

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 18 December, 2011

## True patriotism

\* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

\* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

## Academic years of science and arts subjects will be added one more year in the coming year

### Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on tour of Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Union ministers, the Chief Minister of Shan State, deputy ministers, departmental heads and national race entrepreneurs, visited Technological University (Lashio) yesterday morning.

At the meeting hall, the Vice-President met the acting principal and faculty members.

The acting principal reported on matters related to the university.

Professor/Dean Dr Nyan Myint Kyaw reported on process of recruitment for Technological Universities



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets with township/ward/village level administrators at Mongyal Township Administrator Office.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at Basic Education High School in Mongyal.—MNA

and Universities of Computer Studies.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that technological universities are the venue to turn out technicians and engineers as well as the centre of human resources. The development tasks and construction works of the State can be carried out with the strength of human resources, he said.

He pointed out that technological weak points can be seen in construction tasks. Headed that weakness in theory will cause same action in practical work automatically. Therefore, he said that only when emphasis is to be placed on construction meeting set standards and prescribed rules and

regulations, can the buildings be safe and durable.

He said that a total of 70% population of the nation residing in the rural areas is engaged in agriculture task. Although they are enjoying sufficiency in food, clothing and shelter, only with industrialization can a modern nation be build, he said. He noted that there are many scientists, intellectuals and technicians in the nations with high GDP growth, and the nations with least number of technicians can be seen with low grade of GDP.

It is obvious that it depends much on qualification of technicians for industrialization of the nation, he said. He stressed that a total of 61 technological (See page 8)

### Significant night temperature (17-12-2011)

Haka	(-1°C)
Heho	(3°C)
Pinlaung	(4°C)
Mogok	(5°C)
Putao	(5°C)
PyinOoLwin	(6°C)



Yatanarpon Teleport Call Center launched

PAGE 2

### Bacteria can live in Mars-like conditions

PAGE 5



PAGE 5

How vulgar! £1 million 24-carat gold Rolls-Royce is unveiled

**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 18 December, 2011

**Make a change through self-control**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is an era of development. Businesses of many countries across the world are gaining remarkable progress through competitiveness. Factories, workshops and buildings are mushrooming in the global metropolitans one after another.

Despite development in metropolitans, disciplines are still weak. Failure to abide by disciplines tarnishes the images of the cities. Progress often goes with disciplines. Changes and developments simply call for nothing but disciplines.

By-products of factories and workshops harm the environment. Smoke, chemicals and garbage of factories not only fade out the images of cities but also hazard the health of people. Some people systematically throw wastage but some do not.

Yangon and Mandalay are model cities of us. They are the most densely populated areas. However, some persons with lack of discipline are tarnishing their images. Such indiscriminate activities as spitting betel and disposing garbage are not the behaviour of good citizen.

Nowadays, the nation is in the process of democratization, which demands good disciplines. Democracy goes together with discipline. To be a modern and developed democratic nation, all are to follow disciplines. Good disciplines can develop the nation.

There has been great news that Yangon will be modernized soon. In the process, physical changes should go together with spiritual changes.

To achieve progress, people need to show good behaviour of good citizen. All the people across the nation are to copy good ideals to be able to catch up with development momentum.

If you really love democracy follow the rules.

**MWAF donates cash and kind to Mental Health Hospital**

YANGON, 17 Dec—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation donated cash and kind to the patients of Mental Health Hospital in Ywathagyi of Yangon Region this morning.

The donation ceremony took place at the hospital attended by Patron of MWAF Daw Mya Theingi and members. The donations included K 970,000 for a day's meals, 400 blankets, 300 pairs of men's slippers, 100 pairs of women's slippers, 300 men's warm cloths, 100 women's warm cloths worth K 1,564,000 and K 72000 for 100 pairs of men's slippers totalling K 3,781,000. Assistant medical superintendent Dr Aung Zaw Myint accepted the donations and returned certificates of honour.

Then, the donors spoke words of encouragement to the patients.—MNA

**Mass walk activity celebrated in Zeyathiri Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—December third week mass walk activity was held in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun and the township police force commander together with departmental heads, ward/village level administrators, students and locals took part in the activity. The participants went for a walk from Shwetwining Village junction to National Landmarks Gardens in front of which they took exercises.—MNA

**Meeting (1/2011) of National Level Population and Development Commission held**



**Union Minister U Khin Yi addresses National Level Population and Development Commission Meeting (1/2011).—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Meeting (1/2011) of National Level Population and Development Commission took place at

the Ministry of Immigration and population here yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for

Immigration and Population U Khin Yi said Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) was

found in Beijing of China in 1981 and it is now based in Bangkok of Thailand. For Myanmar to join the forum, Mr Shiv Khare, executive director of AFPPD paid a visit to the country and discussed with Hluttaw officials last month. In the Hluttaw, a social development committee has been formed and National Level Population and Development Commission was formed on 24 November this year. The commission was founded with the aim of implementing population and development tasks in Myanmar and cooperating with international population organizations, added the Union Minister.

Then, the commission members explained the structure of the commission, duties and responsibilities and future tasks. Later, commission members held discussions.

MNA

**Yatanarpon Teleport Call Center launched**

YANGON, 17 Dec—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Yatanarpon Teleport Company and Blue Ocean operating Management jointly launched Yatanarpon Teleport Call Center at the center in the MPT compound near Hanthawady Roundabout on Pyay Road here this morning.

Union CPT Minister U Thein Tun and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attended the launching ceremony. The call center is the first of its kind in Myanmar and was established with a view to contributing to emergence of contact centers at which people can enquire more information. The similar centers will be opened in the capital and Mandalay.

MNA



**Union CPT Minister U Thein Tun and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe look round newly-opened Yatanarpon Teleport Call Center.—MNA**

**Yangon Region Chief Minister attends South-East Asia Men's Horkey Tournament at Theinbyu Horkey Turf**

YANGON, 17 Dec—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, together with Deputy Minister Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and wife, the regional ministers and wives, officials concerned from Sports and Physical Education Department, regional level departmental heads, residents and students, participated in the December mass-walk activity for the third week taken place in front of Thuwanna Sports Ground in Thingangyun Township here this morning.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister enjoyed the final match of the 2nd South-East Asia Cup Men's Horkey Tournament, and presented awards to the winners at Theinbyu Horkey Turf in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township here this evening.—MNA

**Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe awards Champion Cup to Malaysian winners.**

MNA



## 'Dirty bomb' nuclear exercise conducted

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—An international nuclear emergency response exercise has been successfully completed in the Bahamas, the US National Nuclear Security Administration says. The two-day exercise was a response to the mock discovery of radiological material that could be fabricated into a "dirty bomb," said a NNSA release Friday.

"The exercise was critical in strengthening the capabilities of our international partners to respond effectively to the detection of nuclear or radiological materials," said NNSA Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations Joseph Krol. "NNSA's response capabilities highlight our efforts to leverage NNSA's resources to support our international partners while implementing President Obama's nuclear security agenda," Krol said. The overall purpose of the drill was to work out the plans for how to detect radiological material, package it up and dispose of it in the area of the Bahamas, the NNSA said.

Internet

## US hands prisoner over to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Dec—The Obama administration says it's turned over the last remaining prisoner being held by American forces in Iraq to the Iraqi government.

The prisoner, Ali Musa Daqduq, a Lebanese suspected of being a Hezbollah operative, is accused of helping orchestrate a January 2007 raid by Shiite militants that killed five American soldiers, *The New York Times* reported. One of the soldiers was killed immediately, and four others were kidnapped and later shot and dumped beside a road, the newspaper said. Families of those victims were notified Daqduq was being transferred to the Iraqi police, the administration said. "We have sought and received assurances that he will be tried for his crimes," Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council, said. "We've worked this at the highest levels of the US and Iraqi government, and we'll continue to discuss with the Iraqis the best way to ensure that he faces justice."

Internet

## Barack Obama names Nancy Powell as India envoy



Barack Obama

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—US President Barack Obama has named Nancy Powell, a career diplomat who has served as ambassador to Pakistan and to Nepal, to be the next ambassador to India and fill a half-year vacancy.

Powell, who holds the rank of career ambassador, a prestigious title given only to select career diplomats based on their service, takes the place of Timothy J Roemer, a political appointee who resigned in June. In a statement announcing Powell's appointment and a separate appointee, Obama said: "These fine public

servants both bring a depth of experience and tremendous dedication to their new roles.

"Our nation will be well-served by these individuals, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come." Apart from Pakistan and Nepal, Powell, who joined the foreign service in 1977 after teaching school in Dayton, Iowa, has also served as ambassador to Ghana and Uganda.

Her stint in Pakistan between 2002-2004 came as the US was first seeking Islamabad's cooperation in fighting Al-Qaeda and the Taleban after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks.

Her other overseas assignments included service in New Delhi, Calcutta, Ottawa, Kathmandu, Islamabad, Lome, and Dhaka. Her Washington assignments have included: Refugee Assistance Officer, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Acting Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Activities, and the National Intelligence Officer for South Asia at the National Intelligence Council. She's currently serving as director general of the foreign service and director of human resources at the State Department. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. The Senate must confirm Powell's appointment.—Internet

## Kabul police station attacked

KABUL, 17 Dec—A police station in the Afghan capital came under militant attack Friday, with at least one explosion and several bursts of gunfire heard, officials said.

A man lobbed grenades at the fifth district police station in west Kabul before fleeing but the situation was soon brought under control, Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said. The Taleban have claimed responsibility. "An unidentified man threw two or three grenades at the police station in the fifth district. Nobody has been injured and police are searching to find the attacker. The area is now under control," Stanikzai said.

A spokesman for the interior ministry confirmed the attack but said there was just one grenade thrown and nobody had been injured. "An unidentified man threw a grenade at the police station and then fled. Security forces are searching for him. Luckily nobody has been injured," said Sediq Sediqi.

Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said a group of suicide bombers had carried out the attack and there were several casualties.

The Taleban are known to routinely exaggerate and distort their claims in relation to attacks. An AFP photographer in the area said he had heard several burst of gunfire.

He said the power in the area had been temporarily cut and roads had been closed, with a heavy police cordon put up.

Kabul is under high security but there have been several spectacular Taleban attacks in the capital this year including in September when a barrage of gunfire and suicide blasts targeted the US embassy and the neighbouring NATO headquarters, leaving several dead.

A suicide bombing at a Shiite shrine in Kabul on December 6 killed at least 80 people although the Taleban denied responsibility for that incident.

Internet



Police rescue trapped residents following a flash flood that inundated Cagayan de Oro city, Philippines, on 17 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The two leaders were joined by their respective delegations. INTERNET

## India, Russia sign five agreements; no pact for Kudankulam 3, 4

MOSCOW, 17 Dec—India and Russia today signed five agreements including on defence, health and education, and resolved to carry forward bilateral cooperation to strengthen their strategic partnership for meeting future global challenges. No agreement on Kudankulam nuclear power reactors 3 and 4 was signed, as anticipated.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev who led their respective sides at the 12th India-Russia Summit, signed a Joint Statement on strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries for meeting future global challenges including economic and political. The talks at the Kremlin, lasted for nearly three hours with a one-on-one first for two hours. The two leaders were later joined by their respective delegations.—Internet



File photo of Afghan policemen standing guard after an explosion in the centre of Kabul.—INTERNET

## Typhoon hits Philippines killing more than 400

CAGAYAN DE ORO, 17 Dec—A typhoon hit the southern Philippines triggering flash floods and landslides that killed more than 400 people and forced about 100,000 from their homes.

Typhoon Washi, with winds gusting up to 90km/h, hit the resource-rich island of Mindanao late yesterday, bringing heavy rain that also grounded some domestic flights and left wide areas without power.

Five miners were killed in a landslide in Monkayo on Mindanao and another 21 people drowned on the central island of Nagros, the PNRC said. The national disaster agency said five miners were also buried in a landslide.

"I can't explain how these things happened, entire villages were swept to the sea by flash floods," Galon told Reuters, saying the death toll could rise as hundreds of people were unaccounted for.

Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Cruz said many people were caught by surprise when water rose a metre high in less than an hour, forcing people onto roofs. The national disaster agency said it could not estimate crop and property damage because emergency workers, including soldiers and police officers, were evacuating families and recovering casualties. The social welfare department said about 100,000 people were displaced and brought to more than a dozen shelters in the two cities.—MNA/Reuters

## NYC tops in child obesity improvement



Overall obesity rates among New York City public elementary and middle school students dropped during the past five years, federal health officials say.

INTERNET

ATLANTA, 17 Dec—Overall obesity rates among New York City public elementary and middle school students dropped during the past five years, federal health officials say.

A report published in the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report said the weight loss was across all racial and ethnic groups.

"The findings marks the biggest decline in childhood obesity reported by any large municipality in the country," the report said. "Obesity rates among kindergartners through eighth grade — children ages 5 through 14 — decreased by 5.5 percent from 21.9 percent for the school year of 2006-2007 to 20.7 percent in 2010-2011."

The sharpest decline was among children ages 5-6, with a drop from 20.2 percent in the school year 2006-2007 to 18.2 percent in 2010-2011 in this age group — an improvement of almost 10 percent the report said.

Despite encouraging trends, one-in-five children in Kindergarten to grade 8 is still obese, CDC officials said.

Internet

## Health Tip: Keep diabetes in check during the holidays

Holiday parties, desserts and buffets can throw your diabetes meal plan way off-track.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention suggests how to enjoy the holidays if you're diabetic:

- \* Enjoy a healthy snack before you go to a party, or pack one to take with you.
- \* Make small portions from the holiday buffet, and make your table far away from the food.
- \* Stick to low-calorie drinks, and limit alcohol to one drink a day for women, or two drinks a day for men.
- \* Skip poultry with skin, ham with a honey glaze, and creamy side dishes and sauces.
- \* Opt for veggie-based, light side dishes, especially fresh vegetables.
- \* Enjoy fresh fruit, instead of a piece of pie.
- \* Make socializing with friends and family the focus of the season, rather than food.—Internet

## 173 polio cases reported in Pakistan this year

ISLAMABAD, 17 Dec—A total of 173 polio cases have been reported in Pakistan this year, the most in five years, local media reported on Friday.

Quoting health officials, Geo TV reported that 144 polio cases had been reported across Pakistan last year.

Southwestern Balochistan province has been the most affected area with 68 cases reported there, said sources in the National Institute of Health, Islamabad.

The insurgency-hit tribal regions listed second with 50 cases reported this year while 30 cases have been reported in southern Sindh province. Geo TV reported that only five cases have been reported in the most populous Punjab province while only one has been reported in northern Gilgit-Baltistan areas. A total of 19 cases have been reported in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province.

Health officials said that activities of the militants, military operations, poor security situation and a negative propaganda in tribal areas and KPK and Balochistan that polio drops can deprive people from children, have affected the anti-polio campaign.—Xinhua

## Health



## HIV test campaign gets boost in South Africa's W Cape Province

CAPE TOWN, 17 Dec—More people voluntarily get HIV tests in the Western Cape province, an indication of people's rising awareness of the epidemic, authorities said on Thursday.

Nearly 11,000 people in the province have been tested over the past 10 days as authorities stepped efforts to halve the number of HIV transmissions over the next few years, according to official figures.

Authorities expect more people to be tested when the monthly campaign ends by the end of December.

In December last year, 67,111 people were tested. This year's figure is expected to be higher than that of last year, said Western Cape Premier Helen Zille.

The campaign, known as Know Your Status and Win, may become a regular feature in the province, said Zille.

To encourage more people to take part in the campaign, the province offers awards to several winners by drawing, ranging from 10,000 rand (about 1,250 US dollars) to 50,000 rand (about 6,250 dollars).

"The bottom line is that people respond to incentives," said Zille, who hailed the campaign a success.

She said the reality was that those who stubbornly did not want to get tested, were those crucially in need of doing so.

While the data still had to be audited, preliminary results indicated a spike in the number of people who were tested.—Xinhua

## Business

### Zynga to begin trading on Nasdaq after \$10 IPO

NEW YORK, 17 Dec—Investors will get the chance to reap "Farmville's" harvest on Friday, as shares of online game developer Zynga Inc. start trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The San Francisco company, which specializes in Facebook games, priced its initial public offering late Thursday at \$10 per share, raising \$1 billion.

That makes it the largest Internet-related IPO since Google Inc. went public in 2004, raising \$1.4 billion.

The price was at the top of its expected range, a sign that investors are eager to dig into the latest in a series of high-profile technology IPOs this year.

It values the company at about \$7 billion.

Zynga charges small amounts of money — a few cents, sometimes a couple of dollars — for virtual items in online games. The games are free to play.

Players can acquire items that range from crops in "Farmville" to buildings in "CityVille," its most popular Facebook game.

With its huge player base

and a few loyal spenders, Zynga earned a net income of \$90.6 million in 2010, an unusual pre-IPO money maker in the sector. Cowen & Co. analyst Doug Creutz, however, initiated coverage Friday with a "Neutral" rating on the stock.

While Zynga is the leader in Facebook gaming, he's concerned that it won't be able to grow fast enough to justify its stock price.

Growth in Facebook gaming has slowed, and Zynga's market share has declined from 50 percent to 38 percent of daily active users, he wrote.—Internet

The corporate logo for Zynga, center, is shown on an electronic billboard at the Nasdaq MarketSite, on Friday, 16 Dec, 2011, in New York. Stock in the San Francisco company began trading at Nasdaq, on Friday following its IPO.

INTERNET



Models pose with the Galaxy Nexus, the first smartphone to feature Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich and a HD Super AMOLED display, during a news conference in Hong Kong on 19 Oct, 2011. REUTERS

## Galaxy and iPhone to top smartphone holiday sales

HELSINKI, 17 Dec—Apple's long-awaited iPhone 4S and Samsung Electronics' fresh, broad offering are likely to stand out in this holiday season's smartphone sales which will otherwise be clouded by global economic uncertainty.

Apple, which lost its position as the world's largest smartphone maker to Samsung last quarter, could regain top spot as consumers rush to buy the latest iPhone after waiting 16 months since the previous model went on sale.

Like millions elsewhere, 36-year-old Vanessa Pigeon

last week took up an offer from her telecom operator and replaced her aging Blackberry with the latest iPhone.

"I liked the design and I wanted to change for a long time," said Pigeon, a recruitment official in Paris.

In neighboring Britain, which is often seen as the indicator for the rest of the European market, the iPhone took a whopping 43 percent market share in October, overtaking phones using Google Inc's Android platform, according to research firm Kantar Worldpanel ComTech.

"It's really only the iPhone family and the (Samsung) Galaxy family flying off the shelves. Everyone else is just picking up the leftovers," said Neil Mawston, analyst at research firm Strategy Analytics in Milton Keynes, Britain.

HTC and Research In Motion — No 4 and No 5 smartphone vendors — have already warned of weak holiday sales. The year end is a key sales season for smartphone vendors as consumers often replace their models for the holidays.—Reuters

**Olympus Mons on Mars, the largest volcano in the solar system: Volcanic rock - olivine which is found on Mars formed the 'food' for the bacteria living in mountains in Oregon. Microbes found in a lava tube in Oregon are thriving in Mars-like conditions—near freezing temperatures and low levels of oxygen, US researchers say.**  
INTERNET

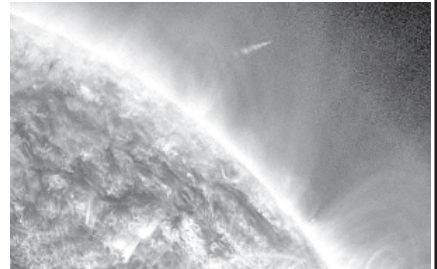
**Bacteria can live in Mars-like conditions**

CORVALLIS, 17 Dec— Microbes found in a lava tube in Oregon are thriving in Mars-like conditions—near freezing temperatures and low levels of oxygen, US researchers say. Oregon State University researchers say the microbes can grow in the absence of organic food, with their metabolism driven by the oxidation of iron from olivine, a common volcanic mineral. These factors make the microbes capable of living in the subsurface of

Mars and other planetary bodies, the scientists say. "This microbe is from one of the most common genera of bacteria on Earth," OSU doctoral student Amy Smith said in a university release Thursday. "You can find its cousins in caves, on your skin, at the bottom of the ocean and just about anywhere. What is different, in this case, is its unique qualities that allow it to grow in Mars-like conditions." The microbes were collected from a lava

tube near Newberry Crater in Oregon's Cascades Mountains at an elevation of about 5,000 feet. "We know from direct examination, as well as satellite imagery, that olivine is in Martian rocks," study author Martin Fisk said. "And now we know that olivine can sustain microbial life. "Although this study does not exactly duplicate what you would find on Mars, it does show that bacteria can live in similar conditions," he said.

Internet



This image provided by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, taken Thursday shows the Comet Lovejoy leaving the sun's corona which is several million degrees. A small comet survived what astronomers figured would be a sure death when it danced uncomfortably close to the broiling sun on Thursday night.—INTERNET

**Comet shows you can get really close to sun and survive**

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec— A small comet survived what astronomers figured would be a sure death when it danced uncomfortably close to the broiling sun Thursday night.

Comet Lovejoy was only discovered a couple of weeks ago. It was supposed to melt as it came so close to the sun that the temperatures would hit several million

degrees.

But astronomers watching live with NASA telescopes were shocked when a bright spot emerged on the sun's other side. Lovejoy lived.

The comet came within 75,000 miles (121,000 kilometres) of the sun. For a

small object often described as a dirty snowball, that brush with the sun should have been fatal.

Astronomers say it probably was not deadly because the comet was larger than they thought.

Internet

*Science*

**How vulgar! £1 million 24-carat gold Rolls-Royce is unveiled**



Driving offence: The classless 24-carat gold makeover of the iconic Rolls-Royce Ghost model.—INTERNET

LONDON, 17 Dec—The Rolls-Royce has always had a history of elegance and class - until now. That prestigious reputation has been smashed by the world's most vulgar makeover of the company's iconic Ghost model.

An Italian fashion design house has created a gold-

covered monstrosity costing more than £1 million.

The Fenice Milano 'Diva' has been spray painted in 24-carat gold and the company is so proud of it they have described the model as a 'true masterpiece.'

It is fitted with the same 6-litre twin-turbocharged engine of the Ghost, giving the saloon more than 560bhp and a top speed of 155mph.

Fenice Milano believes their Rolls-Royce is a 'synonym for class, elegance and style'. many would disagree. The interior has biscuit leather and 24-carat gold throughout. The standard Ghost costs £220,000 but the Diva is now for sale at £1.05million.

Phillip Brooks, a Rolls-Royce historian, described the car as 'bizarre' but also 'spectacular'. He said: "I think what Fenice is doing with the Ghost is quite interesting. It's certainly a case of gilding the lily, but the gilding job looks pretty good. 'My personal taste doesn't run to something like a Diva, but I think it would be great fun to show up in one. All in all, perhaps a slightly bizarre car, but a very neat one.'

Internet



Hundreds of gaming fans wait to play Sony Computer Entertainment's new portable videogame console "PlayStation Vita" at the annual Tokyo Game Show, September 2011. Sony on Saturday launches its next-generation PlayStation Vita handheld console in Japan, its gamble to take a bite out of the burgeoning smartphone market for games.—INTERNET

**Sony to launch PlayStation Vita handheld console**

TOKYO, 17 Dec—Sony on Saturday launches its next-generation PlayStation Vita handheld console in Japan, its gamble to take a bite out of the burgeoning smartphone market for games.

The new device features

a five-inch (12 centimetre) organic LED touch screen and comes in WiFi and 3G models, according to the Japanese electronics giant.

"Pre-orders are very strong," Andrew House, head of Sony's game unit, told *Kyodo News* and other

media in Tokyo.

Without giving a specific figure, the Sony Computer Entertainment president said the company was aiming for sales of the PS Vita to far outstrip the 73 million units of the PlayStation Portable sold around the world since 2004.

PS Vitas will be launched in the United States and Europe on 22 Feb, Sony said. Nintendo's Game Boy, released in 1989, led the handheld game market until the mid-2000s when Sony's PSP cut into its share.

But the emergence of iPhone and Android games is threatening the existence of game-specific handheld devices. Nintendo launched its 3DS portable game console about 10 months ago and it is gaining popularity.—Internet

**Technology**

**JBL's OnBeat Xtreme makes iPad sound awesome**

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Dec—As tablets go the iPad has a pretty good speaker, but it's not nearly as good as the ones built into the new JBL OnBeat Xtreme docking station.

The dock, which works with the iPad, iPhone and iPod, comes with built-in JBL tweeters and woofers that practically blow the roof off. Well, that's a bit of an overstatement but they do sound very good. Harman International (which owns the JBL brand) says that the "dock delivers 30 watts of amplification to each of its four transducers."

I have an evaluation loaner perched next to my bed and I sometimes use it at night to watch videos on my iPad. I also connect my iPhone to charge it up and let it charge me up



with music while I get ready for bed or get dressed in the morning. It would also work well in a kitchen, a den or dorm room but at a street price of \$500, it's pretty pricey.

The device has the usual iPad/iPhone/iPod 30-pin connector that also charges the device, but you can also connect wirelessly via Bluetooth. And, in case I'm feeling too lazy to reach over to my bed stand to adjust the volume, I can use the wireless remote control. Because it uses RF instead of infrared, I don't have to point it at the unit.

There is also a composite video output to connect to send video to a TV.—Internet

JBL's OnBeat Xtreme Makes iPad Sound Awesome

## Japan may ban raw liver over E coli



Japan's Health Ministry says the detection of E Coli in beef liver may result in the banning of raw liver from the country's dining menus.—INTERNET

TOKYO, 17 Dec—Japan's Health Ministry says the detection of E Coli in beef liver may result in the banning of raw liver from the country's dining menus.

restaurants earlier this year, *Kyodo News* reported Friday.

Live E coli was detected in the livers of two of about 150 cattle examined at meat inspection centres nationwide since summer, the ministry said.

Restaurants had already been asked by the government to refrain from serving raw beef liver while the ministry conducted the examinations.

Food poisoning from E coli can be fatal, and thorough heating is necessary to kill the bacteria in the liver, health officials said.

Twenty of the 116 cases of food poisoning from eating raw beef liver confirmed between 1998 and 2010 were caused by E coli, the ministry said.—*Internet*

The Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry will consider a ban on selling raw beef liver following food poisoning deaths from raw beef served at barbecue

## UN has taken Haiti cholera claims "very seriously": spokesman

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Dec—The United Nations takes seriously the accusation that it may have caused a 2010 cholera outbreak in Haiti, UN spokesman Farhan Haq said here Friday.

"The United Nations has taken this matter very seriously," Haq said at a daily news briefing in response to a reporter's question about a

legal claim brought about on behalf of cholera victims in Haiti.

"The claim has been received and is currently being studied," he said.

A cholera outbreak in Haiti in October 2010 cost the lives of more than 6,700 Haitians just months after a devastating earthquake struck the island country.

There have been accusations that the cholera outbreak originated with Nepalese peacekeepers working for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

"In January 2011, the secretary-general appointed

a panel of independent scientific experts to study all available evidence in order to determine the cause of the cholera outbreak and epidemic," Haq noted.

The panel of four medical experts, led by Alejandro Cravioto of Mexico, concluded in a report that the bacteria that caused the cholera did not originate in Haiti but could not say definitively how it arrived there.

"The panel determined it was not possible to be conclusive about how cholera was introduced into Haiti," said Haq.

*Internet*

## Russia working on new long-range missile

MOSCOW, 17 Dec—A liquid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile capable of breaching a proposed NATO missile defense system is being developed in Russia, a general said.

Lt Gen Sergei Karakayev, Russia's Strategic Missile Forces chief, said the 100-ton silo-launched heavy missile will have "enhanced capability," *RIA Novosti* reported Friday.

The missile would replace Russia's solid-propellant ICBMs.

Karakayev said the Strategic Missile Forces will test-launch 11 ICBMs next year.

Russia is opposed to US-led NATO plans to build a missile defense system in Europe to protect against a possible attack from Iran. Karakayev said Iran has neither the technology nor the industrial potential to build ballistic missiles, *RIA Novosti* reported.

*Internet*



A police officer stands behind part of a display of 249 grenades seized in the municipality of Zarzal, during a news conference in Cali on 16 December, 2011. These grenades were seized from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), according to the Colombian police.

XINHUA

## Spending bill nixes light bulb standards

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—Among the provisions in the omnibus spending bill developed by US House and Senate negotiators is language to block light bulb efficiency standards.

The legislation, which would avoid a government shutdown, would block funding for implementing some of the Energy Department's light bulb standards that were to begin phasing in next year, *The Hill* reported Thursday.

House Republicans have sought for months to repeal provisions in a 2007 energy law that require incandescent light bulbs to be 30 percent more efficient starting in 2012.

Republicans, describing the standards as a "light bulb ban," argue that the rules restrict consumer choice by demoting traditional incandescent bulbs in favor of light emitting diode and compact fluorescent light bulbs, both more expensive but more efficient, *The Hill* said.

Environmental and energy-efficiency groups said the standards don't ban incandescent bulbs, but require the bulbs be more efficient.

Even with the added expense, experts say more efficient light bulbs are money-savers because they save consumers money on their electricity bills.—*Internet*



Former US President Bill Clinton touted energy-saving fluorescent light bulbs in 1994. INTERNET

## Australia jails three for army base terror plot

SYDNEY, 17 Dec—Three men who plotted a suicide attack against an army base in the Australian city of Sydney were sentenced on Friday to 18 years in prison, the *Australian Associated Press (AAP)* reported.

The three men planned to kill as many people as possible during a mass shooting at the Holsworthy Barracks, which is located in the outer south-western Sydney suburb of Holsworthy. They were ordered to serve a non-parole period of 13.5 years after they were found guilty of

conspiring to prepare for or plan a terrorist act between February and August 2009.

One of the defendants, 35-year-old Wissam Mahmoud Fattal, had to be removed from the court after he began ranting about Palestine and Afghanistan, *AAP* reported. The other defendants were identified as 28-year-old Saney Edow Aweys and 27-year-old Nayef El Sayed.

Supreme Court Justice Betty King said it would have been a "totally horrific event" if their planning had ever come to pass. She said all three

showed no remorse and had not renounced their extremist beliefs, the news report said.

During a three-month trial in 2010, the court heard the men wanted to advance Islam, which they believe is under attack from the West, including Australia. Most of the prosecution case relied on transcripts of secretly recorded telephone conversations. The men were arrested in pre-dawn raids across Melbourne in August 2009. Two other Melbourne men were cleared by a jury over their alleged roles in the plot.—*Internet*

## Assange extradition case goes to British supreme court

LONDON, 17 Dec—The British supreme court Friday said it would consider an appeal by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange against his extradition to Sweden. Seven judges would hear the case in February, *BBC* reported.

The 40-year-old Assange, who remains on conditional bail in Britain, is wanted by Sweden over allegations of sexual assault.

The Australian national had denied the allegations, saying they are politically motivated.

The high court earlier approved his extradition but Assange termed the decision unlawful.

Swedish authorities are seeking to put him on trial for the alleged rape of a woman and "sexually molesting and coercing" another in Stockholm in

August 2010.

The WikiLeaks website published a mass of material from leaked US diplomatic cables, embarrassing several governments.

Bradley Manning, a US army analyst suspected of leaking the documents, faces 22 charges of obtaining and distributing government secrets

*Internet*

**WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange speaks to the media outside the High Court in London in this 5 December, 2011 file photo. Britain's Supreme Court, the country's highest judicial body, said on 16 December, 2011, it had granted permission for Assange to appeal against extradition to Sweden over alleged sex crimes.**

INTERNET



## Ayeyawady Bridge, 8<sup>th</sup> facility in time of government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Article: Kayan Soe Myint;  
Photos: Kyaw Moe Lwin

Multi-coloured pennants with the logo of Special Project Construction Group (5) of Public Works were fluttering in the breeze hoisted around Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon). Lovely songs were on the air at the pavilion on Nyaungdon bank of Ayeyawady on 27 November.

It was a scene to inaugurate the Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) which was the eighth facility of its kind in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In the past, the local people in Ayeyawady Region had to rely mainly on waterways as major transport service some parts of motor roads. Now, the country has ushered in a new era. About 435 miles of motor roads and 57 bridges of above 180 feet long are comprised in the road network of 11 highways. Moreover, a total of 33 bridges and railroads are under construction. As such, Ayeyawady Region is gathering momentum in greater development day by day.

The local people totalling over 10000 who had already heard that President U Thein Sein will attend the ceremony to open the bridge arrived at the venue of bridge inauguration ceremony not only on

Nyaungdon bank but also on the approach road and main bridge on Yangon bank.

At 8 am, President U Thein Sein delivered an address and then unveiled the stone plaque.

On the occasion, President U Thein Sein said that today was the red letter day for him and Ayeyawady dwellers because the government could build the 57<sup>th</sup> large bridge for Ayeyawady Region.

He said that it was a wonderful award to Ayeyawady residents who have to cross rivers and creeks in going to one place from another to have such a large bridge with both motor road and railroad.

He said that the government was planning to set up a deep sea port and an industrial zone in Ayeyawady Region. He noted that motor roads, railroads, river- and creek-crossing bridges and deep sea ports were instrumental for the nation to distribute domestic products locally and internationally, for which the government was spending a large sum of money, adding that it was doing so not only for a particular place or region but for the entire nation.

Blessed with fertile soil, rivers, creeks, and lakes abundant of fish, and adequate rainfall for agriculture, Ayeyawady



Local people at inauguration ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) on Nyaungdon bank of Ayeyawady River.

Region could eradicate poverty and would even become developed region if Ayeyawady dwellers worked hard utilizing those resources, he said.

Ayeyawady dwellers could serve the interests of their home region and the country with strength like the white elephant, which had emerged from the region, he said.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint said that the already inaugurated Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) is located between mile post No. 40/5 on Yangon-Pathien Road and mile post No. 1/6 on Kyeinpinhse-Sekkawt-Danubyu-Zalun-Hinthada Road in Ayeyawady Region, 8000 upstream of Bo Myat Tun Bridge. It was a two-way motor road-cum-railroad facility made of steel frames, he added.

As there was no railroad linking Ayeyawady and Yangon regions, the former relied on motor roads and waterways only in the past, he said.

With the aim of ensuring swift flow of passengers and commodities, he said that the government constructed Yangon (Hlinethaya)-Pathien and Yangon (Hlinethaya)-Zalun-Hinthada railroads, and then built Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon)

to be able to link the railroads.

The government with farsightedness constructed the rail-cum-road bridge for serving the interest of the local people without building a railroad separately, he said.

The newly inaugurated bridge is of bored pile RC type and its upper structure is of steel frame. The main bridge is 7402 feet long, approach bridge road 3412 feet long, approach bridge railroad 13143 feet long, and the whole bridge is 10814 feet long for main bridge and approach road bridge and 20545 feet long for the main bridge and approach bridge railroad. The facility has 28 feet wide two-way motor road, 14 feet wide railroad, three feet wide pedestrian way on either side, and 262 feet wide and 57 feet high clearance.

At present, local people of Hinthada and Zalun can grasp the opportunity to have easier access to Pathien and Yangon (Hlinethaya) through Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) by train. Moreover, they can travel to Kalay of Sagaing Region from Pathien along 700 feet long route by train by linking Pakokku-Kyangin-Hinthada railroad section.

Translation: TTA  
Kyemon: 13-12-2011

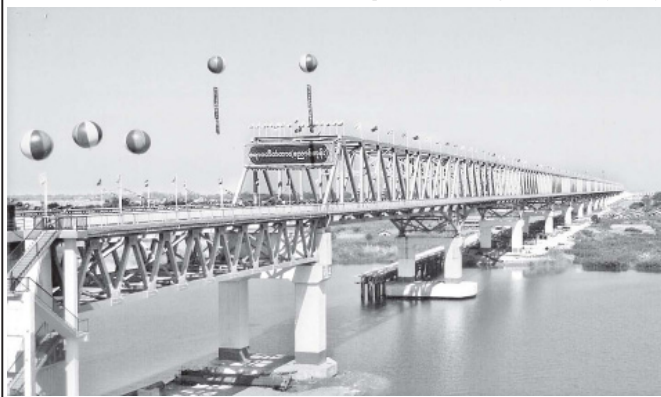


Photo shows Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) opened in time of government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

### LOCALSPORTS

#### Dinner hosted to hockey teams

YANGON, 17 Dec—A welcoming dinner was hosted to members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEA Men's Hockey Tournament 2011 at Karaweik Palace in Mingala Taungnyunt on 15 December.

President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Htin Zaw Win extended greetings and presented gifts to tournament officials Director Mr Ryuichi Koshiko and Umpire Manager Mr Reshad Mahmood Butt.

Vice-Presidents of the federation U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and U Zaw Win gave gifts to the managers of the hockey teams. Later, they were served with dinner.

MNA

#### National Badminton Championship kicks off

YANGON, 17 Dec—A ceremony to open the National Badminton Championship (Great Wall) 2011 was held at the National Badminton Gymnasium in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe delivered a speech and opened the championship.—MNA

#### Rakhine traditional wrestling held

YANGON, 17 Dec—In commemoration of the Rakhine State Day 2011, the Rakhine traditional wrestling contest was held at Phayagyi Wingabar sports ground in Sittway on 13 December.

Altogether 13 athletes participated in the golden gong class and 299 in the silver gong class.

The Chief Minister of Rakhine State and wife presented one tical of gold to the first prize winner in the gold gong class and 0.75 tical of gold to the first prize winner in the silver gong class.

MNA

#### Thayawady District emerges champion in Bago Region Football Tourney

YANGON, 17 Dec—The prize distribution for the Bago Region Chief Minister's Shield Inter-District Men's Open Football Tournament was held at the district sports ground in Toungoo on 12 December afternoon.

In the final match, Thayawady District secured champion with a 3-1 win over Pyay District.

Next, Regional level authorities and region ministers concerned presented prizes to best players in respective places.

The Bago Region Chief Minister awarded K 300,000 as cash award to second prize winning Pyay District team and K 500,000 and championship shield to Thayawady District team.

MNA

### DISTRICTNEWS

#### World AIDS Day marked

YANGON, 17 Dec—A ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day, organized by Hmawby Township Health Department, was held at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Hmawby Township on 14 December.

Township level officials explained AIDS combating programmes, tasks of township in AIDS disease and infection of HIV virus.—township IPRD

#### Model plot of paddy harvested

YEDASHE, 17 Dec—Monsoon paddy on 0.10 acres of land was harvested in Nyaungbintha Village-tract of Yedashe Township on 28 November.

Bago regional level officials, township agricultural supervisory committee and local farmers took part in the paddy harvesting.

The model plot 72.17 baskets of dried paddy per acre.—township IPRD

#### K 6 million loans disbursed to vendors

MOGOUNG, 17 Dec—As part of efforts to alleviate poverty of the people, Mogoung Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed loans to vendors at Myoma Market in the township on 12 December.

The executive committee officer of Township DAC explained the purpose of disbursing loans and presented K 6 million to 60 vendors.—Kyemon

## Academic years of science and arts subjects...

(from page 1)

universities must be qualified for contributing to the economic development of the nation and these institutions must turn out a large number of technicians for enhancement of industrial sector of the nation.

Therefore, he said that academic years of science and arts subjects will be added one more year in the coming year, and that of vocational universities will also be added one more academic year. He said that real quality of graduates and post-graduates turned out from the universities opened by the State for enabling the local people to pursue higher education in their regions depends on faculty members.

Thus, he noted that the faculty members are to accept the concepts to take responsibilities not only for themselves but also for the government in turning out the technicians.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presented sports gear and Shwe Than Lwin Co Chairman U Kyaw Win, three sets of Sky Net TV receiver to the university.

The Vice-President cordially greeted faculty members of the university.

Next, the Vice-President and party viewed practical room and encouraged the students learning at Technological University (Lashio), and inspected repair work of the university main building.

Together with the Shan State Chief Minister, the Vice-President and party left Lashio and arrived at Mongyal at 10.30am.

First, the Vice-President and entourage went to Mongyal People's Hospital where they inspected women's ward, delivery room, dental unit, surgical room, medicine store, X-ray room, extended vaccine store and men's ward.

The Vice-President coordinated the needs in relation to the briefed report

presented by Medical Superintendent Dr Than Than Swe.

At donation ceremony, the Shan State Chief Minister presented K 1 million for medical fund. Shwe Than Lwin Co, Asia World Co, Loi Hein Co, United Amara Bank, Tamoeyne Chantha Co and Kanbawza Bank Limited donated K 15 million for medical fund and K 5 million for conducting of trainings. Shwe Than Lwin Co donated two sets of Sky Net TV receiver.

On arrival at Mongyal Basic Education High School, the Vice-President and party inspected science lab and multimedia classroom.

Afterwards, the Shan State Chief Minister presented K 1 million, Union Minister U Tint Hsan, sports gear, ACE Co, K 15 million for school fund, United Amara Bank Chairman U Nay Aung on behalf of the six companies, K 8 million, and Shwe Than Lwin Co, two sets of Sky Net receiver to the medical superintendent.

The Vice-President in meeting with township/ward/village level administrators at Mongyal Township Administrator Office gave a speech.

Next, administrators of wards and village-tracts reported to the Vice-President on respective requirements for development. The Vice-President coordinated the proposals and made concluding remarks, followed by donation ceremony in which Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Asia World Co, Shwe Than Lwin Co, Loi Hein Co, Tamoeyne Chantha Co, United Amara Bank presented K 10 million for Zina Manaung Monastery.

Next, Shwe Than Lwin Co presented 28 sets of Sky Net TV receiver for 28 village-tracts in Mongyal Township. The Vice-President then cordially conversed with Hluttaw representatives and senior citizens present on the occasion.



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Tangyan Basic Education High School.—MNA

The Vice-President and party then left Mongyal for Tangyan where they visited and donated cash and kind to the medical fund of the hospital, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Asia World Co, Loi Hein Co, United Amara Bank, Tamoeyne Chantha Co and Shwe Than Lwin Co contributed K 30 million and Shwe Than Lwin Co two sets of Sky Net TV receiver to the hospital.

The Vice-President then met administrators of township, wards and village-tracts at the Township Hall. Then, ward and village administrators and townswellers reported on their respective regional development work. Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin gave their supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham made a speech. Then follow a cash donation ceremony in which Kanbawza Bank Co, Asia World Co, Loi Hein Co, United Amara Bank, Tamoeyne Chantha Co, Shwe Than Lwin Co and ACE Company donated K 5 million each for regional development of Mongkaung, Naunglain and Panwe villages and K 3

million each for regional development of Nahok, Manwein and Naungkham villages. Next, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. Then, the Vice-President and party helicoptered to Lashio in the evening.

In meeting with township, ward and village administrators from Mongyal and Tangyan of Shan State (North), Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the Union government members and state government members were there to fulfill the needs of the local people. Now the nation has have a new government responsible for the executive sector in accord with the constitution, Hluttaws working on legislature and judges engaging in judicial affairs. And they are responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the people.

Those administrators present there are intermediaries who have their responsibility not only to shoulder the duties assigned by the State in the interests of their own regions but also to resolve the difficulties of the people. Therefore, the meeting was organized to meet the

administrators at various levels. They are to help the people develop their socio-economy. Such measures cannot be taken by the government alone or the people alone and it calls for joint cooperation. The region has its significant features. Although it still has a few problems to solve, the entire nation including that region will develop quickly if they are to discard their differences and stick to their common ground.

Economic development indeed is of utmost development, noted the Vice-President.

He went on to say that marching towards democracy means achieving own desires in a reasonable manner. If not, those who have to suffer the consequences are none other than the people. So it is necessary for the locals on their part to report to their desires and requirements in the interests and development of their own regions, nation and the Union.

The administrators on their part are to refrain from any bribery and corruption in shouldering State duties or in serving the public interests so that a good governance and clean government can emerge, noted the Vice-President.—MNA

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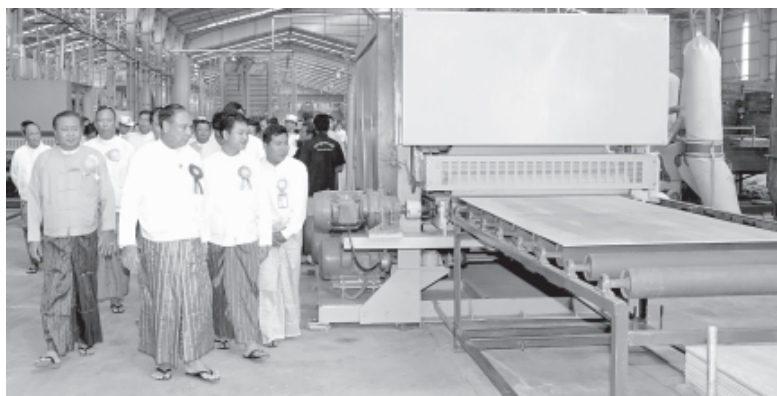
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## Plywood and glue factories opened in Singaing Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun visited Good Luck Gems Plywood Factory and Glue Factory in Belin Village of Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region yesterday.

The Union Minister called for supply of high quality products to international market by modernizing wood-based industry, production of low-priced quality plywood for domestic use, increasingly manufacturing of import-substitute products, systematic waste disposal, wider awareness of environmental conservation, establishment of forests to ensure long-term availability of raw materials, recycling of waste residues and worksite safety.

Next, responsible persons opened the plywood factory and glue factory. The Union Minister then looked round the factory.—MNA



Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun views production process of Plywood Factory. MNA



## Myanmar Sarsodaw Day, respect paying...

(from page 16)

U Tint Swe (Tint Swe-Pyapon), Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, U Chit Swe (Naung Sithi), U Myo Nyunt (Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt-Rtd), U Khin Maung Thauang (Momotarosan), U Ba Than (MA), U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyun Aung Thein), Daw Khin Kyi (Tekkatho Kyi Mar), Daw Tin Tin Win (May Tint Han) and Daw Khin Than Shein (Khin Thant Sin-Ye).

The Chief Minister also presented K200,000 each and gifts to U Than Oo (Pyay-Soe Min), U Maung Maung Khin (Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin), U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Col Khin Maung Aye (Rtd) (Khin Maung Aye-Mandalay), U Tint Aung (Bogale Tint Aung), U Maung

Gale (Thaukya U Maung Gale), U Htein Lin (CE), U Kyaw Win (101 Kyaw Win Maung), U Chit Hlaing (Ko Ko Maung Gyi), Thakhin Tin Oo (Bo Thakin Saya), U Tun Shein (Moetar Tun Shein), U Ohn Maung (Yama U Ohn Maung), U Aung Thant (retired ambassador), Thakin Aung Gyi (Paungde), U P Kyaw Han (P Kyaw Han), U Tin Mya (Thakin Tin Mya), U Htay Maung (Htay Maung) and U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai).

The region ministers, departmental heads, the chairman and vice-chairmen of MWJA, CEC members and officials gave cash assistance and gifts to the doyen literati.

On behalf of the doyen literati, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

## Heads of State/ Government,...

(from page 16)

Committee Meeting and the GMS Economic and Investment Meeting will arrive in Nay Pyi Taw tomorrow.

Likewise, Heads of State/ Government of GMS countries will arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 December.

MNA

spoke words of thanks.

The Union Minister and the Chief Minister cordially greeted the doyen literati.

The ceremony was attended by 118 doyen literati of 152.

The CEC members of MWJA will pay door-to-door respects to the doyen literati who could not attend the ceremony.

MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture

U Kyaw Hsan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party paying respects to doyen literati on Myanmar Sarsodaw Day.

MNA

## Stake driven for construction of two-storey school building in Thayawady

THAYAWADY, 17 Dec—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of a two-storey building, sponsored by Maj-Gen Kyaw Than (Rtd)-Daw Sein Sein, was held at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Thayawady in Bago Region on the morning of 5 December.

Chairman of the construction committee Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung accepted K 30 million for the first time from the wellwisher for the construction of facility.

Afterwards, the wellwisher presented honorary prize to Maung Ye Myint who passed the matriculation examination for 2010-2011 academic year with six distinctions and K 200,000 to five distinction winner Maung Zeyar Win.—District IPRD

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presenting cash and kings to doyen literati at the ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati on Myanmar Sarsodaw Day.

MNA



## Establishment of special economic zones imperative to shape industrialized nation Thilawa Special Economic Zone project commences

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Knowing the importance of establishing special economic zones in building up an industrialized nation, the government is starting the operation of Dawei Special Economic Zone in Taninthayri Region. In addition, it is planning to set up Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the east of Dalla Township between Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships in Yangon Region.

In the process, a deep-sea port where about 100,000-ton vessels can be moored to will be built although only about 20,000-ton vessels could enter the Yangon river course in the past. Moreover, steps will be taken for Myanmar nationals to be able to establish a public company in the southern area of Kyauktan Township in partnership with a

foreign company on a joint-venture basis. Necessary measures will also be taken for those investors from Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and other countries or those from Myanmar may invest directly by themselves or on a joint-venture basis in the area chosen for establishing Thilawa Industrial Zone. And plans will be made to facilitate the convenience of nation-wide or group-wide investment depending on the number of investors.

In this context, if the amount of land area that more enthusiastic countries want to get is more than that of land area earmarked for foreign investment, it is necessary to coordinate with the embassy concerned and the companies it will support will be on a priority list. In addition, industries that cannot affect

the natural environment and industries operating to create more employment will be prioritized. Coordination can be sought from foreign consultants over the project.

In implementing the project tasks, only the squatters are necessary to be replaced. The existing villages will not be displaced and particular vacant land will only be used. With the development of special economic zone, those villages can be turned into residential areas with modern buildings. Investors concerned will coordinate with consultants to ensure that the livelihoods of the local people are not affected. The third party chosen by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry will be assigned duties to see to the impact on the natural environment.

Therefore, applications will be accepted from local and foreign investors wishing to invest in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone project in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations.

Similarly, Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone project will soon be implemented.—MNA



Indonesian artists work on their sand sculptures as they prepare for the opening of the Sand Sculpture Festival at Sentul City in Bogor, West Java.—INTERNET

## Two arrested in \$6 million Fla Ponzi scheme

FORT LAUDERDALE, 17 Dec — Police in Florida say two men were arrested in connection with an alleged Ponzi scheme that defrauded more than a dozen investors out of more than \$6 million.

Victor Brown, 54, and Roger Green, 78, were detained Wednesday at Broward's Main Jail on racketeering charges with bail set at \$150,000, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported Friday. Brown was released on bond Thursday night but Green remained in custody.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement began an investigation of the men and the business dealings of

their Fort Lauderdale company, Military Air Parts International, after several alleged victims came forward with complaints, a probable cause affidavit said.

Investigators allege from 2004 to 2007, Brown and Green racked up millions of dollars by promising potential investors 18 percent returns on the resale of parts for military transport aircraft, the newspaper reported. But Green, chairman of the private company, and Brown, whose position with the company is unclear, were in control of company bank accounts and made out checks to themselves withdrawing a total of \$1.7 million, and used

debit cards to make other "extensive cash withdrawals," the FDLE said.

Brown and Green allegedly kept the Ponzi scheme running by paying off some investors with monies raised from other investors, the *Sentinel* said.

Thomas Scalfani, Brown's attorney, said he questioned whether the case could even make it to court because the alleged crime occurred beyond its statute of limitations. "I have a serious question about whether this case can even go forward," Scalfani said. "Even if it does, my client's innocence will be established in court."—*Internet*

## At least five shot, killed, at Illinois home

KANKAKEE, 17 Dec—Authorities said a man, a woman and her three children — two girls and a boy — were found shot to death Friday at their home in Emington, Ill., near Kankakee.

One of the girls was an infant less than a year old, Debbie Delaney, whose husband is mayor of Emington, said.

The other girl was in second grade and the boy was in kindergarten, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

The two girls were found in the back yard with their mother, while the boy and the man were found elsewhere on the property, the newspaper said.

Delaney said police were not searching for any suspects but she did not know what led to the shooting.

"I have no idea," she said. "No clue, no clue."

Neighbours told the newspaper the family had kept to themselves for the most part since moving into the neighbourhood during the summer.

*Internet*

## Bangkok police dismantle six bombs

BANGKOK, 17 Dec—Six homemade bombs were dismantled Friday in eastern Bangkok after a suspect revealed their location to police, Thai security officials said.

The bombs were similar to explosive devices found in front of the Government Lottery Office on 6 Dec, the *Bangkok Post* reported.

One bomb found Friday had been placed in the wall of Bangkok Bank's Sukhumvit 77 branch, two were found at the entrance to Soi Kanchanapisek 39 and three

were under a bridge across Khlong Nong Prue.

Jirawat Chanpeng, a native of Sakon Nakhon province, was arrested at the entrance to Soi Kanchanapisek.

Officials said it is unclear if Jirawat was backed by any political group.

Investigators said the devices were made by an experienced bomb maker, the newspaper reported.

Although Jirawat told where the latest bombs could be found, he denied any involvement in the earlier case, officials said.

*Internet*



A Thai soldier puts home-made bombs into plastic bags in eastern Bangkok, Thailand, on 16 Dec, 2011. Police have retreated home-made bombs, found and disposed of at three spots in eastern Bangkok early Friday morning following the arrest of one suspect, local media reported.—XINHUA



A policeman stands guard on a street in Irwindale, California, on 17 Dec, 2011. A gunman armed with a rifle shot dead two people Friday in an office building of Southern California Edison in Los Angeles, before killing himself, local media reported.—XINHUA

## Colombians sentenced in visa fraud case

MIAMI, 17 Dec—Guilty verdicts have been handed down in visa fraud charges in a Florida human-smuggling case involving Colombian nationals posing as visiting cheerleaders.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Nestor Yglesias said Duastin Salazar, 28, pleaded guilty this week in Miami to fraud charges, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported.

Salazar, the last of seven co-defendants charged in the case, was sentenced to time served and with two years of supervised release. He was also assessed \$100, the

newspaper said.

It is unclear how much time Salazar has already served. Seven minors and two of the adults were not charged and have been sent back to Colombia, Yglesias said.

The group of 16 Colombians traveled to Miami International Airport on 30 Sept using fraudulent documents to enter the country illegally, pretending to be a cheerleading team going to a competition in South Florida, the newspaper reported.

"They become visa overstays and they never leave the country," Yglesias said.

*Internet*

## Moscow airports fined over facilities for disabled

MOSCOW, 17 Dec—Moscow's three airports have been fined a total of 190,000 rubles (about USD 6,000) for failing to provide facilities for the disabled, the General Prosecutor of the Russia Federation office's website reported.

The terminals of Sheremetyevo, Domodedovo and Vnukovo airports didn't have specially-adapted rest rooms, wheelchair ramps, special telephone booths for the partially-sighted and hard of hearing and other essentials for disabled passengers, the air transportation division of the General Prosecutor's office found.

Moreover, not all airport car parks had designated the required 10 percent of parking spaces for the disabled.

"It should be noted that the fines do not relieve businesses and officials of the obligation to correct those violations," the prosecutor's statement reads.

*Internet*



A woman walks in front of two characters representing Santa Claus, in Nice, southern France.—INTERNET

## At least three shot, killed, in Calif

IRVINDALE, 17 Dec—At least three people are dead after a gunman started shooting a rifle Friday at a Southern California Edison office in Irwindale, Calif, police said.

The gunman killed two employees of the utility and wounded two others at around 2 pm PST, before taking his own life, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Baldwin Hills (Calif) Police Department Capt Michael Taylor said the condition of the two wounded victims was not immediately known, the newspaper said.

Citing a source, the *Times* reported the shooter was an Edison employee who worked as a systems analyst in the building where the shooting occurred, and some of the victims were supervisors at the utility.—*Internet*



Workers process plastic Christmas tree branches at the King Tree Handicrafts Company's factory in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on 2 Dec.—INTERNET

### Drug-resistant bacteria seen in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, 17 Dec—Doctors in Florida say infections from a relatively mild variety of drug-resistant bacteria are causing painful and ugly wounds that can linger for weeks.

The bacterium is methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, but infectious disease experts said it's not the dangerous "killer bacteria" strain that kills thousands of hospital patients annually.

Some infectious disease doctors and emergency rooms said they were seeing more cases and suggested people take precautions.

"It's more disfiguring

than anything else," Dr Latha Srinath, a specialist in Boynton Beach, told the *South Florida Sen Sentinel*.

"These are young people coming in with multiple abscesses and infections that don't go away after repeated treatments with antibiotics. At any given day at my offices, I have two or three new referrals, which is a lot."

The infections are being caused by "community-acquired" MRSA that lives on the skin and nasal passages, spread through skin-to-skin contact and fluids such as sweat, Srinath said.

Patients rarely need to

be hospitalized but many require second or third doctor visits when drugs do not clear up the infection, experts said.

The rise in community-acquired MRSA cases may be the result of more people and doctors being aware of it and looking for it, Dr Larry Bush, an infectious disease expert in Atlanta, said.

"It's a problem. It's a nuisance. It's not life-threatening," Bush said.

INTERNET



A man struggles with his umbrella during high winds in the central German City of Frankfurt amid a storm raging over Germany.

INTERNET

### Pilot killed as small plane crashes in Papua, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 Dec—Small plane with five people on board went down before landing in the airport at Oksibil of Papua, Indonesia on Saturday morning, killing the pilot and seriously injuring the four passengers, a rescuer told *Xinhua* over phone.

The Cessna plane operated by the Association Mission Aviation firm fell at mountainous area at about 7:30 am local time Saturday (2230 GMT Friday), an official

in charge of the National Search and Rescue Office told *Xinhua* over phone. Evacuation was underway, he said.

It is not clear yet about the cause of the accident in the easternmost of Indonesia.

Plane accidents have been rampant in Papua, particularly small plane crashes, due to the unfavorable mountainous terrain.

*Xinhua*

### European airports prepare for upcoming heavy snow

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec—Ahead of upcoming days of heavy snow, the European airports have made several preparations this time to prevent any chaotic situation and inconvenience to air-passengers, said a senior official.

According to Siim Kallas, vice-president of the European Commission and the Commissioner for Transport, the Commission

convened a number of meetings during last 12 months to avoid chaos in airports in Europe as witnessed during last winter due to heavy snow, *Xinhua* reported.

"I am pleased to say that their response has been positive. Serious deficiencies and weak links have been identified and are being addressed," Kallas said.

Last Christmas, over

35,000 flights across Europe Union (EU) countries were cancelled—more than in the whole of 2009 while tens of thousands of passengers were stranded.

Noting the efforts made by the airports as well, Kallas pledged to keep monitoring the situation closely and reiterated that contingency planning should be a normal business practice in winter.

INTERNET

### Plane lands cars in Israel; two people die

MODI'IN, (Israel), 17 Dec—A small airplane crashed onto moving cars near a central Israeli city Friday, killing at least two people and injuring others, officials said.

The plane hit the cars on a road near Modi'in, *Haaretz* reported.

Emergency response officials arrived on the scene to administer care to an undetermined number of people who were injured.

Earlier this year, four people were killed in a plane crash near the Haifa airport in northern Israel.

The pilot of that plane



reported a malfunction and lost control of the aircraft after turning back toward the airport to make an emergency landing.

INTERNET

Photo shows site of plane crash near Modi'in, 16 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET

### Cold wave kills three in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 17 Dec—Cold wave, a relatively new weather phenomenon for Nepal, has swept across the Terai belt of the country, claiming the lives of at least three persons as of Friday, according to *Saturday's Republica daily*.

A 21-year-old college student from Govindapur village of Siraha district, reportedly died of

hypothermia resulting from extreme cold in Rajbiraj Thursday night. Two more persons had already died of extreme cold the previous night.

Weather experts said it had been almost one week since cold wave started engulfing the Terai plains in southern Nepal. "Cold wave will not recede soon," Rajendra Shrestha, a senior

meteorologist, was quoted by the daily as saying. "It is here to stay all through this winter —albeit only in some parts of the Terai occasionally."

What is being referred to as cold wave by the general people, and of course the media, is actually a stagnant blanket of thick smog—a mixture of smoke and fog—covering the plains of Nepal, Bangladesh

and north India.

The blanket of smog is a result of industrial and agricultural pollution, said weather experts. "Until two decades ago, the smog would not stay for so long in the Terai," said Shrestha, who has been working at the Meteorological Forecasting Division for the last 25 years now. "It is because there were not as many industries as they are now in this area."

*Xinhua*

### Russia seizes Iran-bound radioactive metal at Moscow airport

MOSCOW, 17 Dec—Russia's Federal Customs Service on Friday said it has seized radioactive material from the luggage of a man who was preparing to take a commercial flight from Moscow to Teheran. His whereabouts are unknown.

A statement issued by the customs service said it discovered 18 pieces of radioactive metal which were packaged in individual steel casings.

The material was found in the luggage of an Iranian citizen who was planning to fly from Sheremetyevo International Airport in the Russian capital of Moscow to the Iranian capital of Teheran.

The agency said the radiation levels of the material, Sodium-22, were 20

times higher than normal background radiation. But nuclear experts and Russia's atomic agency Rosatom said the radioactive isotope of sodium is primarily used for medical equipment and scientific research, and cannot be used as a weapon.

In addition, Sodium-22 can be produced in a particle accelerator and is available to medical and educational institutions across Russia. Rosatom said the material seized at the airport is not highly radioactive.

INTERNET

The US flag, Iraq flag, and the US Forces-Iraq colours are carried during ceremonies marking the end of US military mission in Baghdad.

INTERNET



## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV CIP FORTUNE VOY NO (0031)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CIP FORTUNE VOY NO (0031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1160)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## Hong Kong school closed in bird flu scare



Two parrots sit on a bar in a bird market in Hong Kong in 2010. A Hong Kong school was closed on Friday after a dead bird found in the southern Chinese city was tested positive for the deadly H5 strain of the bird flu virus, health officials said.—INTERNET

HONG KONG, 17 Dec—A Hong Kong school was closed on Friday after a dead bird found in the southern Chinese city was tested positive for the deadly H5 strain of the bird flu virus, health officials said.

The closure came after the school clerk, a 48-year-old woman, picked up the sick black-headed gull at the school on Tuesday, which died the next day and was tested positive for the H5 strain, a health department spokesman told AFP.

She picked up the bird — a common winter visitor — without any protection and developed a fever, sore throat and diarrhoea but has tested negative for Influenza A (H5), a variant of bird flu.

"She has been cleared in the medical results we received today but tests on her 11-year-old son are still ongoing, with results expected to be released later Friday," said the

spokesman.

The secondary school in the rural New Territories, close to the border with mainland China, is closed for an unspecified time for disinfection and while the department traces people who may have had contact with the bird.

Hong Kong was the site of the world's first major outbreak of bird flu among humans in 1997, when six people died from a mutated form of the virus, which is normally confined to poultry. Millions of birds were then culled.

A 59-year-old woman tested positive for bird flu in 2010 in Hong Kong's first human case of the illness since 2003.—INTERNET

## Mate kills Sumatran tiger at Toronto Zoo

TORONTO, 17 Dec — A critically endangered female Sumatran tiger was killed by its breeding mate at the Toronto Zoo Thursday by a sudden bite to the neck, zoo officials said. The 13-year-old female named Brynte, which has been at the zoo since 1999, was attacked by 3-year-old male Harimau Kayu and in just a few seconds — before handlers could separate them — the female's larynx was fatally crushed, the *Toronto Star* reported.

Maria Franke, curator of mammals at the zoo, said the early morning incident was handled by the book. "There was nothing that was not done properly here ... this is just really bad luck," she said. Franke said handlers had gradually been introducing the pair to one another in controlled circumstances during the past six months and all indications were that they were becoming acquainted.—INTERNET

## Rare robin breeding sites found

LONDON, 17 Dec — Rare black-throated robins have been recorded in the Qinling mountains, north central China, by scientists. The 14 new sightings double the total number for the species since its first discovery 125 years ago. A team of Chinese and Swedish researchers located two breeding areas after hearing the males' distinctive calls. The national nature reserves where the birds were found are also home to rare giant pandas and snub-nosed monkeys. Also known as the blackthroat and black-throated blue robin, the species (*Luscinia obscura*) was first discovered in 1886. The



Researchers had an unprecedented encounter with rare robins. INTERNET



Many rare species make their homes in the nature reserves.—INTERNET

birds resemble a European robin in size and shape but the males sport a jet-black throat and chest rather than the familiar red. To date, very little is known about the species and there have never been any definitive sightings of females.

"The species is extremely secretive and difficult to see in the dense bamboo where it lives," explained Prof Per Alstrom, of the Swedish Species Information Centre, a part of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala. Prof Alstrom and colleagues were able to identify the birds' breeding grounds after hearing their distinctive song. "It's likely that there are approximately as many females in the wild as there are males, but males are more easy to find [because] they sing," he said. The team recorded seven males each in Foping and Changqing National Nature Reserves.

"In view of the [number of birds] birds we found, this species is apparently not as rare as was previously thought, although it seems to be very local," Prof Alstrom told BBC Nature.—INTERNET

## Baby seal sneaks into NZ home, naps on couch

SYDNEY, 17 Dec — A seal pup had a risky adventure and gave Welcome Bay, New Zealand homeowner Annette Swoffer a scare on Thursday. According to New

Zealand's Department of Conservation, the animal, nicknamed Lucky, broke into Swoffer's home through a cat door and decided to take a nap on her sofa.

Swoffer told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that she first encountered the seal in her kitchen. After sniffing around and not finding anything to its liking — including her confused dog and cats — Lucky proceeded to waddle up her stairs, jump on her couch and take a nap. He was there 45 minutes later when a DOC ranger came to send him back home.

INTERNET



A baby seal entered Annette Swoffer's home on 14 Dec, 2011. INTERNET

## Hairy limbs keep bed bugs at bay

LONDON, 17 Dec — Hairier skin may be the key to avoiding being bitten by bed bugs, claim Sheffield academics.

Hungry bugs placed on shaved arms were more likely to try to feed compared with those on unshaved arms, the journal *Biology Letters* reported. Researchers say the hair slows down the bed bugs and warns the victim. Pest controllers say the UK is currently experiencing a steep rise in the number of bed bug infestations.



Jessica Lynch, who shot to fame as a POW during the Iraq war in 2003, in the South Charleston Christmas Parade.—INTERNET

## Private Jessica Lynch to become a teacher

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec — Private Jessica Lynch, the young soldier rescued by US forces after being captured in Iraq in 2003, is to become a teacher. Miss Lynch, who was 19 at the time of the Iraq invasion, will get her education degree from West Virginia University on Friday. She completed her training as a student teacher at an elementary school in Wirt

County, West Virginia, the same one she attended as a child.

Miss Lynch, who spent nine days as a prisoner of war, still suffers from leg injuries sustained in Iraq. She said: "It's tough to walk but I look at it as at least I'm walking. At least I have my legs. They may not work. I have no feeling in the left one. But it's attached, at least. At least I'm alive." Miss Lynch, now a 28-year-old mother, was captured along with five others after her 507th Maintenance Company unit took a wrong turn and came under attack in Nasiriyah on March 23, 2003. Eleven of her fellow soldiers died.

Following her rescue the US government publicised an exaggerated version of events which made the teenager seem more heroic and rallied public support for the war. She has repeatedly worked to set the record straight and in 2007 told Congress:



The bed bug feeds on blood. INTERNET

## Don King's turkey truck 'hijacked'

A spokesman said boxing promoter Don King is canceling his annual turkey giveaway in Florida because the truck carrying the poultry was "hijacked."

Robert Weneck, a spokesman for King, said the promoter canceled plans to distribute the turkeys to needy families in Mangonia Park, Deerfield Beach and Miami because the truck was "hijacked." The Palm Beach Post reported Friday.

Weneck said the truck was recovered but King is uncertain whether the turkeys are still safe to eat.

"We don't want to make people sick," Weneck said.



A spokesman said boxing promoter Don King is canceling his annual turkey giveaway in Florida because the truck carrying the poultry was "hijacked."

## China's oldest couple hit 90th anniversary

A Chinese couple who celebrated their 90th wedding anniversary said they have rarely exchanged angry words.

Yang Shengzhong, 109, and Jin Jifen, 106, of Guiyang, Guizhou Province, who were recognized by the Gerontological Society of China as the country's oldest living couple, said

they mostly communicate via gestures and eye contact these days due to their failing hearing, but even when they were young they rarely argued, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported Friday.

"I was married to Yang at 16, and he has been nice to me, so I said to myself, 'This was the man I will spend my whole life with,'" Jin said.

The couple said their longevity can be attributed to working on their farm every day, having a happy family and having "inner peace and a grateful heart."



Two Terracotta Warrior replicas "sit" in a cafe to draw customers in Kunming, Southwest China's Yunnan province. The Terracotta Warriors near Xi'an in Shaanxi Province depict the army of China's first emperor Qin Shihuang (259-210 BC).

## Oregon man arrested in light saber attack

Police in Oregon said they arrested a man accused of assaulting fellow Toys R Us customers with a toy light saber.

Portland police said officers responded to the store at 9:51 pm Wednesday on a report of a man attacking customers with the "Star Wars" toy, and they arrived to find the man swinging the light saber around in the parking lot and shouting incoherent statements.

An officer used a Taser on the man, but he was able to use the light saber to break one of the wires, police said. They said the man was tackled to the ground and continued to struggle while being taken into custody.

The man, identified as David Allen Canterbury, 33, was taken to a local hospital for a mental evaluation. Police said he is being charged with three counts of assault in the fourth degree, one count of disorderly conduct in the second degree, one count of theft in the third degree, one count of resisting arrest and one count of interfering with a police officer.

## News Album

## 'Doctor Who' companions leaving show

LONDON, 17 Dec— "Doctor Who" writer-producer Steven Moffat has confirmed characters Amy and Rory Pond are being written out of the British sci-fi show, the BBC said.

Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill have played the husband and wife team since Matt Smith took over the role of the time-traveling Doctor early last year.

"The final days of the Ponds are coming," Moffat said at a London screening of the "Doctor Who" Christmas episode.

"I'm not telling you when



Actor Matt Smith arrives on the red carpet before a screening of the British film "Fish Tank" at the 62nd annual Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France on 14 May, 2009.

INTERNET

or how, but that story is going to come to a heartbreaking end." The show-runner went on to say the Doctor was going to meet "a new friend" who has not yet been cast.

"We had the most incredible journey," Smith said of working with Gillan and Darvill. "We took over the show and we've really had to hold hands and help each other through it. So it's very disappointing, but one has to remember that this show is about change and regeneration, and that's what galvanizes it and pushes it forwards."—*Internet*

## Spears and Trawick get engaged

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec—American pop star Britney Spears has accepted a marriage proposal from her longtime beau, talent agent Jason Trawick, a source told UsMagazine.com.

The 30-year-old singer and Trawick met in 2006 and have been dating since 2009.

"This is something they've both wanted for a long time," the insider told the celebrity news Web site. "It's a way to cement their family. They're both extremely happy and can't wait to become man and wife."

Spears hinted the news was true by posting this Twitter message Friday morning: "OMG. Last night Jason surprised me with the one gift I've been waiting for. Can't wait to show you! SOSOSO excited!!!! Xxo"

UsMagazine.com said Trawick proposed Thursday night at a private dinner celebrating his 40th birthday.

Spears has two young sons with her ex-husband Kevin Federline.—*Internet*



Singer Britney Spears and her boyfriend Jason Trawick arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles on 28 Aug, 2011 in Los Angeles.

INTERNET

## Reese Witherspoon to star in 'Devil's Knot'

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec— Reese Witherspoon has landed a role in crime drama 'Devil's Knot'.



Reese Witherspoon

According to Variety, the Oscar-winning actress has signed up to appear in the movie, which is to be

directed by Atom Egoyan and is based on reporter Mara Levitt's 2003 book, 'Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three', Contactmusic reported.

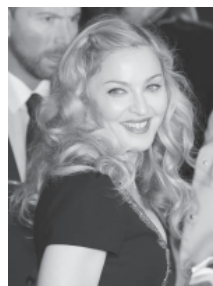
In the book, Levitt followed the prolonged murder trial of Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley Jr, who served 17 years in prison before being released this past August.

They were accused of killing three eight-year-old cub scouts found in a wooded area of Arkansas called Robin Hood Hills.

Witherspoon will play Pam Hobbs, the mother of one of the victims.

The production of the movie is expected to begin next summer.

Internet



American actress/singer/director Madonna attends the premiere of "W.E" at BFI London Film Festival at Empire, Leicester Square in London on 23 Oct, 2011.

INTERNET

## New Madonna album due out in March

## Beach Boys announce new CD, tour

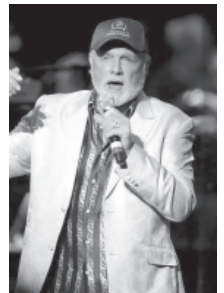
LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec—The Beach Boys say they plan to reunite for a new album and concert tour to mark the American band's 50th anniversary. Brian Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, Bruce Johnston, and David Marks are recording a new, as-yet-untitled studio album and commemorative catalog releases with Capitol/EMI. Their 50-date international tour is to begin in April with a headlining performance at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

"This anniversary is special to me because I miss the boys and it will be a thrill for me to make a new record and be on stage with them again," Wilson said in a statement. "It was a thrill to be around a piano again with Brian, Alan and Bruce and experience firsthand the brilliance of cousin Brian's gift for vocal arrangements," Love said. "I am very much looking forward to David Marks joining us and thrilling with his surf guitar licks. Music has been the unifying and harmonizing fact of life in our family since childhood. It has been a huge blessing that we have been able to share with the world. Wouldn't it be nice to do it again? Absolutely!"—*Internet*

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec— US pop star Madonna has completed a new album, which is set for release in late March, Interscope Records confirmed Thursday. The CD will be her first in five years.

It is part of a three-album deal the recording star's long-time manager Guy Oseary and LiveNation Entertainment negotiated with the record label. "Gimme All Your Luvin," the first single from the album, will be released the last week in January, prior to her Bridgestone Halftime Super Bowl appearance 5 Feb.

"WE," a film Madonna directed and co-wrote, is scheduled for a wide theatrical release 3 Feb.—*Internet*



Mike Love with the Beach Boys performs in concert at a benefit for Voices Against Brain Cancer at the Fillmore in Miami Beach on 14 April, 2011.

INTERNET

**NLM-ner Joke**

**0 to 200 in 6 seconds**

Bob was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really pissed.

She told him "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE!!"

The next morning he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway.

Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house.

She opened it and found a brand new bathroom scale. Bob has been missing since Friday.

**I have a magical dancing duck**

A circus owner walked into a bar to see everyone crowded about a table watching a little show. On the table was an upside down pot and a duck tap dancing on it. The circus owner was so impressed that he offered to buy the duck from its owner. After some wheeling and dealing, they settled for \$10,000 for the duck and the pot.

Three days later the circus owner runs back to the bar in anger, "Your duck is a ripoff! I put him on the pot before a whole audience, and he didn't dance a single step!"

"So?" asked the ducks former owner, "did you remember to light the candle under the pot?"

**Jump out of the plane**

An Englishman, Frenchman, Mexican, and Texan were flying across country on a small plane when the pilot comes on the loud speaker and says "We're having mechanical problems and the only way we can make it to the next airport is for 3 of you to open the door and jump, at least one of you can survive"

The four open the door and look out below. The Englishman takes a deep breath and hollers "God Save The Queen" and jumps.

The Frenchman gets really inspired and hollers "Viva La France" and he also jumps.

This really pumps up the Texan so he hollers "Remember the Alamo" and he grabs the Mexican and throws him out of the plane.

**After six-year break, Thorpe swims 16<sup>th</sup> fastest**

ROME, 17 Dec — Five-time Olympic champion Ian Thorpe of Australia swam the 16th fastest in the 100m freestyle at the Italian Winter Open meet on Friday in his first long course outing in six years.

Thorpe clocked 50.84 seconds in the event which was won by Italian Luca Dotto in 48.78 seconds at Riccione. Thorpe, 29, who retired in November 2006 after collecting five Olympic golds and 11 world titles, announced in February this year that he was returning to the pool, hoping to make the 2012 London Olympics.

He returned to action in



**Australia's Ian Thorpe.**  
XINHUA

November and competed in the World Cup short course championships in Singapore, Beijing and Tokyo.

Thorpe trains in Switzerland with Gennadi Touretski, the former coach for Russian Alexander Popov.—Xinhua

**Eto'o banned for 15 matches by Cameroon**



**Samuel Eto'o**

CAIRO, 17 Dec — Reigning African Footballer of the Year Samuel Eto'o was banned for 15 matches by Cameroon on Friday after players' strike forced a friendly in Algeria last month to be cancelled. The harsh punishment was decided by the Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) disciplinary committee. Eto'o has been voted African Footballer of the Year a record four times and has represented the Cameroonian "Indomitable

Lions" for more than a decade.

But the striker has frequently disagreed with officials and took the brunt of the blame when a strike prevented the friendly match going ahead. Eto'o and his team-mates claimed they were not paid money and the fixture had to be canned with Algeria, claiming one million dollars compensation for lost revenue. The star has two weeks to appeal the ban which would rule him out of a 2013 Africa Cup of Nations tie in Guinea Bissau on 29 February next year and 2014 World Cup qualifiers against Democratic Republic of Congo and Libya in June.—Xinhua

**Tricky Europa League ties for English clubs**

**Man City play Porto, Man Utd take on Ajax and Stoke face Valencia**

LONDON, 17 Dec — England's representatives in the UEFA Europa League have been drawn against big-name opposition in the last-32 draw. Manchester City will play holders Porto, three-time European champions Manchester United have been drawn against Dutch giants Ajax, while Stoke City will face Valencia. Both Manchester clubs entered the Europa League draw for the first time following their exits from the UEFA Champions League, while Stoke City finished second in Group E of the qualifying stages. The two-legged matches will be played on 16 and 23 February 2012. The draw was also held for the last 16 of the competition. If Manchester City go through they will play the winners of the Legia v Sporting tie, while Manchester United will face Lokomotiv or Athletic Madrid and Stoke will meet Trabzonspor or PSV Eindhoven.

**Round of 32 draw**

Porto v MANCHESTER CITY  
Ajax v MANCHESTER UNITED  
Lokomotiv Moscow v Athletic Bilbao

Salzburg v Metalist Kharkiv

STOKE v Valencia

Rubin Kazan v Olympiacos

AZ Alkmaar v Anderlecht

Lazio v Atletico Madrid

Steaua Bucharest v FC Twente

Viktoria Plzen v Schalke

Wisla Krakow v Standard Liege

Braga v Besiktas

Udinese v PAOK

Trabzonspor v PSV Eindhoven

Hannover v Club Brugge

Legia Warsaw v Sporting Lisbon

First legs to be played on 16 February, second legs on 23 February.

**Round of 16**

Salzburg/Metalist Kharkiv v Rubin Kazan/Olympiacos

Legia Warsaw/Sporting Lisbon v Porto/MANCHESTER CITY

Steaua Bucharest/FC Twente v Viktoria Plzen/Schalke

Wisla Krakow/Standard Liege v Hannover/Club Brugge

STOKE/Valencia v Trabzonspor/PSV Eindhoven

AZ Alkmaar/Anderlecht v Udinese/PAOK

Lazio/Atletico Madrid v Braga/Besiktas

Ajax/MANCHESTER UNITED v Lokomotiv Moscow/Athletic Bilbao

First legs to be played on 8 March, second legs on 15 March.—Internet



**Defending Europa League champions Porto will be tough opposition for Man City**

**Results on Saturday, 18 Dec, 2011.**

Blackburn	1-2	West Brom
Everton	1-1	Norwich
Fulham	2-0	Bolton
Newcastle	0-0	Swansea
Wolves	1-2	Stoke
Wigan	1-1	Chelsea



**Wolverhampton 1 - 2 Stoke**

Crouch completed a fine Stoke turnaround as Wolves's relegation fears increased after blowing the lead.



**Stoke's Jonathan Walters (l) battles with Karl Henry during a dramatic game at Molineux.**  
INTERNET

LONDON, 17 Dec — Stephen Hunt's penalty put the home side ahead after Jonathan Woodgate fouled Matt Jarvis.

But Stoke stunned Molineux with two goals in 12 second half minutes to secure a fourth successive top-flight win for the first time since 1981.

Robert Huth's free-kick deflected off Kevin Doyle to make it 1-1 before Crouch sealed the points with a header.—Internet

**Blackburn 1 - 2 WBA**

Goals from James Morrison and Peter Odemwingie earned West Brom all three points at Blackburn and piled more pressure on Rovers boss Steve Kean.



**Blackburn lost for the 10th time this season**

LONDON, 17 Dec — Morrison gave the visitors a well-deserved lead, with an excellent volley which gave Paul Robinson no chance.

Rovers hit back when Scott Dann scored from close range, before Odemwingie fired home from the edge of the box.

The result leaves Rovers with just two wins this season and seven since Kean took charge 12 months ago.—Internet

**Fulham 2 - 0 Bolton**



**Dempsey scores his eighth goal of the season to give Fulham the lead.**

**Italian opposition for Chelsea and Arsenal**

**Gunners draw AC Milan while Blues take on Napoli in Champions League last 16**

LONDON, 17 Dec — Arsenal and Chelsea have been drawn against difficult Italian opposition in the last 16 phase of the UEFA Champions League. The Gunners will face seven-time European champions AC Milan while Chelsea will play Napoli, who beat Manchester City in the group stages of the competition. Arsenal have an excellent history against Italian clubs in the Champions League and their previous last-16 match-up against Milan - in the 2007/08 season - saw them claim a 2-0 aggregate victory.

Milan's home ground of the San Siro was also the stage for one of Arsenal's most famous wins in 2003, when they beat Inter 5-1 in the Champions League. Italian champions AC Milan have been knocked out by Barclays Premier League clubs in three of their previous four appearances in the UEFA Champions League last 16 — they lost to Arsenal's north London rivals Tottenham last season following a 1-0 aggregate defeat. Chelsea have never played Napoli - the former club of ex-Blues favourite Gianfranco Zola — in a European competition. Both teams will travel to Italy for the first legs, which will be held either on 14/15 or 21/22 February, before playing the return home matches on 6/7 or 13/14 March.

**Last-16 draw**

Lyon v APOEL

Napoli v CHELSEA

AC Milan v ARSENAL

Basel v Bayern Munich

Bayer Leverkusen v Barcelona

CSKA Moscow v Real Madrid

Zenit St Petersburg v Benfica

Marseille v Inter Milan

Internet



**Didier Drogba's Chelsea have never played Napoli in a European competition**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (18-12-2011) (Sunday)**

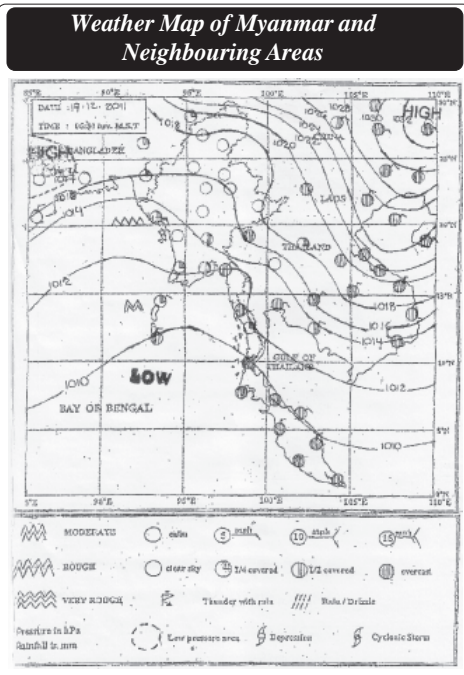
	<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>Times</u>
Local	-	(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Overseas Transmission	-	(18-12-11 09:30 am ~19-12-11 09:30 am) MST

**Local Transmission**

- \* Opening
- \* News
- \* A Famous Touristy Place "Tharabar Gate Hotel"
- \* Thailand Trade Exhibition
- \* News
- \* Beautiful hand-painted materies decorated with the art of painting
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-4) "Myanmar Anti Narcotic Association"

- \* News
- \* The World's Largest Book
- Overseas Transmission**
- \* Opening
- \* News
- \* A Famous Touristy Place "Tharabar Gate Hotel"
- \* Thailand Trade Exhibition
- \* News
- \* Beautiful hand-painted materies decorated with the art of painting
- \* News

- \* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-4) "Myanmar Anti Narcotic Association"
- \* News
- \* The World's Largest Book
- \* News
- \* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Sour Soup with Fish Head"
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Toys ...For Your Eye-catching
- \* Music Gallery
- \* News
- \* Artist Ahead : Min Wai Aung
- \* News
- \* Pyadalin Cave; A Hidden Treasure House
- \* Myanmar Movies "Dutiful But Thoughtless Son"



**Sunday, 18 December View on today**

- 7:00 am**  
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:15 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. (38) Phyar Mingalar
- 8:15 am**  
8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 8:20 am**  
9. Musical Programme
- 8:35 am**  
10. International News
- 8:45 am**  
11. Metta Bhavana By Mingun Sayadaw
- 11:00 am**  
1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am**  
2. Musical Programme
- 11:20 am**  
3. Round Up Of The Week's International News
- 11:30 am**  
4. TV Drama Series
- 12:30 pm**  
5. Myanmar Video
- 2:00 pm**  
6. Song Varieties

- 2:15 pm**  
7. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 2:30 pm**  
8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 2:50 pm**  
6. International News
- 4:00 pm**  
1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm**  
2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm**  
3. Song Of National Races
- 4:25 pm**  
4. Performance With Song
- 4:30 pm**  
5. Teleplay
- 4:50 pm**  
6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Chemistry)

- 5:05 pm**  
7. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm**  
8. Documentary
- 5:25 pm**  
9. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm**  
10. Evening News
- 6:15 pm**  
11. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**  
12. Cartoon Series
- 6:40 pm**  
13. Tamyethnar Takwetser
- 7:00 pm**  
14. Myanmar Movie
- 8:00 pm**  
15. News
- 16. International News
- 17. Weather Report
- 18. Cartoon Series
- 19. Myanmar Movie

**WEATHER Saturday, 17 December, 2011**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:** During the past (24) hours, isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Eastern Shan States, (6°C) above December average temperatures in Mon State, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago Regions, Rakhine State, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-1°C), Heho (3°C), Pinlaung (4°C), Putao and Mogok (5°C) each and Katha and Pyin Oo Lwin (6°C).

**Bay inference:** Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Nay Pyi Taw weather:** Maximum temperature on 16-12-2011 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2011 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-12-2011 was 82%. Total rainfall hours on 17-12-2011 was (Nil).

**Nay Pyi Taw (Airport) weather:** Maximum temperature on 16-12-2011 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2011 was 56°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-12-2011 was 73%. Total rainfall hours on 17-12-2011 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 17-12-2011 was (Nil) at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and Mandalay each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (59.88) inches at Nay Pyi Taw, (128.19) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (48.54) inches at Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (3) mph from West at (12:30) hours MST on 17-12-2011.

**Forecast valid until evening of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011:** Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-12-2011:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-12-2011:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-12-2011:** Generally fair weather.

**Barclays Premier League awaits 20,000<sup>th</sup> goal**

*Which player will score the landmark goal in the competition's history?*

LONDON, 17 Dec—The Barclays Premier League will commemorate the 20,000th goal in the competition by awarding the scorer of the landmark figure a cheque for £20,000 to donate to a charity of their choice, courtesy of title sponsors Barclays. Since the competition's inception, 19,964 goals have been scored since Brian Deane netted the first ever Premier League goal in the fifth minute to put Sheffield United 1-0 up against Manchester United at Bramall Lane on 15 August 1992. Only 36 more are needed until the magic 20,000 figure is reached — but who will score the historic goal? To mark the occasion, Barclays are giving fans the opportunity to guess the identity of the player by logging on to Facebook.com/Bar-claysFootball, with great prizes on offer for those who



*Brian Deane scored the first ever Premier League goal back in 1992 for Sheffield United.*  
INTERNET

are correct. Overseas fans can win a VIP trip to see a Barclays Premier League team of their choice while British fans have the opportunity to claim a VIP trip for six to see their favourite team, as well as 10 footballs signed by Deane as well Les Ferdinand, scorer of the 10,000th goal. Former Sheffield United, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Leicester City and West Ham striker Deane thinks Arsenal's prolific Robin van Persie will score the 20,000th goal. "I played with Jermain Defoe at West Ham and I would like to see him score but something tells me it will be Robin van Persie who will score the 20,000th goal in the Barclays Premier League," Deane told premierleague.com.—Internet

## Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win attends graduation dinner of 14<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The graduation dinner of the 14<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin yesterday evening, attended 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 at the dinner were senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief's Office, the commander of Central Command, the PyinOoLwin Station commander, the commandant of DSTA, senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, guests and parents and relatives of the graduate officers.

First, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win greeted the graduate officers individually.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services had dinner together with graduate officers, their parents and relatives. After the dinner, they enjoyed entertainments of No. 1 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit and Myawady Anyeint troupe under control of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.—MNA

*Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win attends the graduation dinner of the 14<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSTA.—MNA*



## Myanmar Sarsodaw Day, respect paying ceremony to doyen literati observed



*Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presenting cash and kind to doyen literati at the respect paying ceremony to doyen literati.*  
MNA

YANGON, 17 Dec—The Myanmar Sarsodaw Day and the respect paying ceremony to doyen literati were held at the city hall, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presented cash assistance and gifts to doyen literati.

Joint-Secretary-3 of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Aung Thein Win (Maung Khaing Khant) acted as MC. Chairman of MWJA U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha

Saw Chit) extended greetings.

Secretary U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) read the message of MWJA for the Sarsodaw Day.

Joint-Secretary-1 U Myat Khaing (Myat Khaing) introduced the doyen literati to the audiences.

Chairman of the fund-raising work committee Daw Nan Kalya Win (Ngwe Thawda) read the list of donors for the ceremony.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Chief Minister U Myint

Swe and those present paid respects to the doyen literati.

The Union Minister gave K 30,000 donated by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, K 120,000 by MWJA and K 50,000 by Union Solidarity and Development Party, totaling K 200,000 each and gifts to Dr Yi Yi Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo), Lt-Col Hla Moe (Rtd) (Lin Yaung Min Hla), U Chan Aye (Maung Su San), retired ambassador U Thet Tun (Wunna Kyawhtin U Thet Tun), U Kyaw Hsan (Thu Khi Aung), U Tin Maung (Theikpan Hmu Tin), Col Saw Myint (Rtd) (Hmu Thamein),  
(See page 9)

## Heads of State/Government, senior officials to GMS Summit arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 18, 19 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, on 19 and 20 December.

Senior officials and entrepreneurs from GMS member countries : Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam who will attend the GMS Senior Officials Work  
(See page 9)

## Date for prize presentation of National Literary Awards to be announced

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The date was set to hold the prize presentation for the National Literary Awards at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information, here, at 9 am on 27 December (Tuesday).

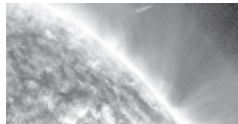
However, the date for holding the prize presentation ceremony will be announced later due to changing of designated day.—MNA



**Plywood and glue factories opened in Singaing Tsp**

PAGE 8

## Comet shows you can get really close to sun and survive



PAGE 5

## Blackburn 1 - 2 WBA



PAGE 14

## After six-year break, Thorpe swims 16<sup>th</sup> fastest



PAGE 14