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Saturday, 24 December, 2011

True patriotism

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

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

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening of Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section, the associated section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Project built on 1 January this year was opened today, providing shortened direct link between Yangon and Mandalay for automobiles.

The opening of the road section was held at the pavilion near Taguntaing Roundabout in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, this morning, attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Science and Technology Minister U Aye Myint, Union Electric Power No (2) Minister U Khin Maung Soe, Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung, deputy ministers, Region ministers, departmental heads and staff, members of social organizations,

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils the stone plaque of Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section. MNA



locals, drum troupe and guests. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint said that Yangon-Mandalay Highway started from Htaukkyant, No. 3 Junction as the mile post No (0/0), from which to Nay Pyi Taw Junction was 202 miles and one furlong long, from Nay Pyi Taw Junction to Saga-in Roundabout was 150 miles and five furlongs long and from Saga-in Roundabout, the gate of Mandalay to TadaU-Taguntaing (Mandalay) was 13 miles and five furlongs long. The 202 miles and one furlong section from No.3 Yangon Junction to Nay Pyi Taw Junction was commissioned into service on 25-3-2009 and 150 miles and five furlongs long section from Nay Pyi Taw to Saga-in Roundabout of Mandalay on 29-12-2010 and the associated road section, (See page 8)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets those present at the opening of Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section.—MNA

Significant night temperature (23-12-2011)

Haka	(2° C)
Putao	(3° C)
Namhsan	(3° C)
Heho	(3° C)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

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Headmistress Daw Khin May Phone presents certificate of honour to Col Nguyen Van Yui, Chief of Vietnam Defence Attache Office, after receiving desks worth \$ 5500 at Donation Handover Ceremony at BIDV Kamayut Township, Yangon today

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Passing-out Parade of DSMA 13th Intake

INTEREST RATE TO BE REDUCED FROM 12% TO 10% COMMENCING 1 JANUARY 2012

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 December, 2011

Promote the quality of marketable crops

Myanmar has favourable soil conditions to grow fruits and vegetables well. With the use of quality crop strains plus modern agricultural techniques, the nation will enjoy not only domestic self-sufficiency but also prospects for global market. So it is necessary to ensure that marketable products are high in quality.

Only if all products ranging from farm produce, marine products, forest products, handicrafts, industrial products to industrial crops are in good quality, can they be well-marketable. Demand calls for public satisfaction and rapid sales generate more economic benefits.

More than 70 kinds of fruits and vegetables are being cultivated on a commercial scale in Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions and Shan, Mon and Kayin States. With the extended cultivation and exportation of watermelons, some companies are engaging in the business on thousands of acres of land with foreign investments. Benefits will be unlimited if over 150,000 tons of melons can be exported yearly. Yet, the watermelon market is still weak due to poor agricultural inputs of growers.

Measures should be taken to grow quality crops nationwide extensively. More efforts are also needed to promote the quality of pomelos from Yangon, Bago, Kayin, Mon and Taninthayi regions watermelons and cucumbers from Mandalay and Sagaing regions and pineapples from Mon State and Shan State (North).

All in all, more efforts are to be exerted to produce crops of high quality in cooperation with Myanmar Agriculture Service, Myanmar Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association and local and foreign agricultural entrepreneurs.

Yangon Region Chief Minister presents in victory-flag handing-over ceremony

YANGON, 23 Dec—A ceremony to hand a flag that ensures victory over the participants of Department of Basic Education No 3 of Yangon Region, who will partake in State/Region Inter-Basic Education Schools Sports Game-2011 to be held in Nay Pyi Taw, which is organized by the Ministry of Education, took place at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township yesterday in the presence of Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister handed the flag over Township Education Officer U Tin Toe, leader of Yangon Region Sports Group.

MNA

Myanmar disabled athletes win 11 gold medals, 9 silvers, 14 bronzes

YANGON, 23 Dec—The Myanmar disabled athletes led by President of Myanmar Paraspports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and Vice-President Col Myo Myint (Retd), who participated in the 6th ASEAN Para Game held in Indonesia from 11 to 22 December, arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

They won eleven gold medals, nine silvers and 14 bronzes, occupying the sixth place of all ASEAN countries on the medal standing table.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 1.15 pm today.

Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by U Khun Tha Myint and Dr Nge Nge of NLD. Matters related to Hluttaw affairs were discussed.—MNA

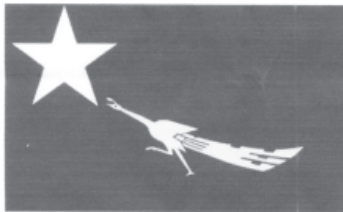
Also present at the call together with the Speaker were

Public notice for remonstrations

1. National League for Democracy, headquartered at No.97/B, West Shwegondaing Street, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, applied for registration as a political party on 23-12-2011 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and

2. logo to be used as mentioned under. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

The flag of National League for Democracy



The logo of National League for Democracy



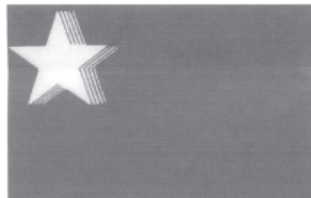
Union Election Commission

Public notice for remonstrations

1. Myanmar New Society Democratic Party, headquartered at No.6, Htanbington street, Htanbington Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, applied for registration as a political party on 23-12-2011 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and

2. logo to be used as mentioned under. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

The flag of Myanmar New Society Democratic Party



The logo of Myanmar New Society Democratic Party



Union Election Commission



Headmistress Daw Khin May Phone presents certificate of honour to Col Nguyen Van Vui, Chief of Vietnam Defence Attache Office, after receiving desks worth \$ 5500 at Donation Handover Ceremony at BIDV, Kamayut Township, Yangon today.—MNA

ASEAN ready to assist storm-hit Philippines

JAKARTA, 23 Dec— ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan, who is also ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, offered condolences to Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F Del Rosario over the losses of lives brought by the Tropical Storm Sendong (Washi) which struck the Philippines on 17 Dec and conveyed the region's readiness to assist Manila in their relief and recovery efforts, a press statement from the ASEAN Secretariat said here on Friday.

"ASEAN, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the ASEAN Secretariat stand ready to assist the Philippines in their response and recovery efforts," Surin said in a letter to Rosario. The Philippines declared a state of national calamity on 20 Dec, 2011 due to the tropical storm.

Indonesia, as ASEAN chair, has issued a statement on the recent disaster, expressing ASEAN countries' readiness in providing the Philippines with support and assistance to help bring about swift recovery in accordance with the ASEAN spirit of solidarity.

In this regard, ASEAN Secretariat is requested to work together with the AHA Centre to provide necessary support and assistance. The AHA Centre, which was officially launched by the ASEAN leaders on 17 Nov, 2011 at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, has been monitoring the situation in the Philippines closely and disseminating situation updates continuously. In close coordination with the focal point in the Philippines, AHA Center has been advising the ASEAN countries and external partners on most needed relief assistance at this stage.—Xinhua



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev makes his annual state of the nation address in the Moscow Kremlin, on 22 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Indonesian president tells foreign NGOs to "stay away" from domestic affairs

JAKARTA, 23 Dec— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono warned international green groups not to meddle in the country's domestic affairs, saying that their campaigns against forest destruction could hamper his government's efforts to lift people out of poverty, the *Jakarta Post* reported here on Friday.

Yudhoyono expressed gratitude for what international groups had done in the country, but reminded them to "stay away" from the country's domestic affairs.

"I welcome all criticism addressed to the government. However, criticism from foreign environmental NGOs sounds as if the Indonesian government does not want to save the environment.

They even make it sound like the government doesn't exist. Don't tear this country apart," he said.

Yudhoyono said it was impossible for the government to meet the demand by international NGOs to stop all palm oil companies from operating in Indonesia, as it would destroy both the economy and the livelihoods of many people.—MNA/Xinhua



Afghan policemen keep watch near the body of a suicide attacker, who tried to enter a branch of Kabul Bank, in Khost province recently. The suicide bomber was killed by Afghan National Police in Khost province on Wednesday, the interior ministry said in a statement.

INTERNET

Pakistani army rejects NATO strike inquiry report

ISLAMABAD, 23 Dec— Pakistani army has rejected an investigation report into last month's NATO strike on two of its border posts, which killed 24 Pakistani soldiers and injured 13 others, reported local Urdu TV channel Geon on Friday.

The report quoted an early Friday morning army statement as saying that the investigation report "is short on facts" and "has holes in it, which need to be filled in".

"Detailed response will be given as when the formal report is received," said a brief statement from Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a mouthpiece of Pakistani army. Local media quoted the Pakistani Army



Chinese vice president Xi Jinping (L) shakes hands with Vietnamese president Truong Tan Sang as they meet at the presidential palace in Hanoi.

INTERNET

Spokesman Major General Athar Abbas as saying Islamabad would not give a detailed response to the findings until it received a copy of the report. Foreign Office Spokesman Abdul Basit also earlier stated that Pakistan will look at the findings very carefully and then articulate a response. NATO spokesman Colonel Gregory Julian said in Brussels, "The investigation has ascertained that a series of mistakes were made on both sides in failing to properly coordinate their locations and actions, both before the operation and during the resulting engagement." On Thursday, the US side issued an investigation into

the NATO cross-border strikes on two army check posts in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Mohmand Agency bordering Afghanistan on 26 November. The report concluded that mistakes from both sides led to the airstrikes. NATO and the United States did not tender apology in the findings and repeated the previous stand of expressing regrets by the NATO and the United States when they released the report on Thursday. Pakistani army and civilian leaders have already rejected regrets and called for action against those responsible for the attack, which caused a dent in ties between the United States and Pakistan.—MNA/Xinhua

Fresh twin bomb attacks in Baghdad raise death toll to 72

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec— Two fresh bomb attacks rattled the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Thursday evening after a string of coordinated attacks ripped throughout the city in the day, raising the death toll to 72, a police source said. A car bomb and a roadside bomb exploded in al-Jihad neighborhood in western Baghdad on Thursday evening, killing two civilians and wounding 10 others, the police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Earlier in the day, a spate of car bombs, roadside bombs and rocket attacks rocked the



A soldier stands guard near a burnt vehicle after a bomb attack in Alawi district in central Baghdad on 22 December, 2011.—XINHUA

capital, killing 72 people and wounding 185 others. The attacks came just days after the US troops completed its

full withdrawal and amidst a political rift between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite blocs over terror charges brought against Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility for Thursday's attacks. Maliki said the attacks were politically motivated without naming the possible suspects whereas the Sunni-backed secular faction of Iraqia openly condemned the attacks and called for an "international investigation."—Xinhua

Shootings in Mexico's Veracruz kill 16

MEXICO CITY, 23 Dec— At least 11 people were killed by an armed gang on Thursday in the Mexican Gulf coast state of Veracruz, where drug-related violence flared this autumn, before five of the gunmen were shot dead by security forces.

A spokeswoman for the state government told local television the gunmen killed four people in the small town of El Higo then attacked three buses on a highway about 60 miles (100 kilometres) southwest of the port of Tampico, killing seven others. Five armed men were killed in a shootout

with security forces, she said.

The death toll from the bus shootings could be as high as 20, a local mayor told Milenio television.

The motive was unclear. The attacks came the day after the state government said it disbanded the municipal police force in the city of Veracruz, some 300 miles (480 kilometres) south of Tampico. The state is home to several of Mexico's major oil installations and the important oil-exporting port Coatzacoalcos, just south of the city of Veracruz.—MNA/Reuters

Floods affect thousands in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 23 Dec— Over 35,000 people have been affected by unseasonal floods in Sri Lanka, an official said here Friday.

Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre has housed around 7,500 people displaced by the floods in 43 temporary camps in the northern, central and eastern regions of the country.

The worst affected area in the country is Kilinochchi town, about 328 km from capital Colombo, which was once the heartland of the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) during their three decade fight for a separate homeland. "Approximately 15,499 people have been affected by floods in Kilinochchi while 6,395 people are housed in camps," Disaster Management Centre Assistant Director Pradeep Kodippili told *Xinhua*.

One death was reported in Mullaitivu district where 12,095 people have been affected. The rice harvest is feared to be affected as over 35 tanks have opened sluice gates flooding over 300 acres of paddy land.

Meteorological department officials have predicted that the rains will continue into next week.—Xinhua

H e a l t h

Single gene links rare cancers

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—Canadian researchers have discovered that a common gene links a number of rare reproductive cancers, a finding that could lead to new approaches for treatment, said a study published on Wednesday.

Ovarian, uterine and testicular cancer were all found to have the same mutation in a gene called DICER, said the research in the New England Journal of Medicine. Scientists have known about DICER for many years, but its exact role in sparking tumour cells to grow has been unclear.

When the gene mutates, DICER's function is changed "so that it participates directly in the initiation of cancer, but not in atypical 'on-off' fashion," said co-author Gregg Morin, a lead scientist from the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. "DICER can be viewed as the conductor for an orchestra of functions critical for the development

and behavior of normal cells," explained co-author Gregg Morin, a lead scientist from the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. "The mutations we discovered do not totally destroy the function of DICER, rather they warp it - the orchestra is still there but the conductor is drunk."

Researchers are examining whether DICER plays a role in other cancers, and will investigate if mutant DICER can be manipulated to treat the cancers it causes.

Ovarian cancer kills about 15,000 women in the United States each year, and about

22,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. More than 46,000 cases of uterine cancer and 8,100 deaths arise each year in the United States. Testicular cancer is more rare, with 8,300 new cases per year and 350 US deaths, according to the American Cancer Society.

"This breakthrough will be of interest to both the clinical and the fundamental science communities," said Phillip Sharp, Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and co-winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for the discovery of the structure of genes.—*Internet*



Health Tip: Diabetes can raise the risk of skin infections

At some time in their lives, as many as one-third of people with diabetes will develop a skin infection, the American Diabetes Association says.

The ADA says these common bacterial infections may affect diabetics:

- * Styes, infection of the eyelid glands.
- * Folliculitis, infection of the hair follicle.
- * Boils.
- * Carbuncles, a type of deep-skin infection.
- * Infections of the skin surrounding the nails.—*Internet*

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INTERNET



A premature baby boy lies in an incubator in the natal intensive care unit at an Imam maternity hospital in Karachi on 28 October, 2011.—REUTERS

Very preterm boys less likely to live than girls

KARACHI, 23 Dec—Babies born extremely prematurely have much better survival odds now than in years past, but boys seem to be lagging behind girls despite advances in medical care, according to an Australian study.

Researchers whose findings appeared in Pediatrics found that of more than 2,000 infants born very preterm - in the 28th week of pregnancy or earlier — boys had a somewhat lower survival rate and were more likely to have long-term neurological problems like blindness, deafness or cerebral palsy. "In the modern era of neonatal management, male infants still have higher mortality and poorer long-term

neurologic outcome," wrote lead researcher Alison Kent, of Canberra Hospital and the Australian National University Medical School.

Of 1,394 baby boys out of the more than 2,500 infants studied, 23 percent died in the hospital compared with 19 percent of girls. The extreme preemie boys had a higher rate of moderate to severe "functional disability" by the time they were three years old, with nearly 20 percent affected versus 12 percent of girls. But the gender gap appeared to disappear among infants born during the 27th or 28th week of pregnancy, though researchers said the pattern should be "interpreted with caution."—*Reuters*

Business

Taiwan to offer \$266 mln to help small companies

TAIPEI, China, 23 Dec—Taiwan said it will put an extra Tw\$8 billion (\$266 million) into a credit guarantee fund aimed at helping smaller companies as the global economy slows. The fund, designed to help small and medium enterprises short of collateral to secure external financing, will provide an additional coverage of Tw\$112 billion in loans after the money has been added, the presidential office said on Friday.

The move is part of a recent series of government measures aimed at countering the fallout for the island's export-dependent economy from Europe's deepening debt crisis.

The authorities announced earlier this week that they will intervene in the stock market and spend up to Tw\$500 billion to buy stocks. Taiwan's weighted index has dived 29 percent since the beginning of the year, and the fall is one of the chief complaints against President Ma Ying-jeou, who is seeking a second and final four-year term next month.—*Internet*



Pedestrians are seen walking past stocks displays in central Taipei, on 21 December. Taiwan says it will put an extra Tw\$8 billion (\$266 million) into a credit guarantee fund aimed at helping smaller companies as the global economy slows.—INTERNET

Exclusive: Petronas talks to Shell, Exxon for petchem tie-up

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec—Petronas is in talks with several oil majors including Shell and Exxon Mobil to develop petrochemical plants within its \$20 billion refinery complex in southern Malaysia, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told *Reuters*.

Malaysia's national oil company is also talking to Japanese firms Itochu Corp <8001.T> and Mitsubishi Corp <8058.T> as well as Dow Chemical Co as it seeks to tap surging Asian demand and diversify its earnings, the sources said.

Petronas is expected to make a decision on the partnerships by mid-2012, which signals it is quickly moving beyond the



Petronas advertising boards are seen near the grandstand ahead of the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at the Sepang circuit outside Kuala Lumpur on 7 April, 2011.—REUTERS

feasibility stage of the project.

"Petronas is getting a lot of interest for the joint venture undertakings," said one source, who declined to be identified as discussions

are ongoing.

"They have moved to the basic engineering and design stage and after this the tendering process for building the complex will

start," the source added. Petronas, Shell and Mitsubishi officials in Malaysia declined to comment. Itochu, Dow Chemical and Exxon Mobil were not immediately available for comment.

Petronas first unveiled the Refinery and Petrochemicals Integrated Development (RAPID) project in May and has said the complex will be commissioned by end-2016, which both sources said was on track.

The \$20 billion complex is to be built in southern Johor state which borders Singapore — the largest oil trading hub in Asia.

Reuters

OECD calls for tougher standards of corporate behavior

PARIS, 23 Dec—The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Thursday urged multinational enterprises in 42 countries to commit to new and tougher standards of corporate behavior. In the newly released 2011 edition of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs), the organization

stressed that firms should respect human rights in every country in which they operate.

"Companies should ... respect environmental and labor standards, for example, and have appropriate due diligence processes in place to ensure this happens," the report said. According to the report, focus should rest on issues such as paying decent

wages, combating bribe solicitation and extortion, and the promotion of sustainable consumption. OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are recommendations providing voluntary principles and standards for responsible business conduct for multinational corporations.

Xinhua

Soyuz bound for space station blasts off

Science

MOSCOW, 23 Dec—A Soyuz spacecraft carrying a Russian, an American and a Dutchman to the International Space Station blasted off flawlessly from Russia's launch facility in Kazakhstan on Wednesday. Mission commander Oleg Kononenko and his colleagues, American Don Pettit and European Space Agency astronaut Andre Kuipers are to dock with the space station on Friday.

The blastoff from the snowy launchpad in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, took place without a hitch and the spacecraft reached Earth orbit about nine minutes later. Video from inside the craft showed the three crew members

gripping each others' hands in celebration as the final stage of the booster rocket separated.

The three aboard the Russian spacecraft will join three others already on the ISS, NASA's Dan Burbank and Russians Anton Shkaplerov and Anatoly Ivanishin. The six are to work together on the station until March. The launch came amid a period of trouble for Russia's space programme, which provides the only way for crew to reach the space station since the United States retired its space shuttle programme in July.

The launch of an unmanned supply ship for the space station failed in August and the ship crashed

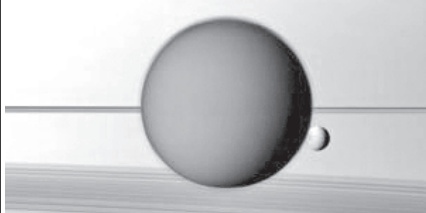


The Soyuz-FG rocket booster with Soyuz TMA-03M space ship carrying a new crew to the International Space Station, ISS, blasts off from the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on 21 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

in a Siberian forest. The Soyuz rocket carrying that craft was the same type used to send up Russian manned spacecraft, and the crash prompted officials to postpone the next manned launch while the rockets were examined for flaws. The

delayed mission eventually took place on 14 Nov. Just five days before that launch, Russia sent up its ambitious Phobos-Ground unmanned probe, which was to go to the Phobos moon of Mars, take soil samples and return them to Earth.—Internet

Cassini delivers Saturn holiday pictures



Saturn's third-largest moon Dione can be seen through the haze of its largest moon, Titan, in this view of the two posing before the planet and its rings from NASA's Cassini spacecraft.—INTERNET

BOULDER, (Colo), 23 Dec—NASA says its Cassini spacecraft has delivered some holiday gifts in the form of stunning new images of the planet Saturn and its varied

moons.

The pictures, released by Cassini's imaging team, show Saturn's largest, most colorful "holiday ornament," the moon Titan, and other icy baubles in orbit around the ringed planet, a space agency release said on Thursday.

As Earth's northern hemisphere experiences the chill of winter, Saturn's northern half is enjoying springtime—and will for several Earth years, astronomers say.

Current plans are to extend the Cassini mission through 2017, which will mean an ongoing bounty of scientifically significant and majestic views of Saturn and its moons and rings, NASA said.

"As another year traveling this magnificent sector of our solar system draws to a close, all of us on Cassini wish all of you a very happy and peaceful holiday season," Carolyn Porco, Cassini imaging team lead at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo, said.

Internet

Space telescope mirrors pass 'chill' test

HUNTSVILLE, 23 Dec—NASA says it has completed cryogenic testing in Alabama for the final six primary mirror segments that will fly on the James Webb Space Telescope.

The Webb telescope has 21 mirrors, with 18 mirror segments working together as a large 21.3-foot primary mirror, and each individual mirror segment now has been successfully tested to operate at minus 387 degrees Fahrenheit, the space agency said in a release Wednesday. The testing of the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope took place at the X-ray and Cryogenic Test Facility at Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville.

"Mirrors need to be cold so their own heat does not drown out the very faint infrared images," Lee Feinberg, at the agency's

Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Md., said. "With the completion of all mirror cryogenic testing, the toughest challenge since the beginning of the programme is now completely behind us."

During the tests engineers took extremely detailed measurements of how each individual mirror's shape changed as it cooled to ensure each one will be the correct shape upon reaching the extremely cold operating temperature in deep space.

"This testing ensures the mirrors will focus crisply in space, which will allow us to see new wonders in our universe," Helen Cole, project manager for Webb Telescope mirror activities at the Huntsville facility, said.—Internet



The James Webb Space Telescope mirrors have completed deep-freeze tests and are removed from the X-ray and Cryogenic test Facility at Marshall Space Flight Centre.—INTERNET

Slovak education ministry launches website with e-textbooks

BRATISLAVA, 23 Dec—The Slovak Education Ministry on Thursday launched an internet website to provide the general public with digitalized textbooks.

According to Education Minister Eugen Jurzyca, the public could access a total of 26 digitalised textbooks, compulsory-reading books and download 65 audio-recordings on the website of eaktovka.sk. The word aktovka means schoolbag in Slovak. "We hope that

pupils will be able to study even in places where they don't bring their textbooks, such as during the holidays at their grandmas', but also that teachers will have an easier time putting together various textbooks or their sections on, for example, physics or chemistry," said the minister. Jurzyca said he estimated that 92 percent of households with school-age children which own personal computers and 70 percent of those which have access to the internet would visit the website.—Xinhua



The Slovak Education Ministry on launched an internet website to provide the general public with digitalized textbooks.—XINHUA

facebook.

Facebook Inc has agreed to make several changes to its services to improve transparency and better protect the personal data of its millions of users outside of the US, following an in-depth audit of its international headquarters that was released Wednesday.—INTERNET

Facebook agrees to changes to improve transparency

BERLIN, 23 Dec—Facebook Inc has agreed to make several changes to its services to improve transparency and better protect the personal data of its millions of users outside of the US, following an in-depth audit of its international headquarters that was released on Wednesday.

The social media company, based in Palo Alto, California, agreed to changes including asking European users if they wanted to partake in its Facial Recognition, reworking its policies of retaining and deleting private data, reducing the amount of information collected about people who are not logged into Facebook, the company said in response to a report of the Irish Data Protection Commissioner.

Facebook's international headquarters are based in Dublin, Ireland, a member of the European Union. This means the company is required to comply with European data privacy laws, which are more stringent than those that apply in the United States, particularly regarding how long data can be retained.—Internet

Technology

Microsoft says 2012 CES tech show will be its last

NEW YORK, 23 Dec—Microsoft Corp. is pulling out of the International Consumer Electronics Show, the largest trade show in the Americas. It's joining Apple in saying that it prefers to put on its own events when the time is right to show off its products.

Microsoft said the next show, to be held on 9 to 12 Jan in Las Vegas, will be the last show at which it has a booth or the CEO delivers the customary kick-off speech.

Company founder Bill Gates delivered keynote speeches at the show for 11 straight years. Current CEO Steve Ballmer has delivered the speech for the past three shows and will present his last next month.

The software company has been one of the biggest US supporters of the annual event, which gathered nearly 150,000 people this year. Originally focused on living-room electronics, the show has become the big annual US event for all consumer technology after the demise of big computer-focused shows such as Comdex.—Internet



In this 6 Jan, 2010 file photo, Microsoft Entertainment and Devices Division President Robbie Bach speaks at the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.—INTERNET



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L), poses for photos with Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra at a welcoming ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand, on 22 Dec, 2011. Xi arrived in Bangkok on Thursday to start a three-day official visit to Thailand.
XINHUA

Japanese Emperor celebrates 78th birthday

TOYO, 23 Dec— Japanese Emperor Akihito celebrated his 78th birthday Friday while expressing concern and support for people affected by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.
The year 2011 has been “a truly distressing year, dominated by disasters,” the emperor said in a statement released through the Imperial Household Agency.
“I feel that the Japanese people have come together as a nation to squarely face the disaster and do what they can to be of

help for the victims,” he said.
The emperor was admitted to hospital on 6 Nov and received treatment for bronchial pneumonia for more than two weeks. “I would like to express my gratitude to all the people for their concern and compassion regarding my health,” the emperor said.
Celebration ceremonies were held at the Imperial Palace, when the Emperor greeted the public and expressed his gratitude to the well-wishers.—Xinhua



Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski (R) visits the Great Wall in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Dec, 2011.
XINHUA

China objects to EU's carbon tax on airlines

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China opposes the European Union's “mandatory and unilateral” legislation of a carbon emissions tax on airlines, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday. China has made clear its stance on this issue and has expressed its concern to the EU via bilateral channels, said spokesman Liu Weimin at a daily press conference.
Many countries oppose the EU's move, and China hopes the EU will act with caution and settle the issue in a positive and pragmatic way through sound consultation with relevant countries, Liu said.
According to the plan, all airlines flying to and from the 27 EU countries will have to pay for 15 percent of the polluting rights accorded to them in 2012, which will rise to 18 percent in the period of 2013-2020.
US and Canadian airlines filed a lawsuit against this legislation but it was dismissed by the US's highest court.—Xinhua

UK to buy 100 more Force Protection vehicles

LONDON, 23 Dec—Britain will buy about 100 more light-armoured Foxhound patrol vehicles from US defence firm Force Protection Inc for use in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said on Thursday.

The purchase is part of a drive to better protect British forces from roadside bombs planted by Taleban insurgents that have claimed many of the nearly 400 British soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2001.

The Ministry of Defence did not give a value for the order, saying the deal was subject to final contractual negotiations with Force Protection's European arm.

US defence contractor General Dynamics Corp said in November it would buy Force Protection Inc for \$360 million (229 million pounds).

The Ministry of Defence said the order was part of a 400 million pound package to better protect British soldiers in Afghanistan, including more than 200 million pounds to be spent on technology to counter roadside bombs.

The order will bring to around 300 the number of Foxhound vehicles available to the 9,500-strong British force in Afghanistan.

Britain signed a 180 million pound contract in November 2010 to buy 200 Foxhounds. The first vehicles under that contract are due to be delivered for military training over the next month.



A Foxhound Light Protected Patrol Vehicle in an image courtesy of the Ministry of Defence.—REUTERS

The vehicle has a V-shaped underside to dissipate blasts. It can be driven on only three wheels and has an engine that can be replaced in 30 minutes.

Foxhound is designed, developed and built in Britain by Force Protection Europe and engineering and automotive consultancy Ricardo, the Ministry of Defence said.—Reuters

H5N1 virus found on bird body in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 23 Dec—Laboratory tests have confirmed a dead Oriental magpie robin, found in northern Hong Kong's Tin Shui Wai on 17 Dec, was H5N1-positive, the city government said in a statement on Friday.

The city's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said it would continue to inspect poultry farms to ensure that proper precautions against the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu have been implemented.

It came three days after a chicken carcass, found at a poultry market in Hong Kong, was tested positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. As a result, nearly 20,000 chickens were culled at the poultry market on Wednesday.

York Chow, Hong Kong's secretary for Food and Health, had raised the city's response level for bird flu to “serious” from “alert” after the discovery of the virus in the carcass. In addition, local farms were stopped from sending chickens to the market for 21 days.

Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a contagious disease of animal origin caused by viruses that normally infect only birds and, less commonly, pigs. It can be fatal to humans.

Xinhua



A girl picks up presents in the Christmas Fair in Kiev, capital of Ukraine, on 22 Dec, 2011. The annual Christmas fair, opened here on Thursday, will last till on 24 Dec, 2011.
XINHUA

Organic polymer protects burnt forest soil

TEL AVIV, 23 Dec—Wildfires destroy forests and hasten erosion of the burnt soil which slows efforts toward its natural regeneration, but hope is at hand in the form of organic polymer.
Working with organic polymer Polyacrylamide (PAM), Assaf Inbar, graduate student at Tel Aviv University's Porter School of Environmental Studies, and his supervisors tested their method in Israel's Biryia forest that was burnt by fire.

Following a wildfire, soil often erodes because of burnt vegetation. Deprived of the vegetative cover, the soil can't absorb intense rains, causing a run-off. The researchers then turned to PAM, widely used in agriculture to prevent soil erosion, according to a university statement.

They tested PAM on samples of burnt soils both in the lab and under natural rainfall. These show that burnt soils remained much more stable with PAM than without, reports Inbar, reducing erosion by 50 percent.—Internet

Winter solstice is darkest day of the year

STATE COLLEGE, 23 Dec—Thursday is the darkest day of the year with the shortest amount of time between sunrise and sunset, and it's all due to the Earth's tilt, US scientists say.

The amount of sunlight for the 21 Dec winter solstice varies by region, however, with New York, for example, getting nine hours and 13 minutes of sunlight for the solstice while Phoenix will see nine hours and 57 minutes of sunlight, Accuweather.com reported.

It's a north-south thing, scientists say.

“Earth is at a constant angle to the sun of 23.5 degrees. That axis is always pointing in the same direction so at some times of the year the sun is shining most brightly on the Southern Hemisphere in our winter, and

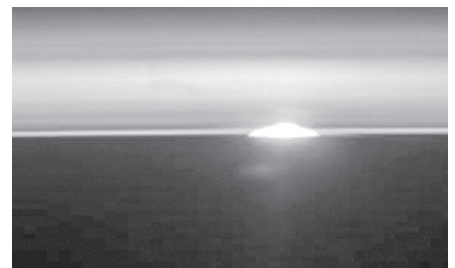
in our summer, when it comes the other way, the sun is shining on the Northern Hemisphere more,” AccuWeather.com Chief Meteorologist Elliot Abrams said. “On the day when the sun appears to be as far south as it ever gets, that's the winter solstice.”

While the solstice is the

darkest day of the year, it's not the coldest, Abrams said.

The oceans take a long time to heat up and cool down and by December they still retain some of their summer warmth and usually the coldest days of winter do not occur for another month and a half, he said.

Internet



Thursday is the darkest day of the year with the shortest amount of time between sunrise and sunset, and it's all due to the Earth's tilt, US scientists say.—INTERNET

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 1.30 pm today. Also present at the call together with the Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs

Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by U Khun Tha Myint and Dr Nge Nge of the National League for Democracy Party (NLD). They had a cordial discussion on Hluttaw affairs.

MNA



Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building.—MNA

Union Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun speaking at the 135th meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association.

MNA



Interest rate to be reduced from 12% to 10% commencing 1 January 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The executive boards of Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association met at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue here this morning, with an address by Union Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister

said the ministry was adopting suitable monetary policies by assessing current economic and monetary conditions for stable economic growth of the nation. The Central bank of Myanmar had adjusted interest rates since 1 September, 2011 with a view to accelerating the national economy, encouraging investment, higher

performance by creating competitiveness among banks, and setting different interest rates of bank savings. Despite reducing of interest rates, the national economy was rather slow in growth. Although monthly supply was growing little monthly but it was mainly due to increase in savings at the banks.

The Union Minister

added that to push forward the investment and national economy, the interest rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar would be reduced from 12 per cent to 10 per cent and thus the central bank would adjust the interest rate for deposit not to be less than 8 per cent, which is 2 per cent lower than bank rate and interest

rate for loans not to be higher than 13 per cent, which is three percent higher than bank rate commencing 1 January, 2012. As the interest rates for deposit and loans would be reduced respectively, the interest rate for bonds would be fixed at 8.75 per cent for two-year period, 9.00 per cent for three-year period and 9.50 per cent for five-year period.

The Central Bank of Myanmar issued authorized dealer licenses to 11 private banks on 25 November, 2011 and those banks were trading foreign currencies in line with rules and regulations set by the Central Bank of Myanmar. Currently, Myanmar workers were working legally or illegally in Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Korea and Middle East countries. And incomes of illegal workers were sent back to home through illegal channels. So his ministry gave green light to proposals of authorized dealer license

holder banks Cooperatives Bank, Kanbawza Bank, Ayeyawady Bank, and Asia Green Development Bank to handle transferring of remittance for workers in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia to their families in Myanmar.

Through domestic private banks, Myanmar migrant works can send back money to their families in Myanmar legally and safely, which will contribute to calculating national income as the government can know the amount of remittance easily.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister U Win Than, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of the Finance and Revenue Ministry, governors, executive directors and members of executive boards of State-owned and private banks.

MNA

Aux Air Conditioners at YITF



Aux brand air conditioner on display at Yangon International Trade Fair 2011.

MNA

YANGON, 23 Dec—Aux Air Conditioner is exhibited at Yangon International Trade Fair 2011 in Dagon Township from 22 to 25

December. Aux air conditioners are environmental friendly as they are equipped with dual rotor compressor to reduce

energy consuming rate. They worked by the auto restart system, digital display, 4 way system air-flow and Japanese branded compressor and

circuit. DC inverter type air conditioners which consume power 60 percent lower than normal air conditioners are also available at the booth of Aux. Aux air conditioners

have for-year guarantee. Agents and customers may contact the United Asia Co Ltd at No. 225, Anawrahta Road, between 11th Street and Hledan Road, Lanmadaw Township,

Yangon, Ph 01-210834; 218021, 2300244, 2300244, Fax 2300245 and at No. 11, Thabyaygon Market Road, Nay Pyi Taw, Ph: 09 49208367, 09-5157172.

MNA

Chairman of Aungmyaythazan Township Writers and Journalists Association U Htun Hla Aung on behalf of Myanmar Libraries Foundation presented K 1 million for libraries in Mandalay Region on 16 November.

NLM



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening of Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road...

(from page 1)

13 miles and five furlongs long Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing (Mandalay) section today. Thus, 366 miles and three furlongs long section from No (3) Junction of Yangon to Mandalay allowing two-way traffic had been in service. The road was constructed through Yangon Region, Bago Region and Mandalay Region.

Constructed by staff of the Construction Ministry amidst natural barriers, the road opened today comprised two above-180 ft bridges, 12 between-50-and-180 ft bridges, and 34-under-50 ft bridges, and 49 box culverts. Traffic islands were constructed on the road to ensure two way-traffic and roadside safety

as the allowed speed on the road is 60 mph. The road constructed through Wanbe Lake, Myitsup Lake and Taungthaman Lake, had three overpasses, namely 90 feet long overpass at the entrance to Yatanarpon University, 120 feet long overpass on Sagaing-Mytinge shortcut, and 90 feet long overpass on Yangon-Mandalay Railroad. The road has a toll gate and Taguntaing Roundabout as the symbol of Mandalay, the cultural showcase of Myanmar.

He quoted the speech of the President to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 31 March, 2011 as saying "According to the previous experiences, action speaks louder than words in building national

consolidation and mere oral discussions at the table won't work at all. We have to build motor roads, rail roads and bridges to link the regions of national brethren separated by geographical barriers. We have to promote education and health standards, building sound economic foundation to improve the socio-economic life of national brethren. We have to enhance the socio-economic status of the national brethren by using these bridges, schools, hospitals and clinics."

The Union Minister continued that it was also important to maintain the bridge for long lifespan and to systematically use the roads and bridges in accordance with the set rules. Drivers using the Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section were to abide by traffic rules. He then urged locals to give a hand in maintaining the use. Afterwards, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye



Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung and Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thuang formally open Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section.—MNA

Myint gave a speech saying that Yangon-Mandalay Highway was constructed south to north in Central Mandalay Region, serving

as an axis for all townships in the region and smoothing the transportation of the region.

Moreover, as Mandalay had links with Kachin State, Sagaing Region, and northern Shan State, the Yangon-Mandalay Highway could be said linked with the whole nation. So, the road would bring about smooth transportation in the entire nation.

Next, U Aung Khaing Soe, a local from Amarapura Township spoke words of thanks for construction of the road section and other facilities by the government.

Next, the Vice-President cordially greeted departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people present on the occasion.

Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung

Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung and Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thuang formally opened the road section.

The Vice-President unveiled the stone plaque of the road and posed for documentary photo together with Union ministers and officials in front of Taguntaing Roundabout. The Vice-President and party then viewed the road by cars.

The road section is 13 miles and five furlongs in length and 400 feet in width and 18 inches in thickness, flanked by 35 feet wide shoulders and separated by 30 feet wide traffic island. It can withstand 80 tons of load and deal with 5000 vehicles per day.

MNA



Photo shows Taguntaing Roundabout in Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section.—MNA

New Social Security Law to benefit over 500,000 workers

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The new social security bill has been finalized and it would benefit over 500,000 workers when it is enacted, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi said today.

Speaking at the Human Resource Development in ICT for Social Security Scheme Workshop at the Labour Ministry here today, the Union Minister also said that the Ministry would set up Information and Technology Section (IT Section) under its Social Security Board to handle functions of the board well.

The workshop was participated by experts from e-Government Department of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Professionals' Association, Myanmar Computer Industrialists' Association, Assembler Computer Centre, directors-general of the Ministry of Labour and employees.

MNA



Photo shows Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Passing-out Parade of DSMA 13th Intake

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the Passing-out Parade of 13th Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) held at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon this morning.

It was also attended by wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Htway Htway Nyunt, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief's Office and their wives, the commander of South-East Command, the commander of Coastal Region Command, the commander of Yangon

Chief of Defence Services took salute of the cadet companies. Next, the cadet companies marched past the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented the Best Cadet

an address. He said that the aim of the Defence Services Medical Academy is to bring up medical officers of physical and intellectual prowess for the national armed forces. The knowledge on medical and military sciences that cadets have gained at the Defence

the effects of the weaponry and do research on the prevention of such effects. Only then will they be able to protect Tatmadawmen in time of crisis. So, it is needed to make preparedness to face such new warfare with the power of their knowledge in

wherever they are posted, so that a firm and steadfast spirit of the Union could be formed. Those tasks are inclusive of responsibilities in national politics. The medical corps had provided medical care and treatment in the rehabilitation works in the

Main National Causes, and who can be relied upon by the State and Tatmadaw,

- to emphasize on health education and preventive measures so that the armed forces will be fit to fight,



Cadets marching past Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing.—MNA



General Min Aung Hlaing awards Excellence in Study Award winner Cadet Ye Thura Myint.

MNA

Command, the commander of South-West Command, the commander of Southern Command, the commandant of DSMA, senior military officers of region, guests and parents and relatives of cadets.

The Commander-in-

Award to Cadet Kyaw Hsan Win, Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Zin Maung Htway and Excellence in Study Award to Cadet Ye Thura Myint.

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services delivered

Services Medical Academy will be utilized at the respective units assigned to them for providing healthcare and disseminating health education among Tatmadawmen and family members, and the people as well. Next, they all will have to give medical cover for combat forces at the front-line areas as well as provide healthcare and health education for those serving at various unit headquarters and their families. So, they have to keep on studying to put into practice what they have learnt in order to become highly qualified medical officers. They will have to improve their medical practicing skills within a short time. They as soldiers need to be good leaders of physical prowess and at the same time, as medical doctors, they need to possess a noble, sympathetic and high mental faculty. They will have to constantly train themselves to become such kind of leaders.

He said that medical science as well as military science has advanced with the changing times. And those two disciplines are combined to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. They need to know

medical science.

He continued that since all the cadets have become members of the Tatmadaw, they also need to possess the attitude of every good soldier. Discipline is the core factor in becoming a good soldier. To be dutiful, they need to obey orders, and a good soldier must be spotless in character and ethics. They must hold on to love, compassion and sympathy. The 60 ethical-codes of military conduct must be part and parcel of their character. They must abide by military as well as civil laws, regulations and rules, and as medical doctors there is the medical ethics to adhere to.

He went on that the perpetuation of sovereignty depends on Union Spirit among the more than a hundred ethnic groups of the Union. The State is striving for stability and development and they all must take part in the endeavour heart and soul. All citizens should have patriotism to work for the perpetuation of the Union. They must instill the Union Spirit among the indigenous brethren as they provide healthcare for them, and also by taking part in the development tasks for them

aftermath of the severe storm Nargis in 2008, the storm Giri in 2010, and the Pakokku floods this year. In like manner, they should serve the public interests by providing medical care for the local community to which they are assigned.

He noted that at present, the State is involved in the implementation tasks for the development of the nation in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Constitution. As prescribed by the Constitution, the Tatmadaw is to take the leading role in the national defence duties to protect the nation from internal as well as external threats. For the purpose, it is needed to build up a strong and capable army. Next, he urged the cadets to study both military and medical sciences to be able to initiate ways and means to face the modern warfare, and in doing so contribute to making the medical corps a highly competent and qualified force.

In conclusion, he urged the cadets

- to strive to become medical officers of physical and mental prowess who can safeguard Our Three

- to study the developments in modern science so as to become specialists in various fields,

- to constantly observe medical care for the local community to which they are assigned.

He noted that at present, the State is involved in the implementation tasks for the development of the nation in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Constitution. As prescribed by the Constitution, the Tatmadaw is to take the leading role in the national defence duties to protect the nation from internal as well as external threats. For the purpose, it is needed to build up a strong and capable army. Next, he urged the cadets to study both military and medical sciences to be able to initiate ways and means to face the modern warfare, and in doing so contribute to making the medical corps a highly competent and qualified force.

- to be a duty conscious, honest, and diligent Tatmadaw officer, a medical scientist who is a role model for junior officer cadets, and "a good soldier and an efficient doctor" for whom the Defence Services Medical Academy can be proud of.

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

After the ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the academy.

MNA

DISTRICT NEWS

Loans disbursed to 20 vendors

KYAUKDAGA, 23 Dec—Disbursement of loans by Sibin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd, organized by Kyaukdaga Township Development Affairs Committee of Bago Region, was held at the township DAC office on 2 December.

Executive Officer U Myint Lwin explained the purpose of disbursing loans and presented K 2 million to 20 vendors.

Myanma Alin

Traditional medicine clinic opened

YAMETHIN, 23 Dec—Shwe Chan Myae traditional medicine clinic was opened at the residence of traditional medicine practitioner Daw Mi Mi Myo near Mahasi Road in Watoe Middle Ward of Yamethin on 28 November.

It was the first traditional medicine clinic in Yamethin. In-charge of the clinic provides health care services to the local people.

Kyemon

Educative talks on prevention against drug held

NYAUNGLEBIN, 23 Dec—An educative talks on prevention against narcotic drugs abuse and human trafficking yesterday took place at Pyinya Gonyi Hall of No.1 BEHS in Nyaunglebin Township in Bago District, Bago Region.

Township Police Officer Police Captain Tin Aung made a speech and then inspector Kyaw Swe Oo and Inspector Maung Maung Win gave talks on defects of abuse of narcotic drugs and human trafficking.—MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, wife attend graduation dinner of DSMA 13th Intake

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended a dinner in honour of the graduation of 13th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy at the graduation hall of the academy in Yangon today.

It was also attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, senior military officers and their wives, the commander of the South-East Command, the commander of the Coastal Region Command, the commander of the Yangon Command, the commander of the South-West Command, the commander of the Southern Command, the commandant of DSMA, guests and relatives of the graduate cadets.

General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted graduate cadets individually.

Afterwards, General Min Aung Hlaing and party had dinner together with graduate cadets and their relatives.

After the dinner, they enjoyed the entertainment of Myawady Music Band and Anyein at the graduation hall.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing at the graduation dinner of 13th Intake of Defence Services of Medical Academy.

MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister meets Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Governor

YANGON, 23 Dec — Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe received the Chinese delegation led by Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Governor Mr. Ma Biao at the meeting hall of the regional government office here yesterday

morning.

The meeting focused on mutual cooperation between the two sides.

It was attended by Yangon Mayor Region Minister for Development U Hla Myint, Region Minister for Agriculture and Live-

stock U Soe Min, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo and Yangon Region Government's Secretary U Pe Thein.

MNA

KDP permitted to form as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Union Election Commission allowed formation of Kayin Democratic Party today as the application for registration as political party was submitted by 15 members including Saw Than Kyaw Oo.

The commission said that it found that the application of KDP is accorded with law and rules as the commission is scrutinizing applications for registration and allowing formation of political parties.—MNA

Political parties applying for registration

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — As the Union Election Commission is scrutinizing applications for registration and allowing formation of political parties, National League for Democracy and Myanmar New Society Democratic Party applied to the commission for their registration today.—MNA

US, Mexico seize nearly 80 mln USD in counterfeit goods

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec — US and Mexican authorities seized numerous counterfeit products worth 76.8 million US dollars in a six-week operation, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced on Thursday.

During Operation Holiday Hoax II conducted between 1 Nov and 16 Dec, ICE special agents and law enforcement officers seized more than 327,000 counterfeit items including

cell phones, handbags, DVDs, perfume, integrated circuits, wallets, computer software, the agency said in a statement. Thirty-three people were arrested and charged with trafficking in counterfeit goods.

The operation targeted stores, flea markets and swap meets involved in the importation, distribution and selling of counterfeit and pirated products in 66 US cities and 55 Mexican

cities, as well as in Seoul, South Korea.

"Counterfeiting remains a significant problem that demands strong enforcement efforts both here and abroad," said ICE Director John Morton.

"This year's success during Operation Holiday Hoax was a result of the close partnership with the governments of Mexico and South Korea."

This was the second iteration of Operation Holiday Hoax. The first netted more than 26 million dollars worth of counterfeit goods when it was conducted in December 2009.

US authorities have recently taken new steps to fight counterfeiting. A total of 150 websites were shut down in November as authorities found them engaged in the illegal sale and distribution of counterfeit goods and copyrighted works.

Xinhua



Professionally trained students and non-student interviewers conduct interviews at the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute near Hamden, Connecticut, the United States, on 5 Dec, 2011. The poll conducted by the institute now is one of the most respected and reliable public opinion surveys in the US.—XINHUA

Fish oil may hold key to leukaemia cure

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec — A fishoil compound that targets leukaemia stem cells also holds the key to its cure.

Leukaemia refers to cancer of the blood or bone marrow (which produces blood cells), resulting in abnormal production of leukocytes (white blood cells). The D12-PGJ3 compound targeted and killed stem cells of a particular class of leukaemia, CML, in mice,

said Sandeep Prabhu, associate professor of molecular toxicology at the Penn State University.

D12-PGJ3 is produced from Eicosapentaenoic acid, an Omega-3 fatty acid found in fish and fish oil, said Prabhu, according to a university statement. Some of leukaemia symptoms are poor blood clotting, impaired immune system, anaemia besides nausea, fever, chills,

83 million Americans to hit the road for holidays

NEW YORK, 23 Dec — Over 83 million Americans plan to drive this Christmas and New Year, up 2.1 percent from last year, the American Automobile Association (AAA) has predicted.

"Since the recession in 2008, we have actually seen

night sweats, flu-like symptoms and tiredness, the journal *Blood* reports.

Internet

a decrease in travelers and this year they are finally saying we have had enough of staying home," AAA spokesperson Tara Hanley said on Thursday.

"Even though times are still tight, we are going to travel, we are going to spend Christmas with our family and friends, so that is the kind of shift in attitude this year," *Xinhua* quoted her as saying.

Meanwhile, Airlines

for America, the US airline industry's trade group, is forecasting about 43.3 million air travelers during the 21 days surrounding Christmas and New Year, a 1 percent drop from the same period last year.

It would be the smallest number of air travelers since the organization started collecting holiday sample data seven years ago.

Internet



People take photos as a souvenir by Champs-Elysee Boulevard in Paris, France on 22 Dec, 2011. As Christmas is coming, the shopping season in France is reaching its peak.—XINHUA

Family trapped by snow in SUV for two days

CLAYTON, 23 Dec—A Texas family has been rescued in New Mexico after spending two days in their sport utility vehicle buried under snow, authorities said.

David Higgins, his wife and 5-year-old daughter Hannah were headed for a skiing vacation when their GMC Yukon got stuck in a blizzard on Monday on US Highway 412 outside the town of Clayton, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

"It got to the point where it was a complete whiteout," Higgins, a firefighter from Pasadena, said. "You couldn't even see anything other than white."

Higgins and his wife used their cellphones to call 911. Dispatchers told the family to conserve their gas and to keep the vehicle's muffler clear of snow, running the engine for 10 or 15 minutes and then turning it off.

Higgins did that two or three times but when he decided to check the muffler at 5

p.m. he couldn't open the door as a solid wall of snow had built up against the vehicle.

"We became encased in a vehicle igloo," Higgins said. "You could roll the window down and it just slid down, and you could touch it, and it was solid."

The family had three flashlights in the car, along with two cases of water, food, two sleeping bags, two pillows and their ski gear.

"I mean, we were really fairly well-supplied and then we had our two cellphones. Every now and then, we'd get a signal and that's how we were calling out, calling 911, and calling our families," he said.

About 1 am Wednesday, rescuers using poles to search the snow struck the top of the Yukon then dug down to the driver's side window. The rescuers broke the window of the Yukon with an ax and pulled the family out a 4-foot snow tunnel to the surface.

Internet

Fake bomb threat called in to LAX

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—A woman allegedly made a false bomb threat to delay her husband's flight out of Los Angeles International Airport following a disagreement, the FBI said.

Johnna Woolfolk was charged Tuesday by the US attorney's office in Los Angeles with providing false and misleading information for allegedly calling in a fake bomb threat, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

"Making a threat to an airline is a serious offense and will be prosecuted," FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said. "The response to these hoaxes is a great expense to the government."

Court documents state Woolfolk called an AirTran Airways representative and said a man with a bomb was aboard a flight to Atlanta.

After FBI agents tracked her down, Woolfolk admitted her report was false and that she had recently had marital trouble with her husband. She later told agents she did not mean to harm anyone.

Woolfolk is expected to appear in federal court next week.—Internet



Rescuers clear up the fire scene at the Qionglai-1 gas well of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China's biggest oil and gas producer, in Dayi County, Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 22 Dec, 2011. One person is missing and four others are hospitalized after the gas well exploded during a nitrogen drilling operation conducted here early Thursday morning. At present, the fire has been put under control and no toxic hydrogen sulfide gas was found in the gas leakage after the blast, said CNPC.—XINHUA

Woman sleepwalks to death

LONDON, 23 Dec—A 55-year-old US woman sleepwalked into a lake and drowned, a media report said on Thursday.

Charlene Ferrero left her Oaklyn, New Jersey apartment on Saturday night and fell from a train trestle into a lake, and drowned - all while she was asleep.

Her body was pulled out from Newton Lake by search crews Monday night, *Daily Mail* reported.

Ferrero worked as a waitress at the Starview Diner in Somerdale, New Jersey. Her co-workers are just as baffled as her friends over her tragic end.

The autopsy ruled Ferrero's death an accident, though it will take several weeks for results of the toxicology report. Medications such as sleep aid Ambien have been known to cause sleepwalking.

Internet

25 killed, 16 injured in Turkey collision

BISMIL, (Turkey), 23 Dec—A head-on collision between a bus and a truck killed 25 people and injured at least 16 in southeast Turkey, officials said.

Ferit Basar, the mayor of the small town of Yukari Salat near the crash site, said the accident occurred amid heavy fog on Wednesday in Diyarbakir's Bismil district on a stretch of road reduced to a single lane because of roadwork, *Today's Zaman*

reported. Fog, which had reduced visibility to about 16 feet, was likely a contributing factor in the accident between the mid-sized passenger bus and the truck, which was carrying bricks, Basar said.

The injured, many of them in serious condition, were taken to Bismil State Hospital, Diyarbakir Gov Mustafa Toprak said.

The Cihan news agency reported most of the bus

passengers were from Siirt, and many of them were reportedly students. Siirt residents gathered on Wednesday afternoon at the city's Cumhuriyet Square to commemorate the victims.

Internet

Man jailed for copying 10,000 novels

BEIJING, 23 Dec—A man in China has been imprisoned for 10 months and fined 50,000 yuan (about USD 7,890) for copyright infringement after he illegally downloaded nearly 10,000 online novels and reproduced them on his website.

The 25-year-old website founder, surnamed Yan, reproduced the downloaded novels on his own site to make profits.

He was sentenced to 10 months in prison with a one-year reprieve, for copyright infringement, the Shanghai Daily quoted the Pudong

WW II mines still a threat in Germany

NEUHAUSEN, (Germany), 23 Dec.—Land mines from World War II, decaying and threatening to become unstable, pose a growing risk in Germany, authorities say.

The warning came after two anti-tank mines from

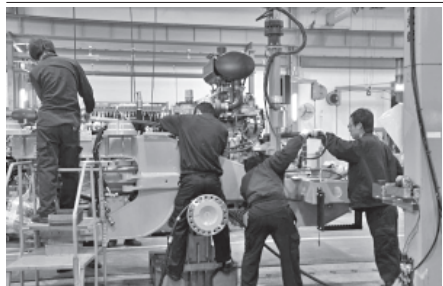
World War II exploded spontaneously in the ground in the eastern German state of Brandenburg, *Der Spiegel* reported on Thursday.

The first blast occurred 14 Dec and tore a crater 33 feet deep next to a road 62 miles southeast of Berlin. Another mine exploded on 17 Dec, officials said.

Although no one was injured in the blasts, experts

say the risk of such blasts from unexploded shells and other munitions left over from World War II is increasing as the trigger mechanisms in the mines deteriorate with age.

Earlier this month, about 45,000 people were evacuated from their homes in Koblenz while experts disarmed a 1.8-ton British bomb found in the Rhine River.—Internet



Workers of Caterpillar (Suzhou) Co, Ltd install a Cat980 wheel loader at a production line in Caterpillar (Suzhou) Co, Ltd in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 14 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA



A group of people look on at an apartment fire in the Western Addition area of San Francisco, USA.

INTERNET

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN BAO JIANG VOY NO (184)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN BAO JIANG VOY NO (184) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAGGER VOY NO (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAGGER VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Old republic Star Wars video game prepares to launch

LONDON, 23 Dec—Budding Jedi masters and Sith lords will soon have somewhere else to hone their lightsaber skills. Star Wars: The Old Republic launches on 20 December and lets gamers play as characters from the iconic SF series. Reputed to have cost more than \$130m (£87m) to develop, SWTOR is a bid to grab a chunk of the lucrative gaming market for publisher EA. It faces stiff competition from established titles, such as World of Warcraft, and many free-to-play games.

The Old Republic is set 3,500 years before the events depicted in the Star Wars films but uses many familiar elements from the movies. Any aspects of the game involve moral choices that push players towards the light and the dark sides of the force. The Old Republic (SWTOR) is a massively multi-player online (MMO) game and resembles World of Warcraft (WoW) and many others in that it asks players to go adventuring to turn their relatively weak starting character into a powerful hero.

Internet



The familiar combination of Jedi, lightsabers and robot companions feature in the game.—INTERNET



Award-winning photos of National Geographic Photo Contest 2011. XINHUA

Science names HIV study 2011 Breakthrough of Year

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec — The journal *Science* on Thursday chose the HPTN 052 clinical trial, an international HIV prevention trial as the 2011 Breakthrough of the Year.

The study found that if HIV-infected heterosexual individuals begin taking anti-retroviral medicines when their immune systems are relatively healthy as opposed to delaying therapy until the disease has advanced, they are 96 percent less likely to transmit the virus to their uninfected partners. Findings from the trial, first announced in May, were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in August.

The study was funded by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health.

"The HPTN 052 study convincingly demonstrated that anti-retroviral medications can not only treat but also prevent the transmission of HIV infection among heterosexual individuals," said NIAID Director Anthony Fauci in a statement.

Xinhua

Facebook's top 10 games of 2011

- * 1. Gardens of Time (Playdom)
- * 2. The Sims Social (EA)
- * 3. Cityville (Zynga)
- * 4. Doubledown Casino (Doubledown Interactive)
- * 5. Indiana Jones Adventure World (Zynga)
- * 6. Words With Friends (Zynga)
- * 7. Bingo Blitz (Buffalo Studios)
- * 8. Empires & Allies (Zynga)
- * 9. Slotomania-Slot Machines (Playtika)
- * 10. Diamond Dash (Wooga)

Appdata's Facebook games leaderboard

- * 1. Cityville (Zynga)
- * 2. Castleville (Zynga)
- * 3. Farmville (Zynga)
- * 4. Texas Holdem (Zynga)
- * 5. The Sims Social (EA)
- * 6. Empires & Allies (Zynga)
- * 7. Words With Friends (Zynga)
- * 8. Diamond Dash (Wooga)
- * 9. Bubble Witch Saga (King.com)
- * 10. Indiana Jones Adventure World (Zynga)



Disney bought Gardens of Time developer Playdom for more than \$500m (£318m) in July.—INTERNET

Gardens of Time beats Cityville in Facebook games list

LONDON, 23 Dec — Facebook has named Playdom's Gardens of Time as the most popular game on its social network in 2011. The Disney-owned firm's hidden-object title beat Zynga's Cityville to the top spot despite statistics suggesting it has fewer active users. Facebook said it gave priority to games with the highest satisfaction scores. The TechCrunch blog described the move as a "snub", but other analysts said the site might have wanted to promote its recommendation

tools. Reviews of Gardens of Time have praised its design and addictive gameplay.

However, several internet bloggers have expressed surprise it topped Facebook's list. Zynga's city-building simulation ranked third on the scoreboard behind Electronic Arts' The Sims Social. However, Zynga can still lay claim to being the most successful publisher after appearing four times on the list.—Internet

China to spend less on railway construction next year

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China is planning to invest 400 billion yuan (629.9 billion US dollars) in railway infrastructure construction next year, railway minister Sheng Guangzu said here on Friday. The investment scale registered a slight decline from the total expenditure of 469 billion yuan this year and a marked decrease from over 700 billion yuan in 2010.

This is the first time for the government to announce a clear goal for future railway development. Railway construction has been almost halted as the government has decided to slow the development of high-speed rail lines after a deadly train crash in July.—Xinhua

Stonehenge rocks Pembrokeshire link confirmed

LONDON, 23 Dec—Experts say they have confirmed for the first time the precise origin of some of the rocks at Stonehenge. It has long been suspected that rhyolites from the northern Preseli Hills helped build the monument. But research by National Museum Wales and Leicester University has identified their source to within 70m (230ft) of Craig Rhos-y-felin, near Pont Saeson. The museum's Dr Richard Bevins said the find would help experts work out how the stones were moved to Wiltshire.

For nine months Dr Bevins, keeper of geology at National Museum Wales, and



Archaeologists hope the find will enable them to discover how the stones were transported to Stonehenge.—INTERNET

Dr Rob Ixer of Leicester University collected and identified samples from rock outcrops in Pembrokeshire to try to find the origins of rhyolite debitage rocks that can be found at Stonehenge. By detailing the mineral content and the textural relationships within the rock, a process known as petrography, they found that 99% of the sam-

ples could be matched to rocks found in this particular set of outcrops.

Rhyolitic rocks at Rhos-y-felin, between Ffynnon-groes (Crosswell) and Brynberian, differ from all others in south Wales, they said, which helps locate almost all of Stonehenge's rhyolites to within hundreds of square metres.—Internet

Alkmaar goalkeeper Esteban sent off for kicking pitch invader

AMSTERDAM, 23 Dec — AZ Alkmaar's goalkeeper Esteban Alvarado retaliates against a pitch invader during their Dutch Cup match against Ajax — and is sent off by referee Bas Nijhuis.

The incident prompts Alkmaar's coach Gert Jan Verbeek to take his team off the pitch in protest at the Costa Rican's dismissal, and the game at the Amsterdam Arena is abandoned after only 36 minutes.—Internet

Woman loads gifts into wrong car

A Michigan woman who mistakenly loaded her Christmas gifts into the trunk of a lookalike car said she is hoping the items will be returned.

Linda Gipson of Ypsilanti said she loaded about \$700 worth of gifts into the trunk of a vehicle she believed to be her daughter's 2003 silver Ford Focus sedan while shopping with her family Thursday at the Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and went back inside to continue shopping, *the Detroit Free Press* reported Tuesday.

However, after leaving the mall with her family she discovered she had placed the items into a car that resembled her daughter's and opened with the same key.

"It's a sad story," Gipson said. "I'm just waiting here hoping that person is going to turn everything back."

Ford officials said they were unaware of any other instances of someone being able to open a vehicle lock with the key to a different car. They said they will investigate the incident.

Police at Christmas party make arrest

Police in Pennsylvania said a woman spotted with her hand in someone else's purse quickly found herself surrounded by officers celebrating Christmas.

Upper Darby police Superintendent Michael J Chitwood said officers from the bicycle patrol unit and

their families had gathered for a Christmas party Sunday and were waiting to be seated at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Philadelphia when Sgt. Jim Reif spotted the woman allegedly reaching into someone else's purse, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported Tuesday. Chitwood said Gwendolyn Jordan, 46,

seemed "shocked" to find herself quickly surrounded by eight officers.

Jordan, who has 59 previous arrests, was booked by Philadelphia police on theft and related charges. "She went to the wrong Christmas party," Chitwood said.

NewsAlbum

Bon Jovi jokes about death rumors



Rock star Jon Bon Jovi posted a picture to Facebook holding a sign

Bon Jovi posted the photo Monday after a fake news release circulated on Twitter claimed the 49-year-old singer had died during a tour stop in New Jersey, *The (Newark, NJ) Star-Ledger* reported Tuesday.

"Rest assured that Jon is fine! This photo was just taken," the text accompanying the photo reads. People magazine reported there were also false rumors on Twitter Monday claiming rapper Lil' Kim had died.

'Overzealous' worker censors TV titles

A British TV listings said "a temporarily overzealous profanity checker" censored innocuous programme titles, including changing the film "Hancock" to "HanC**k."

Virgin Media said the titles were fixed after visitors to the listings Web site noticed "Hancock" had been changed along with the children's show "Dick and Dom," which became "D**k and Dom," and the panel game "Never Mind the Buzzcocks," which was listed as "Never Mind the BuzzC**ks," *The Sun* reported Tuesday.

The Web site even changed the name of soccer team Arsenal to "A****al," the British tabloid said. A Virgin Media representative said the changes were the work of an employee described as "a temporarily overzealous profanity checker."

Brad Pitt losing enthusiasm



Actor Brad Pitt

LONDON, 23 Dec—Actor Brad Pitt feels he is losing enthusiasm with age and that he felt more optimistic when he was younger.

"I was more optimistic and naive when I was younger and I arrived in Los Angeles with a few hundred dollars in my pocket and took any odd job I could find, then worked as an extra before I started to get acting jobs," contactmusic.com quoted the 47-year-old as saying. "I gradually grew more cynical

and realistic about the world, and in some ways I'm sorry I lost some of that openness and enthusiasm," he added. However, the actor admits that being a father has helped him regain some of his youthful zest. "Being a father and being part of my own family has rekindled a lot of that lost spirit although I still have a naggingly realistic outlook on things," says the actor, who raises six children with partner Angelina Jolie.

Internet

Jamie Bell to propose Evan Rachel Wood



British actor Jamie Bell

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—British actor Jamie Bell has fuelled reports that he might propose to girlfriend Evan Rachel Wood after the couple was seen shopping for an engagement ring. "They have been shopping for rings for at least a month," *usmagazine.com* quoted a source as saying. However, a second insider says Bell "hasn't made a purchase yet, but he is starting to seriously look and has met with a few jewellers."

"Evan and Jamie were really young and just getting going in their careers when they first met and they just weren't ready," said the insider. "Now that they are older and both excelling in their professional lives, I think they feel ready to take their relationship to the next level," the insider added.

Internet

Kate Beckinsale's dressing hassles

LONDON, 23 Dec—Actress Kate Beckinsale says it takes a whole lot of people to make her look as stunning as she looks at red carpet events.

The 38-year-old "Pearl Harbor" actress insists she needs a whole "village" of people to help her look tip-top for public appearances, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

Referring to Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler, she said: "I don't roll out of bed like this. It takes a village. I tend to wake up looking like

Steven Tyler, then somebody comes to help."

Beckinsale has a 12-year-old daughter Lily with former partner Michael Sheen. She is currently married to director Len Wiseman. But at her age, she looks fit as a fiddle thanks to yoga, which gives her a lot of relaxation.

"There's a carrot at the end - I get to lie down for 10 minutes. If that part didn't exist, I wouldn't do it. I always hated the idea of it - yoga and golf are similar in that people can become obsessive and



Actress Kate Beckinsale

boring about it. I never thought that would be me, but I do feel a lot better (for doing it). And a happy side effect is that it lifts my bottom," she added.

Internet

Demi Moore to produce women's show

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—Actress Demi Moore is likely to produce a TV show for women.

Moore will launch an interview series, "The Conversation", next month, with British TV personality Amanda de Cadenet as the host.

Moore, who recently split from husband Ashton



Kutcher, is a producer of the show, but she might appear on camera too.

"It's been an emotional year for her, and people want to hear what she has to say," a source told *New York Daily News*.

Internet

Actress Demi Moore

Elvis Presley gets posthumous Grammy nomination

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—Elvis Presley has been nominated for a posthumous Grammy Award. "Young Man With the Big Beat: The Complete '56 Elvis Presley Masters", a five-CD box set of the star's early recordings, has been tipped in the Best Historical Album category by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

The release will go up



Elvis Presley

against records by singers including Sir Paul McCartney and Chris Strachwitz at the ceremony, which will be held in Los Angeles on 12 Feb, *Contactmusic* reported.

The King of Rock and Roll garnered 14 Grammy nominations and won three during his lifetime. He died at the age of 42 in 1977.

Internet

Gold, Wilson first up for 'Celebrity Wife Swap'

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—Former child star Tracey Gold and singer Carnie Wilson will be the focus of the first episode of the US reality series "Celebrity Wife Swap," ABC said.

"A self-described control freak, actress and producer Tracey Gold swaps her very organized home with free-spirited singer/actress/TV host Carnie Wilson, a believer that love is more important than rules," the network said in a news release.

The show is to premier 2 Jan on ABC.

Gold is best known for her role as Carol Seaver in the 1980s comedy series "Growing Pains." She is married to Roby Marshall and is the mother of four boys.

Wilson is a member of the music group Wilson Phillips and daughter of the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson. She is married to record producer Rob Bonfiglio with whom she has two young daughters.

Internet



Members of the singing group Wilson Phillips (left to right) Chynna Phillips and Carnie Wilson who over the years has battled through massive weight gains meet the media after performing in the 29 March, 2001 TNT tv special All Star Tribute to Brían Wilson to be aired in July 2001.—INTERNET



Arsenal have decided to delay their match against Wolves until Tuesday 27th December.—INTERNET

Arsenal postpone Boxing Day match

LONDON, 23 Dec — Arsenal have delayed their home Barclays Premier League fixture against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Boxing Day by 24 hours because of a proposed tube strike. The match will now take place on Tuesday December 27th - a public holiday — at 3pm. The proposed industrial action could affect London Underground services and cause travel disruption for people attending the match at the Emirates Stadium next Monday.

In a statement, Arsenal said: "The club has been liaising closely in order to make this decision, with all the relevant agencies, including the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, London Underground, The Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and Islington Council. "The paramount concern was always the duty of care towards the Arsenal supporters, Wolverhampton Wanderers supporters, Matchday employees, workers and indeed everyone who was planning to attend the match on Boxing Day."

Internet

Messi, Ibarguen, Uruguayan soccer win Prensa Latina agency poll

HAVANA, 23 Dec — Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi on Thursday was elected as 2011 Male Best Athlete in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to Cuban news agency Prensa Latina (PL). Colombian athlete Catherine Ibarguen won 2011 Female Best Athlete and Uruguay's national soccer team won 2011 Best Team award.

The Barcelona star Messi won with 38 votes, leaving behind Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt who obtained 32 votes and Uruguayan soccer player Luis Suarez, with 29 votes. In the female category, PL said Catherine Ibarguen won with 48 votes, 13 more than Brazilian pole vaulter Fabiana Murer, who ended second place. Cuban discus thrower Yarelis



Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi

Barrios, was third with 16 votes. In the team's category, Uruguayan national soccer team won with 101 votes.

Media who participated in PL poll chose the 10 best athletes in 2011, which include Bolt, Suarez, Murer, Uruguayan soccer player Diego Forlan, Brazilian swimmers Cesar Cielo Filho and Thiago Pereira.

Internet

London derby ends in stalemate

LONDON, 23 Dec — Title hopefuls Tottenham and Chelsea shared the points following an entertaining draw in the



Adebayor put the hosts in front after converting Bale's eighth-minute cross.

INTERNET

Barclays Premier League at White Hart Lane. The home side took the lead in the eighth minute when Emmanuel Adebayor nudged Gareth Bale's dangerous cross past the onrushing Petr Cech. But Daniel Sturridge levelled 15 minutes later when he tapped in from four yards after Tottenham's defence failed to deal with Ashley Cole's left-wing cross.

Both teams had excellent chances to steal three points in the final minutes; Chelsea's Ramires headed wide from eight yards from an unmarked position before John Terry diverted Adebayor's goal-bound strike past the post in the second minute of injury time.

Internet

Barclays Premier League Standing

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Manchester City	17	14	2	1	53	15	38	44
2	Manchester United	17	13	3	1	42	14	28	42
3	Tottenham Hotspur	16	11	2	3	32	19	13	35
4	Chelsea	17	10	3	4	35	20	15	33
5	Arsenal	17	10	2	5	33	25	8	32
6	Liverpool	17	8	6	3	20	13	7	30
7	Newcastle United	17	7	6	4	23	22	1	27
8	Stoke City	17	7	3	7	18	28	-10	24
9	Norwich City	17	5	6	6	27	31	-4	21
10	West Bromwich Albion	17	6	3	8	19	26	-7	21
11	Everton	16	6	2	8	17	19	-2	20
12	Aston Villa	17	4	7	6	19	23	-4	19
13	Fulham	17	4	6	7	18	23	-5	18
14	Swansea City	17	4	6	7	16	21	-5	18
15	Sunderland	17	4	5	8	21	21	0	17
16	Queens Park Rangers	17	4	4	9	17	31	-14	16
17	Wolverhampton	17	4	3	10	19	32	-13	15
18	Wigan Athletic	17	3	5	9	15	30	-15	14
19	Bolton Wanderers	17	4	0	13	22	39	-17	12
20	Blackburn Rovers	17	2	4	11	24	38	-14	10

International Sports

Andre Villas-Boas insists 'outstanding' Chelsea is still in Premier League title race

LONDON, 23 Dec — Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas has insisted his side is still in the Premier League title race after its 1-1 draw with Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

The Blues came from behind to grab a point against Harry Redknapp's high-flying Spurs as Daniel Sturridge's strike cancelled out Emmanuel Adebayor's opener. After the game, the 34-year-old boss expressed his belief that his side could still take the Premier League title, despite this result leaving them 11 points behind league leaders Manchester City.



Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas

He told reporters: "If we take six points from our next two home fixtures, I think we will be pretty much in it. "We came to face a Tottenham side who are title challengers and it's always a good point to get. We were in a worse position before and recovered, and I'm fairly sure we can further shorten the distance." Villas-Boas went on to dismiss the result as irrelevant given the dominance he believes his side exerted at a tough ground to visit. He added: "For me it's one of those days when the result really doesn't matter. The performance was outstanding, regardless of the result, and I will leave White Hart Lane extremely satisfied.—Internet

Barclays charity donation marks 20,000th goal



Albrighton's goal prompted celebrations and was a Barclays Premier League landmark

LONDON, 23 Dec — Barclays are marking the occasion of the 20,000th goal in the Barclays Premier League by making a £20,000 donation to charity. Aston Villa midfielder Marc Albrighton was the player who wrote himself into the history books as he scored the landmark goal in the 2-1

Costa Rica defeats Venezuela 2-0 in friendly

BARQUISIMETO, 23 Dec — Rodney Wallace and Jose Miguel Cubero scored as Costa Rica beat Venezuela 2-0 in a friendly on Thursday, overwhelming the home side's shaky defence. Wallace gave Costa Rica the lead in the 42nd minute, knocking a pass from Yeltsin Tejada into the net. Cubero doubled that advantage in the 53rd, pouncing on a rebound off Venezuela goalkeeper Alan Liebeskind.

Venezuela, which did not field its top players, did not capitalize on its scoring opportunities. Miguel Mea Vitali's powerful free kick from outside the area in the 32nd minute was stopped by goalkeeper Daniel Cambronero.—Internet

home defeat by Arsenal on Wednesday. And thanks to Barclays, Albrighton's chosen charity — the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust in the west Midlands — will be £20,000 better off. The Villa star said: "It's a brilliant occasion and a brilliant feeling to have got that record.

"It's something that I can tell the kids and the grandkids about. The Barclays Premier League is one of the greatest leagues in the world, if not the greatest, so to score the 20,000th goal is a great honour." Talking about the £20,000 donation, he said: "There are some great people at Acorns doing some special things, they deserve every plaudit they get and they definitely deserve the money." "At times you take things too seriously in life but you visit a place like Acorns and it really opens your eyes.—Internet

Yaya Toure is named Caf African Player of the Year

LONDON, 23 Dec — Yaya Toure has been named the 2011 African Footballer of the Year by the Confederation of African Football. The Ivory Coast and Manchester City player held off competition from Seydou Keita, the Mali and Barcelona midfielder, and Ghana's Andre Ayew, who plays for Olympique Marseille. Toure, 28, was chosen by coaches of national teams on the continent. "This is the highest prize I can get in my career," said Toure, who has helped City to the top of the Premier League. He also scored the only goal of the game as Manchester City beat Stoke to win the FA Cup in May. An emotional Toure said he was proud to have received the honour on "a special day for me", and he hopes the honour will spur the Ivory Coast on as they look for a second Nations Cup title next year.

"In a few months we will look for the Africa Cup of Nations which is very important for me and my country," he said. "But

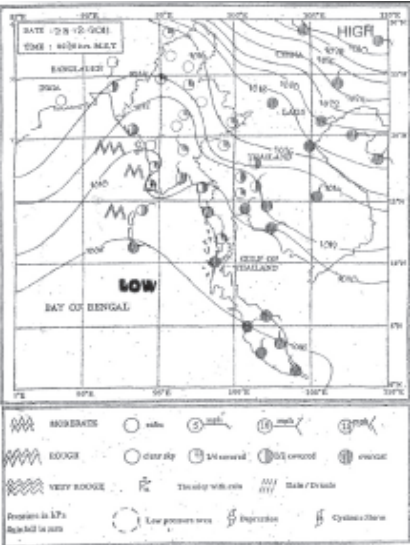


Yaya Toure has made a huge impression with Manchester City and Ivory Coast.

for now I am very happy and very proud. "It's unbelievable, it's amazing. It's a first step in my big career." Toure's triumph capped a fine night for Ivory Coast who also scooped the referee of the year award, which went to Noumandiez Doue. Tottenham youngster Souleyman Coulibaly won the Most Promising Talent. Esperance's Oussama Darragi was named the African-based Player of the Year.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER Friday, 23rd December, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past (24) hours, isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperature in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, (3°C) below December average temperatures in Mandalay Region and (5°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Pinlaung (2°C) each, Putao, Namhsam and Heho (3°C) each, Machanbaw and Katha (5°C) each.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and West Central Bay and Partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24th December 2011: Weather will be Partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and likelihood of isolated rain in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squally with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-12-2011: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-12-2011: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-12-2011: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather Outlook for Last Weekend of December, 1011: Weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay and Yangon Regions.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

- | MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL | MYANMAR TV |
|--|---|
| (24-12-11 09:30 am ~ 25-12-11 09:30 am) MST | (24-12-2011) (Saturday) |
| Oversea Transmission | 7:00 am |
| * News | 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw |
| * Travel to the Southern Part of Myanmar | 7:30 am |
| * News | 2. Morning News |
| * All About Gold | 7:50 am |
| * Myanmar Traditional Bronze Casting | 3. Nice and Sweet Song |
| * News | 8:00 am |
| * Trader's Charity Bazaar Live Concert | 4. Health Programme |
| * News | 8:10 am |
| * ARTIST'S EMOTION | 5. Documentary |
| * News | 8:35 am |
| * 26th SEA ME WE 3 Cable System Management Committee Meeting | 6. International News |
| * News | 11:00 pm |
| * A Day Trip to Thanlyin | 7. Martial Song |
| * News | 2:00 pm |
| * Secret Places for Yummy Foods (Shwe Taung Noodle) | 8. TV Drama Series |
| * Mya Nan San Kyaw (The Golden Palace) | 4:15 pm |
| * Myanmar Movies "Life is struggling" | 9. Cultural Dances |
| | 4:55 pm |
| | 10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit |
| | 5:00 pm |
| | 11. Int'l Science News |
| | 5:30 pm |
| | 12. Beautiful "ASEAN" |
| | 7:00 pm |
| | 13. Myanmar Movies |
| | 8:00 pm |
| | 14. News |
| | 15. Cartoon Series |
| | 16. Myanmar Movies |



Photo taken on 22 Dec, 2011 shows a tomb of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) discovered in Xin'gang Township, Fanchang County, east China's Anhui Province. Archaeologists on Thursday started to unearth a group of ancient tombs discovered in a construction site in Xin'gang Township of Anhui Province. The tombs were believed to be of the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties.—XINHUA

Track runs, heart rate with "first app" for Bluetooth Smart



Track runs, heart rate with "first app" for Bluetooth Smart

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Dec—Developer Body-Pro claims its new app CardioMapper is the first app of its kind to support Bluetooth 4.0 in the iPhone 4S, monitoring your heart rate as you exercise with either a Bluetooth Smart or Wi-Fi heart monitor. Announced this week, the app also records your workout routes via GPS, with analysis tools, an assortment of virtual coaches, and an interval training mode.

Now available in Apple's AppStore, the app can track your runs, hikes, and bike rides while providing data on speed, calories burned, distance, and when, connected to a heart-rate monitor, "live pulse data will graph heart beat rhythm to match your heart," according to a release. Available for iPhone 4S users, CardioMapper sells for \$1.99. In June, Dayton Industrial announced its new heart rate chest monitor equipped with Bluetooth 4.0, which can be plugged in and ready to use "in seconds," writes medical technology website Medgadget. The new gadget can run for up to 1.5 years on its coin cell battery and features an ultra-slim (1.1 cm thick) plastic-encased sensor, according to the release.

A Bluetooth 4.0-equipped thermometer is also expected to be launched soon. According to the Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG), there are more than 40 million Bluetooth-enabled health and medical devices on the market, and many more are expected in the coming year.

Internet

NLM-net Joke
Want a day off work?

So you want a day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for. There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have 2 days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break which counts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a 1 hour lunch each day, you used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days per year available for work. We are off 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days. We generously give 14 days vacation per year which leaves only 1 day available for work and I'll be darned if you are going to take that day off!

Van der Vaart injury blow for Tottenham

LONDON, 23 Dec—Tottenham Hotspur are likely to be without Rafael van der Vaart for the Christmas and New Year English Premier League fixtures after the Dutchman injured his hamstring in their 1-1 draw with Chelsea on Thursday.

Van der Vaart, who has scored six league goals this season, failed to return after halftime against Chelsea and manager Harry Redknapp said he would miss away games against Norwich City and Swansea City next week.

"Rafa keeps getting hamstrings," Redknapp told reporters after the match. "He seems to suffer from that problem but when he plays he is a fantastic footballer. "I would think he will be out for the festive period." Tottenham, in third place, have mounting injury concerns going into a crucial period of the season with winger Aaron Lennon also sidelined by a hamstring injury and defender Younes Kaboul suffering a similar problem in the warm-up against Chelsea. Striker Jermain Defoe, who missed the Chelsea game, is another with hamstring problems. "A load of games in a short spell gives you problems," Redknapp said.—Reuters



Van der Vaart, who has scored six league goals this season, failed to return after halftime against Chelsea and manager Harry Redknapp said he would miss away games against Norwich City and Swansea City next week.



Indianapolis Colts' Joseph Addai is tackled by Houston Texans' Quintin Demps (27) and Brice McCain (21) during the first half of an NFL football game on Thursday, 22 Dec, 2011, in Indianapolis.—INTERNET

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses second coordination meeting of Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers address at second coord meeting of Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 met for the second time at Government Office here this afternoon, with an address by Committee Chairman Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was attended by members of the committee Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Information and Culture Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, central committee members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the meeting was the second coordination meeting of the Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 and the first coordination meeting was held on 9 December during which subcom-

mittees were formed under the central committees and assigned duties. He continued that the 64th Anniversary Independence Day would be observed nationwide on a grand scale in accordance with national objectives, naming the events on the occasion of 64th Anniversary Independence Day as State flag-hoisting and saluting the State flag, reading the message sent by the President on the occasion of 64th Anniversary Independence Day, conferring titles, and dinner party in Nay Pyi Taw. He added that apart from State flag-hoisting and reading of President's message, Independence Day commemorative funfairs would be held on a grand scale in respective regions and states and called subcommittees to report on completed duties.

Next, personnel of State Flag-Hoisting and Saluting Organizing Subcommittee, Reception and Dinner Organizing Subcommittee, Security Subcommittee, Information Subcommittee, Healthcare Subcommittee, and Sports Events

Organizing Subcommittee submitted reports on preparations of respective subcommittees.

Those present at the meeting discussed general matters related to observing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day. After making coordination, the Vice-President made concluding remarks saying that preparations of the respective subcommittees were nearly completed and called for coordination of subcommittees for more comprehensiveness of other preparatory works.

The 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 will be observed in accordance with four national objectives nationwide on a grand scale and it is the first in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Likewise, Independence Day commemorative funfairs and sports activities will be held in ministries, districts, townships, wards and villages across the nation.

MNA

Kyunhla BEMS (Branch) gets new building

KYUNHLA, 23 Dec—A ceremony to open Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was held in conjunction with the handing over of new school building at the school in Ywathi Village of Kyunhla Township on 4 December.

Officials formally opened the new building of the school. Member of the School Board of Trustees U Soe Tint handed over documents related to Headmistress Daw Hla Hla. Later, officials donated exercise books, various publications and sports gear to students.—Township IPRD

MMCWA Central Council meets

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Central Council took place at the association office in Deikkinathiri Township here yesterday morning.

It was attended by MMCWA Chairperson Dr Mon Mon Aung, Vice-Chairperson Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and CEC members, officials of the Department of Health, central council members and others.—MNA

Untimely rainfall warning

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—According to the observations at (9:00) hrs MST today, due to the convergence of the Southwest warm air and Northwest cold air, rain will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States within next (48) hours commencing noon today.

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h., announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Secrets of 'sleep hormone' may lead to new treatments for insomnia

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—Scientists have unravelled the inner workings of melatonin, also known as the "sleep hormone," making a major breakthrough for the development of new and promising treatments for insomnia. The team from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) and McGill University revealed

the key role played by the melatonin receptor in the brain that promotes deep, restorative sleep. This discovery led the researchers to develop a novel drug called UCM765, which selectively activates this receptor.

The results may pave the way for the development of new and promising treatments for insomnia, a common public health problem that affects millions of people

worldwide.

"We've spent many years to develop medications that act selectively on a single melatonin receptor to specifically promote deep sleep, which we believe is the key to curing insomnia," said Dr Gabriella Gobbi, a researcher in psychiatry at the RI-MUHC and the study's principal investigator. To date most treatments for insomnia, such as

benzodiazepines, have not been selective for deep sleep, and can lead to dependence and cognitive impairment. The research team discovered that two principal melatonin receptors, known as MT1 and MT2, played opposite roles in sleep regulation.

"We discovered that MT1 receptors act on rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and block non-REM sleep, while MT2 receptors favour non-REM sleep, also known as deep sleep," explained Dr Gobbi.—Internet



Very preterm boys less likely to live than girls

PAGE 4

Messi, Ibarquen, Uruguayan soccer win Prensa Latina agency poll



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Adebayor put the hosts in front after converting Bale's eighth-minute cross.

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