

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 12 December, 2011

<b>Our Three Main National Causes</b>	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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## President U Thein Sein views progress of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport



*President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein inspects progress in construction of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein inspected progress of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport this afternoon.

On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 1.15 pm, President U Thein Sein was welcomed by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Union ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

The President and party looked into progress of the

taxiway of the airport by car.

At VIP Room (Ayeyawady) of the Airport Building, the President heard reports presented by the Managing Director of Asia World Co on construction of the runway of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, services for passengers, area of the airport, landing of aircrafts, progress of the airport roundabout and the main archway, parking lot, VIP rooms, arrival and departure lounges, check-in counter and aprons

and tasks to be undertaken.

After hearing the reports, the President instructed officials to coordinate with departments concerned for remaining tasks of the project.

The President cordially greeted engineers and workers at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport after signing the visitors' book of the airport.

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**Artistes, technicians in educative teleplay honoured**

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**Pilgrims donate cash and kind to sacred Buddha tooth relic for fourth day in Mandalay**



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**Babies learn word patterns by listening**



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**Dubai World Championship: Luke Donald poised for historic double**

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### High-yield paddy strains nurtured in compliance with good agriculture pattern

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat attended a ceremony to nurture high-yield paddy strains in accord with 14 points of good agriculture pattern held at Holdings Nos 15, 16 and 19 of field No. 108 in Mongzin Village in Kengtung of Shan State today.

Looking forward to ample income for paddy growers, the Myanma Agriculture Service is undertaking nurturing paddy strains in accord with the methods of good agriculture pattern for 2011-2012 paddy-growing season.

MNA

**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 12 December, 2011

**Live and learn**

The President pointed out in answering to media in 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit that the education standard of citizens is basic to establishing democracy in Myanmar.

Education and human resources development policies put into force by successive governments about 50 years ago drew criticisms from inside and outside the country. A foreign scholar once remarked Myanmar was short of under 50 educated citizens.

Despite increasing literacy rate and growing number of graduates in the said period, the education standard failed to keep abreast of the international level. In this context, paucity of the educated means lack of international-standard scholars.

In reality, Myanmar's society was an education-oriented one since the year one. As the current age demands more of the quality of human resources, today's people are required to build their capacity from lifelong learning, apart from formal education. If someone does not develop their talent from self-study, he or she will miss the train of age and will have to end up in the current station.

For formal education, classroom and teachers are sources of knowledge. But for the lifelong learning, training courses, learning centres, books, libraries and World Wide Web take the place of teachers. Help yourself to dig up the treasure of knowledge.

In time of Innwa monarchy, Venerable Monk Maha Rahtasara guided learners to listen, think, question, speak, explore, write, practice and read in a poem.

It is still fresh educational guideline that survives the lapse of time.

**Bago Region Chief Minister attends school upgrading ceremonies**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win addressed upgrading ceremonies of Basic Education High School (Branch) of Hlaydon village and Basic Education Middle School in Gyobinkauk Township in Thayawady District on 9 December and donated K.0.3 million each.—MNA

**Work coord meeting on rendering technical supports for MPSSUR held**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin attended the work coordination meeting on rendering of technical assistance for Myanmar Programme for Safer Settlement and Urban Research (MPSSUR) which is being implemented according to the MoU signed between Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and UN-Habitat, held at the department of the Ministry of Construction in Yangon on 8 December.

Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, departmental officials, Mr Srinivasa Popur of UN-Habitat were also present at the meeting.

MNA

**AIDS is a national concern.**

**Artistes, technicians in educative teleplay honoured**

YANGON, 11 Dec—A ceremony to honour the artistes who participated in the educative teleplay entitled "Ayay-kyon-yin-kyay-mon-shide", managed and produced by Myanmar Libraries Federation was held at Karaweik Palace, here, yesterday evening.

Patron of the foundation Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivered an address and presented certificates of honour to them.

First, the Union Minister expressed thanks for the managers, artistes and technicians for creation of the educative teleplay.

Next, he presented certificates of honour to director Academy Zaw Myint Oo, Academy Khant Sithu, Academy Zaw Oo and Chit Snow Oo.

Chairman of the foundation U Maung Maung, Vice-Chairman U Nyunt Swe, Executives Dr Chit San Win, U Maung Maung Oo and Dr Thant Thaw Kaung presented certificates of



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presents honouring certificate to Actor Zaw Oo who appeared in the educative teleplay entitled "Ayay-kyon-yin-kyay-mon-shide". MNA

honour to Khaing Thin Kyi, Khin Lay Nwe, May Gabyar, Ei Chaw Po, Myo Myo Khaing, Zay Pa, Moe Oo Mahn, Okaw, Phone Hlan, Kan Pwint, Min Zaw, Soe Lwin Nyein, Academy U Khin Maung Gyi, U Win Naing and Shwekaungkin Video Production.

Chairman U Maung Maung spoke words of thanks.

The Patron of the foundation Union Minister and the chairman of the foundation presented cash award for Alinka Wutyi music troupe that presented music entertainment at the ceremony through U Maung Maung Aye (Alinka Wutyi).

After the ceremony, the Union Minister cordially greeted those present.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and executives and officials.

MNA

**Union Energy Minister visits Yenanchaung Oilfield**

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay inspects well No (3240) in Yenanchaung Oilfield.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay visited Yenanchaung Oilfield of Myanmar Oil and Gas

Enterprise on 9 December.

At the briefing hall, he heard reports submitted by the general manager on daily oil exploration, repair of old

oil wells and exploration of new wells and by officials of Goldpetro Company on plans for exploration of medium and deep wells. The Union

Minister called for exploration on commercial scale and meeting set targets of exploration.

The Union Minister inspected well Nos (3240) and (3242) in Yenanchaung Oilfield and presented cash awards to crew which successfully dug well No (3240) on 10 December.

He visited No (1) Fertilizer Plant (Sale) of Myanmar Petrochemical Industry and urged the staff there to make all-out efforts.

He inspected oil exploration of oil in Chauk Oilfield of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and called for extending exploration works, combining findings of experts and coordination of officials of the enterprise headquarters and visited well No (1162).

MNA

**Myanmar disabled sportspersons to take part in 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games**

YANGON, 11 Dec—Fifty-five Myanmar disabled athletes led by Vice-President Col Myo Myint of Myanmar Paraspports Federation to take part in 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games in Solo of Indonesia

from 12 to 22 December 2011 left for Indonesia today. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Sports Ministry and the federation.

The Myanmar contingents will race in track and field, swimming, table tennis, badminton, chess for the blind and volleyball for the disabled.—MNA

**Mass walk activities held in Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region, Shan State**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Mass walk activities were held in Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region and Shan State in second week of December.

The event held in Patheingyi Township of Ayeyawady Region this morning was attended by 40300 participants including Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and officials of regional institutions.

Bago Region Chief Minister participated in the mass walk activity in Bago yesterday, held with over 61000 attendances.

The mass walk activity in Kengtung District of Shan State yesterday was attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and wife, departmental officials, staff, students and local people.—MNA



## Seven killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 11 Dec—A spate of gun and bomb attacks across northern and central Iraq on Saturday killed seven people and left four others wounded, security officials said.

In the disputed northern city of Kirkuk, a Shiite Turkman chemicals specialist for the state-owned North Oil Company was killed by a magnetic “sticky bomb” attached to his car.

Hussein Mohsen Maqsood, a member of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Dawa Party, had just left his home when the explosion occurred, a police officer and a party official said.

Also in Kirkuk, a civilian was killed in a gun attack in the north of the city, 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of Baghdad, the police officer said. In the Iraqi capital, an anti-Qaeda militiaman was killed and a policeman was wounded by a gun attack on a checkpoint in

Saidiyah, south Baghdad, an interior ministry official said.

The militiaman was a member of the Sahwa, or Awakening Council, which is comprised of Sunni Arab tribesmen who sided with the US military against Al-Qaeda from late 2006, helping turn the tide of Iraq’s bloody militancy.

In Babil province, south of Baghdad, a civilian was killed by gunmen in a village northeast of provincial capital Hilla, a police major said. In a separate incident in Babil, three people were wounded by two katyusha rockets that had been intended for a nearby US military base, according to the major.

Two men were also killed in Diyala province, north of the capital, in separate attacks, an official in the provincial security command centre said.—*Internet*

## Strong earthquake hits Mexico, at least three killed



People stand on a green patch between two streets in Mexico City on 10 Dec, 2011 after an earthquake. A powerful 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook Mexico on Saturday, killing at least one person, knocking out lights in parts of the capital and sending people rushing into the streets.

INTERNET

MEXICO CITY, 11 Dec—Mexican authorities said at least three people were killed when a strong earthquake hit the southwestern coastal state of Guerrero on Saturday night and shook buildings in the capital.

The tremor, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, occurred at 19:47 local time (0147 GMT Sunday), the National Seismological Service of Mexico said.

The epicenter of the quake was located about 42 km southwest of Iguala in Guerrero and about 166 km south-southwest of Mexico City, with a depth of 64.9 km,

according to the US Geological Survey (USGS), which had estimated the magnitude at 6.8 before downgrading it to 6.7 and then 6.5.

At least three people were killed in the quake, which sent residents rushing into the streets and interrupted public traffic and subways in Guerrero.

According to Guerrero’s Civil Protection agency, an 11-year-old boy was killed when a house’s roof collapsed, a second died in the small town of Ixcateopan and a driver was killed on the highway when a rock rolled

down and hit his car.

When the quake happened, panicked residents ran out of buildings and gathered in the streets. Some people began to cry and pray.

The quake also interrupted public traffic and subway in Guerrero.

Helicopters have been dispatched to check the situation, officials said.

Marcelo Ebrard, mayor of Mexico City, said by Twitter that “there is power cut in part of the city but no major damage has been reported.”

Xinhua

Afghan police gather at the site of explosion in Kunduz Province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan on 10 Dec, 2011. An explosion rocked Kunduz city on Saturday, killing two people and injuring 16 others including children, provincial police spokesman said.

XINHUA



## Two explosions rock divided Nigerian city

ABUJA, 11 Dec—Two blasts rocked the Nigerian city of Jos Saturday, residents and an official said, with one death and a number of injuries reported at a bar where fans watched the Barcelona-Real Madrid match.

One of the explosions was said to have occurred near the outdoor bar where residents were watching the football match.

“Two bombs have just exploded in Jos,” Pam Ayuba, spokesman for the governor of Plateau state, of which Jos is the capital, told AFP. “We are yet to establish the numbers of casualties, but reports I got said some people were injured.”

He said the blast occurred in an area where Christian and Muslim ethnic

groups often clash. Police and military officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

“The blast occurred ... close to a soccer viewing centre,” said resident Stanley Ekeh. “The viewing centre was packed with people. There was at least one death while several other injured victims were taken to hospital.”

A former government official said on condition of anonymity that “many people were wounded”. The second explosion was heard in another area, but details were unclear. Jos is the capital of Plateau state, which has been hit by waves of violence in recent years between Christian and Muslim ethnic groups that has killed thousands of people. Plateau

lies in the middle-belt region between the mainly Muslim north and predominately Christian south of Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation.

Nigeria’s north has been hit by scores of attacks blamed on the Islamist sect known as Boko Haram, which also claimed responsibility for the August suicide bombing of UN headquarters in the capital Abuja which killed 24 people. The Islamist group also claimed responsibility for a string of bomb blasts on Christmas Eve 2010 in Jos.

Internet



A general view of Jos, the capital of Plateau State, in April 2011. Several people were injured by two bomb explosions in Nigeria’s central city of Jos on Saturday, a state government official said.—INTERNET

## Tuesday attacks on Afghan Shi’ites killed 80

KABUL, 11 Dec—Some 80 people died in Tuesday’s bomb attacks on Shi’ite Muslim ceremonies in Afghanistan, far higher than the previously reported number, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Sunday.

“The numbers I got this morning, it is 80 people who died,” he said, speaking at a government event in the capital.

It was not clear whether he was referring only to the bombing at a shrine in Kabul, which police said Tuesday had killed 55, or including two other incidents in different cities. The original toll given for all three incidents — in Kabul, northern Mazar-i-Sharif, and southern Kandahar — was 59 people.

Tuesday was one of the deadliest days for civilians

since the US-led overthrow of the Taleban government in 2001.

Over 80 people were killed in a suicide attack in southern Kandahar Province in early 2008, the same year that 58 people died in a suicide car bomb attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul. But the attacks last week are the first tainted with sectarianism, and

have raised fears among some that more violence between Sunni and Shi’ite Muslims is to come. Such attacks are common in Pakistan and Iraq, but despite Afghanistan’s decades of war and ethnic tensions, the country has not suffered large-scale attacks on the minority Shi’ites since the fall of the Taleban.

Reuters



A firefighter checks a room in AMRI hospital after it catches fire in Kolkata, on 9 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

## Indian hospitals review safety after deadly fire

KOLKATA, (India), 11 Dec—A number of hospitals across India are reviewing safety procedures after a massive fire killed dozens at a private hospital in an eastern city.

Officials say lax safety standards contributed to the 91 deaths during Friday’s fire at AMRI Hospital in Kolkata. Seven hospital directors have been charged with culpable homicide, including one being treated for smoke inhalation. The hospital has denied violating safety procedures and vowed to investigate.

Officials in New Delhi, its suburbs and several regions including Kashmir have ordered hospital safety reviews. New Delhi’s chief minister also demanded checks of movie theaters and auditoriums.

Safety regulations are routinely ignored in India, where fire stairways and evacuation drills are rare.

Internet

**Health**

**Hospital urinary tract infections common**

ANN ARBOR, (Mich), 11 Dec—US hospitals attempt to prevent hospital-acquired infections, but a survey shows few are aggressively combating catheter-associated urinary tract infections.

The survey by the University of Michigan Health System and the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare Center indicates about 90 percent of US hospitals surveyed increased use of methods to prevent central line-associated bloodstream infections and

ventilator-associated pneumonia from 2005 to 2009. However, the study, published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, found prevention practices for urinary tract infections—the most common hospital-acquired infections—were regularly used by only a minority of hospitals.

“Despite being the most common healthcare-associated infection in the country, hospitals appear not to be using as many practices for prevention when compared with bloodstream

infections and ventilator-associated pneumonia,” senior author Dr. Sanjay Saint, director of the VA/UM Patient Safety Enhancement Programme, and University of Michigan professor of internal medicine, said in a statement. About 5 percent to 10 percent of hospitalized patients contract a hospital-acquired infection, resulting in about \$45 billion a year in preventable healthcare costs, but in 2008, Medicare stopped paying non-federal hospitals for the additional costs of treating infections which are considered preventable with the right care, Saint said.

The study was published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

*Internet*

**Australian scientists find new Alzheimer’s vaccine**

CANBERRA, 11 Dec—Australian scientists from University of Sydney on Saturday announced they have developed a vaccine to help halt the progression of Alzheimer’s disease of humans in a joint race.

The vaccine, which targets a damaged protein inside brain’s nerve cell known as tau, prevents the ongoing neurofibrillary tangles in the brain of a mouse with Alzheimer’s disease. The progress of neurodegenerative condition affects more than 35 million people worldwide.

The research team at the University of Sydney’s Brain and Mind Research Institute (BMR) was led by Associate Professor Lars Ittner, from the Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease Laboratory.

Professor Ittner said so far the vaccine was only tested in mice with Alzheimer’s and results have shown it can stop the disease

progressing. “Our study is the first to show that a vaccine targeting the tau protein can be effective once the disease has already set in,” he said in a statement.

“Most of the other vaccines targeting tau were tested only before or around the onset of the disease in animal models, but the vast majority of people with Alzheimer’s disease are only diagnosed after the symptoms have appeared.”

According to Ittner, his team are working with a major pharmaceutical company on developing the vaccine for human trials within five years.

While none of the vaccines is considered a cure, the team was collaborating with the US pharmaceutical industry to develop this new vaccine and about 269,000 Australians suffering from dementia will therefore be benefited.—Xinhua



*In this 13 Aug, 1998 photo, financial district workers run on treadmills before the start of the business day at New York Sports Clubs facility on Wall Street in New York. Women concerned about breast cancer should worry less about cellphones and hair dyes and worry more about weighing or drinking too much, exercising too little, using menopause hormones and getting too much radiation from medical tests. So says a new report on environmental risks by a respected panel of science advisers.—INTERNET*

**EU taking historic step towards economic union**

HELSINKI, 11 Dec—Finland’s Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade Alexander Stubb said on Saturday that the European Union (EU) has taken a step towards creating an economic union at the EU summit on Friday in Brussels.

In an interview with Finnish Broadcasting

Company TV1, Stubb said the EU took an historic step towards a European economic union and a stability union that will reinforce fiscal discipline.

“Of course, the international agreement which will be created in perhaps three months from now is still a long way off, but at least it is the right direction,” he added.

In the meantime, Stubb also warned anti-EU sentiment might increase in some countries over the next few years due to decisions made at this week’s summit in Brussels.—Xinhua

**Japan, South Korea to break deadlock on free trade talks**

TOKYO, 11 Dec—Japan and South Korea will restart talks for a free trade agreement in 2012 which have been stalled since 2004, local media reported on Sunday.

Japanese Prime

Minister Yoshihiko Noda and South Korean President Lee Myung Bak will agree to resume negotiations when they meet for a bilateral summit on 17 Dec in Kyoto, *Kyodo News* reported, citing sources close to bilateral

ties.

The two nations

initiated the negotiations for a bilateral FTA in December 2003. But, the talks reached a deadlock in the following year due to disagreement on potential tariff concessions on agricultural and fisheries trade.

Key issues like the removal of nontariff barriers on Japan’s side are expected to be discussed for the resumption of the negotiations.—Xinhua

**Samsung’s handset sales top 300 mln in 2011**

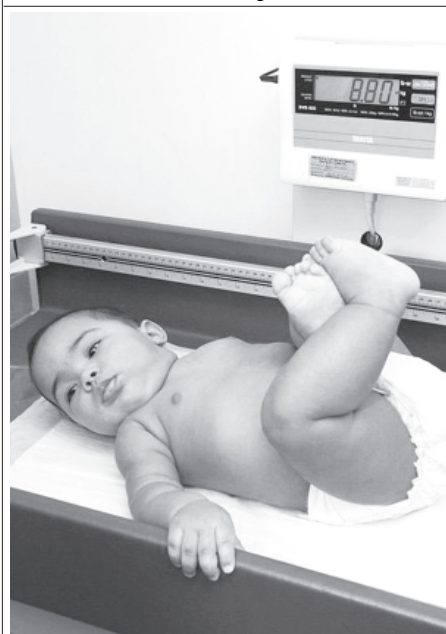
SEOUL, 11 Dec—South Korea’s tech behemoth Samsung Electronics said Sunday that its handset sales topped 300 million units this year for the first time in its history.

The world’s second-largest maker of mobile phones shipped more than 300 million mobile phones for the first 11 months of this year, marking the first annual sales of over 300 million units since it started its handset business in 1988, according to an e-mailed statement by Samsung. “We are incredibly proud of this record-breaking sales milestone and have exceeded the annual target announced early this year, which is testament to the enduring appeal of Samsung phones with consumers around the world,” said Shin Jong-kyun, president and head of Samsung’s mobile communications business.

Samsung attributed the strong sales results to the success of Samsung’s flagship Galaxy S series, which continued to gain popularity among consumers and propelled the Galaxy brand to become one of the most recognized mobile brands in the world.

Xinhua

*In this photo taken on 3 Oct, 2011, an infant’s growth is measured during a check-up at Children’s Hospital Boston. A new study by researchers there says babies who progress past at least two percentiles in weight and length on growth charts are at risk for obesity later in childhood.—INTERNET*



**Business**

**Recent drop in US unemployment a mixed bag**

CHICAGO, 11 Dec—The recent drop in the US unemployment rate is partly due to an increase of people exiting the American labour force, a trend economist said when evaluating the long-term economic outlook.

Last week’s release from the US Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) reported that the US unemployment rate in November had decreased from 9 percent to 8.6 percent, its lowest level since March 2009.

For many the improvement was marked as a new bright spot in an uncertain global economy, but it was also achieved with the caveat that 315,000 people had exited the labor force altogether.

Winner of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Economics for his work researching unemployment and markets with search frictions, Northwestern Professor Dale Mortensen explained to *Xinhua* how the new unemployment figure held a somewhat mixed message for the American economy.

“On the one hand job creation is improving; on the other, it’s still very difficult to get a job so participation is falling, and the combination of those two led to the reduction in the unemployment rate this time,” Mortensen said in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua*.

Though the net increase in job creation

was relatively small, it was still important, he said. “But nevertheless there’s been a trend down in participation—in particular, every month there’s been a flow of workers who are discouraged, and that continues,” Mortensen said, explaining that in response to the difficult job market some workers had given up trying to find work entirely.

Mortensen regretted that unfortunately little statistical information was available about those now departing the labor force, or the younger people who were delaying entering it.

However, he mentioned that their alternate activities could vary greatly, from enrolling in higher education to simply staying at home waiting out the bad job market.

It still remains unclear just how long these newly departed workers will have to wait for a full recovery, but the November BLS report shows that more are apparently choosing to do so, the employment participation rate falling from 64.5 percent last November to 64 percent this year.

It was also noted that employment participation rate of men over 16 had decreased from a seasonally adjusted 70.9 percent in November 2010 to 70.5 percent this year.

Xinhua



## Wind farm fuels Ethiopia's green power ambitions

ASHEGODA, (Ethiopia), 11 Dec—Villagers in Ethiopia's arid north live as they have for centuries surrounded by cattle and donkeys; only the rows of towering white wind turbines look out of place.

It is not the first place one might expect to find the sleek new structures. The unpaved roads around the site are lined with donkey-drawn carts lugging firewood and bushels of wheat.

"It's a little bit anachronistic to see the turbines in a rural zone where peasants are working like they were centuries ago," says Gerard Damongeot of the French-run Ashegoda wind farm.

But, he says, it is "very,

very windy" making it the perfect location for the turbines.

The path towards green power, however, is strewn with obstacles. The land taken up by the turbines was once used by local farmers.

Around 700 growers have lost either some or all of their land, according to the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO) site manager Fisseha Gebremichael.

Local government provided compensation to affected farmers, but some say the payment was inadequate.

"We are not happy, we had good income from this land," said farmer Abraha Woldu.

He was given \$4000 for his one hectare of land, which

he said is not enough to lease another plot of land.

Like many Ethiopians, Abraha feels ambivalent about the wind farm. He welcomes progress, but is disappointed to have lost his main source of income.

"I am happy to develop my country, but I am not happy about the payment I received," he said.

The Ashegoda wind farm, sub-Saharan Africa's largest, is part of Ethiopia's ambitious strategy to become the region's leading producer of renewable energy.

The country is aiming for a seven-fold increase in renewable energy production in the next five years.—*Internet*



**Cattle graze on a maize field in front of wind turbines in Ashegoda, northern Ethiopia. As part of Ethiopia's ambitious \$150 billion, 20-year green growth strategy, diesel power stations will be replaced by hydro, solar, geothermal and wind energy by 2015.—INTERNET**

## Sky-watchers get rare treat: total lunar eclipse

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Dec—Moon watchers in the western US, Hawaii and elsewhere across the globe were treated Saturday to a rare celestial phenomenon: a total lunar eclipse.

For 51 minutes starting at 6:06 am PST, the Earth's shadow completely blocked the moon.

The moon took on a reddish glow, as some indirect sunlight continued to reach it after passing through the Earth's atmosphere. Since the atmosphere scatters blue light, only red light strikes the moon, giving it a crimson hue.

David Sayre, who runs a public relations firm in Hawaii, said it had been cloudy and rainy around his house on Oahu, but the weather cleared just in time for the eclipse.

He awoke, as he usually does, around 3 am and remembered to step outside the house in time to catch the eclipse about a half hour later. No one else in the neighbourhood was up.

"Sure enough it was turning that orangy-red colour," Sayre, 47, said. "I said, 'Gosh I better grab a camera.'" He added, "To be able to see it just right outside our house was really cool."

At the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, some 300 people, many clutching coffee cups in the frigid morning air, sat with blankets and chairs on the observatory's great lawn.

"It's a celestial festival out here," Capm Petersen, 39, told the *Los Angeles Times* as he set up his camera.

Perched on a slope north of downtown near the

Hollywood sign, the property offers clear views of the sky. Observatory officials alerted the crowd when the eclipse began and spontaneous applause erupted when the celestial event ended.

A total lunar eclipse occurs when the moon goes through the long shadow cast by the Earth and is blocked from the sunlight that illuminates it.

The last total lunar eclipse was on 15 June although that was not visible from the US. The next one is on 15 April, 2014, and will be seen in the US.

*Internet*



**Photographers shoot the moon as it sets in eclipse over the Golden Gate Bridge on 10 Dec, 2011, in San Francisco. The next full eclipse of the moon will not happen until on 14 April, 2014.—INTERNET**

## Babies learn word patterns by listening

SOUTH BEND, 11 Dec—Babies are highly attuned to communication and motivated to interact — and they're great listeners, US researchers say.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame say during the first year of life, when babies spend much time listening to language, they're actually tracking word patterns that will support the process of word-learning that occurs between the ages of about 18 months



and 2 years. "Babies are constantly looking for language clues in context and sound," Jill Lany, assistant professor of psychology, said in a university release Friday.

"My research suggests that there are some surprising clues in the sound stream that may help babies learn the meanings of words," she said. "They can distinguish different kinds of words like nouns and verbs by information in that sound stream."

Babies as young as 12 months can identify "adjacent relationships" in which a phrase or sound like "it's a" occurs immediately before an object, she said.

"If I were to say to you, 'Oh look, it's a dax,' you might not know what a 'dax' is but the cue 'it's a' let's a baby know that what follows is an object," Lany said.

And if a person says "I'm daxing it," the same principal of cues and word patterns would indicate a verb or action word, she said, and babies use these patterns as clues to the meanings of new words they are learning.

*Internet*

## Greenland rose as ice melted

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Dec—A 2010 spike in the melting of ice cover in Greenland caused a large part of the island's bedrock to lift almost an inch, a US researcher says.

A network of 50 GPS stations measured the uplift as the ice loss was accelerated in southern Greenland by 100 billion tons, Ohio State University researcher Michael Bevis said.

A rise of 0.79 inches was recorded over just a five-month period, a university

release said.

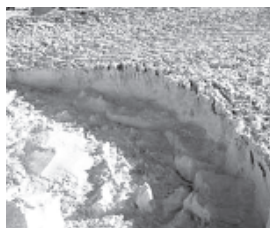
The findings have implications for climate change, Bevis told a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco Friday.

"Pulses of extra melting and uplift imply that we'll experience pulses of extra sea level rise," he said. "The process is not really a steady process."

Bevis said he's sure the 2010 uplift was due to the extreme ice loss detected that year.

"Really, there is no other explanation. The uplift anomaly correlates with maps of the 2010 melting day anomaly," he said. "In locations where there were many extra days of melting in 2010, the uplift anomaly is highest."

*Internet*



**In a May 2005 NASA image, the ocean break-off point of the Helheim Glacier is pictured in southeast Greenland.—INTERNET**



**Microbes feeding off hydrothermal vents at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean transform the chimneylike structures (shown here) they inhabit into natural batteries. INTERNET**

## 'Living' battery on Pacific Ocean floor

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Dec—US scientists say they've discovered a living battery at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, in microbes that live near hydrothermal vents.

As they feed on chemicals rising from the seafloor, they create electrical currents that flow through the walls of the chimney-like structures they inhabit, researchers said.

"The amount of power produced by these microbes is rather modest," Harvard biologist and engineer Peter Girguis, told ScienceNews.org. "But you could technically produce power in perpetuity."

Girguis presented his findings at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, explaining how he and his colleagues discovered the current with an electrode inserted in the side of an underwater chimney 7,200 feet below the ocean surface at the Juan de Fuca Ridge off the Pacific Northwest coast.

It could be possible to tap this power to run seafloor scientific sensors, he said.

*Internet*

## Fishing hits tuna across entire Atlantic

PACIFIC GROVE, 11 Dec—Fishing on one side of the Atlantic affects the other side, researchers say, and bluefin tuna populations on both sides have declined precipitously since 1950.

Two Atlantic bluefin populations were studied — a western population that spawns in the Gulf of Mexico and is primarily fished by North Americans, and an eastern population spawning in the Mediterranean Sea that is fished by European and North African fishers — a release from The Ocean Foundation said Friday.

Adult bluefin tuna numbers have fallen as much as 83 percent in the western population and 67 percent in eastern population, researchers said.

Tag tracking data show individual bluefin can rapidly move between western and eastern regions but then separate and return to distinct spawning areas, they said.

"Current population models assume that a fish caught in the west Atlantic was born in the west, and a fish caught in the east was born in the east," senior author Murdoch McAllister of the University of British Columbia said.

"We now know that upward of 50 percent of bluefin caught in some western fisheries were spawned in the Mediterranean, and incorrect assignment of these fish biases assessments and may compromise recovery efforts of this valuable species."

*Internet*



## Iran says it will not return US drone

TEHRAN, 11 Dec—Iran will not return a US surveillance drone captured by its armed forces, a senior commander of the country's elite Revolutionary Guard said Sunday.

Gen Hossein Salami, deputy head of the Guard, said in remarks broadcast on state television that the violation of Iran's airspace by the US drone was a "hostile act" and warned of a "bigger" response. He did not elaborate on what Teheran might do. "No one returns the symbol of aggression to the party that sought secret and vital intelligence related to

the national security of a country," Salami said.

Iranian television broadcast video Thursday of Iranian military officials inspecting what it identified as the RQ-170 Sentinel drone.

Iranian state media have said the unmanned spy aircraft was detected over the eastern town of Kashmar, some 140 miles (225 kilometres) from the border with Afghanistan. US officials have acknowledged losing the drone.

Salami called its capture a victory for Iran and a defeat for the US in a complicated intelligence and technological battle.

"Iran is among the few countries that possesses the most modern technology in the field of pilotless drones. The technology gap between Iran and the US is not much," he said. Officers in the Guard, Iran's most powerful military force, had previously claimed that the country's armed forces brought down the surveillance aircraft with an electronic ambush, causing minimum damage to the drone. American officials have said that US intelligence assessments indicate that Iran neither shot the drone down, nor used electronic or cybertechnology to force it



*This photo released on 8 Dec, 2011, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, claims to show US RQ-170 Sentinel drone which Teheran says its forces downed earlier this week, as an unidentified colonel, right, talks to the chief of the aerospace division of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh, in an undisclosed location, Iran.—INTERNET*

from the sky. They contend the drone malfunctioned. The officials had spoken

anonymously in order to discuss the classified programme.—Internet

## Small plane crash in Oklahoma kills two

OKLAHOMA CITY, 11 Dec—A small plane owned by an Oklahoma construction company crashed near Chickasha, killing two men, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Saturday.

Pilot Rocky Joe Beller, 47, of Goldsby, and Calvin Scott Beller, 50, of Purcell, both died at the scene about 40 miles southwest of Oklahoma City and were the only ones on board the aircraft, according to the OHP, which said the investigation was turned over to the Federal Aviation Administration.

FAA spokesman Roland Herwig said there is an airport in Chickasha, but authorities weren't sure where the Piper PA-28 the men were flying took off or was headed.

Neither the FAA nor the National Transportation Safety Board, which typically investigates fatal plane crashes, immediately responded to messages seeking further comment late Saturday morning. The crash happened about 8:45 pm Friday, according to the OHP.

Tom Dodson, of B&H Construction LLC of Norman, said the company owned the plane and Rocky Beller owned the company with his two brothers. Dodson said Calvin Scott Beller was Rocky Beller's cousin.

Internet

## US hostage, 14, escapes in Philippine jungle

MANILA, 11 Dec—A kidnapped American teenage boy escaped from suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants and wandered without shoes for two days in a southern Philippine jungle before villagers found him, ending his five-month captivity, officials said

Sunday. Kevin Lunsman, 14, told his four armed captors that he would take a bath in a stream and then made a dash for freedom Friday in Basilan Province, police Senior Supt. Edwin de Ocampo said. He followed a river down a mountain until villagers

found him late the next day, de Ocampo said.

Exhausted, hungry and still stunned, the boy initially fled from the villagers, de Ocampo said.

"He was in fear so there was a bit of a chase before the villagers convinced him that they were friends," de Ocampo told *The Associated Press*. He said the boy was fine, but was exhausted and had bruises on his arms and feet. Initial reports had said the boy was freed by his captors. Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat said he has been flown to Manila and turned over to US officials there.

US Ambassador Harry Thomas said the boy would be reunited with his family soon.

Internet



*In this photo taken on 10 Dec, 2011, Kevin Lunsman, a kidnapped American teenage boy, talks to Filipino soldiers inside the Philippine military compound in Zamboanga city, southern Philippines, following his escape from suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants.—INTERNET*

## Postal Service plant closures will be 'a mess'

IOWA CITY, 11 Dec—The US Postal Service's plan to close 252 mail processing facilities and cut 28,000 jobs by the end of next year may help the agency curb its mounting financial problems, but it faces big practical obstacles.

Deciding which plants to close will be difficult and face opposition from community leaders. Actually closing all of them could take a few years, and most workers will stay employed under union rules. The bulk of the job cuts will actually come from attrition and retirements, not layoffs, while the remaining work force is shuffled into new locations and positions. What's about to unfold in cities from Reno, Nev, to Chicago will illustrate the complexity of cutting a work force protected by strong union contracts and shrinking operations dependent on intricate logistics.

"The downsizing or the demise of the postal service, it's going to be a mess and it's going to be a mess for a long time," said John Zoder, a retired Denver attorney and former Postal Service arbitrator who wrote a book about its labor relations. "It's a huge undertaking."

The proposed closures are among several moves aimed at helping the agency avert bankruptcy and adjust to declining mail volume as customers migrate to the Internet to communicate and pay bills. Delivery changes announced Monday would virtually eliminate the chance for stamped letters to arrive the next day for the first time in 40 years and pave the way for closing more than half of the 461 plants where the mail gets processed and sorted.—Internet



*In this 17 May, 2010 photo, Joe Tedrow sorts mail at the US Postal Service's mail processing center in Sioux City, Iowa. The plant closed in October 2011, and most of the 100 workers kept their jobs.—INTERNET*

## Violence tops results of Mexico's 5-yr drug war

VERACRUZ, 11 Dec—Brightie Cuesta Sanchez answered the telephone the same day a local newspaper ran a front-page story that she was dead. It was her mother checking on the 22-year-old sex worker, a local celebrity in blond extensions and black hot pants who drove a red Mini Cooper. The two laughed and called the paper for a correction. But that night Brightie disappeared.

Two days later masked gunmen dumped her bound body along with 34 others on a central boulevard at rush hour. A banner claimed the dead were members of the Zeta cartel, eliminated by rivals. The governor said most of the victims were convicted criminals. Federal prosecutors differed, saying only a handful had prior records, and loose if any ties to organized crime. Nearly three months later, none of the victims have been publicly identified. Meanwhile, Brightie's mom

said her daughter's disappearance seemed like a kidnapping for ransom. She got a call from someone demanding the Mini Cooper.

This is a snapshot of Mexico five years after President Felipe Calderon launched his all-out assault on organized crime: Mass killings as cartels fight each other for territory and civilians caught in the violence; police unable to prevent the mayhem or to investigate the aftermath.

Internet



*In this 15 June, 2009 file photo, soldiers stand in line as they prepare to board vehicles at the Military School in Mexico City to be deployed to the northern part of Mexico to participate in drug crop eradication duties and to learn first-hand Mexico's ongoing war against the drug cartels.—INTERNET*

## Israeli aircraft strike Gaza following rocket fire

GAZA CITY, 11 Dec—Israeli aircraft struck the Gaza Strip early Sunday, wounding a 12-year-old girl and her father, according to a Palestinian health official.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it targeted a weapons factory in response to rockets fired by Palestinian militants from Gaza into southern Israel.

A missile hit the

residence of a Gaza militant who was not home at the time, but flying shrapnel injured the girl and her father in a nearby house, Palestinian health official Adham Abu Salmia said.

Israeli forces have carried out multiple airstrikes against suspected militants and their facilities in recent weeks, in retaliation for sporadic but persistent rocket

fire.

An airstrike Friday killed a 12-year-old boy and his 42-year-old father who lived in a house near a targeted site. Three militants were also killed in airstrikes last week.

About 20 rockets were launched on Friday and Saturday, the military said, causing no serious casualties but disrupting daily life in southern Israel.—Internet



## Leading Committee for Sixth All-round Renovation of Shwephonepwin Pagoda meets

YANGON, 11 Dec—Patron of the Leading Committee for Sixth All-round Renovation of Shwephonepwin Pagoda Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan this noon viewed religious edifices, renovation of Phayagyi Koehsu prayer hall, shops outside the precinct of the pagoda and environs of the pagoda.

Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Tint Lwin and officials conducted the Union Minister round the pagoda.

At the hall, the Union Minister said that as all-round renovation tasks have been carried out for magnificence of the pagoda up to the fifth time systematically, main renovation has been completed at necessary parts of the pagoda.

Emphasis is to be placed on sixth renovation of the pagoda as maintenance of the main structure, and repairing works are to be undertaken at necessary parts that have been renovated from the first to the fifth time, he said.

He urged them to extend necessary subcommittees and add more persons to the organizations for all-round renovation of the pagoda and to draw systematic plans for the tasks to be carried out meeting high quality and standards.

He said that priority is to be given to keeping the pagoda platform neat and tidy for pleasant obeisance of the pilgrims to the pagoda and taking special care for security of the pagoda.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Sixth All-round Renovation of the pagoda Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise reported on formation of the subcommittees and their tasks.

Goldsmith U San Kyi reported on inspection for maintenance of diamond orb, various small bells, pennant

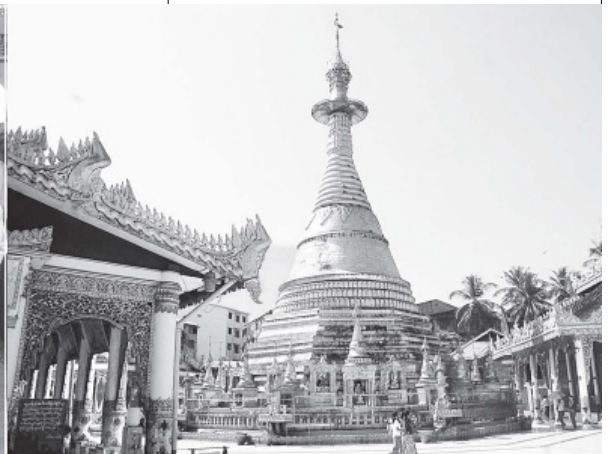


shape vane and tiers of umbrella, cleansing and repairing works, Myanmar handicraft expert U Aung Myat on matters related to diamond orb and pennant shape vane, and Professor (Dean) Dr Nyan Myint Kyaw of Civil Engineering Department of Yangon University of Technology on maintenance of the main structure of the pagoda.

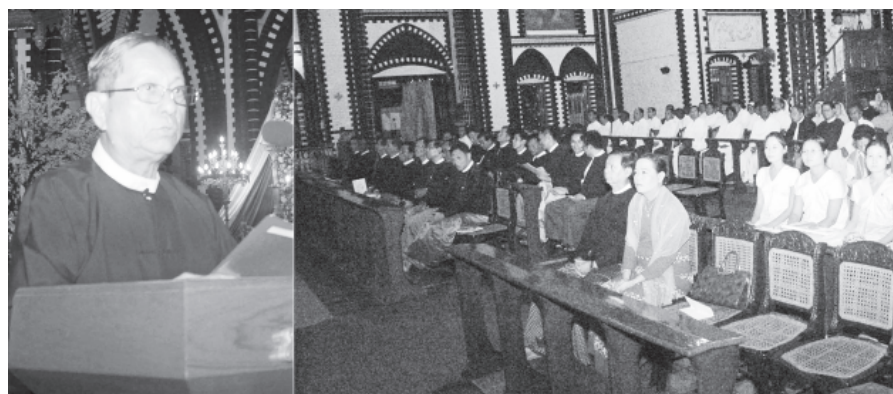
After hearing the reports, the Union Minister instructed officials to systematically calculate maintenance for the main structure of the pagoda with the strength of engineers

*Patron of Leading Committee for Sixth All-round Renovation of Shwephonepwin Pagoda Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan inspects Shwephonepwin Pagoda.*

MNA



as part of efforts for undertaking main tasks for sixth all-round renovation tasks, to assign duties to respective subcommittees for offering gold foils, maintaining the religious edifices, checking and repairing installation of power lines, upgrading toilets for pilgrims, improving drainage system around the pagoda, extending the car parking, publishing books on all-round renovation records and keeping donated cash and to carry out the tasks in real time for timely completion before rainy season. Later, he attended to the needs.—MNA



*Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung extends greetings at pre-celebration for Birthday of Jesus Christ (Christmas).—MNA*

## X' mas celebration marked at St. Mary Cathedral

YANGON, 11 Dec—Myanmar Catholic Bishops Organization and Myanmar Council of Churches jointly held pre-celebration for the Birthday of Jesus Christ (Christmas) at St. Mary Cathedral on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Botahtaung Township here this morning. The celebration started with praying, singing hymns and extending an introductory speech.

Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung extended greetings and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe gave an honorary speech. Reading Bible, preaching Christmas sermon, giving Christmas gifts and expressing thanks to God followed.

Afterwards, a dinner was hosted to the attendees. MNA

## Pagoda of earlier Pyu era uncovered in Pyay

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department of the Ministry of Culture has excavated foundations of a pagoda of Pyu era in 2011 in Pyay Township in Bago Region.

It has similar structure with some Pyu pagodas, buildings of Visano era and religious edifices in India.

Voltaic tablets, clay tablets, rivets and burial urns were also unearthed at the site. According to its structure and architecture, it is assumed to be the pagoda of earlier Srikestra Pyu era. The department is renovating the pagoda systematically.

MNA

## Kayin State Chief Minister attends course concluding ceremonies

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min attended concluding ceremony of courses of Myainggyingu Women's Vocational Training School on 2 December and presented awards to outstanding trainees.

Officials presented completion certificates to the trainees.

The chief minister of Kayin State visited mobile primary school in Moe Hsan Myaing ward in Myainggyingu and provided teachers and students with clothes.

The chief minister inspected electrification round the clock by solar panels on arrival at People's Hospital in Myainggyingu region.

He also visited construction

site of mobile communications station, rubber plantations of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise, construction site of Hpa-an Industrial Zone and road works in Myainggyingu region.

He attended course concluding ceremony of Hpa-an Women's Vocational Training School and awarded outstanding students.

Officials presented completion certificates to the trainees and the speaker of Region Hluttaw donated publications to the school through the principal.

District and township level departmental officials attended course concluding ceremony of Myawady Women's Vocational Training School.

MNA

## Financial arranging refresher course, storekeeping course concluded

YANGON, 11 Dec—Yangon Region Superintending Engineer U Thein Hsaing of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction yesterday morning addressed the concluding ceremony of the financial refresher course and the storekeeping course, held at the Central Training School (Thuwunna).

The financial refresher course was attended by 22 trainees and the course on storekeeping by 37 trainees. The courses lasted about five weeks.

MNA

**Take Fire Preventive Measures**



## President U Thein Sein views progress of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport...

(from page 1)

Next, the President and party viewed round the arrival and departure lounges for international and domestic passengers, CIP room, transit lounge and check-in counter.

Later, the President and party left Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by car.

MNA



Photo shows progress in building of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

MNA



Photo shows progress in building of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

## Myat Thukha special clinic and health club open in Nay Pyi Taw Thabyegon Market

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The opening ceremony of Myat Thukha special clinic along with the health club was held near Ziawaka medicine booths in Thabyegon Market in Zabuthiri Township here today.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, deputy ministers and guests.

The Union ministers formally opened the clinic and health club and Mayor U Thein Nyunt unveiled the signboard of clinic.

Afterwards, they looked around the special clinic and health club.

MNA

## Pilgrims donate cash and kind to sacred Buddha tooth relic for fourth day in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Members of the Sangha and pilgrims paid obeisance to sacred Buddha tooth relic at Maha Atulawayan (Atumashi) monastery in Mandalay for the fourth day today.

Religious associations of departments and regiments and units recited religious verses.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Aung Moun and officials accepted K 2 million donated by U Maung Thet-Daw Soe Soe of Aungmyethazan Township, K 1 million by Lt-Col Kyaw Moe Thet-Daw Su Su Tin and family, K 1 million and one pair of earrings by U De-Daw Hnin, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Daw Aye Aye Than and family of A5 purified drinking water, K 500,000 each by U Kyaw Min-Daw Thet Hnin Aye and family of Nawngkhio, Daw Khin Swe Oo and family of Mandalay, U Kalar-Daw Khin Myo Hla and family of Shwebo and U Khin Maung Aye of Shwegon-Mann Commodity Transport and Sein and

Mya Mattress family and other wellwishers. The donations from 29 November

& 8 December to 5 pm today amounted to K 342,259,301, US\$ 3385, Euro 305, Thai baht 1290, S\$ 1079.50, Chinese Yuan 4153.39, Malaysian ringgit 89, FEC 184, Indian rupee 178, Egypt currency 50, Korean Won 34000, Philippine Peso 150, Vietnamese Dong 11400, Indonesian rupiah 51000 and 1196 items of jewellery worth K 178,747,100.

MNA



Monks and people paying obeisance to sacred Buddha tooth relic at Maha Atulawayan (Atumashi) monastery in Mandalay.

MNA





**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents cash awards to victorious athletes in XXVI SEA Games.**  
MNA

**Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses honouring...**

(from page 16)  
hard work, obedience and fighting spirit, the victorious athletes and officials are to make more efforts to bring about more successes in coming events including XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar, without contenting with current successes to go on Asian and international stages.

by heart-and-soul contributions of national entrepreneurs, wellwishers, and officials of sports federations for uplift of Myanmar sports standard and encouraged them to continue to make more contributive efforts.

The chairman of MNSC the Union Minister for Sports explained about contesting in XXVI SEA Games with

video slideshows. Union Minister U Tint Hsan accepted US\$ 50,000 donated by Chairman U Zaw Zaw of Max Myanmar Co Ltd.

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung honoured 17 coaches who helped secure gold medals, Union Minister U Thein Tun 118 sportspersons who won 38 bronze medals, and Union

Minister U Tint Hsan 60 sportspersons who won 27 silver medals with cash awards.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented K 10 million each to gold medalist Ma Aung Hngain in women's individual compound archery and gold medalist

rowing contest, women's doubles Sepak Takraw, men's doubles Wushu and women's team event archery.

Therowers in 500-m 12-oar, 1000-m 12-oar, 500-m 22-oar, 1000-m 22-oar, 2000-m 22-oar in women's traditional boat races, and 500-m 12-oar, 1000-m 12-

thanks on behalf of all athletes.

Next, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham together with medalists had documentary photo taken.

At today's ceremony, a total of K 758.5 million including four million kyats by Vice-President Thiha



**Union Minister U Thein Tun presents cash awards to victorious athletes in XXVI SEA Games.**  
MNA

Aye Aye Aung in 70-78 kilos women's Judo event, and cash awards to gold medalist sportspersons in men's/women's compound archery event, women's doubles

oar, 1000-m 22-oar and 2000-m 22-oar men's traditional boat races were also honoured with cash awards.

Gold medalist Ma Aung Hngain spoke words of

Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin and US\$ 50,000 by Chairman U Zaw Zaw of Max Myanmar Co Ltd was presented.

MNA

**Union Attorney-General: Be trustworthy persons in law enforcement sector**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin urged advocates-general and law officers to be trustworthy persons in law enforcement sector of the State at the First Coordination Meeting of Union Attorney-General and advocates-general of regions and states held at Union Attorney-

General's Office here today. Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and director-general supplicated the reports on law matters presented by region/state advocates-general. The Union Attorney-General then coordinated the needs.

Yesterday, the Union Attorney-General met with

region/state advocates-general and explained work procedures, and the deputy attorney-general at preliminary coordination meeting also held a discussion about law matters and management sector of region/state advocate-general's offices.

MNA



**Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin addresses the Advocacy & Workshop on Childhood TB Management. (News reported)—MNA**

**Union Minister receives Cleaner Climate MD**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Managing Director Mr Benjamin Muir of Australia-based Cleaner Climate and party at his office on 9 December.

Also present at the call were Acting Director-General of Forest Department U

Aye Myint Maung, Deputy Director-General of Planning and Statistics Department U Tin Tun and Deputy Director-General of Forest Department Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw. They exchanged views on Clean Development Mechanism and environmental conservation.

MNA

**Management course for mid-level officers concludes**

YANGON, 11 Dec—The concluding ceremony of the management course No. 29 for mid-level officers took place at Kaytumati Hall of Central Institute of Civil

Service (Phaunggyi) today. Rector U Win Maung gave a concluding speech and then awarded the outstanding trainees. He presented completion

certificates for the trainees. The four-week course was taken by a total of 56 trainees of the respective ministries.

MNA



**PADDY HARVESTED: Model plot of Inma paddy was harvested in Ywathagon Village-tract in Natatalin Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, on 23 November morning. Photo shows participation of township level departmental officials, staff and local farmers in harvesting of paddy.**  
TOWNSHIP IPRD

## Government allows creations of literary works with freedom and accountability, and freedom and reasoning power

*Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan meets patron, chairman and executive committee members of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association.*

MNA

YANGON, 11 Dec—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met the patron, chairman and executive committee members of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association at the meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television here this morning.

Present on the occasion were departmental heads and officials, responsible people of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said the purpose of holding today's meeting was to discuss and coordinate matters related to the holding of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association in a convenient way and future tasks to be implemented by the association at a time when the nation is in a transition period desired by the people.

Looking to the history of the association, it has been doing business on one hand and performing literary duties and social work on the other. It is also an association that is constantly cooperating with the government in the national cause.

Moreover, it is collaborating with its congenial associations such as Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Press Scrutiny and Registration Division of the Ministry of Information and other NGOs. MPPA has possessed fine traditions of having a sense of cooperation and unity.

The Union Minister added that the ministry has been dealing with the association since 2005. The tasks that have been carried out on a cooperative basis are



for development of printing and publishing industry, for increasing the number of association members and for collectively and efficiently implementing the tasks in the national interests.

Thus, he said that members of the association increased to 4200 from 400. He suggested that members of the association are to review tasks of previous year and adopt future plans in the coming 20<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting and select new executives for serving the interest of the association by maintaining the fine traditions of the association.

He urged the association to continuously join hands with the government in the future based on national cause, harmoniously cooperate with other congenial organizations including literary organization and to maintain the unity in the association.

He said that as all the countries across the world are focusing on

development of the States and strengthening of economy, the government of Myanmar is also striving for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation by practising democracy and market-oriented economic system. In so doing, he pointed out that only when all sectors secure development, can aims be realized. Thus, he said that the Ministry of Information will provide assistance for the printing and publishing sector as much as possible to be able achieve greater success and to keep abreast of those from international community. At present, he said that the government grants relaxation on matters related to literary and publications in conformity with the changing era and system.

He said that the government allows creations of literary works with freedom and accountability, and freedom and reasoning power. In consequence, printing entrepreneurs have to take responsibilities

for respective sectors in line with the changing periodicals law, he noted.

As the government is mainly focusing on reforms, peace and stability and development that the people aspire, the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, part of the Myanmar society, are to participate in development tasks of the State in harmony.

Chairman of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association Dr Tin Tun Oo reported on organizational setup of the association, tasks being undertaken and future plans, Patron of the association U Maung Maung on selection of new executives at the annual general meeting and Vice-Chairman-I U Myint Maung on tasks of the company related to the association.

After reviewing the reports, the Union Minister cordially greeted the patron, the chairman and executives of the association.—MNA

## Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) nearing inauguration

*Article: Kayan Soe Myint; Photos: Kyaw Moe Lwin*

Bagan-NyaungU region was beautiful in the morning in cold season.

Elephant dances of local people and pom-pom dances of students were presented to the local people on Letpanchepaw bank of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).

At 8.10 am on 16 November 2011, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin fixed the gold bolts and nuts at the steel frames of pier RP 15 and RP 16 on Letpanchepaw bank of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).

After fixing the gold bolts and nuts, the Union ministers and guests passed the rail-cum-road bridge by RGC Mingala train.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) linking NyaungU Township of NyaungU District of Mandalay Region and Magway Township of Magway Region is constituted with the 11431 feet long main bridge, 13537 feet long motor road and 20597 feet long railroad. The two-way motor road will be 28 feet wide and the railroad, 14 feet wide. The pedestrian way will be three feet and three inches wide each. The

bridge will have 262 feet wide and 52 feet high clearance. The facility can withstand 75-ton load of vehicle individually.

The land preparation ceremony for the bridge was held on 14-12-2009 and the stage driving ceremony on 15-12-2009. Special Project Construction Group-3 of Public Works led by Chief Engineer U Shwe Lay and Superintending Engineer U Han Soe took responsibility for construction of the bridge. In fact, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will be the longest facility of its kind in Myanmar.

Myanmar is one of the ASEAN member countries and BIMSTEC member countries. At present, Myanmar cooperates with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and China in economic sector. Therefore, Myanmar joins the plans to construct the Asia, ASEAN Highways, BIMSTEC Road, West, South and North Economic Corridors to link with Thailand, Laos, China, India and Bangladesh. Moreover, Myanmar and India will cooperate in construction of the roads, and one more plan will be implemented for construction of Paletwa border road and Kaladan river course maintenance project.

Among these plans, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) is located on the route of Highway that will pass Myawady, Ottwin, Pyawbwe, Kyaukpadaung, Bagan, Letpanchepaw, Pakokku, Kalewa and Tamu included in the Highway Project to be



*Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) that has been fixed with gold bolts and nuts.*

implemented by India, Myanmar and Thailand.

So far, there remain some tasks for the motor road bridge section, railroad bridge section, floor tasks of the main bridge on Pakokku bank and some tasks of pedestrian ways. At present, Public Works

of the Ministry of Construction is making vigorous efforts for cent per cent completion of the bridge and its inauguration as quickly as possible.

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Translation: TTA  
Kyemon: 6-12-2011





In this picture taken on 8 Dec, 2011, an Indian laborer holds her child near the Obelisk, built to mark where Britain's King George V sat at the site of the 1911 Coronation Durbar in New Delhi, India.—INTERNET

## An unmarked date reflects Indian ambivalence

NEW DELHI, 11 Dec—A century ago, in a tent city of 25,000 people built on the plains of north India, a new king stood before princes and maharajahs, soldiers and bureaucrats, and made a surprise announcement that would change the fate of this city. Delhi, the king said on that December day, would be the new capital of India.

"There was first of all a stunned silence in the audience," the British writer Geoffrey Moorhouse wrote of the announcement by Britain's King George V. "Then there was wild and incredulous cheering all around."

The decision would reshape this city, helping turn it from what was then an ancient fading city into an immense megalopolis, home to well over 16 million people.

But in a country where just about any

anniversary is cause for an official celebration — 150 years of the government comptroller's office, two years since the ruling coalition's election victory — this obvious one is slipping past nearly unnoticed.

There are no parades or festivities to mark the 12 Dec, 1911 announcement, no speeches by parliamentarians.

There are just awkward statements that have shined a light on India's lingering ambivalence, and maybe even a little bitterness, toward its former colonial ruler.

In a country that sees itself as a rising world power, one anxious to prove that it has moved out of the shadow of Great Britain, no one wants to look as if they are celebrating colonial rule.

Internet

## Current global crude market "in balance"

TEHERAN, 11 Dec—Iran's representative to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Saturday that the current global crude market is in balance, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Mohammad-Ali Khatibi was quoted as saying that OPEC members were observing the global market's situation meticulously and they would make the best decision at the Vienna meeting which can help the market.

"Basic principles of the

market in the current condition show that the market is in a balanced condition," he told ISNA.

In November, Khatibi warned the cartel against crude oil oversupply to the market.

Any oil oversupply would be harmful for the global market, said Khatibi ahead of an OPEC meeting due on 14 Dec in Vienna.

A balanced market would be beneficial for all the OPEC member states, he said, adding that "We should not

allow any oil surplus to exist in the market."

In the coming OPEC meeting, Iran will persuade OPEC member states to bring the cartel's output back to the level before it was raised earlier this year in response to the Libyan crisis.

Iran, African producers and Venezuela blocked a Saudi proposal to increase OPEC's output at its last meeting on 8 June, but Saudi Arabia and its allies boosted the output unilaterally afterward.—Xinhua



Handout picture released by the Israeli Prime Minister Office shows Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit saluting in front as he arrives at the Tel Nof airbase on 18 October following his release. Shalit, who was held captive by militants in Gaza for more than five years, has thanked his supporters in a pre-recorded message — his first since being freed in October.—INTERNET

## Freed Israel soldier Shalit thanks supporters

TEL AVIV, 11 Dec—Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who was held captive by militants in Gaza for more than five years, has thanked his supporters in a pre-recorded message — his first since being freed in October.

In the recording, a nervous but healthy-looking Shalit offers his thanks to those who waged a "long and exhausting campaign" for his freedom.

"While in captivity I heard a lot about your efforts to release me," he said. "I know for sure that your determined struggle for my release... was one of the decisive factors in bringing me home."

The video recording was broadcast late on Saturday to a group of around 300 activists who gathered outside Shalit's family home to watch the message.

It was later shown on Israeli television and posted online, including on YouTube.

The recording showed Shalit to be visibly more healthy than the gaunt figure who emerged from captivity on 18 October, but he still appeared nervous and unsettled and local media said he had been advised against appearing in public for now.—Internet

## Kenya maps seven oil blocks for deep sea exploration

NAIROBI, 11 Dec—Kenya is mapping seven deep sea oil blocks as it steps up the hunt for the black gold, an energy official has said.

"We have delineated new zones for deep water exploration," Hudson Adambi, deputy energy commissioner at the Kenyan Energy Ministry, said here Friday. Adambi said the government is encouraging local administrators to reach

out to local communities where the oil exploration is currently ongoing and hopes that the local communities would benefit from ensuing opportunities.

The Survey of Kenya, a government department that demarcates land and boundaries, has been requested to demarcate the deep sea blocks before they are allocated, Adambi said.

Kenya has attracted 12 international oil exploration firms. The 13th firm, whose identity has not been disclosed, was licensed on 1 Dec. The state-run National Oil Corporation has been allocated a single oil exploration block. "Oil exploration is an important

economic activity. We hope if we strike oil, we would manage the high cost of living in the country, that is why we are looking at the deep sea exploration," Adambi said. Kenya has never made any substantive commercial oil discoveries despite ongoing oil exploration that started in the early 1930s.

Oil exploration blocks in the semi-desert areas of Mandera were largely abandoned after explorers failed to discover commercial quantities of oil in the northern frontier.

Kenya's Anza Basin, which has a total of 12 oil exploration blocks, appears to be the most explored, followed by two other wells in Mandera, where two wells have been dug to view the surface.

Xinhua



Visitors tour at a sculpture exhibition in Hong Kong, south China, on 10 Dec, 2011. Filipino artist Daniel Dela Cruz brought along 21 pieces of artworks made of brass and lead, reflecting women's characters of strength and tenderness. XINHUA

## Ga farmers out to bring back homegrown olive oil

SAVANNAH, 11 Dec— Jason Shaw says his first fall harvest yielded fruit for no more than 500 bottles, just enough to sell at select tastings and to share with restaurant chefs in hopes of priming their palates for more. Friends suggested Shaw sell his limited batch for \$100 a bottle, like a fine wine. After all, it's been more than a century since anyone could buy olive oil from Georgia. It's a farm commodity that sounds downright foreign in a state known for peaches and peanuts, and that sense of novelty is getting Shaw plenty of attention.

"We're going to run out of oil very soon," said Shaw, who settled on a more modest price

of \$25. "We've still got to figure out who we're going to give this Georgia oil to without hurting anybody's feelings. It's a good problem to have." It's been two years since Shaw, an insurance agent and freshman state lawmaker, launched an olive oil business in southwest Georgia with his banker brother and their cousin, the farmer of the family. This fall they used a hot-rod blueberry picker to mechanically harvest their first 20 acres in Lakeland, near the Florida state line. Experts say it's the first commercial olive crop grown in Georgia since the late 1800s.

Internet



In this 28 Aug, 2011 photo provided by Jason Shaw, rows of olive trees are seen on an olive farm before the crop's first harvest in Lakeland, Ga. There's not much of it, but owners of a Georgia farm are giving a taste of the state's first homegrown olive oil in more than a century. INTERNET

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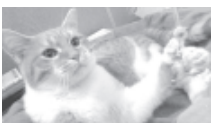
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**Polydactyl cat rescues US animal shelter**

NEW YORK, 11 Dec — A unusual cat is helping a Wisconsin animal rescue centre raise money to relocate to a new building. The orange-and-white tabby, named Daniel, has two extra toes on each paw as a result of a mutation called polydactylism. He has a total of 26. Milwaukee Animal Rescue Center, which will see its rent doubled on 1 January, asked for small donations of \$26 (£17), one dollar for each toe.

Out of a total \$86,000 raised so far, \$50,000 has come from small donations. The shelter, which takes in animals that might otherwise be euthanised, had said it would struggle to meet the new rent level for their premises at a Milwaukee-area shopping mall. It has been seeking cash to help buy a new building to enable a permanent relocation, and with many \$26 donations now says it has the financing to do so.—Internet



Daniel, who was to be adopted, has instead become Milwaukee Animal Rescue Centre's mascot.—INTERNET

**Woman's death after C-section highlights surgical risks**

NEW YORK, 11 Dec — A New York man, who now has to care for his newborn twins alone after his wife died following a cesarean section. Michal Friedman died at a Manhattan hospital four hours after the birth of her twins, Reverie and Jackson, the *New York Daily News* reported. Friedman's husband, Jay Snyder, said his wife showed no signs of distress in the weeks following up to the C-section. Her surgery was originally scheduled for November 28, but because doctors found that Friedman's blood pressure was elevated during a 27 November pre-op appointment, they re-scheduled it for that day. After the surgery, Friedman hemorrhaged. Her husband watched as her condition steadily worsened, until doctors asked him to leave the room. At 9:30 pm, he was informed that his wife died. I think a lot of people who heard about the story were surprised to hear that it's still possible to die during childbirth. The truth is, while doctors perform thousands of C-sections every day, the surgery — like any other — comes with risks. The most common reason women die during C-sections is bleeding. Bleeding can be fast and severe and by the time any medical protocol can be instituted, sometimes it's just too late.

Internet

Members of China's Gansu Provincial Song and Dance Theater perform in dance drama "Along the Silk Road" at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington DC, the United States, on 9 Dec, 2011. XINHUA



**India close to completely eradicating polio**

NEW DELHI, 11 Dec — India is close to completely eradicating polio with only one case of the paralytic disease reported in India this year, said a government official on Friday.

Indian Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Sudip Bandyopadhyay told the Lok Sabha, or lower house of the parliament that there is 98 percent decline in polio cases over last year.

"Only one polio case was reported in 2011 as compared to 42 in 2010," he said. "The government is making determined and concerted efforts to stop the circulation of the polio virus and achieve polio eradication."—Xinhua

**Local motors going global**

NEW YORK, 11 Dec — Some say that if you want to change the world you need to think globally and act locally. But what if you could get the world to do the thinking for you? That's what Local Motors is doing in the arena of crowd-sourced automobile design. The Chandler, Arizona-based startup automaker has created a platform where people can use its virtual "co-creative living room" to contribute ideas for vehicles that are brought together into a single, collective design.

It's a similar concept to open source computer programming, and it seems to be working.

The company's first vehicle, a high-performance off-roader called the Rally Fighter, has garnered a lot of attention, not just for its innovative design, but for how it is built.

In a way to circumvent the arduous

certification processes major automakers have to face when introducing a new vehicle, customers who buy the Rally Fighter actually travel to the company's "microfactory" and spend six days helping to build it, allowing it to be registered in most states as a component car — more commonly known as a 'kit' car. Twenty-five have been delivered so far, and Local Motors founder Jay Rogers says expects 120 more to be built in 2012.

Internet



Rally Fighter

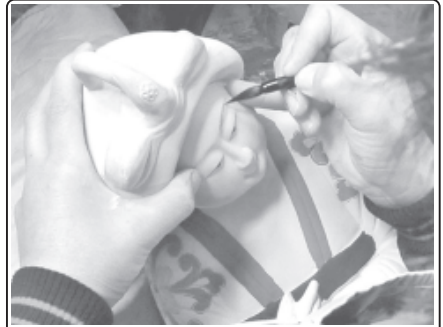
**Two merchant vessels collide in Bay of Biscay**

LONDON, 11 Dec — Seven seamen have been rescued after their ship collided with another vessel and sank in the Bay of Biscay, about 250 miles (402km) from Land's End. The Florece and the chemical tanker Afroditte collided at about 03:30 GMT, Falmouth Coastguard said.

The Florece's crew left the sinking ship on two life rafts, before being rescued by a container ship — the Ocean Titan — that came to their aid. The Afroditte's crew were able to remain on board their vessel.

Collision admission After the collision, an emergency beacon went off, informing Falmouth Coastguard that the Dominican Republic-registered vessel was sinking.

Internet



Workers colour on replicas of Sancai at a studio in central China's Henan Province. (File photo taken on 24 Dec, 2009) Sancai, also known as tri-color glazed pottery of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), is a type of ceramics using three intermingled colors of decorations. Cherished by tourists from China and abroad, making replicas of Sancai had the potential to become a unique cultural industry. In the expanding period of the industry, the market was filled with replicas of poor quality, which could not be sold at a decent price. The vicious cycle in the market almost ruined the whole business. Until recent years, folk craftsmen and successors of Intangible Cultural Heritage decided to set up quality standards for the business and put enormous efforts into renaissance of making Sancai. After two decades of years, the craft of making replicas has advanced greatly, combining traditional methods with modern technologies.—XINHUA

**Bridgestone developing 'airless' puncture-proof tire**

NEW YORK, 11 Dec — Although it'd be unfair to say that tires are one of the more old-fashioned aspects of your modern car — since tire manufacturers spend millions constantly developing them — they do have their flaws. Your typical pneumatic tire is liable to suffer punctures, which can either be inconvenient or downright dangerous depending on where and when one happens.

A tire that relies on air then is a flawed concept — but what if you could remove air from the equation? Bridgestone has been working on just that, and has announced the development of the non-pneumatic (airless) concept tire. Not only will you finally be free of punctures, but the company also says the tire is more environmentally friendly than

the regular black rings of rubber.

The concept tire uses a thermoplastic resin spoke structure along the inner sides of the tires that supports the weight of the vehicle, just as pressurized air does in a regular tire. That means no risk of leaks, and no risk of punctures. The resin is also 100 percent recyclable which makes it far greener than regular tires, many of which go to landfill and at best, are cut up for insulation and other uses. Bridgestone envisions a continuous cycle of recycling and re-use as the thermoplastic can be constantly re-formed when heated.

Michelin also tried working with airless technology back in the early 2000s but the tech has now got to the point where its becoming production viable. The consequences for puncture-proof tires are wider than simple convenience, too. Fewer and fewer cars are being supplied with spare wheels these days, many opting for a can of tire-sealant instead. These new tires would allow all cars to go without either, saving all-important weight, currently public enemy number one in the car industry. With no provision for a spare tire, trunk space would also be freed up - making cars more practical.—Internet



Bridgestone developing 'airless' puncture-proof tire.—INTERNET

**Honduras bans motorcycle passengers in anti-crime move**

TEGUCIGALPA, 11 Dec — The Honduran Congress has voted to ban motorcyclists from riding with passengers in a bid to curb a spate of drive-by killings. The move follows two high-profile murders this week, both blamed on gunmen on motorbikes. Congress also approved a wiretapping law proposed as part of efforts to tackle crime but which has raised privacy concerns. Honduras has the world's highest murder rate: 82 per 100,000 people a year.

During a session held in private because of security



Police examine the car of Alfredo Landaverde after he was killed in a drive-by shooting.—INTERNET

fears, legislators approved a decree limiting the number of people allowed on a motorbike to just one. The measure, which will last for six months, was requested by President Porfirio Lobo, whose government is facing rising crime.—Internet



### Jewel of a gift in Kansas City area Salvation Army kettle

Tossing a stone into a Salvation Army kettle at Christmas wouldn't be a nice thing to do. Unless it's a diamond, of course.

Someone recently put a 3/4-carat diamond in a kettle outside a Walmart in Shawnee, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City. It was appraised Thursday at \$2,000 (1,278 pounds).

A Salvation Army employee found the loose diamond wrapped in paper, said Major Michele Heaver, a spokeswoman for the group.

"First he thought it was trash and then he discovered

it was quite the opposite," Heaver said Friday. "He told us about it and we put it in a safe." The diamond was cut about 100 years ago, Heaver said, citing the appraiser. It will be set in a ring and auctioned off, with proceeds used to help families and others in need, she said.

Over the years, other items besides cash and checks have appeared in Salvation Army kettles, including gold bars, gold coins and wads of cash, Heaver said. "I've never heard of an actual diamond," Heaver said.

"We are very excited to get that type of donation."



Two visitors look at a creative car at "The People's Car Project" in the 798 art zone of Beijing, capital of China, on 10 Dec, 2011. The project provided an on-line interactive platform for people to fulfill their vehicle designing dream.

### US reality show mom has miscarriage on 20<sup>th</sup> baby

Arkansas mom Michelle Duggar, whose family of 19 children is the subject of a TV reality show, said Friday she had miscarried her 20th.

"We discovered during a routine 19-week ultrasound that our 20th child, who was due in April 2012, passed away recently," Michelle and husband Jim Bob wrote on their website, thanking supporters for their prayers.

Just a month ago they announced to the world that they looked forward to making their brood an even 20.

The family lives in the southern US city of Little Rock. In addition to the TLC show "19 Kids and Counting," the parents sell books and

DVDs about their experiences, and dispense advice to parents.

They have 10 boys and

nine girls. The latest, Josie, was born prematurely in December 2009 and Duggar suffered complications.



Michelle Duggar (L) and Jim Bob Duggar of The Learning Channel TV show "19 Kids and Counting" speak in Washington, DC in 2010. Michelle Duggar said Friday she had miscarried her 20<sup>th</sup> child.

### Flight attendant calendar gets complaints

The Swedish Advertising Ombudsman said it has received 33 complaints about a calendar featuring scantily clad Ryanair flight attendants.

The ombudsman's office said the complaints came less than a month after the release of the 2012 Ryanair Cabin Crew Charity Calendar, benefiting charity DEBRA, which helps children with the genetic skin disease Epidermolysis Bullosa. *The Local* reported Thursday.

"People think the [calendar] is sexist and that it doesn't belong on a Web site meant to sell plane tickets," Advertising Ombudsman Elisabeth Trotzig said.

Ryanair now has two months to respond to the complaints before the ombudsman decides how to proceed with the case.

Stephen McNamara, a spokesman for the airline, said the calendars have been released every year since 2008.

### News Album



The Quebec City Ice Hotel is one of the world's coolest hotels. It's made with 500 tons of ice. It opens only in winter and vanishes when spring comes.

### Gaga gives a naughty and nice concert in NYC

NEW YORK, 11 Dec—Lady Gaga was in the Christmas spirit at Z100's annual Jingle Ball concert, but her version of "White Christmas" would have made Bing Crosby blush.

Gaga performed a slightly naughty rendition of the holiday classic Friday night as part of her mini-concert at the radio station's event at Madison Square Garden.

Gaga — sporting tight studded leather pants, matching top and a bare midriff — gyrated on a set that included antlers, Christmas trees and holiday

lights as she performed "White Christmas."

"So I recently added a couple of lyrics to this song because I think it's too short. It's like when you really start to enjoy it it stops. It's like a really bad orgasm. Merry Christmas New York!" she shouted. Later, she made a suggestive pose as she gave a come hither coo to Santa.

But her performance wasn't all saucy. She was nostalgic and appreciative as she thanked the radio station for allowing her to be the headliner of this year's show, which included perfor-

mances from Kelly Clarkson, Demi Lovato, LMFAO, Pitbull, David Guetta, Foster the People, Hot Chelle Rae and more.

Internet



Singer Lady Gaga performs onstage during Z100's Jingle Ball 2011, presented by Aeropostale at Madison Square Garden on 9 December, 2011 in New York City.

### 'Dallas' returns to city it made famous

DALLAS, 10 Dec—JR Ewing has returned to Dallas.

With Larry Hagman reprising his role as the conniving Texas oilman, filming is underway at locations all over the city for TNT's new television series "Dallas," which will also see the return of Patrick Duffy as JR's brother Bobby and Linda Gray as JR's sex-wife Sue Ellen, along with a new generation of Ewings.

And, of course, the spotlight also returns to the city itself, with its distinctive



In this 4 Nov, 2011 photo, actor Larry Hagman shows off a wrist watch elaborately decorated with the initials "JR" inscribed on the bands while giving an interview on location during the filming for the upcoming new series "Dallas" in Dallas.

INTERNET

skyline rising from the prairie. "We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality," said location manager John Patterson, adding, "It's a city that does things in a big way. That's part of JR and part of what we try to give the show — a sense of the city, which is big, very well done, shiny, new and looking toward the future."

TNT has ordered 10 episodes of the series, set to air in summer 2012. Filming for the series, entirely shot in Dallas, began mid-October and is expected to wrap in late January.—Internet



Visitors look at French tapestries at the newly opened exhibition "The Manufacture des Gobelins: Four Centuries of Art" at the Romanian National Arts Museum (MNAR) in Bucharest, on 8 December.

INTERNET

### Picasso, royal tapestries in unique show in Romania

BUCHAREST, 11 Dec—Fifty-five tapestries created by the French royal Manufacture des Gobelins and by contemporary artists like Picasso and Miro went on display from Friday in Bucharest, in a world premiere.

"A selection of tapestries of such scope and quality is unprecedented," said Bernard Schotter, the administrator general of the Mobilier National, the French government's treasure house of furniture and furnishings.

Staged under the heading "The Manufacture des Gobelins: Four Centuries of Art", one of the exhibitions showcases royal tapestries created between 1600 and 1800, while the other puts on display contemporary pieces woven after 1950.

Internet

### Lindsay Lohan says has learned from mistakes

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—Actress Lindsay Lohan, in her first interview since being sent to jail last month for a probation violation, tells *Playboy* that she has learned to be accountable for her mistakes.

The "Mean Girls" star told the magazine in an interview accompanying her 10-page nude pictorial that during the past five years she's come to understand "that ultimately we are responsible for ourselves and our own actions."

Magazine founder Hugh Hefner has said he advanced the street date of the highly-anticipated issue — in which a blonde Lohan channels her idol Marilyn Monroe's famed 1953 *Playboy* photo spread — in part because photos were leaked online.

Internet



Actress Lindsay Lohan (R), accompanied by her attorney Shawn Chapman Holley, attends a probation violation hearing at Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles on 2 November, 2011.

INTERNET

## Barca beat Real in Clasico, Levante win over Sevilla



Barcelona's coach Pep Guardiola (L) greets Real Madrid's coach Jose Mourinho before the start of their Spanish first division soccer match, the "Clasico", at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, on 10 Dec, 2011.

XINHUA

MADRID, 11 Dec — FC Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 3-1 in Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Saturday night to leave the race for Spain's BBVA Primera Liga title wide open. A win for Madrid would have given them a six point lead over Barca with a game in hand and things started well

for Jose Mourinho's side when Karim Benzema scored after just 25 seconds following a poor clearance from Victor Valdes. Alexis Sanchez leveled after 30 minutes following a Leo Messi pass and a deflected shot from Xavi Hernandez put them ahead after 52 minutes. Cesc Fabrigas wrapped up the scoring on 65 minutes from a Dani Alves cross and Barca could have scored more goals in the closing minutes. Barcelona now fly to Japan to play in the World Club Championships.

Levante remain fourth in the BBVA Primera Liga table thanks to a win over Sevilla. A left foot shot from central defender Nano after 56 minutes of a hard fought but dull game, helped Levante forget last weekend's 5-0 defeat in the Camp Nou stadium against Barcelona.—*Internet*

Fabregas scored his first El Clasico league goal to seal the points



## Porto wins at Beira Mar, clear on top

LISBON, 11 Dec — Porto recovered from a goal down to win 2-1 at Beira Mar on Saturday, with goals from James Rodriguez and Hulk moving the champions clear atop the Portuguese league standings. Chinese striker Xhang gave Beira Mar the lead in the 33rd minute, but Rodriguez equalized seven minutes later, and Hulk hit the winning goal in the 59th minute to give Porto a three-point lead over Benfica,

which visits Maritimo on Sunday.

Porto and Benfica are undefeated in league play so far this season. Also Saturday, US defender Oguchi Onyewu scored the winning goal in the 22nd minute for Sporting Lisbon in a 1-0 home win against Nacional. The result kept Sporting in touch, four points behind Porto. On Friday, fourth-place Braga beat last-place Pacos Ferreira 5-2.—*Internet*

## Arsene Wenger relieved after important win over Everton

LONDON, 11 Dec — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger admits his side were disappointed after going in at half-time with the score at 0-0 but is full of praise for Robin van Persie after his stunning volley gave the Gunners a 1-0 over Everton at the Emirates Stadium. Wenger admits his side "got out of jail" thanks to Van Persie's fantastic goal and feels the sense of

occasion on Arsenal's 125th birthday may have got to his players.

*Internet*



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

## Inter win, Klose salvages Lazio

ROME, 11 Dec — Inter Milan chalked up a crucial 2-0 win over Fiorentina at home on Saturday to lift themselves from Serie A's relegation zone. Former Fiorentina striker Giampaolo Pazzini scored the opener four minutes before the break, with Yuto Nagatomo adding the second four minutes after the interval. Inter head coach Claudio Ranieri said his side got back up from fall with the win. The Nerazzurri had lost their last two home games in all competitions before taking on Fiorentina.

Inter controlled the game from start to finish and wasted good chances to make it an even more impressive win against a negative Fiorentina

side who looked a shadow of the team which defeated Roma 3-0 last weekend. Lecce's decision to part company with Eusebio Di Francesco did not reap the instant dividends they would have hoped for as Miroslav Klose's brace helped title hopefuls Lazio snatch a late 3-2 victory. Palermo missed the chance to climb to fifth as they went down to a surprise 1-0 defeat at home to Cesena, who nevertheless remain inside the relegation zone after only their third win in 14 games this season. Goals from Marco Rossi and Rodrigo Palacio helped Genoa claim their first away win since September at Siena.

*Xinhua*

## Ashley Theophane and Chris Edwards retain British titles

LONDON, 11 Dec — Ashley Theophane survived a scare to defeat Ben Murphy and retain his British lightweight title. Murphy,



Theophane needs one more successful defence to earn a Lonsdale belt.

a late replacement after Nigel Wright failed a medical, had much the better of the early stages. Theophane managed to reverse the tide in the sixth round, but Murphy was still ahead with the judges when the champion forced an 11th-round stoppage.

Meanwhile, British flyweight champion Chris Edwards earned a comfortable points victory over Shiny Bayaar. The win gave Edwards a measure of revenge on Bayaar, who took the title off the Stoke-on-Trent fighter on a split decision in October 2009.

*Internet*

## Thierry Henry honoured by Emirates Stadium statue

LONDON, 11 Dec — Thierry Henry has spoken of his love for Arsenal in an emotional speech at the unveiling of a statue of him at Emirates Stadium. "I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would have a statue like this in front of the stadium of the team I love and support," said the French striker. "Once a Gooner, always a Gooner." Henry's is one of three statues unveiled to celebrate the club's 125th anniversary, with Tony Adams and Herbert Chapman also honoured.

Henry, who scored a club record 226 goals between 1999 and 2007, stopped his speech briefly to compose himself as he thanked the club's fans and his former team-mates. "The way the statue is gives the perfect example of the love I have for the club - me kneeling facing Emirates Stadium and Highbury behind is amazing," he started. Manager Arsene Wenger, who paid

£11m to bring Henry to the club from Italian side Juventus in 1999, added his own tribute to Henry.

"He is a player who had everything you dream of as a manager - physical potential, a technical level, super intelligence and, what people also forget for many top-level athletes, he was dedicated to his job, with a very serious life," Wenger said of his compatriot.

"He is simply a model [professional] who won everything you can in our world - Thierry, you were really special." Henry was the only one of the three immortalised in bronze to attend Friday's ceremony.

*Internet*



Henry left 'speechless' by statue

## Cologne, Bremen celebrate goal festival at German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 11 Dec — Bottom team Augsburg shocked stunner team and 3rd positioned Monchengladbach 1-0, while Cologne humiliated Freiburg 4-0 and Bremen crushed Wolfsburg 4-1 on Saturday Bundesliga. Last positioned Augsburg surprised Monchengladbach at a contested match in front of out sold home crowd, owing the decision by midfielder Jan Ingwer Callsen Bracker.

Also Hannover and Leverkusen shared points after a goalless draw at AWD Area. Hannover stays on 8th position with 22 points

whereas Leverkusen remains on 6th position with 26 points. Hoffenheim defeated Nuremberg 2-0 owing a brace by striker Vedad Ibisevic. Both sides finished the match with ten men due to two straight red cards.

Cologne celebrated a 4-0-goal festival against Freiburg as Cologne striker Lukas Podolski and midfielder Christian Clemens scored two goals each to put Freiburg on last position of the standings with 13 points out of 16 matches whereas Cologne jumps from 12th to 10th position with 20 points.—*Xinhua*

## Lotus Renault aim to win Formula 1 title in three years

PARIS, 11 Dec — Lotus have set an ambitious target of winning the world title by 2014 after signing ex-champion Kimi Raikkonen alongside Romain Grosjean for 2012. The team, who are changing their name from Renault for next season, won titles with Fernando Alonso in 2005-06 but were fifth overall in 2011.

Team principal Eric Boullier said: "The plan is to be world champions in two or three years' time." That ambition was behind the



Boullier (right) has his sights set on the F1 title

decision to change both drivers, he added.

The Frenchman, who was speaking at a news conference in Paris, admitted that doing so was "not fashionable" but that it "corresponds to owner Genii's desire to become a top team again". Renault started the season with a line-up of Russian Vitaly Petrov, who made his debut in 2010, and German veteran Nick Heidfeld, who was a late replacement for lead driver Robert Kubica. The Pole was badly injured in a rally accident in February and is still not fit enough to drive an F1 car.

The team started the season strongly, with a podium for each driver in the first two races, but Renault then slipped down the field. They finished the season with 73 points, 92 behind fourth-placed Mercedes, who in turn were 213 behind third-placed Ferrari. Heidfeld was replaced by the Brazilian Bruno Senna for the final eight races, but both Senna and Petrov have been dropped for 2012.—*Internet*

## International Sports

## Dubai World Championship: Luke Donald poised for historic double

DUBAI, 11 Dec — Luke Donald took a notable step towards an historic US and European money list double after a fine third round at the Dubai World Championship. The world number one needs a top-

nine finish and he moved from joint 12th to fourth place at 10 under after a 66. Rory McIlroy would claim the money list by winning the event if Donald were to drop back but, although he birdied the last in a 71, he is six off the lead.



Donald has not dropped a shot since the eighth hole in round two

Alvaro Quiros is two strokes ahead after a 70 took him to 14 under. Donald described his bogey-free day as "the perfect round for me - exactly what I wanted."

"He had started his first two rounds with a dropped shot, but this time it was with a 14-foot birdie putt and he holed from inside two feet at the eighth for his fourth birdie of the day. In contrast, McIlroy, who began the day three ahead of Donald, made a poor start.

*Internet*



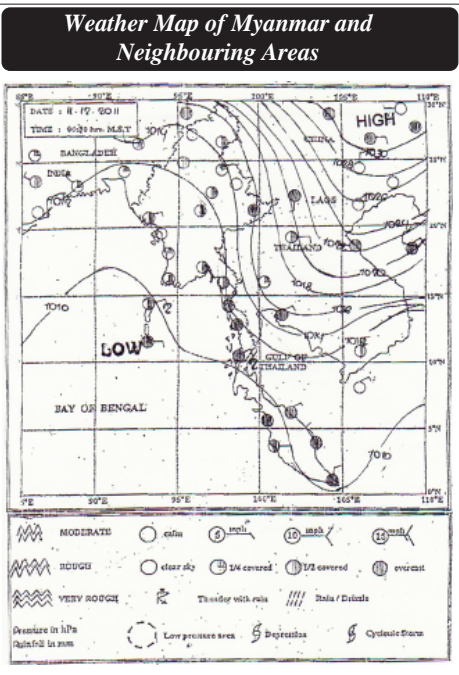
**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (12-12-2011) (Monday)**

<b>Local</b>	<b>Transmissions</b>	<b>Times</b>
<b>Overseas Transmission</b>		

- Enterprises (SMEs) in Myanmar
- \* News
- \* Music Gallery
- \* Exquisite Silver Jewellery
- \* News
- \* Tar Tet Pwe...from Shan Midlands Region
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Movie Impact "Romantic Shocks"
- \* VCD Centre
- \* News
- \* Vibrant and lively Kyaukse Elephant Dance
- \* Myanmar Circular Stone Slab
- \* News
- \* Environmental Conservation from the Myanmar Cultural Perspective
- \* Myanmar Movies "Unchangeable Love"

- Local Transmission**
- \* Opening
  - \* News
  - \* Inle Phaung Daw U Pagoda Festival ( Part - I )
  - \* News
  - \* Culture Stage "Gathering of Red Silk Cotton Flowers"
  - \* Dalicacies from Magway
  - \* News
  - \* Workshop on Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
  - \* (SMEs) in Myanmar
  - \* News

- \* Music Gallery
- \* Hillary Clinton visits Yangon
- Overseas Transmission**
- \* Opening
- \* News
- \* Inle Phaung Daw U Pagoda Festival ( Part - I )
- \* News
- \* The Consequences of Climate Change
- \* Culture Stage "Gathering of Red Silk Cotton Flowers"
- \* Let's Seek Knowledge & Pleasure at Planetarium(Nay Pyi Taw)
- \* News
- \* Workshop on Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized



- Monday, 12 December View on today**
- 7:00 am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta
  - Morning News
  - Dhamma Puja

- Song
- 7:50 am
  4. Nice & Sweet Song
  - 8:00 am
  5. Health Programme
  - 8:10 am
  6. Song Of National Races
  - 8:20 am
  7. Cute Little Dancers
  - 8:30 am
  8. Music Heritage
  - 8:35 am
  9. Teleplay (Traffic)
  - 8:45 am
  10. International News
  - 8:50 am
  11. Musical Programme
  - 4:00 pm
  1. Martial Song
  - 4:10 pm
  2. Musical Programme

- 4:20 pm
3. Dance Variety
- 4:30 pm
4. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 4:40 pm
5. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Law)
- 4:55 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
7. Myanmar Language

- 5:15 pm
8. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:30 pm
9. Documentary
- 5:30 pm
10. Myanmar Idol
- 6:00 pm
11. Evening News
- 6:15 pm
12. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
13. Sing & Enjoy
- 7:00 pm
14. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
15. News
16. International News
17. Weather Report
18. World's Stars
19. TV Drama Series
20. India Drama Series

**Weather forecast for 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2011**

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	30/86	13/55	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	29/84	16/61	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	37/99	18/64	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	21/70	03/37	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	15/59	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	16/61	Partly cloudy	
7	Taninthayi	34/93	19/66	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	21/70	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	33/91	18/64	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	36/97	23/73	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	34/93	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
13	Rakhine	30/86	17/63	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	25/77	13/55	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	27/81	09/48	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	12/54	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, light rain has been scattered in Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Mandalay Region, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Southern Shan, Kayah and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Bago Regions, Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature was Hakha (2°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin) (0.39) inch and Machanbaw (0.51) inch.

**Bay Inference** Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to 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 isolated rain in the Extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

**Sunderland 2 - 1 Blackburn**

LONDON, 11 Dec— Sebastian Larsson's injury-time free-kick earned Martin O'Neill victory in his first match as boss of Sunderland, who moved out of the relegation zone.

Blackburn led when Chris Samba's shot was parried by goalkeeper Keiren Westwood for Simon Vukcevic to head in.

Kieran Richardson hit a post from a corner before David Vaughan unleashed the 25-yard strike that levelled after 84 minutes.

Larsson then struck with a curling effort that went in off the near post.

Sunderland had made a bright start as Phil Bardsley had a shot deflected over. But Blackburn were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty when Yakubu was brought down by Titus Bramble.

The away team made amends with their goal, before Kieran Richardson twice came close to levelling. First the former Manchester United defender was denied



at close range by Paul Robinson then he fired a snap-shot wide.

Just before the break, Blackburn had a goal disallowed when Chris Samba was harshly adjudged to have fouled Westwood before Scott Dann headed in.

Sunderland kept pressing after half-time as Larsson curled a 35-yard free-kick wide, then Richardson almost scored a fluke as his poor corner kick beat Blackburn's defenders before hitting the near post.

David Dunn struck over from 30 yards for Blackburn but they were soon on the back foot again.

They had Robinson to thank as he saved well from a deflected Richardson shot and a Stephane Sessegnon effort, but could not stop Vaughan's superb hit.

Blackburn's defensive tactics were proving too negative and they were further punished as Larsson struck at the death with matters made worse by Jason Lowe's late injury.

Internet

## Wining medals in sports means not only the uplift of the dignity of the country but also the improvement of its sports standards

### Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses honouring ceremony to victorious athletes in XXVI SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed honouring ceremony to victorious athletes in XXVI SEA Games held at Myanmar International Conventional Centre here yesterday evening.

The ceremony was also attended by wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, deputy ministers, the chairperson and patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, managers, coaches and athletes of sports teams, and guests.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the day was an auspicious one on which those deserved were honoured. The reason of conferring great honour on victorious athletes is that winning medals in sports events means not only the uplift of the dignity of the country but also the improvement of its sports standard.

Myanmar won 81 medals including 16 gold and stood seventh among 11 participant countries in roll

of honour of Indonesian SEA Games under the sponsorship of chairmen of Myanmar Sports Federations, management of Myanmar Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sports and guidance of Myanmar National Sports Committee.

In XXV SEA Games held in Laos in 2009, Myanmar had to content with eighth place. Thanks to preparations, encouragement of Myanmar Sports Federations and efforts of the athletes, Myanmar advanced to seventh; Myanmar won 16 golds, 10 from boat race, three from archery, one from Sepak Takraw, one from Judo and one from Wushu events.

Hard work, diligence and spirit of Myanmar athletes who improve the sports standard of the country were recognized. The athletes of respective sports federations who played in justice under the rules of games and clinched medals for the country were congratulated. The rowing team which bagged the record 10 gold medals of the SEA Games for the country and the archery team which won three golds deserved the praise.

Victorious athletes, managers and coaches were honoured because they uplifted the dignity of the State.

Gold medalists are awarded K 10



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents award to victorious athletes in XXVI SEA Games.—MNA

million, silver medalists, K 2 million and bronze medalists K 1 million in individual events.

For team events, K 12 million is awarded for a gold in double and regu

events, K 65 million for a gold in 22-oar traditional boat race events and K 35 million to a gold in 12-oar events.

Coaches who succeeded to train his/her player or team are awarded K 3

million and each member of coaching team K 2 million.

Combining diligence, perseverance, industriousness, (See page 9)

## Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party leave for Republic of India



Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann being seen off by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann left here by air this morning to pay a goodwill visit to India at the invitation of Speaker of the Council of State Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Speaker of House of Representatives Meira Kumar (Smt) of the Republic of India.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Indian Ambassador Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri, Director-General U Myint Thein of Hluttaw Office and officials.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann was accompanied by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Planning and Finance Development Committee U Soe Tha, Chairman of Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Committee U Soe Naing,

Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Htay Myint, Chairman of Transport, Communication and Construction Committee U Thein Swe, Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin, Secretary of Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe, Secretary of Public Affairs Management Committee U Tin Maung Oo, Secretary of Peasant, Worker and Youth Affairs Committee U Htay Win, member of Public Accounts Committee Dr Win Myint, member of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Vetting Undertakings Committee U Win Than, member of Waterway Transport Development Committee U Win Oo and secretary of the delegation Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Soe of Pyithu Hluttaw Office, totaling 30.—MNA

**Significant night temperature (11-12-2011)**

**Haka (2°C)**