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Wednesday, 14 December, 2011

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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President U Thein Sein receives Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential House here at 3:30 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at

the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, and departmental heads.

The goodwill delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam was accompanied by Singaporean Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert.

At the call, both sides discussed matters related to economic and investment between two countries.

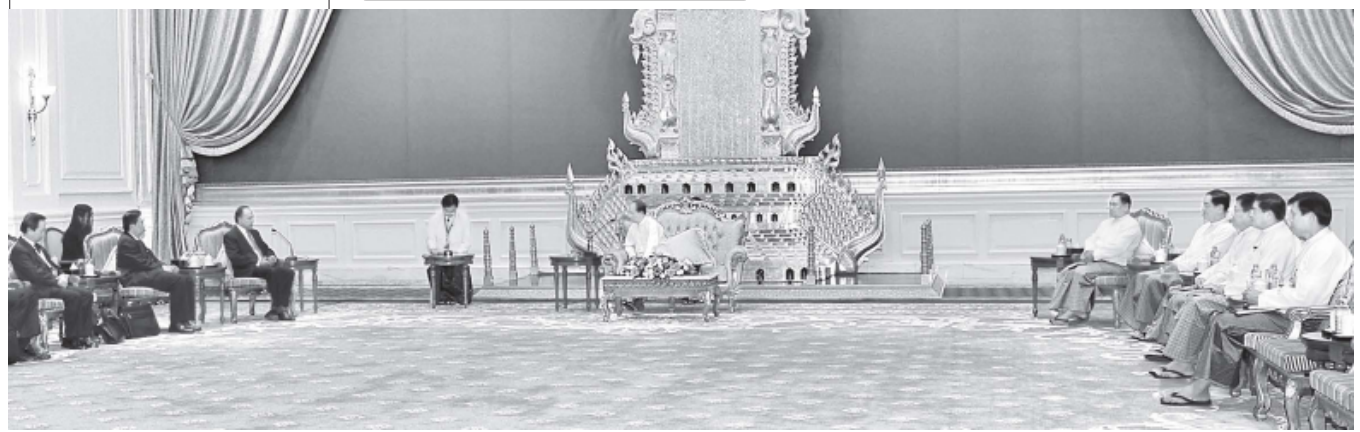
MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential House in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam.

MNA



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issues statement

PAGE 9

Formation of political parties scrutinized

PAGE 8

Python to be donated to Ygn Zoo

YANGON, 13 Dec—A python with a girth of one feet and six inches, measuring 17 feet and 6 inches in length was seized by U Myint Naing and party who live in Doebin village, Southern village-tract in Shwegyin Township, Bago District, Bago Region while they went to Hteewahchaung in Winkhanein village to cut bamboo.

The python was handed over to Staff Officer U Sai San Thein of Township Forest Department through Shwegyin Township General Administration Department on 8 December. Plan is underway to sent it to Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 14 December, 2011

Join mass sports activities to be mentally and physically healthy

Health is the most fundamental requirement for development of a human society. It is commonly known that air pollution and lack of sanitation can be hazardous to health. However, few people know that impure air in buildings, houses and worksites can be dangerous to health.

It is the best for everyone to inhale fresh, pure air for their health and longevity. With the coming of cold season, we should breathe in fresh air while going for a morning walk. Walking in early mornings can refresh our minds and strengthen our joints.

It is advisable for every adult to take a 30-minute- or an hour-walk every day and physical exercise. Taking physical exercise for one to three hours a week can energize the heart and lungs. Moreover, those suffering from hypertension, lung disease, heart disease or arthritics should take a walk regularly in early mornings and evenings.

Now, December's mass sports activities are being carried out in which every person can take part. So, we should participate in at least a certain kind of sports.

Doing physical exercise is the most cost-effective and can prevent most diseases. By walking in the sun while breathing in fresh air in early mornings, we can gain natural energy. Therefore, all are urged to participate in the mass sports activities so that they can be both mentally and physically healthy.

2nd ASEAN Cup Hockey Competition-2011 commences

YANGON, 13 Dec—The opening of 2nd ASEAN Cup Hockey Competition-2011 took place at Theinbyu Hockey Turf in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this morning, attended by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe.

Yangon Mayor Minister for Yangon Region Development Affairs U Hla Myint and Region Minister for Planning and Economics U Than Myint opened the competition.

Host Myanmar along with Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will fight against each other. The match between Malaysia and Thailand is debut of the competition and Singapore and Myanmar as today's second match. Singapore and Malaysia as first match and Myanmar and Thailand as second on 14 December, and Malaysia and Myanmar as first



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe enjoys Myanmar and Singaporean hockey teams competition.
KYEMON

Myanmar, Singapore to fortify relations and cooperation



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—The visiting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore, Mr K Shanmugam and party paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the ministry here today. They discussed matters relating to strengthening bilateral relationship and cooperation.

Also present were Directors-General and officials from the ministry.

In the evening, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore and party at Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Union CPT Minister meets Telecommunications ministers



Union Minister U Thein Tun receives Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan Mr Kimiaki Matsuzaki and Deputy Minister Mr Tetsuo Yamakawa.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun received ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN member nations and dialogue partner nations attending the 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting at International Convention Centre here on 9 December.

In meeting with Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan Mr Kimiaki Matsuzaki and Deputy Minister Mr Tetsuo Yamakawa, the Union Minister discussed matters related to human resources development, data centre,

and Thailand and Singapore as second on 16 December will vie with each other. On 17 December, matches for fourth and third places and for second and first places will be held. All matches will start at 1 pm.—MNA

e-government and e-banking and hi-speed internet technologies.

The Union Minister and Information Technology Minister of India Mr Hon Sachin Pilot held talks on matters related to Moyo-Mandalay fiber connection, microwave link between Reed and Taka, mobile communication and proposed inland fiber connection to Europe and Africa through India.

Deputy Secretary General Mr Houlin Zhao of ITU and the Union Minister discussed dispatching of marketing and legal experts to Myanmar and cooperation in hi-speed internet technologies.—MNA

Ramayana Drama to be staged on 17, 18 December

YANGON, 13 Dec—To resurrect Myanmar Traditional Ramayana Drama which has faded away for over 60 years, Anawa Thiri Rama and Obo Rama will jointly restage the full scene of the opera on 17 and 18 December at National Theater on Myomakyaung Street in Dagon Township.

Myanmar bard U Toe first compiled Rama verse during the reign of Bodaw Phaya. He then added dialogues and scripts to the verse to entertain the court. Myawady Mingyi U Sa staged the opera on 1st Waxing of Nadaw 1151 Myanmar Era and Ramayana Opera had celebrated its 222nd birthday previous 1st Nadaw Waxing.

Tickets are available at National Theater and No (14/a) Kyatawya Street, Bahan Township, here between 9 am and 5 pm beginning 14 December.

MNA

More than nine million in Sahel face food crisis



A woman from Niger gathers spilled maize. Major food shortages are expected in the Sahel Region next year.

INTERNET

DAKAR, 13 Dec—More than nine million people in five countries in Africa's Sahel region face food crisis next year, following low rainfall, poor harvests, high food prices and a drop in remittances from migrants, aid agency Oxfam said on Monday.

People in Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad, are at particularly high risk, with national food reserves dangerously low and prices of some key cereals as much as 40 percent higher than the five-year average. "The food situation in the region is once again

alarming," Eric Hazard, Oxfam regional economic justice manager, told a news conference in Dakar. "We are in a region today where we have a cereal deficit of about 2.5 million tonnes."

In some countries such as Chad and Mauritania, estimates show a fall in cereal production of about 50 percent, compared with last year's production.

Hazard said the most alarming situation is in Niger where six million - almost a half of the population - were at risk. In Mali, 2.9 million people live in areas that may be hit by food shortage next year, while in Mauritania 700,000 people - more than a quarter of the population - are reported as at risk of severe food insecurity.

Reuters

In this 5 Aug, 2010 file photo, a rescue worker is seen at the scene of an accident involving two school buses, a tractor-trailer and another passenger vehicle, near Gray Summit, Mo Federal safety investigators say a 19-year-old driver was texting at the time his pickup truck, two school buses and other vehicles collided in a deadly pileup on an interstate highway in Missouri last year.

INTERNET



Driver was texting in Missouri traffic pileup

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—A 19-year-old driver was texting just before his pickup truck, two school buses and a tractor truck collided in a deadly pileup on an interstate highway in Missouri last year, the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday.

Two people — the pickup driver and a 15-year-old student on one of the buses — were killed and 38 others were injured in the Aug. 5, 2010 accident on the interstate highway near Gray Summit, Mo. Nearly 50 students, mostly members of a high school band from St James, Mo, were on the buses heading to the Six Flags St Louis amusement park.

The chain of rear end collisions began

when the pickup truck rammed the back of the tractor truck, the board said. The pickup was then rear-ended by a school bus, which was in turn struck by the second bus.

The board is scheduled to meet Tuesday to hear the results of an investigation into the accident and to make safety recommendations. The meeting will focus on the "distractive effects of portable electronic devices when used by drivers," the board said in a statement. The board has previously recommended bans on texting and cell phone use by commercial drivers, but has stopped short of calling for a ban on the use of the devices by adults behind the wheel of passenger cars.—Internet

Six wounded in twin bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec—Six people were wounded Monday in two roadside bomb explosions in the Iraqi Capital of Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

The first attack occurred when a roadside bomb ripped through Ghazaliyah District in the west of the capital without causing any casualties, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The second blast followed when Iraqi security forces and civilian people gathered at the site of the first explosion, wounding four civilians and two policemen, the source said. Militants frequently use the tactic of creating an initial explosion to attract people, and then set off another blast to get heavier casualties, he said. Violence in the country underscores the challenges that the Iraqi security forces are facing as they struggle to restore stability and normalcy in Iraqi cities days before the complete pullout of US forces by the end of the year.

Xinhua

Two students shot, wounded at Texas middle school

EDINBURG, 13 Dec—Authorities suspect hunters may have shot two South Texas middle school students who were wounded by gunfire Monday afternoon while trying out for a basketball team.

Two boys — ages 13 and 14 — were shot, said Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino. Classes were not in session at Harwell Middle School when the shooting



A woman hugs her daughter after a shooting at Harwell Middle School on 12 Dec, 2011 in Edinburg, Texas.

INTERNET

happened around 4:45 pm, but the school complex was immediately placed on lockdown. Edinburg school district spokesman Gilbert Tagle said a number of after-school activities were going on besides the basketball tryouts, including a concert and a faculty meeting. He estimated as many as 200 children could have been on campus.

One of the wounded boys was in critical condition Monday night with a bullet embedded in an organ. The other was stable and awaiting X-rays, Trevino said.

At the time of the shooting, one of the boys was going for a layup. The other was waiting his turn to try out, Trevino said.

The sheriff said it was too early to say whether the students were targeted or if the shooting was accidental. Investigators believe the shots may have come from hunters on adjacent farm property, Trevino said. The shots did not come from the campus and were not a result of a drive-by, he said.

Harwell Middle School opened just this year on the rural property northeast of Edinburg, which is about 50 miles northwest of Brownsville. Homes line the road approaching the school, but open fields stretch out behind it and to the north.

Investigators have spoken with owners of surrounding farms and the land was being leased to deer hunters, Trevino said. Authorities interviewed some hunters who were found on adjoining properties.

Internet

Iran's first nuclear power plant connected to national grid



Map showing the location of the the Ghadir-e Yazd Steel Factory in central Iran. Seven workers died and at least a dozen others were injured when a melting furnace in an Iranian steel factory exploded, officials told Iranian media Monday.—INTERNET

Blast kills seven in steel mill in Iran

TEHRAN, 13 Dec—Iran's official news agency is reporting that a blast caused by leftover ammunition has killed at least seven workers including foreign nationals at a steel mill in the central City of Yazd. The Monday report by IRNA said the blast late Sunday wounded 12 other workers. It has not reported the nationality of the foreigners. Local parliamentarian Ali Akbar Oliaw is quoted as blaming the blast on ammunition which arrived at the factory along with scrap metal.

Iran's media in the past has reported explosions which at first it said were caused by bombs, then in subsequent reports by stray ammunition. Seventeen people were killed last month at a massive explosion at an ammunition dump near Teheran, which Iran has said was an accident.—Internet

Internet

Some 1,731 Cambodians killed in road accidents in 11 months

PHNOM PENH, 13 Dec—Road accidents have claimed 1,731 Cambodian lives and injured 7,885 others in the first 11 months this year, Touch Chan Kosal, secretary of state at the Ministry of Public Work and Transport, said Tuesday.

"Traffic accidents have become the No 1 killer in Cambodia among those of HIV/AIDS and mine casualties—the number of the deaths has not declined yet despite our traffic safety campaigns," he told a workshop on traffic safety. "It is the most concerned for the government."

Every year, the accidents have left thousands of orphans, widows and disabled persons, he said.

Some 72 percent of the accidents involved motorcycle drivers. Most of the dead were head-hit.

He said about 51 percent of the accidents was due to over-speed driving, 16 percent was alcohol driving and the rest was violation of traffic law and vehicle problems.—Xinhua

Singaporeans deny charges of illegally exporting US radio parts to Iran

SINGAPORE, 13 Dec—Four Singaporeans charged with illegally exporting United States-made radio equipment to Iran and held for US extradition request denied the charges in court on Monday.

The non-committal hearing at the Subordinate Courts will weigh the United States evidence of the suspects making illegal exports to Iran, and it will be determined if there are sufficient grounds for them to be extradited.

They face a US extradition request on the ground that they had exported radio equipment including 6,000 radio modules and 55 antenna parts to Iran, thereby evading a US trade embargo against Iran.

Some of these equipment ended up in roadside bombs targeting the coalition forces in Iraq. The

United States traced the radio equipment to the three Singapore-based companies and an Iranian company that are believed to be involved in the trade channel that made it possible.

The United States and Singapore have extradition agreements. All the four suspects were arrested in Singapore in October. An Iranian national Hossein Larijani believed to be behind the deal was still at large.

The radio modules have a range of 65 kilometres when configured with a specialized antenna.

One of the four accused, Lim Kow Seng, was tasked with obtaining quotations and procuring deals for antenna parts.

Xinhua

“No heart attack risk” from ADHD drugs



WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—Most adults do not face a higher risk of heart attack when taking stimulant medications to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, US researchers said on Monday.

The study is the largest

and among the first to look specifically at the risks of taking ADHD drugs for people aged 25-64, and is published in an early online version of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

Previous studies have shown that some ADHD drugs can raise blood pressure and heart rate, but follow-up research has been unable to find any higher risk of death or major complications.

A separate study last month in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found no higher risk among youths aged two to 24 who take stimulant medications like Ritalin, after concerns were raised years ago about potential links.

The JAMA obser-

national study, funded by the US Food and Drug Administration and the Agency for Health Research Quality, was based on pharmacy data and medical records for 150,000 people at four clinical sites in the United States.

Comparing those who used the drugs to those who did not, and honing on one the specific subgroups of ADHD drugs, researchers found no higher risk of heart attack, sudden cardiac death or stroke.

However, the study did have some limitations, such as spanning a relatively short period — about one year — and excluding people over 65. “It’s important to note that this is an observational study and not a randomised

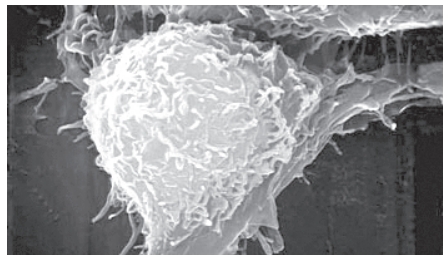
Health

clinical trial,” said lead author Laurel Habel, a research scientist with the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research.

The drugs included in the study were stimulants such as methylphenidate, dextroamphetamines, amphetamine salts and pemoline; and the non-stimulant atomoxetine.

All were labelled for treatment of ADHD in children or adults as of 31 December, 2005.

According to the latest FDA data from 2005, about 1.5 million US adults are taking ADHD medication. Of all the US prescriptions issued to children and adults, grownups account for nearly one third.—*Internet*



British scientists discover new way to target cancer

Health

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—British scientists have discovered a new way to target cancer through manipulating a master switch responsible for cancer cell growth. The findings, published Monday in the *US journal Cancer Cell*, reveal how cancer cells grow faster by producing their own blood vessels.

Cancer cells gain the nutrients they need by producing proteins that make blood vessels grow, helping deliver oxygen and sugars to the tumor. These proteins are vascular growth factors like VEGF — the target for the anti-cancer drug Avastin. Making these proteins requires the slotting together of different parts of genes, a process called splicing.

Scientists at the University of West England and the University of Bristol discovered that mutations in one specific cancer gene can control how splicing is balanced, allowing a master switch in the cell to be turned on. This master switch of splicing makes cancer cells grow faster, and blood vessels to grow more quickly, as they alter how VEGFs are put together.

In experimental models, the researchers found that by using new drugs that block this master switch they prevented blood vessel growth and stopped the growth of cancers.

“The research clearly demonstrates that it may be possible to block tumor growth by targeting and manipulating alternative splicing in patients, adding to the increasingly wide armory of potential anti-cancer therapies,” the authors said.—*Xinhua*

Passers-by are seen through a car window reflecting Christmas lights as they walk in front of an electric board displaying movements of the Japanese yen’s exchange rate against the US dollar outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 9 December, 2011.



INTERNET

Business

Mozambique exports hit 320 mln USD

MAPUTO, 13 Dec—Exports of goods and services have earned Mozambique 302 million US dollars this year, up 17 percent from last year, Radio Mozambique reported on Monday.

Coal exports kicked off two about three months ago boosted the southern African country’s economy.

As the mining sector grows up, Mozambique will earn more hard currency in near future, the radio said.

There have been new discoveries of coal in the northwestern province of Tete by an Indian company, while gas and oil have been found in the northernmost province of Cabo Delgado, the report said.

According to Radio Mozambique, there will be an economic growth from 16.5 percent this year to 17.7 percent next year.

The government is working to reduce the budget deficit, standing at 15.5 percent next year, the radio said.—*Xinhua*

Oil falls on lingering European concerns

NEW YORK, 13 Dec—Crude prices fell on Monday on lingering European debt concerns as investors thought the agreement reached at the EU summit was not enough to solve the problems.

Light, sweet crude for January delivery dipped 1.64 dollars, or 1.78 percent to settle at 97.77 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, Brent crude for January delivery also dropped and last traded around 107 dollars a barrel.—*Xinhua*



Photo taken on 12 Dec, 2011, shows the Haitian Container Port in Xiamen, southeast China’s Fujian Province. The total throughput of Xiamen Port has reached 130 million tons from January to October this year, increasing 14.8 percent year-on-year. The foreign trade handling capacity has grown 15.8 percent to 66.541 million tons while the container handling capacity has risen 9.7 percent to 5.225 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) containers.—*XINHUA*

US scientists develop vaccine that attacks breast cancer in mice

Health

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—Researchers from the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Mayo Clinic in Arizona have developed a vaccine that dramatically reduces tumors in a mouse model, according to a study published online Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The vaccine works by training the immune system to attack tumours that have a protein known as MUC1 on the surface of their cells.

MUC1 is found on more than 70 percent of all cancers that kill. Many cancers, such

as breast, pancreatic, ovarian and multiple myeloma, express MUC1 with the shorter carbohydrate in more than 90 percent of cases.

“This vaccine elicits a very strong immune response,” said study co-senior author Geert-Jan Boons, professor of chemistry at UGA Cancer Centre. “It activates all three components of the immune system to reduce tumor size by an average of 80 percent.”

The researchers are testing the vaccine’s effectiveness against human cancer cells in culture and are planning to assess its toxicity.



If all goes well, they anticipate that phase I clinical trials to test the safety of the vaccine could begin by late 2013.

Xinhua

LatAm countries agree on strategies to tide over economic crisis

Business

SANTIAGO, 13 Dec—Finance ministers from Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay on Monday agreed to boost measures to mitigate the effects of the global economic crisis.

The ministers agreed to increase liquidity and public investment, improve fiscal accounts, and push through reforms to face the crisis effects.

“We have established a plan of economic incentive to increase two percentage points of the GDP, which will be implemented in the next year,” Peru’s Finance Minister Luis Miguel Castilla told the media after the meeting here.

The proposal, which has been included in the budget, includes an additional boost to infrastructure projects. Casilla said infrastructure investment should help mitigate the slowdown of the private sectors caused by a lower global growth.

Casilla said it is important to keep healthy fiscal accounts. “This year we have to close with a surplus of 2 percent in the GDP and the next year the projection might be a reduction in the surplus and balanced accounts.”—*Xinhua*



Japan's robot venture Kowa-tmsuk unveils its electric personal mobility "Kobot" at the Tokyo Motor Show.—INTERNET

Watch out for Geminid meteor shower

Wednesday

Science

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec — Sky gazers can look forward to an exhibition of celestial fireworks as the night sky will be lit up by Geminid meteor showers that are expected to peak Wednesday.

A rare celestial event, the Geminid meteor shower will be visible across India and people can see over 60 shooting stars every hour for the next couple of nights with the largest number early Wednesday.

"People can watch out for the meteor showers from late Tuesday to dawn on Wednesday morning. There will be fireballs in the sky," said Science Popularisation

Association of Communicators and Educators (SPACE) director CB Devgun.

SPACE is a private organization working for popularising science among people.

Explaining the method to observe the meteorites, Devgun said: "Look up at the sky between 10 pm and 4 am and you could see beautiful fireworks in the sky but as this time it is happening three days after full moon, so visibility is likely to be hampered."

"You need a simple telescope to watch the meteor showers. People in the capital should move to

the outskirts to have a clear look as the morning sky these days is covered with fog," he said.

A meteor shower occurs when the earth passes through debris left behind by a passing comet or asteroid. In the present case, it is an asteroid named 3200 Phaethon.

As the earth moves around the sun, the debris get pulled by the earth's gravitational force and fall with long bright tails visible to the naked eye.

The celestial phenomenon is called Geminid showers as they seem to emanate from the Gemini constellation.—Internet

iPad 3 with retina display 'coming in February 2012'?

Tech

LONDON, 13 Dec—Apple is reportedly planning to launch a next-generation iPad, called an iPad 3, as early as February 2012.

According to report by Business Insider and PCMag, Citi analyst Richard Gardner revealed that the device would be similar to the iPad 2, but includes Apple's high-resolution retina display technology found on the iPhone 4 and iPhone 4S by doubling the iPad 3's screen resolution.

Gardner reportedly said that "several sources" told

him that Apple could launch the iPad 3 in February, which would put its debut ahead of the first two generations of Apple's tablet.

The first iPad hit stores in April 2010 after being unveiled the month before, and the iPad 2 was unveiled and released in March 2011, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reports.

The analyst also said that "there do not appear to be any significant technical hurdles remaining" to prevent the launch of a high-resolution iPad, which

contradicts previous reports that fitting such a dense screen into an Apple tablet was one of the reasons Apple iPad 2 maintained the 1024 x 768 resolution of the first iPad.

According to the report, Gardner also estimated that Apple would sell about 12 million to 13 million iPads in the final three months of this year. The major sales competitor to Apple's iPad is widely considered the Amazon Kindle Fire in the US, which boasts much lower specs than iPads and Eee Pads.

Internet



World's smallest frogs discovered in New Guinea

Science

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—World's smallest frogs were discovered in southeast New Guinea by US researchers.

The frogs belong to the genus *Paedophryne*. The length of an adult frog of this species is only 8-9 mm. This also makes them the world's smallest tetrapods (non-fish vertebrates), *Xinhua* reported quoting the journal *ZooKeys* Monday.

The frogs were discovered by Fred Kraus and his colleagues from Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

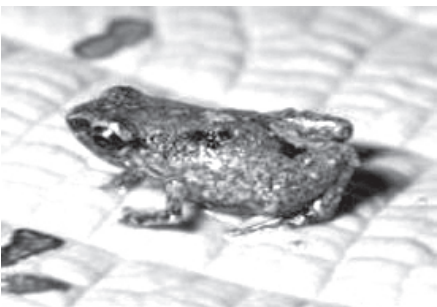
Previous research by Kraus had led to the discovery of *Paedophryne*

in New Guinea in 2002. However, the genus was not formally described until last year.

Two species of the same genus described earlier were larger, attaining sizes of 10-11 mm.

"Miniaturization occurs in many frog genera around the world, but New Guinea seems particularly well represented, with species in seven genera exhibiting the phenomenon," Kraus said.

Internet



Apple's Mac App Store downloads top 100 mln

Tech

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Dec—Apple announced on Monday that over 100 million apps have been downloaded from its Mac App Store since its initial launch in January.

"With more than 100 million downloads in less than a year, the Mac App Store is the largest and fastest growing PC software store in the world," Apple said in

a statement, adding that "Mac App Store is changing the traditional PC software industry."

Apple launched the Mac App Store in January as a free download for Mac OS X users, allowing users to sift through free and paid applications and download them to their devices like Apple mobile App Store.

After 24 hours of release,

there was a total of more than one million downloads. Apple said on Monday that the Mac App Store now offers thousands of apps in education, games, graphics and design, lifestyle, productivity, utilities and other categories.

According to its policies, 70 percent of the revenue generated from paid applications goes to

developers while the remaining 30 percent is kept by Apple.

Apple's first application store is the mobile App Store launched in 2008, which, in the tech giant's words, has "changed how people get mobile apps."

In October, Apple said, its mobile app downloads topped 18 billion and over 3 billion US dollars had been paid to developers since 2008.—*Xinhua*

Roll-out flat-screen TV on the way

Science

LONDON, 13 Dec — Scientists are creating flat screen TVs that can be rolled up and safely tucked away in your pockets, thanks to QD or quantum dot technology.

Developed by a team of British scientists, QD can be used to make ultra-thin TVs. Samsung is already working on bendable OLED screens but QD screens will be thinner and more flexible.

The flexible screens are expected to hit the markets by the next year end. Sony, Sharp, Samsung and LG are believed to be working on QD technology, the *Daily*

Mail reports.

The technology, based on light emitting particles 100,000 times thinner than a human hair, will be imprinted on flexible plastic that can be rolled up or even printed onto large paper sheets to create giant screens.

Scientists at Nanoco, Manchester, are now working with major Asian electronic companies and the first televisions using the new technology are expected to hit the shelves by the end of next year.

The chief executive of Nanoco, a company set up

Manchester University scientists, said: "The real advantage provided by quantum dots, however, is

that they can be printed on to a plastic sheet that can be rolled up."

Internet



China to 'consider' navy stop in Seychelles

BEIJING, 13 Dec—China has said it may use the Seychelles as a naval supply stop while conducting anti-piracy missions, at the invitation of the Indian Ocean island state.

The announcement comes at a time of growing Indian concern about China's influence in the strategically important Indian Ocean, a vital shipping lane connecting Asia to Europe and the Middle East.

"According to escort needs and the needs of other long-distance missions, China will consider taking supplies or recuperating at appropriate ports in the Seychelles and other countries," the defence ministry said in a statement Monday. The invitation was

extended earlier this month during a visit to the Seychelles by Chinese defence minister Liang Guanglie.

Beijing has funded or plans to invest in several major infrastructure projects in the Indian Ocean, including ports in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and

Myanmar. Monday's announcement was widely covered in China's state-run media on Tuesday, but the reports quoted military experts as saying the move did not equate to establishing an overseas military base.

China has been heavily involved in anti-piracy

missions in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean. Since 2008, China has sent 10 escort missions and more than 8,000 military personnel to the Gulf of Aden, escorting more than 4,300 vessels in the process, the official *China Daily* said.—INTERNET

This file photo shows a Seychelles coastguard vessel arriving in the Port Victoria. China has said it may use the Seychelles as a naval supply stop while conducting anti-piracy missions, at the invitation of the Indian Ocean island state.—INTERNET



Mexico's navy captures Zetas leader 'El Lucky'

MEXICO CITY, 13 Dec—Mexico's navy captured a leader of the Zetas drug cartel, Raul Fernandez, President Felipe Calderon said on Monday via his Twitter account.

Fernandez, who is also known as "El Lucky" (The Lucky One), had a bounty of 15 million pesos (\$1.09 million) on his head, operated in the Gulf state of Veracruz as well as the central state of Puebla and Oaxaca state in the south, Calderon said.

The Zetas, formed at the end of the 1990s by deserters from elite army forces, are believed to have been behind some of the bloodiest crimes against civilians in recent years including the arson attack on a casino in northern Mexico that killed 52 people in August.

Since sending in the army five years ago to crack down on cartel activity, Calderon has made a point of targeting top leaders. With Fernandez's capture, Calderon said the government had accounted for 22 of Mexico's 37 most-wanted drug lords.—Reuters

Police comb New York marsh after missing prostitute's bag found

NEW YORK, 13 Dec — Police on Monday combed through marshes on Long Island where they recently found the purse of a missing prostitute whose disappearance led them to discover 10 bodies now believed to be victims of a single serial killer.

Armed with rakes, Suffolk County Police dug through the muck and planned to return on Tuesday in their search for Shannan Gilbert, who went missing in May 2010. Police said Gilbert, 23, of New Jersey was a prostitute advertising on Craigslist.

Last week, the search turned up Gilbert's purse, containing her ID, cell phone and lip gloss, as well as her jeans and shoes. Her body has yet to be found.

Gilbert's disappearance prompted the investigation which led to five bodies found in burlap sacks on Gilgo Beach

last December. The bodies have been positively identified as prostitutes advertising on Craigslist.

Since then, five more bodies have been found.

Police said they think Gilbert's disappearance is unrelated to the other bodies but a single killer may be responsible for the 10 dead. Relatives of Megan

Waterman and Maureen Brainard-Barnes, whose bodies were among the 10 found, visited the scene on the first anniversary of the grisly discovery.

"It's been a living hell," Waterman's mother Loraine Ela told reporters on Monday. "It really is. Not a day doesn't go back where I don't think of Megan."—Reuters



The locations where eight of 10 bodies were found near Gilgo Beach since December 2010 are seen in this Suffolk County Police handout image released to Reuters on 20 September, 2011.—INTERNET

Man says military jet crash destroyed his life

SAN DIEGO, 13 Dec—Lawyers for an extended family that lost four members when a military jet crashed into their San Diego home in 2008 said Monday they will be seeking millions of dollars for the accident that the Marine Corps acknowledged

was caused by a string of errors.

Attorney Kevin Boyle told *The Associated Press* outside the federal courthouse that the Yoon and Lee families turned to the court system after the Justice Department in private

negotiations offered "insulting" amounts to compensate for the deaths of two children, their mother and grandmother. US District Judge Jeffery Miller will have the final say on the issue at the end of the two-day trial, which began Monday.

"The government has offered pennies on the dollar compared to what a jury would give," Boyle said.

Boyle would not specify yet how much the families want nor state the amount offered so far by the federal government. Don Yoon lost his 36-year-old wife, Youngmi Lee Yoon; his 15-month-old daughter, Grace; his 2-month-old daughter, Rachel; and his 59-year-old mother-in-law, Seokim Kim Lee, who was visiting from Korea to help her eldest daughter take care of their children.—INTERNET



In this 8 Dec, 2008 file photo, smoke rises from a fire after an F-18 military jet crashed into a suburban neighbourhood in San Diego.—INTERNET

Package bomb at Greek Embassy in Paris

PARIS, 13 Dec—A package bomb sent to the Greek Embassy in Paris was discovered by authorities and safely disabled Monday, and caused no injuries or damages, an embassy official said. The package arrived with no external markings, prompting suspicious embassy staff to call the police, the official said. The embassy was evacuated for about 40 minutes.

French police discovered a low-power explosive device inside, and detonated it under controlled conditions, the official said. The official was not authorized to be publicly named. The Greek Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying the letter was delivered this morning to the embassy,

listing the ambassador as recipient. It said it did not list a sender, but the indication was that it had been sent from Italy.

The anti-terrorism units of the criminal brigade and the judicial police were put on the investigation, opened for attempted murder and "criminal association with a terrorist enterprise aimed at building an explosive device," police said.

In Rome last week, a letter bomb exploded at the office of a tax collection agency, wounding an official. An Italian anarchist group claimed responsibility for the bomb and for sending another explosive earlier in the week to Deutsche Bank in Germany, which was intercepted.

INTERNET

Belgian nurse who saved GIs in WWII honoured

BRUSSELS, 13 Dec—A Belgian nurse who saved the lives of hundreds of American soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge at the end of World War II was given a US award for valor Monday — 67 years late.

Congolese-born Augusta Chiwy, now 93, received the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service medal from US Ambassador Howard Gutman at a ceremony in the military museum in Brussels.



Belgian nurse Augusta Chiwy, centre, who saved hundreds of wounded GIs during the WWII Battle of the Bulge, receives an award for valor from the US Army, in Brussels, on 12 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

"She helped, she helped, and she helped," Gutman said at the ceremony. He said the long delay in presenting the award was because it was assumed that Chiwy had been killed when a bomb destroyed her hospital.

The Battle of the Bulge was a ferocious encounter in the final stages of World War II. In desperation, Adolf Hitler ordered a massive attack on allied forces in the Ardennes, in southern Belgium. More than 80,000 American soldiers were killed, captured or wounded.

Chiwy had volunteered to assist in an aid station in the town of Bastogne, where wounded and dying US soldiers in their thousands were being treated by a single doctor in December 1944 and January 1945. Chiwy braved the gunfire, helping whoever she could, and saving the lives of hundreds of American GIs.

The Nazis hoped the surprise attack would reach the sea at the Belgian port of Antwerp and cut off the advancing allied armies. Bastogne, a market town that was also a critical road junction, was quickly besieged.

The US troops — led by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division — found themselves surrounded. But they resisted fiercely, and the key crossroads was never taken. During the battle, Brig Gen Anthony McAuliffe, the 101st's acting division commander, delivered his famous reply to a German surrender demand when he scribbled: "To the German commander: Nuts! The American commander."

INTERNET

Towards a Modern Banking System: Financial Liberalization

by San Thein

Implementing their primary function of financial intermediation, banks channel funds between surplus and deficit agents by transforming bank deposits into bank loans. Realizing the country needs an efficient financial system for effective mobilization of savings for optimal allocation of domestic resources, the monetary authorities carefully nurture the local banks to prosper. However, recent developments in the banking sector show the authorities' eagerness to modernize the financial sector more rapidly.

Redefining capital, deposit and reserve requirements

The Central Bank of Myanmar, the regulatory body of the country's banking sector, has recently relaxed its restrictions on bank deposits which were limited to ten times paid-up capital. The new instruction allows a local bank to accept deposits up to 25 times its capital which includes not only paid-up capital, but also general reserves, general provision, provision for bad and doubtful debt, reserves for contingencies and retained profit and loss, all of which can be considered 'shareholders' equity' or Tier I capital by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's definition. In this way the central bank has strengthened a bank's capacity for accepting deposits. At the same time, the central bank uses reserve ratio requirements to control the money supply by imposing ever-greater minimum reserve requirements for mounting bank deposits: 10pc of total deposits must be kept as reserves for the deposits up to ten times of its capital, 15pc of deposits for 10 to 15 times of capital, 20pc for 15 to 20 times and 25pc for over 20 to 25 times. The higher the deposits, the higher the reserves which are to be kept at the bank and with the central bank, safeguarding a bank's liquidity in case of emergency. The objective is to encourage local banks to mobilize financial resources effectively, while keeping inflation under control.

Adopting competitive interest rate policy

Effective 1 September 2011, as a measure for deregulating interest rates, the central bank has allowed local banks to reduce their interest rates on both savings and loans by 2 percentage points, meaning a bank can offer not less than 10pc on savings and it cannot charge more than 15pc on loans, enjoying a spread of 5pc as before. Previously, there were limits on interest rates: the same deposit and lending rates were set for all banks: the interest rate on savings deposits was 12pc per annum and the lending rate was 17pc. Now, with deregulation of interest rates, competition is no longer limited. Banks can compete with each other by offering attractive interest rates. Banks with a strong deposit base may offer the lowest rate (10pc) on savings whereas banks with a weak deposit base would offer higher interest rates to attract more deposits. Previously, the same interest rate applied to both saving and fixed deposits. But now, banks are offering higher than saving interest rates on fixed deposits with maturity of 3 to 12 months.

Setting interest rates is another tool of a central bank's monetary policy used in managing the country's money supply to control inflation. A central bank usually reduces its interest rate to stimulate domestic demand while the

economy is in the doldrums and increases its interest rate to reduce the money supply when the country is suffering from inflationary pressure. Positive real interest rates (when interest rates are higher than the inflation rate) can help to attract deposits while negative real interest rates (interest rates below the inflation rate) encourage investors to seek other forms of investments to hedge against inflation. High interest rates attract deposits but discourage investments with high costs of borrowings from banks. Under this situation, banks find it hard to manage their surplus funds; the easiest way in Myanmar is investing in government treasury bonds. High levels of investment in government treasury bonds by banks suggest that they find it hard to extend quality loans to reliable customers and they have surplus funds. It is hoped that the recent reduction in interest rates would stimulate the economy by channeling funds for investment to productive sectors.

New products and collaterals

Previously, a bank's products were limited to current, saving and fixed deposits and one-year commercial loans. Recently, the central bank has allowed local banks to extend hire purchase facilities to their customers. Under a hire-purchase system, bank customers with regular income can buy consumer products initially funded by the bank and repay the money in monthly installments to the bank. The system helps stimulate domestic demand and effectively raise the bank customers' standard of living.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has called upon the local banks to come up with proposals for new products and it is hoped that there will be more bank products and facilities in the future. Fostering competition by allowing banks to offer new products and services to their customers as long as banks have the expertise to manage their risks efficiently is essential to move towards a modern system.

Types of collateral for bank loans are no longer confined to land and buildings and are expanded to include such movable assets as some exportable crops (rice, beans & pulses and sesame), bank deposits and gold.

Foreign banking

It is very exciting to learn that the Central Bank of Myanmar has granted authorized dealer licenses for conducting foreign banking to 11 local banks with strong capital base and human resources. Recently, with the objective of preserving the internal and external value of Myanmar Kyat, the Central Bank has granted money changer licenses to local banks. First, the six banks, (Kanbawza Bank, Myawady Bank, Innwa Bank, Co-operatives Bank, Myama Industrial Development Bank and Myanmar Oriental Bank) started dealing in US dollars, Singapore dollars, euros and FECs by opening exchange counters at a currency exchange center on Theinbyu Street in Yangon where there used to be an exchange center before the 2003 liquidity crisis. Later other local banks participate in the scheme and 50 more exchange counters are being opened at commercially important areas in the country. These banks through their counters try to stabilize the exchange rates while keeping the speculators out of the market.

Exchange rate unification

The monetary authorities are determined to tackle exchange rate problems associated with the existing exchange restrictions and multiple currency practices. At the request of the Central Bank of Myanmar, a technical team from the IMF visited Myanmar during October 19-November 1, 2011, to discuss its plans to unify the exchange rate regime and lift restrictions on current international payments and transfers. The team is expected to visit Myanmar again for a follow up mission in early in 2012.

Improving the payments system

Moving towards a modernized banking system, the monetary authorities are trying to improve the payments system. The existing payment systems infrastructure is predominantly cash based. Banknotes are still the most important payment medium for general public. Walking into a bank one may find a cash counter where customers are busy with bundles of banknotes – putting them into large bags or counting them carefully before leaving the counter. Behind the counter one can see piles of banknotes sitting on the table and waiting to be counted. Members of the bank staff, wearing masks to protect themselves from moisture and dust flying from the old notes, are counting one bundle of notes after another by hand and on note-counting machines and at the same time, sorting out old, torn and fake notes not fit for recirculation.

Surprisingly enough these hassles will be things of the past. On the recommendation of the Payment System Development Committee of the Myanmar Banks Association, the Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) has been formed to implement a modern payment system where ATMs (automatic teller machines) and debit cards are used. An ATM is an electronic machine placed in a public place, connected to a network data system of the bank. It renders 24-hour banking services to the bank customers. It is a self service terminal where the customer himself has access to the facility of cash dispensing and depositing, remitting money from one's account to another, checking one's account balance etc. Debit cards are machine-readable, magnetically encoded plastic cards used to make retail payments.

We are witnessing series of reforms taking place in the financial sector. These reform measures taken by the monetary authorities show their eagerness to modernize the banking sector rapidly. Reforms are essential to overcome difficulties in the banking sector and to establish a viable and sound banking system so that it can effectively contribute to a sustainable and equitable economic development of the country. The objective of reform program should be to create a market-based banking system where all banks, both private and state-owned ones, enjoy healthy competition in level playing field, and where international financial links through foreign and local banks can be established between Myanmar and the rest of the world. The reform agenda should be sequenced and implementation of the reform program should be in a step-by-step manner.

District News

Vocational courses conclude

YINMABIN, 13 Dec—The Women's Vocational Training School held the concluding ceremony of Advanced Tailoring Course No. 14 and the Basic Domestic Science Course No. 18 in Yinmabin on 2 December.

After delivering an address, Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Naing awarded one set each of sewing machines to two outstanding trainees. The principal presented certificates to the trainees.

Township IPRD

Per acre increased in model plot

OTTWIN, 13 Dec—A model plot of 11-acre monsoon paddy was harvested in Ktettet Nyaungbin Village, Ottwin Township, on 17 November. The model plot of Manawthukha paddy cultivated through good agriculture pattern produced 106.68 acres per acre.

The production of paddy farm was 28 baskets per acre more than that of previous year.—Township IPRD

Model plot harvested in Yedashe

YEDASHE, 13 Dec—Under the supervision of Myanmar Agriculture Service, model plots are being harvested in Yedashe Township for securing right production rate for monsoon paddy in 2011. On 30 November, one-acre model plot of Hsinthukha paddy of farmer Daw Htwe Kyi was harvested in Taungnigon Village. The model plot of paddy produced 100.91 baskets per acre.

After the harvesting paddy, Township MAS Manager U Aung Win explained 14 points for boosting production of paddy applying good agriculture pattern.—Township IPRD



Loans disbursed to fishermen groups

THANDWE, 13 Dec—As part of efforts to realize eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation, a ceremony to disburse K 80 million to local fishermen was held at the hall of Thandwe Township General Administration Department on 2 December afternoon.

The Township Administrator handed over K 80 million to Chairman of Livestock Breeding, Fish and Meat Production Development Work Committee U Than Gyoung. Next, the work committee chairman disbursed loans to the rural region fishermen groups.—District IPRD

Monsoon model plot harvested

THATON, 13 Dec—Daebarrin Village-tract of Thaton Township held harvesting of monsoon paddy of Myeedon strain on 10.42 acres of model plot of farmer U Thein Myint on 23 November.

Departmental officials and local farmers participated in the harvesting activities. The production of model Myeedon paddy plot reached 63.90 baskets per acre.

District IPRD

Myanmar committed to drug elimination by 2014

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held meeting 2/2011 at the Ministry of Home Affairs today, attended by Chairman of CCDAC Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

The Union Minister stressed two strategies—elimination of narcotic drugs as a national concern and extensive elimination of poppy cultivation in line with the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the national races in border areas—and three tactics—supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement. Since 1999-

2000, Myanmar has been making commitment to 15-year plan to completely eradicate narcotic drug by 2014 earlier than 2015 set by ASEAN.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, leader of legal advisory group to the President U Sit Aye, Secretary of CCDAC Chief of Myanmar Police Force Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Chief of MPF Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, officials of the committee, UNODC, DEA and ONCB and distinguished guests.

The participants held discussion on rendering assistance for the fight against narcotic drug in cooperation with UNODC, DEA, ONCB and WFP.—MNA

MLF donates publications to village libraries

LABUTTA, 13 Dec—With a view to disseminating knowledge to rural people, a ceremony to donate books to village libraries by Myanmar Libraries Foundation was held at the hall in Labutta Township on 1 November.

The deputy commissioner of District General Administration Department explained reading habit for development of human resources and maintenance of libraries for their durability. Officials handed over 249 books for village libraries to village administrators.

District IPRD



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko speaking at Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Meeting 2/2011.—MNA

Formation of political parties scrutinized

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Those wishing to form political parties are now applying for formation of political parties to the Union Election Commission. Today, 19 people including U Anu applied for setting

up Mro National Party. The UEC has made coordination with respective ministries in order to scrutinize whether they are accord with Political Party Registration Law section 4 and 6.—MNA

Zawti BEMS (branch) upgraded

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Opening of Zawti Basic Education Middle School was held in Winkhanain village-tract, Shwegyin Township, Bago District, Bago Region, on 7 December. It is upgraded from BEMS (branch) to middle school. The officials opened the school. After that, Yadana Mitta Group donated K400,000 for the door and U Aung Myint Sein-Daw Nan Hla Aye K200,000 for sinking a tube well.—MNA

St. Paul Alumni Reunion Golf Tourney

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—St. Paul (BEHS-6 Botahtaung) Alumni Reunion Golf Tourney will be held at Myanmar Golf Association on 16 December (Friday). For further information, please contact U Maung Maung Myint (Vice-Chairman) 09 43096285, U Thein Swe (Secretary) 09 5193434, U Sunny Tin Zaw 09 5042979, U Eddy Ba Oo 09 5019053, U Than Htut 09 5140558, and U Kyaw Lwin Nyo 502717.—NLM



Union Minister U Myint Hlaing receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri. MNA

Union A&I Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri at the ministry here this morning. At the call, both sides discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation in agricultural development, construction of agriculture advance research center and advance paddy warehouses with assistance from India and cooperation in implementation of irrigation systems with loans from India.

Similarly, the Union Minister received Executive Director Mr Lim Hong Joon of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (KLK) of Malaysia at the ministry here at 11.30 am today. They discussed investment cooperation in agricultural development, construction of modern factories to produce value-added goods from industrial rubber crops and oil palm crops and long-term investments in agro-based industry.

Also present on the occasions were departmental heads of the ministry.—MNA

Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards for 2010 announced

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutiny Committee announced the list of winners of Sarpay Beikman manuscript contest for 2010, organized by Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information.

In the novel genre, second prize went to K (Taugntanpya) and third prize to Hnin Sat (Lashio); in the collection of short stories, first prize to Myay Latt Min Lwin, second prize to Maung Maung Moe Aung and third prize to Ko Naing (Chintaung); in the collection of poems, first prize to Aung Tha Hsan (Thandwe), second prize to Min Thway Nwe (Zigon) and third prize to Maung Han Tint (Pinlebu); in the general knowledge (Arts), first prize to U Thaug Ngwe and second prize to Minbu Aung Kyaing; in the general

knowledge (Science and applied science) first prize to Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) and second prize to Aung Soe (Agriculture/107); in the belles-letters, second prize to Hla Myint (Yangon University); in the Myanmar culture and fine arts, first prize to Myat Wai Toe (Institute of Education); in the children's literature, first prize to Kanbalu Khin Maung Swe, second to Zaw Myo Han (Ngathaingyoung) and third prize to Zar Ni; in the youth's literature, first prize to Inbin Than Htay Aung, second prize to Thein Zaw (Shwe Li Oo) and third prize to Kyunsinmyay Saw Khet; in the drama, first prize to Maung Sanda (Lewe) and second prize to Maung Soe Htaik (Thonse); and in translation, first prize went to Dr Nyan Hein Latt.

Prize winners are to

contact Secretary of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutiny Committee at Sarpay Beikman Building, No. 529-531, Merchant Street (Ph: 01-376569) and management division (Ph: 01-381449) within a week. Winners will be awarded at life-time National Literary Award and National Literary Award ceremony for 2010 to be held at the Information Ministry at

9 am on 27 December 2011.

Entries for Sarpay Beikman manuscript award for 2011 can be submitted not later than 31 January 2012.—MNA

Singaporean goodwill delegation tours Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—A goodwill delegation led by Mrs K Shanmugam, wife of the Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister, at 2 pm visited Myanmar Gems Museum where they observed Myanmar gems and

jewellery put on display at the first floor of the museum and signed the visitors's book. Accompanied by officials, the delegation also visited National Landmark Gardens (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA



Singaporean goodwill delegation led by Mrs K Shanmugam visits National Landmark Gardens.—MNA

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issues statement

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement today. The full text of the statement is as follows:

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

1. A four-member team of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission headed by its Secretary visited Kachin State from 8 to 10 December 2011 in order to observe at first hand the civil population who were displaced as a result of armed skirmishes that occurred from June 2011, with the view to ascertain their conditions in camps that are under the supervision of the Kachin State Government and also to make a need assessment.

2. The team went to Myitkyina, Waingmaw and Bhamo townships and met with the responsible authorities and visited Buddhist monasteries and Christian Churches and met and interviewed the displaced persons. They also visited the Myitkyina General Hospital and again interviewed the patients. There are 59 camps in 11 townships where 14,113 people are cared for under the auspices of the State Government. 51 schools in 10 townships with a student population of 7,872 have to be temporarily closed. The State Government, however, has been able to make arrangements for all students that have arrived at the camps to continue their studies. Currently, there are 3,153 students studying in schools in various vicinities.

3. Under coordination by the Kachin State Government, humanitarian assistance by various government organizations, Civil Society Organization and UN agencies were systematically distributed to the population in the camps and their basic necessities were provided for. However, with the coming of the cold weather, there is a need for warm clothings and blankets. Families were randomly put together in temporary accommodations which pose a challenge to families, particularly, those with young children. From individual interviews, it was evident that almost all wanted to return to their own villages. The children appear to be suffering from psychological trauma and the adults seem to experience

a sense of insecurity and diminished confidence.

4. The team from the Commission was able to liaise and coordinate with the concerned authorities to enable the distribution of humanitarian assistance by the Kachin State Government, UN agencies and Civil Society Organizations to the displaced persons in and around Laiza.

5. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission will similarly continue to exert all efforts for enhancing assistance to the displaced persons in the Kachin State.

6. The Commission wishes to make the following observations and recommendations.

- It acknowledges the effective role of the Kachin State Government in providing basic humanitarian needs to over 14,000 displaced persons that have arrived at their camps.

- It is particularly gratified that the State Government has been able to distribute in an efficient and systematic manner the material and monetary assistance provided by government organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and the national civil societies.

- It is happy to note that the children of the displaced persons are able to continue their studies.

- It acknowledges that the State Government has been able to provide basic health facilities to the displaced persons and 177 patients in the hospital, including the victims of landmines who were given proper medical attention, thereby, saving their lives. The Commission urges the avoidance of the use of landmines which cause grievous harm to innocent civilians.

- It notes that the donations in cash and kind, provided by the government organizations, Hluttaw Representatives, UN agencies, international organizations and Civil Society Organizations from 9 June to 9 December 2011, amounted to over 1.4 billion kyats. This is in addition to the donations made by religious and social organizations as well as individuals from the region. The Commission urges those business enterprises which have not yet donated to follow suit.

- It is cognizant that the over 14,000 displaced persons in the camps as well as those in Laiza and Maija Yang near the Myanmar-China border had to leave behind their homes and worldly possessions which adversely affected their economic, social and spiritual well-being. The Commission, therefore, strongly urges the armed groups to strive for the restoration of security and stability to the region.

- It also visited Myitkyina Prison on the morning of 9 December 2011 and was able to meet the prisoners in every prison ward. It was found that the prisoners are provided with proper health care and nutrition and the prison sanitary conditions are adequate. The prisoners were able to avail themselves of TV and library facilities. It is found that the prison population exceeds the maximum capacity. The Commission would like to recommend that this condition be redressed at the earliest opportunity. Apart from the religious programs currently provided, programs for all religions should be included.

- It is privileged to acquaint itself with the ongoing peace efforts by both sides which were made possible by the invitation of the Union Government for peace negotiations. The Commission strongly urges that the peace negotiations which would result in the cessation of hostilities, ending of conflicts and bring about peace throughout the nation be carried out to its successful conclusion.

- The Commission accordingly, strongly welcomes and supports the latest news that the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has instructed the Tatmadaw for the government military forces in the Kachin State not to engage in offensive operations against the KIA and observe a unilateral ceasefire except in self defence. The Commission strongly urges the KIA to reciprocate in the same manner.

*Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
2011, 13 December*

Deputy FM attends 4th Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Myanmar delegation headed by U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended the 4th Bali Democracy Forum held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, from 8 to 9 December 2011.

The opening session of the 4th Bali Democracy Forum was held in the morning of 9 December 2011 at Bali International Convention Centre. It was attended by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh, President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Vice President of the Republic of Philippines, the Prime Minister of Mongolia, the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, the Prime Minister of Timor Leste, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials from 84 countries from the Asia region and representatives from 24 countries outside Asia. At the opening session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Marty Natalegawa reported an account of activities taken place after the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum and, on the programme of this year's forum. Then, Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia gave an opening statement.

At the morning session, leaders of the delegation delivered statements under the theme of "Enhancing Democratic participation in a Changing World: Responding to Democratic Voices". At the end of the morning session, group photograph was taken together with the President of the Republic of Indonesia. Deputy Minister U Maung Myint attended a luncheon hosted by Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia at Bali International Centre.

In the afternoon, general debate under the theme of "Enhancing Democratic participation in a Changing World: Responding to Democratic Voices" was held. At the debate, the heads of delegation made their statements. In the statement delivered by Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, he stressed that the new government undertook a series of reformed measures to ensure the emergence of a good governance, clean government and to promote democratic practices in the country. The new civilian government is the first elected government based on parliamentary democracy

Union Attorney-General receives Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister



*Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin receives Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister Mr K Shanmugam and party.
MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Foreign Affairs Minister of Republic of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam, accompanied by Singaporean Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert, called on Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin at the latter's office at 1:30 pm,

in 50 years. The emergence of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clearly symbolizes the emergence of political space for the people and political parties which marks a turning point in the history of Myanmar's politics. In a short span of the past eight months, the government undertook a series of ground breaking economic, social and policy reforms to improve the socio-economic life of the people. With the aim of improving the life of rural and urban people, the government has laid down policy on alleviation of poverty in Myanmar.

Next, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint stressed that democracy is universal value based on the will of the people. He also said that while democracies share the common features, there is no single democracy. There is no perfect democracy. Democratic change is never easy and cannot be imposed from outside. Therefore, what works for one country may not work for another. It is imperative that a country's own historical background, social values, culture, religion and other objective conditions should be

and General Secretary of Union Solidarity and Development Party U Htay Oo at the party headquarters at 5 pm today.

They had a cordial discussion on cementing of friendship between the two countries.

MNA

based in formulating a democracy best suited to the country concerned. Myanmar is now on the right track to democracy but it is at the early stage and still needs to be done more. In this regard, the international community should give encouragement and assistance in reality to enhance Myanmar's efforts for democratization.

Dr Marty Natalegawa hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the 4th Bali Democracy Forum at Bali International Convention Centre in the evening of the same day.

On 9 December 2011, interactive sessions under the theme of "The ability of State to respond to the voice of Democracy" and "Ensuring Democratic Space for civil society participation" were held in the morning and in the afternoon respectively.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back in Yangon in the morning of 10 December 2011.—MNA

It is the responsibility of the journalism, the fourth pillar of the nation to monitor and mend the legislative, judicial and executive pillars in practicing democracy



Patron of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan speaking to personnel engaged in printing, publishing and media industries.

MNA

YANGON, 13 Dec—Patron of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe met chairman and CEC members of the MWJA, writers, and personnel engaged in printing, publishing and media industries at Central Press under the Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road here this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said the meeting was intended to find out the roles of the government and the MWJA for the literature world and coordinate future plans for the MWJA.

There were fine historical records of those form literature world claiming back independence in cooperation with independence forces throughout pre-independence period and independence struggle. Senior literati had relatively comprehensive knowledge about the good and bad and weak and strong points of the literature world between 1948 and 1962.

There were Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Language Propagation Association, Women Writers Association, (Yuwady Writers Association), Youth Writers Council, Myanmar Literature Observation Board and so on totaling 20 literature organizations during that period. Those engaged in literature world during Myanmar Socialist Programme Party Period from 1962 to 1974 and one-party system in Socialist Period from 1974 to 1988 were found to have successfully performed their duties in line with the prevailing conditions and systems of those periods.

The Union Minister continued that the MWJA and the Information Ministry had frequent contacts since 2004 and he had assisted some successfully and some in vain for the interests of the literature world and nation and the people. Of various organizations, the MWJA had most frequent contacts with and most assisted him. The activities of the MWJA around 2004 were assumed to be weak in organization and influence. In the meantime, the journalism elements were ahead of the MWJA and the public prefer to the credibility of private journals.

The Union Minister added that for that reason, he had managed journalists to join the MWJA in 2006 and the recruitment had brought about wider functionality of the association with further contributions to national interests. The association had not only increased in members but improved in quality, at the same time there emerged factional conflicts within the accusation and the literature world.

The association could more widely work for welfare of

the members and social welfare programmes. In previous respect-paying occasions, only K 50000 per head could be offered to dozens of literati and since last year it had been increased to K 200000. In this year's respect-paying ceremony, the number of the deans of literati would be 152 and this was due to improved performance of the MWJA. In addition, MWJA members and literati had become able to make study tour abroad and media delegations were also visiting Myanmar. Media corners could be opened in Yangon and plans were under way to open them in other cities.

It was learnt that procedures for joining ISBM had reached the final step and there only needed to pay membership fees. The success of the ISBN would be beneficial to those engaged in literature world and the MWJA. Assistance had been rendered to the MWJA to be able to influentially lead the literature world in 2005.

B.A Journalism Course had been conducted for journalists especially for youths to have experience. Senior literati were urged to organize various courses for the development of the youths. The ministry had resolved conflicts between one group and another and factional conflicts, even cases calling for lawsuit and such measures were not superficial efforts but born of goodwill.

It was learnt that the MWJA today had 8223 members. The association had also raised funds for the association, the elders and literature. Measures were being taken to raise the number of members and the fund. Moreover, restrictions over the publishing had been eased and currently seven genres of journals and publications could be published through publish-and-submit system which would be applied for all kinds of genres in the future.

To be able to produce more tangible results at present and in the future, the MWJA would have to strive, learning from the past events. It was the responsibility of the journalism, the fourth pillar of the nation to monitor and mend the legislative, judicial and executive pillars in practicing democracy. The Union Minister added that he had depicted the public as the fifth pillar as the people were of primary importance in promotion of democracy.

The information sources and events had become wider in the age of globalization and thus it was assumed that multifaceted news presentation would contribute to the people, the fifth pillar of the nation better understanding of the truth rather than presentation from a particular aspect. Journalists were to attach attention to every wave and stand by the truth.

Nowadays, those from the Myanmar literature were supposed to focus on national concern. The MWJA was



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe giving a speech.

MNA

supposed to be a united literature organization with such strata as writer stratum, publisher stratum, cartoonist stratum, reporter stratum and so on.

The MWJA should be considering to form an organization like press council in international community to resolve problems concerned with literature.

The Union Minister concluded that the government would always cooperate with the MWJA and he believed the latter would coordinate with the government maintaining fine traditions.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe then said that the Yangon Region government had a respect for media persons, the fourth pillar of the nation. Yangon Region government granted media persons freedom to hunt news. He added he hoped journalists would publish the correct information in presenting the news and the Yangon Region government would assist journalists as much as possible.

Next, Chairman of the MWJA U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) reported on plans to perform the instructions of the Union Minister and work programmes of the association, Secretary U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) on future plans of the association, Vice Chairman (3) U Ko Ko Hlaing (Ko Ko Hlaing) on formation and functions of press councils in international community and fund-raising.

The Union Minister made concluding remarks and held cordial talks with the chairman, vice-chairmen and CEC members of the MWJA.

MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Locals participate in mass walk in Ye

YE, 13 Dec—As the December mass sport activities, the mass walk was held in Ye on 10 December morning.

Township level departmental officials, students and local people participated in the mass walk.

They started activity from Bogyoke Market and finished at Myakantha Moat, and they took physical exercises altogether.

Township IPRD

Kanbawza Cup Golf Tournament 2011 Commences

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Opening of Shan State Kanbawza Cup Golf Tournament 2011 took place at Golden Triangle Golf Course in Kengtun on 10 December. It was attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and Ministers, guests, Kengtung District Administrator U Khin Win, Township Administrator and departmental officials and golfers. The Chief Minister extended the greeting and greeted the golfers. After that, he opened the tournament by teeing off.

MNA

Invitational Futsal Tourney kicks off

AHLON, 13 Dec—The Invitational Futsal Tournament 2011 took place at Kayinchan sports ground of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Ahlon Township of Yangon Region on 3 December morning.

Among the spectators were Yangon Region Minister for National Races Pado Saw Tun Aung Myint, Township Administrator U Than Naing and officials.

The tournament was opened with the speech by the Yangon Region Minister for National Races.

Myanma Alin

GM suspends production at Cruze plant in Ohio

LORDSTOWN, 13 Dec—General Motors Co suspended production on Monday afternoon at an Ohio plant that makes the Chevrolet Cruze compact car due to a supplier issue.

Production at the Lordstown, Ohio, factory was halted around 1 pm EST. Workers on the first and second shifts worked shortened schedules, while the third shift was suspended, GM Lordstown spokesman Tom Mock said. Mock said skilled trade workers at the plant are due to report to work their regular hours.

GM spokesman Chris Lee declined to describe the nature of the supplier issue, saying only that the No 1 US automaker was looking to restart production as swiftly as possible.

So far this year, the Cruze is the second-best-selling small car in the US auto market and the 10th-best-selling vehicle overall as consumers seek more fuel efficient options.

GM Chief Executive Dan Akerson said this month that he hoped the Cruze, which gets up to 42 miles per gallon, would become the top-selling car by the end of 2011.

Toyota Motor Co's Corolla has so far outsold the Cruze by a little more than 4,000 vehicles. The Cruze has outsold Honda Motor Co's Civic, a longtime leader in the small car segment, and Ford Motor Co's Focus.—Reuters



A general view of Chevrolet Cruze car assembly line at the General Motors assembly plant in Lordstown, Ohio on 22 July, 2011.—INTERNET

Moscow launches direct train service to Paris

MOSCOW, 13 Dec—State-run Russian Railways launched a regular Moscow-Paris direct train service Monday.

The train left Belorussky railway station and would arrive at the Gare de L'Est in Paris Tuesday after a 38-hour journey, the railway company's press service said.

The all-sleeper train has several deluxe compartments, with fares ranging from 420 to 1,050 euros. The service will run three times a week until 27 May, 2012, after which it will increase to five times per week. The company said the service was booked out until the end of 2011.

Xinhua



In this image released by Cambridge University Library on 12 Dec, 2011 show a page of calculations by Sir Isaac Newton. INTERNET

Cambridge posts Newton manuscripts online

LONDON, 13 Dec—The University of Cambridge says it is posting almost all of Isaac Newton manuscripts to the Internet.

The university said Monday it is launching its online collection with 4,000 pages worth of the Enlightenment thinker's most famous work. Other Cambridge manuscripts, including the papers of Charles Darwin, may follow.

This isn't Newton's first foray online.

The full text of some 130 of Newton's writings is freely available through The Newton Project, maintained by the University of Sussex in southern England.

But Cambridge says that facsimile copies of Newton's works will allow a far larger audience to explore the full texture of his writings—which include the notes, annotations and arithmetic behind his discoveries.—Internet

Employment outlook weakest in three years - Manpower

LONDON, 13 Dec—Britons' employment prospects are at their bleakest in three years, a quarterly survey by recruitment firm Manpower suggested on Tuesday, with employers planning no net increase in jobs over the next three months.

Manpower's seasonally adjusted employment outlook balance fell to zero for Q1 2012, the lowest reading since that for Q4 2009 and down from +1 percent for Q4 2011.

That spells bad news for the 2.62 million Britons looking for work. The jobless rate hit a 15-year high of 8.3 percent in the three months to September and is forecast to rise further when October data is released on Wednesday.

"The 2012 jobs market

sits on a knife edge," said Manpower's UK managing director Mark Cahill. "Employers have now adopted a wait-and-see approach to hiring; they are cautious about the economy and the fear of a euro-wide contagion is weighing heavily on their minds."

Markets are likely to

judge measures agreed at last week's EU summit as too little too late to solve the raging debt crisis in the euro zone. The 17-country single currency zone is Britain's main trading partner and about 3 million jobs depend on trade with Europe, according to the government.—Reuters



A man enters a Job Centre in London on 17 June, 2009. INTERNET

Obese travellers to sue Air Canada over extra fees



An Air Canada Airbus A340-500. A judge has authorized a class action lawsuit against Air Canada on behalf of obese travellers forced to pay for an extra seat, a law firm announced Monday.—INTERNET

TORONTO, 13 Dec—A judge has authorized a class action lawsuit against Air Canada on behalf of obese travellers forced to pay for an extra seat, a law firm announced Monday.

BGA Barristers & Solicitors LLP said in a statement the lawsuit aims to reclaim fees the airlines charged clinically obese passengers for a second seat before Canada's transportation watchdog banned the practice in 2008.

A similar suit targeting its rival WestJet is also reportedly planned. So far no numbers of possible clients have been released, but according to court documents the suit could involve a multi-million dollar claim.

Following complaints, the Canadian Transportation Agency in 2008 ruled the two carriers had breached Canadian case law by charging obese and other disabled passengers accompanied by an attendant for two seats.

It cited a Federal Court of Appeal decision that found "a person who is obese may be (considered) disabled for purposes of air travel if unable to fit in an airline seat."—Internet

Mitsubishi Motors delivers electric car to Hawaii

HONOLULU, 13 Dec—A Hawaii couple on Monday received the first all-electric car delivered by Mitsubishi Motors to a retail customer in North America.

Bridget Nishimura said her family spends \$60 to \$75 a week on gas for each of their three cars so they can commute to work and school from their home in Waipahu. She's looking forward to simply charging the car with electricity.

"I'm so excited. I'm very much about the Earth and environment," Nishimura said after she and her husband, Bryson Nishimura, received the keys to their 2012 Mitsubishi at a ceremony at the state Capitol. "I hope I am a leader today, and that people will follow suit. Because you can't go wrong—the gas prices are not going to go down, certainly. This is definitely the way to go."

A seven-hour charge using a 240-volt outlet costs about \$3 at average US electric rates and gives the car enough power to go about 62 miles.



Gov Neil Abercrombie said the Nishimuras are electric vehicle pioneers who are setting the pace for the rest of Hawaii.

Abercrombie, like his predecessor Gov Linda Lingle, has been promoting the use of electric vehicles as part of an effort to reduce the state's oil consumption.

Hawaii offers people who buy electric cars a \$4,500 tax credit. Electric vehicle drivers on the islands don't have to pay for parking when they park in a metered spot, and they may drive in carpool lanes on freeways.

Consumers who take advantage of the state credit and a \$7,500 federal tax credit should wind up paying \$16,000 for the car, the state says.

Masatoshi Hasegawa, executive vice president of Mitsubishi Motors North America, said 17,000 of the cars are already on the roads in Japan and in Europe. The company has expectations for strong sales in the islands.

"We are waiting for a big bang here because Hawaii is very green oriented," Hasegawa said.

Hasegawa praised the incentives Hawaii has to encourage electric vehicle ownership. He also noted Hawaii has the most advanced electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the US.—Internet

Bridget Nishimura, centre, talks to Hawaii Gov Neil Abercrombie, right, as she gets out of her new Mitsubishi Motors electric vehicle after a brief test drive in Honolulu on 12 Dec, 2011. The Nishimura family received the first Mitsubishi Motors electric vehicle delivered to a retail customer in North America.

INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (329)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (329) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



The fire service and police have started an investigation into the fire.—INTERNET

Woman, 51, dies in fire at Denton house

LONDON, 13 Dec — A 51-year-old woman has died in a house fire in Greater Manchester. Fire crews were called to Shoecroft Avenue, Denton, at 21:20 GMT on Friday and found the woman on the ground floor. She died at the scene. Neighbours had tried to rescue her before fire-fighters arrived. One man had to be treated for the effects of smoke inhalation. The fire service and police have started a joint investigation into the cause of the fire.

One neighbour, Peter

Woodruff, described how he tried to help the woman. "There was such thick smoke you couldn't breathe but obviously you do your best in a situation like that," he said. "There was another guy and I was concerned for him because he was struggling to breathe. I was trying to get him out as well. He was determined to carry on and get the fire out." It is understood the woman had lived in the area for more than 20 years and had two grown-up daughters.—INTERNET

Rats to the rescue as they prove they've human-like feelings

CHICAGO, 13 Dec — Rats display human-like empathy and will unselfishly go to the aid of a distressed fellow rodent, research has shown. The results of an experiment in which rats opened a door to free trapped cage-mates astonished scientists. No reward was needed and not even the lure of chocolate distracted the rescuing rats. "This is the first evidence of helping behaviour triggered by empathy in rats," said US study leader Professor Jean Decety.

"There are a lot of ideas in the literature showing that empathy is not unique to humans, but in rodents it was not very clear." The study, conducted at the University of Chicago, involved placing two laboratory rats which normally share a cage in a

test arena. One rat was held in a closed tube with a door that could only be nudged open from the outside. The second was allowed to roam free outside the clear plastic tube, able to see and hear its trapped cage-mate.

Once the free rat learned by trial and error how to free its companion, it did so almost immediately. No attempt was made to liberate a stuffed toy rat placed in the tube, and empty tubes were left unopened. But rats were freed even when they remained separated from their rescuers, ruling out socialisation as a reward factor. Most strikingly, rats still prioritised their cage-mates when offered the option of "freeing" chocolate from a second tube.

INTERNET

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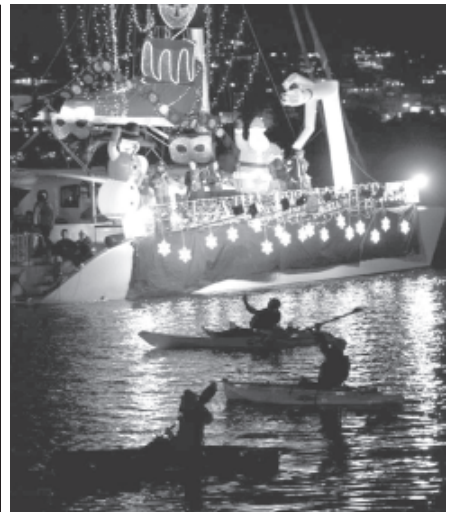


Mechanics used the internet to confirm the spiders were black widows.—INTERNET

Japan's amazing lunchboxes

TOKYO, 13 Dec — Making a packed lunch for your children to take to school is a chore performed by parents around the world. But in Japan, it is not just the taste and healthiness of the meal that is important - but how it looks. The country's ancient emphasis on food presentation has been transformed into a trend for character bento - packed lunches made to look like pandas, teddy bears or even real people. The BBC's Tokyo correspondent Roland Buerk has been finding out more. The Close-up series focuses on aspects of life in countries and cities around the world. What may seem ordinary and familiar to the people who live there can be surprising to those who do not.

INTERNET



A "Sun" yacht is seen during the annual Christmas Colour Boat Parade in Marina Del Rey of California, the United States, on 10 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Health Minister says China faces severe plasma shortage

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China is faced with severe challenges in collecting enough blood plasma to produce

medicines, Health Minister Chen Zhu said on Sunday.

Chen called on the public to join blood donation after donating blood plasma at the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center on Sunday, the fifth time since he took office in 2007. Blood plasma is needed to make blood products like prothrombin complex which is vital for hemophiliacs.

The total volume of blood plasma collected last year was 4,180 tonnes, while the volume needed to produce enough medicines was 8,000 tonnes, said a statement from the ministry.

The situation became even worse this year. Donations of blood plasma in China fell dramatically in recent years, as a result of safety concerns from donors and the government's efforts to regulate blood collection after contamination triggered HIV infection scandals.

XINHUA

Black widow spiders found in car imported from California

BRISTOL, 13 Dec — Two venomous black widow spiders which were found in a car imported from the United States have been given a new home in Bristol. The pair had been nesting inside the 1964 Ford Falcon, which was imported in January, but were only discovered when restoration work started last week. Mechanics at Oxfordshire-based Damax found the first under the fuel tank and the second behind the dashboard.

The 1.5in-long (3.8cm) spiders have been donated to Bristol Zoo. Robin Ward, who works in Bicester, said he used the internet to confirm the spider's identity from their hourglass markings. "Fortu-

nately I'm not scared of spiders, but I had quite a shock when we first suspected it could be a black widow," he said. "We continued stripping the car with a great deal of caution and couldn't believe it when we found a second spider under the dashboard. "We were advised to phone a few organisations which might be able to take the spiders but none were able to help [as] I wanted the spiders to be rehomed rather than killed. "We would have never found either of the spiders had we not completely stripped the car but we've finished it now and are 100% certain that there are no more," he added.

INTERNET

'More than 800 people' phone-hacked by News of World

LONDON, 13 Dec — The total number of people whose phones were hacked by the News of the World will be about 800, police have said. The head of Scotland Yard's hacking inquiry Operation Weeting told the Times she was "confident" her officers had met all the likely victims. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Sue Akers said some others who were "potential targets, but are unlikely to have been hacked" still need to be contacted.

The scandal led to the closure of the News of the World after 168 years. It also prompted a major public inquiry into the culture, practice and ethics of the press. The Times said a further 1,200 people had been in contact with the inquiry, but they are not believed to have been hacked or are not named in the notebooks seized from the private detective Glenn Mulcaire, who was employed by the News of the World.

Thousands more people will be con-



The Leveson Inquiry is examining media practices at the News of the World and other papers.—INTERNET

tacted, but it is thought that because of the lack of personal information about them, they are unlikely to have been hacked, the newspaper said. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Operation Weeting has been in contact with or been contacted by 2,037 people, of which in the region of 803 are 'victims', whose names have appeared in the material."—INTERNET

Minibus crash in Cumbria injures 13 people

CUMBRIA, 13 Dec — A minibus crashed when it came off an icy road in Cumbria, injuring 13 people, police said. The vehicle, which had 12 male passengers aged between 18 and 20, was returning to Millom early on Saturday after a night out in Cockermouth. Cumbria Police said the minibus left the A595, south of Gosforth, and rolled over on to its side.

The passengers and driver were treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Whitehaven's West Cumberland Hospital.

INTERNET

Man goes batty over Batman memorabilia

A man living in Indianapolis has amassed a collection of almost 1,600 pieces of Batman memorabilia, which he, of course, keeps in his own Batcave.

Kevin Silva's obsession with Batman began when he was 5 years old in 1966, the year ABC's live-action Batman TV series debuted, *The Indianapolis Star* reported.

"It just burned a hole in the back of my head," said Silva, who has been collecting Batman memorabilia ever since.

Within his collection is a Batman lunchbox he carried to kindergarten.

Silva's collection spans all decades and reincarnations of the Caped Crusader, but the 1960s ABC series is most heavily featured.

In his basement, also known as the Batcave, Silva has a red Batphone, which sits under glass, just like it did in Commissioner Gordon's office on the



show. He also has a Gotham City phone book, reportedly an actual prop from the show.

A recent appraisal for insurance purposes estimated the collection's value in six figures, but Silva said he doesn't plan on selling any time soon.

Silva isn't the only collector in his family, either. His daughter, Kayleigh, 25, buys up all sorts of Marilyn Monroe-related items, while her brother, Dylan, 21, collects memorabilia of the rock band Kiss.

I didn't get any money this time

A man in a bar sees a friend at a table, drinking by himself.

Approaching the friend he comments, "You look terrible. What's the problem?"

"My mother died in August," he said, "and left me \$25,000."

"Gee, that's tough," he replied.

"Then in September," the friend continued, "My father died, leaving me \$90,000."

"Wow. Two parents gone in two months. No wonder you're depressed."

"And last month my aunt died, and left me \$15,000."

"Three close family members lost in three months? How sad."

"Then this month," continued, the friend, "absolutely nothing!"

News Album

Iowa man to attempt juggling record

An Iowa juggler said he will attempt the Guinness World Record for fastest three-ball juggling as part of a fundraiser for the North Iowa Youth Centre.

Mark Hanson of Kanawha said he will attempt to beat a Czech man's record of 339 throws in one minute at 4 pm Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Mason City as part of the North Iowa Youth Centre's Winter Fun Festival, *The Mason City Globe Gazette* reported Monday.

Hanson said he is confident he beat the record during his 10 attempts Saturday. He said his personal record is 420 throws.

"I have practiced for one minute probably a thousand times over the last couple months," Hanson said.

Three plead guilty in toilet paper scam

Three South Florida salespeople face up to 20 years in prison for conning elderly people into buying unnecessary septic products. Christopher Lincoln, Mary Moore and Joseph Nouerand pleaded guilty in federal court this past week to conspiring to commit wire fraud, *The Miami Herald* reported Saturday.

Authorities said the three worked for FBK Products of West Palm Beach and told their victims they needed to buy the company's special products to avoid ruining their septic tanks.

During phone sales, salespeople for the FBK Products claimed the company was affiliated with the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Food and Drug Administration and the US Department of Agriculture, federal prosecutors said. Victims were also told they needed to buy special soap, detergent and toilet paper or their septic tanks would not pass federal inspections.

Prosecutors said the company made about \$1 million from more than a dozen victims nationwide. Lincoln, Moore and Nouerand will be sentenced in February. Three other suspects are awaiting trial.



15 films qualify for Visual Effects Oscar race

BEVERLY HILLS, 13 Dec—Hollywood's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Monday 15 films released in 2011 are eligible for nomination for the Visual Effects Oscar. The movies are listed below in alphabetical order:

- "Captain America: The First Avenger"
- "Cowboys & Aliens"
- "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2"
- "Hugo"
- "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol"
- "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"
- "Real Steel"
- "Rise of the Planet of the Apes"
- "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"
- "Sucker Punch"
- "Super 8"
- "Thor"
- "Transformers: Dark of the Moon"
- "The Tree of Life"
- "X-Men: First Class"

The list will be whittled down to five when the 84th Academy Awards nominations are announced 24 Jan. The Oscars for outstanding film achievements of 2011 are to be presented 26 Feb at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre.—*Internet*



A statue of an Oscar is on display outside of the Kodak Theatre as preparations are made for the 83rd Annual Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles, on 26 February, 2011.

INTERNET



US President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and daughters Malia and Sasha are joined by entertainers (L-R) Jennifer Hudson, Victoria Justice and Justin Bieber for a final song at the conclusion of the performances at the annual "Christmas in Washington" gala, 11 December, 2011.—*INTERNET*

Bieber to tape Canadian Christmas show

TORONTO, 13 Dec—Canadian recording star Justin Bieber announced Monday his plans to tape a 30-minute Christmas special for MuchMusic and CTV in Toronto. "MuchMusic Presents Justin Bieber: Home for the Holidays" is to premiere 22 Dec. The special will be taped at a Toronto concert; however, details regarding the date and location of the show have not yet been announced. All proceeds from the concert will benefit Bieber's "Believe" charity drive.

The 17-year-old pop singer is expected to perform his hits "Mistletoe" and "Baby," as well as covers of some of his favourite pop songs and Christmas classics. "The holidays are a very special time of the year for me and I'm looking forward to coming home and ringing them in with my friends and family," Bieber said in a statement. "And this year will be extra special, as I'll be sharing the spirit of the season with the whole of Canada with my TV special, "Home for the Holidays" on MuchMusic and CTV."—*Internet*

Rashida Jones has no time for love

LONDON, 13 Dec—Actress Rashida Jones says she has no plans to find a boyfriend any time soon as she is busy with her acting career. "This is a little bit of a choice for me. My career is paramount at the moment. I've had a lot of luck in the past couple of years. And I want to be open to it and available to it," contactmusic.com quoted her as saying on the Piers Morgan show.

"And my career right now is very time-consuming. And I like it that way. It's good. I'm acting and I'm writing and it's taking up a lot of my energy. I'm also... you know, I'm picky," she



Actress Rashida Jones

added. "The Social Network" star also reveals she is unsure whether she would ever exchange wedding vows. "I totally believe in romance and love and all that. But the actual institution of marriage... in this country (America), more than half the people get divorced.

Internet

Richard Hatch released from prison

CRANSTON, 13 Dec—Richard Hatch has been released from a Rhode Island prison after serving nine months for a probation violation, officials said. Hatch is famous for competing on the TV reality shows "Survivor" and "Celebrity Apprentice."

He went to prison in 2006 after he was convicted of tax evasion and was released in 2009. However, he was sent back to prison in March after he failed to comply with the terms of his release by not settling his outstanding tax bills. *E! News* reported he was released from a prison in Cranston, RI, Monday afternoon.—*Internet*



Richard Hatch Gets Back to Civilization with a Milk ad. Richard Hatch, the last one left standing on the hit CBS show "Survivor," displays his winning style in the latest "got milk?" ad by sporting the famous milk mustache.

INTERNET

Chelsea agree to Anelka's China switch

LONDON, 13 Dec—Chelsea have agreed a deal with Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua that will see Nicolas Anelka leave Stamford Bridge during the January transfer window. The 32-year-old Frenchman has struggled to hold down a regular place in the Blues side since new manager Andre Villas-Boas took over in June, making only three Barclays Premier League starts this season.

And now the club have confirmed on their official website (chelseafc.com) that Anelka, who joined Chelsea in 2008, will be leaving for

pastures new next month. The much-travelled striker, who has also played for Arsenal, Real Madrid, Paris St Germain, Liverpool, Manchester City, Fenerbahce and Bolton, joined Chelsea from the Trotters in January 2008 for £15m.

He has scored 59 goals in 185 matches for the west London club, helping them to win the FA Cup in 2009 and 2010 and the Barclays Premier League in 2010. Anelka's contract at Chelsea was due to run out next summer and he had a transfer request formally accepted last week.—*Internet*



Nicolas Anelka has scored only once in 15 appearances for Chelsea this season

World Sailing Championships: Percy & Simpson lead star class

PERTH, 13 Dec — Olympic champions Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson retained their lead after the second day of racing in the star class at the World Championships in Perth. The Britons built on a solid first day with fifth and fourth-place finishes on Monday to move 12 points clear overall. Compatriots



Percy and Simpson are defending the title they won in Rio last year.

INTERNET

Giles Scott and Ed Wright took gold and bronze in the fin on Sunday, while the men's 470 won silver.

The second week of racing sees the start of the men's RS:X windsurfing, laser and 49er, and the women's 470. Penny Clark and Katrina Hughes are the leading Britons in the women's 470, in third place after the opening two races, with Olympic selections Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark in eighth. "Day 1 of the worlds...felt like we were sailing on a swamp, couldn't see the sea just mist and rain!!" Mills and Clark said on Twitter.

INTERNET

PSG and Tottenham on brink in Europa League

LONDON, 13 Dec — Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham are among the teams relying on other results for Europa League progress and it isn't quite clear which way they want things to go when the group stage concludes this week. Although the competition offers the clubs the realistic chance of a trophy, both know elimination would leave them free to focus on more pressing domestic matters.

PSG is tied with Montpellier at the top of the French league, while

Spurs are in contention for a top-four finish in England. PSG hosts Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday needing to better Salzburg's result at Slovan Bratislava if it is to progress ahead of the Austrian club.

Tottenham can only advance Thursday if it wins at Shamrock Rovers and Rubin Kazan loses at PAOK. With 15 teams having advanced, nine remaining berths are up for grabs this week—with 19 clubs in contention to fill them.

INTERNET

Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp critical of Chris Foy

LONDON, 13 Dec — Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp was angry with referee Chris Foy after he made a number of questionable decisions in their 2-1 defeat at Stoke.

Spurs felt Foy missed two handballs, wrongly disallowed an Emmanuel Adebayor strike for offside and harshly awarded Younes Kaboul a second yellow card. "Adebayor was way onside," said Redknapp.

"There were two blatant handballs and the referee missed them. "I thought he had a poor day. It [Kaboul's sending off] was farcical."

Stoke took a 2-0 lead with a first-half double from Matthew Etherington, although Peter Crouch appeared to control the ball with his arm in assisting the opener.

The visitors hit back through an Adebayor penalty but were denied spot-

kicks on two more occasions as they pushed for the equaliser. Kaboul's goalbound shot hit Ryan Shawcross's elbow on the line and, in the scramble that followed, Adebayor was incorrectly flagged offside as he fired home. Jermain Defoe also felt one of his shots was blocked by a hand while Tottenham were further incensed by the red card shown to Kaboul.

"That's why we've come away with nothing," said Redknapp.

INTERNET



Redknapp questions 'farcical' Kaboul dismissal at Stoke

International Sports

Chiellini says Juventus' draw with Roma not a slip-up



Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini

ROMA, 13 Dec — Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini insisted the Old Lady's 1-1 draw against Roma on Monday was not a slip-up for them, as "everybody struggles in Rome." The Bianconeri went behind in the first few minutes when Arturo Vidal's howler allowed Daniele De Rossi to score, then equalized through

Chiellini before Gigi Buffon saved a Roma penalty.

"Was this a wasted opportunity? Clearly we had come here to win and tried to do that, but everyone struggles in Rome. It's a long way from saying this is a slip-up." Chiellini was quoted by football-italia.net as saying. "Considering how things were going, this is an important point.

"We had the strength to fight back and try to win right to the end. We allowed Roma more than we should've, but overall it was a positive performance that gives strength to the side and puts us back on top of the table," he said.—*Xinhua*

Scott wins Australian golfer of the year award

SYDNEY, 13 Dec — Adam Scott's commanding win at the Bridgestone International has earned him the Australian Golf Digest player of the year award, ahead of Jason Day. Scott led from start to finish in August to win the Bridgestone title. In April, Scott shot a final-round 67 at the Masters to tie for second with Day, two shots behind South African winner Charl Schwartzel.

Australian Golf Digest editor Steve Keipert said "2011 will go down as the year Scott made his biggest steps yet en route to reaching his undeniable potential."



Aussie Adam Scott

Karrie Webb won the women's award for the 13th time after highlighting a stellar year by winning the HSBC Women's Champions at Singapore in February, before claiming the LPGA Founders Cup in Arizona the following month.—*Internet*



Frank Lampard comes off the bench to score a decisive penalty as Chelsea hand 10-man Manchester City their first Premier League defeat of the season.—*INTERNET*

Lampard's penalty earns Chelsea 2-1 victory over unbeaten Man City

LONDON, 13 Dec — Frank Lampard's last-seven-minute penalty propelled Chelsea to a 2-1 victory over Manchester City and handed the Premier League leader their first defeat of the season on Monday. The 33-year-old Lampard, who was used to be the skipper in the Stamford Bridge, came off the bench in the last 17 minutes. His sharp pass seven minutes before the injury time set up Daniel Sturridge free in the area and the England forward's shot caused Joleon Lescott's hand ball, earning the host side a valuable penalty.

Lampard, who was frequently excluded from the starting 11 by the manager Andre Villas-Boas this season, reprieved his experience, resilience and calm to convert the penalty, lifting Chelsea to the sensational victory and the third place in the league.

The Blues' third win in succession dragged City down to a two-point lead

over arch rival Manchester United. The title contention thus returned to be usually intense after Man City led the league with great margins in the season's early campaign. On Monday night, before the dramatic finish of the England midfielder, Man City, who hadn't lost a game yet after 14 rounds, made a dream start after Mario Balotelli's second-minute opening goal.

However, Chelsea, who beat Newcastle in the league and obsoleted Valencia in the Champions League recently, showed their upward form when Portuguese organising midfielder Raul Meireles equalised before half-time. Man City was stunned by one man down before the hour when the fullback Gael Clichy was sent off for fouling Ramires. With the numerical advantage, Chelsea collected the critical three points after Lampard's cool finish.

INTERNET

Dubai winner Quiros hails record-breaking Donald

DUBAI, 13 Dec — Spaniard Alvaro Quiros beat Luke Donald to the Dubai World Championship title but he is still in awe of the record-breaking Briton's nerves of steel and tenacity under pressure. "Luke is unbelievable," the 28-year-old Quiros told reporters after Donald came third in the blazing heat of the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. "You can never count him out.

"He's always coming back, always coming at you. It's not easy being number one in the world when everybody wants to catch you," he said after finishing two shots ahead of 42-year-old

Briton Paul Lawrie and three in front of Donald. "The mental statement is the one that moves a real golfer and you can see it in Luke. He obviously feels so good under pressure." World number one Donald's third-place finish in Dubai made sure he became the first player to win the orders of merit in Europe and the United States.

The willowy 6-foot-3 Quiros is one of the longest hitters in world golf but can be terribly wayward off the tee and he acknowledges that, despite his smiling demeanour, he is often prone to negative thoughts on the course.

"There are always two ways to see the bottle—half-empty or half-full," said the Dubai specialist after adding the World Championship to his Desert Classic success in the same city in February.

INTERNET



Spaniard Alvaro Quiros

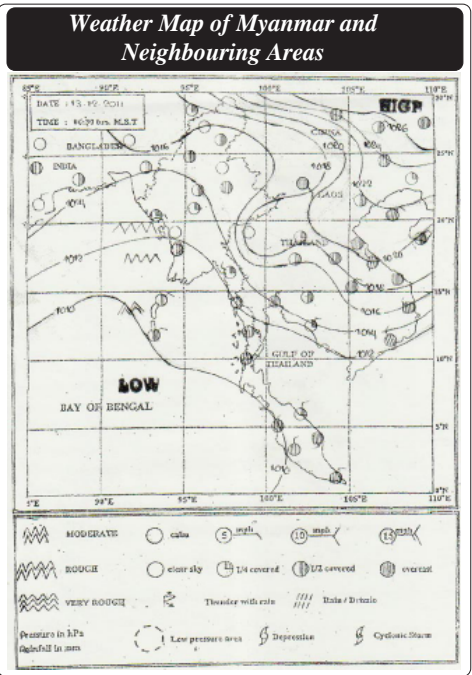
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (14-12-2011) (Wednesday)

	<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>Times</u>
Local	-	(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Overseas Transmission	-	(14-12-11 09:30 am ~15-12-11 09:30 am) MST

- Local Transmission**
- * Opening
 - * News
 - * Glimpse at the Architecture (The Dhammayangyi)
 - * News
 - * Music Concert to mark Singapore—Myanmar Diplomatic Relations
 - * Myanma Thanakha
 - * News
 - * Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 (Press

- Conference)
 - * News
 - * Learn and Fun At Monument Books and Toys
- Overseas Transmission**
- * Opening
 - * News
 - * Glimpse at the Architecture (The Dhammayangyi)
 - * News
 - * Music Concert to mark Singapore—Myanmar Diplomatic Relations

- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 (Press Conference)
- * News
- * Learn and Fun At Monument Books and Toys
- * News
- * Youth and Language YUFL (Part-2)
- * News
- * Myanma Thanakha
- * News
- * Working & Living in Myanmar (Tourism)
- * News
- * Aureum Palace Resort
- * Myanmar Movies "Implicated Attachment"



Wednesday, 14 December View on today

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

- 7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:55 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am
6. Health Programme
- 8:15 am
7. Cultural Dances
- 8:25 am
8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 8:40 am
9. International News
- 8:50 am
10. Musical Programme
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
3. Song Of National Races
- 4:30 pm

4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:40s pm
5. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Chemistry)
- 4:50 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
7. Documentary
- 5:10 pm
8. Classical Song
- 5:20 pm
9. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:35 pm
10. Solo Favourites
- 5:50 pm
11. "ASEAN" Programmes

- 6:00 pm
12. Evening News
- 6:15 pm
13. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
14. Traditional Boxing
- 6:45 pm
15. Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 7:10 pm
16. Documentary
- 7:25 pm
17. Wut Hmon Music Troupe
- 7:40 pm
18. Documentary
- 8:00 pm
19. News
20. International News
21. Weather Report
22. Korea NG Award
23. TV Drama Series
24. Myanmar Video Feature

Weather forecast for 14th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/Stater	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	25/77	12/54	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	26/79	11/52	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	17/63	-02/28	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	25/77	11/52	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	29/84	14/57	Partly cloudy	
7	Taninthayi	32/90	13/55	Partly cloudy	
8	Bago	32/90	17/63	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	32/90	16/61	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	30/86	17/63	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	33/91	17/63	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	33/91	19/66	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	31/88	15/59	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	24/75	09/48	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	26/79	07/45	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	21/70	13/55	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	20/68	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	17/63	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	19/66	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	17/63	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) above December average temperatures in Eastern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayin State, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Hakha (-1°C) and Laiten (6°C).

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

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.

'Ladies vs Ricky Bahl' average, earns Rs.16.54 cr in opening weekend

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec— Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma-starrer "Ladies vs Ricky Bahl" made an average start and the romantic comedy, which got mixed reviews, has earned approximately Rs.16.54 crore in the opening weekend.

Made at a budget of Rs.25 crore, the film collected Rs.4.74 crore Friday, Rs.5.59 crore Saturday and Rs.6.21 crore Sunday.

A conman's story, the film sees Ranveer fooling three girls Aditi Sharma, Dipannita Sharma and Parineeti Chopra, cousin of actress Priyanka Chopra. In the end, he finds his match in Anushka.

"Ladies vs Ricky Bahl" brought the "Band Baaja Baaraat" trio of Ranveer, Anushka and director Maneesh Sharma together, but they couldn't repeat the same success story.

While some trade experts say that the film has opened up good, others feel that the Anushka-Ranveer jodi has failed this time.

"The response to the film is average as the occupancy has been 60-70 percent," Yogesh Raizada, corporate head (Cinemas) of Wave Cinemas told IANS.

Puneet Sahay, of Spice Cinemas says that family audiences stayed away as the



film targeted the young crowd.

"The occupancy has been around 85 percent in total for all three days and it targets younger crowd.

The opening was dull on Friday but later it picked up in the next two days, however, the occupancy dropped again on Monday," he said.

"The film is likely to get affected by the release of 'Mission Impossible 4: The Ghost Protocol'.

There is a lot of buzz surrounding the film as it stars Anil Kapoor. However, the performances of all the actors have been good," he added.

Raizada of Waves appreciated Parineeti and said: "She is impressive when it comes to acting."

Internet

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint meets Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—A goodwill delegation led by Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister Mr K Shanmugam paid a call on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here this evening.

Also present on the occasion together with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint were Chairman of UN, ASEAN, AIPA and International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo, Director-General

U Myint Thein of Hluttaw Office and officials.

The visiting delegation was accompanied by Singaporean Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert.

The meeting mainly focused on promoting mutual friendship, cooperation and intercommunication between Hluttaws.

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint cordially greets Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister Mr K Shanmugam.

MNA

National literary awards for 2011 announced

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—The National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee of the Ministry of Information today announced name list of books and writers qualified for National Literary Award among the books published during 2010.

The awards went to Ye Shan in collective short story genre, Myinmu Maung Naing Moe in collective poem genre, Tint Swe (Pyapon) in belles-letter genre, Tin Myint in youth literary genre, Boe Hlaing in translation (knowledge) genre, Nay Win Myint in translation (aesthetic) genre, Dr Aung Myint Oo in general

knowledge (arts) genre, Sayagyi U Han Tun in general knowledge (science) genre, Saw Ngu Wah (Pinyinmana) in general knowledge (applied science) genre, Ko Than (Kyimyindine) in political literature genre, and Kyaw Latt in English language genre.

Starting from 2010, English language book award was added in presenting National Literary Award.

The winners have been requested to contact the secretary of the committee at Sarpay Beikman at No. 529-531 on Merchant Street (Ph: 01-376569), administration department (01-381449) with

two 5"x7" size colour photos and two passport size photos within two weeks.

The prize-awarding ceremony will be held at 9 am on 27 December, 2011 at the meeting hall of Ministry of Information.—MNA

Dr Thaw Kaung wins Lifetime National Literary Award

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—National Literary Awards Scrutinizing Committee of the Ministry of Information selected writer Dr Thaw Kaung as Lifetime National Literary Award winner for 2010. He will be awarded at National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award ceremony to be

held at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 December.

The reason why the committee chose him as Lifetime Achievement Award Winner is that he has been making contribution to the benefit of Myanmar Literary in his life time.—MNA

National Literary Award for 2010

Sr	Genre	Book	Author	Publisher
1.	Collective short stories	Budayongale	Ye Shan	Seikku Cho Cho
2.	Collective poems	Alwan-thadin Pan-ta-khin	Myinmu Maung Naing Moe	Nainggan Gonye
3.	Belles-letters	Kyawpoeikkalawko Chikalwe	Tint Swe (Pyapon)	Panmyotayar
4.	Youth Literary	From Shinma Mountain to Ayeyawady	Tin Myint	Nainggan Gonye
5.	Translation (General knowledge)	Discovery of India	Boe Hlaing	Monyway Publishing House
6.	Translation (Aesthetic)	Yekantha Kyataingaye	Nay Win Myint	Bagan Publishing House
7.	General Knowledge	Research on language	Dr Aung Myint Oo	Duwan Publishing House
8.	General Knowledge (Science)	Narathukha Treatise and prose treatise	Sayagyi U Han Tun	Khunasin Book House
9.	General Knowledge	IM bio-technological agriculture (applied science)	Saw Ngu Wah (Pinyinmana)	Synergy Publication
10.	Political literature	The secret journey of a Myanmar youth group to the battlefield of Vietnam	Ko Than (Kyimyindine)	Monyway Publishing House
11.	English Language	Art and Architecture of Bagan and Historical Background	Kyaw Latt	Mudon Book House

Stake driven for village library

THABAUNG, 13 Dec—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Shwe Wuthon Library was held in conjunction with the cash donation at the Basic Education Primary School in Kyauksayitgon Village, Thabaung Township, on 4 December.

Township level departmental officials and townsenders drove stakes at the designated places.

At the donation ceremony, the staff officer of District Information and Public Relations Department handed over the cash donated by the State to the township administrator.—MNA



It is the responsibility of the journalism, the fourth pillar of the nation to monitor and mend the legislative, judicial and executive pillars in practicing democracy

PAGE 10

Scott wins Australian golfer of the year award



PAGE 14

Chelsea agree to Anelka's China switch



PAGE 14