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Monday, 19 December, 2011

Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

High qualification of computer science plays a key role in strengthening of economy

Faculty members to turn out students to become well-versed technicians

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits University of Computer Studies (Lashio).
MNA



NAYPYI TAW, 18 Dec—Accompanied by Union ministers, the Chief Minister of Shan State, deputy ministers, departmental heads and national race entrepreneurs, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham arrived at University of Computer Studies (Lashio) yesterday morning.

The Vice-President and party inspected maintenance of the three-storey main building of the university.

The Vice-President viewed learning of students, practical works at language lab and improvement of academic matters at the university.

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

Acting Principal Dr Khaing Khaing Oo reported on facts about the university, location and area, and briefed history of the university.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that University of Computer Studies (Lashio) is on a grander scale like Technological University (Lashio) he has already visited. Faculty members are to turn out the well-versed students from the grander universities, he said. As the ratio of faculty members to students is 1:5 at the university, it is the best ratio for training the students, he said.

He noted that there are least numbers among graduates produced from the Universities of Computer Studies in respective practical works. He said that as today's world is in the globalization due to advancement of IT, only then can the

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham views undergraduates learning at University of Computer Studies (Lashio).—MNA



Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association meets
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Scientists discover why lemurs are dying out in their native Madagascar – they're being eaten as bar snacks
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Significant night temperature (18-12-2011)

Haka	(0°C)
Heho	(3°C)
Pinlaung	(4°C)
Mogok	(4°C)

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 December, 2011

The fourth estate, infallible and reliable

The separation of the three powers namely judicial, legislative, and executive are a model for governance of a state. Those three branches of power are also called the three pillars that play the most crucial role in a nation.

The media sector known as the fourth estate has the duty to ensure the uprightness of those three pillars. The fourth estate has its interaction between the government and the people. It has to reveal correctly and honestly what the government wants to say to the people and what the people want to report to the government.

The fourth estate is also responsible for doing writing and broadcasting to serve the interests of both the government and people, showing the right way to ensure the development of people's socio-economic life.

In the present age, print media and electronic media are developing in parallel. Both have their capabilities not only to light up the knowledge of people but also to give public entertainment. This is why the fourth estate has won the trust and reliance of the people.

More and more people have given their time to watch TV programmes and read periodicals so as to quench their thirst for knowledge. And this is a sign of progress. The more knowledge the people have, the more progress the nation will make.

With the permission granted to use the Internet openly and freely, relax the journalism rules and enable journals to make interviews with authorities, there have been more freedom and transparency in the media sector. But taking advantage of this, some have come to write in self-interest. Journals on their part should look forward the interests of the nation and the people.

All in all, for the emergence of a modern, developed democratic nation, the fourth estate has to continue its journey with the finest works to win the public reliance.

Mine explosion of insurgents destroys tension tower-213 of 230-KV Lawpita-Toungoo power grid

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—As the line in-charge of Yado Camp of National Grid Office (Toungoo) in Thandaunggyi Township, Kayin State, heard explosion at 6.30 am today, he inspected along the power line. He found collapse of tension tower No. 213 of 230-KV Lawpita-Toungoo

National Grid near Mawchaung Village due to mine explosion of the insurgents.

Due to collapse of the tower, electricity cannot be supplied to the power grid and so the power system declines about 70 megawatts. At present, the workers led by



YANGON, 18 Dec—The opening ceremony of three-storey Yawgi Gonyi hall, merit sharing ceremony and cash donation for Dhamma Gonyi extended building for the Sangha were held at Dhamma Wihara Pahtamagyaw Monastery and Dhamma Yeiktha in E/A Ward of Thingangyun Township this morning, attended by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Director-General of Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Khaing Aung and wellwisher Daw Khin Thida opened the Yawgi Gonyi three-storey building.

Next, those present received the Five Precepts from the Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Lewe Sayadaw at the ceremony to donate cash for construction of Dhamma Gonyi extended building for the Sangha.

The Union Minister, the Chief Minister, region ministers and wellwishers donated alms to members of the Sangha.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win and family donated K 100,000 for construction of the Dhamma Gonyi extended building to Director-General U Khaing Aung.

With the auspices of parents U Win Swe-Daw Min Thwe Nu, Thudhamma Manijotadhara Academy Khant Sithu, on behalf of the

Yawgi Gonyi building opened, cash donated for Dhamma Gonyi building



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donation by U Zaw Tun Oo - Daw Khin Thida and family under the patronage of parents of both sides.—MNA

wellwishers, donated K 10 million for the extended building and K 1 million for all-round renovation of Shwephonepwin Pagoda to the Union Minister.

The Union Minister accepted K 10 million for the Dhamma Gonyi extended building by U Zaw Tun Oo-Daw Khin Thida and family with the patronage of parents, K 5 million each by U Aung Nyein-Daw Khin Than Soe family, Major Phyu Win (Rtd)-Daw Aye Aye Soe family and U Mar Din-Daw Kyawt (Tawwin Oil Mill) and

K 1 million by U Win Myint-Daw Wai Wai Myint family.

The Chief Minister also accepted the cash donations from wellwishers. Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein also accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

The Secretary of the SSMNC delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Academy Khant Sithu and party sponsored K 30 million for construction of Yawgi Gonyi three-storey

building.

Academy Khant Sithu donated K 10 million for construction of the Dhamma Gonyi extended building, and the donations by wellwishers at the ceremony amounted to K 44.1 million.

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Academy Khant Sithu, as single donor, donated Sasana Gonyi two-storey ordination hall and K 50 million for Sangha Gonyi four-storey building and K 50 million for Panya Gonyi three-storey monastic education school.—MNA

Granddaughter of Thai King donates Pitakat treatises to SSMNC Chairman



Granddaughter HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha donates 80 copies of Pitakat treatises to the Chairman of SSMNC Bhamo Sayadaw.—MNA

the superintending engineer of Lines Department of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise are making concerted efforts for repairing the tension tower.—MNA

YANGON, 18 Dec—Granddaughter of the His Majesty King of Thailand HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha and party arrived in Yangon by special aircraft

at 10.20 am today.

They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung of Protocol Department and officials,

Charge d' Affaires of the Thai Embassy Mr Kallayana Vipattipumprates and embassy families.

The Granddaughter and party received the Five Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill.

The Granddaughter donated 40 copies each of Pitakat treatises in Roman and Thai languages to the Chairman Sayadaw.

She supplicated on purpose of her donations. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay spoke words of thanks.

The Granddaughter signed the visitors' book at Maha Pasana Cave and visited there.

They paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

MNA

Obama calls for unity as Iraq War ends

US President Barack Obama

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—US President Barack Obama on Saturday welcomed troops home from the ending war in Iraq, saying it is time for the country to stand as one and face its economic challenges, as the partisan battles in Washington persists.

In his weekly address, Obama marked the end of the Iraq War, saying US troops are now preparing to make their final march across the border and out of Iraq.

"Iraq's future will be in the hands of its own people. Our war there will be over. All of our troops will be out of Iraq," said Obama.

He continued to praise the troops by saying they don't "see themselves or each other as Democrats first or Republicans first," but rather "as Americans first," a poke to the bitter partisan fight that has been raging on in Washington for all year.

"For all our challenges, they remind us that there is nothing we can't do when we stick together," said Obama.

"This cannot be a country where division and discord stand in the way of our progress," Obama said. "This is a moment where we must come together to ensure that every American has the chance to work for a decent living, own their own home, send their kids to college, and secure a



decent retirement."

Over the past year, the president and his Democratic allies have fought bitter battles with Republicans on budget, deficit, debt and ways to stimulate the economy. The federal government was almost shutdown and nearly defaulted on its debt, and was faced with credit downgrade during the course of the year.

Xinhua

Four people killed in attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec— Four people were killed and two wounded Saturday in bomb and gunfire attacks in and near the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the police said.

In Baghdad, gunmen using silenced weapons shot dead Judge Mohammed Shyaa when he was driving his car in the western district of Jamia, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In west of Baghdad, a roadside bomb went off near a minibus carrying passengers in the Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of the capital, killing three people and wounding two others, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

Sporadic attacks are still common in Iraqi cities as the US military are fully withdrawing its troops from the country according to a security pact signed between Baghdad and Washington in 2008.

Xinhua

Indian court holds six guilty of terrorist attack upon science institute

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec— Six people, suspected to be members of terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were Saturday held guilty of the attack at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in the southern Indian city of Bangalore in 2005 in which a retired professor was killed, reported Indo-Asian News Service.

The quantum of punishment will be announced on 19 Dec by the fast track court in charge of judging the case in Bangalore, said the report.

Mohammed Riaz-ur-Rehman of Andhra Pradesh, Afzar Pasha, Mehboob Ibrahim Saab Chopdar, Noorulla Khan, Mohammed Irfan

(28) and Nazim Uddin alias Munna, all from Karnataka, southern India, were found guilty of the first major terror attack in Bangalore.

In the attack on the evening of 28 Dec, 2005, delegates coming out of an international conference at the famed institute in north Bangalore were fired on, leading to the death of MC Puri, a retired professor of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and injuries to four others.

The seven were arrested on 14 Jan, 2006, and charged with sedition, terrorism and religious disharmony.

Xinhua



All US troops out of Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 18 Dec— The last batch of US combat forces in Iraq have crossed into neighbouring Kuwait on Sunday morning, the US military told media. The exit marked the completion of the US military withdrawal from the Middle East country after a nine-year war that toppled former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta on Thursday attended a flag-lowering ceremony at a US military base west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad to mark the end of the war. Accusing Baghdad of harboring weapons of mass destruction, the United States invaded Iraq in 2003. Nearly 4,500 American and more than 100,000 Iraqi lives were lost during the war.—Xinhua

A bomb disposal robot secures a suspicious bomb during an emergency drill in Yichang, central China's Hubei Province, on 17 Dec, 2011. An emergency drill was held here Saturday to test the quick response of security and emergency forces in the Three Gorges Dam.—XINHUA



Bradley Manning (L, 1st), a 24-year old US soldier accused of disclosing secret cables to WikiLeaks, is escorted to a Maryland court, on 17 Dec, 2011. Manning made his first court appearance for a pre-trial in the court after he was arrested on 26 May, 2010. Manning, who wore his camouflage uniform and sported thick black-rimmed glasses during the hearing, is accused of downloading 2,60,000 US diplomatic cables, videos of American air strikes and US military reports from Afghanistan and Iraq between November 2009 and May 2010 while serving in Iraq and giving them to WikiLeaks. The military is conducting a hearing at an Army post outside Washington to determine whether prosecutors have enough evidence to bring Manning to trial, where he could face a term of life in prison as a traitor.

XINHUA

Iran's Intelligence Ministry says arresting CIA spy

TEHERAN, 18 Dec— Iran's Intelligence Ministry announced Saturday that it has arrested a US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spy in Iran. Iran's Intelligence Ministry said in a statement that the spy is a CIA analyst tasked with carrying out a complex intelligence operation and infiltrating Iran's intelligence apparatus. The CIA spy, with Iranian nationality, had experience in working for the Military Intelligence Division (MID) of the US Army at military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, Iran's satellite Press TV reported.

Iran's intelligence agency identified the spy upon his arrival at the Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan, monitored his actions after he entered Iran, and later arrested him when he attempted to start espionage activities in Iran, said the statement. The statement accused the US administration of spending huge expense and designing complicated plots to penetrate into the Islamic Republic's intelligence system, in a bid to continue hostile and all-out intelligence and operational actions against Iran. In November, an Iranian lawmaker said that Iran has been surrounded by Western spying centres near its borders in neighboring countries. Zohre Elahian, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian parliament, said that Israeli Mossad, American CIA and British MI6 have established espionage centres in the western, northern and eastern borders of Iran.—Xinhua

Health

Fiji reports 60 cases of typhoid



SUVA, 18 Dec—There are 60 typhoid cases in Nanoko, with 29 already hospitalized, according to Fiji's Health Ministry. Senior Health Inspector Paula Laqere said Sunday that the increase means that people are not practicing proper hygiene standards. Laqere said most of the communities in Fiji have a really low level of good hygiene practices.

The other problem is that some communities in Fiji have very poor sources of clean and safe water and this is what Fijian guests need to be cautious of.

"Typhoid is basically spread through contaminated water and our hygiene practices. It's an indicator that the sanitation level of any community is really low."

A 30 day public health emergency is in place for the village, effective from 12 Dec to 12 Jan. Recently, Fiji recorded rates of high typhoid fever in the world, said WHO South Pacific Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response Team leader doctor Jacob Kool. Kool said typhoid fever was difficult to diagnose and could be fatal in 10-20 percent of untreated patients.

Recent studies showed that infants are commonly affected and are extremely vulnerable to the disease. Outbreaks occur regularly in areas with poor hygiene and sanitation including urban slums, he said. Kool said the only reliable symptom was prolonged fever and blood and stool culture are still the best available diagnostic tests but have a high rate of false negative results.—Xinhua

Health Tip: Participating in winter sports

Skiers and others who don't mind braving the cold for that "winter rush" can benefit from a few safety precautions, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons says.

The academy offers these suggestions for how to stay safe:

- * Protect yourself with the right gear, including layers of warm, water-resistant and wind-resistant clothing; goggles; gloves; helmets and any other necessary protective equipment.
- * Before you start to play, warm up for about 10 minutes, remembering not to overdo it.
- * Drink plenty of fluids.
- * Check all of your athletic equipment, and follow all rules of the game you are playing. Take lessons, if necessary.
- * Take immediate shelter if you have any symptoms of frostbite or hypothermia, including numb patches of white skin, waxy dark skin or swollen, burning and itchy skin.—Internet



Supplies to be used by drug addicts fill baskets as nurse Arvita Cotter prepares for a shift at the Insite safe injection clinic in Vancouver, BC, on 18 April, 2011.

INTERNET

Montreal official recommends safe injection sites

MONTREAL, 18 Dec—Montreal's director of public health is recommending the creation of safe injection sites for addicts to shoot up under supervision. In a report released today, Dr Richard Lessard proposes that safe injection centres be set up inside existing health-care and community institutions.

Lessard is also recommending the creation of a mobile team of nurses to be deployed in neighbourhoods with the most needs. He says safe injection services are necessary to address the high death rate of intravenous drug addicts and elevated rates of hepatitis C and HIV. In October, Quebec's health minister gave the green light to these sites following a Supreme Court of Canada decision to keep the Insite safe injection clinic open in Vancouver.

Quebec City is also looking at the possibility of opening safe injection centres.—Internet

Haydee Ibarra looks at her 14-week-old daughter, Melinda Star Guido, at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, on 14 Dec, 2011. At birth, Melinda Star Guido tipped the scales at only 9 1/2 ounces, a tad less than the weight of two iPhone 4S. Most babies her size don't survive, but doctors are preparing to send her home as soon as the end of the month. Melinda is believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the United States and the third smallest in the world.—INTERNET

Business



Brenda, who did not want her last name used, and has been unemployed for the last three years, shops for her monthly allotment at Project Concern, a non-profit center that supplies emergency food and household items to families in need in Cudahy, Wisconsin, on 14 December, 2011.

INTERNET

Texas investor to buy Morton's steakhouses

HOUSTON, 18 Dec — Morton's Restaurant Group Inc said it would be sold to investor Tilman Fertitta of Houston for about \$116.6 million.

Fertitta is paying \$6.90 per share in cash, a 33.7 percent premium over the company's Thursday closing price of \$5.16, the *Chicago Tribune* reported Saturday.

"Morton's is the largest, most iconic high-end restaurant chain in America and I've always thought a lot of it. They have excellent food and great service," said Fertitta, is chief executive officer of

Landry's Inc.

The steakhouse chain operates 77 restaurants in 64 cities, including Trevi, an Italian restaurant at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

In October, the restaurant projected full-year 2011 revenues of about \$322 million, indicating it had survived the recession.

Fertitta said his plans are to expand the chain.

"When you look at Landry's or Tilman, the way they purchase brands is ... they look for strong brands they can modernize, contemporize — even remodel — and raise their operating margins," said

Darren Tristano, executive vice president of Technomic, a food industry consulting company.—Internet

Ford plant closes out 86-year run

ST PAUL, 18 Dec— Workers said mixed emotions swirled around Ford Motor Co's St Paul, Minn., assembly plant when it closed Friday after 86 years of operation.

The last vehicle, a Ford Ranger, came off the assembly line at about 10:00 am with veteran worker Dallas Theis behind the wheel, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported.

Theis spent more than 50 years at the plant, the newspaper said.

A cheer went up as he hopped into the compact truck, but emotions ranged from high to low, workers reported.

"It felt like we'd been preparing for a big holiday meal and we were all done and it was time to do the dishes," said 21-year-old line worker, Thomas Epperson.

"A lot of people brought their fathers and grandfathers to see the very end. There was a lot of tears and a lot of smiling when

Dallas drove it off the line. He's been here for a million years," Epperson said.

"People will be celebrating because it's hard work that eats up your body. But they'll pretty much be mourning, too, because it's a darn good-paying job with great benefits," said Michael Bartlett, 39, with more than 12 years at the plant.

For Minnesota, the loss of the plant is part of a longer trend that has seen a quarter of the state's 400,000 manufacturing jobs vanish since the late 1990s, the newspaper said.

Internet



Zach Pickens, of Brooklyn, N.Y., manager of Riverpark Farm, tends to his crops, in New York, on 15 Nov, 2011. Instead of allowing stalled projects to become eyesores, some developers are coming up with creative ways to use them temporarily until construction can begin. In New York City, where open space is a precious commodity, just about anything goes.

INTERNET

Time short for S&P to end 2011 higher

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—With two weeks left in the trading year, the euro zone debt crisis will remain the primary impediment to pushing the S&P 500 index into positive territory for 2011.

Uncertainty over progress in the region, along with the potential for credit rating downgrades on euro zone countries, have kept investors on edge and market volatility high.

Even with a fairly busy US economic calendar, which includes a batch of data on the housing market, the final reading on gross domestic product and durable goods orders, markets will focus on developments from Europe.

"What everybody is going to look at is the same thing they've been looking at — every time a German official opens their mouth we get crushed," said Paul Mendelsohn, chief investment strategist at Windham Financial Services in Charlotte, Vermont.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Santa Claus is out there. But we've got to see something."—Internet

Scientists discover why lemurs are dying out in their native Madagascar – they're being eaten as bar snacks

LONDON, 18 Dec—British scientists have found the reason why endangered lemurs are dying out—because they're being eaten as bar snacks.

The animals are still dwindling despite being a protected species in their homeland of Madagascar.

Researchers at Bangor University launched a study into their plight, and discovered the creatures are being munched by late night drinkers.

Their study found that changing lifestyles on the Indian Ocean island have seen the black and white primates end up on the menu. Researcher Julie Razafimanahak said: 'Young men have more cash and leisure time because they've moved from farming to panning for gold.

'So they spend more time in local bars, eating fried meat snacks with their drinks.'

Researchers found that in poor areas of the country lemurs are often the only animal available to eat.

Richard Jenkins, from Bangor University, said: 'Improving access to alternatives would help.

'If domestic meats could be farmed more reliably and were therefore cheaper, the pressure on wild species may be reduced.

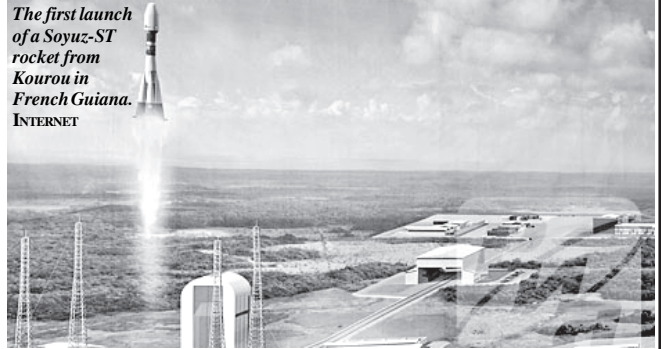
'More effort is needed to improve domestic animal husbandry methods and disease control in rainforest areas.' The study produced by the Welsh university and nature organisation Madagasikara Voakajy were published in medical research journal Plos One. Study lead author Dr Julia Jones said: 'Lemurs are worth much more to the economy alive than as meat so I hope Madagascar is able to tackle this problem.'

Internet



Tasty? Scientists have found lemurs - such as this ring-tailed mother and baby in Madagascar - have ended up on the menu.—INTERNET

Science



The first launch of a Soyuz-ST rocket from Kourou in French Guiana. INTERNET

Sturgeon to be fished in Caspian in 2012 for scientific survey only

BAKU, 18 Dec—One of the world's most valuable commercial fish, sturgeon, will be fished only for scientific survey and fish breeding next year, Azerbaijani Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Rauf Hajiyev told local media on Thursday.

According to Hajiyev, the decision was adopted at the 32nd meeting of the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian Sea, which is underway in Baku.

Most species of sturgeons are currently considered to be at risk of extinction, making them more critically endangered than any other group of species.

'Based on those estimates, all countries bordering the Caspian Sea agreed on that issue,' Hajiyev said.

The five countries—Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran—have not been given a quota for commercial sturgeon fishing in 2012, Hajiyev specified.

A working group of the Commission is still considering how long a moratorium on commercial sturgeon fishing would last.

The Caspian region is one of the most important areas for sturgeon, and is home to the six species which collectively provide more than 90 percent of the world's caviar production.

For decades the Caspian sturgeon has been over-fished for its profitable caviar.

A kilogram of Caspian sturgeon caviar can cost more than 1,000 US dollars on European markets.

The littoral countries worry that illegal over-fishing can permanently destroying the caviar industry.—Xinhua

Russia successfully launches rocket

MOSCOW, 18 Dec—A Russian Soyuz rocket was launched from the European Space Agency base in French Guiana Saturday, carrying six military satellites.

This was the second launch for the Soyuz rocket from the Europe's space base in Kourou, RIA Novosti reported.

The Soyuz ST-A successfully hauled six satellites to orbit, including France's Pleiades 1 satellite, which has high-resolution imaging technology, as well as a small Chilean military satellite called SSoT.

The remaining four are Elisa micro radar eavesdropping satellites for the French military.

Internet

Driverless car: Google awarded US patent for technology

Technology

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—A US patent for self-driving cars has been awarded to Google. The intellectual rights relate to a method to switch a vehicle from a human-controlled mode into the state where it takes charge of the wheel. It explains how the car would know when to take control, where it is located and which direction to drive in.

The search firm suggests the technology could be

used to offer tours of tourist locations or to send faulty models to repair shops.

The application for Transitioning a Mixed-mode Vehicle to Autonomous Mode was applied for in May, but had been hidden from public view until this week.

The document describes using two sets of sensors. The first identifies a "landing strip" when the vehicle stops. This then triggers the second set which receives data

informing the machine where it is positioned and where it should go.

The landing strip allows a human driving the vehicle to know acceptable parking places for the vehicle," the patent filing says. Additionally, the landing strip may indicate to the vehicle that it is parked in a region where it may transition into autonomous mode."

Google says the landing strip could simply be a mark on the ground, a sign on a wall, or lines or arrows showing where the vehicle should be parked. To detect which landing strip it has been parked at, the document says the car could activate a GPS (global positioning system) receiver to find its rough location and then use its sensors to detect trees, foliage or other known landmarks to determine its exact position.—Internet



Google has been experimenting with driverless Toyota Prius cars in the US



It's a boy. This baby panda was born at the San Diego Zoo on 2 Sept, 2011, and the zoo staff, anxious to leave the newborn alone with its mother, a Chinese-born panda named Bai Yun, did not get to examine the little guy for a month. A baby panda's sex is not obvious when you can only see it from a distance. Following Chinese tradition, the baby will not get a name until he is 100 days old.—INTERNET

NASA to change private spacecraft plans

CAPE CANAVERAL, 18 Dec—NASA says planned changes in the next stage of a program to develop privately operated US spacecraft will give it more flexibility amid funding uncertainties.

NASA said it is getting only half the money it wanted for the program and that lack of funding made it "really tough" to lock in a firm fixed-price contract with enough companies to keep moving forward to develop a commercial vehicle to ferry US astronauts to the International Space Station.

William Gerstenmaier, associate NASA administrator for the human exploration and operations mission directorate, said the agency has decided on a more flexible contracting procedure that will keep more private companies in the running and still allow NASA to sign off when the companies achieve certain milestones.

"It gives us some flexibility from a budget standpoint to make as much progress during this time as we move forward," he told Florida Today.

NASA is not expecting a new vehicle to be ready until at least 2017, a year later than initially planned, he said. The goal of the new contracting procedure is to advance the development work enough to reach a design certification process and the eventual awarding of a contract, NASA said.

Internet



Vitamin B can help beat memory loss and Alzheimer's

LONDON, 18 Dec—A daily dose of Vitamin B can radically combat memory loss in old age and even help protect against Alzheimer's disease, a new study has found.

More than 250 people took part in the study, at Oxford University, including people with mild cognitive impairment who were aged 70 years or older.

They were given vitamin B, found naturally in food such as beans, meat, wholegrains and bananas, or a placebo over a two-year period. Taking the food supplement appeared to help maintain mental processes, such as planning, organising and recalling information.

The researchers found that people taking the pill had lower levels of a brain protein known to lead to a rise in the risk of dementia. They found that it also slowed mental decline in older people who have slight problems with their memory.

The research suggests that dementia could be treated with a food supplement rather than by taking complicated medicines. "The findings from these two reports should be of interest to clinicians," the Daily Mail quoted Carrie Ruxton of the Health Supplements Information Service as telling the Daily Express.—*Internet*

Zhou Shuchun (L), vice president of Xinhua News Agency, poses for a picture with Fairfax Media Group Editor John Crowley during their meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, on 16 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Now, 'sweet' shoes keep sweaty feet 'minty' cool

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—A shoe permeated with a common sugar substitute in the soles could now give your sweaty feet a 'minty' cool feel even during a heavy workout, a new study has revealed. The Louis Garneau Carbon Pro Team shoes, designed for cycling, use the sweetener xylitol, more commonly found in gum and toothpaste.

Xylitol is an alcohol-based sugar, so when it comes into contact with moisture, it evaporates.

Normally, this aspect of xylitol gives gum and toothpaste a minty cooling sensation. But when used in shoes, it cools the feet, *Discovery News* reported.

Putting xylitol in the soles would ordinarily make it more difficult for the xylitol to work because of the lack of air movement. But the company designed the shoes with a lot of extra ventilation to augment the airflow.—*Internet*



Volunteer bikers dressed as Santa Claus parade to collect funds in western France to help the National Society of Sea Lifeguards.—INTERNET

Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2011 shows an Airbus A380 landing at Capital International Airport in Beijing, capital of China. The second Airbus A380 ordered by China Southern Airlines arrived at the airport on Sunday after more than 10 hours' flight from France. XINHUA

One in ten Austrian teens say Hitler did 'good things'

VIENNA, 18 Dec—One in ten young Austrians think Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler did some "good things", a shocking poll has found.

The Youth Culture Research Institute poll found 11.2 percent of respondents said Hitler "did many good things for the people". The

Daily Mail reports. The finding was described as 'frightening' by the local newspaper as it is coupled with the general mistrust and dislike of non-Austrians.

One in four respondents said there are "too many Turks" in Austria, who form the predominant immigrant group in the country.

Austrians were worried over future job prospects because they would have to compete with Turkish immigrants, study author Beate Grossegger said.

According to the poll, 18.2 percent of Austrians said "Jews have now, like before, too much influence over the world economy".

40.5 percent of respondents agreed with the statement that "for many immigrants, the Austrians are viewed as a lesser people".

The pollsters said the less educated youth reported more extremist views and though their well-educated counterparts had extremist overtones, they expressed them in more "subtle" ways.

Youth Culture Research Institute Chairperson Bernhard Heinzlmaier said well educated people belonging to middle class were xenophobic, which was nurtured by prolonged "neoliberally brainwashing".

The Youth And Zeitgeist study was carried out among 400 young people in Vienna. Austria had a tense relationship with Hitler's regime after it was taken over by Hitler in 1938.—*Internet*



112 people arrested across Europe in crackdown on child porn

THE HAGUE, 18 Dec—More than 110 people have been arrested across 22 European countries on suspicion of possessing child pornography, the European Police Office (EUROPOL) announced on Friday. More arrests are expected.

Officials said an investigation into a file-sharing program identified 269 suspects who allegedly possessed and shared child pornography. A total of 189

house searches have been conducted as of Friday, resulting in 112 arrests across 22 European countries.

Europol said the operation targeted those who shared the most extreme forms of video material, which includes babies and toddlers being sexually abused and raped. "This is the latest major success in over 10 years of Europol supporting law enforcement agencies in their

fight against child sex abuse online," said Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol.

The arrests were made in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Croatia, Norway, and Switzerland.

Internet

Bomb blast kills one people in Bangladeshi capital

DHAKA, 18 Dec—One person was killed in a small bomb explosion in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka Sunday morning, police said.

"The unidentified victim died in hospital after he was rushed there with serious injuries," Tofazzal Hossain, chief of Dhaka's Motijheel police station, told *Xinhua*.

The 26-year-old victim who suffered serious splinter

injuries in his chest died later in hospital.

The blast in Dhaka's Motijheel commercial district was the result of a clash between the police and activists of Bangladesh's main opposition Nationalist Party, police said. It has not been known immediately whether the victim was the activist of the opposition party.

The official who preferred to be unnamed said five vehicles including a police van were set on fire during the clashes. Dozens of activists of the opposition party were also nabbed after the clashes, he added.

Panic gripped Dhaka dwellers as sounds of the explosions rocked parts of the capital city on Saturday.—*Xinhua*

Nine jailed for hacking in China

BEIJING, 18 Dec—Nine people have been jailed for hacking and illegally acquiring online games accounts in China, *Xinhua* reported Saturday.

Zhao and Yan, were jailed three years- and- eight months and two-and-half-years respectively for hacking online games accounts and selling them to new users by the Xiaguan District People's Court in eastern China's Jiangsu province.

Seven others who bought hacked accounts from them were given jail terms ranging from one to four years. Zhao and Yan earned thousands of yuan by selling these accounts.

Xinhua



Camels taking part in the "beauty contest" are seen in the desert near Zayed City, the United Arab Emirates, on 17 Dec, 2011. Some 20,000 camels from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries competed in a traditional "beauty contest" during the fifth Al Dhafra Camel Festival opening here on Saturday. XINHUA

Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association meets



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan views copiers, printers, scanners and card printers on display.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The 20th annual general meeting of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association was held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Minye Kyawswa Street in Lanmadaw Township here this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan.

It was attended by Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads and personnel of the Ministry of Information, vice-presidents and executive members of the UMFCCI, patron, chairman, executive members and members of the MPPA, personnel of partner organizations and guests.

First, chairman of the meeting MPPA Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo gave an opening address. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said it is learnt that the association could frankly discuss and unanimously adopt the resolution for its development and success of its works. Election of the new executives and future plans of the association are to be implemented with these fine traditions.

In 2005, the Information Ministry and the MPPA established relations. Looking back the tradition of the association, three points can be seen; the first is the MPPA is a profit-making business association as well as engaging in literature sphere and social works. In addition, it has the tradition of always cooperating with the government based on national interests.

The second point is the association has a tradition of coordinating harmoniously with other friend NGOs, and brother associations. Its main partners are Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the UMFCCI, Press Scrutiny and Registration Division of the Ministry of Information.

The third point is the unity of the association. The Union Minister said he believed that all the new executives will carry on the works of the association of in accordance with these fine traditions.

The Union Minister added that whenever he had a contact with the MPPA, he had called for its efforts for

development of printing and publishing industry, increase in number of members and to focus on quality of the members as the number of members is increasing and to bear national interests in the mind in doing whatever.

Initially, the association had only about 400 members. But the number has jumped to 4204. It is heartening to see the number and it is better to have views of many more people rather than of one individual.

The 20th AGM will review the capability of the association to carry out the work programmes and objectives that have been laid down for a period of two years. As there may be both strengths and weaknesses, it is necessary to coordinate matters to ensure more success and progress in the coming years.

The association is formed in the national cause to cooperate constantly with the government. And its cooperation with the government in future, said the Union Minister. He also expressed his belief that it will cooperate with other NGOs. So, the association needs to continue its united cooperation in future. He stressed the need to solve problems of contradictions.

The Union Minister continued that it is needed to implement International Standard Book Number (ISBN) plan so as to develop literary field of the country. The ISBN is of primary importance to make country's publication spread all over the world. As cooperative measures with international ISBN agency of England have been taken, we reach the step to be recognized. After procedure with ISBN has been completed, the books published in the country will be distributed in the world with no trouble.

The country is taking approach towards a new developed nation wielding democracy and market-oriented economic system in accord with the new constitution. Only when all sectors develop will the country see development. So, it is needed to work hard seeking ways and means in order to keep abreast of other countries.

Restrictions on periodicals have now been

relaxed through step-by-step procedure. Finally, journalists will enjoy rights to write in accord with law, embracing freedom and accountability, freedom and rationality. So, publishers will have to take responsibility and liability in conformity with the law that will emerge in the future.

The association, as it is a social organization, needs to keep balance with the undertakings carried out by the State. The State is upholding three objectives: commitment to reforms aspired by the people, peace and stability and development of the country and development of socio-economic life of the people.

A total of 15 laws have been enacted in amending and prescribing laws. Thanks to such reforms, measures can be taken on a large scale in respective sectors of the country.

In management sector, measures being taken to become executive mechanism beneficial to public interests, transparent executive mechanism, and good governance and clean government. In judicial sector, special attention is being paid to giving more accurate verdict in accord with the law.

In relation to peace-building sector, three main points are being implemented: building peace with national races armed groups, ensuring internal political stability of the State like making cooperation in domestic politics, and ensuring external political stability.

To ensure domestic peace, in other words to politically cooperate in the country, cooperative measures are being taken to seek common ground in the interests of the country and its people, leaving aside different views. As a result, one group can build trust and understanding with another more and more, and then they can later enter into negotiation for different views.

To ensure external political stability, the citizens living abroad with various reasons are being invited to come back to the country. The relations with the UN as well as international organizations and other countries are being further promoted.

To ensure development of the country and socioeconomic life of the people, pleasurable environment are being created in investment sector, issuing orders and directives to relax current investment laws. So, Europe, Japan, Singapore and India are now observing to put investment in the country.

So, it is hoped that the country will develop soon. Eight work procedures are set down to ensure rural development and poverty alleviation scheme. Such scheme is profound, calling for large amount of investment. State's might, public might and well-wishers' might are cornerstone to implement the scheme.

In conclusion, the Union Minister said that the ministry will be exerting all-out efforts to develop the association and ensure wellbeing and high socioeconomic life of members of the association. He urged the members to serve the interests of themselves, the association and the country, employing current sound momentum of the association.

Afterwards, UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin made a speech.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan accepted K 5.1 million donated by Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo, vice-chairmen, secretaries and officials for the fund of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association.

Next, the Union Minister greeted the attendees and viewed Fuji Xerox brand copiers, printers and scanners of Concordia International Co Ltd, and evolis brand card printers and Audley brand printing devices of Art Man Co Ltd displayed at the hall.—MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

MFF holds Awarded Night

YANGON, 18 Dec—Myanmar Football Federation organized the MFF Awarded Night at Sedona Hotel, here, on 15 December evening.

President of MFF U Zaw Zaw extended greetings.

At the ceremony, Best Progressive Youth Referee Award was presented to U Khin Maung Win, Championship trophy in MNL Reserved Club League 2011 to Yadanabon FC, MFF Max Cement Cup and K 30 million to Yangon United FC, Championship Trophy in MNL Champion League 2011 and K 50 million to Yangon United FC, Fairplay Award to Kanbawza FC, K 500,000 and medal to top scorer in reserved club league Kaung

Sithu (Yangon), K 2 million and medal to top scorer award in MNL League Charles Obi (Yangon).

Best Woman Footballer Award winner defender San San Maw and youth footballer award winner Zaw Lin (Nay Pyi Taw) secured K 500,000 each. Kyaw Ko Ko of Zeya Shwemyay won Best Man Footballer Award and US\$ 3000, Thiha Sithu (Ayeyawady) US\$ 2000 and Yan Aung Kyaw (Yangon) US\$ 1000.

K 5 million was presented to bronze medalist Myanmar U-16 football team in AFF U-16 Championship, K 3 million to bronze medalist women's Futsal team in Indonesian SEA Games, K 20 million to Myanmar Women's Football Team in AFF Women's Championship, K 20 million and US\$ 47,000 to BIDD Champion Myanmar U-21 Football Team and US\$ 250,000 to bronze medalist Myanmar U-23 Team in Indonesian SEA Games.

Kyemon

University/College Body-building and Physical Culture Contest on 27 Dec

MANDALAY, 18 Dec—Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) of Ministry of Education will organize the University/College/Education College Body-building and Physical Culture Contest at preliminary level at the city hall, here, on 27 December.

The final matches will be held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony on 28 December.

Altogether 30 contestants each will participate in senior body-building and physical culture events, and junior body-building and physical culture events.

Kyemon

High qualification of computer science plays ...

(from page 1)

persons and government departments applying computer science secure achievement in their respective sectors with rapid development.

The Vice-President said that the government is striving for thorough emergence of e-governments system. At present, he said that Myanmar still needs to walk a long way for availability of any information at a mouse-click in one's own room. There have been many requirements in work capacities of the graduates turned out from Universities of Computer Studies including faculty members, he said.

Despite being plenty of natural resources, the nation is not to be a worthy country till today due to lack of technology to utilize the natural resources on a commercial scale, he said. In the education sector, he said that the academic years will be added one more year to promote the education standard, and faculty members are to uplift their proficiency themselves. Depending on teaching systems of faculty members, they can enhance quality of students, he said.

He pointed out that some countries with small population and no natural resources could have entered the first world by effectively applying the technology and highly-qualified human resources. Thanks to technological expertise, qualified human resources and industrial products, the smallest countries have become stronger

nations, he said.

He said that only when the nation is booming in economy, will nation-building tasks be carried out. Therefore, he stressed that high qualification of computer science plays a key role in strengthening of economy. Thus, he urged the faculty members to turn out their students to become well-versed technicians.

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

Next, the Vice-President viewed round learning of students at the university.

After that, they arrived at Border Areas and National Races Youth Development Training School (Lashio) of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Next, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met the principals and teachers of the youth training school and women's vocational training school. Then, Principal U Than Aung reported on facts about the youth training school (Lashio).

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win reported on the purpose of opening the training schools across the country and appointments of those who have completed the courses as civil servants.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar has a population of about 60 million made up of various national races, living the country in wee or woe. There are various reasons why the nation has not developed since regaining independence and the issue of national races is the main factor.

Out of the six objectives of opening border areas and national races development training schools, one objective is to enable nationalities youth to understand the cultures, customs and languages of different national races and to promote friendship and trust among them. In accordance with these noble aims, the youth students of the school are to try to be well-disciplined and do their bit in national development tasks upholding Our Three Main National Causes and Union Spirit. Then, the Vice-President urged the students to try to become the ones capable of leading the nation and their own regions in the future.

Afterwards, a cash donation ceremony was held. Union Minister for Sports and for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan donated sports gear, Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Win 20 sets of Sky Net TV receiver for orphanages in Lashio, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Loihein Co, Shwe Than Lwin Co, Tamoenye Chantha Co, Asia World Co and United Amara Bank K 20 million and Max Myanmar Co Ltd K 20 million.

The Vice-President and party looked round the hostels. Next, they visited Yandaingang Sutaungpyae Myo U Pagoda and made cash donations. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife and party then visited Maha Muni Hnee Pagoda



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham donates gold foils to Maha Muni Hnee Pagoda in Lashio.—MNA

and paid homage and offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ponnya Nanda of Manhsu Shan Monastery. They then visited Kanmein Monastery and paid homage to Sayadaw State Ovadacariya Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Mu Neinda and members of the Sangha. The Vice-President and wife presented

offerteries to the Sayadaw. Afterwards, the companies donated K 60 million for Kanmein Monastery. After hearing the sermon delivered by the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Vice-President and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and party viewed the renovation of the monastery.—MNA

622 monks, people donate blood for 13th time

YANGON, 18 Dec—The 13th blood donation was held at Chanthayyi Prayer Hall on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda, here, this morning.

Chairman of the Blood Donation Organizing Committee member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Dr Tin Thein Lwin extended greetings. In-charge of National Blood Centre of Yangon General Hospital Dr Thida Aung explained facts about the blood donation.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees donated K 500,000 from its management fund for honouring the blood donors to the in-charge of the centre.

At the ceremony, 622 monks and people donated blood. MNA

Talks on independence day held in Myeik

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department organized an educative talk in commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day at Ohndaw Post-Primary School in Myeik on 14 December morning.

Chairperson of Myeik Township Women's Affairs Organization gave

an introductory speech. Deputy Staff Officer Daw Than Than Htay of Myeik District IPRD explained the independence struggles and emergence of independence day.

Later, officials awarded winners in the quiz. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches observes gathering service, get-together

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches observed the gathering service and get-together to mark the X'mas at the precinct of Myanmar Baptist Church in Pyinmana yesterday evening.

It was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, departmental heads, the chairman of the Council of Churches and members.

Chairman of the council Rev Dr U Tin Maung Aye prayed for X'mas. Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung extended greetings.

After completion of reading Bible, preaching, X'mas commemorative service and blessing, those present were served with dinner.—MNA

Final of 12th Great Wall National Badminton Tournament held

YANGON, 18 Dec—The final of the 12th Great Wall National Badminton Tournament was held at National Badminton Court in Lanmadaw Township here this morning along with prize-presentation.

The President, Vice-President and General Secretary of Myanmar Badminton

Federation presented prizes to winners in U-16 men/women single and double events, regular men/women single and double events and Above-44/45 men's double event, men/women (open) single and double events. MNA

Insurgents' mine blast destroys machinery of Public Works

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The Special Projects Group Branch (3) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction is striving in construction of the Myitkyina-Sumparabum-Putao Road for ensuring secure and smooth transport in Kachin State.

On 16 December, the insurgents blasted machines and machinery parked at Nankha Village at mile post No. 87/0 of the road at night. In the explosion one roller, one excavator and one forklift were destroyed in the explosion. MNA

An excavator of Public Works destroyed by insurgents' mine. MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann...

(from page 16)

was trying for her party registration. In Myanmar, the government and the Hluttaw are placing emphasis on peace and stability and unity of the nation. In doing so, human rights commission and national races and peace-making committee have been formed. Those committees are important for national unity and national reconsolidation. In addition, labour law and peaceful procession law have been enacted in accord with the democratization process. The Speaker expressed his belief that as the government has built foundations for democracy, success and progress will be achieved.

The forthcoming elections are open to all to stand for. The Hluttaw is formed with those from national races parties and women representatives. The representatives of political parties are working in accord with democratic practices in the interests of the nation and the people without considering self-interest in their own party, regionalism, racism and religionism. It can therefore be said that the Hluttaw sessions which have already been held have met with success.

The Speaker went on to say that the Myanmar President's visit to India has achieved remarkable success. During the visit, new sectors have been opened in bilateral cooperation. The Hluttaw will encourage cooperation in the main sectors.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met Speaker of Upper House and Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari at the parliament building on 12 December afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indian Vice President said it is not particularly necessary to say that the relations between the two countries are improving. During the recent visit of Myanmar's President to India, both leaders met and discussed cordially and amicably. Those from both sides who made discussions are people's representatives who have been democratically elected. The Vice President continued that today, it was also the first direct meeting between the members of parliaments from the two countries, who have been elected by the peoples as representatives.

India regained her independence on 15 August 1947. Since that time, a firm decision had been made to practise

is carrying out democratization process and has formed Hluttaws. At a time when the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw have emerged by adopting a parliamentary democracy system, the Myanmar delegation's visit to India is indeed a milestone in history, he concluded.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called on Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar at the ante-room of Parliamentary Library Building on 12 December evening.

At the meeting, the Speaker of Lok Sabha said the two countries are culturally and historically close neighbours. Myanmar successfully held election in November and that Hluttaws are honoured as they began their functions in January. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker is also honoured for his election as the Speaker and he has the responsibility to lay parliamentary democracy foundation, the Indian speaker said. It is a historic

with a very large population and a wide ideological and ethnical diversity materialized democracy for progress and the Indian administrative and socio-economic systems.

Myanmar's geographical location will be beneficial to India, he said, adding that development of land, water and air transport between two countries will serve interests of both. Currently, Myanmar is striving to implement democracy more effectively, strengthen the Hluttaws and ensure systematic functions and enhance the efficiency of speakers and MPs. He thanked Indian offer to assist Myanmar realize her goal.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and members, the Speaker of the House of the People and members enjoyed the Indian cultural variety dances at the theatre of Parliamentary Library Building and presented bouquets to the cultural



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri M Hamid Ansari at Parliamentary Building in New Delhi.—MNA

duty. Indian parliamentary speakers adopted democracy principles after the country regained independence, he said. The Indian speaker expressed his belief that Thura U Shwe Mann will successfully discharge his duty, saying he valued the decision to visit India. He said bilateral visits further enhance friendship.

He said the two are Buddhist countries, adding the peoples of both countries always keep in heart peace and non-violence which are the teachings of Lord Buddha. The

troupe and posed for documentary photo.

In the evening, the Speaker of the House of the People hosted a dinner to the Speaker and representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw at the hall of the Parliamentary Library.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party met Opposition Leader Smt Sushma Swaraj of the House of the People at the hall of the Lok Sabha at 4pm on 13 December and Opposition Leader of the Council of States Shri Arun Jaitle at the meeting hall of the Parliamentary Library at 2.30 pm on 14 December. They discussed parliamentary affairs.

On 13 December, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker met Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri SM Krishna at the hall of the External Affairs Relations Committee at the Parliament in New Delhi. On 12 December, he also met Indian Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal at the Parliament Building. They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and exchanged views on parliamentary affairs.

On 13 December, they met Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs HK Dua and exchanged views.

At Parliamentary Building in New Delhi at 11 am on 12 December, they viewed convening of parliamentary meetings by the House of the People and the Council of the States. Indian MPs warmly welcomed them.

They viewed submission of bills, raising questions and discussions among the MPs.

On arrival at the meeting hall of the Parliamentary Library in New Delhi at 9.30 am on 13 December, they heard clarifications on office works of the Parliament by officials of Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST).

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party visited the reading room and systematic display of classical literature and various subjects at the Parliamentary Building.

At the Archive Museum, they viewed ancient scenes of India, scenes of Indian Parliament, documentary photos of Indian State leaders and documentary film on independence struggles.

At 9.30 am on 15 December, they observed manufacturing of automobiles at Maruti Suzuki Indian Limited and left New Delhi by air in the evening and arrived in Mumbai.

At 10 am on 16 December, they visited Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai and met officials.

They held meetings with India Merchants Chambers and Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussed investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

(See page 10)



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar at Parliamentary Library in New Delhi.—MNA

parliamentary democracy. Then, the country took three years to write a constitution, and it was approved in January, 1950. That constitution is still in force. India has many different faiths and national races and too many books to read. But the only thing is the constitution. **The significant point of the constitution is that only the representatives who have been elected by the people must rule the people. People's representatives need to be trustworthy and reliable.**

The India Upper House has three main duties. The first is to carry out legislative affairs, the second to make sure that the government holds meetings and discussions daily, weekly and monthly for its effectiveness and the third to make sure that the people's desires are to be informed to the government. Under the constitution, an independent judiciary body has been formed, the Vice President said.

For his part, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said Myanmar

Excellency visited Mahatma Gandhi Rajghat. Gandhi followed Buddha's teachings in his political activities. India gives priority to democracy development while protecting peace. India is trying to form Indo-Myanmar Friendship Group, he said.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker expressed pleasure in accepting the invitation of Indian counterparts, thanking the hosts for hospitality and every convenience. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said they have gained valuable parliamentary experiences, adding the country has only little democracy experience and practice as it is in the initial stage of democratization. The aim of his trip is to study the rich democracy experiences of India, he said, expressing wish to seek means to enhance ability of Hluttaw supporting bodies.

The second aim, he said, is to further promote existing bilateral friendly relations. The third aim is to study how India

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann...

(from page 9)

At 9 am on 17 December, they paid homage to World Vipassana Pagoda, the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda.

In the afternoon, they met officials of Indo-Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai and focused on aviation and cooperation in economic and investment.

While in Bangkok of Thailand on 11 December, they viewed sales of automobiles by international companies at the 20th Thailand International Motor Expo 2011 at Impact Challenger Building.

On 17 December evening, they left Mumbai of India and arrived back in Yangon on 18 December morning.

During the goodwill visit to India from 11 to 17 December, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker held discussions on promotion of friendly ties and various sectors including economic and investment matters, and it was a successful visit to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

MNA



A worker shows an "iPhone" gift box made of chocolate in Shanghai World Chocolate Wonderland in Shanghai, east China, on 15 Dec, 2011. The Shanghai World Chocolate Wonderland was opened in Shanghai on 16 Dec. The park will display chocolate models such as the Terracotta Warriors and Horses and Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes.

XINHUA

69 arrested at illegal Athens casino

ATHENS, 18 Dec — Greek authorities say they arrested 69 people at an illegal casino in Athens that generated more than \$1.5 million in profits in the past nine months.

Ekathimerini reported the country's financial police and the electronic crimes squad made the arrests Friday at the casino on Syngrou Avenue, south of the Athens city center.

The casino's owner had not been caught.

Those arrested included a police officer who has been suspended since May for illegal activities at the casino, where he worked as a security guard, Ekathimerini said. The casino's owner and his associates had installed at least 30 security cameras.

Internet



Floral tributes were left at the scene of the killing.

Boy aged 10 admits strangling four-year-old

STOCKHOLM, 18 Dec — A ten-year-old boy in Sweden has confessed to killing a boy of four by strangling him with a skipping rope after an argument. Officers said the youngster had confessed after a 59-day investigation into the death of the younger, named Texas, in the southern village of Ljungby.

The four-year-old disappeared on October 16 from the courtyard outside the flats where he lived.

According to Swedish news reports, he had been in a fight with several other children who had chased him out of a play area.

His body was found a few hours later in a nearby wooded area.

More than 35 officers joined the investigation into the death and at least 65 children, aged between five and 15, were questioned.

"The difficulty with this investigation has been that the evidence was found with children and that was a very difficult situation to handle," said lead investigator Yvonne Rudinsson.

The 10-year-old was reportedly identified as a suspect early in the investigation and then later confessed.

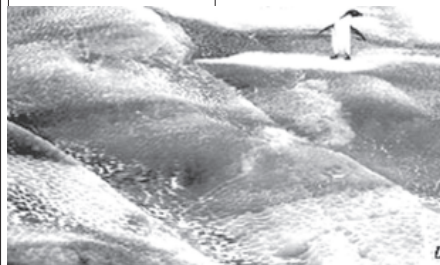
Robert Loeffel, head of information at the Kronoberg county police, said: "The boy has told us what he did and how he did it and there is a confession in that.

"As far as I am concerned, the crime is solved," Kronoberg police chief Anders Kjaersgaard said: "My hope is that, now that the crime has been resolved, it will help everyone who is in one way or another involved in this very tragic event to move forward in their painful grief."

Children under the age of 15 cannot be punished under Swedish law, so the case of the 10-year-old will be handled by social services.

Internet

The sea in the area is said to have a 95% ice covering.—INTERNET



US car dealerships involved in Hezbollah money laundering scheme

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — Over two dozen US car dealerships were allegedly involved in an international 300 million dollars money laundering scheme for Lebanon-based terrorist organization Hezbollah, federal officials have said.

According to a 62-page complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, federal agents served restraining orders and grilled employees at as

many as 30 used car dealerships around the country, as part of a civil case that also named a Lebanese bank and two exchange houses as part of the plot. The scheme involved the purchases of used cars in the US for shipment and sale abroad with funds provided by the banks, currency exchanges and associates of the Lebanon-based terrorist group. The restraining orders are intended to seize the assets of all of the used car dealerships named in the federal complaint. "We're looking to shut down this trade-based money laundering scheme," Drug Enforcement Agency agent Derek Maltz told ABC News. "And we're looking to take the profits away from Hezbollah and other terror groups around the world," he added. The complaint alleges that banks in Lebanon wired over 300 million dollars into the US for the purchase and shipment of used cars to West Africa.

Proceeds from those sales were then allegedly funneled back to Lebanon to support Hezbollah causes.

Internet

Surfer snapped riding monster Irish waves

LONDON, 18 Dec — A surfer has been pictured riding one of the biggest recorded waves ever to hit Irish shores. Jayce Robinson was photographed catching the major Atlantic swell at Mullaghmore Head, which produced waves of up to 67ft. The daredevil dislocated his knee — and his board snapped in half — during his efforts on Tuesday. But Mr Robinson, from St Ives, is no rookie to the surf. He is the former top Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) European junior — and hits the waves in international surfing competitions as much as possible. The 22-year-old, who has been surfing since he was just seven, told Sky News Online: "It was definitely the biggest barrel I've ever surfed."

"I was a little nervous but I didn't have time to think about it — it's almost like a car crash, you don't know what's happening." "I was only on it for about 20 seconds then the lip just hit me straight in the back and I went down. "It's like being in a washing machine and I felt my limbs get pulled all over the place. That's when I felt my knee pop." His friend — and fellow British surfer — Lyndon Wake witnessed the glorious ride after towing him out to the waves behind a jetski. "It's always a worst case scenario when your tow partner wipes out," he told Sky News Online. "Lucky he managed to come out the other side OK and I got him straight back on the jetski."

The adrenaline-seeking pair have been in Ireland for about a month chasing the swells. "The waves are just amazing and world-class here at this time of year," Mr Robinson said. "(The wipeout) is not going to hold me back, that's for sure. As soon as my knee is better I will be back out there." On the same day, the Met Office said the largest Irish wave was measured at a special buoy off the Donegal coast, while a force 10 storm raged across the north coast. Meteorologists at Met Eireann said data from the sea conditions about 60 miles to sea were the most severe it has encountered that distance offshore. "The M4 weather buoy off the Donegal coast recorded a maximum wave height of 20.4 metres which is the highest maximum wave recorded in Irish waters," Met Eireann reported.

Internet



Jayce (R) was towed out to the monster waves - and then rescued - by his mate Lyndon Wake on a jetski.

Russian fishing vessel in Antarctic drama

WELLINGTON, 18 Dec — Russian fishing vessel with 32 people on board has issued a mayday call, after taking on water close to the Antarctic ice shelf. A number of ships are on their way to as-

sist the vessel, the Sparta, but they are being hampered by ice and the nearest could take days to reach it. Rescue efforts are being coordinated from New Zealand, 3,700km (2,000 nautical miles) to the north-west.

The Sparta is afloat but listing by 13 degrees. Rescuers have radio contact. Russia's Interfax news agency said the vessel had been blocked in and holed by ice in the south-east of the Ross Sea. Efforts to keep water out of the hold were failing, one of the crew, including two scientific observers, have been moved into life rafts while the remainder try to save the vessel, the agency said.

The Sparta issued a distress call at 16:00 GMT on Thursday, which was picked up by Norwegian rescuers and passed on to the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand. Rescue co-ordinator Tracy Brickle said there were no helicopters in the area. We have contacted a number of vessels," she said. However, the closest ones are hampered by heavy ice, making vessel movement very difficult. The closest vessel which can cut through the ice is several days away." — Internet

Experts say child penicillin doses should be reviewed

LONDON, 18 Dec — Penicillin doses for children — which have stayed the same for 50 years — need to be reviewed because youngsters are getting heavier, experts have said.

Dosages are based on age but an average weight is assumed and average weights have risen, the London-based team warn.

In the British Medical Journal, they say a review is needed to ensure children are getting enough medication. But one pharmacist said using weight could mean more room for error.

Oral penicillins, such as amoxicillin, account for nearly 4.5 million of the total six million annual prescriptions for antibiotics given to treat childhood bacterial infections each year in the UK.

The current dosing guidelines are set out in the British National Formulary for Children. Experts from King's College London and St George's, University of London, say basing doses on a child's age was first suggested in the 1950s, and the guidelines medics still use were published in the BMJ in 1963.

These estimated that a baby aged up to one weighed 10kg (22lbs), a two-year-old weighed 13kg (28.6lbs), a five-year-old 18kg (39.6lbs) and a 10-year-old 30kg (66.1lbs).

Internet



Amoxicillin, one of the range of penicillin drugs available



US magazine Newsweek released a list of 10 most endangered sites on earth, including The Taj Mahal of India, Angkor Wat of Cambodia and so on.—XINHUA

Man 'seriously injured' in Ipswich flat explosion

IPSWICH, 18 Dec — A man has suffered serious injuries following an explosion in Suffolk.

Emergency services were called to a flat in Ellenbrook Green, Ipswich, at 22:00 GMT following reports of an explosion, Suffolk Police said.

The injured man was found at the property and taken to Ipswich Hospital and a 41-year-old man from Ipswich has been arrested on suspicion of arson.

The area has been cordoned off while officers examine the scene to establish the cause of the explosion.

Internet

Geisha are traditional, female Japanese entertainers whose skills include performing various Japanese arts.

XINHUA



China to boost maritime cooperation with ASEAN countries

HAIKOU, 18 Dec — China will actively push forward maritime cooperation with the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in light of the guidelines on conduct in the South China Sea, a Foreign Ministry official has said. Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin made the remarks during an international seminar on implementing the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and maintaining the navigational free-

RAF helicopter crash co-pilot spared jail

LONDON, 18 Dec — The co-pilot of an RAF helicopter that crashed during a "jolly", killing the pilot and two others, has avoided jail. Ex-Flt Lt Robert Hamilton was on board the Puma when it crashed at Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, in 2007. Hamilton, 29, who was left paraplegic, pleaded guilty to an earlier court martial to neglect in flying likely to cause loss of life or bodily injury. Vice Judge Advocate General Michael Hunter imposed a sentence of 16 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years. A further charge of wilful neglect was left on file.

The pilot, Flt Lt David Sale, 28, from Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees, crewman Sgt Phillip Burfoot, 27, from Cardiff, and Army recruit Pte Sean Tait, 17, from Glasgow, who was serving with the Royal Regiment of Scotland, all died. The helicopter, which was on a troop exercise, had three RAF personnel and nine soldiers on board.

The hearing listened to extracts from the two-hour cockpit voice recording, dur-

ing which the Johnny Cash song Ring of Fire could be heard over the aircraft's speaker system. The crew could also be heard laughing and joking minutes before the crash. Hours earlier the helicopter almost hit the ground and all those on board agreed not to report it, the court martial heard. Hamilton had also had three near accidents of his own in helicopters near Salisbury just days before the fatal crash.

Internet

The Puma helicopter crashed in a field at Catterick camp four years ago.—INTERNET



Self-cleaning cotton nanoparticle coating invented

SHANGHAI, 18 Dec — Efforts to create self-cleaning cotton fabrics are bearing fruit in China. Engineers have created a chemical coating that causes cotton materials to clean themselves of stains and remove odours when exposed to sunlight. The researchers say the treatment is cheap, non-toxic and ecologically friendly. Retail experts say the innovation could prove a hit with retail-

ers thanks to a growing demand for "functional clothing". The research was carried out by engineers at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Hubei University for Nationalities, and is published in the latest issue of the *Applied Materials and Interfaces* journal.

The study focuses on titanium dioxide — a chemical known to be an "excellent catalyst in the degradation of organic pollutants". The substance is already used in self-cleaning windows, odour-free socks and stay-clean kitchen and bathroom tiles. Initial efforts to extend its use to cotton fabrics proved limiting because the

substance's self-cleaning properties could only be "excited" under ultraviolet lights, making it impractical for everyday use.

The team's breakthrough was to create a nanoparticle alcohol-based compound made up of titanium dioxide and nitrogen. The mixture was added to triethylamine, an acid neutraliser commonly used in dyes. After being stirred for a 12 hours at room temperature, the liquid was heated at 100C (212F) for a further six hours. The cotton fabrics were then immersed in the mixture before being squeezed dry, heated and immersed in hot clean water.—Internet



place for them." After dropping a pump, pipes and fuel to the Sparta the New Zealand plane will have to refuel at the US McMurdo Station before returning to Christchurch. A number of ships are on their way to assist the vessel but all are days away and being hampered by heavy sea ice. The first distress call from the Sparta was picked up at about 0300 New Zealand time on Friday (Thursday 1400 GMT), when it was confirmed the ship east of the Ross Sea and taking on

Stricken Russian ship crew awaits New Zealand air drop

water. MapIt has a 30cm (1ft) hole in the hull beneath the water line and was listing at an angle of 13 degrees and taking on water, according to the RCCNZ. The crew comprise 15 Russians (including the captain), 16 Indonesians and a Ukrainian. There are no helicopters in the area and rescue authorities say the best option is for another vessel to come to the Sparta's aid. But all three tasked with assisting are facing difficulties reaching the ship, said RCCNZ.

Internet



Footage from the US Air Force shows the fishing boat stranded in heavy sea ice.—INTERNET

12 killed in road mishap in northern India

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec — At least 12 people were killed and 20 others injured in a road mishap in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand late Saturday night, said police on Sunday.

The mishap happened when the bus in which the victims were traveling plunged into the Nahal river

due to heavy fog at Gadarpur area in the state's Udhm Singh Nagar district.

While 12 bodies have been fished out, locals rescued others and rushed them to a local hospital where the condition of some of the injured are said to be serious.

Deadly road accident takes place frequently in India, with at least 110,000 killed each year on the road, according to official estimates.—Xinhua

Freight train derails in Iowa

CHARLES CITY, 18 Dec — A freight train derailed in northern Iowa Saturday, sending 13 cars off the tracks, a company spokesman said.

There were no injuries reported, the *Mason City Globe Gazette* reported.

The Canadian Pacific train was carrying soybeans and scrap metal when the cars jumped the tracks about 1 pm.

"It would be premature to speculate on a cause as we begin an extensive investigation into what happened," railroad spokesman Ed Greenberg said.—Internet

Analysts say self-cleaning clothes could prove very popular in countries with humid climates.

INTERNET



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Colton Harris-Moore's crime spree ended when he crash-landed a plane in the Bahamas.

INTERNET

Nanjing turns kitchen waste into treasure

NANJING, 18 Dec—Nanjing is starting an environmentally friendly program to dispose of kitchen waste in preparation for hosting the 2014 Youth Olympics. By 2014, the city in east China plans to reduce the amount of kitchen waste it puts in sanitary landfills by half, while using the rest to produce biofuel and other "treasure." According to Chen Lei, deputy director of the Nanjing Municipal Planning Bureau, the capital city of Jiangsu province produces about 5,300 tonnes of domestic waste daily. About 30 percent of this refuse is kitchen waste.

Until now, the city's kitchen waste has

been put in landfills, where it ferments underground. However, the process releases a huge amount of methane, which is 20 times more harmful than carbon dioxide in terms of ozone depletion. Early this year, the planning bureau, in collaboration with Nanjing University, built a small biochemical processing facility at the Jiaozishan organic garbage disposal station.

The facility serves as a pilot project for kitchen waste processing. Using specialized machines, the kitchen waste is separated and mashed to facilitate fermentation. The resulting biogas is then collected and the residue is used as fertilizer.—*Xinhua*

US 'Barefoot Bandit' Colton Harris-Moore jailed

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—A US man known as the "Barefoot Bandit" has been sentenced to more than seven years in a state prison after pleading guilty to a string of charges. Colton Harris-Moore, 20, made global headlines during a two-year crime spree in which he evaded police in stolen cars, boats and planes. Footprints left at some of the crime scenes earned him his nickname.

He told the court in Wash-

ington state that his childhood was one he wouldn't wish on his "darkest enemies". He stood with his wrists shackled and made no reaction as the sentence was delivered in the packed courtroom in Coupeville. Judge Vickie Churchill described Harris-Moore's early life with an alcoholic mother and a series of her convict boyfriends as a "mind-numbing absence of hope".

"This case is a tragedy in many ways, but it's a triumph

of the human spirit in other ways," she said. "I could have been reading about the history of a mass murderer. I could have been reading about a drug abusive, alcoholic young man. That is the triumph of Colton Harris-Moore: He has survived." Harris-Moore's crime spree began in 2008 after the then teenager absconded from a halfway house in Seattle where he had been placed following previous run-ins with the police.—*Internet*



Carnival Cruise Lines in Florida is selling tickets for the "Tides of Torture" cruise, billed as the world's first horror convention at sea.

Horror convention takes to the seas

Carnival Cruise Lines in Florida is selling tickets for the "Tides of Torture" cruise, billed as the world's first horror convention at sea.

Dark Star Fantasy Cruises, which is organizing the event for Carnival, said the cruise, which will take place in April and costs \$699 per person, will feature stars from movies including "Machete," the "Hatchet"

series, the "Halloween" series, the "Hellraiser" series and the "Friday the 13th" series," USA Today reported Friday.

The organizers said the cruise will also include movie screenings, a "scream queen" contest and a "Dance of the Dead."

Rep Sanchez's late cat adorns card

Rep Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif, said her late, beloved cat is making one last appearance on her annual holiday card in the form of a Christmas tree ornament.

Sanchez, whose cat, Gretzky, starred in all of her wacky holiday cards since

2002 — including images of her riding a motorcycle with the cat and the two of them dressed as hockey players — said the cat's death last year was originally going to mean he would not appear at all on this year's card, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Friday.

However, she said, comments posted to her Facebook page requested more images of the feline, so Gretzky made his final holiday card appearance this year in the form of a Christmas tree ornament bearing his face.

Sanchez said this year's card is also notable for being the first to feature her husband Jack Einwechter, who she married in July.



News Album

'Miracle wood tree cross' for sale on eBay

The owner of a California landscaping company is selling a tree cutting from a church grounds with an image in the grain resembling a cross.

Jim Rants, owner of Star Landscape Maintenance, said the wood was cut from a pine tree at the 1st Congregational Church of Escondido, and one of his workers, Salvador Maya, noticed the image of a cross in the wood, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Friday.

Rants said a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the "miracle wood tree cross" will go to the church.

Leonardo DiCaprio likes complicated characters

LONDON, 18 Dec—Actor Leonardo DiCaprio likes to challenge himself with complicated characters in movies.

The actor admits he chooses his roles based on the characters, rather than the genre of the movie, reports contactmusic.com.

"I've never doubted the material I've been drawn to. I don't do a film because I feel it's time to do a comedy or a science-fiction or another genre," said the "Titanic" star.

"I do it because I'm motivated, it interests me, and I feel as if I could be of service to the character. And I like complicated characters," he added.

DiCaprio is currently working on "The Great Gatsby", an adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel. —Internet



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio

Michael Douglas to receive Monte Cristo Award

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—Veteran actor Michael Douglas is set to be honoured for his career achievements by bosses at his former theatre company in Connecticut.

The "Wall Street" star will receive Monte Cristo Award by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Centre in recognition of his glittering Hollywood career, reports contactmusic.com.



Veteran actor Michael Douglas

Douglas has a long association with the theatre company — he acted there for three years in the 1960s and has been a member of the board since 1980.

The actor will accept the prize from his wife Catherine Zeta-Jones during the Monte Cristo gala at the Edison Ballroom here 16 April.



Kanye West

I hated university life: Naomie Harris

LONDON, 18 Dec—"James Bond" actress Naomie Harris, who graduated from Pembroke College, Cambridge says she "hated" the university life.

"I really hated it. I imagined staying up all night discussing the meaning of life. Everyone told me I'd meet my future husband there, too," contactmusic.com quoted her as saying.

"People used to drink and drink and drink until they threw up all over the college grounds - where's the fun in that? It was one of the worst periods of my life. The people there were so different to me and I couldn't connect with them on any level. They talked about Eton and skiing and here was I, this black girl from North London. I didn't envy them; I was quite sorry for them. But I just felt so lonely," she said.—Internet



"James Bond" actress Naomie Harris,

Angelina Jolie more proud of 'Kung Fu Panda' than her other movies

SYDNEY, 18 Dec—Angelina Jolie loves the "Kung Fu Panda" movies more than any other film she has done because her whole family can sit down and watch them together.

The second 'Kung Fu Panda' movie's message of overcoming childhood difficulties has obvious echoes with Jolie who has

adopted three children with Brad Pitt.

"It's the film my kids love," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted her as saying.

"The nice thing about this story is we are really growing up with Po and finding out about human nature and the belief you can be anyone you want no matter what you look like or where you come from," she said.

The actress was eager to share the movie and its

Scarlett Johansson sick of her 'ScarJo' nickname

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—Scarlett Johansson has revealed that she is sick and tired of people calling her "ScarJo".

The 27-year-old actress told USA Today that "it's awful" that people refer her by that name.

"It's a laziness. People can't actually say the whole name?" the New York Post quoted her as saying.

"It's just bizarre ... Cate



Scarlett Johansson

Blanchett is not, like, 'CaBla'? Why do I have to get stuck?" the "We Bought a Zoo" actress stated.

Although Johansson doesn't specify how she feels about the nickname, she said that it does have one advantage, as it helps her to know if someone yelling her name is a random fan or an actual friend.

"If I hear somebody say [ScarJo], I know I don't know them at all," she added.

Justin Timberlake, West named most stylish men of 2011

LONDON, 18 Dec— Singer Justin Timberlake and Kanye West have been named the most stylish men of 2011 in a new poll by a magazine.

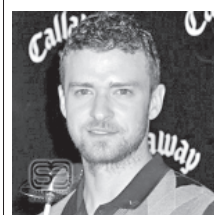
Editors of InStyle magazine have compiled a list of 20 celebrity men worth the title, reports contactmusic.com.

Others who feature in the list include actor Zac Efron, "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson, soccer ace David Beckham, Justin Theroux and actor Jake Gyllenhaal.

Internet



Angelina Jolie



Singer Justin Timberlake



AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic, of Sweden, scores from a penalty kick during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Siena at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 17 Dec, 2011.— INTERNET

AC Milan moves top with 2-0 win over Siena

MILAN, 18 Dec — AC Milan moved provisionally top of the Serie A standings with a 2-0 win over Siena on Saturday, which leaves the Tuscan side even more in danger at the foot of the table. Antonio Nocerino scored his sixth of the season to give Milan the lead and Zlatan Ibrahimovic doubled the tally from the spot. Milan moved a point clear of Udinese and Juventus, which play on Sunday. Siena remains two points above the relegation zone after five defeats in six games.

In a dramatic finish in Florence, two late goals

from German Denis and Andrea Masiello appeared to have given Atalanta victory over Fiorentina, but Stevan Jovetic leveled to secure a 2-2 draw. Elsewhere, Chievo got back to winning ways as goals from Cyril Thereau and Gennaro Sardo secured a 2-0 victory over Cagliari. “We knew it could be a difficult game,” Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri said. “We started well and then we got a bit tired. We were patient but we also risked conceding. Today was an important victory even if we didn’t play a very good match.”

Internet

Crane gets different diagnosis

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — Ben Crane received some good news earlier this week when two different doctors told him there was no tear in the labrum in his left hip. Crane had tweeted on 6 December that he was going to try and play with the injury in 2012 in hopes of making the PGA TOUR Playoffs for the FedExCup. He said he expected to have surgery next September — which put his title defense at The McGladrey Classic, played the week of 15 October, in jeopardy.

Recent visits to different

doctors revealed a different diagnosis, though, and Crane expects to play a full PGA TOUR schedule, as a result.

Here is how he shared the news on Twitter. @bencranegolf Great news!!! 2nd and 3rd opinion; no tear in Labrum and expect to play full schedule for 2012!!! Praise God!! #likeplayinggolffwmyfriends. Crane, who made a series of highly entertaining fitness videos in which he performs wearing a red wetsuit and helmet, couldn’t resist a plug.— Internet

International Sports

Wigan’s late equalizer drags Chelsea down

LONDON, 18 Dec — Chelsea suffered a last-gasp slump in the 16th-round clash on Saturday as Wigan fought back with a vital 1-1 draw in their relegation battle and made the Blues slow down in the league’s top-three rivalry. Jordi Gomez’s tap-in goal after 87 minutes cancelled out Daniel Sturridge’s superb strike, denying the Londoners fourth straight league win.

A point was valuable to Wigan as the host side was just one point behind the 17th-placed Wolves and was likely to climb out of the relegated zone soon. But for the visitor, it was not enough. The Blues were left still third place in the table but six and four points respectively behind the leading Manchester “big two”.

Xinhua



Wigan put up stubborn resistance against Chelsea to earn a 1-1 draw.— INTERNET

Real Madrid’s Jose Mourinho happy to top La Liga after emphatic win over Sevilla

MADRID, 18 Dec — Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho voiced his satisfaction at seeing his team extend its lead at the top of La Liga, following a 6-2 victory at Sevilla. The Portuguese trainer previously claimed he wanted the Blancos to move clear at the league summit, and after their demolition of the Andalusian squad of Seville he was delighted to see his players listen to his commands. “I expected a win and become the leader alone,” said Mourinho. “The main thing was to win again and we succeeded against a difficult opponent. If I said the other day we were league leaders, now I can say that we are leaders alone.”

“We have been very effective and better than the opponent, but the truth is that the result reflects the difference between the two teams. We deserved to win.” Mourinho then proceeded to play down the impact of Cristiano Ronaldo’s hat-trick on Saturday, claiming that his contribution to the Madrid

cause was “normal.” “Cristiano’s performance for me is normal. It is normal to play as he has, to score the goals he has scored and help your team,” he continued. “It is also normal in the previous game that he didn’t score [against Barcelona].”

Mourinho further took the time to pay tribute to the professionalism of winger Angel Di Maria, who mourned the death of his father-in-law earlier in the week and is due to return to Argentina. “Di Maria is an example for everyone,” he said.— Internet



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

Atalanta coach blasts referee

ROME, 18 Dec — Atalanta head coach Stefano Colantuono accused referee of treating football as volleyball in the 2-2 tie between Fiorentina and Atalanta on Saturday in the Italian Serie A league.

The Orobici had just turned around the game to lead 2-1 when Fiorentina equalized with Stevan Jovetic, though there are suspicions Lorenzo De Silvestri handled the cross.

“That wasn’t football. It was volleyball,” Colantuono was quoted by football-italia.net as saying. “At this point we no longer have to be diplomatic and search for justification. How could the referee not see such a clear incident? The handball sets up Jovetic and we have conceded another late goal to drop important points.”

“We are happy with the performance and the compliments for our football, but for us three points are decisive. We had prepared so well for this match. In the first half we also deserved a penalty, as Thomas



Atalanta head coach Stefano Colantuono

Manfredini was pushed at the moment he went to head the ball. “I can allow the referee that mistake, as there is a lot of confusion in the penalty area and the situation can escape his view, but the incident for the equaliser was a clear incident,” he said.

Xinhua

Four European swimmers set “world record” in 400m free relay

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — Four European swimmers made the history on Saturday, setting up a “world record” in the women’s 400m short course freestyle relay in a swimming competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

The swimmers of four different countries clocked in three minutes 27.53 seconds, beating the old mark of 3:28.22 set by the Netherlands three years ago.

However, their timing does not stand as a world record as they are all from different countries, namely Jeanette Ottesen of Denmark, Francesca Halsall of Britain, Aliaksandra Herasimenia of Belarus and Ranomi Kromowidjojo of the Netherlands.

Xinhua

Froch outclassed by dazzling Ward

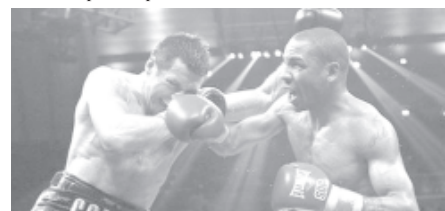
ATLANTIC CITY, 18 Dec — Andre Ward outclassed and outmuscled Nottingham’s Carl Froch to win the Super Six super-middleweight tournament in Atlantic City. American Ward was too quick and too slick for his British rival, landing at will with razor sharp jabs and hooks and even bullying Froch at times. Ward, who added Froch’s WBC belt to the WBA belt he already owned, was the winner on all three judges’ scorecards.

Ward, an Olympic champion in 2004, has not been beaten since he was 14.— INTERNET

“I couldn’t really get anything going, he was too slippery,” said Froch. “I wanted to put my shots together but he moves low and slips and slides, he’s very clever up close. It was very frustrating for me tonight. Fair play to him.” Ward, meanwhile, felt his superior speed was

the key to his victory. “I was surprised at how slow Froch was. We were able to beat him to the punch,” said Ward, an Olympic champion in 2004. “You don’t get points for leaving the chin open. You can’t fight like that and expect not to get hit.”

Internet



European women golfers struggle to gain attention

DUBAI, 18 Dec — Less than a decade ago, European women were among the top golfers in the world with the likes of Annika Sorenstam and Laura Davies regularly vying for the top spot and racking up victories at the majors.

These days, golf fans would be hard pressed to name one top European. This year’s majors went to an American and three Asians and there is only one European—No. 2-ranked Suzann Pettersen of Norway—in the top 20. And despite Europe’s surprising Solheim Cup victory over the Americans in

September, the head of the Ladies European Tour admits it could take some time before the region produces another global superstar.

“You would have to say the Europeans haven’t had as many victories. That is what makes a big difference to get into the top 10 in the world,” said Alexandra Armas, the tour’s executive director who was in the United Arab Emirates this weekend for the Dubai Ladies Masters. “You have to win tournaments and win tournaments regularly. Although they are very competitive, the quantitative vic-

tories these Korean players are having has eluded them.”

The European women’s struggles can be chalked up to some degree to the dramatic rise of Asian players, since 30 of the top 50 come from South Korea or Japan while the top spot is held by Yani Tseng of Taiwan. But players and tour officials said it also comes down to the failure of some top Europeans to play on the LPGA Tour. European Tour purses are on average about half what they are in the LPGA resulting in players getting far fewer ranking points.

Internet

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(19-12-2011) (Monday)**

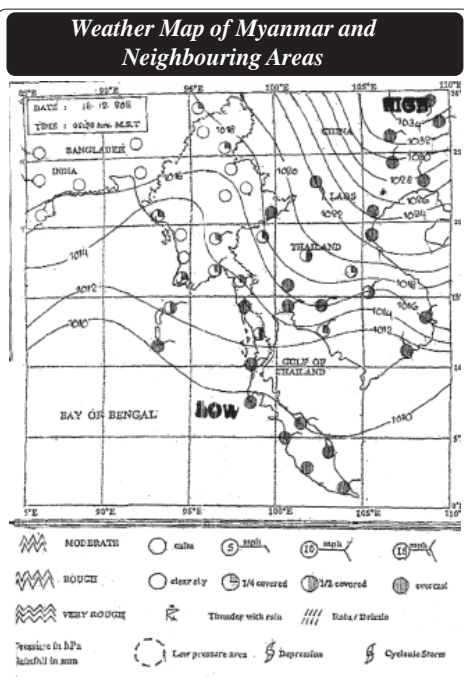
	<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>Times</u>
Local	-	(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Overseas Transmission	-	(19-12-11 09:30 am ~20-12-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Traveling in Shan Plateau (Pindaya Natural Cave)
- * News
- * Yatanarpon Call Center Opening Ceremony
- * Deep forest with variety of flora and fauna
- * News
- * Music Gallery

- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Change"
- Overseas Transmission**
- * Opening
- * News
- * Traveling in Shan Plateau (Pindaya Natural Cave)
- * News
- * The Art of Bronze Casting
- * Deep forest with variety of flora and fauna
- * News

- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Change"
- * News
- * Myanmar Traditional Festival
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Jade Industry: Myanmar Rewarding Business
- * News
- * Zinathuka Yan Aung Chan Tha Reclining Buddha
- * Myanmar Movies "Pure Love"



**Monday,
19 December
View on today**

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

- 7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
6. Health Programme
- 8:10 am
7. Cute Little Dancers
- 8:20 am
8. Musical Programme
- 8:30 am
9. Dance Of National Races
- 8:40 am
10. International News
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
2. Dance Variety
- 4:20 pm
3. Musical Programme

- 4:30 pm
4. Teleplay (Industry)
- 4:40 pm
5. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (English)
- 4:55 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
7. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

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

Weather forecast for 19th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	28/82	11/52	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	27/81	10/50	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	35/95	19/66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	18/64	00/32	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	25/77	10/50	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	28/82	13/55	Partly cloudy	
7	Taninthayi	34/93	20/68	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	16/61	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	29/84	14/57	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	28/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	34/93	19/66	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	28/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	06/43	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	05/41	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	13/55	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	18/64	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	14/57	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	19/66	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	28/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

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

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 (30) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of night temperatures in Eastern Myanmar areas.

QPR 0 - 2 Man Utd



LONDON, 18 Dec—Wayne Rooney set them on the way to a victory that restored them to the top of the table - if only for a few hours - with a header inside the first minute.

And after United missed a succession of chances and were denied by QPR keeper Radek Cerny, Michael Carrick settled an entertaining encounter and gave them the winning margin in their vast superiority deserved with his first goal in 70 games for United, shortly after half-time. QPR were tenacious but were eventually outclassed by United's

greater quality, as Sir Alex Ferguson's side continued their rehabilitation from their shock Champions League exit with a second successive league win to maintain their pursuit of a 20th title. With Darren Fletcher ruled out for the foreseeable future through illness, Carrick was paired with Phil Jones in central midfield. And the versatile England teenager could also have got on the scoresheet in a powerful and impressive performance, hitting the woodwork and being halted by Cerny after a surging run. United still showed occasional signs of frailty in defence without injured captain Nemanja Vidic and with Patrice Evra particularly vulnerable, but they ultimately carried far too much power for QPR, especially with Rooney restored to his familiar attacking role after a spell in midfield.

**Results on
Sunday, 19
Dec, 2011.**

QPR	0-2	Man Utd
Aston Villa	0-2	Liverpool
Tottenham	1-0	Sunderland
Man City	1-0	Arsenal



Manchester United maintained the pressure on Manchester City at the Premier League summit with a comfortable win against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann visits India



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann calls on Indian President Mrs Pratibha Devi Singh Patil at Presidential Residence in New Delhi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—A 14-member Pyithu Hluttaw Goodwill Delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann visited Republic of India. The delegation on 11 December morning left Yangon for India via Thailand and arrived in New Delhi.

The delegation paid tribute at Mahatma Gandhi Mausoleum in New Delhi on 12 December morning. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and his entourage paid floral tribute.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then signed visitors' book of the mausoleum. The secretary of Mahatma Gandhi Mausoleum Preservation Committee explained preservation of the mausoleum and presented a Mahatma Gandhi biography book to the Speaker.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker paid a

courtesy call on Indian President Mrs Pratibha Devi Singh Patil at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 14 December evening.

On the occasion, the Indian President said the relations between the parliaments of the two nations meant a lot for the interests of the nation and thus both sides should focus on promotion of ties between the two parliaments; that Myanmar President visited India in last October during which the two sides reached an agreement to foster the relations; that India wished to strengthen the ties between the two parliaments as part of comprehensive partnership; that India embraced the concept of Unity in Diversity in practicing democracy; that she was proud of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker for being elected to the position of speaker; that India

and Myanmar also had close relations in religion; that India would share its parliamentary experiences with Myanmar and assist the latter in enhancing capacities of parliamentary personnel; that it needed to systematize the procedures of parliamentary committees in strengthening democracy system; that she heard about national reconciliation process in Myanmar from the Myanmar President; that she wished the success of the process; that she heard that the process had produced certain results so far; that India attaches great importance to promoting ties with Myanmar; that India had plans to cooperate with Myanmar not only in its nation-building undertakings but in establishing water, air and road communication links; that Indian companies

were investing in hydropower industry of Myanmar; and that Myanmar companies could also made investment in India.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that it was his fourth visit to India and in previous times, he visited for other responsibilities but now as the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. Personnel and personalities of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees accompanied him on the visit, which expressed seriousness of Myanmar. The main intention of the visit is to foster the existing amity and observe the parliamentary experiences and practices of India. Myanmar's democracy is in its infancy and thus needs experiences and practical knowledge in democracy and parliamentary affairs and the visit intends to study parliamentary experiences and practices of India and implementation for national socio-economic development through democracy system to apply suitably in Myanmar for its development.

The Speaker continued that they gained parliamentary experiences during the visit as they had hoped. He requested the Indian President to continue assisting Myanmar in enhancing capacities of MPs and staff of Parliament Office in the future. He held the belief that systematically exercising parliamentary democracy system can lead to national development. The government will keep on going as it has chosen and there can be no turning back whatever. In establishing democracy system, the role of the parliament is instrumental and parliamentary personalities need to be high in quality.

Myanmar is trying to ensure all-inclusiveness in the political sector. At the same time, the existing election laws have been reviewed, amended and supplemented. The Speaker continued that he would like to let the President know that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

(See page 9)

Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrives back

YANGON, 18 Dec—Myanmar delegation headed by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrived back here this morning having paid a goodwill visit to India at the invitation of Chairman of Rajya Sabha Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar (Smt).

The delegation was welcomed back by wife of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Daw Khin Lay Thet, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Director-General of Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein and Charge d' affaires Ms Sripriya Ranganathan of Indian Embassy and personnel at Yangon International Airport.

Together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, 30 delegation members Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U T Kun Myat, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Projects and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha, Chairman of Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee U Soe Naing, Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Htay Myint, Chairman of Transportation, Communications and Construction Committee U Thein Swe, Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin, Secretary of Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe, Secretary of Public Affairs Management Committee U Tin Maung Oo, Secretary of Farmers, Workers and Youth Affairs



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann being welcomed back by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and officials at the airport. MNA

Committee U Htay Win, Member of Public Accounts Committee Dr Win Myint, Member of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee U Win Than, Member of Water Transportation Development

Committee U Win Oo and Secretary of the delegation Deputy Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Kyaw Soe arrived back on the same flight.

MNA