Local	-	(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Overseas Transmission	-	(11-12-11 09:30 am ~12-12-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Travelling to Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myoe Ma Market)
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Chicken Curry with Gourd"
- * Strengthen Bilateral Friendship through Economic Cooperation
- * News
- * Youth & Their Role In Our Future
- * Music Gallery

- * News
- * The 8th Japan Cup Judo Championship 2011
- * A Glimpse at Lijiang
- Overseas Transmission**
- * Opening
- * News
- * Travelling to Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myoe Ma Market)
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Chicken Curry with Gourd"
- * Strengthen Bilateral Friendship through Economic Cooperation
- * News

- * Youth & Their Role In Our Future
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * The 8th Japan Cup Judo Championship 2011
- * A Glimpse at Lijiang
- * News
- * Planetary Posts! What do they serve?
- * News
- * Orchids Research from Mount Popa
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Product of Myanmar (Power Ring)
- * News
- * Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-2)
- * Myanmar Movies "Never Lie to Your Heart"



Sunday, 11 December View on today

- 7:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta
- 7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning News

- 7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
6. Health Programme
- 8:05 am
7. (38) Phyar Mingalar
- 8:25 am
8. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 8:30 am
9. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 8:40 am
10. International News
- 8:45 am
11. Musical Programme
- 11:00 am
1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am
2. Musical Programme
- 11:20 am
3. Round Up Of The

- Week's International News
- 11:30 am
4. TV Drama Series
- 12:15 pm
5. Documentary
- 12:30 pm
6. Myanmar Movies
- 2:50 pm
7. International News
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
3. Dance Of National Races
- 4:30 pm
4. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Myanmar)

- 4:45 pm
5. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 4:50 pm
6. Song Varieties
- 5:05 pm
7. Documentary
- 5:20 pm
8. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
9. Evening News
- 6:15 pm
10. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
11. Cartoon Series
- 6:40 pm
12. Tamyethnar Takwetser
- 7:00 pm
13. Myanmar Movie
- 8:00 pm
14. News
15. International News
16. Weather Report
17. Cartoon Series
18. Myanmar Movie

Weather forecast for 11th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	31/88	13/55	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	29/84	14/57	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	38/100	19/66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	28/82	01/34	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	29/84	15/59	Likelihood of scattered rain	
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	18/64	Generally fair weather	
7	Taninthayi	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
8	Bago	34/93	20/68	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	34/93	19/66	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	33/91	19/66	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	36/97	22/72	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	22/72	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	33/91	18/64	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	29/84	10/50	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	28/82	09/48	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	15/59	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	24/75	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	18/64	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	22/72	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	33/91	19/66	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Northern Shan States, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Eastern Shan and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature was Hakha (1°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.19) inch.

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	
Bay Inference	Weather is generally fair in the North 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 decrease of night temperatures in the Extreme Southern Myanmar areas.



Liverpool midfielder Lucas

Liverpool confirms Lucas successfully underwent knee surgery in Brazil

LIVERPOOL, 10 Dec — Liverpool confirmed midfielder Lucas has successfully undergone surgery on his knee in Brazil. The Brazilian picked up an injury to his ACL against Chelsea in the League Cup at the end of last month, and is expected to be out until well into the new year. The operation took place in Sao Paulo and the 24-year-old is hoping to leave hospital on Friday. "LFC medical staff were present during the procedure," a statement on the club's website said. "Lucas will now begin an agreed rehabilitation program which will be overseen by the club's medical team."

Internet

Thierry Henry: Only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are better than Robin van Persie

LONDON, 10 Dec — Arsenal legend Thierry Henry is in awe of current club talisman Robin van Persie, claiming only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are better. Van Persie has scored 34 goals in 31 games in 2011 and is only two goals behind Alan Shearer's 1995 Premier League record. Former No14 Henry left Arsenal in 2007 after netting 226 times. The current New

York Red Bulls star was quick to praise the current form of Van Persie, suggesting only Barca star Messi and Real Madrid forward Ronaldo are in superior form at the moment. "What can I say about Robin? I saw him come in here and at the very beginning he wasn't the easiest guy to deal with - like I wasn't, I guess," Henry told Arsenal's official website.



Arsenal legend Thierry Henry

"But it's amazing to see how he has improved. That tells you how intelligent a player he is. I'm just in admiration. What he is doing right now, thank God he is playing for us and doing well. It's nice to see a player improve."

Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets members of Studying, Examining and Reviewing Commission on Legal Affairs and Special Cases



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets members of Studying, Examining and Reviewing Commission on Legal Affairs and Special Cases.—MNA

YANGON, 10 Dec—The Studying, Examining and Reviewing Commission on Legal Affairs and Special Cases was constituted with 15 members at the 48th day second regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw held on 16 November 2011.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday morning met members of the commission at the commission office (Yangon branch) at room 209-210 of No. 66/B at Yuzana Condo Tower at the corner of Shwegondine and Kaba Aye Pagoda Roads in Bahan Township.

It was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Chairman of the Commission U Nanda Kyaw Swa and commission members, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw and members and guests.

In his address, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U

Shwe Mann said that the commission is a Union level organization that was formed under section 2, subsection (h) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law with experienced persons in legal, international and economic fields to be able to serve the interests of the Hluttaw and the State.

The commission is responsible for scrutinizing the existing laws whether they can be conformity with the constitution and Our Three Main National Causes—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Non-disintegration of Sovereignty, whether they can serve the interests of the State and the citizens, and whether they can be in conformity with the international convention and for submitting the reports on amendment, revocation and new promulgation to the Hluttaw through the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The suggestions and assessments of the commission

will contribute much towards undertakings of the Hluttaw in serving the interests of the State and the people. Moreover, the commission is to assess the laws concerning economic sector and give suggestions for economic reform of the State. He called on the commission to take up its tasks dutifully for the Hluttaw and the State interests.

Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua donated computer accessories for the Hluttaw Office. Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo accepted the donations. The Ambassador explained the purpose of donation.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann spoke words of thanks.

The Studying, Examining and Reviewing Commission on Legal Affairs and Special Cases is formed with Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa of

(See page 10)

General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend graduation dinner of 54th Intake of DSA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—The graduation dinner of the 54th Intake of the Defence Services Academy was held at the parade ground of Anawrahta Battalion of the DSA in Pyin Oo Lwin at 6 pm yesterday, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

Also present at the dinner were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Htway Htway Nyunt, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief's Office and their wives, commanders of North-East Command, North-West Command and Central



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing attends graduation dinner of the 54th Intake of the Defence Services Academy.

MNA

Command, the commandant of DSA, guests, parents and relatives of graduation officers.

First, the General cordially greeted the graduation officers individually.

Next, General Min Aung Hlaing and party had dinner together with graduation officers, parents and

relatives.

After the dinner, General Min Aung Hlaing and party enjoyed entertainments of

Myawady music troupe and Myawady Anyeint troupe at Thabin Hall.

MNA

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister's Trophy Football Tourney goes on

YANGON, 10 Dec—The semifinal of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister's Trophy Inter-Township Men (Open Division) Football Tourney was held at the Region Sports Ground in Dawei, Taninthayi Region

on 9 December. And Kyunsu Township Team beat Myeik Township Team 2-1.

On 10 December, Dawei Township Team plays against Lonhlon Township Team in the second semifinal.—MNA

Kayin State Women Aerobic Team awarded

YANGON, 10 Dec—A prize presentation ceremony of Kayin State Women Aerobic team who participated in the 17th State/Region Aerobic Contest-2011 (Women) was held at Kayin State government Office in Kayin State, Hpa-an, on 8 December.

The team stood second in the contest as

it came second in junior nine-double contest, second in senior nine-double contest, second in three-man contest, and fourth in single contest.

The team was awarded by Patron and State Women Sports Subcommittee members.—MNA