

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 17 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 sends message of felicitations to King of Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.—MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Prime Minister of Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Lyonchoen Jigme Yoezer Thinley, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Chairman of China Power Investment Co Mr Lu Qizhou

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo received Mr Lu Qizhou, Chairman of China Power Investment Co, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo were Union Minister for Electric Power No. (1) U Zaw Min, Director-General of the President Office U Min Zaw and officials. Together with Mr Lu Qizhou were Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and responsible persons of the company.



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Mr Lu Qizhou, Chairman of China Power Investment Co.—MNA

Talks on Independence Day given in Palauk Sub-township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Palauk Sub-township Information and Public Relations Department in Myeik District of Taninthayi Region and township Women's Affairs Association jointly organized a talk to mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day at Palauk Basic Education High School on 14 December.

Chairperson of township WAA Daw Nilar Aye spoke on the occasion and staff officer Daw Ni Ni Cho of Myeik District IPRD gave talks on independence, followed by quizzes about Independence Day to students with prize-presentation.—MNA

Paddy of GAP increases per-acre yield

GANGAW, 16 Dec—Production of Manawthukha paddy strain cultivated by three farmers through good agriculture pattern in Shwebo Village of Gangaw Township exceeded 53.28 baskets per acre than that of previous year.

On 29 November, a total of 169.34 baskets per acre of wet paddy were produced and 155.79 baskets of dried paddy. In the previous year, the plot produced 102.51 baskets of dried paddy. The harvesting of paddy was attended by departmental personnel and local people.—Myanma Alin

Smaller lobsters released into sea

THANBYUZAYAT, 16 Dec—As part of efforts to conserve water resources, smaller sizes of lobster than that of sale standard were released into the water in Anansan Village of Thanbyuzayat Township on 9 December.

Department officials presented pamphlets on sales for sizes of lobster to fishermen and accepted the smaller sizes of lobster dutifully handed over by local entrepreneurs.

Officials concerned released 500 smaller lobsters to the sea.—township IPRD

Significant night temperature (16-12-2011)	
Haka	(-2°C)
Pinlaung	(2°C)
Heho	(4°C)
Mogok	(5°C)

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses Passing-out Parade of 14th Intake of DSTA

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Union Election Commission issues Notification No. 60/2011

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Cash and kind donated to displaced people in Kachin State

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 December, 2011

Human resources needed to harness ICT

Globally, 21st Century has marked an age of Information and Communication Technology. With increased application of ICT to various fields, it has become an indispensable part of our lives. Through ICT, a considerable number of countries have found their roads to wealth and prosperity.

In other words, in modern world, most of the nations are making effective use of ICT for development. ICT is used as a tool to enhance socio-economic life of urban and rural people.

ICT plays the main role in modernizing a nation. The development of ICT has direct relation with how much it is applied in daily life and technicians and human resources with expertise in ICT therefore have become essential.

For this reason, the government is opening Technological Universities and Universities of Computer Studies the length and breadth of the nation. Currently, the nation has seen 32 Technological Universities, four Government Technological Colleges, 11 Government Technical Institutes and 36 Government Technical Training School.

Likewise, Universities of Computer Studies were founded in respective regions and states, reaching to 25 in number. Yearly, these universities are turning out technical human resources.

Youths graduated from these universities should not be content with a degree, but are to make efforts to become competent technicians, only then can they run shoulder to shoulder with global countries.

For the emergence of technical human resources to tap ICT for national development, what should we be doing?

2nd SEA Men's Hockey Tournament goes on



YANGON, 16 Dec—The 2nd SEA Men's Hockey Tournament, supervised by Asian Hockey Federation and organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation, continued at Theinbyu artificial turf hockey pitch, here, today.

At the first match, Malaysia trounced Myanmar 12-1 whereas Singapore routed Thailand 5-0.

Indian Consul-General presents commission to Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Dr Madan Mohan Sethi, newly-appointed Consul-General of the Republic of India, with residence in Mandalay, presented his commission to U Wunna Maung Lwin (L), Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, here today.—MNA



Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister receives FAO resident representative

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Ms Bui Thi Lan who will take up duty of FAO resident representative and party at the ministry here yesterday.

They discussed prospects of mobilizing of people to establish mangrove forest in Rakhine State, Taninthayi

Region and Ayeyawady Region under the joint headship of the ministry and FAO, and raising funds.

Also present at the call were Director-General U San Lwin of Planning and Statistics Department and Acting Director-General U Aye Myint Maung of Forest Department. MNA



Union Minister U Win Tun receives Ms Bui Thi Lan who will take up duty of FAO resident representative and party.—MNA

Myanmar Health Research Conference-2011 on 9-13 Jan

YANGON, 16 Dec—The Ministry of Health has arranged to hold the Myanmar Health Research Conference-2011 at the meeting hall of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Ziwaka Street in Dagon Township here from 9 (Monday) to 13 January, 2012.

The conference covers a total of 73 research papers and 24 posters in addition to other workshops on bio-security measures, health policy, research, oral health care, research

ethics, cancer disease, modernized treatment techniques, a healthy lifestyle etc... Besides, medicine, medical equipments, laboratory accessories, and chemicals put on sale during the conference.

Those interested may attend daily paper-reading session at the conference, which starts from 9 am to 4:30 pm, held at the meeting hall of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar).—MNA

Cash and kind donated to displaced people in Kachin State

MYITKYINA, 16 Dec—The Kachin State Chief Minister and members of the Kachin State Government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives from Kachin State donated foods, personal goods and cash assistance to the families who moved to safe places due to regional security at the city hall in Myitkyina on 12 December.

They handed over cash and kind to Buddhist monasteries and Christian churches that accommodate the people who moved from their own areas.

NLM 001

At 1 pm tomorrow, Myanmar will meet with Thailand in the third place match. At 3.30 pm, Malaysia will play against Singapore in the final match.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held at 4.30 pm.

NLM



Policemen check near the Chinese Consulate-General's building in Los Angeles, the United States, on 15 Dec, 2011. An Asian man in his 60s turned himself in to police Thursday, claiming responsibility for shooting at the Chinese Consulate-General's building, police said.—XINHUA



Shots fired at Chinese consulate in LA

LOS ANGELES, 16 Dec—Shots were fired at the Chinese consulate in Los Angeles, but no one was injured, police said, adding that an Asian suspect was being sought.

The Los Angeles Times newspaper reported that the

shooting occurred after a scuffle between protesters outside the building and a security guard, but police could not confirm this.

Police were hunting for a suspect described as an Asian man either in his late 50s or early 60s with white hair, said a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) spokesman. "Apparently this man shot numerous rounds into a building. Officers are searching for the man right now. There is no evidence that he's in custody yet," the spokesman told AFP.

"No one was hurt" in the shooting at the Chinese diplomatic building, which is between downtown LA and

Hollywood, he added.

The LA Times reported that a protester fired shots at a security guard outside the consulate, missing his target and hitting a building in the compound instead.

It cited early reports indicating that a group of protesters had gathered outside the building, and one of them got into a dispute with a security guard, who allegedly had taken a sign from the man and tossed in the trash.

The protester got into a vehicle and fired several shots in the direction of the security guard, all of which missed, the newspaper reported.

Internet



Black smoke rises from a high-rise building, left, in Hanoi, Vietnam, after a fire started Thursday afternoon, on 15 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Hanoi office tower fire spreads smoke around city

HANOI, 16 Dec—An office tower being built by Vietnam's state power company caught fire Thursday, engulfing part of downtown Hanoi in black smoke. Official media said 30 workers were rescued, but it was not immediately clear whether others remained trapped inside.

Several workers waved their shirts from an upper-floor balcony to call for help after smoke began to engulf the building. Others used cellphones and flashlights to summon help.

Police sealed off the building and declined to comment. The fire appeared to be out by mid-evening, several hours after it started, but fire engines and ambulances still crowded the

area. The unoccupied tower is one of two being built for Vietnam Electricity's Centre for Telecommunications and Information Management. Vietnam Electricity, known as EVN, has a monopoly in power distribution in Vietnam.

The official Vietnam News Agency said 30 workers were rescued, including 16 who were hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

Witnesses said they saw fire in the basement of the 33-story building. The Thanh Nien newspaper quoted Nguyen Huy Hoc, a worker who escaped the blaze, as saying sparks from welding in the basement ignited nearby material in the air-conditioning system.

Internet

Small plane crashes in Phoenix; one dead, one hurt

PHOENIX, 16 Dec—A small plane crashed in the front yard of a northeast Phoenix home and exploded Thursday, killing the pilot who was trapped inside and seriously injuring a passenger.

The single-engine plane went down just before 10 am, about a half-mile short of the Scottsdale airport runway. The plane missed hitting any homes in the residential area, and no one on the ground was hurt.

Police spokesman Sgt Tommy Thompson said the name of the 62-year-old pilot was pending positive identification from the

Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office. Police did not release the name of the passenger, but said he is 60.

A witness told The Associated Press that the plane was flying very low and then crashed near an intersection and burst into flames.

"Right when I turned down the street, I saw it just hit the ground in a huge cloud of smoke and the flames," said Jessica Baker, 18, who was on her way to her last day as a student at a nearby beauty school.

"And then I got out of my car and sprinted over as fast I could. People were

already there helping," she said. "The first guy got out (of the plane), and he was screaming for his friend. His face and shoulder was burnt, noticeably burnt."—Internet

Investigators examine the remains of a small aircraft that crashed in the front yard of a home on 15 Dec, 2011 in Scottsdale, Ariz. INTERNET



Four killed, eight injured in roadside bombing in Farah, Afghanistan

FARAH, 16 Dec—Four civilians were killed and eight others were injured Thursday when a roadside bomb went off in western Afghanistan's Farah Province, police said.

"The bloody incident occurred at round 11:00 am local time when a civilian mini-bus touched off a roadside bomb in Malai area of Pur Chaman District," police chief of Farah Province Syed Mohammad Roshandil told Xinhua.

He said the injured were shifted by police to a local hospital in the provincial capital of Farah City, some 695 km west of capital City of Kabul. Taleban militants have been largely relying on roadside bombing and suicide attacks in fighting against Afghan security force and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan, often causing civilian casualties. A total of 1,462 Afghan civilians were killed in the first half of 2011, a 15 percent rise over the same period of 2010, according to the United Nations mid-year report released in Kabul in July this year.—Xinhua



In this 24 Nov, 2011 photo, an official of Nigeria road safety commission walks past the wreckage of a trailer that crash while transporting cosmetics on the busy Nigeria expressway, near the town of Mowe 30 miles from Lagos.—INTERNET

Death toll from India toxic liquor rises to 167

KOLKATA, 16 Dec—The death toll from a mass poisoning in eastern India caused by toxic home-brewed alcohol rose to 167 on Friday, as police made more arrests in the case. "We now have 155 confirmed dead," Shya-mapada Basak, health services director of West Bengal state told AFP. Another 160 people were critically ill in local hospitals.

Police said they had arrested another two people, taking the number detained to 12 over the past two days.

"We are now looking for the kingpin of the racket involving the sale of illicit, spurious liquor in the district," West Bengal police

additional director general, Surojit Kar Purokayastha said. The victims are from 10 villages in an area near West Bengal's border with Bangladesh.

Many were labourers and rickshaw drivers too poor to afford branded alcohol who stopped for a drink at illegal bars or bought from bootleggers after work on Tuesday. Local hospitals have been overwhelmed by victims arriving either unconscious or complaining of abdominal pains and burning in their chests.

District magistrate Narayan Swarup Nigam told AFP that methanol had been detected in at least 20 victims.

Methanol is a highly toxic form of alcohol sometimes used as an anti-freeze or fuel, but also added by producers of "moonshine" or home-brew liquor to increase the alcoholic content of the drink.

Internet

Patients receive treatment for alcohol poisoning at a hospital in Diamond Harbour, south of Kolkata. The death toll from a mass poisoning in eastern India caused by toxic home-brewed alcohol rose to 167 on Friday, as police made more arrests in the case. INTERNET



Nigeria's potholed roads among world's most deadly

MOWE, (Nigeria), 16 Dec—The tractor-trailer lay alongside the busy Nigeria expressway like a child's forgotten toy, its cargo of cosmetics smashed on the hot, uneven strip of asphalt road and its driver left bleeding with a head wound.

Burned-out metal carcasses of crashed minibuses and wrecked cars line the Lagos-Ibadan

Expressway, a rutted and potholed highway that connects two major cities in Africa's most populous nation.

Horns screamed from drivers waiting impatiently to pass, as those on the other side of the highway sped on without slowing for the axle-jarring bumps in the uneven lane. Despite decades as an oil producer, Nigeria's roads

remain neglected scenes of needless carnage. And despite the World Health Organization warning that Nigeria's traffic fatalities among the highest in the world, the deaths continue unabated. "For now, it's a death trap," said Abdul-Azeez Ibrahem, a lecturer at Lagos State University who studied the traffic crashes.

Africa as a whole has one

of the highest road traffic death rates in the world, the WHO's 2009 study determined. Nigeria saw more than 47,800 people killed in traffic crashes in 2007 alone, according to WHO statistics. That put it at No 3 in the world in the number of fatalities, behind China and India.

Paved roads only constitute 15 percent of Nigeria's total road network, and crashes happen with a horrifying regularity.

Internet

Health



This undated photo provided by Melinda Guido's family shows Melinda in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Centre. Melinda was born premature at 24 weeks weighing 9.5 ounces. She's believed to be the second smallest surviving baby in the United States and third smallest in the world.

INTERNET

Concerns grow over 'distracted doctoring'

NEW YORK, 16 Dec—Computers, smartphones and other devices intended to help US medical staff avoid medical errors may in fact be proving a dangerous distraction, experts say.

Meant to give medical staff instant access to patient data, drug information and case studies, the technology is drawing criticism that doctors and nurses can be focused more on the screen than on the patient, *The New York Times* reported Thursday.

And it's not always used as intended, critics say, citing examples of a surgeon making personal calls during an operation, a nurse checking airfares during surgery and a poll finding half of technicians

running bypass machines admitting to texting during a procedure, the newspaper said.

Some have described the problem as "distracted doctoring."

"You walk around the hospital, and what you see is not funny," said Dr Peter J Papadakos, director of critical care at the University of Rochester Medical Centre in New York.

He has seen nurses, doctors and other staff members glued to their phones, computers and iPads, he said.

"You justify carrying devices around the hospital to do medical records," he said. "But you can surf the Internet or do Facebook, and

sometimes, for whatever reason, Facebook is more tempting. "My gut feeling is lives are in danger," Papadakos said.

Internet



Computers, smartphones and other devices intended to help US medical staff avoid medical errors may in fact be proving a dangerous distraction, experts say.

INTERNET

Iron supplements could prevent life-threatening blood clots

LONDON, 16 Dec—A new research has indicated that iron supplements could be used to prevent deep vein thrombosis and other life-threatening blood clots.

Each year, one in 1,000 people in Britain is affected by clots that form in the veins, and scientists now believe the risk could rise in those with a lack of iron.

DVT is often associated with long distance air travel and other situations that involve being immobile for long periods of time.

Clots frequently form in the legs causing painful swelling and, in some cases, a danger that lumps of blood will dislodge and travel to the lungs with fatal results.

Researchers at Imperial College London studied 609 patients with blood vessel disease haemorrhagic telangiectasia, who have a higher risk of blood clots.

They found that this increased risk disappeared when the HHT sufferers took iron supplements.

Many of the patients had low iron levels, because of iron loss through excessive bleeding - a symptom of HHT.

"Our study shows that in people with HHT, low levels of iron in the blood is a potentially treatable risk factor for blood clots," the *Daily Mail* quoted lead researcher Dr Claire Shovlin, from the university's National Heart and Lung Institute as saying.

"There are small studies in the general population

which would support these findings, but more studies are needed to confirm this.

"If the finding does apply to the general population, it would have important

implications in almost every area of medicine," she added.

The finding was published in the journal *Thorax*.

Internet



This undated file photo provided by the Wildlife Waystation shows Boovie the chimpanzee, who died on 11 Dec, 2011, at age 44, while being treated for a heart condition. Boovie kicked a smoking habit at the animal sanctuary near Los Angeles, where he had lived since 1995, after retiring from a research lab.—INTERNET

Few foods are source of vitamin D

SANTA MONICA, (Calif) 16 Dec—Vitamin D deficiency is common in winter, with earlier sunsets and weaker rays, and few foods are sources of vitamin D, a US food expert says. Phil Lempert, a food industry analyst, trend watcher and creator of the Web site supermarketguru.com, said vitamin D refers to a group of fat-soluble vitamins that can be obtained several ways — from exposure to sunlight (ultraviolet B), by consuming certain foods and by taking supplements.

In the summer months, most people meet their vitamin D needs through planned sun exposure like sunbathing, or unintentionally from exercising outdoors in a T shirt. Direct sun exposure for 15 minutes three times a week is thought to keep the body's vitamin D stores at healthy levels, Lempert said.

"Few foods naturally contain vitamin D Salmon, tuna, sardines, mackerel, shrimp and fish liver oils are the best sources. Vitamin D can also be found in small amounts in beef liver, cheese, egg yolks and some mushrooms," Lempert said in a statement. "Other foods have been fortified with vitamin D, thus do not naturally contain the vitamin, and include milk — cow, soy and rice — some brands of orange juice, margarine, and yogurt. Breakfast cereals often contain around 10 percent of the daily recommended intake of vitamin D as well."—Internet

FedEx earnings soar; to buy 27 Boeing planes

NEW YORK, 16 Dec—US parcel delivery giant FedEx reported on Thursday solid quarterly earnings and unveiled an order for 27 Boeing aircraft as it updates its aging aircraft fleet.

Net income leaped 76 percent in the fiscal second quarter ending 30 November from a year ago, to \$497 million, the company said.

Earnings per share excluding special items were \$1.57, beating analysts' average forecast of \$1.52.

Revenue of \$10.59 billion was up 10% from \$9.63 billion in the 2010 second quarter.

"Our improved performance was largely a result of effective yield management programmes and strong demand for FedEx Home Delivery and FedEx

SmartPost services," Frederick Smith, FedEx chairman, president and chief executive, said in a statement.

"With the healthy growth in online shopping this holiday season, demand is increasing for these residential delivery services."

As part of the company's modernisation of its aircraft fleet, FedEx said it had signed an agreement with Boeing to purchase 27 new 767-300F aircraft, a deal worth about \$4.7 billion at list prices.

The first three of the 767s are scheduled to be delivered in fiscal 2014 ending in May and six per year in the fiscal period of 2015-2018, FedEx said. "The 767s were selected as the best choice to begin replacing FedEx Express's MD10 aircraft, some of which are more than 40 years old," said the Memphis, Tennessee-

Business

based firm.

The 767s will provide similar capacity as the MD10s, but will have improved reliability, a roughly 30 percent increase in fuel efficiency and "a minimum" of a 20 percent reduction in unit operating costs, FedEx said.

FedEx also announced it was delaying the delivery of 11 Boeing 777F aircraft "to better balance air network capacity to demand."

"FedEx Express took action during the quarter to adjust its network, particularly in Asia, as recent inventory destocking trends have impacted demand for our FedEx Express services," said Alan Graf, FedEx executive vice president and chief financial officer.—Internet

RIM stock sinks on profit plunge

TORONTO, 16 Dec—BlackBerry maker Research In Motion on Thursday saw its stock price sink after reporting a plunge in quarterly earnings and dimmed expectations for the months ahead. The Canada based firm reported a profit of \$265 million, or 51 cents per share, on revenue of \$5.2 billion as compared with a net income of \$911 million

in the same quarter last year.

RIM profit in the quarter ended 26 November fell far short of Wall Street forecasts and the stock price dropped more than six percent to \$14.13 in after-hours trading that followed release of the figures.

RIM said it had yet to finalize its outlook for the current fiscal quarter but preliminary estimates were

that device shipments would slide and that it would not meet its original forecast of earning \$5.20 to \$6 per share.

A costly BlackBerry service outage and deep discounting of the price of its PlayBook tablet computer were cited as factors in RIM's disappointing financial performance.—Internet



BlackBerry maker Research In Motion on Thursday saw its stock price sink after reporting a plunge in quarterly earnings and dimmed expectations for the months ahead.

INTERNET

Astronomers identify source of supernova

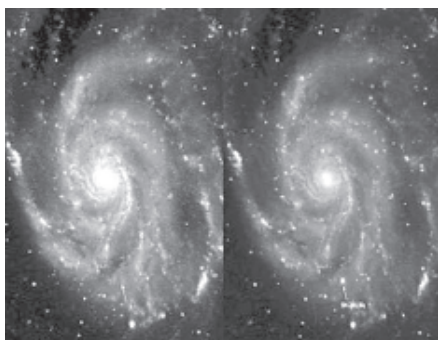
SANTA BARBARA, 16 Dec—A supernova that exploded in August was a white dwarf star, but its companion could not have been a red giant as previously suspected, US astronomers say. The new "type Ia" thermonuclear supernova exploded 24 Aug in the Pinwheel galaxy, located in the constellation Ursa Major, also known as the Big Dipper.

"It's been nearly 50 years since the original theoretical suggestions were made that these supernovae were caused by white dwarfs," physicist Lars Bildsten of the University of California, Santa Barbara, said in a university release Wednesday. Astrophysicists have discovered type Ia supernovae are part of binary systems, two stars orbiting each other.

White dwarf stars are small but very dense stars, and red giants are stars that swell to massive proportions when they approach middle age.

A white dwarf results when a star similar in size to our sun reaches the end of its life and normally would be dead forever unless it has a companion star. Then the white dwarf can steal its companion star's matter and come back to life. If it steals too much matter the result can be an explosion as a Type Ia supernova.

Scientists are not yet sure of the type of the companion star to the recent white-dwarf-turned supernova but have ruled out the type of star theories had led them to expect,



The Pinwheel galaxy before, and after the supernova's explosion, courtesy of PTF and the Space Telescope Institute.—INTERNET

a red giant. "This is the first time through direct imaging of the explosion site, we were able to rule out certain types of stars as the companion to a Type Ia supernova," Weidong Li, a research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley said. "The second star couldn't have been a massive red giant."—Internet

China's spaceship item to go on tour exhibition

BEIJING, 16 Dec—A round of space exhibitions, featuring items carried by the country's spaceships, is to be held across China throughout 2013.

The exhibits will display items from *Shenzhou-8*, China's latest unmanned spaceship, according to a press release issued at a launch ceremony in Beijing Thursday.

Shenzhou-8's return to Earth on 17 Nov ended a

mission that saw China completed its first ever space docking.

Precious pictures of space missions, space breeding, remains of rocket launching and a real re-entry module would also be presented to audiences, the release said, without specifying an itinerary for the exhibits. The main exhibition is scheduled to open in Beijing on 30 Jan next year, and it will then go on tour to other cities.—Xinhua

Science

Animals assist in earthquake monitoring in NE China

SHENYANG, 16 Dec—A local earthquake monitoring station in northeast China's Liaoning province keeps about 30 animals to aid in local earthquake monitoring because animals are more sensitive to upcoming seismic events than humans, local authorities said Thursday.

Located in Faku county in the City of Shenyang, the Faku Seismic Station's macro observation site has raised more than 30 animals, including mammals, reptiles, and fowl, as an earthquake pre-warning system, said Zhou Zheng, deputy director of the station.

Animals are likely to act abnormally several days or hours prior to a devastating earthquake, Zhou said.

"We keep daily records on the animals' abnormal

responses and eating habits," said Jiang Xing, a staff member with the station. "But we can not completely rely on the animals' help because external factors like bad weather and fear can also lead animals to behave abnormally," said Zhou.

A total of 19 townships in Faku county have established similar observation sites and report the results to the Faku Seismic Station every week.

"Although we have adopted some advanced techniques to monitor earthquakes, animals have helped in forecasting previous significant earthquakes," said Zhou. "Therefore, we will continue to use this method."

Xinhua

Google launches data centre in Singapore



The ground breaking ceremony marks the start of Google's construction of a 2.45-hectare data centre in the western part of Singapore, also the first in Southeast Asia.—INTERNET

SINGAPORE, 16 Dec—Search engine giant Google on Thursday formally launched the construction of a new data centre in Singapore to cope with the explosive growth of Internet traffic in the Asia-Pacific region.

"I think it's safe to say this is the fastest-growing region in the world in terms of Internet usage and we have a very strong Google business here," Google's Southeast Asia

managing director Julian Persaud told AFP.

"So I think we would allocate resources in line with where we see the biggest opportunity, which I think would be APAC (Asia-Pacific) and Southeast Asia," he added after the groundbreaking ceremony.

The Singapore data centre will be the Silicon Valley company's first in Southeast Asia and second in Asia after construction began for its Hong Kong facility last week.

Google figures show Asia has the fastest growing number of Internet users in the world.

But it faces stiff competition, particularly in China where domestic search engines like Baidu are popular and censorship last year forced Google to move its Chinese search engine overseas. Google will invest US\$120 million in the 2.45 hectare (6.05 acre) Singapore facility, with construction expected to be completed by early 2013. The company is also due to build a third Asian data centre in Taipei on top of its current six facilities in the United States and two in Europe.

The Asian centres will give regional Google users faster and more reliable services and enable the company to enhance applications like Gmail without being constrained by capacity issues, company officials said.—Internet

In a Wednesday, 14 Dec, 2011 file photo, Dan Johnson uses a hands-free device to talk on a cellphone while driving, in San Diego. The National Transportation Safety Board declared Tuesday, on 13 Dec, that texting, emailing or chatting while driving is simply too dangerous to be allowed anywhere in the United States. But if lawmakers follow the advice of the federal board, police officers could be faced with decoding whether someone is using their cell phone or simply singing along to the radio, pleading with backseat children to stop fighting or reciting an important sales pitch.

INTERNET

Hackers breach servers of Japan's Square Enix



Campaign girls are seen standing beside a TV monitor of Square Enix's Final Fantasy XI during a game show in Makuhari, west of Tokyo, in 2004.

INTERNET

TOKYO, 16 Dec—Japanese game developer Square Enix said that servers containing data on 1.8 million customers had been hacked, but said the extent of the damage was not yet known. The producer of hit titles such as Final Fantasy and Dragon Quest pulled down the Square Enix Members service shortly after discovering evidence of an intruder, a spokeswoman said on Thursday. The intruder breached an

unknown number of servers that could hold data for the service's one million members in Japan and 800,000 members in North America, but left untouched the servers with its 300,000 European members, she said.

Earlier this year entertainment giant Sony came under a series of attacks, affecting more than 100 million customer accounts in one of the largest data breaches ever. In May, Square Enix said the email addresses

of 25,000 customers as well as resumes of 250 job applicants were leaked after a hacker attack on its European subsidiary. This time, Square Enix found evidence of an intruder around noon (0300 GMT) Tuesday, and pulled down the service about an hour later, the spokeswoman said.

The company notified its clients about the incident Wednesday, although details and the extent of the actual damage were not yet clear, with a probe continuing, she said. The affected servers stored the customers' names and email addresses. Many members have also registered their postal addresses and phone numbers, the spokeswoman said. But the service does not have credit card information and other identification information, she said.—Internet

Technology



Microsoft announces automatic upgrades for Internet Explorer

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Dec—Microsoft on Thursday announced that it will automatically upgrade the Internet Explorer (IE) to the latest version to give Windows customers more protection against malicious software. According to the company's blog post, starting from Australia and Brazil next January, users of Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 will get the IE updates if they have turned on automatic updating via Windows Update.

Microsoft said the industry has been

moving toward automatic up-dates as a norm since the biggest online threat these days is social engineering malware typically targeting out-dated software like Web browsers. Automatic upgrades, also called silent updates for displaying no messages or windows during the progress, has been deployed by Google's Chrome and Mozilla's Firefox.

It can ensure users have the newest versions of the browser, and therefore is seen as a big improvement to Internet security.—Xinhua

UN sends more peacekeepers to Sudan's Abyei

ABYEI, 16 Dec—The United Nations has begun deploying more peacekeepers to the contested Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, a UN official said on Thursday, while Khartoum insists it is

still not ready to withdraw its forces. "The flights are already coming in," a spokesman for the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Alok Singh Rawat, told *AFP* by phone. "We're expecting some

more troops to be arriving today."

South Sudan Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin in November alleged that deployment of the peacekeepers was being "intentionally delayed" by Sudan.

But UNISFA's spokesman said troops are arriving "as planned."

He said a third battalion had begun landing over the past two days, with about 120 additional soldiers expected to fly in on Thursday.

Almost six months after the UN Security Council authorised the peacekeeping mission, troop numbers are at 3,433 and likely to reach full strength of about 4,200 by month's end as the deployment peaks, Rawat said.

The Sudanese army in May overran the fertile border district claimed by north and south.—*Internet*



A photo released by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) shows UN peacekeepers patrolling the Todach area, north of Abyei, in May. The United Nations has begun deploying more peacekeepers to the contested Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, a UN official says, while Khartoum insists it is still not ready to withdraw its forces.—*INTERNET*

Japan set to declare Fukushima plant shutdown

TOKYO, 16 Dec—Japan on Friday looked set to announce it had finally tamed leaking atomic reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power station, nine months after one of the world's worst nuclear crises began. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda was expected to tell a disaster-weary public that all reactors at the plant were in a state of cold shutdown.

The government and plant operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) have long targeted the year's end for the

milestone. The announcement will be followed by fresh steps towards decommissioning the reactors, a process that is expected to take more than three decades.

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant was severely damaged by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that smashed into Japan on 11 March. Waves up to 14 metres (46 feet) high swamped the reactors' cooling systems, sparking meltdowns, explosions and the release of

huge amounts of radioactive materials—the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986.

TEPCO was caught short by the disaster, with its tsunami defence systems overwhelmed and back-up power generators knocked offline, leaving a small band of men — dubbed the Fukushima 50 — to try a series of jerry-rigged solutions, including the use of seawater to cool the melted fuel rods.

Water used in the cooling process subsequently beca-

A forensic expert searches for evidence at a site where two brothers were shot and seriously injured in the western German town of Bottrop on 15 December, 2011. The brothers, 24 and 25 year-old, were shot by a man who is on the run a police spokesman said on Thursday.



Street shooting injures two in western Germany

BERLIN, 16 Dec—Two people were critically injured in a rampant shooting in the city of Bottrop in western Germany on Thursday. The incident took place around 18:00 local time (GMT 1700) in front of Albrecht-Durer Primary School in Bottrop, North Rhine-Westphalia State, local media reported. Several gunshots were heard, witnesses said.

The victims were reportedly two brothers aged between 24 and 25. Police suspected there were two perpetrators. A massive manhunt has been launched for the criminals who had escaped the site. Their motivation for the shooting remained unknown.

The scene of the crime, located in a residential area, was cordoned off. Local newspaper reported one of the suspected shooters drove a dark Volkswagen Golf to flee the site.

Xinhua

Brazil seizes 115 tons of drugs in border sweeps

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Dec—More than 115 tons of drugs have been seized and some 4,200 traffickers detained in border operations by Brazil's military over the past six months, authorities said Thursday.

The Brazilian government launched the Strategic Borders Plan in June to crack down on drug and weapon trafficking along the borders.

"There was perfect cooperation between the federal and state governments' organs," Brazilian Vice President Michel Temer said, confirming that the border operations would continue next year. Besides 99.5 tons of marijuana and 15.8 tons of cocaine, about 535 firearms, 473 million pharmaceutical drugs and 4.4 million cigarette packages were also seized, officials said. The government had invested about 37 million reais (19.9 million US dollars) in the plan, they added.

The plan, carried out in the country's 11 border states, includes two major permanent operations responsible for fighting criminal gangs and long-term border patrols respectively.—*Xinhua*



Black smoke rises from reactor number three at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011.

INTERNET

me a major headache for TEPCO, which had to release tonnes of the contaminated liquid into the Pacific, provoking the ire of local fishermen. Farmers in the area

also suffered, with produce shunned by consumers or banned by the government because of radioactive contamination.

Internet

Russian fishing ship lists badly near Antarctica



In this undated photo provided by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Russian fishing vessel Sparta is tied up at an unknown location.—*INTERNET*

WELLINGTON, 19 Dec—A Russian fishing vessel with 32 crew members was taking on water near Antarctica on Friday. Heavy sea ice was hampering rescue efforts, and officials said it could be four or five days before anybody

reaches the ship to try to rescue the crew. The Sparta was listing at 13 degrees next to the Antarctic ice shelf in the Ross Sea, according to Maritime New Zealand. The agency said that the crew was safe and was throwing cargo

overboard to lighten the ship, and that some of the crew had boarded lifeboats as a precaution. The ship has a 1-foot (30 centimetre) hole in the hull about 5 feet (1.5 metres) below the water line, the agency said. The crew so far had managed to pump out much of the incoming water and had attached a tarpaulin over the outside of the hole to slow the water flooding in, the agency said.

The crew have asked for more pumps to be sent to them and will try and make repairs to the hull, the agency said, adding it was trying to figure out a way to deliver the pumps. "It's a very remote, unforgiving environment," said Andrew Wright, executive secretary of the Australian-based Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which has licensed the Sparta to catch toothfish in the Southern Ocean.—*Internet*

Filipino police rescue US boy from kidnappers

MANILA, 16 Dec—Philippine police stormed a kidnappers' hideout and rescued a 4-year-old American boy who was held for ransom for eight days, officials said Friday. Five suspects were arrested in the second recent case of a kidnapped US minor in the Philippines. The boy, who was living with his Filipino mother and American father, was seized in Manila on 6 Dec by three gunmen who cut off the car he was traveling in with the mother, said Isagani Nerez, head of the police anti-crime unit.

A \$13,600 ransom was paid three days later, but the kidnappers demanded \$113,000 more before releasing the boy, whose identity has been withheld, Nerez told reporters. The father, an engineer, sought the help of the US Embassy and FBI, who sent representatives to the national police headquarters to coordinate with local authorities in securing the victim's release, Nerez said.

He said police feared the boy would be harmed and traced his location to the kidnappers' hideout in Prieto Diaz town in

eastern Sorsogon Province. On Wednesday, police stormed the site, rescued the boy, who was unharmed, and arrested three of his alleged captors. A follow-up operation led to the arrest of two more suspects in Manila on Thursday. "We were worried that the kidnappers would kill the boy if their demand was not met," Nerez said. "It was the reason why we decided to launch the assault on the kidnappers' lair."

After a medical checkup found the boy to be in good health, he was reunited with his family, Nerez said.

The boy's identity was withheld because of privacy concerns. Nerez said he was attending an international school in a Manila suburb. US Embassy spokeswoman Betina Malone told *The Associated Press* that the US authorities were appreciative of the efforts of Philippine police in rescuing the boy. "It was the result of a great deal of hard work," she said, adding that US authorities expected those responsible to be prosecuted and punished.—*Internet*

Britain to have 13,500 troops on duty for Olympics



In this image released by Britain's Ministry of Defence on Thursday 15 Dec, 2011 shows Royal Air Force Puma helicopter is pictured flying over the 2012 Olympic Stadium during a training flight over London on 18 Aug, 2011.—INTERNET

LONDON, 16 Dec—Britain will have up to 13,500 troops deployed on land, at sea and in the skies to help protect next summer's Olympics — twice as many as had been

expected.

Typhoon fighter jets, helicopters, two warships and bomb disposal experts will all be on duty to guard against security threats to the 2012 Games, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said in a statement Thursday to lawmakers.

The size of the deployment is far higher than the 6,000 troops previously expected and follows a decision last month to raise the security budget for the Olympics to more than 1 billion pounds (\$1.6 billion).

Hammond's announcement follows concerns that original plans to use 10,000 security guards and about 12,000 police officers would not be sufficient to guard against possible security threats. The troops will be in addition to the police and guards.

Britain's government has said it expects the terror threat level to be set at "severe" during the 27 July-12 Aug. Olympics, meaning an attempted attack is considered highly likely.

Troops will be on duty in several cities, including key venues in London, aboard boats along the River Thames, which winds through the capital and part of southern England, and in the coastal city of Weymouth where sailing events will take place.—*Internet*

Medvedev: Russia pledges to help euro



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev addresses the media at the European Council building in Brussels for the twice-yearly EU-Russia meeting, on 15 Dec, 2011. Russia, hoping to keep its largest export market from collapsing, will give at least \$10 billion to the International Monetary Fund to help support the struggling euro currency, an aide to President Dmitry Medvedev said Thursday. INTERNET

BRUSSELS, 16 Dec—Russian officials indicated Thursday that their country may offer more than the \$10 billion it already has promised the International Monetary Fund to help support the struggling euro currency.

Speaking at a news conference with EU President Herman van Rompuy and European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said: "We are ready to invest the necessary financial means to back the EU and the eurozone. We are ready to consider other measures of support."

He didn't elaborate, but Russian officials have said their country would offer up to \$10 billion to the IMF to help support the euro. And Arkady Dvorkovich, a Medvedev economic adviser, indicated Thursday the total may be greater because Russia has a big economic stake in the EU, where a debt

crisis is dragging down economies and the 17-nation eurozone.

"We are ready to contribute our part via the IMF. We are committed to do it. Ten billion dollars is the minimum commitment," Dvorkovich told journalists reporting from the 28th EU-Russia summit in Brussels, where other major issues included visa liberalization and alleged fraud during Russia's parliamentary election last week.

Last week, EU governments said they would give the IMF euro200 million (\$264 billion), which in turn could help out the eurozone.

The fund also expects other nations to participate in the rescue fund. Medvedev said it is in Russia's interest to assist its largest trade partner overcome the economic crisis. *Internet*

Idaho mine closed after seven miners injured

SPOKANE, 16 Dec—The federal government on Thursday temporarily shut down a mile-deep silver mine in Idaho that has been the site of three serious accidents this year, including one this week that left seven miners injured.

Two miners died in separate accidents earlier this year at the Lucky Friday Mine. On Wednesday night, seven miners were injured during a rock burst while working 5,900 feet below the surface; all were safely rescued.

The incident prompted the US Mine Safety and Health Administration to shut down the Lucky Friday while it investigates the cause.

"We've issued a closure order so the entire mine is shut down," said Amy Louviere, spokeswoman for the agency in Washington, DC. "We will conduct a thorough investigation and we will not allow it to reopen until we are sure it is safe."

She could not say how long the mine would be closed. The agency issued a

scathing report after the April death of a miner at the Lucky Friday. A second miner died in a November accident.

"Certainly two fatalities and a serious accident are great cause for concern," Louviere said. "That's why we are going to take a real hard look at what happened."

Until this year, the mine had operated without a fatality for 25 years.

In the Wednesday night accident, none of the seven miners suffered life-threatening injuries. All were brought to the surface within an hour of the rock burst, said Melanie Hennessey, spokeswoman for owner Hecla Mining Co.

"There was a broken arm and some stitches, but overall they were quickly removed from the area and brought to local hospitals to be treated," Hennessey said. The area where the miners were injured had suffered a rock burst — defined as a spontaneous fracturing of rock — about a month ago. *Internet*



The Lucky Friday Mine in Idaho's Silver Valley near Mullan, is shown in this 9 May, 2007 file photo. An Idaho sheriff's officer says an underground rescue team has been sent to a mine after authorities received a report that miners have either been trapped or buried. Shoshone County sheriff's Capt.—INTERNET

Marshal's shooting, 3-hour manhunt shake Ind town

WATERLOO, 16 Dec—The knock on the door in the middle of a rainy night seemed innocent enough: a request for help from a man and woman who said their car had wound up in a nearby ditch. Someone at the house called police to come help them, but when the deputy town marshal responded, he was shot in the face and left bleeding as the couple fled.

A three-hour manhunt in Waterloo, Ind, about 30 miles north of Fort Wayne, ended Thursday morning just four hours away from where the shooting occurred, with the male suspect dead and the woman critically injured after a shootout with police. "I heard police say, 'Show us your hands. Come out with your hands up,'" said Melvin Miller, 69, who lives next door

to where the man and woman were found hiding under a deck. "My brother-in-law said he heard someone say, 'He's got a gun.' That's when I heard all the firing going on."

Miller estimated a dozen officers were in the yard at the time. Footage captured by Fort Wayne television station WPTA indicated dozens of shots were fired.

Indiana State Police said they were still trying to piece together what sparked the shooting of Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady, 47, of Pleasant Lake.

"It's unknown what the dynamic was between the three of them that led to him being shot in the face," Sgt Ron Galaviz said. "Until we have an opportunity to speak with the woman and Deputy Marshal Brady, we really don't know. Anything is possible."—*Internet*



Police surround the scene where a couple was caught after a man shot a Waterloo Town Marshal's Office deputy in Waterloo, Ind, on 15 Dec, 2011. Indiana State Police say officers have shot a man and woman suspected of shooting a northeastern Indiana officer in the face. INTERNET

Flood loss in Thai food industry estimated at 1.59 bln USD

BANGKOK, 16 Dec—Initial flood losses in Thailand's food industry have been estimated at 50 billion baht (1.59 billion US dollars), according to a survey carried out by the National Food Institute, the Board of Trade of Thailand, and the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI). The survey said around 1,300 food processing plants countrywide were damaged by the inundation. Most of them, or about 950 factories, are located in the capital of Bangkok and its vicinity.

Over 30 food-related industries specializing in packaging, food ingredients and labels were also affected and halted operations due to the flood. National Food Institute Director Petch Chinabutr said the projection of Thailand's food exports value this year has been adjusted as a result of the temporary closure of some food factories in Thailand for at least three months.

Thailand exported over 28 million tonnes of food in the first ten months of this year, a 59-percent increase year-on-year, with an export value at 812 billion baht (25.86 billion US dollars), or about a 22 percent rise from last year.

Petch said Thailand's export growth will tend to slow in this fourth quarter except for rice, of which about 10.5 million tonnes were expected to be exported in 2011. Over the past 11 months, up to 10.1 million tonnes of rice have been already exported, he added.—*Xinhua*



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets township, ward and village administrators at Aung Mingala Hall in Hsenwi.
MNA

Departments concerned to solve problem...

(from page 16)

After looking into the checkpoint, the Vice-President gave necessary instructions to officials.

At Hsenwi People's Hospital, the Vice-President and party visited patient wards, x-ray room and medical store.

In meeting with the Medical Superintendent and doctors, the Vice-President heard the reports on coverage of health care services and continual medical teaching by the medical superintendent.

After that, the Vice-President donated K 10 million to medical fund through the medical superintendent. Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat donated K 1 million and the Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Company, two set of Sky Net receivers. On arrival at Basic Education High School in Hsenwi, the Vice-President inspected classrooms and learning of students.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan donated sports gear; the State Chief Minister, K 1 million; Shwe Than Lwin Co, Asia World Co, United Amara Bank, Tamoeyne Chantha Co, Loi Hein Co and Kanbawza Bank Ltd, school fund of K 10 million, the Chief Minister of Shan State K 1 million and Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, two sets of Sky Net receivers through officials.

Afterwards, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met township, ward and village administrators at Aungmingala Hall in Hsenwi. At the meeting, the administrators reported to the Vice-President on education, health, road transportation and religious affairs. Later on, the township administrator also reported on implementation of regional development.

With respect to the reports, the Vice-President coordinated essential and gave a concluding speech. Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Win donated two sets of Sky Net receivers via the township administrator.

Then, the Vice-President and party proceeded to Kunlong via Hsenwi. He gave a speech in meeting with township/ward/village administrators and townsenders at ThanlwinU Hall in Kunlong. Then, ward/village administrators reported on the need to the Vice-President.

Next, district and township administrators reported on regional development tasks.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win gave supplementary reports.

The Vice-President then attended to the needs.

The Shan State Chief Minister presented K 1 million each to officials concerned for availability of safe water in Namkyinhsan and Tattu villages.

The Vice-President and party visited Kunlong People's Hospital and inspected operation theater, X-ray room, men's ward, women's ward and child ward.

At the meeting hall of the hospital, the Shan State Chief Minister presented K 1 million to medical fund, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Loi Hein Co, Shwe Than Lwin Co, Asia World Co and United Amara Bank and Tamoeyne Chantha Co K 10 million to medical fund. Shwe Than Lwin Co then donated two sets of Sky Net receiver to the SWAT, two sets of Sky Net receiver to the medical superintendent and one set of Sky Net receiver to Border Areas and National Races Development Training School, and the six companies K 30 million to Kunlong Shan Monastery and 31 sets of Sky Net receiver to six wards and 25 villages.

On arrival at Kunlong Basic Education High School, the Vice-President and party viewed the students learning education multi-media classrooms, and inspected the classrooms.

At the assembly hall of the school, the six companies

provided K 10 million to school fund.

The Shan State Chief Minister donated K 1 million to school fund, the Union Sports Minister sports gear and the Shwe Than Lwin Co chairman two sets of Sky Net receiver, and the six companies K 5 million for 10 sets of computer and its accessories to the headmaster.

Next, the Vice-President and party left Kunlong by helicopter and arrived back in Lashio in the evening.

In meeting with township/ward/village level administrators of Hsenwi and Kunlong townships of Shan State (North), he said that the intention of the inspection tour was to find out the effects of ongoing reforms on the public, what hardship the people were facing and how those problems can be resolved. He defined the meaning of administrators as ones who are assigned by the government to serve the interests

addition, administrators of districts, townships, and villages were to assume the responsibility of their actions and spending should be transparent and in line with financial rules and regulations. Administrators were to stick to honesty in undertaking duties until the people respond with goodwill, he urged.

The government was now moving heaven and earth to bring about community peace and tranquility, and prevalence of law and order. Those regions were neither near nor distant from borders, linking with self-administered regions and thus it needed to carefully handle cases that can cause misunderstanding between national brethren. Over 100 national races had lived in the country till now through thick and thin, however there occurred cases leading to mutual mistrust resulting in conflicts. Thus, the government was endeavouring to make eternal peace



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts patients at Hsenwi People's Hospital.—MNA

of the public and are obliged to perform that duty successfully with devotion to wishes and requirements of the people. He then called administrators of townships, villages and wards to submit the difficulties respective places were facing and requirements.

The Vice-President after coordinating needs of respective places said that he welcomed the reports on requirements and called them to table regional requirements during their visit without hesitation. He added that proposals of requirements could be presented verbally like now or submitting through respective departments or direct mailing to the government or through Hluttaw representatives at different levels or private media. Those had become open in ongoing democratization process. It needed to systematically use the legal channels to demand the government.

The Vice-President continued that of the reports, religious, education, and health issues could be resolved only in accordance with set laws and rules and regulations. Township administrators the main persons obliged to table the requirements of the townships. He then asked the administrators just to present the objective conditions and requirements as they are, stressing that failing to do so for fear of something may leave the locals of regions concerned unable to deal with the difficulties.

The Vice-President stressed that what the most important was the entire public to join hands for regional development. In

with all the national races.

Only when there was eternal peace, could the nation see progress. So long as there was no peace, the nation would be lost in vicious circle of construction and destruction. He then urged to prevent and oppose any acts harmful to peace in unison to ensure eternal peace in the nation.

The Vice-President in conclusion of his speech urged regional administrators at different levels to play an affordable part in eternal peace-making process, to serve the nation by brilliantly performing the duties assigned by the government and the public.—MNA

Teak, hardwood plants weeded

HSIPAW, 16 Dec—Jointly organized by Hsipaw Township Forest Department and Township Environmental Conservation Committee, teak saplings, hardwood saplings and commercial teak plantations grown in the last rainy season were weeded in Hsutlan Village on 6 December morning.

Township level officials, workers of Forest Department, students and local people enthusiastically participated in weeding and watering the teak and other hardwood saplings.—Myanma Alin

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets local reporters at UEC Tribunal Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



UEC Chairman meets local reporters

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye met local reporters at UEC Tribunal Office here this morning.

All UEC members were present. The Chairman and members replied to the questions about by-election, political parties and electoral arguments raised by the reporters.

MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses Passing-out Parade of 14th Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—The Passing-out Parade of the 14th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in Pyin Oo Lwin at 7.30 am today, with an address by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Central Command, the Pyin Oo Lwin Station commander, the commandant of DSTA, senior military officers of Pyin Oo Lwin Station, guests and parents and relatives of cadets.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services took the salute of the cadet companies and inspected them. Next, the cadet companies marched past the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Hla Myint Swe, Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Aung Phyo Pyae and Excellence in Study Award to Cadet Khin Maung Tun.

Afterwards, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said that technicians and intellectuals must contribute their efforts towards building a stronger, abler and modern Tatmadaw, bearing in mind the motto: "Technology for Military Might". The role of the engineering technicians is pivotal to reinforce physical strength including weaponry, ammunition, vehicles, machines and other military equipment, he said.

He said that nowadays, every country in the world is competing in inventing advanced science and technology and there comes the Era of Technology. Today is modern warfare but is fighting with science and technology, he noted. He said that according to "Revolution in Military Affairs", military science and technology have been advancing more and more. That is why their ability must improve in accordance with new technologies during the period of modernizing the Tatmadaw, he said.

Furthermore, he said that they were uplifting their agricultural based country to industrialized one. They must serve efficiently the country with their technical know-how and ability to enhance the development of science and technology in building a modern Tatmadaw. In striving to build a developed, industrialized nation and modern Tatmadaw, they all, to be trusted technocrats, will have to study the subjects constantly on military science and technology

that are advancing. He said that it is necessary to cooperate in science and technology among engineering officers from Army, Navy and Air Force who have been produced from that Academy. Fundamentally, he said that military weaponry, warships and aircrafts can be repaired and made more effective domestically. Secondly, he said that they should be able to produce modern military weaponry in the country, independent of others. He said that Tatmadaw engineers can make whatever others have invented and we must keep abreast with other countries, adding that he would like to urge them to do research on new territory of technology.

He said that the aim of building a modern Tatmadaw is to catch up with the future development of military science and technology. Sectors on space, air force and navy will play vital role in modern warfare, he said. Therefore, he said that they all need to focus on specializations which are principal points for modern Tatmadaw. In the technical fields, he said that both outstanding individual efforts and team innovations are required. Without depending on others in technology is the first and foremost objective, he noted. The comrades are necessary to strive to become young engineer professionals and good sons who can uplift military science and technology which can enable them in modern warfare, he said.

In building a modern Tatmadaw, he said that all military engineers must take actions vigorously. Nowadays, he added that in modern warfare, advanced weaponry with pin-point accuracy, vehicles, machinery are being used together with the combination of military sciences such as Command, Control, Communication, Computer (C-4), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and Military Strategies. In Science and Technology, he said that they have to come to the stage "invent and utilize" from "produce and make use", thus in order to handle them skillfully they all must study continuously, he said.

He noted that as the new technologies have been emerging unprecedentedly, the nature and contexts of modern wars have also changed. He said that with the use of modern and sophisticated weaponry in today's wars, it has also been changes in the military tactics. In the previous wars, he said that they have used enormous manpower and ammunitions. He said that today's warfare but are fighting with advanced weaponry with pin-point accuracy based on precised figures.

He added that as they are about to be commissioned as engineering officers, they are technicians as well as Tatmadaw members. Thus, he said that they are going to serve the

main duties of the Tatmadaw which are to safeguard the State and provide security. He said that they have been given training in engineering and related technologies as well as military science up to the infantry platoon commander level at the Academy. Later on, he said that in their career, they will have to attend the Platoon Commander Course, the Company Commander Course, the Battalion Commander Course and the Military Staff College. There have been precedents in the history of the Tatmadaw wherein the units from the Engineering Corps defeated the enemies alone without the infantry support, he said.

In today's world, he said that efforts are being made to utilize new and powerful weapons of mass destruction to achieve land, sea and air supremacy as well as dominance in space and to exploit it in warfare. However, he said that as in all

- to urge them to
- discharge the duty of building a strong and capable modern patriotic Tatmadaw as a duty that has been passed on to them.
- strive to become good professionals and good sons serving the duty of National Defence.
- participate with energy and vigour in the development of the Science and Technology of the Tatmadaw and in the building of a modern Tatmadaw.
- ensure that they become the leaders of new generation who will defend the Twelve Noble Traditions of the Tatmadaw, even at the cost of their lives.
- join in the activities for the building of a modern developed nation while they work for the development of Science and Technology of the Tatmadaw.



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Hla Myint Swe at Passing-out Parade of the 14th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy.

MNA

matters, strong points are always accompanied by weaknesses and shortcomings. He said that they can confront anything and win if they avoid their opponents' strong points, exploit their shortcomings and strike at their weaknesses. So, he said that he would like to urge them, who are military engineers to engage in constant study and creative thinking.

In conclusion, he said that he would like

Next, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services left the parade ground after taking the salute of the cadet companies.

After the ceremony, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the academy and spoke words of honour to them.

MNA

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 60/2011 today.

The translation of the notification is as follows:-

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw**

**Notification No. 60/2011
6th Waning of Nadaw, 1373 ME
(16 December, 2011)**

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substituted a Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multi-party democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative hereunder stated in Notification No. 1/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against him.

BC31872
Major Yan Naing Win

(Substitution) BC 30105
Major Zin Myo Latt

By order

(Win Ko)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Union FM felicitates Bhutani counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2011, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign

Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dasho Daw Penjo, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.—MNA

Research farms, mechanized farms inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited Vietnam Palethwe hybrid strain paddy farm jointly run by Vietnamese and Myanmar agriculturalists at 40-acre farmer educative farm near Chaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township this morning.

The Union Minister inspected land reclamation near Thatgegon Village in Zabuthiri Township, nurturing of Palethwe hybrid strain at 369-acre farmer educative

farm near Ahlyinlo Village in Pynmana Township and irrigation system of Ngaleik Dam. He viewed monsoon paddy fields near Kyaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

The Union Minister also viewed conditions of vegetable and fruit gardens, bio vegetable gardens and Palethwe hybrid strain paddy plantations at 500-acre farmer educative farm in Nyaungbingyisu of Pobbathiri Township.—MNA

Union level peace-making group receives reporters

YANGON, 16 Dec — Leader of the Union level peace-making group Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw from Taungtha Township U Aung Thang and Deputy Leader of the group Representative of Myitkyina Township U Thein Zaw received reporters from media

agencies and journals.

In meeting with the reporters, U Aung Thang and U Thein Zaw clarified that the government is taking measures for ensuring peace and tranquility, security and development of the nation in accord with the people's desire. Peace is of great importance for progress of the nation. As the government extended invitation for peace talks, 10 armed groups have accepted the offer and state level initial peace talks and Union level negotiations are going on. In making coordination and negotiations, there are no restrictions on both sides

and measures are being taken in all possible peaceful ways to achieve success. Steps are also being taken through the means of politics and round table discussion avoiding any military tactic. As discussions and negotiations are being made in a goodwill manner based on experience gained throughout history, it is certain that unity and peace and stability will completely be achieved among the national races. Then, they replied to the queries raised by the reporters.

MNA

Union level peace-making group meets reporters from media agencies and journals.

MNA



Workshop on drafting Yangon Concept Plan (Vision 2040) held

YANGON, 16 Dec—Two-day long workshop on drafting Yangon Concept Plan (Vision 2040), organized by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction, took place at Micasa Hotel here yesterday morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.

A total of 25 papers were submitted by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar Architect Society, Ministry of

Science and Technology, consultant scholars, Yangon Institute of Economics (YIE), Ministry of Culture, Myanma Port Authority, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Yangon City Electricity Supply Board (YESB), Fire Services Department and Yangon Region General Administration Department.

The 30-year Yangon Concept Plan is drafted by departments and organization and civil project scholars, including YCDC and organized by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.—MNA

A pair of red pandas...

(from page 16)

of Kachin State, northern most of Myanmar, and Kachin Special Region (1) donated the red pandas to Forest Department from Myitkyina to Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden by air.

As part of efforts for ensuring Ex-Situ Conservation, Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) breeds red pandas for the first time. Now, a booth facilitated with air-conditioner system is being built in conformity with their original habitat as quickly as possible. The red pandas will be shown for public observation in the near future.—MNA

Photo shows Myanmar indigenous Red Panda (red) which is on the edge of extinction in the world.—MNA



Model paddy plot harvested

HSINBAUNGWE, 16 Dec—The harvesting of model paddy plot for 2011-2012 was held at Yadanatone paddy field of farmer U Than Gyoun in Inma Village of Hsinbaungwe Township on 27 November morning.

District and township level personnel and local farmers participated in the harvesting of paddy that produced 125 baskets per acre.—Township IPRD

Yamethin Township harvests model paddy plot

YAMETHIN, 16 Dec—Farmer U San Aung's Manawthukha monsoon paddy plot was harvested in Myitta Kankwin field in Ingyinkan Village-tract in Yamethin Township on 7 December morning.

Production of paddy plot reached 67.84 baskets per acre. The harvesting ceremony was attended by district and township level officials and staff of Myanmar Agricultural Service.—MAS

Fire preventive measures inspected

LANKHO, 16 Dec—Fire preventive measures are being taken in Lankho Township.

On 24 November morning, township level departmental officials who are members of the township fire preventive measures committee, and party inspected preventive measures against fire at Lankho Development Market.

District IPRD

Monsoon paddy harvested on model plot

TAUNGTHA, 16 Dec—One acre plot of Hsinthukha monsoon paddy was harvested in Thayagyi Village of Taungtha Township on 25 November morning. The paddy plot produced 113.125 baskets per acre.

The paddy harvesting was supervised by district and township level officials and staff.—MAS

DISTRICT NEWS

Loans disbursed to rubber growers

KYAIKTO, 16 Dec—With the aim of ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, the Kyaikto Township Rubber Production Micro-credit Association disbursed loans to local growers for the second time at its office on 2 December morning. Township Administrator U Kyi Thet Maung presented K 37.25 million to 99 rubber growers.

The association has so far disbursed K 98.05 million to the growers.—Township IPRD

Global markets cautious over economic outlook

LONDON, 16 Dec—Signs of a global economic slowdown and stresses in Europe's financial system kept investors cautious on Thursday, causing losses in Asian markets and holding the euro near 11-month lows. Relatively upbeat US jobs data, however, helped stocks rise in Europe and on Wall Street.

Surveys showed Japanese business confidence and Chinese manufacturing had both slipped, while European industrial and services sectors continued to contract, though less than expected.

Concerns over Europe's debt crisis are squeezing credit conditions for banks in the region. The fear that a bank might not be able to withstand losses on its holding of shaky government bonds makes the banks less inclined to lend to each other, as they normally do to fund their hugely expensive daily operations.

Many banks are relying on cheap credit from the European Central Bank for that money, but in the meantime they are cutting down on lending to businesses and households.

As a result, the real economy in Europe is sliding toward recession.

The purchasing managers' index published by financial data company Markit showed eurozone manufacturing and services output contracting for a fourth month in December, although not as much as economists were expecting. The combined index for the two sectors stood at 47.9 in December, up from 47.0 in November. A figure below 50 indicates contraction.

"The likelihood remains that eurozone GDP will contract



In this 13 Dec, 2011 photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Europe's stock markets fell again on 14 Dec, 2011 as worries over the ability of governments to get a handle on their debts also pushed the common currency to an 11-month low below \$1.30.

INTERNET

in the fourth quarter, even if the decline may not be as has been feared," said Howard Archer of IHS Global Insight in a report.

A day after suffering sharp losses, European stocks recovered somewhat, thanks partly to US economic data showing a drop in weekly jobless claims.

Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.6 percent to 5,400.85, Germany's DAX gained 1.0 percent to 5,730.62 and France's CAC-40 added 0.8 percent to 2,998.73.—Internet

Giant steps: Vacationing with Thailand's elephants

CHIANG MAI, (Thailand) 16 Dec—Guests volunteering at the Elephant Nature Park don't have phone service or

television, and Internet access is limited to a single area. But what they get instead of TV is ele-vision, all day long.



This September 2011 photo shows Mae Kham Paan after she was washed by volunteers during bath time in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. Guests volunteering at the Elephant Nature Park don't have phone service or television, and Internet access is limited to a single area. What they get instead of TV is ele-vision, all day long.

INTERNET

They can see elephants eating, playing in the mud, bathing and even floating in a river. They can watch large family groups and their ever-shifting relationships, which one observer compared to a soap opera. And while first impressions might suggest there is nothing subtle about a six-ton animal, by the end of a stay at the Elephant Nature Park, most guests come to realize there's a lot about elephants that's easy to miss. There's the rubbery rasp as they exhale through the trunk, the leathery skin and sharp bristly hair, the pink-orange patch between the eyes, and the freckles that run down the trunk and across the lower part of the ears.

Learned all of this during

a week of observing and helping out at the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand. The park is home to 36 elephants, most of them rescued from handlers who had them begging for food in the streets or hauling timber, carrying tourists on treks, or doing tricks in "elephant shows." The elephant is Thailand's national symbol, but tame elephants are considered livestock. Most of the park's elephants endured brutal training and decades of work, and some are now disabled. A few have been crippled by land mines.

The Elephant Nature Park offers sanctuary and a calmer life, and its founders are hoping to show Thailand that there is another way to treat elephants. They believe that tourists will come to Thailand to see elephants in a more natural setting.—Internet

Unpublished Bronte manuscript sells for \$1 million

LONDON, 16 Dec—An unpublished manuscript by a 14-year-old Charlotte Bronte, who went on to write "Jane Eyre", sold at auction in London on Thursday for a record £690,850 (\$1,069,000, 822,900 euros).

Sotheby's auction house said the sale, at more than double the guide price, was the highest ever price at auction for any literary work by Charlotte Bronte or her two famous sisters, Emily and Anne.

The miniature manuscript, titled "Young Men's Magazine, Number 2" and dated August 1830 was bought by the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts in Paris and will be exhibited in January.

The manuscript consists of 19 pages measuring just 35mm by 61mm as well as the original folder and case.

It contains characters who inhabited the imaginary world called Glass Town that Bronte and her siblings created when they were growing up.

It includes a passage very similar to a scene in "Jane Eyre", the novel Bronte wrote 17 years later, in which the insane wife of the eponymous heroine's love interest, Mr Rochester, sets fire to his bed curtains.

Sotheby's director Philip Errington said: "Sotheby's was honoured to sell a manuscript of such rarity and huge literary



A Sotheby's auction house employee holds a small autographed manuscript by 19th century British author Charlotte Bronte before its sale Thursday. An unpublished manuscript by a 14-year-old Bronte, who went on to write "Jane Eyre", sold at auction in London on Thursday for a record £690,850 (\$1,069,000, 822,900 euros).—INTERNET

significance, and the record price set today reflects the international interest in Charlotte Bronte's work.

"This tiny manuscript represents her first burst of creativity and provides a rare and intimate insight into one of history's great literary minds."

The manuscript was sold by a private owner.—Internet

Australia, Indonesia join in fight against animal diseases

JAKARTA, 16 Dec—Indonesia and Australia are working together to control infectious animal diseases in South Sulawesi and West Sulawesi in a new partnership to strengthen animal health systems, a Press statement from the Australian Embassy in Jakarta said here on Wednesday.

The 22-million-US dollar Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases is funded by AusAID and will be delivered by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in collaboration with Indonesian animal health authorities and the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry. The Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases focuses on Sulawesi, a key centre for livestock production in

eastern Indonesia, relatively close to Australia's northern borders.

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Greg Moriarty said that the programme is an example of partnership between the two countries that will benefit both Indonesians and Australians.

The partnership will include technical and field activities in both provinces that will work towards a long-term and sustainable animal health system. All programme activities aim to build the country's own capacity to control and prevent diseases. "A more robust animal health system in Indonesia will help protect human and animal health and increase livestock production, as well as reduce poverty and promote regional stability," said Moriarty.

Xinhua



Jhallywood actress Varsha Lakra puts on make-up in a car on the outskirts of Ranchi in Jharkhand. Tiny budgets in the film-making industry in the poor east India state mean that stars must often apply their own make-up and dance to soundtracks provided by mobile phones.—INTERNET

DIY approach the norm in India's 'Jhallywood'

JHARKHAND, 16 Dec—In one of India's poorest, most violence-wracked states, being a movie star means doing your own make-up in a car mirror and then dancing to a soundtrack from a mobile phone. Los Angeles has Hollywood, Mumbai has Bollywood — and then there's Jhallywood, a tiny but enthusiastic film industry in the eastern state of Jharkhand.

"This is the biggest problem of working in our movies, you have to do everything yourself... apply your own make-up, supply your own costumes," Jhallywood's leading female star Varsha Lakra grumbles with a smile.

On a bright Sunday morning in Ranchi, the state capital, Lakra, 24, is on location at her latest shoot.

"Our films are made keeping our culture in mind and our culture is not that glamorous," she admits. "We show our villages and how, as Jharkhand develops,

people are leaving the villages to go work in towns."

"Jhallywood" prides itself on telling the stories of the state's low-caste and tribal people, making movies on shoestring budgets with minimal equipment.

Producers raise capital by cashing in anything—from parcels of land to cars—and some of the film industry's key players are shopkeepers who have day jobs selling mobile phones and CDs.

Jhallywood's stars may have lives far different from Bollywood's adored big-name screen legends, but they are hugely popular in the state.

Lakra and her actor husband Monuraj, 25, are household names, and are regularly mobbed by fans.

"Recently I was out with my family and some village women saw me. They just grabbed me, and wouldn't let go. They kept saying, you must come to our home for a meal," she says.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA FORTUNE VOY NO (07/11)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA FORTUNE VOY NO (07/11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 K.M INTER TRANS
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG KHON THI VOY NO (157)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG KHON THI VOY NO (157) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



Artists perform during the stage extravaganza called "New message from the silk road", the opening programme of the Chinese culture year in Turkey, in Istanbul of Turkey, on 15 Dec, 2011.
XINHUA

US scientists uncover evidence on how drug-resistant tuberculosis cells form

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — A new study led by Harvard School of Public researchers provides a novel explanation as to why some tuberculosis cells are inherently more difficult to treat with antibiotics. The discovery, which showed that the ways mycobacteria cells divide and grow determine their susceptibility to treatment with drugs, could lead to new avenues of drug development that better target tuberculosis cells. The study appeared Thursday in an advance online edition of *Science*. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that kills more than 1.5 million people

annually. It is a difficult disease to treat; people are prescribed a combination of antibiotics to be taken daily for six to nine months, a regimen that is hard for patients to follow and for nurses and doctors to administer.

Even after beginning appropriate treatment, it appears that some of the infectious cells survive for long periods of time. The researchers set out to determine what distinguishes a cell that lives from one that dies.

They designed a unique microfluidic chamber in which they grew *Mycobacterium smegmatis* cells (which

TRADEMARK CAUTION

PHIVCO-1 LLC of Corporation Service Company, 2711 Centerville Road, Suite 400, Wilmington, Delaware, 19808, U.S.A is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

CELSENTRI

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All ownership rights of the above trademark have been assigned to Pfizer Inc. from Pfizer Products Inc., the principal owner of the above mark and then Pfizer Inc. to PHIVCO-1 LLC by means of the Deed of Assignments under the Myanmar Reg. Nos. IV/10817/2011 and IV/10818/2011 respectively.

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Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpp@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 17 December 2011

US-China rivalry dominates start of WTO meeting

GENEVA, 16 Dec— Sparring between China and the United States dominated the start of the World Trade Organization biennial conference on Thursday, with each obliquely blaming the other for deadlock in the Doha round of trade talks which has all but paralysed the WTO.

Without mentioning each other by name, China's Commerce Minister Chen Deming and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk each suggested the other was to blame. Kirk said the current impasse in negotiations came down to "one single, vexing

quandary: the WTO has not come to terms over core questions of shared responsibilities among its biggest and most successful members. "The world has changed profoundly since this negotiation began a decade ago, most obviously in the rise of the emerging economies. The results of our negotiations thus far do not reflect this change, and yet they must if we are to be successful," he said in a speech at the opening of the meeting. The rise of developing countries, chief among them China, has tied the Doha negotiations in

knots. The trade liberalisation effort was originally meant to help developing countries, but those same countries are now trading giants, calling into question the need to give them special help. But China and other developing countries have refused to give up on Doha. Chen suggested the negotiations were being held up by US politics and could be resumed after the presidential and congressional elections next year. "I know that the current difficulties were not just brought about by the current financial crisis.

MNA/Reuters



Gulls are seen in Bang Pu Seaside Resort, Bang Pu district, in Samut Prakarn province, Thailand on 15 Dec, 2011. To flee the cold weather, the gulls fly to Bang Pu seaside resort, the estuary with mangroves, for winter.
XINHUA

Son faked his mother's death to get time off

BROOKVILLE, 16 Dec — A man published a fake obituary for his mother so that he could get paid time off work for his "bereavement", police said. Relatives contacted *The Jeffersonian Democrat* newspaper in Pennsylvania when the obituary was published and explained that the woman was alive. She then visited the paper. Police have charged 45-year-old Scott Bennett with disorderly conduct. Newspaper editor Randy Bartley says he accepted the obituary in good faith. —Internet

The chimpanzee artist: Monkey uses hands, feet and tail to create paintings worth £250

LONDON, 16 Dec— He's not the tidiest of artists, and his paintings could at best be described as 'abstract' or 'experimental'. But despite his 'conceptual' style and the fact, more importantly, that he is a capuchin monkey, there still appears to be a market for the work of animal artist 'Pockets Warhol'. The white-capped capuchin uses his tail, hands, feet, and of course, a



brush, to daub canvases with his own unique artistic stylings at Story Book Farm, a primate sanctuary in Canada. Amazingly, Pockets

Monkey masterpiece: Sherri Delaney, founder of Story Book Farm primate sanctuary in Canada, poses with one of Pockets Warhol's works.

INTERNET

Warhol has become a money-spinning machine for bosses at the home for primates, with his paintings selling for as much as £250 each. —Internet



Black widows hitch ride to shipyard

A spokesman for a Maine shipyard said about two dozen venomous black widow spiders stowed away in a shipment of equipment from California.

James DeMartini, a spokesman for Bath Iron Works, said the spiders arrived in a shipment of vertical launch system parts from a California supplier. He said a professional pest exterminator was brought in

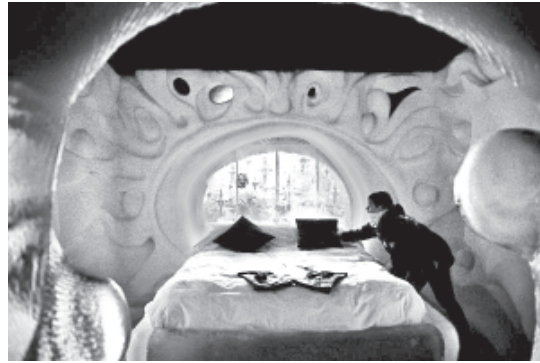
to eradicate the spiders and fumigate some compartments of the future USS Michael Murphy, an Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyer being constructed at the shipyard, the *Bangor (Maine) Daily News* reported Wednesday.

"There was some excitement when the spiders were found, but the more we looked into it, the more we're confident that what we did was all we needed to do," DeMartini said.

DeMartini said there were workers in some of the areas where the spiders were found, but no bites were reported.



An ornamental pumpkin is grown at an agricultural scientific research institute in Foshan, South China's Guangdong Province, on 24 Nov, 2011.



A chambermaid cleans a room of the ice hotel Lumen in Zwolle, the Netherlands, on 15 Dec, 2011. The recently new-opened hotel is the first ice hotel in the Netherlands which has three rooms in total, and the inside temperature keeps minus four degree Celsius. It will receive guests only for two months. The cost is per person per night 99.50 Euro.

\$50,000 worth of margarine stolen

Authorities in Iowa said someone stole a semi-trailer truck loaded with margarine before it could be taken to a Target Distribution Centre.

Black Hawk County sheriff's deputies said the trailer, which was loaded with about \$50,000 worth of margarine, was parked overnight Saturday at an Elk Run facility to wait until the Cedar Falls warehouse had enough space for the spread, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls (Iowa) Courier reported.

Investigators said the driver discovered Sunday morning that the trailer had been hooked up to another vehicle and driven away.

Apples drop from sky on English road

Rush hour on a road in the English Midlands was complicated Wednesday by an actual windfall—a freak shower of wind-blown apples.

Police said about 100 pieces of fruit dropped from the sky in a few minutes in Keresley outside Coventry, the *Daily Star* reported. Britain has been hit by storms this week, and meteorologists said the apples were probably lying on the ground in an orchard when a freak wind picked them up and carried them to Keresley.

One woman who was traveling with her husband said apples came down hard on the hood of their car.

"Everyone had to stop their cars suddenly," she told the *Star*. "I know the area well and there are no apple trees around."

Britain has had previous experience with curious showers. Great Yarmouth, on the east coast in Norfolk, had a fall of fish in 2007, while frogs came down in 1996 in Llandewi in Wales.

News Album

Steve Jobs named 'Most Fascinating'

NEW YORK, 16 Dec—US broadcast journalist Barbara Walters has declared the late Apple Inc co-founder Steve Jobs the Most Fascinating Person of 2011.

Jobs died in October after an eight-year battle with cancer. He was 56.

"All his life, Steve Jobs could see things other people couldn't see," Walters said in the TV special, "The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2011," which aired on ABC Wednesday night.

"He embodied qualities you rarely see in one person," Walters noted.

"It's hard to imagine

there ever being anyone quite like him again. He was a computer geek and a visionary, a romantic and a businessman, a Buddhist and a marketing genius.

He was the smartest person in the room since childhood. He always thought he was right and he almost always was."

Walters' list of the year's most fascinating people also included Pippa Middleton, the new sister-in-law of Britain's Prince William; professional baseball player Derek Jeter; pop star Katy Perry; reality TV staple, the Kardashians; family; televi-



Steve Jobs

sion personality Simon Cowell; "Modern Family" co-stars Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet; and American business tycoon/author/television personality Donald Trump.

Internet

George Clooney and Meryl Streep top nominations for Screen Actors Guild awards

MELBOURNE, 16 Dec—George Clooney and Meryl Streep have topped nominations in the Best Actor and Best Actress category respectively for the Screen Actors Guild awards this year.

Clooney has been nominated for his portrayal of a single father in 'The Descendants', while Streep for playing Margaret Thatcher in the 'The Iron Lady'.

Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Glenn Close and Tilda Swinton are also among stars tipped for prizes from the Guild, whose

nominations traditionally kick off Hollywood's annual awards season.

'The Descendants', 'The Artist', 'The Help', 'Bridesmaids' and 'Midnight in Paris' were nominated for

outstanding cast performance, which has sometimes proved an indicator of best picture winner at the all-important Oscars, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

The SAGs announce-

ment, whose winners will be announced on 29 January, came a day ahead of the nominations for the Golden Globes, also seen as a key indicator of hopes for the Oscars.

Internet



Meryl Streep and George Clooney talk at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on 23 Jan, 2010, in Los Angeles.

INTERNET



A waxwork of British Oscar-winning actor Colin Firth, is retouched by Madame Tussaud's worker Claire Galvin, before it is unveiled in London, on 14 Dec, 2011. The figure took four months to complete, at a cost of £150,000.

INTERNET

Colin Firth immortalized in wax

LONDON, 16 Dec—British actor Colin Firth has become the latest star to be immortalized in wax.

The 51-year-old, dressed in a black tuxedo and bow tie, has been put on display at London's Madame Tussauds museum.

"Colin is one of the hottest leading men

of our time, an Oscar winner and a true British gent," contactmusic.com quoted a spokesperson of museum as saying. Firth's waxwork has been placed next to Kate Winslet's statue and those of David and Victoria Beckham.—Internet

Liz Taylor's jewels sell for \$115M

NEW YORK, 16 Dec—Jewelry belonging to the late screen icon Elizabeth Taylor has sold for \$115 million at an auction in New York, Christie's said.

The auction house told the *New York Post* "The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor" sale set a world record for the auction of one private jewelry collection. Some of the proceeds from the sale are intended to go to Taylor's AIDS foundation, the newspaper said.

The item that fetched the highest price Tuesday was a Cartier pearl and diamond necklace given to Taylor by her then-husband, actor Richard

Burton. It sold for \$11.8 million.

"It's one of the most extraordinary auctions that Christie's has ever had and a testament to the affection for Elizabeth Taylor worldwide," the *Post* quoted Christie's Americas President Marc Porter as saying.

The two-time Oscar-winning actress died 23 March at age 79.

Internet



Press preview of the Elizabeth Taylor collection on display prior to auction at Christie's in New York on 1 December, 2011.

INTERNET

Lady Gaga highest earning female singer

LONDON, 16 Dec—Pop star Lady Gaga has topped the Top Earning Women in Music List of 2011 beating the likes of Taylor Swift and Katy Perry.

According to Forbes.com, the singer earned USD 90 million which is more than double any other female pop star earned over the past 12 months.

Singer Taylor Swift was on second position with USD 45 million, while Katy Perry grabbed third position with USD 44 million. Beyonce Knowles and Rihanna rounded off the top five with USD 35 million and USD 29 million, respectively, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Gaga's earnings were mainly due to her "Monster Ball" tour, which grossed USD 1.3 million a night as well as many endorsement deals.

Internet



Pop star Lady Gaga

NLM Joke

English is really crazy

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins were not invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one moose, 2 meese? One index, two indices? Is cheese the plural of choose?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

In what language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital?

Ship by truck, and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

When a house burns up, it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out, and an alarm clock goes off by going on.

When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney: We want to win the Europa League

LONDON, 16 Dec — Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has targeted Europa League success following the club's Champions League exit last week. United will enter the knockout stages of Europe's secondary competition following its 2-1 defeat to Basel, with the draw for the round of 32 set for Friday. However the 26-year-old is hopeful of a strong run in the tournament, with both himself and Sir Alex Ferguson yet to win the trophy.

Asked if he wanted to win the Europa League, Rooney told the club's official website: "Definitely. It's a shame we're out of the Champions League. That's what we all want to play in. Unfortunately we went out and now we turn our attention to the Premier League and Europa League. I don't think the manager's won the Europa League, so I'm sure he'll want to win it." The England striker also admitted that the loss of captain Nemanja Vidic for the rest of the season through injury, coupled with the news that Darren Fletcher is taking an extended absence from football, had come as a major blow to the Red Devils. Rooney said: "The two of them are both important players for us. With Nemanja being our captain it's a shame we've lost him for the season as he's a

great defender. But the younger lads have been great. "It's a shame for Darren, too - he's a great player and a great person. Hopefully he gets well soon and comes back strongly for us."

The former Everton man is also keen to remedy the 6-1 defeat to Manchester City in next month's FA Cup third round match against Roberto Mancini's men, but believes both sides would have preferred to have met later in the competition. —INTERNET



Wayne Rooney and Manchester United were bounced from the Champions League after falling to FC Basel. —INTERNET

Tiger named honorary captain for Fiesta



Tiger Woods attended Stanford for two years before returning pro. —INTERNET

NEW YORK, 16 Dec — Tiger Woods will serve as an honorary captain for the Stanford football team in its Fiesta Bowl game against Oklahoma State on 2 January, Woods said on Thursday on his web site. "Cardinal head coach David Shaw asked me to be an honorary team captain, and I happily accepted," Woods said. "For Coach Shaw to think highly enough of me to be involved in the game and be able to talk to his kids is very special."

Woods spent two years at Stanford, where he was a two-time first-team All-American. He won the NCAA individual championship in 1996 and was named the Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year before turning pro later that year. "I'm very close to Stanford," Woods said. "They've done

so much for me in my life. Everyone knows Coach Shaw and I had a class together. We go way back. It's neat to be able to come back and help him any way that I can."

Woods will open his 2011 season at the Abu Dhabi Championship, which is the same week as the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines. —INTERNET

Barcelona confirms David Villa will be sidelined for up to five months with fractured tibia

MADRID, 16 Dec — Barcelona has announced via its official website that David Villa will be sidelined for up to five months after sustaining a fractured tibia in Thursday's Club World Cup semi-final victory against Al Sadd. It was initially feared that the striker would spend six months on the sidelines after picking up an injury in the first half of the contest, which his side won 4-0. Such a scenario would rule him out of the rest of the club campaign, and could cost him a place in Spain's Euro 2012 squad.

However, further tests at the Rosai Hospital in Yokohama have revealed that the striker has an esti-

Barclays Premier League Table

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Manchester City	15	12	2	1	49	15	34	38
2	Manchester United	15	11	3	1	35	14	21	36
3	Chelsea	15	10	1	4	33	18	15	31
4	Tottenham Hotspur	14	10	1	3	30	18	12	31
5	Arsenal	15	9	2	4	31	23	8	29
6	Liverpool	15	7	5	3	18	13	5	26
7	Newcastle United	15	7	5	3	21	19	2	26
8	Stoke City	15	6	3	6	16	24	-8	21
9	Aston Villa	15	4	7	4	18	19	-1	19
10	Norwich City	15	5	4	6	24	28	-4	19
11	Swansea City	15	4	5	6	16	20	-4	17
12	Everton	14	5	1	8	15	18	-3	16
13	Queens Park Rangers	15	4	4	7	15	26	-11	16
14	Fulham	15	3	6	6	16	18	-2	15
15	West Bromwich Albion	15	4	3	8	14	23	-9	15
16	Sunderland	15	3	5	7	18	18	0	14
17	Wolverhampton	15	4	2	9	16	28	-12	14
18	Wigan Athletic	15	3	3	9	14	29	-15	12
19	Blackburn Rovers	15	2	4	9	22	34	-12	10
20	Bolton Wanderers	15	3	0	12	20	36	-16	9

US teen Thompson leads in Dubai; Wie 4 shots back

DUBAI, 16 Dec — American teenager Lexi Thompson has taken a two-shot lead after the second round of the Dubai Ladies Masters.

The 16-year-old Thompson, who is the youngest LPGA Tour winner, had six birdies en route to a bogey-free, 6-under 66 Thursday and 136 total. "I just made a few more putts today," Thompson said. "I hit it a little bit closer. I was just thinking 'stay steady' and playing consistent."

Swedish veteran Sophie Gustafson (67) and Margherita Rigon (68) shared second place, while Julieta Granada and Becky Morgan trailed the leader by three shots. Michelle Wie is four shots behind after a 67. The 22-year-old American, who is looking for her first win of the year, rallied after an opening-round 73.

She had five birdies overall, including

four on the back nine. "I made a couple more putts," Wie said. "I have two more days to try and shoot some more low scores." —INTERNET



Michelle Wie of the USA tees off at the par 4, 8th hole during the second round of the 2011 Omega Dubai Ladies Masters on the Majilis Course at the Emirates Golf Club on 15 Dec, 2011 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. —INTERNET

Tottenham exit Europa League despite win

LONDON, 16 Dec — A comfortable win in Ireland was not enough to see Tottenham upset the odds and reach the Europa League knockout stages. Steven Pienaar's shot put Spurs ahead, then a stunning strike from Andros Townsend and close-range finish from Jermain Defoe made it 3-0 by half-time, with Harry Kane firing in from close range in the closing stages for his first senior Tottenham goal.

However, a point for Group A rivals Rubin Kazan

was enough to mean Spurs' efforts were in vain and put the Russian side through along with PAOK Salonika. Ahead of the match Tottenham knew that to qualify they had to win and Rubin Kazan had to lose — and that along with those results they had to overturn a five-goal deficit in goal difference. With PAOK Salonika taking an early lead against the Russians and Spurs hitting three goals in the space of 16 first-half minutes, the unlikely qualification looked distinctly possible.

But a Rubin Kazan equaliser early in the second half meant Spurs' result was ultimately irrelevant, despite the emphatic nature of the scoreline. In Group H, Birmingham City - who were relegated from the Barclays Premier League last season — beat Slovenian side Maribor 1-0 at home but it was not enough to see them progress as they finished third in Group H.

INTERNET



Tottenham's first-half goals raised hopes of progress - but it was not to be. —INTERNET



David Villa

International Sports



Lionel Messi (R) of Spain's Barcelona vies for the ball during the Club World Cup semi-final football match against Qatar's Al Sadd in Yokohama, Japan on 15 Dec, 2011. Barcelona won 4-0 and advanced to the Final. —XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (17-12-2011) (Saturday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Overseas Transmission	(17-12-11 09:30 am ~18-12-11 09:30 am) MST

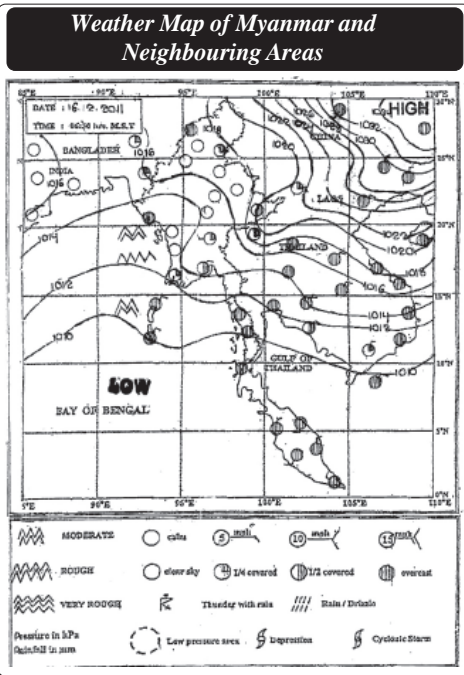
Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Come and visit, no matter the distance (Pathein)
- * News
- * The Divine Beverage For You!
- * News
- * Youth of the Future "Photographer"
- * News
- * Products of Myanmar "Kachin Traditional Knife"

Overseas Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Come and visit, no matter the distance (Pathein)
- * The Divine Beverage For You!
- * News
- * Youth of the Future "Photographer"
- * News
- * Record Album

- * Products of Myanmar "Kachin Traditional Knife"
- * News
- * Why So Melodious?
- * New Zero Group Show
- * News
- * Invitation to Myanmar Language and Literature (Part-I)
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Food "Coconut Rice"
- * News
- * Myanmar Tradition Identity "The Culture of Pennant Pillar"
- * Myanmar Movies "Good-Hearted Bad Guy"



Saturday, 17 December View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:10 am
- 2. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:25 am
- 3. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am
- 4. Morning News
- 7:40 am
- 5. Nice & Sweet Song

- 7:50 am
- 6. Health Programme
- 8:00 am
- 7. Documentary
- 8:10 am
- 8. Poem Garden
- 8:25 am
- 9. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:40 am
- 10. International News
- 8:45 am
- 11. Musical Programme
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am
- 2. Musical Programme
- 11:25 am
- 3. Game For Children
- 11:50 am
- 4. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News
- 12:50 pm
- 5. Delicious Dishes
- 1:10 pm
- 6. TV Drama Series
- 2:05 pm
- 7. Teleplay (Traffic)

- 2:40 pm
- 8. Dance of National Races
- 2:50 pm
- 9. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
- 3. Cultural Dances
- 4:30 pm
- 4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:40 pm
- 5. Teleplay (Forest)
- 4:55 pm
- 6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Botany)

- 5:05 pm
- 7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm
- 8. Documentary
- 5:25 pm
- 9. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 5:30 pm
- 10. Game For Children
- 6:00 pm
- 11. Evening News
- 6:15 pm
- 12. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 13. Ahlshamae Hlagabawai
- 6:35 pm
- 14. Yindagomae
- 7:00 pm
- 15. Myanmar Movies
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 17. International News
- 18. Weather Report
- 19. Cartoon Series
- 20. Myanmar Movies
- 21. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

Weather forecast for 17th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	25/77	10/50	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	25/77	09/48	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	18/64	-01/30	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	23/73	11/52	Generally fair weather	
6	Lower Sagaing	29/84	13/55	Generally fair weather	
7	Taninthayi	33/91	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	30/86	15/59	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	31/88	13/55	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	29/84	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	33/91	18/64	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	32/90	17/63	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
13	Rakhine	28/82	13/55	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	23/73	09/48	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	24/75	07/45	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	24/75	07/45	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	17/63	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31/88	15/59	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/90	17/63	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	29/84	14/57	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December averages temperatures in Bago Region and Rakhine State, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Hakha (-2°C), Pinlaung (2°C), Heho (4°C) and Mogyoke (5°C).

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

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

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

World's shortest woman wants to be Bollywood star

NAGPUR, 16 Dec—high school student in central India was recognized as the world's shortest woman by Guinness World Records on Friday as she turned 18 and said she hopes to earn a degree and make it in Bollywood.

Jyoti Amge stood just 62.8 centimeters (24.7 inches) tall — shorter than the average 2-year-old — when Guinness representatives visiting from London measured her at a ceremony attended by about 30 relatives and friends in the town of Nagpur, in Maharashtra state.



Guinness World Records adjudicator Rob Molloy, right, and Dr. Manoj Pahukar of Wockhardt hospital, second left, measure Jyoti Amge at a press conference in Nagpur, India, Friday, 16 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

A teary-eyed Amge, dressed in one of her finest saris, called the honor an "extra birthday present" and said she felt grateful for being small, as it had brought her recognition. After receiving a plaque, she and her guests cut a birthday cake.

"I have put Nagpur on the world map. Now everyone will know where it

is," said Amge, who says she dreams of one day becoming a Bollywood film star as well as pursuing a university degree after she finishes high school this year.

"I want to be an actor," she said.

She measured 7 centimeters (2.76 inches) shorter than 22-year-old

American Bridgette Jordan, who had held the title since September.

"Jyoti encourages us all to look beyond mere size and to just celebrate our differences," Guinness adjudicator Rob Molloy said.

This was not Amge's first Guinness record.

Departments concerned to solve problem for enabling all commodities to deal with legal trade activities

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on tour of Hsenwi Township, Kunlong District



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views learning of students at BEHS in Hsenwi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Union ministers, the Shan State Chief Minister, deputy ministers, departmental heads and national entrepreneurs left Lashio yesterday morning and arrived at Yaypu commodity checkpoint of Border Trade Department near Yaypu Village, 23 miles of Lashio.

At the briefing hall, the Vice-President heard reports on briefed history of the checkpoint, location and area, aim, strength of staff, undertaking of tasks, export of agricultural produce, and export marine products and animal products, import of commodities and seizure of illegal goods in fiscal years presented by the director of Border Trade Department.

The director-general of Border Trade Department and the Deputy Minister for Commerce gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President said that he and his party arrived at border trade camps to inspect smooth and swift flow of commodities. He added that the more the number of checkpoints, the slower the commodity flow. After levying the taxes,

merchants are to be allowed to ensure smooth commodity flow. Only when the government gets taxes in full amounts, will it accelerate construction of roads, bridges, schools and hospitals, he said.

Opening of the checkpoints are aimed at stopping the illegal flow of commodities, enabling the State to get taxes and helping the merchants deal with the legal trade activities, he said. And if they face difficulties again on their ways after paying prescribed taxes, they would apply illegal means and evade the taxes, he said. At present, he said that he has learnt many difficulties in commodities flow. It may be due to some difficulties of policies or departmental personnel, he said. Whatever it may be, he said that it is necessary to grant the merchants who have paid necessary charges at the respective points to trade their commodities freely.

He stressed the need to close the illegal gates on border trade commodities flow. However, he noted that seizure on goods, motorcycles and automobiles passing through illegal gates and taking action against the offenders are not original aims. In the time of the new government, he said that there should not be trading illegally. Therefore, departments concerned are to solve the problem for enabling all commodities to practise the legal trade route, he said. In doing so, he stressed the need not to put burden on the people and help them walk on the right track through best means. In conclusion, he said that the Shan State government should seek the best means and ways for smooth and swift flow of commodities.

(See page 8)

Hopes for unity and development: 4th GMS Summit on 19, 20 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Myanmar will host the 4th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit to be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre here on 19 and 20 December.

On the 1st day session, the working group will meet for final coordination for the summit along with economic and investment conference.

On the 2nd day session, video clips on successful cooperation of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries in tourism, agriculture and environmental conservation will be shown

followed by presentation of 2012-2022 Strategy Framework for Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, signing of MoUs in the presence of heads of GMS countries, and issuance of joint-declaration. This GMS Summit is believed to bring about unity and development in GMS countries.

Central Committee, Work Committee and Sub Committees were formed to prepare for successful holding of the 4th GMS Summit and preparation has now been completed cent per cent, it is reported.

MNA



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye meets local reporters



PAGE 9

Animals assist in earthquake monitoring in NE China

PAGE 5

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney: We want to win the Europa League



PAGE 14

A pair of red pandas arrive at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Thanks to endeavours of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry to show various species of animals to the visitors at zoological gardens, endangered species of a pair

of Myanmar origin red pandas arrived at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday.

They were found in the forest of Panwa region in Chipwe Sub-township (See page 10)