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Tuesday, 27 December, 2011

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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President U Thein Sein receives delegation headed by Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba .—MNA

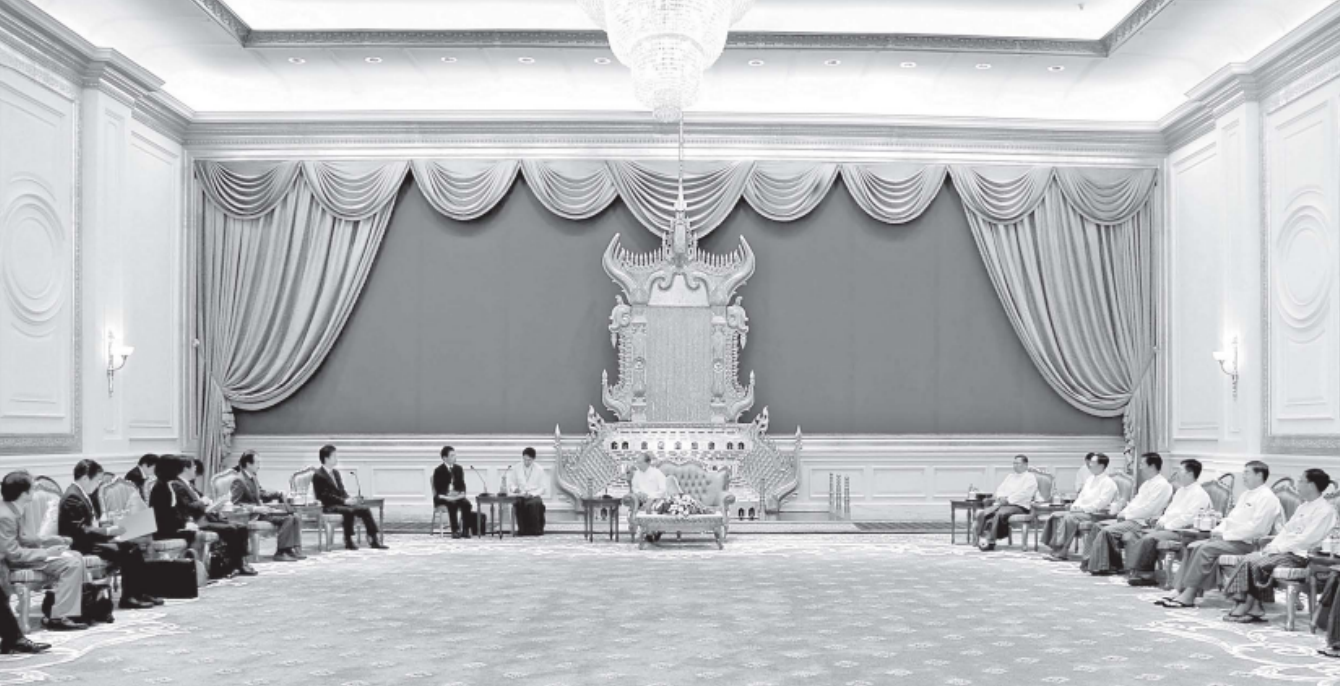
NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec – President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received the visiting delegation headed by Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Plan-

ning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and departmental heads and Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito.

They cordially discussed matters related to bilateral multi-faceted cooperation, including strengthening of bilateral friendly ties, bilateral economic cooperation, seeking of ways and means to render assistance by Japan, encouragement and assistance for Myanmar’s democratization and national reconsolidation and bilateral cultural exchanges.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Japanese delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 December, 2011

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) to help develop west bank of Ayeyawady

If you look at the map of Myanmar, you can see the Ayeyawady River flows from north to south. Rising in the northernmost part, the river flows to the south, making the eastern regions far distant from the western ones. Consequently, development gap between those regions was wide in the past.

Over the past decade, river-spanning bridges have been built one after another helping develop the eastern and western areas of the river in parallel. Now again, construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) linking NayungU in NyaungU District on the eastern bank and Pakokku in Pakokku District of Magway Region on the western bank has been completed and the bridge will open very soon. Special Project Group (3) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction started the bridge construction on 15 December, 2009 and finished it within two years.

It is a rail-cum-road river-crossing bridge, built mainly for India-Myanmar-Thai Tripartite Highway. The length of the motor road on the bridge is 13537 feet or 2.56 miles while that of the railroad is 20597 feet or 3.90 miles. The bridge has a 28 feet wide two-lane motorway and 14 feet wide railroad plus 3 feet and 3 inches wide pedestrian lane on each side. The construction of the bridge has been mainly undertaken by Public Works and laying of railway tracks by Myanmar Railways.

The bridge links already-inaugurated Taungdwingyi-Bagan-Myingyan railroad on the eastern bank and Kyangin-Pakokku railroad on the western bank under construction. The main aim of building the bridge is to help develop the western parts of the Ayeyawady in Pakokku.

Upon the bridge completion, there will be links between Patheingyi, Kyangin, Pakokku, Kalay, Mimbun, An and Sittway on the western bank of the Ayeyawady and other regions across the nation such as Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Myittha, Taunggyi, Yangon, Mawlamyine and Dawei. Another heartening point is that one can take an hour-long train ride from Bagan, the ancient capital of Myanmar, to Pakokku or vice versa.

CEO Classic Golf Tournament on 5 Jan

YANGON, 26 Dec—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA and mainly sponsored by CEO Group, CEO Classic Golf Tournament will be held from 5 to 8 January, 2012 in Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township.

Professional level and H'Cap 0-8 in amateur level golfers are eligible for the tournament to be held in accordance with St. Andrew rules and local golf rules.

Participants may enroll at Myanmar Golf Training Course, at the corner of Okkala Street and Airport Street, Mayangon Township here or dial 09-2037671, 09-73130474 and 651374 by 2 pm on 2nd January. The fee for the tournament is K 20,000.

Prize winners of the tournament will be qualified for Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012.

MNA

Union Foreign Minister and Japanese counterpart hold talks



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gamba holding talks.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and the Japanese delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Koichiro Gamba held talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this morning.

The two foreign ministers discussed matters relating to strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

MNA

UMFCCI President receives Japanese guest

YANGON, 26 Dec—Member of the House of Councilors of Japan General Secretary of the Democratic Party of Japan Parliamentary League for Japan-Myanmar Friendship Mr Kazuya Shimba called on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Vice-Presidents U Aung Lwin and Dr Maung Maung Lay and General Secretary Dr Myo Theat at the federation on 22 December.

The meeting focused on Japan-Myanmar cooperation in economic, social and education sectors, technical exchange for human resources development, establishing industrial zones in Myanmar and investment of Japanese businessmen in



these zones, employment to be increasingly generated by the industrial zones, capacity building courses in health and education sectors and organizing joint workshops.—MNA

UMFCCI President U Win Aung receives Member of the House of Councilors of Japan General Secretary of the Democratic Party of Japan Parliamentary League for Japan-Myanmar Friendship Mr Kazuya Shimba.
MNA

Fire prevention talks given

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—Engineering Department Main Workshop (Pinyinmana) of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana organized educative talks on fire prevention and fire drill on 7 December.

Assistant Director U Win Myint of the District Fire Services Department gave talks on fire prevention. Firefighters of Pinyinmana Fire Services Department and staff of the workshop then made a fire drill.

MNA

Myanmar Chess Open kicks off on 25 Jan

YANGON, 26 Dec—Myanmar Chess Open, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, is scheduled to open on 25 January and continue till 3 February. The venue of tournament is Aung San Gymnasium here.

Those wishing to participate in the tournament are to enlist at MCF Office not later than 22 January. The qualifiers will be eligible to play in 2012 National Chess Championship which will pick out the selected Myanmar players.

MNA

Local Sports

Equestrian Contest on 4 Jan 2012

YANGON, 25 Dec—The Myanmar Equestrian Federation will organize the equestrian contest to mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 at Yangon Equestrian Club on Pyidaungsu Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 4 January.

The equestrian contest will be categorized as dressage novice class, show jumping novice class, cavalry, galloping and racebarral classes. Those wishing to take part in the contest may enlist at the National Sports Complex of the club, not later than 4 pm on 31 December. For further information, dial 584962.—MNA

Inter-Village Football Tourney kicks off

MAUNGTAW, 26 Dec—The Township Administrator's Cup Inter-Village Football Tournament kicked off in Maungtau Township on 17 December.

Township Administrator U Kyi San opened the tournament.

Ywathikay Ward met with Kyeekathbyin-Maungnana Village-tract in the debut. Altogether 21 football teams from wards and village-tracts are taking part in the tournament.—Myanma Alin

Chinese President meets Japanese PM on bilateral ties

BEIJING, 26 Dec— President Hu Jintao met visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda in Beijing on Monday and the two sides agreed to advance mutually beneficial relations of strategic significance. Their meeting was the second since Noda was elected Japan's new prime minister in late August. Hu said he was glad to meet with Noda twice within such a short period of time. Noda's visit is of great significance as the two

countries are preparing for the 40th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral diplomatic relations, Hu said. He said he believed that this visit would further deepen the mutually beneficial relations of strategic significance between the two countries, and he would exchange views with Noda on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Reviewing his meeting with President Hu during the summit of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation in

November, Noda said China's development is an opportunity not only for Japan, but for the international community as well. Promoting Japan-China strategic and mutually beneficial relationship is necessary for solving regional and international issues. Noda held talks with Premier Wen Jiabao on Sunday, in which the two sides "reached wide consensus on bilateral relations," the prime minister said. Noda also met with top



Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo on Monday morning. He is scheduled to wrap up his two-day official China visit at noon Monday. MNA/Xinhua

Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

13 bodies found in northeastern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 26 Dec— Mexican soldiers Sunday found 13 bodies inside a truck on a highway near the port City of Tampico in the northeastern coastal state Tamaulipas, authorities said.

The state's attorney general said the bodies were found when soldiers performed routine patrols of the Morallillo-Tampico road following information about the abandonment of a 3.5-ton truck with a license plate from the neighbouring State Veracruz.

Authorities assumed the killing is related to organized crime groups.

The local technical services unit will conduct autopsies and contact Mexico's State information department to identify the victims.

Mexico has been plagued by drug-related violence for a long time. More than 45,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence in Mexico since President Felipe Calderon launched a war against organized crime in 2006.

Xinhua

20 killed, 50 injured as blast hits funeral in north Afghan province

TALUQAN, 26 Dec—At least 20 people including a member of parliament were killed and over 50 injured in a suicide bombing on a funeral ceremony in Afghanistan's northern Takhar Province on Sunday afternoon, officials said.

"There was a suicide attack against a funeral ceremony in Sarhi-e-Sang area of provincial capital Taluqan City at around 2:30 pm local time Sunday (1000 GMT) and I do confirm that member of Lower House of parliament Abdul Mutalib Baig was among those killed in the incident," spokesman for provincial government Faiz Mohammad Dawhidi told Xinhua.

Meantime, an official with the press department of Afghan Interior Ministry told Xinhua that at least 20 people, mostly civilians were killed and over 50 others were



At least 20 people, including an Afghan MP, have been killed in a suicide attack on a funeral procession in northeast Afghanistan, a provincial governor says.

INTERNET

injured in the incident.

"A funeral ceremony, held for a local elder, was ended and many people were leaving the area but a suicide bomber blew his explosive vest inside the crowd. As a result some 20 people were killed and more than 50 were injured," spokesman for police in the northern region

Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai told local media. He said all the victims were civilians.

All the injured were shifted to a provincial capital hospital and are receiving treatments, Dawhidi said, adding "many of the injured were in critical conditions."

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. Taleban militants who largely rely on roadside bombings and suicide attacks have yet to make comments.

The Taleban-led militancy has been rampant since the militant group announced to launch a rebel offensive from 1 May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in Afghanistan.

The Taleban outfit has also warned the civilians to stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and centres regarded as the legitimate targets by militants.—Xinhua



An injured Afghan man receives treatment at a hospital after a suicide attack in Takhar Province on 25 December, 2011. REUTERS

Iran adds second destroyer to navy

TEHRAN, 26 Dec—Iran is constructing its second modern warship—a destroyer—to add to the country's fleet, Iranian Navy commander Rear Adm. Habibollah Sayyari said.

The ship, called "Jamaran-2," will be capable of defending against airstrikes, as well as surface and underwater attacks, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday.

Jamaran-2 is also equipped to carry and fuel helicopters, the commander said.

Sayyari also noted that Jamaran-1 destroyer is present at the "Velayat-90" training exercises off the coast of southern Iran for 10 days.

Internet

Onlookers gather around a car destroyed in an explosion next to St Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla, Nigeria. INTERNET

A wheel loader removes debris at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Shaab District, northern Baghdad, on 22 December, 2011. The toll from a series of explosions that rocked Baghdad on Thursday rose to 57 killed and 179 others wounded, Iraq's health ministry spokesman said. REUTERS

Baghdad suicide bomb kills six as standoff deepens

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec—A suicide attacker in a vehicle packed with explosives killed at least six people at the interior ministry in Baghdad on Monday as a worsening political standoff stoked sectarian tensions.

The blast, which left dozens wounded, came just days after the capital was

struck by its deadliest violence in more than four months and as US Vice President Joe Biden urged dialogue between Iraqi politicians to resolve their differences.

The attacker took advantage of guards opening the ministry compound's main gates to allow in electrical maintenance workers to ram his explosive-filled car through and set it off, a ministry official said.

At least six people were killed and 31 wounded, doctors at the Neurological and Al-Kindi hospitals, where casualties were taken, said.

The blast came after a wave of attacks across Baghdad on Thursday killed 60 people, and violence in the provinces the same day claimed another seven lives.

It was the deadliest day in Iraq since mid-August.

Iraq is mired in political dispute with authorities calling for the arrest of Sunni Arab Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi on charges he ran a death squad, accusations Hashemi denies.—Xinhua



US wants closer cooperation with Pakistan, says State Department

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—The United States has said it will continue working with Pakistan on enhancing bilateral ties. "We desire a closer, more productive relationship with Pakistan both militarily and as well as politically. And we're constantly working to build that closer cooperation. As I said, we've been very forthright in acknowledging that this is a relationship that needs to work." The Daily Times quoted the State Department's acting spokesperson Mark Toner, as saying.

"We've been, I think, pretty candid in saying that there have been some significant obstacles throughout this year in the relationship. But at each juncture, we've tried to address those challenges and we have recommitted ourselves to working with Pakistan," he added. The State Department's statement comes in the wake of strained ties between Pakistan and the US following the 26 November NATO cross-border strikes in Mohmand Agency, which killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Toner further said Washington would continue informing senior Pakistani officials on the US Central Command (CENTCOM) probe findings into the 26 November airstrike.—Internet



Cancer drugs may also combat antibiotic resistance

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—Drugs used for cancer treatment may also help in combating antibiotic resistance, a new study has revealed. The study, led by Gerry Wright, scientific director of the Michael G DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research at McMaster University revealed that certain proteins that cause antibiotic resistance are structurally related to proteins vital in cancer. “Our study found that certain proteins, called kinases, that confer antibiotic resistance are structurally related to proteins important in cancer,” said Wright.

“The pharmaceutical sector has made a big investment in targeting these proteins, so there are a lot of compounds and drugs out there that, although they were designed to overcome cancer, they can in fact be looked at with fresh eyes and maybe repurposed to address the problem of antibiotic resistance,” he noted.

The large-scale study involved screening 14 antibiotic resistant molecules against 80 chemically diverse protein kinase inhibitors. Antibiotic resistance is a problem growing in global scope, as more viruses have overcome currently available antibiotics. “As a result, new drugs and antibiotic strategies are urgently needed to fill the gap in infectious disease control,” Wright stated.—Internet



Drugs used for cancer treatment may also help in combating antibiotic resistance, a new study has revealed.—INTERNET

Health

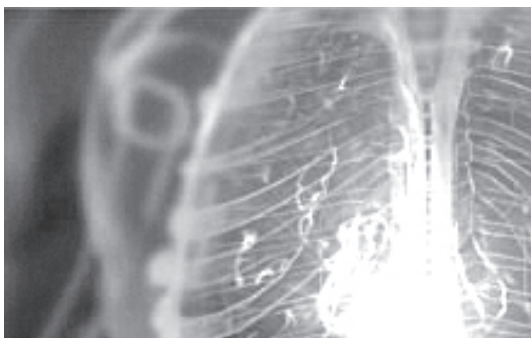
Soon, biosensors to detect lung cancer from exhaled breath

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—Scientists are developing biosensors capable of detecting the presence of tumour markers of lung cancer in exhaled breath.

This will be possible because of the changes produced within the organism of an ill person, changes reflected in the exhaled breath of the patient and which enable determining the presence of this type of marker during the initial stages of the disease.

Tecnalis, through the Interreg project Medisen, is contributing to develop biosensors with lung cancer patients, treated in the Section of Medical Oncology of the Institute of Onco-Haematology of the Donostia Hospital (IDOH).

Human breath, whether from a healthy or ill person, is comprised of a hundreds of organic compounds—acetone, methanol, butanol, hydrocarbons, amongst others. There is not a single specific component in the exhaled breath capable of acting as a marker for the



Scientists are developing biosensors capable of detecting the presence of tumour markers of lung cancer in exhaled breath. INTERNET

diagnosis of lung cancer.

A range of biomarkers and its combination should be selected. The compounds of interest are generally to be found at 1-20 parts per billion (ppb) in healthy human breath but can be increased 10-100-fold in the breath of sick patients. In order to be able to detect these changes the development of novel materials was required.

During the first phase of the project, breath samples were collected by the hospital staff by a breath collecting device. A detailed analysis of the most representative

compounds present in the breath samples has been carried out and the family or families of compounds required to act as markers for the presence of lung cancer selected.

Organic compounds have been analysed using gas chromatograph or mass spectrometry analysis (GC or MS).

Then, the GC or MS results of breath tests have been analysed by statistical and structural algorithms to discriminate and identify “healthy” and “cancerous” patterns that really provide

information for the design of the sensor.

In parallel, novel materials for the detection of the selected organic compounds have been developed by Tecnalia in order to increase the sensitivity of the devices.

As a conclusion, the biosensors will facilitate the diagnosis of certain diseases—mainly those located in the lungs, at the initial stages of the illness, which could increase considerably the chances of survival.

Internet

Business

Dollar, euro rangebound in thin holiday trade in Asia



File illustration photo shows people walking past an electronic quotation board showing share prices. The dollar and the euro stayed within a tight range in subdued holiday trade Monday as players searched for fresh incentives.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 26 Dec—The dollar and the euro stayed within a tight range in subdued holiday trade Monday as players searched for fresh incentives. The dollar barely moved at 77.99 yen, little changed from 78.06 yen in

New York Friday. The euro was at \$1.3059 and 101.88 yen, also little changed from \$1.3040 and 101.86 yen in New York Friday. “The market here will barely move due to the absence of fresh leads,” a senior dealer at a Japanese bank told Dow Jones Newswires. Many operators left the market, with major markets including London and New York closed for Christmas holidays. The forex market barely reacted to the approval Friday by the US Congress of an extension of a popular payroll-tax cut, the Tokyo dealer said.

Any gain by the euro will be weighed by lingering worries over the eurozone debt crisis, he said. The dollar was flat to firm against other Asian units. It bought Sg\$1.2914, compared with Sg\$1.2912 in Friday trade in Singapore, when Japanese players took a break for a national holiday. It stood at Tw\$30.28 compared with Tw\$30.29 Friday. Internet

Japan, India shares gain in holiday-thin Asia, US hopes help

TOKYO, 26 Dec—Japanese and Indian stocks outperformed the rest of Asia in thin trade Monday, with sentiment partly lifted by signs of US economic recovery, although trading was subdued with many markets closed for Christmas holidays. Tokyo’s Nikkei stock average <.N225> ended up 1 percent, above its 25-day moving average of 8,459, while India’s main 30-share BSE index <.BSESEN> rose 1.14 percent, as investors sought holiday-season bargains.

But MSCI’s broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan <.MIAPJ0000PUS> slipped from a two-week high touched earlier in the day to trade down 0.1 percent.

US, European and some Asian markets including Hong Kong and Singapore were closed Monday. Wall Street stocks rose Friday, with the broad Standard & Poor’s 500 Index <.SPX> breaking through its 200-day moving average after a four-day rally lifted stocks to bring the index up 0.6 percent for the year at last week’s close. The Dow Jones industrial average <.DJI> rose to its highest in five months Friday.—Reuters

Yuan hits record vs dollar, on track for over-4-percent gain

SHANGHAI, 26 Dec—The yuan hit an all-time trading high against the dollar on Monday, guided by a stronger mid-point by the People’s Bank of China, and looks set for an over-4-percent appreciation for 2011, traders said. The yuan is expected to remain stable or rise slightly in the last week of the year to close 2011 near 6.30 versus the dollar, in line with market expectations.

The currency is likely to continue to appreciate next year as China continues to post big trade surpluses despite a slowdown in exports and amid pressure from the United States to let the yuan rise to balance bilateral trade, traders said.



A100 yuan banknote is placed beside a US 100 dollar banknote in this illustrative photograph taken in Taipei on 20 June, 2010.—REUTERS

But the yuan’s appreciation is likely to slow to around 3 percent in 2012, with much of the rise seen in the second half of next year as China may keep the yuan relatively stable in the first half to assess the impact of the euro zone crisis, they said.

“The PBOC has recently set a slew of strong mid-points and pumped dollars into the

market via state banks, giving the market a clear signal that the government won’t let the yuan depreciate,” said a trader at a major Chinese bank in Shanghai.

“But the central bank appears not in a hurry to let the yuan appreciate amid global economic uncertainties resulting from the euro zone debt crisis. So the yuan is likely to move largely sideways in coming months.” Spot yuan was trading around 6.33 against the dollar on Monday morning, up from Friday’s close of 6.3364, after hitting an all-time high of 6.3287. Its previous peak was 6.3294 hit on 16 December.

The PBOC set the dollar/yuan mid-point at 6.3167 on Monday, stronger than Friday’s 6.3209 and near the record-high fixing of 6.3165.

Reuters



Foreign currency dealers from the Korea Exchange Bank (KEB) are seen in front of a monitor displaying the current Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at the KEB in Seoul on 23 December, 2011.—INTERNET

Archaeologists discover ancient clay seal in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 26 Dec—A rare clay seal found under Jerusalem's Old City appears to be linked to religious rituals practiced at the Jewish Temple 2,000 years ago, Israeli archaeologists said Sunday. The coin-sized seal found near the Jewish holy site at the Western Wall bears two Aramaic words meaning "pure for God."

Archaeologist Ronny Reich of Haifa University said it dates from between the 1st century BC to 70 AD — the year Roman forces put down a Jewish revolt and destroyed the second of the two biblical temples in Jerusalem.

The find marks the first discovery of a written seal from that period of Jerusalem's history, and appeared to be a unique physical artifact from ritual practice in the Temple, said Reich, co-director of the excavation. Very few artifacts linked to the Temples have been discovered so far. The site of the Temple itself — the enclosure known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary — remains off-limits to archaeologists because of its religious and political sensitivity.

Archaeologists say the seal was likely used by Temple officials approving an object for ritual use — oil, perhaps, or an animal intended for sacrifice. Materials used by Temple priests had to meet stringent purity guidelines stipulated in detail in the Jewish legal text known as the Mishna, which also mention the use of seals as tokens by pilgrims. The find, Reich said, is "the first time an indication



A rare clay seal is displayed during a news conference at the archaeological site known as the City of David in east Jerusalem, on 25 Dec, 2011. INTERNET

was brought by archaeology about activities in the Temple Mount — the religious activities of buying and offering and giving to the Temple itself."

The site where the seal was found is on the route of a main street that ran through ancient Jerusalem just outside the Temple compound. Aren Maeir of Bar-Ilan University, a biblical archaeologist not connected to the dig, said the seal was special because it "was found right next to the Temple and is similar to what we see described in the Mishna."

"It's nice when we can connect an activity recorded in ancient sources with archaeological finds," he said.

The seal was found in an excavation run by archaeologists from the government's Israel Antiquities Authority. The dig is under the auspices of a broader dig nearby known as the City of David, where archaeologists are investigating the oldest part of Jerusalem.—*Internet*

Science

Scientists stumble on immune cells in human spleen

LONDON, 26 Dec— Scientists have stumbled on the presence of neutrophils in the spleen, located on the opposite side of the liver, even without an infection.

Neutrophils are the so-called cleaning cells that are the first to be present at an infection site after migrating there to destroy invading pathogens.

Researchers noticed that the existence of neutrophils in the spleen started when the foetus is developing, even when no infectious process is involved. This was not known in scientific literature.

Until now, scientists deemed neutrophils lowly soldiers that simply restricted infection, preparing the

ground for other immune cells to permanently eradicate an infection.

The research group of IMIM (Hospital del Mar Research Institute), Spain and their counterparts from Mount Sinai in New York, determined that neutrophils have an immunoregulating role — regulating the body's response to infections.

"This study has revealed that neutrophils are found in the spleen without there being an infection, contributing new knowledge in the field of biology" IMIM research group coordinator Andrea Cerutti explained.

Internet

Endangered male Malaysian rhino gets new mate

KUALA LUMPUR, (Malaysia) 26 Dec— Malaysian wildlife authorities said they have captured a female Borneo Sumatran rhino who will be paired with a new mate in a breeding programme meant to save their species from extinction.

The plan is the cornerstone of efforts to preserve the bristly, snub-nosed animal, whose numbers have fallen to fewer than 40 in the jungles of Borneo island.

Officials have spent more than three years seeking a suitable mate for a middle-aged male rhino named "Tam," who was rescued in Malaysia's eastern Sabah State in 2008 while wandering in an oil palm plantation with an infected leg likely caused by a poacher trap. The first rhino previously found for Tam was too old to reproduce.

The Sabah Wildlife Department said in a statement late Saturday that rangers this past week captured a young female rhino nicknamed "Puntung" whom they had been monitoring for years.

"This is a fantastic gift for our uphill battle in ensuring the survival of this truly unique species," said the department's director, Laurentius Ambu. "This is now the very last chance to save this species, one of the most ancient forms of mammal."—*Internet*



A Sumatran Rhino, named Puntung, is seen in her temporary enclosure in Tabin, Sabah state of Malaysia's corner of Borneo island in this photo taken 23 Dec, 2011 and released by Borneo Rhino Alliance.—*INTERNET*

China launches super-speed test train



The six-car train with a fairshaped head is the newest in the CRH series. China's largest rail vehicle maker, CSR Corp Ltd, over the weekend launched its first test train that features speeds reaching up to 500 km per hour.—*XINHUA*

QINGDAO, (Shandong), 26 Dec—China's largest rail vehicle maker, CSR Corp Ltd, over the weekend launched its first test train that features speeds reaching up to 500 km per hour.

The six-car train with a fairshaped head is the newest in the CRH series. It has a maximum tractive power of 22,800 kilowatts, compared with 9,600 kilowatts for the CRH380 trains currently in service on the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway, which hold the world speed record of 300 km

per hour. The grey-colour train carrying testing and data processing facilities was designed and produced by CSR Sifang Locomotive & Rolling Stock Co. Ltd (Sifang Locomotive), a CSR subsidiary based in the coastal city of Qingdao in eastern Shandong Province. Ding Sansan, the company's chief technician, said the concept of the super-speed train design was inspired by China's ancient sword. The bodywork uses plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber.

Xinhua

Smartphones eating into camera sales in US

LONDON, 26 Dec— Smartphones are eating into sales of basic cameras and camcorders in the US, BBC reported citing a market research. The NPD Group said in a study that the "point-and-shoot" camera market sold 17 percent fewer units in the first 11 months of the year compared to the same period in 2010. It said the pocket camcorder market fell by 13 percent over the same period. An online survey of adults and teenagers suggested users were also more likely to opt for their phone camera to take footage "on the fly".

Respondents said they were more likely to opt for their smartphone, rather than a dedicated device, to take pictures or video of "fun, casual or spontaneous moments".

However, the study revealed that smartphones were less likely to be used when it came to holiday snaps. The data also suggested that out of the people screened, the total share of

photos taken on a camera had fallen below the halfway point for the first time. Around 44 percent of photos were taken on a camera over the last year, down from 52 percent over the previous period. In contrast, the share of photos taken with a smartphone rose to 27 percent from last year's 17 percent.

However, higher-end cameras appear to be immune from the rise of the smartphone. The study said 12 percent more detachable lens cameras — including SLR cameras — were sold over the last 11 months.

Sales of cameras with a 10x zoom lens or greater rose by 16 percent. "There is no doubt that the smartphone is becoming 'good enough' much of the time," NPD's senior imaging analyst Liz Cutting was quoted as saying. "But for important events, single purpose cameras or camcorders are still largely the device of choice."—*Internet*

iPad 3 launch rumored for Steve Jobs' 24 Feb birthday

TAIPEI, 26 Dec—With Christmas today comes the gift of another iPad 3 rumour, this one relating to the unannounced tablet's release date. It's 24 February, the same day as Steve Jobs' birthday. At least according to unnamed sources "close to Taiwanese makers in the iPad 3 supply chain" speaking to Chinese-language newspaper *Economic Daily News* (via Focus Taiwan). It's not clear if the date refers to a product launch or an announcement, though 9to5mac notes that Apple traditionally launches new products on Fridays, as 24

February is. The sources say that employees at a number of companies known or believed to be working on the iPad 3 have been told to expect a heavy workload around the Lunar New Year. Apple manufacturer Foxconn reportedly isn't allowing employees to take any more than five days off during the holiday. The word is that the iPad 3's initial shipment "could exceed 4 million units."

Remember that this is all rumor for now, and will likely stay that way until early next year. Even if there weren't

hard evidence to support it, there would be little doubt that a third iPad is coming soon. Apple is a company that likes sticking to a script, and the script clearly pegs

another tablet announcement/launch for the start of the year. Yes, the iPhone 4S launch was shuffled just this year from the usual summer release to the fall. My money's still on early '12 for the next iPad though.

Internet



Unnamed sources close to Apple's supply chain in Taipei suggest that the next iPad launch could be coming on 24 Feb, the same day as Steve Jobs' birthday.—*INTERNET*



Photo taken on 25 Dec, 2011 shows beautiful scene in Beihu Park of border city Manzhouli in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 25 Dec, 2011. The 13th China, Russia and Mongolia Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival kicked off here on Sunday. XINHUA

US security firm Stratfor falls prey to hackers

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—Notorious Internet hacking group Anonymous is claiming to have stolen thousands of emails, passwords and credit card details from a US-based security think-tank Stratfor. The hackers claimed that they were able to obtain the information because Stratfor did not encrypt it. The BBC reports. An alleged member of Anonymous posted an online message, claiming that the group had used Stratfor clients' credit card details to make "over a million dollars" in donations to different charities. The Austin-based company said that it has

suspended the operation on its servers and email. The security firm also said the disclosure was "merely a list of some of the members that have purchased our publications and does not comprise a list of individuals or entities that have a relationship with Stratfor."—Internet

Britons without parking permit to face L200 fine during London Olympics

LONDON, 26 Dec—People living in Britain will face fines of up to 200 pounds a day during 2012 Olympics if they do not have permits to park their vehicles.

Huge "no-parking" zones are being thrown up around all Olympic venues during the upcoming sporting event.

Anyone living or working within a 30-minute walk of an event will need a parking permit. If they don't have one, they face the heavy parking fine during the 17-day event.

The permits will be free, but part of the cost of producing them and enforcement will be picked up by the taxpayer.

Fleets of "spy cars" will help catch offenders, the Daily Star reports.

The London Organizing Committee of the Games said that the measures would "protect residents" and "stop interlopers".

"The last thing we want is for people not to be able to get out of their drive or not be able to take deliveries," said committee spokesman Adrian Bassett.

"We are working with all the local councils to protect those people that live there and work there so people aren't parking in front of someone's house and blocking them in."

According to insiders "up to two million" new

permits will be required. The method of applying won't be known until March.

A 30-minute walk from some venues could encompass a one-and-a-half mile radius. But the number of permits needed simply isn't known yet, said a source. Meanwhile, motorists' campaigner Paul Pearson, raised question that "why should a million or two million people have the hassle of getting permits to park outside their own properties?"

He slated the decision in London to increase the standard 130 dollars fines to 200 dollars for the Games and warned, "it's to rake in extra revenue."—Internet

Detained Air Zimbabwe plane returns home

HARARE, 26 Dec—The Air Zimbabwe Boeing 767-200 which was seized in London last week over a debt owed to a United States based company has returned, local media reported on Sunday.

The plane known as the Victoria Falls was detained by American General Supplies upon landing at London's Gatwick International Airport.

The American firm secured a court injunction in the US that gave it the power to impound the aircraft over a 2.2 million US dollars debts.

Air Zimbabwe acting chief executive officer Innocent Mavhunga quoted by New Ziana as saying that the plane arrived on Sunday.

"It came this morning, it is the best thing that has ever happened because we were able to bring our passengers back home," he said.

The carrier, whose total debt amounts to 100 million US dollars, has been failing to pay its pilots and other workers, among other obligations.

Air Zimbabwe is one of the parastatals earmarked for commercialization to restore viability. It has depended on government bail-outs now and again in recent years.

The government has since said it is engaged in negotiations with a strategic partner for an equity investment in airline.

Xinhua

Julian Assange may face spy charges for 'coaching Manning on breaking military computer passwords'

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is likely to face spy charges in America after it emerged that he coached US Private Bradley Manning on how to break passwords to gain access to military computer networks.

Lawyers produced logs of online chats they claim showing his apparent 'role' in the theft of secret military documents, The Daily Mail reports.

The prosecutors made the allegations in an hour-long presentation at Manning's pre-trial hearing for allegedly uploading 700,000 stolen documents to WikiLeaks.

They disclosed three

new excerpts taken from Manning's personal laptop.

In one, he allegedly asks Assange for help in figuring out a password. In another, he tells him, 'I'm throwing everything I've got on at you now' and estimates the 'upload is about 36 percent' complete.

According to the paper, the prosecutors claimed Manning, 24, used the online alias of 'Nobody' while talking to 'Nathaniel Frank' which they claim was an alias for Assange.

In one chat, Manning asked 'Frank' for help cracking the password on his classified computer so he could log on anonymously.

He asked if he had



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange talks during a news conference in central London.—INTERNET

experience breaking such 'hash' codes. 'Frank' allegedly replied yes they had 'rainbow tables' for doing that.

Assange has denied direct contact with Manning,

but his lawyers believe the evidence produced in the military court would form an espionage conspiracy case against their client.

Internet

A drummer with eyes covered attends a drum-playing contest in Mashan County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 25 Dec, 2011. Referees covered players' eyes with a strip of black cloth to test teamwork of a drumteam.—XINHUA



Brazil overtakes UK as world's sixth largest economy

LONDON, 26 Dec—Brazil has overtaken Britain to become the world's sixth-largest economy, economists have said. Latest figures from the Centre for Economic and Business Research's annual world economic league table, showed that the UK is now the seventh richest country in the world, and has fallen behind a South American nation for the first time.

The US, China, Japan, Germany and France occupied the top five places, and India was placed on the tenth spot in the list, the Daily Mail reports.

According to the report, Brazil's economy has surged because of vast reserves of natural resources and a rapidly growing, and cash-rich, middle class. At the same time the UK languishes in the grip of a national debt crisis and lack of bank credit.

Britons continue to be better off and enjoy a far higher standard of living than the vast majority of people in Brazil but the latter's 203 million population provides huge economic clout, the paper said. "The punching power of Brazil as a whole has overtaken Britain because of the huge economic potential of people who live there," the paper quoted Peter Slowe, a former government economic policy advisor, as saying.—Internet

Ecclestone admits to paying 27m pounds to German banker Gribkowsky

LONDON, 26 Dec—Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone has admitted paying 27 million pounds to German investment banker Gerhard Gribkowsky, but rebuffed reports that it was a bribe. His own defense documents have revealed that he and his family paid the amount to Gribkowsky through a third party to conceal their identity.

Ecclestone claimed that he paid Gribkowsky after the

latter threatened him.

Gribkowsky is already facing a criminal case related to payments in Germany and Ecclestone is also facing a case in London, The Telegraph reports.

Ecclestone said there was no link between the sale of F1, payments made to him and his family trust from BayernLB and the subsequent payments made to Gribkowsky.

He pointed out that the

payment to Gribkowsky was made time after the sale of F1 concluded. Both Gribkowsky and Ecclestone have been accused by previous owner of F1 Constantin Medien, of undervaluing the motor sport when it was sold to CVC Partners in 2005.

According to the report, Gribkowsky planned out the Formula One deal with CVC and had a default judgment handed down against him earlier this week.—Internet

Photo taken on 25 Dec, 2011, shows statues on the bank of Songhua River, which is shrouded by heavy fog, in Jilin City, northeast China's Jilin Province. XINHUA



Another school bus mishap kills at least seven in China

BEIJING, 26 Dec—At least seven people including five students were killed in southwest China after an overloaded mini van plunged into a valley, state news agency *Xinhua* said on Sunday, the latest in a series of accidents that have sparked public outrage. The latest tragedy is the fifth accident reported this year involving students. A bus crash in China's eastern province of Jiangsu earlier this month killed 15 children and sparked an uproar among Chinese microbloggers. The mini van was travelling

in the Yunnan Province when it plunged into a 60-metre-deep valley in the county of Guangnan on Saturday morning, *Xinhua* reported. The eight-seater van had 14 people on board, including 12 students, the news agency added. Police investigation showed Saturday's accident was caused by the driver's "improper operation" when the van was going up a slope, *Xinhua* said. It did not say how old the students were.

MNA/Reuters



Swans are seen on a lake after a snowfall in Rongcheng of east China's Shandong Province, on 24 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA



People burn incense and ring bells on the New Year's Eve at Longhua Temple in Shanghai to wish for a lucky new year. INTERNET

Iran to hang or stone to death woman convicted of adultery

TEHRAN, 26 Dec—A local Iranian judiciary official has said that a woman sentenced to death on charges of adultery will be executed either by stoning or hanging. Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani was sentenced to death by stoning, but that sentence was later suspended following an international outcry over the case. Malek Ajar Sharifi, the head of justice department of East Azerbaijan Province where Ashtiani is in prison, said that judicial authorities are still discussing whether to execute Ashtiani by

stoning or by hanging. Ashtiani, 43, was convicted in 2006 of having an "illicit relationship" with two men after the murder of her husband the year before and was sentenced at that time to 99 lashes. She was later convicted of adultery and sentenced to be stoned, *CBS News* reports. Various celebrities including American actors Robert Redford, Robert De Niro, and popular singer Sting have called on Iran to release Ashtiani. In an open letter published late last year, over 80 actors, artists, musicians,

academics and politicians said that "Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani has suffered enough." Signatories include actor Colin Firth, artist Damien Hirst, Nobel literature laureates Wole Soyinka and VS Naipaul, British opposition leader Ed Miliband and former French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner. They called on Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to release Ashtiani along with her son and lawyer, who are also imprisoned.—*Internet*

16 kids hurt by fireworks in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, 26 Dec—At least 16 children were injured by fireworks on Christmas eve in El Salvador, an official said. Nine of the children were hurt in San Salvador, where a three-year-old boy had to have four fingers amputated on his left hand after a high-powered firecracker went off as he held it, emergency management office director Jorge Melendez said Sunday. Some children were treated for burns and released from medical centers, but others remain hospitalized, the emergency management office chief said in a Press conference. Five children were injured in La Libertad and one in La Paz, both provinces located in central El Salvador, while another child was hurt in the western Province of Santa Ana. Of the 16 children hurt by fireworks on Christmas eve, 15 were not being supervised by their parents or other adults, Melendez said. Lawmakers should consider passing legislation to punish adults who allow children to handle fireworks unsupervised and merchants who sell the products to children, authorities said. *Internet*

Connecticut Christmas blaze kills five

STAMFORD, 26 Dec—Five people, including three children, were killed Christmas morning when fire tore through a home in Stamford, Conn, firefighters said. Three young girls and their grandparents were killed about 5 am Sunday while the girls' mother tried

to save them from the blaze, authorities said. "Mom and her male friend were trying desperately to get the children's bedrooms," Stamford Police Sgt Paul Guzda told *ABC News*. "They were trying to break windows. Mom was actually up on a roof that extends from the house, trying to break the window," Guzda said. Two of the girls were 7-year-old twins and their older sister was 10, Guzda told United Press International. The mother and acquaintance were hospitalized with serious

injuries. Names of the victims have not been released Guzda told UPI. The Stamford Advocate said the three-alarm blaze broke out shortly before dawn. Stamford Mayor Michael Pavia said the cause of the blaze had not yet been determined. "At this point we have nothing further to say except that our hearts and prayers go out to the family and to the fire and emergency personnel on the scene," Pavia said. "There probably has not been a worse Christmas Day in the city of Stamford." *Internet*

Two-car crash claims four lives in Maine

PALERMO, 26 Dec—A sport utility vehicle slid in the path of a car during a light snowfall in Maine Sunday, killing four people, police said. The victims were the driver of the SUV, Tyler Manduca, 18, of Bucksport; his brother, Kyle Manduca, 21, also of Bucksport; the driver of the car, Dennis Sturges, 64, of Palermo; and Sturges' father, Roy Lucier, 83, also of Palermo. State Police troopers said the SUV driver was traveling too fast for conditions when he lost control of his vehicle, state Public Safety Department spokesman Steve McCausland told the *Lewiston Sun Journal*. Alcohol was not considered to be a factor, he said.—*Xinhua*

A photographer catches the moments when monkeys enjoy themselves by making snowball. INTERNET



Seven found dead in Texas apartment

GRAPEVINE, 26 Dec—Seven people, including the suspected gunman, were found apparently shot to death Sunday in an apartment in Grapevine, Texas, city police said. Investigating officers went to the apartment about 11 am after receiving an emergency call from the home, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Police said no one was on the line when the 911 operator answered the call, the newspaper said. Police said the victims included four women and three men who were found in the living room and adjoining kitchen, and it appeared all the victims had been shot, with the shooter among them. Grapevine police Sgt Robert Eberling said the victims had not been identified. A Christmas tree and unwrapped presents were found in the residence, one of 220 apartments in the Lincoln Vineyard Apartment Homes, Eberling said. "It's a very tragic situation. It could have been a family gathering, given the time of the year," he said. "We checked the surrounding apartments; we only found one occupied, and that person didn't hear anything. "We believe that we have just one shooter that is responsible, and we believe he is among the deceased." Two handguns were recovered in the apartment, he said. The slayings were the first this year in Grapevine, a Dallas-Forth Worth suburb of about 46,000 people. *Internet*

22 killed in boat capsizes in S India

NEW DELHI, 26 Dec—Twenty-two persons were Sunday killed after the boat in which they went on a pleasure trip capsized in Pulicat Lake, about 60 km from Chennai, southern India on Sunday reported local media. About 25 persons were in the boat and at least three of them had been rescued by fishermen, said the report. Initial reports said the victims hailed from different places in and around Chennai and the boat was reportedly operated by local fishermen, said *Press Trust of India*. Some of the bodies had been recovered by rescue teams, said the reports. The incident took place at an estuary at the converging point with the Bay of Bengal at around 15:30 pm local time, when the boat met with high wind and storm. *MNA/Xinhua*

Japanese delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

General Secretary of Union Solidarity and Development Party U Htay Oo holds talks with Japanese delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—The Japanese delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan Mr Koichiro Gemba arrived here from Yangon by air this morning. Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Myo Myint and officials welcomed them at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The Japanese delegation paid a call on General Secretary of Union Solidarity and Development Party U

Htay Oo at the party's headquarters and discussed matters related to deepening the friendship between the two countries and cooperation.

Also present at the call together with the party secretary-general were CEC members of the party and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito.

MNA

Victorious athletes of Yangon Region teams honoured

YANGON, 25 Dec—A ceremony to honour victorious athletes of Yangon Region teams in Inter-Region/State sports competitions was held at the hall of the Yangon Region Government yesterday evening.

Sports teams handed over their trophies to the region government. Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe accepted men's over-all championship trophy in Chess event, International Chess Shield and Body-building and Physical Culture over-all championship trophies. Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, the Parasports over-all championship trophy and men's badminton championship shield, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of the Region Chief Minister, women's football championship shield and Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, women's badminton shield, and they presented cash awards to the winners.

The athletes were served with dinner. Sports teams of the region secured achievements in 18 events of 26 region/state level sports competitions, bagging 32 championship trophies, 14 second prizes, four third prizes and two fairplay awards.

MNA

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe inspects 230-KV Myaukpyin Main Sub-power station in Patheingyi Township. (News reported) —MNA

Japanese delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 26 Dec—The visiting delegation led by Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba left here by air this evening.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department U Maung Maung, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito and officials.

MNA



Deputy Education Minister views sports competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—Sports competitions for the 2011-2012 Academic Year Ministry of Education Basic Education schools continued for the second day today. Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe viewed sports teams of respective regions and states competing in respective games.

The deputy minister viewed the men's football match between Ayeyawady Region Team and Shan State Team (A) at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground (1), between Nay Pyi Taw Team and Kayah State Team at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground (2), Sepak Takraw match between Yangon Region Team and Kachin State at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Court, men's tennis match between Mandalay Region Team and Ayeyawady Region Junior Team at Nay Pyi Taw Tennis Court, and women's football match between Nay Pyi Taw Team and Yangon Region Team (A) at Defence Services Guard of Honour and Drum Band.

MNA

Cash donated to flood victims in Magway Region

MAGWAY, 26 Dec—With the aim of rehabilitating livestock breeding tasks of flood victims in Magway Region, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department donated K 500,000 to the victims on 25 November.

Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Kyi of LBVD handed over the cash donation to the Magway Region government.

LBVD

Displaced people in Kachin State get Christmas presents

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—A ceremony to present Christmas gifts of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to the displaced people in Kachin State, took place at Myothitgyi Ward, Myintkyina on 23 December, attended by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai.

The State Chief Minister, state ministers and departmental officials handed over 1600 blankets worth K 28 million, and State Hluttaw speaker and ministers, K 2,428,000 donated by Ever Winner Co Ltd.

The State Chief Minister looked into accommodation of refugees. Upon arrival at the briefing hall of main sub-power plant at Mainer village, Waingmaw Township, he heard reports on construction of power plant, installation of power grid and power distribution.

The State Chief Minister attended blessings ceremony at refugee camps in Mainer village. After that, the State Chief Minister and officials presented over K 2.5 million donated by Ever Winner Co Ltd through camp incharges.—MNA



Citizenship Scrutiny cards presented to locals in Mingaladon Township: Head of National Registration Department U Khin Maung Swe presented 155 Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to local people who are qualified to receive the cards at Dusanpya Ward Administration Office in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region on 8 December.

MNA



UEC receives 88-Forces of People's Party's application

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—As Union Election Commission is scrutinizing applications for registration as political parties and allowing formation of political parties, it accepted application of 88-Forces of People's Party for registration as political party today.—MNA

CB to open money exchange counters in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand

YANGON, 26 Dec—Cooperative Bank has set sight on launching its Money Exchange services in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand in the very first phase of its attempt to extend its foreign trade services. Chairman of Cooperative Bank Limited U Khin Maung Aye said in its annual general meeting in Traders Hotel here this morning.

He raised two thumbs up for CB's active role in poverty alleviation tasks and for its excellent services provided to the public.

In 19 years' lifetime, the branches of Cooperative Bank have numbered 23 far and wide the nation. It is hoping to open more branches and reach out to the international counterparts.

The Cooperative Bank is providing Money Exchange services with ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) with the help of the Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

District News

Pavement upgraded in Pazundaung Tsp



YANGON, 26 Dec—To ensure convenience of the people and beautify the environs, Orchid Hotel took responsibilities for placing the pavement at the corner of Anawrahta and Botahtaung Pagoda Roads in Pazundaung Township.

With the permission of the Yangon City Development Committee, Orchid Hotel sponsored the upgrading of pavement to be opened on the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012.—Kyemon

Oxygen cylinder, washing machine donated



TOUNGGOO, 26 Dec—Tounggoo-Pyu-Nyaunglebin bus-line association donated one oxygen cylinder to Myitta and Cetana Blood Donor Association and one washing machine to Kaytumati Home for the Aged, at the office of the blood donors' office in Tounggoo on 24 December.

Officials concerned accepted the donations in total amounting to over K 300,000. Chairman of the bus-line association explained the purpose of donations.—Kyemon

Public notice for remonstrations

1. 88-Forces of People's Party, headquartered at No. 78 ZaZa-15, 46th Street, the corner of Khine Shwewah Street, Htundone Ward, Channmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region, applied for registration as political party on 26-12-2011 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its

registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and logo to be used as mentioned under.

2. It is hereby announced that 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 88-Forces of People's Party



The logo of 88-Forces of People's Party



Union Election Commission

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, residents form 32 urban wards, members of social organizations, departmental staff, students of Nursing and Midwifery Training School and in Sittway of Rakhine State took part in mass walk for the fourth week of December in on 24 December.

MNA



Deputy Minister visits road, bridge construction sites



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint met with staff members at Shwebo District Superintending Engineer's office on 23 December morning. Next, he inspected tarring of Shwebo-Myitkyina road (Shwebo-Sabainantha road section) and left necessary instructions.

Then, the deputy minister went to Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanatheinga) being built near Singu in Pyin Oo Lwin District and Kyaukmyaung in Shwebo District. He gave instructions on construction of the bridge meeting set standards, worksite safety and minimizing loss and wastage.—MNA

Mass walk activities held for fourth week of Dec in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The mass walk activities for the fourth week of December 2011 was organized in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

The participants led by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu started from the gathering point in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and finished their activities in front of the Gems Museum. Next, they took physical exercises.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, region ministers, departmental officials, artistes and local people joyfully participated in the mass walk activities that started from Maida Ground and finished at the People's Square.

People from Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Kyauktada,

First Kayah State Chief Minister's Trophy Football Tournament (Open) 2011 going on

YANGON, 24 Dec—First Kayah State Chief Minister's Trophy Football Tournament (Open) 2011 continued at Nyeinchayee Football Ground on 23 December in which Kayah State Team (A) beat Kayan Pyithit Team 6-0 and Kayah State Team (B) won over Ya-Pa-Ka Team 3-0. Shwe Kayah played against GFA and KNG against Kayan Pyithit today.

MNA

Sangyoung, Seikkan, Dagon, Pabedan, Bahan, Mayangon, Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw and Ahlon townships joined the activities.

Similar activities were organized in Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway and Taninthayi Regions and Shan State.

MNA

Male spiders sacrifice their lives for kids' health

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—Male spiders sacrifice their lives for the health of their offspring, by letting their mates eat them after sex, a new study has revealed. Sexual cannibalism is the act of one partner eating the other after sex.

In the orb-web spider *Argiope bruennichi*, the female tries to grab and wrap up the male at the onset of mating so she can snack on him during sex.

In the lab, only about 30 percent of the males survive their first mating, but by letting the female gnaw on them, the males prolong the sex act, making it more likely they will inseminate their partner. Of these survivors, half go on to find a second mate, while the others try again for the same female. Due to the male's anatomy, two copulations is the limit.

"Two main hypotheses explain the evolution of sexual cannibalism," study researcher Klaas Welke, of the University of Hamburg in Germany, said. The males might be offering themselves up "to gain access to mating opportunities and to prolong their mating duration."

Or, Welke said that it could be a "paternal investment into

their own offspring, and they provide females with nutrients." In the case of the orb-web spider, males tend to be much smaller than their mates; in this species, they are only one-tenth as heavy, and researchers were not sure how much nutritional benefit the females can gain from such pipsqueak partners.

The researchers thought that perhaps the nutritional bonus from multiple mates and meals would have an impact on females. But it did not. "We were surprised, because we had expected that any effect of male consumption would increase with every additional male consumed," Welke said. "Our findings suggest a paternal investment of males into their offspring."

"Sexual cannibalism may increase male reproductive success and may be very beneficial in a species with a high paternity insurance and a low rate of polyandry as found in *Argiope bruennichi*," Welke added.

The study has been published in journal *Animal Behaviour*.—Internet



Mongolian young players perform at the International Children's Centre in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, on 25 Dec, 2011. Hundreds of children from Ulan Bator spent a pleasant time on Christmas Day by enjoying wonderful performances.—XINHUA

Legendary boxer Henry Cooper leaves L750,000 for two sons

LONDON, 26 Dec—Former boxing champion Sir Henry Cooper, who died in May, has left a fortune of 747,098 pounds in his will to his two sons, Henry and John.

Sir Henry was knighted in the year 2000 for his exemplary services in the field of charity and boxing. After retiring from the boxing ring, he had made lots of money from TV advertisements, with aftershave and breakfast cereal advertisements, being the prominent ones.

The gross value of his assets is calculated to be around 755,004 pounds after paying for his funeral charges and clearing his outstanding debts, *The Daily Express* reports. Cooper became famous when he managed to put Ali on the floor in the fourth round with his famous left hook, but the referee had to stop the fight when Cooper suffered a cut eye. His wife, Albina, died in 2008. They were married for 47 years.—Internet



Children pose for photos with Santa Claus near a 13-metre-tall Christmas tree decorated with more than 7,000 crystal stars in a shopping mall in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 24 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

US teen sets seven-peak climbing record

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—A 15-year-old American has become the youngest person to climb the highest mountains on each of the seven continents, completing the feat by summiting Antarctica's Mount Vinson over the weekend.

Jordan Romero, who last year at age 13 became the youngest person to climb the world's tallest peak Mt Everest, was descending to base camp on Sunday after reaching the summit of Vinson Massif with a team that included his father and stepmother, according to his team's website.

"We're at the roof of Antarctica," a member of Team Jordan said in a webcast from near the 4,897-metre peak on a frigid but "legendary day." Romero beat the record previously held by Britain's George Atkinson, who in May completed the seven ascents at age 16.

The junior mountaineer from Big Bear Lake, California has been hooked on climbing from an early age. When he

was just 10, he became the youngest person to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5,895 metres.

Before his 11th birthday, he had another world record under his belt, summiting Europe's Mount Elbrus, in Russia's Caucasus mountains in July 2007.

Five months later, it was the 6,962-metre Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, followed by Alaska's Mount McKinley at 6,194 metres.

In September 2009 at age 13, he climbed Indonesia's Carstensz Pyramid, at 6,194

metres the tallest island peak in the world, breaking another record. Eight months later in May 2010, he climbed Everest, and ever since he and his team had been preparing for his Antarctic expedition.

"Looking forward to tomorrow, and we'll make you guys proud and promise we'll come back home safe and sound," Romero said in a webcast on Saturday, hours before he began the final ascent to Mount Vinson's summit.

Internet



Jordan Romero.—INTERNET

Death toll from tropical storm climbs to 1,236 in Philippines

MANILA, 26 Dec—Ten days after tropical storm Washi (local name: Sendong) brought massive rains and flooding in parts of the southern Philippine region of Mindanao and the central region of Visayas, workers continued to retrieve more bodies as the official death toll rose to 1,236 on Sunday.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director and concurrent Office of Civil Defence administrator Benito Ramos said the retrieval operations would continue as long as people were being fished out from the water.

The NDRRMC said about 1,079 people have been reported missing but the number is subject to "reconciliation" and "validation."—MNA/Xinhua

Snow sculpture of Marilyn Monroe to debut on century-old street in NE China

HARBIN, 26 Dec—A six-metre-tall snow sculpture of Marilyn Monroe will be displayed on a 113-year-old street in the northeastern city of Harbin, local authorities said Monday.

The snow sculpture of Monroe will recreate her most famous pose from the film "The Seven Year Itch"—the pose she strikes as she stands on a subway grate as her white dress is blown above her knees by a passing train—and will be shown in Harbin, the capital city of Heilongjiang Province, during the Ice Sculpture Festival, which will open on 31 Dec, the authorities said.

The Ice Sculpture Festival on the central street will run under the theme of "charming ancient street, dazzle the whole city." Forty-five colored ice sculptures and large-scale landscapes will be exhibited along the street that is over 1,400 metres long, the festival committee said.

A carnival to celebrate New Year's Eve will be held the same day, according to the festival committee.

The European-style central street, considered one of the most famous commercial streets in China, was built in 1898, and has become an international tourist attraction.

Xinhua

'Mysterious' Namibian 'space ball' turns out to be fuel tank from unmanned rocket

WINDHOEK, (Namibia), 26 Dec—A mysterious metal ball that thudded to a remote grassland in Namibia last month has been identified as a hydrazine tank from an unmanned rocket.

There was wide speculation after a bizarre object, made from a "metal alloy known to man", fell out of the sky in to the African nation. Authorities were so baffled by the find NASA and the European Space Agency were called in to investigate.

After the investigation went public, a commentator on tech site Gawker identified the ball as "a piece of an unmanned rocket," News.com.au reports.

"For anyone wondering

what it actually is, it's likely a 39-litre hydrazine bladder tank (based on its apparent size; there are also much larger hydrazine tanks). They're used on unmanned rockets for satellite launches, which would explain why they're falling down in such a specific geographic footprint," the commentator said.

According to the report, the European space company Astrium told Gawker that the tanks are found in the Ariane 5 rocket, which are frequently used by the European Space Agency to launch satellites. Several similar balls have also dropped in southern Africa, Australia and Latin America in the past 20 years.

Internet



Photo taken on 25 Dec, 2011 shows a festive lantern in the Confucius Temple area in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province. Lantern craftsmen in the Confucius Temple area in Nanjing has started recently to prepare the lanterns for the new year festival.—XINHUA

Cold spell kills two men in N Thailand, 22 provinces declared disaster zone

BANGKOK, 26 Dec—Two men in Thailand's northern Lampang Province died of exposure to the cold wave while 22 provinces in the upper part of the country were declared disaster zones, according to Thai authorities.

Ministry of Public Health's Bureau of Epidemiology reported Monday that the two cold-related deaths were identified as a man, aged 52, with emphysema and a man, aged 53, who had drunk alcohol and died of apparent exposure to cold spell.

As temperatures in some

areas in the North of Thailand have dropped to 3-5 degrees Celsius while some areas have faced with the sudden cold, people were advised to keep themselves warm by eating hot foods, drinks and doing modest exercise but refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages.

Meanwhile, the Department of Disaster Mitigation and Prevention reported that over 20,000 villages in 22 northern provinces have been hit by harsh weather since early November and so were declared disaster zones.

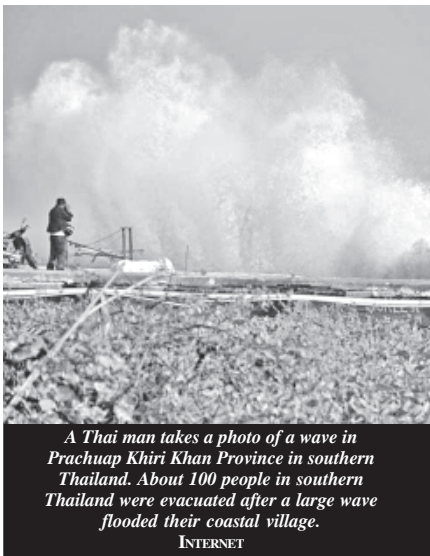
The provinces are

Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Phrae, Uttaradit, Pitsanulok, Nan, Tak, Phayao, Lampang, Lamphun, Sakon Nakhon, Lei, Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom, Ubonratchathani, Mahasarakham, Mukdahan, Kalasin, Buri Ram, Suphanburi and Ratchaburi.

According to the Meteorological Department, a ridge of high pressure still blankets upper Thailand, causing cooler weather.

The westerly trough will move over the upper North, causing light rain and 2-4 degree temperature drops.

INTERNET



A Thai man takes a photo of a wave in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province in southern Thailand. About 100 people in southern Thailand were evacuated after a large wave flooded their coastal village.

INTERNET

Eight feared dead in shipwreck

Moscow, 26 Dec—Eight people are feared dead after an Indonesian-flagged ship went missing in the Sea of Okhotsk, off Russia's Far East coast, officials said Sunday.

The missing ship, GINGA, was carrying five Russians and three Indonesian nationals, RIA Novosti reported. So far, three bodies of sailors have been recovered during the search and rescue operation. Previous reports said a ship was named Alfa-3 and was flying a Cambodian flag. Emergency centres in the Russian Far East received a distress call from the ship, which launched from Japan, late Saturday. The ship wrecked in the La Perouse Strait, which separates Russia and Japan's island of Hokkaido. Both Russia and Japan are involved in the rescue operation, Russia's Transport Ministry said Sunday. "The Russian search and rescue group comprises the Atlas rescue vessel, the Ozersk refrigerator ship, the shipping boats Paliya and Zaliv Vasilyeva, and also a Mi-8 helicopter while the Japanese team includes the REBUN patrol boat and a plane," the ministry said.

INTERNET

Cyclone Grant heads for Aussie Outback

MINJILANG, 26 Dec—Tropical Cyclone Grant was expected to roll across a sparsely populated swath of Australia's Outback after making landfall Sunday, forecasters said.

Grant, which is the equivalent of an Atlantic tropical storm, strengthened to a Category 2 storm Sunday as it approached the Northern Territory and was expected to weaken while over land in the next few days, AccuWeather said.

Australian officials said Grant was packing heavy rain and winds up to 130 kilometres per hour (81 miles per hour) but had not caused any major damage as it blew through the Croker Islands.

"Minjilang on Croker Islands is taking the brunt of the storm," Peter Davie, director of emergency services for the Bureau of Meteorology told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"There are trees down with significant damage to roads, the power is off and obviously a lot of people in cyclone shelters."

Police told the ABC that Minjilang had been battered but there appeared to be no significant structural damage to the community.

INTERNET

Passengers stranded as storm forces suspension of ferry services in Norway

OSLO, 26 Dec—Under the influence of the Dagmar storm, passenger ships sailing southbound along Norway's western coast had to seek shelter on Sunday night and ferry service was canceled, affecting an unknown number of Christmas holiday makers.

The storm, with its centre being approaching to Norway at about 100 kmh from the Faroe Island and is forecast to land near Helgeland early Monday, will be among the ten strongest in the past 30 years, according to the Norwegian Meteorological Institute.

Some areas on the Norwegian west coast experienced a black-out after power supply was affected by uprooted trees and lightning.

The Hurtigruten company suspended the southbound operation of its passenger ships from Trondheim due to extreme weather conditions and a rough sea.

The Norwegian broadcast and TV company NRK reported that 400 passengers were stranded in the city.

"With the weather that is reported, it is most prudent to stay in Trondheim," Ragnar Norum, a spokesman for Hurtigruten, was quoted as saying.

Ferries sailing along the Oslo fjord were also affected.

"There is no point in sailing out to sea in such bad weather," said passenger Geir Aasen Haug, who was marooned on board the MS Trollfjord.

Xinhua

5.0-magnitude quake hits near the east coast of Honshu, Japan

HONG KONG, 26 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted near the east coast of Honshu, Japan at 2011-12-25 17:41:39 GMT on Sunday (2011-12-26 01:41:39 Beijing Time), the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 49.30 km, was initially determined to be at 35.9621 degrees north latitude and 140.7503 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua



Flash flood victims cross a river after receiving relief goods in Iligan City, southern Philippines, on Christmas day.—INTERNET

INTERNET

5.9-magnitude quake hits Tonga

HONG KONG, 26 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale jolted Tonga at 0448 GMT on Monday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 43.30 km, was initially determined to be at 16.1932 degrees south latitude and 173.8488 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua

A staff member cleans the floor in front of the ticket booths at a railway station in Shanghai, east China, on 25 Dec, 2011. China's railway authorities have introduced a real-name ticket purchasing system in some of the country's busiest stations ahead of the Chinese New Year travel rush, believed to be the largest annual migration in the world.—XINHUA



One killed, 10 missing after S Korean fishing boat sank off southeastern coast

SEOUL, 26 Dec—One died and 10 others went missing after a South Korean fishing boat sank in waters off the country's southeastern coast earlier Monday, according to local media.

The accident took place at around 02:02 am local time (17:02 GMT Sunday)

in waters some 15 miles east of the coastal city of Ulsan, South Gyeongsang Province, the Coast Guard was quoted as saying.

There were a total of 14 crew members on the 139-ton trawler. Three of them were rescued after local coast guard launched an emergency rescue operation.

As for the others, one was confirmed dead, and 10 people remain missing.

The coast guard said they suspect the boat sank due to an engine problem amid high waves.

The rescue operation for searching the missing ones are still underway.

MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 23 Dec, 2011, shows a drawbridge hanging above Nuijiang in Gongshan County of Lisu Autonomous Prefecture of Nuijiang, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

XINHUA

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Corporacion Habanos, S.A., a company organized and existing under the laws of Cuba, of 3ra. Avenida No. 2006, entre calle 20 y calle 22, Reparto Miramar, Municipio Playa, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba, is the owner of the following Trade Mark-

BEHIKE

Reg. No. 112/2011

in respect of "Int'l Class 34: Tobacco, including: cigars, cigarettes, cigarillos, cut tobacco for pipes; smokers' articles, including: ashtrays, cigar cutters, matchboxes, cigar cases; matches".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Corporacion
Habanos, S.A.

P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Date: 27 December 2011

Japanese warship ends five-day visit to China

BEIJING, 26 Dec — The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Forces' destroyer, the Kirisame has ended a five-day friendly visit to China. It departed from Qingdao in eastern China on Friday.

The 4,550-ton ship, carrying around 240 people, travelled from Japan's Sasebo naval base to Qingdao on Monday. During its trip to China, the two navies held joint exercises and visited each other's vessels. They also carried out cultural and sports activities.

This was the second visit to China by a Japanese warship and the trip marks the resumption of bilateral navy exchanges. Visits had been cancelled following a collision between a Chinese trawler and Japanese coast guard patrol vessels in September 2010.— *Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1162)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1162) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (049)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (049) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Japanese warship ends five-day visit to China.—XINHUA

Man shot in East Dunbartonshire

LONDON, 26 Dec — Police are trying to trace four men seen running away after a man was shot near a golf range. The 23-year-old man's wounds are being treated in hospital but the seriousness of his condition is unknown. The shooting happened near the Bishopbriggs range in East Dunbartonshire at 1230 GMT. Strathclyde Police want to speak to anyone who saw four people running away from the scene towards a nearby retail park. A force spokeswoman said: "Police at Baird Street are currently investigating the shooting of a 23-year-old man which occurred near to the Bishopbriggs golf range at around 12.30pm."

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PLATINUM EMERALD VOY NO (PE/V04/11)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLATINUM EMERALD VOY NO (PE/V04/11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HUB SHIPPING SDN BHD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DIBENA HAPPY VOY NO (136)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA HAPPY VOY NO (136) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.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: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Japan couple left childless by tsunami find solace

ISHINOMAKI, 26 Dec — Hana Suzuki would have been in the fifth grade this year and her older brother, Kento, in the seventh at their elementary school in a wooded valley not far from the sea. But on 11 March, an earthquake-triggered tsunami

swept through the grounds of the Okawa primary school, bringing death and loss as it devastated Japan's northeastern coastline.

In all, 74 students died at Okawa, including Hana, a girl who wore blue bows in her braided hair, and Kento, a husky boy who liked to practice judo kicks.

All but one of a dozen teachers were killed as well.

Thirty-four students escaped the tsunami and have returned to makeshift classrooms in another part of town.—*Internet*



Ken Morrish, 72, of Devon, did a double take when he grew a Golden Delicious apple split down the middle — one half was green and the other red.—INTERNET

Fruit grower picks a million to one apple that's half red and half green

LONDON, 26 Dec — Ken Morrish was left stunned when he found a golden delicious apple on his tree split exactly half green, half red down the middle.

The fruit's striking colouring is thought to be caused by a random genetic mutation at odds of more than a million to one.

The apple has caused such a stir in the village of Devon, that Mr Morrish is inundated with neighbours queuing up to take pictures of it. Mr Morrish, 72, who has been harvesting the apples from trees in his garden for 45 years, said: "It's truly amazing."

"It looks as if a green apple and a red apple has been cut in half and stuck together." He said that he was out picking a few apples for his sister-in-law when he spotted the fruit hanging from a bough.

Mr Morrish, a retired painter and decorator, added: "I couldn't believe my eyes. The red and green split through the stem is totally perfect — as if I've painted it. "It's a genuine one-off and none of us have ever seen an apple like it before."

Experts believe that the odds of finding an apple with such a perfect line between the green and the red are more than a million to one.

Internet



The Eden Project has withdrawn the sale of bracelets decorated with a potentially lethal tropical seed from its visitor shop.

INTERNET

Eden withdraws poisonous bracelets

LONDON, 26 Dec — A major tourist attraction has withdrawn the sale of bracelets decorated with a potentially lethal tropical seed from its visitor shop, it has been disclosed. The Eden Project, in St Austell, Cornwall, was selling the red seeded bracelets for about a year before one of the attraction's own horticulturists spotted the poisonous seeds.

The attraction's spokesman, David Rowe, told the BBC: "We are talking about a strung seed bracelet which comes from Peru. The seeds are laced into string. "We've identified the seeds as potentially dangerous so we have withdrawn the bracelets from sale immediately. "We have been advised that in an extreme case, if these seeds are chewed or ingested, it is very dangerous and potentially lethal."

The bracelets, which contain a seed called *abrus precatorius*, had come from the company Rainstick Trading, based in Suffolk.

The Eden Project has issued a full recall of the bracelet and has asked anyone who believes they may have bought one to return it for a refund. The attraction has also removed all remaining stocks from its shelves. The item has not been sold through the Eden online store.—*Internet*

Victim still in relationship with man who bit her nose off

BURNLEY, 26 Dec — The girlfriend of a man jailed indefinitely for biting off her nose is still in a relationship with him, a court heard yesterday. Robert Mackenzie Wilson (39) formerly of Selkirk Street, Burnley in England, launched his brutal assault on Jane Ireland after calling her "fat". The defence said Ms Ireland was still in a relationship with Wilson and continued to visit him in prison and was "supportive of him".

It was Ms Ireland's view that Wilson was a man who needed help rather than punishment, the defence said. Burnley Crown Court heard that Wilson had been in a relationship with Ms Ireland for four months before the attack. Her nose was recovered from the scene but could not be stitched on and it was reconstructed with the aid of a flap of skin from her forehead.—*Internet*

Cold cuts ice cream losses in Ind crash

Police say it was cold enough in Indiana this week that at least some of the 40,000 pounds of ice cream dumped after a traffic accident could be salvaged. A truck hauling a cargo of Edy's ice cream overturned Friday on Interstate 69 near Fort Wayne, and when responders pulled the trailer upright, scores of cartons spilled on to the roadway. Fort Wayne Police Sgt. Carl Egly said the chilly December temperatures curbed the melting process,

making the cleanup easier and possibly saving most of the cargo. In fact, a crew from the nearby Edy's plant showed up with pallets and a forklift and loaded the ice cream on to another truck. The (Fort Wayne) *Journal Gazette* said Saturday. The driver of the truck, who sustained minor injuries, apparently was going too fast on an onramp or else the load somehow shifted. "That threw her off and the thing plopped over," Egly explained.



Etibar Elchiyev demonstrates his magnetic ability as he poses with 50 metal spoons magnetized to his body during an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for Most Spoons on a Human Body in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 14 Dec, 2011. Elchiyev claims that his body acts as a magnet attracting metal objects.

Robbers warn man with barking dog

A New Orleans musician who went to the bank with his cousin said the cousin's pit bull apparently spooked two men preparing for a robbery. Glen David Andrews said he arrived at a Capital One branch around 8:50 am that day and his cousin's dog, Blue, began barking at a pair of men among the group waiting for the bank to open. The (New Orleans) *Times-Picayune* reported. Andrews said one of the men, both wearing black hooded sweatshirts,

addressed him. "You better leave right now with that dog. We 'bout to rob the bank," the man allegedly told Andrews. Andrews left with his cousin and the dog, and police said the two men then robbed the others waiting for the bank to open. Police said there were two other incidents Monday morning outside of other banks within the span of about an hour. The incidents are believed to be related, police said.

Hawaii car vandal left fecal calling cards

Folks in a Honolulu neighbourhood say a persistent and disgusting car vandal is costing them money they could have used for Christmas shopping. The trouble has been going on for nearly a month in the Kunia area, where the culprit has been breaking windows and slashing tires and adding the unwelcome personal touch of dropping feces on the hood of the targeted cars. One car owner, Larissa Cordeira, told *KHON-TV*, Honolulu, the vandal was "definitely, definitely angry." "Who would do this kind of stuff?" she asked.

The spree, which can include as many as three vehicles per day, has forced the victims to pay hundreds of dollars for repairs at a time when the holidays are already squeezing family finances. "Now we have to spend money for us to be able to fix a tire so that we can get to work, and at the same time we've already spent money on buying gifts for the family and whatnot, so it is going to be a financial strap for us," said Cordeira. KHON said police suspect local juveniles but haven't made any arrests and are asking the public for any information that might help the investigation.

ATM stolen from Calif bank parking lot

The Orange County Sheriff's Department said at least two suspects were involved in stealing an ATM from a bank parking lot in Laguna Woods, Calif. The theft happened at about 5 am on that day at a Chase bank in Laguna Woods, *KTLA-TV*, Los Angeles, reported. Sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said the suspects wrapped a cable

around a drive-up ATM and tried to pull it out of the ground, but the cable snapped. The suspects then used a tow truck to knock the ATM over, then loaded it onto a flatbed truck. Police found the ATM dumped behind an auto shop several hours later, still sitting on the flatbed truck used to steal it with. The truck was reported

stolen from Santa Ana, police said. It was not clear how much money was inside the ATM. Police hope surveillance video from the parking lot will help them identify the suspects, who wore hooded sweatshirts to hide their faces.



Lady Gaga sued by former assistant

NEW YORK, 26 Dec—A former personal assistant of Lady Gaga is suing the US pop star, claiming she's owed hundreds of thousands of dollars in back pay. Jennifer O'Neill, 41, of Long Island, NY, alleges she was required to be available to Gaga at all hours of the day and night during the singer's 2010 Monster Ball world tour, court papers show. Gaga was so demanding, she says in her lawsuit, she had no time to eat and at times even sleep, the newspaper reported exclusively Sunday. O'Neill was paid \$75,000 a year but in her lawsuit filed against Gaga's Mermaid Touring Co last week in US



Lady Gaga

District Court in New York, she seeks \$380,000 for 7,168 hours of overtime for which she says she was never paid. She also seeks other, unspecified damages. O'Neill did not respond to

requests for comment, the *Post* said. A spokeswoman for Gaga, real name Stefani Germanotta, called the lawsuit "completely without merit." The newspaper also reported a book, "Poker Face: The Rise and Rise of Lady Gaga," tells of another former personal assistant, Angela Ciemny, who was required to frequently sleep with Gaga, as well as do makeup together and sometimes even shower at the same time. *Internet*



Wayne Bridge and his popstar girlfriend Frankie Sandford

Wayne Bridge and popstar girlfriend celebrate one-year anniversary

LONDON, 26 Dec—Wayne Bridge and his popstar girlfriend Frankie Sandford, who dated just before Christmas last year, have completed one year now. The pair looks happier than ever as they popped into an Essex restaurant for a cosy meal with a friend, and emerged beaming arm-in-arm. Wearing a festive red jumper, the 22-year-old singer certainly looked ready to throw herself into the seasonal celebrations, the *Daily Mail* reported. The couple's relationship took off at the end of 2010, less than two months after she dumped ex-boyfriend Dougie Poynter, who she shared a North London flat with.—*Internet*

Director's injury halts 'Gatsby' filming

SYDNEY, 26 Dec — Producers of "The Great Gatsby" said they shut down filming early this week after director Baz Luhrmann cut his head on the set in Australia. Luhrmann apparently smacked into a camera crane while shooting a scene and required three stitches. Anton Monsted, a co-producer of the film, told the *Sydney Morning Herald* Luhrmann was not seriously hurt but it was decided to knock off a day early for the holidays even though filming was already slightly off schedule. "There's a few days owing due to rain and then there will also be what we would have shot ... had we continued filming after Baz's injury," Monsted said. "The Great Gatsby" is the latest film version of the



Baz Luhrmann arrives for the "An Enduring Vision" Ninth Annual Benefit for the Elton John AIDS Foundation at Cipriani Wall Street in New York on 18 October, 2010.

classic US novel by F Scott Fitzgerald. It stars Leonardo DiCaprio in the title role along with Carey Mulligan and Tobey Maguire. *Internet*

Ashley Greene shoots campaign for DKNY

LONDON, 26 Dec— "Twilight" actress Ashley Greene says it's "very cool" to appear on a giant billboard for DKNY. "This is very cool. There are a lot of firsts for me here today. It's my first photo op in Times Square, my first time on one of these buses and my first billboard for DKNY Jeans. It's an exciting day," femalefirst.co.uk quoted her as saying. "The campaign shots turned out great. They're such talented photographers and really captured the essence of New York," she added. Greene is also an ambassador for Mark cosmetics and says she is happy that the two brands she works with are so complementary. "They pair together

nice. They reach the same demographic—young and carefree. And they both provide a positive message of empowerment for women." The DKNY advertising campaign featuring Greene will be out early next month. *Internet*



"Twilight" actress Ashley Greene

Peter Jackson offers chance to visit 'Hobbit' sets



Director Peter Jackson

LONDON, 26 Dec— Director Peter Jackson is offering fans an opportunity to visit the sets of "The Hobbit" in New Zealand to raise money for charity. The filmmaker is

currently shooting the "Lord of the Rings" prequel, based on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic novel, with stars including Martin Freeman, Hugo Weaving, Sir Ian McKellen, Elijah Wood, Orlando Bloom and offering a chance to visit the set of the film as part of the "Stars Come Out Auction" through website Trade-me.co.nz, reports daily-star.co.uk. The money will go to scientist Sir Ray Avery's charity Medicine Mondiale. Another offer up for grabs includes a chance to record songs with rock band Crowded House's Neil Finn. *Internet*

Van der Vaart set to return against Norwich



Tottenham forward Rafael van der Vaart

"We thought he had a hamstring. He went for a scan and it didn't show a tear. "I think he probably had a bit of cramp in there where he's had a problem before, a bit of tightness he felt maybe might go, so he took the precaution of not playing on with it." Van der Vaart, who trained on Sunday and will do so again tomorrow, added: "I think I'm going to be fine."

LONDON, 26 Dec — Tottenham forward Rafael van der Vaart looks set to face Norwich on Tuesday night after his hamstring injury proved less serious than first feared, English website sportinglife.com said. The 28-year-old Holland international was substituted at half-time of Thursday's 1-1 draw against Chelsea due to the problem, but a subsequent scan showed no tear and he could therefore be in line to play at Carrow Road.

"He looks okay," Spurs manager Harry Redknapp told Sky Sports News. "He looks like he could be fit.

Tottenham have lost just once in their last 14 Barclays Premier League matches to climb to third in the table, but Van der Vaart is not getting too carried away with title talk. The former Hamburg and Real Madrid man said: "We are third and still have one game in hand. We're playing really good this season - you can see it in the big games, so it's going to be interesting. "But there's still a long way to go. We have to keep on winning our games and then we'll see."

Xinhua

Aerial view of the Olympic Park in London

Aerial photo released on 21 Dec, 2011 (taken on 5 December), shows the panoramic view of the Olympic Park looking south to north, east London, Britain. The latest aerial shots showed that over 90% of the Olympic Park's construction work had been completed, and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) was on track to hand the site over to London Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) early next year. — Xinhua



LMA aims to 'change football's mindset' to keep sackings down

LONDON, 26 Dec — The League Managers' Association (LMA) want to "change football's mindset" to stop managers being dismissed after a run of poor results. Former Sunderland boss Steve Bruce is the only top-flight manager to have been sacked during this campaign. But LMA chief executive Richard Bevan told BBC Sport it is too soon to conclude that football management is becoming a safer profession.

"Time, sadly, is not a commodity afforded to managers," he said. "Certainly it is

understandable at times that chairmen have been spooked by results, empty seats or fans' pressure. But stability is imperative to deliver results. "Instability at clubs can cause very real damage to the wider good of the game." Bevan says the LMA constantly highlights the importance of continuity so that football is seen as a sound business and managers are given confidence in an envi-

ronment of realistic expectations.

He added: "Simply dismissing a manager after a poor run is detrimental not only to the club but to the game itself. "The LMA is working hard to change football's mindset, working on the recruitment process of managers and ensuring that the clubs and managers set realistic goals and aspirations."

Internet

International Sports

Italian Serie A 2011-12 Table

Team	GP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
AC Milan	16	10	4	2	34	35	16	19
Juventus	16	9	7	0	34	27	11	16
Udinese	16	9	5	2	32	20	9	11
Lazio	16	8	6	2	30	24	13	11
Inter Milan	16	8	2	6	26	22	19	3
Napoli	16	6	6	4	24	29	18	11
AS Roma	16	7	3	6	24	21	19	2
Catania	16	5	7	4	22	20	23	-3
Palermo	16	6	3	7	21	18	20	-2
Genoa	16	6	3	7	21	19	24	-5
Atalanta	16	6	8	2	20	23	19	4
Chievo Verona	16	5	5	6	20	13	18	-5
Parma	16	5	4	7	19	21	26	-5
Fiorentina	16	4	6	6	18	15	15	0
Cagliari	16	4	6	6	18	12	17	-5
Siena	16	3	6	7	15	14	16	-2
Bologna	16	4	3	9	15	14	24	-10
Novara	16	2	6	8	12	17	29	-12
Cesena	16	3	3	10	12	8	20	-12
Lecce	16	2	3	11	9	17	33	-16

Nigerian striker Obasi joins Schalke 04 on loan

BERLIN, 26 Dec — German first division league side Schalke 04 announced on Sunday that they have signed Nigerian striker Chinedu Obasi on loan through to season's end from Hoffenheim with an option of a further extension. Obasi, 25, will accompany his new teammates to their winter break camp in Qatar starting on 4 January. The Nigerian striker's contract with Hoffenheim will be expired in 2014. He has made 65 appearances in Hoffenheim, scoring



Nigerian striker Chinedu Obasi

13 goals but recently lost his place. Schalke 04 are currently third in the league table, three points behind Bayern Munich. — Xinhua

Cesc Fabregas: If I have to leave Barcelona, I will go back to Arsenal

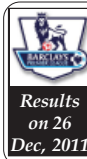
BARCELONA, 26 Dec — Barcelona midfielder Cesc Fabregas has spoken of his desire to one day play for Arsenal again. The Spanish international left the Emirates Stadium in the summer after a protracted transfer saga involving the Gunners and the club where he first began his

career. The 24-year-old eventually joined the European champions for an initial fee of 25 million pounds, but says that leaving north London was a deeply emotional time for him.

"If I have to leave Barcelona, I will go back to Arsenal - I would like to," Fabregas told Sky Sports News. "I am not embarrassed to say that the day I left I could only say 'Thank you very much', I couldn't say more. "I'm not embarrassed to say that I nearly cried. Arsene Wenger, I have never met someone that loyal. He is one of the best, I really believe that." — Internet



Barcelona midfielder Cesc Fabregas



Bolton	0-2	Newcastle
Chelsea	1-1	Fulham
Liverpool	1-1	Blackburn
Man Utd	5-0	Wigan
Sunderland	1-1	Everton
West Brom	0-0	Man City

Chelsea 1-1 Fulham

Dempsey adds to damage in Blues' race for the title



Juan Mata shows how it's done for the opener

CHELSEA, 26 Dec — Clint Dempsey cancelled out Juan Mata's opener to deliver another blow to Chelsea's hopes of sneaking back into the title race.

Chelsea took the lead shortly after the break when Mata fired home but the lead lasted less than 10 minutes.

A game manager Andre Villas-Boas had hand-picked for Fernando Torres to rebuild his shattered confidence proved another nightmare outing for the £50million man.

This was also meant to be the match where Chelsea got their championship challenge back on track after two straight 1-1 draws away from home.

Torres, making his first league start for almost two months, did inadvertently lay on Mata's 47th-minute opener but Dempsey equalised nine minutes later before Fulham goalkeeper David Stockdale kept Chelsea at bay. Fulham had only scored four league goals away from home all season, the worst record in the top flight but they were soon level with a superbly-worked goal. — Internet

Liverpool 1 - 1 Blackburn



Bottom side Blackburn hung on for a much-needed point as a stubborn display forced Liverpool to settle for their sixth home draw of the season. Morten Gamst Pedersen's set-piece led to Rovers' opener.

Man Utd 5 - 0 Wigan

Dimitar Berbatov scored a hat-trick as Manchester United thrashed 10-man Wigan to move level on points with Premier League leaders Manchester City.



Berbatov was the Premier League's top scorer last season

MANCHESTER, 26 Dec — Park Ji-sung coolly slotted the hosts into an early lead before Wigan striker Conor Sammon was harshly sent off for catching Michael Carrick in the face.

Berbatov fired United in a 2-0 lead and netted the third after the break with a neat turn and powerful finish. Antonio Valencia rifled into the corner before Berbatov scored from the spot. — Internet

Sony to sell stake in LCD venture to Samsung for \$940 million

TOKYO/SEOUL, 26 Dec—Sony Corp has agreed to sell its nearly 50 percent stake in an LCD joint venture with Samsung Electronics to Samsung for \$940 million, the Korean firm said on Monday, as Sony struggles to staunch red ink at its TV business.

The venture cut its capital by 15 percent in July and industry sources had said Sony was negotiating an exit, aiming to switch to cheaper outsourcing for flat screens for its TVs while Samsung pushes ahead with next-generation displays.

Sony warned in November of a fourth straight year of losses for the financial year to next March, with its TV unit alone set to lose \$2.2 billion on tumbling demand and a surging yen.

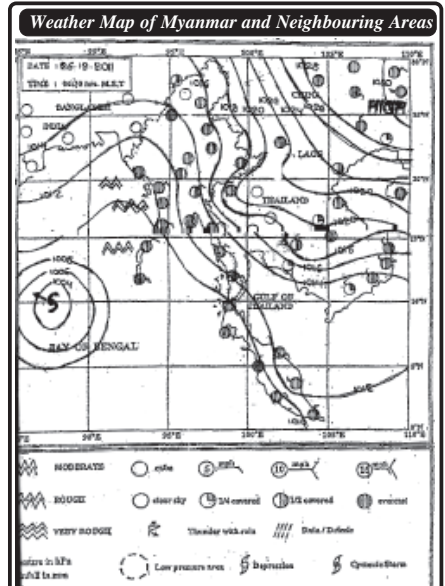
The maker of Bravia TVs and PlayStation game consoles said at the time it would revamp its LCD panel procurement but did not comment on the outlook for the LCD venture with Samsung.

"In terms of direction it is positive," said Keita Wakabayashi, an analyst at Mito Securities in Tokyo. "But



Sony Corp has agreed to sell its nearly 50 percent stake in an LCD joint venture with Samsung Electronics to Samsung for \$940 million, the Korean firm said on Monday, as Sony struggles to staunch red ink at its TV business.—REUTERS

if they are making a loss on the sale, one could ask why they didn't make this decision sooner." Some analysts say the \$100 billion LCD TV market peaked last year and forecast it will shrink 3 to 4 percent annually, as consumers in advanced countries have already traded in their bulky cathode-ray tube TV sets for flat screens, while the LCD market has been in a glut since last summer.—Reuters



Weather forecast for 27th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	23/73	14/57	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	24/75	13/55	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	32/90	16/61	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	16/61	07/45	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	25/77	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
7	Taintharyi	31/88	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
8	Bago	29/84	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
9	Magway	27/81	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
10	Mandalay	27/81	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
11	Mon	30/86	19/66	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	29/84	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
13	Rakhine	26/79	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	30/86	11/52	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	23/73	09/48	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	20/68	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	27/81	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	30/86	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	29/84	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	27/81	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, light rain has been isolated in Ayeyawady Region, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December averages temperatures in Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady Region, Chin, Shan, Kayah and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) above December averages temperatures in Magway Region and Kachin and Rakhine States and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were: Phalung (3°C), Patheingyi, Mawlaikhe, Haha and Aungmye (8°C) each.

According to the observation at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over South adjoining central Bay has moved to West wards and it is centered at about (490) miles Southeast of Chennai, India (about (560) miles Southwest of Cochin, Myanmar). It is forecast to move West-Northwest direction. Weather is cloudy in the South and Central Bay and Partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Bay Inference: Squally with moderate to rough seas will be experience off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

State of the Sea: Squally with moderate to rough seas will be experience off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for sub-: Likelihood of isolated rain in the Coastal areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

Cash and kind donated to aged, disabled children

YANGON, 26 Dec—The cash and kind donation to the aged and disabled children was held at Home for the Aged in



Mingon Model Village of Hlegu Township on 19 December. The chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization and party donated books to Pinyinza Tazaung self-reliant village library and presented cash assistance and gifts to the aged and disabled children.—Township IPRD

New school building opened



BHAMO, 26 Dec—A new building was opened at Basic Education Primary School in Konmahat Village of Bhamo Township on 29 November.

Departmental officials formally opened the new school building.

The new building, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high, was built at a cost of K 32.4 million contributed by the Ministry of Education and K 914,820 by the local people.

Education

Employees' Micro-credit Society disburses loans

LABUTTA, 26 Dec—Labutta Township Government Employees' Micro-credit Society presented savings books and certificates of share to its members at the hall of Labutta on 16 December.

The deputy commissioner of District General Administration Department and the chairman of the society presented savings books and certificates of share to the members.

The society was formed on 1 October 2011, and it has so far disbursed K 63.4 million to 410 departmental personnel.—Myanma Alin



Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-12-11 09:30 am ~ 28-12-11 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Food "Tasty! Delicious! Smart Food!"
- * News
- * Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2011
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Physical Fitness for All
- * News
- * Youth & Model Life
- * News
- * VCD Centre
- * News
- * Myanma Pottery
- * News
- * Travelogue in Popa Myanmar Movies
- * "Implicated Attachment"

MYANMAR TV

(27-12-2011) (Tuesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice and Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 4. Health Programme
- 8:00 am
- 5. Songs of Yester Years
- 8:20 am
- 6. Song of National Races
- 8:40 am
- 7. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 8. Martial Song
- 4:35 pm
- 9. One Village & One Product
- 5:00 pm
- 10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:40 pm
- 11. Documentary
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Bakery World
- 15. TV Drama Series
- 16. India Drama Series

Packers beat Bears 35-21, clinch No. 1 seed

GREEN BAY, 26 Dec—Aaron Rodgers threw five touchdown passes for the first time in his career to help the Green Bay Packers nail down the No. 1 seed in the NFC and claim another round of bragging rights in the NFL's most storied rivalry by knocking the Chicago Bears out of the playoff chase. Rodgers threw a pair of touchdowns to Jordy Nelson, another two to James Jones, and found tight end Jermichael Finley for a score as the Packers beat the Bears 35-21 on Sunday night. "To be able to be a part of something special like this has been incredible," Rodgers said in a television interview. "Great night tonight for us, securing that No. 1 seed."

Clay Matthews made a key first-half interception for the Packers (14-1), who needed the win to tie down home-field advantage in the NFC. The loss eliminated the Bears (7-8) from playoff contention and put the Atlanta Falcons in the playoffs as at least a wild card.

Third-string running back Kahlil Bell rushed for 121 yards for the Bears, who trailed by only four early in the third



quarter. But Rodgers drove the Packers for touchdowns on their next three possessions to put the game out of reach. Packers coach Mike McCarthy said the team's run defense will be examined, but added the final score told the story. "We won big," McCarthy said. "That's the bottom line." Rodgers was 21 of 29 for 283 yards and five touchdowns with no interceptions when backup Matt Flynn took over for Rodgers with 7:54 left in the game. "Now we're going to enjoy the rest of our Christmas with our families," Rodgers said.—Internet

Union Minister: Malaria cases, death rate down in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — The death rate and the rate of malaria cases have both fallen in Myanmar, meeting the target of the UN millennium goal, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said at National Seminar on Malaria held here today.

The Union Minister urged all bodies concerned to put more efforts for fighting the drug and insecticide resistance with the use of artemisinin-combination therapies.

The rate of malaria cases rate has dropped from 24 in 1000 people while the death rate 13 in 100,000 in 1990, the beginning year of the UN millennium goal, to 10 in 1000 and 2 in 100,000 respectively in 2010.

The encouraging figure is due to cooperative efforts of the Ministry of Health, ministries concerned, INGOs, local social organizations and the people, the Union Minister said.

According to statistics, there were around 500,000 cases of Malaria in Myanmar and around 1000 died from the mosquito-borne disease every year.

Experts for fighting the disease and researchers participated in the seminar.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, there are around 500 million malaria cases and the disease caused the death of an estimated 1,000,000 people every year. — MNA



Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium continues for second day



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 continued for the second day today at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near Myanmar Gems Museum.

Till today, more than 5400 local and foreign merchants visited the emporium and bought the gems and pearl lots through open tender system and competitive bidding system. They also viewed the jade lots to be on sold tomorrow.

So far, 213 pearl lots and 39 gem lots have been sold and acting Managing Director U Sein Lwin of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise presented a souvenir to Daw Aye Aye Mon of Sein Pale Jewellery Shop, the largest pearl buyer.

The emporium will sell 11592 lots of jade with open tender system and 229 lots of jade with competitive bidding totalling 11821 lots from 27 December, 2011 to 3 January, 2012.

MNA

Local and foreign merchants view jade lots at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—According to the observations at 12.30 hrs MST today, the depression over South Bay adjoining central Bay has moved to westwards and it is centred at about 490 miles southeast of Chennai, India (about 560 miles southwest of Coco Island, Myanmar). It is forecast to move West-Northwestwards direction.

Current stage of the depression is coded as yellow colour which means is not moving towards Myanmar.

Under the influence of the depression, squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph to 50 mph, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Significant night temperature (26-12-2011)

Pinlaung	(3°C)
Putao	(8°C)
Machanbaw	(8°C)
Haka	(8°C)

David Ferrer aims for grand slam victory

Abu Dhabi, 26 Dec— World No.5, David Ferrer, who will start his new season from next week at Mubadala World Tennis Championship against world No.6, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, is aiming for a grand slam victory in 2012.

Second seeded Spaniard, Ferrer having shown marvelous performance in the start of the season at 2011 Australia Open by reaching the semifinals is now eyeing to

make a debut by winning a grand slam title in his career.

Ferrer, who has been at top-5 this season has been brilliant in his game and has always knocked success against his opponents, he has played a huge role in clinching sixth Davis Cup title for Spain. However, he has already confirmed about his Davis cup withdrawal for next season with Nadal, due to preparation of Olympics and grand slams tournament.

Ferrer while speaking

with the sources has said that, Spain has very good players with a good level who can

play and do well in Davis Cup” said Ferrer, who will also have an Olympics medal on his radar for 2012.

Internet



Union Foreign Minister and Japanese counterpart hold talks



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Liverpool 1 - 1 Blackburn



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