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Thursday, 29 December, 2011

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union | * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity | * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Region/State CMs urged to develop main staple crop paddy, establish crop farms to increase farmers' incomes



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing speaking at meeting with Chief Ministers of Regions and States at 500-acre mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met Chief Ministers of Regions and States who made a field trip to observe 500-acre mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

On arrival at the farm at 7 am, the President was welcomed by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Chief

Ministers of Regions and States, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

Speaking on the occasion, the President stressed the need to harmoniously carry out the tasks to increase national strength and for development of agriculturer sector of the State. He noted that it is necessary to develop main staple crop paddy and to establish crop farms to increase farmers incomes. He said that all-out efforts are to be made for effectively growing crops which are suitable for the respective regions. Regions and States are to extend

cultivation of high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy strains, he added. He stressed that it should establish more seed banks with quality guarantees in the respective regions. In conclusion, he said that it is necessary to gather momentum in the regions for farm mechanization and pour out concerted efforts in carrying out the tasks in competitiveness.

The President viewed thriving paddy and other crop plantations in the farm and left there.

(See page 8)

Six agreements signed at second Union Level Peace Talk

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—Head of Union Level Peace-making Group Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thaug, deputy head Myitkyina Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw and members Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Thein and deputy ministers, the deputy Attorney-General and members were welcomed by "Wa" Special Region (2) Chairman U Pauk Yo Chan and Vice Chairman U Shauk Min Lyan and members, at Pansang of Shan State on 26 December.

Head U Aung Thaug and members held a separate talks with Chairman U Pauk Yo Chan and members. After that, the head handed over President's gifts to Chairman U Pauk Yo Chan.

In the afternoon, Union Level Peace-making Group led by U Aung Thaug and "Wa" Special Region (2) Peace-making Group headed by Vice-Chairman U Shauk Min Lyan held second peace talks at meeting hall of "Wa" Special Region in Pansang.

At the meeting, both sides held frank discussions on future peace process based on agreements signed in Lashio on 1 October this year. Afterwards, both parties signed six agreements and exchanged the documents.

(See page 9)



Discussion between Union Level Peace-making Group led by Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thaug and "Wa" Special Region (2) Peace-making group led by Vice-Chairman U Shauk Min Lyan in progress.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 December, 2011

Start a good job

Lord Buddha praises good living which does not bother others in His teachings. The teachings demand human beings to follow true vocations fitting in current time and place with all their hearts.

Myanmar's population is growing each year. More jobs for the doubling population need be created as always. That is why every dictionary has a room for the word "jobless". Only 30 per cent of the entire population out of 61 per cent ready to be employed are in jobs in Myanmar, a home to the population of roughly 60 million.

There should be no jobless in Myanmar as it could offer countless jobs. The word "jobless" in Myanmar means the one who has no intention to have it. Where there is land and water, there is job opportunity. Only the diligence is required.

Farmers are industrious workforce in Myanmar, getting up at 4 am and working dawn to dusk. "Spending no time with no works in hand" is farmers' policy. These exemplary rural folks used to save every penny they earned.

Today's people are searching comfortable and lucrative jobs. Some find themselves boring to earn honest living. Many among over 0.3 million migrant workers are from rural areas and suburbs. They later join the list of jobless as they do not like work since the beginning. Reforming executive mechanism generates job opportunities for youths. It is an alarm bell for youngsters to prepare themselves to pick up new job opportunities, popping up.

Most population lives in rural areas where employment opportunities are plenty. Thus, jobs are within the reach of most people. Working jobs in hands diligently will help mitigate jobless rate and alleviate poverty of our country.

District News

Self-reliant power supply undertaken

YEDASHE, 28 Dec—North Nanchun Village of Yedashe Township is striving for supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis.

A 100-KVA transformer was installed beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway, and lamp-posts were erected in the village starting from 2 November. The electricity supply committee set up a K 30 fund for the task. On completion, electricity will be supplied to about 150 houses.—*Kyemon*

Knowledge anti-human trafficking disseminated

YANGON, 28 Dec—An educative talk on human smuggler and trafficking in person was held at the hall of Beautiful Island rattan production factory in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 21 December.

Responsible persons gave talks on procedure for trafficking in person, the law on protection of women and prevention on violence against women. Next, local women presented membership applications to the Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization.—*MNA*

Crime reduction talked

KhinU, 28 Dec—An educative talk on crime reduction was held at Koktet Village Administrator's Office in KhinU Township on 11 December.

Responsible persons gave talks on rural development, crime reduction and law prevention on violence against women. Similar talks were held in Thinbaung, Yonbin and Kabwet villages.—*Kyemon*

Public Works, private companies ink BOT contracts

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—A ceremony to sign the BOT contract for construction and upgrading of roads between Public Works and five companies was held at the hall of the Ministry of Construction yesterday evening.

Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works and responsible persons of Thanti Thitsa Construction Co, ThayaU Construction Co, Tun Nyo Lu Construction Co, Aye Ko Family Construction Co and Hninthazin Construction Co signed the contracts.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Minister U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin, Special Officer on Duty Thura U Sein

Thaung, region/state ministers for transport and departmental heads posed for documentary photo together with officials of companies.

MNA



Myanmar Ambassador presents Credentials to Israeli President

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Israel, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, on 14 December 2011 in Jerusalem.

MNA

Dy Sports Minister inspects training at SPES (Yangon)

YANGON, 28 Dec—Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu visited the training school of the Sports and Physical Education Science here yesterday.

During the visit, the deputy minister viewed athletes receiving training for the 27th SEA Games.

At the meeting with presidents and responsible personnel of the sports federations, he urged them to select talented athletes from the sports and physical education science in Yangon and Mandalay and he discussed matters on preparation for achieving success in the 27th SEA Games.—*MNA*

Mid-year Gems Emporium continues for fourth day



NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—A total of 5500 gems

year Myanmar Gems Emporium-2011 here today and fetched 1688 jade lots

through the open tender system on the fourth day. Secretary of Myanma

Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and officials supervised the emporium which was organized by Myanma Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee.

Local and foreign gems merchants have observed the jade stones and have tendered for the jade lots.

The jewellery shops at the first floor of Mani Yadana Jade Hall are packed with buyers today.

The emporium will be held until 3 January.

MNA

Myanmar Brewery Ltd donates blood

YANGON, 28 Dec—The 9th blood donation of Myanmar Brewery Ltd took place at National Blood Donation Bank building here on 16 December.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd, established in 1996, has been making blood donation in Yangon and Mandalay since 2006. The blood bottles have reached 4823 till previous time. A total of 630 donors for this time have registered to donate blood.—*MNA*

UMFCCI's talk on Google on 30 Dec

YANGON, 28 Dec—Director of Sales Operations and Strategy of Google's multi-billion dollar advertising business in the Asia-Pacific region Mr Joachim Ackermann gives talk on "Google, Innovation and Internet" at UMFCCI

Body-building and Physical Culture Contest held

YANGON, 28 Dec—The opening ceremony of Body-building and Physical Culture Contest (senior and junior levels) for students of universities and degree colleges from Higher Education Department (lower Myanmar) of the Education Department and Institutes of Education was held at Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University this morning.

Rector U Kyaw Ye Tun of Yangon East University extended greeting on the occasion.

The selected participants will compete in final step tomorrow.—*MNA*

Office Tower at 2.30 pm on 30 December.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized the event which is open to all interested persons.—*MNA*



An RS-18 Stiletto intercontinental ballistic missile silo.—INTERNET

Russia tests RS-18 ballistic missiles

Moscow, 28 Dec—Russia has successfully test-launched a RS-18 intercontinental ballistic missile on Tuesday, said the Defence Ministry.

According to the ministry's spokesman Vadim Koval, the missile was launched from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan and had reached the target in Kamchatka. "The main task of the launch is to test the new missile's stability and capability to overcome the existing anti-missile defence means," Koval told reporters.

"The test was conducted under a programme of extending the service life of the RS-18 missile and also to test its new combat equipment," he added.

Koval said that the Russian Strategic Missile Forces are considering to extend the RS-18 missiles' service life by one year to 33 years.

The RS-18 is a ground-based intercontinental ballistic missile capable to carry six self-guided warheads.

The missile, which first entered service in the 1970s, is one of the oldest missiles in the current Russian strategic arsenal.—Internet

Bulava missile ready to be deployed

Moscow, 28 Dec—The flight tests of the Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile have been completed and it will now be adopted for service with the Russian Navy, President Dmitry Medvedev said Tuesday.

"We have made a very important step, we have completed the cycle of flight tests of the Bulava missile. Now it will be put into service," he said.

Russia successfully test-launched two Bulava missiles Friday. The missiles were launched from the Borey-class Yury Dolgoruky nuclear-powered submarine in the White Sea and hit designated targets at the Kura test range on Kamchatka, some 6,000 km to the east.

They were the 18th and 19th test launches of the troubled Bulava. Only 11 launches have been officially declared successful.

But some analysts suggest that in reality the number of failures was considerably larger. Russian military expert Pavel Felgenhauer said that of the Bulava's first 12 test launches, only one was entirely successful.

Despite several previous failures, officially blamed on manufacturing faults, the Russian military has insisted that there was no alternative to the Bulava.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30), developed by the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology since 1998, carries up to 10 warheads and has a range of over 8,000 km. The three-stage ballistic missile is designed for deployment on Borey-class nuclear submarines.—Internet



Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile.—INTERNET

Fresh Israeli airstrike wounds eight Gazans

GAZA, 28 Dec—Eight Palestinians were moderately injured in an Israeli airstrike on the Gaza City on Tuesday night, hours after an earlier air raid killed an Islamic Jihad militant in the area, medical sources said.

The fresh airstrike hit a four-by-four car in al-Jalla street in northern Gaza City and moderately injured eight Palestinians in the car, staff of Gaza's ambulance and emergency service said.

Witnesses said they heard a huge explosion caused by a missile, which hit the car in the back, and the identity of the eight victims was not immediately known.

An Israeli television reported that the airstrike

targeted Gaza activists who helped to smuggle weapons from Egypt's Sinai to the Gaza Strip.

Earlier Tuesday, an Islamic Jihad militant was killed and four civilians injured in an Israeli airstrike on a motorcycle in northern Gaza Strip, medics and witnesses said.

Ashraf al-Qedra, spokesman of the health ministry of the de facto Hamas government in Gaza, told reporters that Abdullah al-Telbani in his mid-twenties was killed and four others wounded by an Israeli air-to-ground missile.

The armed wing of the Islamic Jihad said in a message that Telbani is a

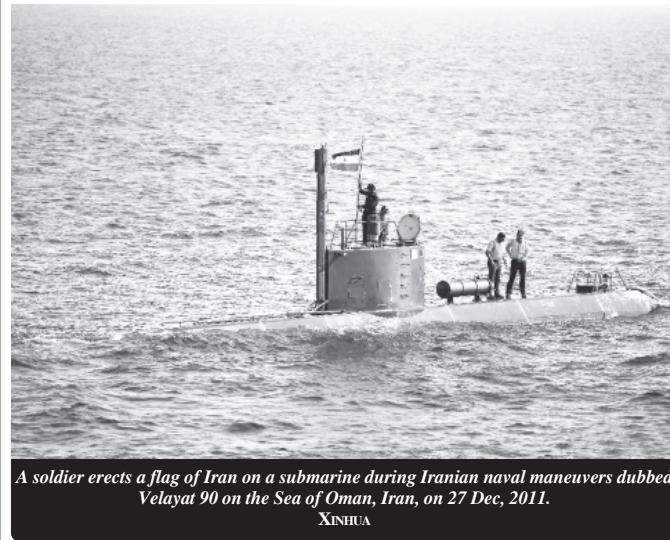
member of the group and was killed in the Israeli airstrike.



The airstrike coincided with the third anniversary of Israel's three-week Cast Lead operation on the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip in late 2008, in which more than 1,400 Palestinians were killed and around 5,000

Palestinians inspect a car targeted in Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, on 27 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

injured. A fragile ceasefire was reached between Hamas and Israel after the conflict. However, the ceasefire has been violated several times, forcing its mediators, mainly Egypt, to intervene and reinforce it.—Xinhua



A soldier erects a flag of Iran on a submarine during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 27 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

Three NATO service members killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 Dec—Three NATO service members were killed Tuesday in a blast in eastern Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed on Wednesday morning.

"Three International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan yesterday," the NATO-led ISAF said in a Press release.

However, the brief release did not reveal the nationalities of the victims under ISAF policy, only saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

Troops mostly from the United States have been stationed in eastern Afghanistan within the framework of ISAF to curb Taliban-linked militancy there. Afghan Taliban has launched massive IED attacks against ISAF and Afghan national security force in recent years.

A total of 558 NATO soldiers, most of them Americans, have been killed in Afghanistan since beginning this year.

Xinhua

Mexico police arrested over torture video

MEXICO CITY, 28 Dec—Mexican authorities arrested five policemen on Monday on suspicion of torture after a video was made public showing police officers submerging a detainee's head in a bucket of water.

An official at the attorney general's office said five Mexico City police officers were taken into custody over the alleged torture, which took place in the capital's tough inner city

neighborhood of Tepito last month.

Soon after the incident, a video was posted on the Internet showing a man with his shirt pulled over his head being dunked in a bucket of water while in the custody of a unit of well-armed policemen. President Felipe Calderon's term in office has been dominated by an army-led crackdown on drug trafficking cartels, which sparked a wave of criminal

violence that has claimed more than 45,000 lives in the past five years.

Human rights groups have accused the police and army of abuses, including torture and killings, though very few officials have been convicted.

Last month activists asked the International Criminal Court in The Hague to investigate Calderon and top officials over the allegations.—Reuters

District council chief, son shot dead in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, 28 Dec—A district council chief and his son were shot dead late Tuesday by suspected militants in the southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province, a local official said on Wednesday.

"Unknown armed men opened indiscriminate fire on

the vehicle of Abdul Baqi, the district council chief of Musa Qala District, late Tuesday killing Baqi and his son on the spot," a spokesman for provincial government Daud Ahmadi told Xinhua on Wednesday morning.

He said Baqi was driving from district headquarters to

home when the incident occurred in which his grandson was also seriously injured in the province with Lashkar Gah as its capital, some 555 km south of capital City of Kabul.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. Afghan officials and

pro-government figures have been repeatedly targeted by the militants since May this year when the Taliban militants launched a rebel offensive against Afghan government forces and NATO-led troops in militancy-hit country.

The Taliban militant group, who also warned people against supporting government and foreign troops, has yet to make comments.

Xinhua

Faster test to diagnose bowel, pancreatic cancers

LONDON, 28 Dec—A simple online calculator could help diagnose two of the deadliest forms of cancer—pancreatic and bowel—much faster than existing tests and save thousands of lives every year.

Researchers have developed two new QCancer algorithms, which cross-reference symptoms and risk factors of patients to red flag those most likely to have the two types of cancer.

The test was successful in predicting 62 percent of all pancreatic cancers diagnosed over two years which were in the top 10 percent of patients predicted to be most at risk, the *British*



A simple online calculator could help diagnose two of the deadliest forms of cancer - pancreatic and bowel - much faster than existing tests and save thousands of lives every year.—INTERNET

Journal of General Practice reports. Said Julia Hippisley-Cox, professor of primary care at Nottingham University who led the study: "We hope these new tools will help GPs (general practitioners) with ... identifying patients... (and help improve treatment

options and outcomes for patients." Pancreatic cancer has the worst survival rate for any cancer, almost three-quarters of patients die within a year of diagnosis.

Famous victims include Steve Jobs, Patrick Swayze and Luciano Pavarotti.

Catching the disease in the early stages can offer a more optimistic prognosis for patients - however, with very few established risk factors and no reliable screening test available, according to a university statement.

The study used data from 564 GPs to develop the algorithm and test its success at predicting which patients were likely to have pancreatic cancer, based on a combo of symptoms including weight and appetite loss, abdominal pain and risk factors such as age, chronic pancreatitis, smoking and diabetes. Colorectal cancer, or bowel cancer, is the second most common cancer in Europe as well as the second most common cause of cancer-related death.—*Internet*

Multi-vitamins confer zero benefits

LONDON, 28 Dec—Popping multi-vitamin pills doesn't seem to confer any real health benefits, according to a new study. A team led by Nancy University researchers in France tracked 8,112 volunteers who took either a placebo or one containing vitamin C, vitamin E, beta-carotene, selenium and zinc, daily for over six years.

The study, one of the most exhaustive to date, suggests that millions may be throwing their money away without deriving any real benefits. They were just as likely to develop cancer or heart disease as those who took an identical-looking dummy pill.

It found that pills containing vitamin E, ascorbic acid, beta-carotene, selenium and zinc increased the risk of malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, four-fold, the *Daily Mail* reports. Many users fall into the category of healthy adults who believe the pills will act to insure them against deadly illnesses, said Catherine Collins, chief dietician at St George's Hospital in London. "But they are wasting their money. This was a large study following people up for a long period of time assessing everything from their mobility and blood pressure to whether they were happy or felt pain," she added.

It also discovered that women on a daily multi-vitamin pill increased their risk of breast cancer by up to 20 percent. While the evidence that vitamins can do harm is still limited, the latest study seems to confirm that many people are at the very least taking them unnecessarily.—*Internet*

Health Tip: Choose your day to quit smoking

Your desire to stop smoking is a major decision, and shouldn't be taken lightly. The Cleveland Clinic offers some suggestions:

- * Set your quit date a few weeks in advance. Slowly cut down and create a plan for quitting. Avoid places where you once liked to smoke.
- * The day you quit, keep yourself busy. Toss out all your cigarettes.
- * Understand that nicotine replacements (such as gum or a patch) can help you quit, but you probably will still have to fight the urge to smoke.
- * Quit forever, and don't allow yourself an occasional cigarette.
- * Tell yourself that you cannot give in and smoke.
- * Seek help, such as a smoking cessation programme, if you need it.—*Internet*



Experts have said that millions of consumers might be wasting their money on multi-vitamin supplements, as they do nothing for health.

INTERNET



BSE Sensex slips early, Tata Power rises

MUMBAI, 28 Dec—The BSE Sensex dropped in early trade on Wednesday, taking cues from weak Asian markets and with many investors staying away ahead of year-end.

Tata Power rose 3.7 percent after the utility said late on Tuesday it would buy out BP Alternative Energy Holding's 51 percent stake in joint venture Tata BP Solar.

At 9:17 am (0347 GMT), the main 30-share BSE index was down 0.2 percent at 15,849.22, with 19 of its components falling.

The 50-share NSE index was down 0.2 percent at 4,740.50.

Reuters



The BSE Sensex dropped in early trade on Wednesday, taking cues from weak Asian markets and with many investors staying away ahead of year-end.—INTERNET

Business



Customers walk into a Sears store at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax, Virginia, on 7 January, 2010. REUTERS

Sears closing up to 120 stores as sales slide

VIRGINIA, 28 Dec—Sears Holdings Corp will close as many as 120 of its Kmart and Sears discount and department stores after its holiday sales slumped, sending its shares sliding more than 27 percent to their lowest level in three years.

The retailer, which is controlled by its chairman, the hedge fund manager Edward Lampert, has seen sales decline every year since the \$11 billion merger of the two chains in 2005, and likely faces further closings to cut expenses, preserve cash and push back against rivals such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc and Amazon.com Inc, analysts said.

Sears also disclosed on Tuesday that it tapped its credit line to borrow cash and forecast that fourth-quarter earnings would fall by more than half.

Under Lampert, the company, once one of the most successful US retailers with a history going back to 1886, has let stores deteriorate, said analysts, who also faulted poor locations and ho-hum merchandise for its ongoing problems.

"They've neglected this business for so long," independent retail analyst Brian Sozzi said, adding that he expects more closings. "They are letting Kmart and Sears die on the vine."

In a memo to staff obtained by Reuters, Chief Executive Lou D' Ambrosio, who took the job in February, blamed the economy for some of Sears' problems but acknowledged "we also did not execute with the consistency or speed necessary" in areas under Sears' control. "We will do better," he continued.

Reuters

US consumer confidence jumps

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—US consumer confidence jumped this month, mapping the fourth-quarter surge in the economy and optimism about the coming half-year, a key gauge showed on Tuesday. The Conference Board's monthly index surged from 55.2 in November to 64.5 in December, back to the levels of early 2011 after the collective mood soured deeply in the middle of the year. "Consumers' assessment of current business and labour market conditions improved again," said Conference Board official Lynn Franco.

"Looking ahead, consumers are more optimistic that business conditions, employment prospects, and their financial situations will continue to get better." "While consumers are ending the year in a somewhat more upbeat mood, it is too soon to tell if this is a rebound from earlier declines or a sustainable shift in attitudes." While there was an upturn in the number of those polled expecting improvements in the next six months, two-thirds of respondents believe that the current conditions will stay the same.—*Internet*



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Scientists test sick Alaska seals for radiation

Science

SEATTLE, 28 Dec—Scientists in Alaska are investigating whether local seals are being sickened by radiation from Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant. Scores of ring seals have washed up on Alaska's Arctic coastline since July, suffering or killed by a mysterious disease marked by bleeding lesions on the hind flippers, irritated skin around the nose and eyes and patchy hair loss on the animals' fur coats.

Biologists at first thought the seals were suffering from a virus, but they have so far been unable to identify one, and tests are now underway to find out if radiation is a factor.

"We recently received samples of seal tissue from diseased animals captured near St Lawrence Island with a request to examine the material for radioactivity," said John Kelley, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Marine

Science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "There is concern expressed by some members of the local communities that there may be some relationship to the Fukushima nuclear reactor's damage," he said. The results of the tests would not be available for "several weeks," Kelley said.

Water tests have not picked up any evidence of elevated radiation in US Pacific waters since the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan, which caused multiple fuel meltdowns at the Fukushima plant and forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate the surrounding area.

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have been seeking the cause of the diseased seals for weeks, but have so far found no answers.—Reuters



A diseased ringed seal in Alaska is shown in this handout photo released to Reuters on 13 Oct, 2011.

REUTERS

Invasive lionfish making Florida home



Antennata Lionfish.

INTERNET

FORT LAUDERDALE, 28 Dec—Lionfish, an invasive species from the South Pacific, have taken up residence in the waters of South Florida's estuaries and are there to stay, scientists say.

With no natural predators in the area, the fish are a threat to the ecosystem as the gobble up

native shrimp, crab and reef fish, marine researchers say.

An aquarium favourite, lionfish have been spreading for years from South Florida north to the Carolinas, south to Venezuela, east to the Caribbean islands and west along the Gulf Coast to Texas, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported

Monday.

Increasing numbers are becoming homebodies in the waters off Florida's Palm Beach Country, scientists say.

"These fish really stay put, at least in our system," Zachary Jud, a marine scientist at Florida International University, said. "We've had some fish that stayed in the same spot for months. The greatest distance some moved was a couple hundred feet."

Because adult lionfish tend to stay in one place, efforts to keep down their numbers by capturing or spearing them have been successful.

But care is needed as they can deliver a painful sting, although the venom is not fatal.

Internet

Satellite navigation system launched

BEIJING, 28 Dec—China started to run its own satellite positioning system, Beidou, on Tuesday as the country climbed the global tech ladder and challenged the monopoly of the West.

Beidou, or Big Dipper, the domestic version of the US Global Positioning System (GPS), started providing navigation, positioning and timing data on a pilot basis to China and the neighbouring area for free on Tuesday, Ran Chengqi, director of the China Satellite



Satellite navigation system launched.—INTERNET

Navigation Office, said.

The system, with 10 orbiting satellites, covers an area from Australia in the south to Russia in the north. Signals can reach the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region in the west and the Pacific Ocean in the east, Ran said. With six more satellites to be launched next year, the system will cover a wider area and eventually the entire globe by 2020 with a constellation of 35 satellites, he said.

The accuracy of the positioning service will also improve as more satellites orbit. During the trial run Beidou can offer positioning to within 25 metres but when the system is officially launched next year accuracy will be enhanced to within 10 metres, he said.

With the system

operational China is the third member of an elite group, along with the US and Russia, to develop a satellite navigation system.

The US spent 20 years and more than \$20 billion on the GPS. Completed in 1994, the system has 24 navigation satellites and is widely used around the world. Beidou has its own unique features, Ran said.

"It not only tells users where they are and what time it is but also allows users to tell others the information through short messages," Ran said, adding that this feature is being considered by other systems. Russia's Glonass system achieved a 24-satellite constellation in 1996 but succumbed to funding problems.

Xinhua

The most popular Android apps according to your age

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—If you're aged between 18 and 24, you're probably using YouTube to watch videos, playing social word game Words With Friends and listing to Pandora radio. If you're aged 35 and over Angry Birds might be more your thing.

But no matter what age you are, you're more than



Facebook for Android is one of the most popular apps amongst all Android owners.

INTERNET

likely using a range of Google-made apps like Gmail, Maps and Search, and social networking app Facebook on your Android device says market researcher Nielsen in its latest research on smartphone usage in the US.

"Facebook's popular app is the most active among Android owners 18-24 and 25-34, who both hover at around an 80 percent active reach. Additionally, more than three quarters of users

Technology

35-44 used the app recently as well," said Nielsen. Google's social network Google+ was more popular with those aged 25 and above than with younger users but did not make it into the top 15 most-used apps ranking.

Google's own video sharing app YouTube is a popular choice for Android owners with 64 percent of 18-24 year-olds using the app during the month of September.—Internet

Now, 'smart' vending machine that scans faces to dispense desserts

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—Intel and Kraft Foods have rolled out a 'smart' vending machine in US, which analysis buyer's age and gender to tailor the products to the shoppers. The iSample is being used to offer customers trials of a new dessert and the makers of this machine intend to retrofit the technology to existing vending machines.

Primarily aimed at adult-focused promotion, the



The iSample is being used to test six jelly desserts targeted at adults.

INTERNET

machine allows companies to study what types of people are buying their products.

An optical sensor fitted to the top of the machine to identify the shape of the human face. A computer processor then carries out a series of calculations based on measurements such as the distance between the eyes, nose and ears. These are used to settle on the sex of the shopper and place them in one of fourage brackets. This data is then used to decide what, if any, product the

shopper should be served.

"It's actually very quick - it's a fraction of a second," the BBC quoted Michelle Tinsley, Intel's general manager of personal solutions as saying. "We have trained the software to do this via machine learning on a bunch of pictures of human faces."

"It does the calculations very quickly right there on the machine - it does not need to go off into the internet or cloud - and then based on that will recognise that you fit a certain demographic."

Intel emphasized that the machine does not take any photographs or video, so it does not offer any footage for hackers to steal or employees to misuse.

Kraft is using the device to trial Temptations - a jelly-based dessert. The product is marketed as 'the first Jell-O that's just for adults', so if the machine detects a child it asks them to step away.—Internet

BSNL launches latest internet Wi-Max facility in Kullu district

KULLU, 28 Dec—State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has introduced the latest broadband internet connectivity 'Wi-Max' service in six places in Kullu District.

This was informed by Sub-divisional Engineer of BSNL Dharmesh Gupta while addressing Bharat Nirman Public Information Campaign held here today.

He stated that six places—Palach, Dayar, Shamshi, Pradu, Khakhhol and Galash—have been linked with Wi-Max broadband facility by BSNL. He said 10 cyber cafe has been set up in the kullu district to provide broadband facility at rate of Rs 5 a hour.

Mr Gupta said BSNL has 85 mobile towers and out of 59 telephone exchanges 36 were offering broad band connectivity in Kullu District and 3022 internet connection were issued to people in the district. He said in order to save the faulty landline users from inconveniences, 37 WLL towers were also being set up in the district. He said BSNL had 195000 customers in the district including 17000 landline and 4000 WLL users.

He claimed that out of total 17446 village 17495 have been linked with telephone services and left out 49 villages would be provide satellite phones to connect them with village telephony.—Internet

China-Cuba ties thrive in 2011

HAVANA, 28 Dec—China and Cuba strengthened their friendship, cooperation and coordination in 2011, with frequent exchanges of high-level visits and mutual support in global affairs.

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping visited Cuba in June, followed by Chinese Agriculture Minister Han Changfu who made a trip to the island nation in July.

Guo Boxiong, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s Central Committee and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, visited Cuba in October, while Han Qide, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress travelled to the country in November.

In late August, Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the secretariat of the

Communist Party of Cuba's (CCP) Central Committee, visited China as special envoy of Cuban leader Raul Castro. Built on sustained close relationship and mutual respect between the two nations, cooperation and economic exchanges continued to grow, and now China has become Cuba's second-largest trade partner after Venezuela.

In the outgoing year, Cuba and China boosted cooperation in oil exploration, hotel construction and biotechnology, signing agreements to develop vaccines and agricultural products.

China kept exporting electrical appliances, food, medical equipment, vehicles and machinery to Cuba, which supplied China with nickel, rum, medicine and sugar. Chinese firms made a

prominent presence during the year's leading business events in Cuba, such as Computer Science-2011 in February and the 29th Havana International Fair held from 31 Oct to 5 Nov, bringing along high-quality and innovative products.

Cultural exchanges have also increased. In early November, China's Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra gave two performances in Havana, with traditional Chinese music and old musical instruments captivated the Cuban audiences.

As the two governments, parties and peoples get closer, the language is no longer a barrier. Many Chinese students are studying Spanish in Cuba, while Cuban students are learning Chinese at the University of Havana's Confucius Institute.—Xinhua



Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang (C) speaks as he attends a national finance work conference in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton again top most admired list

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continue to be named by Americans as the Most Admired Man and Most Admired Woman living today in any part of the world.

While Obama has been the Most Admired Man four years in a row Clinton has been the Most Admired Woman each of the last 10 years, according to a new Gallup poll, leading public opinion pollster.

The top five Most Admired men also include George W Bush, Bill Clinton, Billy Graham, and Warren Buffett, while Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, Sarah Palin, and Condoleezza Rice round out the top five Most Admired women. Hillary Clinton has now topped the list of Most Admired women a total of 16 times since 1993, finishing second in 1995 and 1996 to Mother Teresa and in 2001 to Laura Bush. No other woman has been named Most Admired Woman as many times as Clinton. Eleanor Roosevelt is second with 13 No 1 finishes, followed by Margaret Thatcher, Jacqueline Kennedy, and Mother Teresa.

Barack Obama's first-place finish is his fourth. Dwight Eisenhower holds the record for first-place finishers among men, with 12, followed by Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton with 8 each. It is clear from the list of Most Admired men that presidents usually win the honor, Gallup said. A sitting or newly elected president has won the distinction each of the last 31 years, and 55 times out of the 65 it has been asked.

Internet

Sarkozy vows to support Nigeria in fight against terrorists

PARIS, 28 Dec—French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Tuesday vowed to support Nigeria in the fighting against terrorists following a spate of violent attacks on Christmas Day that killed over 40 people.

In a letter released by Elysee Palace, the French president strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in the northern city of Madalla "where a cowardly

attack was directed against the Church of St.

Theresa, while the Christmas Mass was celebrated there."

"In this symbolic day, terrorists have killed those who prayed for peace in the world," he added.

Sarkozy expressed "the friendship and solidarity of France" to the entire Nigerian people in the letter addressed to his Nigerian counterpart



French President Nicolas Sarkozy. INTERNET

President Goodluck Jona-

than, saying "these heinous crimes will strengthen our common determination to fight relentlessly against terrorism."

Nigeria is France's biggest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa with French oil giant Total among the major producers of crude in the country.

At least 40 people were killed on Christmas Day after five bombing attacks targeted churches across Nigeria. Islamist militant from Boko Haram group claimed the responsibility of the attacks.

Xinhua

Iranian official threatens oil blockade

TEHERAN, 28 Dec—A senior Iranian official threatened Tuesday Iran would block oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz if his country is slapped with economic sanctions. "If they impose sanctions on Iran's oil, not even a drop of oil will be allowed through the Strait of Hormuz," Iranian First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi said at an international forum in Teheran, the Iranian network Press TV

reported. "We take no interest in animosity and hostility, our belief is friendship and brotherhood, but the West will not end its scheming."

About 15 million barrels of oil pass through the strait daily. The threat, along with Iranian naval exercises in the region, helped send the price of oil above \$101 per barrel Tuesday.

The New York Times noted the threat came as the United States considers steps

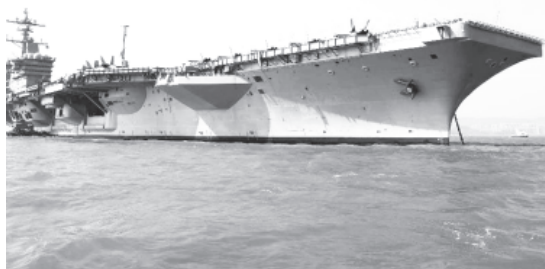
that would ratchet up the pressure on Iran to abandon its nuclear weapons programme by clamping down on its ability to get its oil to market. A White House spokesman said there would be no comment on the Iranian official's threat, the Times reported. Obama administration officials have said previously there is a plan to keep the strait open in the event of a crisis, the newspaper said.—Internet



Palestinian Hamas policewomen take part in a graduation ceremony in Gaza City, on 27 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

Photo taken on 27 Dec, 2011 shows the American aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in Hong Kong, south China, on 27 Dec, 2011. The nuclear-powered supercarrier berthed in the water area of Hong Kong on Tuesday, starting a three-day visit for replenishment.

XINHUA



Pentagon chief orders review of anti-bullying policies

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has directed military commanders to review anti-bullying policies in the armed forces, after eight soldiers were charged with hazing that led to the death of a fellow Chinese-American soldier in Afghanistan, the American Forces Press Service said Tuesday.

"I will not tolerate any instance where one service member inflicts any form of physical or psychological abuse that degrades, insults, dehumanizes or injures another service member," Panetta wrote in a holiday message sent 23 Dec to service members around the world.

He directed military commanders to "personally review" policies and ensure compliance.

"This has my personal attention, as we continue our combat mission in Afghanistan, transition from our campaign in Iraq, and continue our global presence performing our nation's duties," the secretary wrote. "I need you to continue to make this a priority within your commands as this has a direct impact on our force readiness."

Eight US soldiers were charged last week in connection with the death of a fellow Chinese-American soldier in October.

Army Pvt Danny Chen, deployed to southern Afghanistan in August with the 25th Infantry Division, was found dead on 3 Oct in a guard tower from "an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound," Army investigators said.—Xinhua

Brit police clamp down on websites aiming to dupe Olympics visitors

LONDON, 28 Dec—Detectives from UK's top cyber crime unit have spotted out various websites, which are targeting Olympic visitors by using Olympic images.

Police have already shut down around 2000 such websites, which were trying to con people by selling them luxury goods in the name of Olympics. Close eye is being kept on thousands of more such Olympic websites which have come up recently and are trying to endorse their good by deliberately relating themselves to London Olympics which will be taking place next year.

The signature image of five Olympic rings is the most commonly used tool by these frauds on their websites to convince their target consumers. "These websites have been set up and are in a holding position, and

we will monitor them to see if they are used for criminal purposes", says Janet Williams, Deputy Assistant Commissioner at the Metropolitan police.

Police officials are ready to tackle any kind of cyber crime, which is expected to hit London Olympics. *The Guardian* reports. "We would be naive to think that it would be the only threat during the Olympics. The issues we are planning around include a possible attack on the transport system but we have to be flexible," she further adds.

Police and security agencies are not taking any possible cyber crime threat lightly since the e-crime unit has largely overlooked Olympics and cyber crime has increased rapidly in last few years.

Internet



A huge dragon-shaped lantern is installed in Singapore's Chinatown for the approaching Chinese traditional lunar new year, the Year of Dragon, on 27 Dec, 2011. XINHUA



Photo shows the hot air balloon on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 27 Dec, 2011. A hot air balloon and eight floating balloons, with slogans against drunk driving, were inaugurated Monday in order to raise the awareness of the public. —XINHUA

Kidnapped woman gets help through Facebook

SANDY, 28 Dec—A Utah woman whose boyfriend allegedly held her and her 17-month-old son hostage, beat her and choked her, got help by posting a plea on Facebook, police said.

Police said Troy Critchfield, 33, allegedly held the woman and the couple's son and took her cellphone in their home in Sandy, a suburb of Salt Lake City, KTVX-TV, Salt Lake City, reported.

The woman managed to grab her laptop Christmas

and went to a closet where she wrote on Facebook: "Hello, is anyone out there? I'm having serious problems and me and [her son] will be dead by morning."

Her friends led police to the home, where officers say they found her bruised and bloody.

Documents stated the woman said Critchfield had beaten, choked and sodomized her and had "thrown" her 17-month-old son, who also was bruised.

Critchfield was arrested

on suspicion of kidnapping, sodomy and child abuse.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported Critchfield was convicted last year of a felony assault against the woman. He was sentenced in February to 120 days in jail and three years of probation.

Critchfield was being held without bail in Salt Lake County jail.

Internet

A visitor views a painting at Han Meilin Art Exhibition held at National Museum of China in Beijing, Capital of China, on 27 Dec, 2011. Chinese famous artist Han Meilin's solo exhibition is held here from 26 Dec, 2011 to 8 Feb, 2012. The exhibition showcases over 3,000 pieces of artworks ranging from painting, sculpture, ceramic to design.—XINHUA



Stratfor hacking victims may be targeted again

BEIJING, 28 Dec—Stratfor, a global intelligence company, said some victims of a data breach may be targeted again for offering public support for the company after they speak out about the hacking, according to media reports on Tuesday.

US-based Stratfor, provides independent analysis of international affairs and security threats and describes itself as a publisher of geopolitical analysis.

It charges subscribers for its reports and analysis, delivered through the web, emails and videos.

Stratfor said on its Facebook page that its affected clients and its supporters "are at risk of having sensitive information repeatedly published on other websites."

According to the *Associated Press*, the hacking

movement "Anonymous" claimed Sunday through Twitter that it had stolen thousands of credit card numbers and other personal information belonging to the company's clients.

A Stratfor spokesman said several law enforcement agencies are investigating the incident but would not say whether the information was encrypted in its database.

The data was posted in a series of releases in links embedded in online messages that, in turn, were linked to Twitter. Some of the files appeared to be alphabetical listings of Stratfor clients with related credit card information.

The amount posted suggests that information about more than 100,000 individuals and thousands of companies was exposed, according to the *AP* report.—Xinhua

Drug traffickers held carrying heroin in stomach

MOSCOW, 28 Dec—Two drug couriers who had concealed heroin capsules in their stomachs have been detained at the airport of Russia's Siberian city of Novosibirsk, the customs Press service said Tuesday.

The two men, a Kyrgyz and a Tajik, arrived in Novosibirsk from Kyrgyzstan Capital Bishkek. The exact date of their detention was not reported. "The drug couriers were trying to transport 30 cylindrical containers (with heroin) covered with latex in their stomachs," a statement said, adding that the seized heroin 300 grams. The detainees admitted they had been paid USD 1,000 each to transport the drugs. They face prison terms of up to seven years and a fine of up to one million rubles (USD 32,000) if found guilty of drug trafficking.

Up to 80 tonnes of heroin — some 20 percent of the world's consumption — flows into Russia from Afghanistan every year via former Soviet Central Asian republics, according to UN estimates.—Internet



Egyptian workers repair the building of Scientific Institute in Cairo, Egypt, on 27 Dec, 2011. The Scientific Institute was built in 1798. XINHUA

Police raid home as dog wrongly smells cannabis

LONDON, 28 Dec—A middle-class couple were stunned after their house was raided by police following a sniffer dog's mistake of suspecting them of growing cannabis in their garden. Chris and Anne Vincent, a respectable couple in their late 50s, answered the door of their village home to find police demanding access to their garden, the *Daily Mail* reported. Police dogs picked up the waft of cannabis coming from the Vincents' flower bed in the Warwickshire Village of Bidford-on-Avon.

Neighbours had reported how streams of local teenagers had been knocking on the couple's door asking to buy marijuana. As the couple allowed the drug squad into their detached home, the mystery was solved. The source of the smell was not marijuana plants but a common evergreen Moss Phlox, a five-petalled flower in hues of blue and pink.—Internet

Afghan girl rescued after being locked up in toilet for months

PUL-I-KHUMRI, 28 Dec—Police in northern Afghanistan have rescued a young girl who had been locked up in a toilet for at least half a year and was frequently beaten for refusing to have sex with men, local media reported on Tuesday.

The 15-year-old girl, who was identified as Sar Gul, married 30-year-old Mohammad Azim about nine months ago. She had since been living with her husband and parents-in-law in Baghlan Province, where she was frequently beaten and denied food. *The Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)* agency reported that, about six months ago, Gul was locked inside a toilet after she had refused to have sex with men who were brought to the home by her parents-in-law. The victim's parents, who live in Badakhshan Province, recently discovered the situation and informed police who freed her.

Following her rescue, officials took Gul to the Pul-i-Khumri Civil Hospital where she is being treated for severe mental stress. She is also being treated for various injuries, including burns across her body. All of her nails had been pulled off with pliers.

Hospital chief Dr Gul Mohammad Wardak told the news agency that the girl was in a critical condition and may be transferred to the Capital of Kabul in order to receive further treatment. The report said Gul's mother-in-law had been arrested, but her husband was able to flee.

It was not immediately clear if Gul's husband would also face arrest. According to Afghanistan's civil code, girls cannot marry before they reach the age of 16. Nonetheless, child marriages remain widespread across the country with some girls being married as young as nine-years-old. According to a 2005 report, nearly 60 percent of marriages in Afghanistan involve girls below the age of 16.—Internet

Region/State CMs urged to develop main staple crop...

(from page 1)

The Chief Ministers looked into cultivation of vegetables, varieties of orchid and flowery plants at green houses in the farm.

At the farmer educative vegetables and fruit plantation, they viewed nurturing of vegetables and fruit plants, thriving Vietnamese hybrid paddy plantation and nursery being jointly nurtured by Myanmar and Vietnamese agriculturalists, test plot of Myanmar-Vietnam hybrid paddy plantation, 35-item vegetables and crops farm and display of seeds and fruits.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing explained cultivation of high yield paddy strains in all countries and production of high yield paddy strains by the ministry. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that in accord with the guidance of the President, a plan will be implemented to successfully pro-

duce Palethwe hybrid paddy strain instead of ordinary paddy strains and to realize the transform of mechanized farming. Thus, he said that officials of region and state governments are to cooperate with local farmers to conduct of mechanized farming. Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Magway regions are to manage cultivation of hybrid paddy strains not only for ensuring local food sufficiency but also for exporting the surplus. And, he urged them to organize entrepreneurs to put their investment in the agricultural sector.

Deputy Ministers U Khin Zaw and U Ohn Than reported on water supply and drainage system in modern land reclamation and construction of production roads, use of power-tiller, paddy transplanting machine and combined harvester, and tasks for boosting production of crops.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing observing production process of Palethwe paddy strain at 500-acre mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. —MNA

The Chief Ministers viewed production of seed bags of Palethwe special yield hybrid paddy, cleaning of seeds, milling of Palethwe paddy and production of rice. They visited thriving hybrid sunflower

plantation.

They also viewed thriving monsoon paddy plantation at the 20-hactare mechanized farmland in Bonigy field near Chaing Village of Dekkhinathiri Township and soil

preparations for 65-acre hybrid paddy seed production plantation to be jointly undertaken by Myanmar and Vietnam. The Union Minister and officials conducted them round the farm.—MNA



Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister holds press conference after second JCBC

YANGON, 28 Dec — Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa held the press conference on the second meeting of Myanmar-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) at Sedona Hotel here today.

At the press meeting, Indonesian FAM Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa briefed on the second Myanmar-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) and answered to the questions raised by journalists.

MNA

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa gives the press conference on the second meeting of Myanmar-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

Electricity cuts in Yangon during Dec 29-Jan 1

YANGON, 28 Dec — Natural-gas fired power plants here will be shut down from 29 December to 1 January, 2012 as the Yetagun offshore natural gas field is under maintenance.

During 29 Dec- 1 Jan, electricity will be supplied to industrial zones from 11 pm to 5 am and will be halted during day time.

Yangon City Power Supply Board said power will be supplied alternately to some wards in Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Kyauktada, Pabedan townships, Kyidaw, Taunglonbyan, Sathsan, Kantawlay (East, West, South, North), Theinbyu, Sanpya, Ph-sa-pa-la, Lutlatyay, Taungnyunt, Miyahtar, Hpo-myay, Thyayagon, Yedwington, Thabyaygon wards and Yuzana Plaza, Mingala Market in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Natmauk, Maugon, Ayogon, Ponnagong, Aungmingala, Kyaukmyaunggyi wards in Tamway Township.

MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Local people participate in mass walk

YANGON, 28 Dec—The mass walk activities for the fourth week of December was organized in Insein Township on 24 December.

Township departmental officials and staff, NGO members, students and local people, totalling about 1500 joyfully participated in the mass walk that started from the park and finished on Aungzeya suspension bridge.

Later, they collectively took physical exercises on the suspension bridge.—Kyemon

2012 MNL Community Shield on 31 Dec

YANGON, 28 Dec—Myanmar Football Federation will organize the football match for MNL Community Shield 2012 in which 2010 MNL League Champions and MFF Cup Knockout Champions Yangon United FC will

meet MNL League runners-up Ayeyawady United FC, at Aung San Stadium at 3.30 pm on 31 December.

Ticket for the match is fixed at K 1000 per head for grand stand and K 500 for ordinary stand. It was reported that all entrance fee will be donated to a social organization. The MNL League Cup will commence on 7 January 2012.—Kyemon



Six agreements signed at second...

(from page 1)

- The six agreements are as follows:-
- (1) Both sides have reached agreement to continue implementing agreements signed in Lashio on 1 October this year.
 - (2) It is agreed to adopt short-term or long-term socio-economic development plans in light of bilateral consultations to enable the Union government to participate in tasks for improvement of living standard of the national people in "Wa" Special Region (2) and for regional development.
 - (3) The Union government agrees to help increase opportunities for national races youths in "Wa" Special Region (2) to pursue education with the mindset to develop their insights, to equip them with vocational education and to realize human resources development.
 - (4) The Union government agrees to

- adopt long-term plans for cooperation of local people in treatment, prevention and education processes of healthcare to national people in "Wa" Special Region (2), acquiring health knowledge.
 - (5) It is agreed to continue negotiating matters related to enable representatives of people in townships of "Wa" Special Region (2) take seats in each Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to represent desires of the people in "Wa" Special Region (2).
 - (6) "Wa" Special Region (2) is an important part of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. "Wa" Special Region (2) agrees to continue to hold talk to cooperate with defence forces of the State for security and defence of the State as one as it agrees not to disintegrate the State and secede from the State at all and to devote all the capacities of "Wa" Special Region (2) to perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State.
- The Union-level peace-making group and "Wa" Special Region peace-



making group exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

The Union-level peace-making group visited Pansang Basic Education High School and attended to the needs.

MNA

Head of Union Level Peace-making Group Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thaung and Vice-Chairman U Shaik Min Lyan of "Wa" Special Region (2) exchange note of six agreements after signing it.—MNA

Myanmar delegation deals with workers affairs in Thailand



Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr Chalern Yoobanrung receives Labour Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—The Myanmar delegation led by Secretary of foreign job supervisory committee Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein left for Thailand on 22 December to discuss affairs of workers arriving in Thailand.

The Myanmar delegation while in Thailand observed regions

where temporary passport and identity card for foreign workers will be issued to Myanmar workers. The delegation also met Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr Chalern Yoobanrung, and officials from Manpower Agency, UN agencies, INGOs and agencies dealing with Myanmar workers affairs.

On 24 December, Myanmar officials held a discussion with the Thai Deputy Prime Minister on facts that computerized temporary passports will be issued beginning 2 January 2012 and setting date and procedures for five Myanmar taskforces to deal with workers affairs in Thailand.

MNA

New school buildings opened in Salingyi, Taze

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—A ceremony to open new building was held at Basic Education Primary School in Mindaw Village of Salingyi Township on 23 December.

Sagaing Region Minister for Forestry, Mines and Energy U Than Htaik,

Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Zaw Oo formally opened the building. Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Thaung Sein unveiled the signboard of the school.

A similar ceremony was held at Inshay Village BEMS Branch in Taze Township on 25 December.

The Region Minister for Social Affairs inspected fire stations in YeU and Dabayin and Saingbyin Village.

MNA

Kyaiklat swarming with paddy-loaded motorboats and porters

Byline & Photos: Min Maung

During my visit in Kyaiklat the other day, I visited Adi Pati Agricultural Implements Trading Limited that provides agricultural implements for local farmers to save their production cost. Kyaiklat rice mill In-charge Capt Soe Khaing (Retd) explained efforts to remain as a strong organization in cash power and workforce in dealing with international rivals, to earn deserved paddy and

rice price for farmers, to be reasonable paddy price in the country, to revitalize the plan for production of processed rice mostly demanded by India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, to have rice reserve in the country, and to export 150,000 tons of paddy in this budget year.

I found Adi Pati rice mill port swarming with paddy-loaded motorboats and porters. In the 2010-2011 budget year, 98.50 percent of

loan disbursement amounted to 10238.000 million kyats for 24036 farmers from 467 villages including Labutta for 197,815 acres of summer and monsoon paddy farms has been settled.

In the 2011-2012 budget year, Thabaung Township was included in loan disbursement plan for monsoon paddy cultivation. A total of 5675.34 million kyats was lent to 19,463 farmers from 374 villages and



Workers thresh paddy crops using threshing machine.

six townships.

Adi Pati Agricultural Implements Trading Limited expanded its business by opening outlets in Myaungmya, Mawgyun and Kyaiklat on 27 March, 2011.

The outlets are now selling tractors, trawlergyi, engines, threshers and other agricultural tools and devices at cheap price. In addition, pricey tractors, threshers, harvesters and 13-HP engines

are available with plan of paying 40 percent cash down and 60 percent in installment within one year.

Translation: ZZS Kyemon: 28-12-2011



Photo shows Adi Pati rice mill of Adi Pati Agricultural Implements Trading Ltd in Kyaiklat Township of Ayeyawady Region.

China races to construct world's second tallest skyscraper

SHANGHAI, 28 Dec—Work crews have completed the foundation for the world's second tallest building one month ahead of schedule and are now rushing to construct the ground structure of the 632-metre Shanghai Tower, second only to the 828-metre-tall Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

Located in China's financial hub of Shanghai, the building is expected to grow by 400 metres next year, with an average of seven days spent on the construction of each floor, said Kong Qingwei, board chairman of the development firm Shanghai Tower Construction and Development Co Ltd.

Kong said Wednesday that it took three years to complete the foundation, and he estimated it will take another three to finish the ground structure.

Once completed, the Shanghai Tower will be the tallest structure in China as well as a new Shanghai landmark alongside the 420.5-metre Jin Mao Tower and the 492-metre Shanghai World Financial Centre. The three skyscrapers in Shanghai's Lujiazui Financial Zone will be connected by subways.

Kong said the Shanghai Tower will be a "vertical city" as it will house hotels, offices, malls and other facilities and will be capable of holding more than 50,000 people.

Xinhua



The foundation for the world's second tallest building has been completed in Shanghai, on 27 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Russia's first hybrid vehicle to go on sale next year

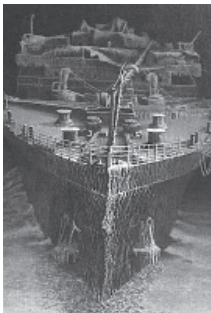
Moscow, 28 Dec—Russian automobile manufacturer Yo-Auto on Tuesday announced that it will be offering the country's first hybrid vehicle late next year.

The company's billionaire co-owner Mikhail Prokhorov spoke on Tuesday to national television on Tuesday to confirm that the first Yo-hybrid is scheduled to come out on sale in December 2012. Prokhorov had said in previous announcements that the goal is to manufacture and offer an eco-friendly vehicle for under USD 10,000. The first Yo-mobile manufacturing plant, which is located near the Russian City of St Petersburg, is estimated to have an annual production capacity of around 45,000 vehicles. However, the capacity is expected to double after the second stage of the plant's construction is completed.

The high-profile billionaire, 46, announced earlier this month that he will take part in next year's presidential election and challenge Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Prokhorov is considered to be Russia's third richest billionaire with a net worth of approximately USD 18 billion. Despite his political plans, Prokhorov plans to carry out his business projects as planned. "I have a very strong team and a highly-skilled and professional staff," Prokhorov said, as quoted by RIA Novosti. "All the projects I announced in business will be implemented in full."

Internet

Now, make trips to Titanic wreck at USD 61,000



Titanic Wreck

Telegraph reported.

Deep Ocean Expeditions are hoping to take 80 people to the ship on the centenary of its sinking in 2012.

However, just two visitors would be able to go down at a time and it would take two hours to descend to the wreck, that was discovered in 1985. The spot is also the resting place for 1,517 people who died April 14, 1912. Rob McCallum, expedition leader of Deep Ocean Expeditions, said it would be the only time the firm took tourists to the spot.

"We never set out to be a retail travel company. Next year will be a poignant year to make the trip. It's a good time for us to sign off," he said.

Between the two parts of the broken ship, the ocean floor is strewn with bottles, cups, knives and leather suitcases.—Internet

LONDON, 28 Dec—People willing to take a look at the then world's biggest ocean liner, the Titanic, will be able to make trips to the wreck at the bottom of the Atlantic at a price of around USD 61,000.

Among those who have already signed up for the trip are a London banker and a doctor from Missouri, the

Endangered Siberian tiger escapes zoo, shot dead in E China

HEFEI, 28 Dec—A female Siberian tiger escaped from a zoo and entered a public park in an east China City late Monday, but she was immediately put down by police on safety concerns, local officials said Tuesday.

The nine-year-old

animal made her way out of the zoo after a zookeeper came to feed her but forgot to properly lock the cage. After the escape, the tiger roamed a public park in downtown Wuhu, a city in Anhui Province, and occasionally met with frightened residents.

More than a dozen armed police came and shot the giant cat before she could attack humans.

Zoo officials said the tiger had a bad temper, probably caused by mating anxiety. The authorities said further investigation is underway.

Siberian tigers are among the world's rarest species. The population of wild Siberian tigers is estimated at around 500, most of which live in eastern Russia and northeastern China. This was the latest incident in a string of cases involving tigers escaping from zoos in China over the past few years, according to local media reports. Most escaped tigers were put down by police if they were not caught. A Bengal tiger killed a zookeeper after escaping the cage in Shanghai last year.—Xinhua



Visitors watch from a bus as Siberian tigers try to catch a chicken at the Siberian Tiger Forest Park in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province on 27 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Digital textbooks proposed for California

SACRAMENTO, 28 Dec—The president of the California Senate says he wants to create a digital library of free course materials for the state's college students.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said he'll introduce legislation next year to use \$25 million in state funds to solicit open-source course materials for 50 lower-division courses at the University of California, California State University

and community college campuses, *The Sacramento Bee* reported Tuesday.

With tuition and fees rising at California's public colleges and universities, the move is bound to be popular with students but will face considerable opposition elsewhere, the newspaper said.

Some professors said they worry the e-books won't meet their standards, and the publishing industry is sure to resist a competitive threat. And Steinberg's proposal

would require another hit on the state's already strained budget.

Some estimates put the annual cost of textbooks to a typical California college student at \$600 to more than \$1,000.

"What we need here is a statewide push to say this is the policy of the state of California, that all students are going to be able to access quality instructional materials at a greatly reduced cost," Steinberg said.

Internet

Thieves in Moscow replace USD 700,000 with fakes

MOSCOW, 28 Dec—A total of 22 million rubles (over USD 700,000) have been stolen from a bank in northern Moscow and replaced with fake bank notes, a police source said Tuesday. Bank employees discovered thousands of fake ruble, dollar and euro bank

notes instead of real cash in the bank's safe vault Monday afternoon, the source said.

A criminal case has been filed into the theft, with criminals, who remain untraced, facing up to 10 years in prison.

Internet



A winter swimmer jumps with a mop into the icy water of the Songhua River in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, China, on 26 Dec 2011.—INTERNET

LCD price-fixing case settled for \$553m

NEW YORK, 28 Dec—Seven companies will pay \$553 million to settle claims they fixed prices for LCD screens, New York state officials announced Tuesday.

The manufacturers agreed to participate in antitrust compliance programs and cooperate with states' ongoing prosecution of other companies. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said in a release announcing the settlement of the case brought by eight state attorneys general and private class-action attorneys.

"This price-fixing

scheme manipulated the playing field for businesses that abide by the rules, and left consumers to pay artificially higher costs for televisions, computers and other electronics," Schneiderman said.

The companies were alleged to have illegally conspired to inflate prices artificially for liquid crystal display screens used in televisions, computer monitors and laptops. The corporations that are part of the settlement are Chi Mei Innolux Corp, Chunghwa Picture Tubes Ltd, Epson

Imaging Devices Corp, HannStar Display Corp, Hitachi Displays Ltd, Samsung Electronics Co and Sharp Corp.

Five of the companies will pay another \$14 million to settle claims brought by the states in their law enforcement capacities. As much as \$501 million will be available for partial refunds to compensate consumers in 24 states and the District of Columbia for purchases they made of products made between 1 Jan, 1999, and 31 Dec, 2006. The rest of the money will go to the states.—*Internet*



A boy and his pony make their way to church to be blessed by priests on St Stephens day in Srednja Vas on 26 Dec, 2011.—*INTERNET*

Vietnam's Vinalines Queen Ship missing at sea



Vietnam's Vinalines Queen Ship.
INTERNET

HANOI, 28 Dec—Vietnam's Vinalines Queen Ship was still missing as of 9 am local time on Tuesday, after more than 48 hours of disconnection and despite international joint search and rescue efforts, *Vietnam News Agency* reported on

Tuesday quoting latest news from the Vietnam Maritime Rescue Cooperation Centre (MRC).

According to MRC, at 7 am local time on 25 Dec, the ship, coded XVHG, MMSI 574953000 and holding Vietnamese national flag,

reported to the centre that it had an 18 degree incline, and lost contact with Vinalines Company afterwards.

The ship was on its way from Morowali port of Indonesia to Ningde port of China, carrying 54,400 tons of nickel minerals and having 23 sailors on board, said MRC.

According to Deputy Director of Vinalines Company Bui Van Cac, right after disconnecting with the ship, MRC called for help from the Philippines rescue forces to launch search and rescue by helicopters, but due to the bad weather they could not find any sign of the missing ship.

Meanwhile, rescue forces from China's Taiwan

and the coast guards from Japan and China's Hong Kong also joined hands in searching the ship around the location where the Vinalines Queen Ship was reported missing, but so far there is not any positive news.

MRC is continuing to contact with its partners in the region to call for cooperation in search for the missing ship.

According to Vinalines Company, the Queen ship was delivered to the company from the Vietnam Maritime Corporation on 5 Dec, and it was launched to sea after meeting all requirements on maritime safety.

Xinhua

Train derails in Australia

KATHERINE, (Australia), 28 Dec—A railroad bridge weakened by flooding fueled by Cyclone Grant collapsed in Australia Tuesday, causing a train loaded with copper ore to derail, officials said.

The derailment, near Katherine, sent much of the 20-car train's load into the Edith River, *The Australian* reported. Two train operators aboard escaped with minor injuries.

The storm dumped more than 15 inches of rain in the area Monday, causing flash flooding that wiped out train tracks and washed out sections of roads.

A 33-foot-high bridge about 40 miles north of Katherine gave way about 6 am Tuesday as the 4,735-ton train was crossing, creating a 165-foot-wide gap in the track, the newspaper said. Another train had passed by about 7 hours earlier, a railway official said.

The rail line, which carries 36 trains per week between Alice Springs and Darwin, is closed indefinitely for repairs, rail operator Genesee & Wyoming Australia said. "Until the water subsides we will not be able to get a full picture of the damage," Managing Director Bert Easthope said.

The Australian said the country's Bureau of Meteorology issued a cyclone watch Tuesday, warning that Grant could redevelop into a Category 1 cyclone Wednesday and head east toward the Cape York Peninsula.—*Internet*



This file handout photo, released by Rio Tinto, shows two large locomotives hauling a load of iron ore out of West Australia's Pilbara region. Heavy flooding following a tropical cyclone in country's north swept a 20-carriage freight train off a bridge, injuring the driver, as the storm system threatened to intensify.—*INTERNET*

Seven dead, 13 injured in NE China road collision

HARBIN, 28 Dec—Seven people were killed and another 13 were injured Tuesday after the bus they were on rear-ended a trailer on a highway in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local officials said.

The crash occurred at about 8:30 am on highway G11 in the city of Jixi. Two people died at the scene, two others on their way to hospital and three after treatments failed. Another 13 passengers sustained minor injuries, officials said, citing hospital sources.

Police are investigating the accident.

Xinhua

Bus-Car head-on collision kills 19 in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, 28 Dec—A minibus taxi and a car collided head-on in the Free State in South Africa, killing 19 people, police said on Tuesday. Both the car and minibus taxi caught fire after they collided late Monday, Sergeant Mmako Mophiring said.

"Some of the people were burned beyond recognition after the impact," he said, adding that four

occupants from the car and fifteen from the taxi died on the scene. Seven people were injured in the accident and received medical treatment at a nearby hospital.

Mophiring said it was alleged that the accident occurred when the car tried to overtake another car on the barrier line but instead collided with the on-coming taxi. The taxi was travelling from QwaQwa and heading

towards Johannesburg.

The victims were among the more than 800 people killed in accidents on South African roads during the holiday season which began on 1 Dec.

Reckless overtaking, drunken driving and speeding have been the main causes behind the accidents, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) said.—*Xinhua*



Photo taken on 27 Dec, 2011 shows the site where a pileup occurred in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province. A truck collided with some ten vehicles while turning a downhill corner here Tuesday, leaving two people dead and 18 injured.

XINHUA

Mexico City tanker truck overturns, spilling hydrochloric acid

MEXICO CITY, 28 Dec—A truck carrying hydrochloric acid overturned in the eastern part of Mexico City on Tuesday morning, forcing local authorities to evacuate neighbouring residents. The accident occurred in the capital's Revolution neighbourhood near Oceania Avenue when the driver of the tanker truck lost control, causing the vehicle to overturn. Because the tank had been punctured, dozens of liters (gallons) of the chemical substance leaked.

Mexico City's Civil Protection Secretary Elias Miguel Moreno Brizuela confirmed that at least two blocks surrounding the scene had been evacuated, while other residents in the neighbourhood have been put on alert. The tanker truck spilled more than 100 liters

(26.4 US gallons) of hydrochloric acid, which can have a corrosive effect on human tissue, potentially damaging the respiratory organs, eyes, skin, and intestines.

Although emergency services were quick to respond and filled the punctured hole with sand, acid continued to leak out. Moreno Brizuela underlined the importance of lifting the truck back up as soon as possible, and five cranes were deployed to assist in doing so.

It is unclear how long it will take to lift the truck and clean up the spill before residents can be allowed to return home. Hydrochloric acid, when mixed with common oxidizing chemicals such as bleach (sodium hypochlorite), the substance transforms into the toxic gas known as chlorine.—*Internet*

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Date: 29 December 2011

Sony to exit LCD joint venture with Samsung

BEIJING, 28 Dec— In a bid to streamline its unprofitable television business, Sony said on Monday it would sell nearly 50 percent stake in an LCD joint venture with Samsung to the South Korean company for 940 million US dollars, according to media reports on Tuesday. Sony's exit from the joint venture, which was set up in Tangjeong, South Korea, in April 2004, will let it switch to less-expensive outsourcing options.

Analysts have long blamed high production costs for Sony's squeezing profit margins in a cutthroat competition. Besides, a strong yen has also weighed on Sony's profit by eroding the value of its overseas earnings when they are repatriated into yen. In November, Sony, the world's third largest flat panel TV maker, warned of a fourth straight year of net losses for the financial year to next March, with its TV unit alone set to lose 2.2 billion dollars on tumbling demand and a surging yen.—Xinhua



The volume of water at the terminus of Ngozumpa is about a third of a cubic km and growing.—INTERNET

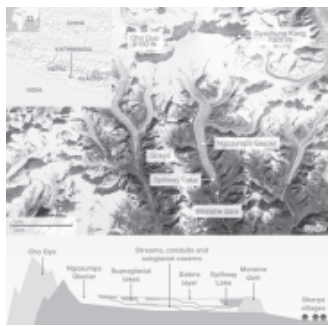
Taking the pulse of Ngozumpa

LONDON, 28 Dec—Ngozumpa Glacier in Nepal snakes away from the sixth highest mountain in the world, Cho Oyo. It's not the greatest glacier to look at - far from it. It's smothered in a layer of rocky debris that's fallen from the surrounding cliffs, giving it a very grey, dirty appearance. But Ngozumpa is generating a lot of scientific interest at the moment. The Nepalese Himalayas have been warming significantly more than the global mean temperature in recent decades. Glaciers in much of the region are showing signs

of shrinking, thinning, and retreating; and this is producing a lot of melt water.

On Ngozumpa, some of this water is seen to pool on the surface and then drain away via a series of streams and caverns to the snout of the glacier. There, some 25km from the mountain, an enormous lake is growing behind a mound of dumped rock fragments. This lake, called Spillway, has the potential to be about 6km long, 1km wide and 100m deep. The concern is that this great mass of water could eventually breach the debris dam and hurtle down the valley, sweeping away the Sherpa villages in its path. The threat is not immediate, but it's a situation that needs monitoring, say scientists.

One of the researchers at work on Ngozumpa is Ulyana Horodyskyj, from the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado in Boulder, US. She is setting up remote cameras to monitor the surface, or supraglacial, pools of water that dot the length of Ngozumpa. Some are small; some are big - the size of several football fields. Already, she has been able to establish just how dynamic these water features can be as they drain and fill in rapid time.—Internet



Farmers warned to do more to prevent sheep rustling

LONDON, 28 Dec—Farmers are being encouraged to do more to prevent the growing problem of livestock rustling across the UK. One insurer says cases of stolen animals more than doubled over the last year, compared to the previous year. In Lancashire, where the problem is particularly bad, police say they will be doing far more spot checks on vehicles carrying livestock.

NFU Mutual estimates more than 60,000 sheep could have been stolen in the UK in the first 10 months of the year. The insurance company says 9,000 sheep had been stolen in north-west of England alone in the same period. NFU Mutual says livestock theft is costing UK farmers at least £6m a year based on insurance claims, but the true total is much higher. Last month, Carmarthenshire farmer Hugh Davies and his wife Mary noticed 150 sheep were missing from their 1,000-head flock on the Black Mountain at Brynamman. "We are now keen to highlight this problem that is causing havoc among sheep farmers," said Mr Davies.—Internet

Winds of up to 101mph recorded in the Northern Isles

LONDON, 28 Dec— Wind speeds of up to 101mph have been recorded in Shetland, after the Met Office issued a severe wind warning for the far north of Scotland. Forecasters issued an amber "be prepared" alert for Christmas Day, lasting until the night, for northern Scotland and the Northern Isles. Overall, Christmas Day in the UK has been the third mildest on record. A high of 14.3C (57.7F) was recorded in County Down — the mildest Christmas Day on record for Northern Ireland. The temperature was recorded in Murlough, where the previous record was 13C — most recently recorded in 1988.—Internet



World 'dangerously unprepared' for future disasters

LONDON, 28 Dec—The world is "dangerously unprepared" for future disasters because rich nations are not doing enough, warns the international development secretary. Andrew Mitchell blames the failure of several countries to pay into the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The UK government has pledged £20m to the fund -- in addition to £40m already promised -- but an estimated £45m shortfall is still expected next year.

The international community must "wake up" to the challenge, he said. The fund, set up by the UN, has been hit hard by a wave of natural disasters this year - the tsunami in Japan; an earthquake in New Zealand; famine in the Horn of Africa; and floods in Pakistan and the Philippines. Mr Mitchell said the increasing numbers of people living in

Japan says it may cost \$309bn to rebuild areas damaged by the tsunami in March.—INTERNET

low-lying or famine-prone areas meant the scale of future tragedies would be greater.

The CREF was set up in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami on Boxing Day 2004. Mr Mitchell said many countries wait for events to happen before offering money but he said this could affect critical emergency response work. He said in the first few hours of a disaster, when survivors are trapped in the rubble of an earthquake, delays and lack of resources can mean the difference between life and death. "This year the world has been rocked by devastating disasters and the evidence suggests this trend is likely to continue.

"The past shows that international responses could have been more effective if they had been properly planned and coordinated as part of one single system instead of a patch-quilt approach we see all too often."

Internet



New quitting smoking programme for young Americans

BEIJING, 28 Dec—The National Cancer Institute has decided to promote a new quitting smoking programme for young Americans soon, announced Erik Auguston, a behavioral scientist at the institute on Tuesday.

The programme aims to help teenagers to quit smoking in early stage before they become chronic addicts, Auguston added, which will first feature a website and texting support, with

smartphone application to be added in January. A research tacking teen smoking habit conducted last year showed that 19 percent of teens smoke by the 12th grade, according to Lloyd Johnston from University of Michigan, the lead researcher.

If keep smoking, those teenagers who were light smokers would easily become heavy ones, Johnston said. "From a health viewpoint, (tobacco) is probably the most important of all the drugs," he stressed. "There's no other product, legal or illegal, that kills as many people."

But, he noted, teenagers normally won't actively engage in quitting smoke program, rather they often go it alone if they try, and "results won't be as satisfying as expected."—Xinhua

Sheep rustling is a problem particularly in Northern Ireland, Wales, Lancashire and Lincolnshire.—INTERNET

Franky is guide dog to blind fellow pug Elly

LONDON, 28 Dec — A new home is wanted for two dogs who have become inseparable, as one acts as the eyes of his blind fellow pug. Franky has taken on the role of guide dog for Elly, who sniffs the air to locate him and then nuzzles up to follow him wherever he goes.

The pair, who are both four, have been taken in by Newport RSPCA officials,

who say they must be homed together.

"He looks out for her and provides support while guiding her on walks or to food or water," said Elaine Buchan. The pugs will need operations before they are able to leave for any new home which offers take them both in. "There's absolutely no option of homing them separately as it would break their

hearts and also be wholly impractical," said Mrs Buchan, the Newport RSPCA manager.

"They're great little dogs and I'm already jealous of the lucky owner who will get to care for such a loving pair." Mrs Buchan said Franky, a boisterous and playful dog, looked out for Elly, who is affectionate and cuddly.

Internet



Franky acts as the eyes of his smaller fellow pug Elly, who is blind. INTERNET



Local women practise waist drum dance in Zhongjia Village of Zouping County, east China's Shandong Province, on 26 Dec, 2011. Local villagers are busy training for waist drum performance to greet the coming New Year.

XINHUA

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.



Volunteers lay down sets of 25-centavo coins in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record on the longest line of coins, now held by the United States at 64.8 km (39 miles), at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila 30 November, 2011. Some 3.5 million pieces of 25-centavo coins were collected to complete a record breaking 70km (43 miles), local media reported.

Thieves posted pics on Facebook

Pittsburgh police said they connected four teenagers to a theft after they posted pictures of themselves posing with the loot on Facebook.

Police said the teenagers, two 14-year-olds, a 17-year-old and Isaiah Cutler, 18, took cash, candy and cigarettes worth a total of more than \$9,000 from Elliot's Town Market while the store was closed 12 Dec and posed a picture of themselves posing with their haul on Facebook less

than an hour later, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported Thursday.

"I've not seen anything like this in my 18 years," Detective Valerie Milie said.

"People post things on Facebook that they shouldn't, and once it's out there, it's out there."

Police said they arrested the minors and are searching for Cutler, whose bedroom was the setting for the photograph.

Chicago senior wins battle over purse

Police say a hardy 80-year-old Chicago woman brushed off her encounter with an alleged purse-snatcher that included being dragged by a car.

The victim refused medical treatment after being dragged down the block by a suspect who reached out of his car window and grabbed her purse Thursday evening.

Police told *the Chicago Tribune* the woman never let go of the bag, and officers quickly nabbed the suspect.

Billy Tribbet, 53, was charged with aggravated attempted robbery and battery of a victim over 60 years of age.

Jump off TV tower lands man in trouble

A man who jumped off a television tower in Maryland landed in a hospital when his parachute failed to open all the way — and then got a ticket for trespassing. Robert Scott Morgan, 25, of Fairfax, Va, was reported in fair and stable condition Friday at the Maryland Shock Trauma Centre, *The Baltimore Sun* reported.

Police said Morgan and a confederate, Sean Michael Bullington, 34, of Draper, Utah, went to the Maryland Public Television radio tower in Crownsville under cover of darkness Wednesday morning. Morgan made his jump at about 2 am. Bullington, who was with Morgan to witness the jump, has been charged with giving police a false statement.

News Album

McConaughey and Alves get engaged

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec—Hollywood actor Matthew McConaughey announced in an online message he has proposed to Brazilian model Camila Alves, the mother of his two children. The couple began dating in 2007 and have a 3-year-old son and nearly 2-year-old daughter.

People.com said McConaughey announced his engagement on his WhoSay account Sunday and posted a picture of him kissing his new fiancée in front of a Christmas tree. "Just asked Camila to marry me," he said in his message. "Merry Christmas."

Internet



Actor Matthew McConaughey and his girlfriend Camila Alves have gotten engaged.

Madonna cries every time she watches 'It's A Wonderful Life'



Madonna

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—Madonna has revealed that she loved 'It's A Wonderful Life' so much that she wished actor James Stewart was her real father while growing up.

The pop diva admitted that she always makes time to

watch the Christmas-themed classic during the holidays, and it always takes her back to her childhood.

"I love the message of it; I think it's so beautiful," Contactmusic.com quoted her as saying.

"I grew up wishing that Jimmy Stewart was my father.

"The story of wanting it all and having it all and then losing it all and then realizing what's important, it's like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz—'There's no place like home'.

"It's kind of corny and cliché but, to me, it's a classic story that stands the test of time.

"I love it. I cry every time I see it," she added.

Internet

Denise Richards urges fans to give up plastic bottles

LONDON, 28 Dec—Actress Denise Richards is urging fans to "go green". She has asked her fans to give up plastic bottles in 2012. "It's a great time to start thinking about those resolutions. But instead of just sticking to the usual goals of dropping a few pounds or hitting the gym, why not take one simple step that will help the environment, the health of your family and your pocketbook all at once? I recently made the commitment to get rid of bottled water in my home for all of those reasons," Richards posted on her official blog.

"Every year, about 1.5 million tons of plastic goes into manufacturing water bottles, and most of those bottles just end up in landfills.



Actress Denise Richards

But even if you recycle, there are lots of other reasons to stay away from plastic bottles," contactmusic.com posted. "One is the price! Also, many studies show it's not healthy drinking out of plastic bottles. Harmful chemicals in the plastic like bisphenol A (or Bpa) can leach into the water and make you sick. It's much safer to drink out of glasses, aluminium bottles, or reusable Bpa-free water bottles... Will you give it a try?" she wrote.

Internet

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Maria Shriver reunite for X-mas

NEW YORK, 28 Dec—They might be divorcing but actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his estranged wife Maria Shriver came together for Christmas celebrations.

A source close to the family says that the two spent Christmas with their children at their home in Brentwood, California, and they "had a really nice time" over the holiday, reports people.com.

The source added that they also attended the Los Angeles Lakers' season opener game at the Staples Centre in the afternoon. The couple had previously united for Schwarzenegger's 64th birthday celebration in July.



Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife Maria Shriver

Angelina Jolie working on a film about Afghanistan

LONDON, 28 Dec—Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has revealed that she has been working on a script for a movie about Afghanistan but she is not very confident about it as of now. "I don't even think it's good. Maybe I'll dig it out, but I don't have the confidence yet to start even thinking in that way," femalefirst.co.uk quoted her as saying.

The 36-year-old, stepped behind the camera to make her directorial debut "In The Land Of Blood And Honey", a film she wrote herself about a romance between a Serbian soldier and a Bosnian woman. It has been nominated for a Golden Globe Awards this year and also won a Producer's Guild award.

Internet



Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie

Manchester City ready to offer 30 million euros for Lille's Eden Hazard, claims agent

LONDON, 28 Dec — The agent of Lille forward Eden Hazard has revealed that he is expecting a 30 million euro bid from Manchester City for his client in January.

Marc Fourmeux, who represents the interests of the Belgium international, says that he is envisaging Roberto Mancini's men to make the first move ahead of the likes of Real Madrid and Inter in a proposal that would also see the attacker stay in France until the end of the season on loan.

"There is much talk of an offer of 30 million euros from Manchester City, which will see him remain at Lille for the next six months," the agent told AS.

"His future is in any case destined for a big European club like Real Madrid, Barcelona, Chelsea, Manchester City, AC Milan, Inter or Juventus."

However, Fourmeux also intimated that City may need to revise its offer as Lille president Michel Seydoux "is seeking 40 million euros", and also gave an update on



the situation involving in-demand Rennes and France international midfielder Yann M'Vila.

"In Italy, Inter and AC Milan want him, but it remains to be seen who will pay for him and who can convince him," he revealed.

"Wanted parties must put their hands in pockets. M'Vila is estimated at 20 million euros but it is unclear where he would go."

Internet

Gareth Bale ignores the attentions of Norwich defenders to fire Tottenham ahead

Bale double eases Spurs to 2-0 win over Norwich

NORWICH, 28 Dec — Gareth Bale grabbed a second-half double as third-place Tottenham cruised to a comfortable 2-0 win over Norwich to keep the pressure on the Manchester clubs at the top of the Premier League on Tuesday.

The Wales winger revived memories of his performances in the Champions League last season with an impressive individual display at Carrow Road, capped by goals in the 55th and 67th minutes.

While his first was a simple close-range shot after good work from Emmanuel Adebayor, his second was more memorably,

bursting through the middle before supplying a deft finish over Norwich goalkeeper John Ruddy.

"He's an amazing player isn't he?" Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp said of Bale. "When he picks the ball up, turns and runs at you, he is unplayable."

The win lifted Spurs to within seven points of Manchester City and Manchester United, with the London club still holding a game in hand—at home to Everton next month.

It also moved Redknapp's team four points clear of Chelsea, which may have dropped out of title contention by drawing 1-1 at home to Fulham on Monday. Arsenal is a further point back after being held 1-1 by Wolverhampton earlier on Tuesday.

"It was a great few days for us—we've taken advantage of other teams dropping points," Bale said. "We said at the start of the season that our main objective was to get back in the Champions League and that's still the case. We are just going to take it one game at a time."—*Internet*



World's top sports news in 2011



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates his goal against Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas during their Spanish Supercup second leg soccer match at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 17 Aug, 2011.

BEIJING, 28 Dec — Following is the world's top sports news in 2011 selected by Xinhua News Agency:

1. The first ever FIFA Ballon d'Or award, which has merged the FIFA World Player of the Year award and the France Football's Ballon d'Or award, was awarded to Lionel Messi on 10 Jan.

The Barcelona player was elected from a list of three nominees and the other two are Andres Iniesta and Xavi, both Spanish players and teammates with Messi in Barcelona. Messi had obtained 22.65 percent of the votes, ahead of Andres Iniesta at 17.36 percent, and Xavi at 16.48 percent.

2. Ronaldo announced his decision to retire as a professional football player on 14 Feb, claiming that he suffers from hyperthyroidism, a disease that leads to constant body pain, weight gain, depression and tiredness.

Ronaldo began his professional career in 1993 with Brazil's Cruzeiro. He then played for PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, AC Milan and Corinthians.

He scored 264 goals for the clubs he played for and scored 62 for the Brazilian national team and remains the leading scorer during World Cup competition with a record 15 goals.—*Xinhua*



Brazilian soccer player Ronaldo parades for Gavioes da Fiel Alegre samba school during carnival in Sao Paulo on 14 Feb, 2010.

Players show gratitude for sponsor exemptions

JACKSONVILLE, 28 Dec — Rod Pamplung had a few nervous moments while watching parts of the final PGA Tour event on TV, though it ended well for him.

After starting the year with only limited status as a past champion, the Australian regained his full card at No. 124 on the money list with just \$2,033 to spare.

Pamplung spent the next month trying to contact every tournament director who gave him a sponsor exemption, thanking them for helping him get his card again. In some cases, Pamplung wound up earning his way into tournaments and didn't need the exemption. The way he saw it, the offer of an exemption at least gave him something to fall back on, so it still meant a lot. "I've been doing this 25 years. I'm not saying I've never had a guy call me and thank me for doing that, but it's the first in a long time," AT&T National tournament director Greg McLaughlin said.—*Internet*

International Sports

Spain hires Corretja as new Davis Cup captain

MADRID, 28 Dec — Defending champion Spain has hired former French Open finalist Alex Corretja as its new Davis Cup captain. The Spanish tennis federation said Tuesday that Corretja has a two-year contract. He replaces Albert Costa, who left this month after leading Spain to two Davis Cup titles in three years.

Corretja will be presented

as the new captain Wednesday. He calls his appointment an "honor and huge responsibility."

Corretja was ranked as high as No. 2 as a player and reached the final at Roland Garros in 1998 and 2001. He worked as a part-time coaching consultant for Andy Murray until this past March.—*Internet*

China wins women's chess champion worlds

MARDIN, 28 Dec — China beat India 2.5-1.5 in the last round of the 2011 World Women Chess Team Championship (WWTC) on Tuesday to win the title in Mardin province of southeastern Turkey.

Russia finished second and Georgia third.

For Chian-India match, three games ended in draws and Zhao Xue defeated Tania Sachdev on the third board.

"India wanted to make quick match draw with us, but our players hoped to fight. Zhao Xue eagred a win particularly and she made it," said China coach Yu Shaoteng. Zhao Xue said: "I lost a game yesterday and I really want to win today."

In other matchups, Russia made a quick draw with Armenia to secure medals, Vietnam also drew with Ukraine, Greece beat South Africa and Georgia ousted Turkey.

Following are the final standings:

1. China - 16 points
2. Russia - 13 points
3. Georgia - 12 points
- 4-5. India, Ukraine - 11 points
- 6-7. Armenia, Vietnam - 9 points
8. Greece - 5 points
9. Turkey - 4 points
10. South Africa - 0 point.

Xinhua

Humberto Suazo attempts to force Monterrey exit after missing training

BUENOS AIRES, 28 Dec — Monterrey director Luis Miguel Salvador has admitted that Humberto Suazo was absent from training on Tuesday amid speculation surrounding the striker's future.

In an interview with Argentine radio station Radio La Red, the club official also revealed that Monterrey will not stand in the way of the 30-year-old seeking new pastures, but was adamant that a loan deal was out of the question.

"No team in the world lends you their best striker," insisted Salvador, after reacting to claims Boca Juniors had set its sights on a temporary arrangement.—*Internet*

Germany's Philipp Lahm: Spain is favorite for Euro 2012

MUNICH, 28 Dec — Germany international defender Philipp Lahm has branded Spain as the favorite to win Euro 2012. Speaking in an interview with France Football on Tuesday, after the publication declared Joachim Low's men as the best team of 2011, the 28-year-old admitted that La Furja Roja still possess the greatest chance to achieve glory next year ahead of their rivals.

"Our confidence has never been so great as now," said Lahm. "The results are excellent, our game is spectacular and effective and we have recently got the better of great teams like Brazil and the Netherlands."

"[However] Spain are the

favorites. Then there are four or five other teams that may struggle to dethrone [them]."

Lahm then proceeded to reflect on his team's honor, and highlighted Germany's rapid development in footballing philosophy, combined with its efforts in producing gifted young talent as the reasons why it can be considered a worthy winner.

"We've learned to take possession of the ball as quick as possible. All our players want the ball and always want to attack. That's where again we have progressed," he continued.

"It is our virtue always. The difference is that our game has become more modern."—*Internet*

Mackie earns QPR a 1-1 draw at Swansea

SWANSEA, 28 Dec — Queens Park Rangers ended its three-match losing streak in the Premier League by rallying to a 1-1 draw at Swansea on Tuesday.



QPR striker Jamie Mackie prepares to shoot his team level at Swansea's Liberty Stadium

Jamie Mackie scored QPR's equalizer at the Liberty Stadium when he got in behind Swansea's notoriously stubborn defense from a long clearance by goalkeeper Paddy Kenny to stab home a finish in the 58th minute. Fellow striker Danny Graham had given the Welsh team the lead in the 14th minute when he curled a shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area for his sixth league goal of the season. QPR's players claimed Graham deliberately handled the ball in the build-up to the goal.

"The referee saw it was handball but said it was not intentional," QPR manager Neil Warnock said. "It was a crucial decision, a big decision like that. You've got to know the game." The draw lifted 16th-place QPR three points clear of the relegation zone after 18 games.

Internet

Mahindra to launch Duro DZ scooter at Auto Expo

MUMBAI, 28 Dec—Auto major Mahindra will launch its new Duro DZ scooter model and unveil its MGP30 racing motorcycle at the Delhi Auto Expo next month.

“The Mahindra Duro DZ is a tough and powerful scooter designed specifically for Indian road conditions. The Duro DZ is the result of our R and D team working closely with consumers and extensive testing,” Mahindra 2 Wheelers president Anoop Mathur said in a statement on Tuesday.

Ruzbeh Irani, executive vice president (Corporate Strategy and Chief Brand Officer), said Mahindra Racing will unveil its new Moto3 challenger, the MGP30 for the first time in India.

Mahindra was the first Indian company to enter the MotoGP motorcycle racing championship in 2011.

Overall, around 50 new two-wheelers, cars, buses and trucks would be launched at the Auto Expo 2012 beginning here on 5 Jan.

The 11th edition of the biennial exhibition is being



Mahindra will launch the Duro DZ and showcase its Moto3 bike at the Expo next month.

jointly organised by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA).

Some 1,500 exhibitors from 24 countries would participate in the trade show.

Internet

Bollywood wishes Salman Khan on his 46th birthday



Salman is currently busy shooting for Katrina Kaif starrer 'Ek Tha Tiger'.

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec—As superstar Salman Khan turned 46 yesterday, his friends and co-stars from Bollywood sent across their heartfelt wishes, praying for his good health. Salman, who entertained the audience with two blockbuster this year - 'Ready' and 'Bodyguard', also underwent a nerve surgery in September. The actor is currently busy shooting for Katrina Kaif starrer 'Ek Tha Tiger'.

“Happy birthday Pande ji,” posted his ‘Dabangg’ co-star Sonakshi Sinha on Twitter referring to his character in the film. His other co-star from the 2010 hit, Sonu Sood, said, “Wishing my bro Salman Khan a very happy birthday. Will see you today at the farmhouse bhai. Keep ruling..”—Internet

Chelsea boss Andre Villas-Boas says only Man United or City can win title now

CHELSEA, 28 Dec—Andre Villas-Boas has conceded defeat in the title race, saying Chelsea, as well as fellow hopefuls Spurs, Arsenal and Liverpool, now have no hope of catching league leaders Manchester City or their closest rivals United.

Speaking after watching his side held to a 1-1 draw by local rivals Fulham on Boxing Day, Villas-Boas said he now believes taking the Premier League title is beyond his side’s capabilities this season.



Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas has given up on the Premier League title.

‘With City and United continuing to get the points they are getting, it’ll be difficult,’ the Portuguese said.

‘Maybe the Premier League is over for us at the moment.’ Boxing Day did see City drop some points with a goalless draw at West Brom, although United drew level on points with their neighbours after a comfortable 5-0 stroll against Wigan at Old Trafford.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-12-11 09:30 am ~ 30-12-11 09:30 am) MST

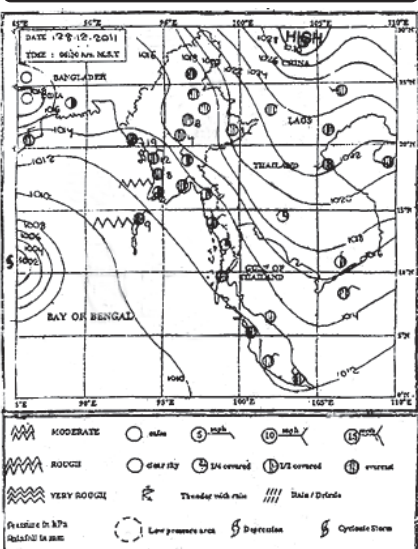
- Oversea Transmission News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation "Health"
 - * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation "Education"
 - * Paper Products...plain but pretty
 - * Fluid technology solutions
 - * News
 - * Fruits of Success River A y e y a w a d y ... demarcated cannot be Ayeayawady Bridge (Pakokku) (Part-1) Letpanchepaw
 - * News
 - * A Bridge To The Ultimate Realities
 - * Caves of Myanmar
 - * Songs for You
 - * News
 - * Kyaik Htee Yoe: Myanmar's Miraculous Marvel (Part-2)
 - * Myanmar Movies "Longing For Mother"

MYANMAR TV

(29-12-2011) (Thursday)

- 7:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
2. Morning News
- 7:50 am
3. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
4. Health Programme
- 8:25 am
5. Songs Of National Dances
- 8:40 am
6. International News
- 4:00 pm
7. Martial Song
- 5:00 pm
8. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm
9. Science and Environment
- 5:40 pm
10. Documentary
- 6:20 pm
11. Myanmar Series
- 7:00 pm
12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
13. News
14. TV Drama Series
15. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 29th December, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	20/24	12/24	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	22/22	14/27	Isolated rain	(80%)
3	Kayah	32/30	18/24	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	17/23	09/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
5	Upper Sagaing	30/26	15/29	Isolated rain	(80%)
6	Lower Sagaing	26/22	20/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
7	Tanintharyi	34/27	24/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
8	Bago	30/26	18/24	Isolated rain	(80%)
9	Magway	24/25	20/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
10	Mandalay	28/22	20/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
11	Man	32/20	20/28	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	32/20	20/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
13	Rakhine	26/29	20/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
14	Southern Shan	18/24	10/20	Isolated rain	(80%)
15	Northern Shan	24/25	12/24	Isolated rain	(80%)
16	Eastern Shan	19/26	15/25	Isolated rain	(80%)
17	Ayeyawady	27/21	20/28	Isolated rain	(80%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	25/27	18/24	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/20	20/28	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	26/22	20/28	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain has been widespread in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Rakhine State, scattered in Kayah state and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperature were about December averages temperatures in Ayeyawady Region, (3°C to 4°C) above December averages temperatures in Tanintharyi Region, Shan (Southern and Eastern) and Rakhine States and (5°C) to (6°C) above December averages temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Patheingyi (6°C), Patheingyi (6°C), Patheingyi (6°C), Patheingyi (6°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hlobo (1.34) inches, Tanyang (1.26) inches, Saw (0.90) inch, Yemathin and Sitwary (0.83) inch.

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

Bay Inference: According to the observation at (13:30) hrs MST today, the cyclonic storm, THANE, over Southeast Bay adjoining Southwest Bay, it is centered about 280 miles Southeast of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move Northwestwards. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and North Bay and mostly elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45-50) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain in the Rakhine Coastal areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

Blood donors honoured

MUSE, 28 Dec—The 7th ceremony to honour blood donors was held at the city hall in Muse on 23 December. Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein made a speech. Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Myint Khaing explained facts about donation of blood. District and township level officials presented gifts to the blood donors.

Myanma Alin

Winners awarded in quiz

GANGAW, 28 Dec—The prize presentation for the 16th Quiz, organized by the library of Shonshwee Village Basic Education High School, was held at the school in Gangaw on 9 December.

Staff Officer of District IPRD U Nyunt Hsaung, Headmistress Daw Khin Cho Oo and teachers awarded the winners. Those present viewed the works of wall magazines created by students.

Myanma Alin

Rural delivery room handed over



KANGYIDAUNT, 28 Dec—A ceremony to hand over Myinkaseik Village rural delivery room to the Health Department was held at the delivery room in Kangyidaunt Township on 19 December morning.

Officials formally opened the delivery room. Wellwishers U Hla Min-Daw Cho Pearl and family of Yadana Win Rice Mill and U Myint Kyi-Daw Tin Tin San (Sein Myint Moe Rice Mill) handed over documents related to the delivery room to Head of Township Health Department Dr Kyaw Myo Hlaing. The delivery room was built at a cost of K 5.5 million.—Township IPRD

Myanmar, Indonesia hold joint commission meeting

YANGON, 28 Dec—At the invitation of U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Indonesian delegation led by Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa arrived in Yangon this morning to attend the 2nd Meeting of the Myanmar-Indonesian Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation. The Indonesian delegation was welcomed at the airport by Director-General U Hau Do Suan of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.

The meeting was held at Sedona Hotel, here, today, attended by co-chairman of the joint commission Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and party, co-chairman of the joint commission Indonesian Minister Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa and party. Both sides discussed matters relating to further strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries as well as enhancing mutual cooperation in regional and international forums.

It was also attended by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry



The 2nd Meeting of the Myanmar-Indonesian Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation in the presence of U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Indonesian delegation led by Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa in progress.—MNA

and Ministry of Commerce.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a luncheon to the participants of the meeting.

Yesterday afternoon, the 2nd Meeting

of the Myanmar-Indonesia Joint Commission came to a successful conclusion with the adoption of the agreed minutes of the meeting. The 2nd meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting to discuss the draft agreed

minutes for the Ministerial Meeting of the Joint Commission.

The Indonesian delegation left here by air this afternoon.

MNA

CBM changes interest rates on deposits and loans

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—The Central Bank of Myanmar opted to reduce interest rate from 12 to 10 per cent starting from 1 January 2012 in view of shoring up economic

development of the country.

It was set that interest rate on deposits must not be less than eight per cent and more than 10 per cent, and interest rate on loans must not be more than 13 per cent.

Due to 13 per cent of the loan interest rate from 15 per cent, entrepreneurs willing to extend their business will be able to have a loan with low interest rate.—MNA

CBM adjusts interest rates of treasury bonds

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—On behalf of the government, Central Bank of Myanmar sold out two-year treasury bonds in addition to three-year and five-year bonds as of 1 January 2010. An organization or an individual could freely buy the bonds.

The interest rate of Central Bank of Myanmar is reduced to 10 per cent from 12 per cent starting from 1 January, 2012, to back up economic development of the State, it is reported.

As interest rates on deposits and loans have been reduced, the interest rate of treasury bond is changed to 8.75 per cent for two-year bond, 9 per cent for three-year bond and 9.50 per cent for five-year bond.

The interests are allowed to withdraw twice a year on every 15 March and 15 September. The bonds are exchangeable.

The treasury bonds can be bought directly at Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw), Banks Zone, Thiri Kyaw Swar Road in Nay Pyi Taw; Myanma Securities Exchange Centre Co Ltd at No (21/25) in Sule Pagoda Street, MEB branches (1), (2), (3) and (4) in Yangon; and MEB branches (1), (2) and (3) in Mandalay, according to CBM.—MNA

Storm “THANE” unlikely to move to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the cyclonic storm “THANE” over Southeast Bay adjoining Southwest Bay remained practically stationary. It’s centered at about 280 miles Southeast of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move West-Northwest wards.

Current stage of the cyclonic storm is coded as yellow colour which means that it is not moving towards Myanmar. Under the influence of the cyclonic storm, rains are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h.—MNA

Man United swoop for Sweden international



MANCHESTER, 28 Dec—Manchester United will officially complete the signing of AZ Alkmaar ace Rasmus Elm in

Reports from Italian newspaper Calcio Mercato have suggested the champions have agreed a

deal to sign Elm and the move will become official in the summer, subject to a medical.

United have tracked Elm for over a year and have been impressed with the midfielder playing in the Eredivisie.

Elm, the younger brother of David - who once played

Bilbao hopeful over Llorente

BILBAO, 28 Dec—Athletic Bilbao are confident star striker Fernando Llorente will sign a new contract with the club and snub interest from the Premier League.

Tottenham, Liverpool and Chelsea have all been linked with the Spanish international over the past 12 months.

The 26-year-old, who has spent his whole career with Bilbao, is currently in talks over a new contract at the San Mames, which currently has 18-months left to run.

“We are very confident that Llorente stay with us,” said sporting director Jose Maria Amorrotu.

“He is a very important player. We are working on its continuity is being done, but we have not gone any further.

“I’m optimistic. Fernando has been here for 11 years. This club is a club of values and Fernando knows this.

“We must transmit values and reinforce them because they are what make us different.”—Internet

for Fulham - is a Sweden international and the deal is rumoured to be worth around £5m.

The 23-year-old’s current contract expires in 2013 and AZ have agreed to sell him because he has shown a reluctance to pen a new deal amid United’s interest.—Internet



Multi-vitamins confer zero benefits

PAGE 4

Manchester City ready to offer 30 million euros for Lille’s Eden Hazard, claims agent



PAGE 14

China wins women’s chess champion worlds

PAGE 14