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True patriotism

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

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

Literature, great valuable cultural heritage among national heritage being preserved in successive eras Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents literary award winners

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec— A ceremony to present Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award was held at the hall of the Ministry of Information, here, this morning, with an address by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, deputy ministers, departmental heads, members of the Myanmar Historical Commission, members of the Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award and National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee, members of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutiny Committee, literati, members of the reference treatise committee, media persons, prize winners and their families, guests and staff of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of

Information. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that literary award presentation ceremony is held around Literati Day in honour of doyen literati and it is the first occasion of literary awarding ceremony in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He said that he takes pride of delivering an address at the national literary prize presentation ceremony.

He said that the best works for National Literary Award are selected from entries in Myanmar language for 14 genres yearly. This year, he said that one more prize for the work was added to the prize list to show off Myanmar history, culture and fine arts compiled in English. It was a significant prize presentation ceremony due to rising amount of cash award for the winners more than that of previous years, he said.

He noted that the literature emphasizing national cause can disseminate cor-

rect ideas and knowledge to the people, forging the spirit of unity and encouraging the people to maintain fine characters with nationalistic spirit.

He said that the annually-compiled books and manuscripts must be in line not only with aesthetic and knowledgeable works but also religious and social ethics. He stressed the need of writers to share their knowledge with goodwill to the readers and of readers to apply cultural and knowledge benefits from the literature.

He pointed out that literature is great valuable cultural heritage among the national heritage being preserved in successive eras. These heritages can be seen as recorded works in Myanmar literature, he said. He added that it is necessary to hand down the national

literary heritage to new generations for its perpetuity. He urged the writers to accept such task as national duty.

In reviewing the current literary arena, over 3000 items of books came out in the year of 2000, he said. However, he said that about 200 monthly magazines and about 200 weekly journals are now in circulation while over 10,000 items of books have been published. Today's prize winning works published in a year have been selected in line with the rules and disciplines of the National Literary Award, he said. Likewise, he said that Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award has been presented since 2001, and now, time has rolled on one decade.

There are 12 kinds of subjects in Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award genres. Such kinds of subjects help

contribute not only to the emergence of new literati and books but also to the outgrowth of modern technology. Arrangements are being made to include Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in English, starting 2011 competition.

The aim is to spread Myanmar culture, Myanmar fine arts and Myanmar history worldwide. National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee has chosen 11 out of over 2000 books published in 2010. The 23 out of 163 manuscripts were chosen for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2010.

All kinds of subjects could not be awarded. Literati are urged to make contribution in the coming competitions and are to write aesthetic and general knowledge literature beneficial to the people.

(See page 8)



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party pose for documentary photo with Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award winner writer U Thaw Kaung.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards National Literary Award winner writer Saya Kyaw Latt.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 30 December, 2011

Towards e-Government

Today, being the age of IT, the World sees the rapid development of ICT. ICT has developed with the invention of new technologies. Computer companies produce different kinds of Personal Computers (PC). With rapid development of PC system, people can do their office works not only at their home but also on their tour.

A lot of information can be easily available world wide in a short time through online service. Thanks to online system, people have easy access to information across the world. E-mail, internet and Fax contribute to development of IT age.

With the massive use of computer, e-mail, internet and fax, e-government plays an important part. Nowadays, most of government offices and companies are running their works with the effective application of those devices. Use of those is a basic factor to implement e-government system. E-visa, e-Ticket and e-banking systems are now in operation.

E-government system largely contributes to smooth running of all works. Collaborative efforts are to be made for development of e-Government system, essential for a modern, developed nation.

Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tournament to be held at Yetakhontaung Golf Club

YANGON, 29 Dec—SUMITOMO Golf Classic Golf Tournament will be launched at Yetakhontaung Golf Club in Mandalay Region from 11 to 14 January, 2012.

Besides Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, other sponsors include Aung Hein Min Co and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery.

The tournament is separated into three categories; professional, senior professional and Handicap 0-10.

R&A Rules Limited (St. Andrew) golf rules and regional rules control the tournament.

Golf enthusiasts may contact Yetakhontaung Golf Club (Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474, and 651374) for their list, bringing entrance fee K 20,000 not later than at 2 pm on 9 January, 2012.—MNA

Talks on “Leadership in the era of Globalization” on 31 Dec

YANGON, 29 Dec—A talks on “Leadership in the era of Globalization” of Director of International College Dr Jakarin Srimoon Ph.D (Business Administration) from the University of Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) which had an understanding to implement Offshore MBA Programme with Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, will be held at UMFCCI office Tower (first floor) on Minye Kyawzwa Road in Lanmadaw Township here at 2 pm on 31 December, 2011 (Saturday).
MNA



Lt-Gen Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe attend graduation dinner of 9th Intake of DSNPS



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win attends the graduation dinner of the 9th Intake of the Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Sciences.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—The graduation dinner of the 9th Intake of the Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was held at the convocation hall of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon at 6 pm today.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe attended the dinner.

Also present at the dinner were senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, the commander of Mingaladon Station, the commandant of Defence Services

Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, senior military officers of the station, guests, graduate nurses and their parents and relatives.

First, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services cordially greeted the graduate nurses.

Next, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party had dinner together with the graduate nurses, their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, they enjoyed the entertainments of Myawady Anyeint troupe of No. 1 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit under command of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.—MNA

1465 jade lots sold at Mid-Myanma Gems Emporium 2011

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Mid-Myanma Gems Emporium 2011, organized by Central Committee for holding Myanmar Gems Emporium, continued for fifth day, at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near Myanmar Gem Museum here this morning.

In the afternoon, Patron of the Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik visited the expo. Secretary of the Committee and Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise, Committee members and officials supervised the jade sale.

A total of 1465 jade lots were sold through open tender system today and over 5000 jade lots have been sold till date. The emporium will go on till 31 January. Jade lots will be sold from 27 to 31 December through open tender system and from 1 to 3 January through competitive bidding system. It is crowded with local and foreign merchants at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.
MNA



Gems merchants at home and abroad at Mid-Myanma Gems Emporium 2011.—MNA

Students take part in track and field competitions

NYAUNGDON, 29 Dec—Nyaungdon Township Education Officer's Trophy Inter-Basic Education School Track and Field



Competitions kicked off at the sports ground of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Nyaungdon on 23 December.

After the opening ceremony, over 500 student athletes participated in the track and field events. Officials awarded winners in the respective events. Later, the Township Education officer presented boys', girls' and mixed championship trophies to region (11).
Myanma Alin

Local Sports

Body-building and Physical Culture Contest commences

YANGON, 29 Dec—The Junior and Senior Body-building and Physical Culture Contest for Universities/Colleges/ Education Colleges of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and Education Training and Planning Department kicked off at Diamond Jubilee Hall yesterday morning.

Nine contestants are taking part in the junior body-building event, 19 in the junior physical culture event, eight in the senior body-building event and 10 in the senior physical culture event.

Among them, 10 players were chosen as selected athletes for final stage.
MNA



Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan (C) meets with Vice President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz (L) in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Pentagon warns Iran against blocking oil passageway

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—The Pentagon on Wednesday warned Iran against any attempt to block the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil routes. "This is not just an important issue for security and stability in the region, but is an economic lifeline for countries in the Gulf, to include Iran," Pentagon press secretary George Little said. "Interference with the transit or passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz will not be tolerated."

The remarks came after

Iran's top officials threatened to seal off the important oil passageway. Iran's First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi said on Tuesday that Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz if its oil exports are sanctioned by the West. Again, Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said on Wednesday that the country's naval forces can readily block the oil route if needed. In a separate statement, the Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet said on Wednesday that "anyone

who threatens to disrupt freedom of navigation in an international strait is clearly outside the community of nations; any disruption will not be tolerated." The tension came as the Iranian Navy launched a 10-day massive naval exercise in the international waters on Saturday. The naval drills, dubbed Velayat 90, cover an area of 2,000 km stretching from the east of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Aden. Despite Teheran's threats, Little said that the Pentagon was not aware of "any aggressive hostile action directed toward US vessels in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz." Tensions between Iran and the West have intensified since Oct this year when the US accused Iran of backing an assassination plot to kill the Saudi ambassador to Washington.—Xinhua

North Korea acclaims new "supreme" leader at memorial



SEOUL, 29 Dec—North Korea on Thursday staged a massive memorial service for late leader Kim Jong-Il attended by tens of thousands, and declared his untested young son and successor the supreme party and military chief.

A car carrying a portrait of late North Korea leader Kim Jong-Il during a funeral procession in Pyongyang, as millions of grief-stricken people turn out to mourn him.—INTERNET

"Respected Comrade Kim Jong-Un is the supreme leader of our party and the military who inherited Kim Jong-Il's spirit, leadership, personality, morality and fortitude," said ceremonial head of state Kim Yong-Nam. Addressing a vast crowd filling a wintry Pyongyang square, he praised the late Kim for contributing to "global peace and stability of the 21st Century". Jong-Un, clad in a black overcoat, headed the platform. The official news agency KCNA also described him as "supreme leader of the party, state and army".

MNA/CNA

British troops in Afghanistan may suffer mental problems

LONDON, 29 Dec—At least one in five British soldiers — or 20 percent — serving in Afghanistan will suffer from some mental illness after leaving the battlefield, a study has said. Nearly 4,800 of the total 24,000 men and women who quit next year will suffer, the *Daily Express* cited the study by Kings' College, London, as saying.

About 960 people were likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. A total of 572 British personnel have died fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. War veterans' mental health charity Combat Stress studied 228 veterans from Afghanistan and 589 from Iraq. In a grim warning of what may be expected, it said

"a staggeringly large number of veterans are suffering in silence". The study published in medical journal *The Lancet* also warned that 13 percent of veterans were at risk of alcohol abuse. The ministry of defence has made available seven million pounds (around USD 10.9 million) for extra care over the next four years. Internet



Soldiers are seen on a military speed boat during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 28 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Taliban kill four US soldiers in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 29 Dec—The Taliban Wednesday claimed to have destroyed a US tank and killed four soldiers inside it in Afghanistan, a media report here said. Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman of the terror outfit, said the incident took place in Tarkano area of Gardez, headquarters of Paktika Province, according to *Online news agency*. The spokesman said the incident took place Tuesday night when a US convoy was passing through the area. The tank was destroyed with the help of a remote-controlled mine. He said parts of the tank were still scattered in the area while the bodies were carried away in a US military chopper.—Internet

NATO vehicles caused Rs.150 bn damage to Pakistan highways

ISLAMABAD, 29 Dec — Pakistan has calculated that vehicles carrying NATO supplies in containers caused damage worth Rs. 150 billion to its highways over the past 10 years. Communications Minister Arbab Alamgir Khan told Dawn that the National Highways Authority (NHA) carried out a survey to assess the cost of the damage. The survey showed that NATO vehicles caused Rs. 15 billion worth of damage every year to national highways and the total damage from 2002 to 2011 was calculated at a staggering Rs. 150 billion.

Islamabad blocked the NATO supplies passing through Pakistan following the 26 Nov NATO airstrike in Mohmand Agency that left two dozen soldiers dead. An outraged Pakistan had also boycotted an international conference in Bonn that focussed on Afghanistan's future and directed the US to vacate the key Shamsi airbase that was used to launch drone strikes.

Arbab said they have written to the Foreign Office and the Planning Commission about the damage and asked them to take up the matter with NATO in Afghanistan. Internet

Over 20 smugglers killed in air raid in SE Turkey

ANKARA, 29 Dec—Over 20 smugglers were killed in an air raid in Turkey's southeastern border province of Sirmak, Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet Daily News* reported Thursday on its website. The air raid was conducted Wednesday night under the guidance of unmanned aerial vehicles near the Ortasu Village of Uludere Town in Sirmak Province, which borders Iraq. Fehmi Yaman, the mayor of Uludere, said the dead were not members of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party as some media reported, but diesel smuggling peasants.

The Turkish jets launched the strike at 11 pm local time (2100 GMT) after unmanned drones and thermal cameras detected a big group of smugglers coming from the Iraqi side of the border, and more than 20 people were confirmed killed by the governor of Sirmak, according to Turkish private *Dogan News Agency*. Four bodies were brought to the Sirmak State Hospital, some others were transferred to the Ortasu village by peasants, while the rest were left under the rubble of a big rock under which they took shelter.—Xinhua

Ten policemen dead in roadside bombing in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, 29 Dec — Ten Afghan policemen were killed Thursday morning in a roadside bombing in the country's southern Helmand Province, a spokesman for local government said. "A total of 11 local policemen were travelling in a vehicle toward a police training centre in Nad Ali District but their car ran over a roadside bomb triggering a powerful blast that killed 10 policemen on the spot and injured another," Daud Ahmadi told *Xinhua*. According to Ahmadi, the bloody incident occurred in Zarghon areas of the district at around 11:30 am local time in the province with Lashkar Gah City as its capital, some 555 km south of capital City of Kabul. He blamed Taliban militants for the attack. The Afghan local police force is community police, set up by the Afghan government on summer 2010 to defend their villages from Taliban attacks. The Taliban-led militancy has been rampant since the militant group announced to launch a rebel offensive from 1 May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in Afghanistan. The militant group warned people against supporting government and foreign troops. Taliban has yet to make comments.—Xinhua



People help clear casualties from the site of a suicide attack at a Shi'ite Muslim gathering in Kabul recently.—INTERNET

Children recall memories back to age 2

OTAGO, 29 Dec—Events experienced by children as young as age 2 can be recalled later, researchers in New Zealand found.

Study leader Fiona Jack, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Otago, and colleagues looked at about 50 children and their parents. The children played a unique game when they were ages 2-4 in which they placed a large object in a hole at the top of a machine and turned a handle on the side. When a bell rang, a small but otherwise identical object was delivered through a door at the bottom of the machine, the researchers said.

Six years later, the researchers interviewed the children and their parents to determine how well they remembered playing the game.

The study, published in the journal *Child Development*, found about one-fifth of the children recalled the event and about one-half of the parents remembered the event. Both parents and children who recalled the event provided very similar reports about the game.

“Our results are consistent with theories that suggest that basic capacity for remembering our own experiences may be in place by 2 years of age,” Jack said in a statement.

Internet

Events experienced by children as young as age 2 can be recalled later, researchers in New Zealand found.
INTERNET



Four cups of coffee a day may cut cancer risk by almost 25 percent

WELLINGTON, 29 Dec—Drinking four or more cups of coffee a day may reduce risk of developing endometrial cancer by almost 25 percent, a new study has suggested. Originating in the lining of the uterus, endometrial cancer is one of the most widespread invasive gynaecological cancers.

High levels of oestrogen and insulin are associated with an increased risk of the disease but researchers involved in the Nurses' Health Study from the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health have discovered that high-coffee-consuming women have lower levels of these hormones, compared with those who drink little or no coffee, Stuff.co.nz reported. “This is an observational study - coffee intake is self-selected, not randomised - so our study cannot prove causal relationship between coffee and endometrial cancer risk, but we found an inverse association between coffee and endometrial cancer risk,” said study author Youjin Je, doctoral student at the Harvard School of Public Health.

“Four or more cups of coffee may contribute to lower risk of endometrial cancer by lowering levels of oestrogen and insulin which are related to endometrial carcinogenesis due to increased cell proliferation and reduced cell death,” Je noted. The researchers took into consideration 67,470 women aged 34 to 59 from 1980 to 2006 and asked that them to report every four



Drinking four or more cups of coffee a day may reduce risk of developing endometrial cancer by almost 25 percent, a new study has suggested.—INTERNET

years how frequently, on an average, did they consume coffee over the previous year. They then calculated cumulative average coffee intake to show long-term consumption patterns for the individual subjects and found that those who had four cups per day on an average were 25 percent less likely to develop the cancer.—Internet

Health Tip: Wear your seat belt during pregnancy

Wearing a seat belt is particularly important during pregnancy, when you're protecting for two. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers these suggestions for moms-to-be while traveling in the car:

- * Wear your seat belt properly, with the lap belt beneath your belly and the shoulder strap positioned between the breasts and to the side of the belly.
- * Move your seat back as far as possible if you have airbags. Tilt the seat to give your belly more space.
- * If you aren't driving, sit in the back seat.
- * Always see your doctor immediately after a car accident, even if you don't feel like you are hurt.—Internet

S&P reviews Sears for possible downgrade



S&P reviews Sears for possible downgrade.—INTERNET

VIRGINIA, 29 Dec—Standard & Poor's placed Sears Holdings Corp's credit rating on review for a possible downgrade on Wednesday, saying the retailer's plan to close at least 100 stores may not do much to improve its performance. S&P currently rates Sears' corporate credit at “B,” which is five notches into “junk” bond territory.

Sears shares tumbled on Tuesday after the company said it would close 100 to 120

Kmart and Sears stores and reduce inventory in an effort to cut costs and get rid of underperforming locations.

But S&P, like other analysts, said the store closures may not be enough to improve profitability.

“In our view, the company's announcement of 100 to 120 store closures may do little to help its poor performance,” the ratings agency said in a statement. “We believe that one of the primary issues is that the company has underinvested in its stores base, especially when compared with its peers.” Sears expects to report adjusted fourth-quarter earnings of less than half of those a year earlier due to lower sales, and expects to record a non-cash charge of \$1.6 billion to \$1.8 billion in the period related to deferred tax assets. Sears shares closed at \$33.33 on Wednesday, down 0.2 percent for the day and 54.5 percent for the year.

Reuters



Tony Wu of San Leandro, California tries to choose between two Lego sets while shopping with his father at the after-Christmas sale at a Target Store in the Bay Fair Mall in San Leandro, California on 26 December, 2011.

REUTERS

Retail sales resilient in final holiday stretch

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—Retail sales look poised for a solid finish to the holiday season as warm weather and deep discounts encouraged shoppers to hit stores or go online to snap up last-minute gifts, according to data released on Wednesday.

Sales in the week ending 24 December soared 14.8 percent from a year ago to about \$44 billion, helped by Christmas Eve falling

on a Saturday, according to ShopperTrak, which monitors traffic at shopping malls. Good weather also helped as snowstorms had blanketed some areas at the same time last year. Sales on 26 December, a public holiday this year, soared 25.5 percent to \$7.1 billion, ShopperTrak said. Steep discounts were prevalent throughout the season and drove the sales growth, but could crimp retailers' profits. “The real issue is, what margins were those sales generated at because it was a very heavily promotional season,” said Al Ferrara, director of BDO USA's national retail practice. “The retailers, to capture market share, were obviously marking down very heavily.”

Amid concerns about profit margins, the latest data had little impact on retail stocks with the S&P Retail index ending down 1.05 percent, only slightly better than the 1.25 percent drop in the broader S&P 500 index. Sales at stores in the week ending December 24 soared 37.8 percent from sales in the week ending 17 December, ShopperTrak said, suggesting pro-crastrators were drawn in by offers.—Reuters

Alibaba hires US lobbying firm as it eyes Yahoo

BEIJING, 29 Dec—Alibaba Group has hired a Washington lobbying firm in a sign that the Chinese e-commerce company would be willing to make a bid for all of Yahoo Inc in the event that talks to unwind their Asian partnership fail. Japan's Softbank Corp, which owns a 30 percent stake in Alibaba and is a partner in Yahoo Japan, is also listed as an Alibaba affiliate in the disclosure by the lobbying firm, Duberstein Group Inc.

Alibaba Group's founder, Jack Ma, said in September he was keen to buy all of Yahoo if the opportunity presented itself. Hiring a Washington lobbying firm could help Alibaba address any US political opposition to a complete takeover of Yahoo by a company from a country that controls and censors the Internet.

Chinese companies, such as telecoms giant Huawei Technologies Co, have run into opposition when they have tried to buy US assets over the years.—Reuters



A man walks past a logo of Alibaba (China) Technology Co Ltd at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province 11 August, 2011.

REUTERS

Business

So Cal whale census yields record number



Bjossa the killer whale pokes her head out of the water in the Vancouver Aquarium's medical holding pool awaiting darkness before she is hoisted aboard ground transport for her ride to the airport to be loaded on a Hercules aircraft and flown to San Diego and SeaWorld, on 21 April, 2001.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec—Migrating gray whales are swimming through Southern California waters in record numbers this winter, longtime whale watchers say.

Whale spotters stationed at Point Vicente in Rancho Palos Verdes have recorded a record 163 sightings so far in December, more than have been logged at that location in 28 years, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Wednesday.

The abundance of the marine mammals travelling south along the coast to Mexico is delighting tourists, boaters and divers, the newspaper said.

"I've seen some pretty good years but never anything like this," said Joyce Daniels, a volunteer in the whale census, noting more than two dozen sightings on Monday.

"We had whales everywhere. So many I was having trouble figuring out which whale was which," she said. "It's a real adrenaline rush to have so many whales."

By this point in December last year, the observers had logged 26 gray whales; the previous record was 133 observed in 1996.

More than 20,000 gray whales migrate each year from the arctic to Baja California, where females give birth. They migrate back north in the spring.—*Internet*

Science

Wolf pack addition caught by Ore cameras

PORTLAND, 29 Dec—A wolf pup photographed by an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife remote camera brings the state's wolf population to 25, officials said.

The photos taken 11 Dec show Oregon's Wenaha gray wolf pack produced a pup earlier this year, bringing the official count to 25. *The (Portland) Oregonian* reported Tuesday.

"That's the number we can account for," but there could be more wolves state biologists haven't yet discovered, ODFW spokeswoman Michelle Dennehy said.

The photos from a forest in Willowa County show a half-grown young wolf with a full coat of gray fur, the first indication the pack's alpha male and female reproduced.

The pup was probably born in April, Dennehy said.

Oregon's wolf packs live in the state's mountainous northeast corner, with the Wenaha pack inhabiting the Blue Mountains along the southern boundary of the Wenaha-



A wolf pup photographed by an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife remote brings the state's wolf population to 25, officials said. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.—INTERNET

Tucannon Wilderness.

All four of the state's known packs have reproduced this year, state biologists said.

Internet

NASA probes to arrive at the moon over New Year's

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec—The New Year's countdown to the moon has begun.

NASA said Wednesday that its twin spacecraft were on course to arrive back-to-back at the moon after a 3½-month journey. "We're on our way there," said project manager David Lehman of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the \$496 million mission.

The Grail probes — short for Gravity Recovery And Interior Laboratory — won't land on the lunar surface. Instead, they were poised to slip into orbit to study the uneven lunar gravity field. Grail-A was scheduled to arrive on New Year's Eve, followed by Grail-B on New Year's Day.

Lehman said team members won't

celebrate until both probes are safely in orbit.

It's been a long voyage for the near-identical Grail spacecraft, which traveled more than 2½ million miles (3.22 million kilometres) since launching in September. Though the moon is relatively close at about 250,000 miles (402,317.35 kilometres) away, Grail took a roundabout way to save on costs by launching on a small rocket.

Once at the moon, the probes will spend the next two months tweaking their positions before they start collecting data in March. The pair will fly in formation at an altitude of 34 miles (54.72 kilometres) above the surface, with an average separation of 124 miles (199.55 kilometres).

The mission's chief scientist, Maria



In this undated image provided by NASA on Wednesday, on 28 Dec, 2011, shows two sides of the moon. Twin NASA probes travelling for the past 3 1/2 months are scheduled to arrive at the moon during the New Year's weekend to study lunar gravity.—INTERNET

Zuber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said many aspects of the moon remain a mystery despite being well studied.

"We actually know more about Mars ... than we do about our own moon," Zuber said. One puzzle scientists hope to solve is why the moon's far side is more hilly than the side that always faces Earth. Research published earlier this year suggested that Earth once had dual moons that collided and formed the moon that people gaze at today. Despite the wealth of new knowledge expected from the mission, NASA has no near-term plans to send astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration last year nixed the idea in favor of landing astronauts on an asteroid and eventually Mars.—*Internet*

Technology



Customers wait in line outside a Verizon Wireless store in New York to buy the iPhone 4 shortly after the phone went on sale with Verizon service in New York, on 10 February, 2011. REUTERS

Verizon looking into reports of 4G network problem

NEW YORK, 29 Dec—Verizon Wireless is investigating reports that some customers were experiencing trouble accessing its fourth generation (4G) network, a spokesman told *Reuters*, as the company yet again had to face service problems with its faster wireless service.

Verizon customers around the United States are reporting widespread

outages of the company's 4G wireless service, as well as spotty performance of the older 3G service, the *Los Angeles Times* said on its website.

Verizon Wireless spokesman Marquett Smith told *Reuters* that the company is investigating reports of network problems.

"The network continues to operate and all customers continue to be able to make calls, send text messages and

utilize data services. 3G devices are operating normally," Smith said.

On 8 December, a problem prevented some US customers from accessing the Internet on their wireless devices for about 24 hours and again on 21 December, the company had to fix a data service problem. Verizon Wireless is owned by Verizon Communications Inc and Vodafone Group Plc.

Reuters

Cycle outdoors, check email, and tweet with weatherproof iPhone case

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec—Announced last week, American urban cycling gear company BioLogic has introduced a rugged, weatherproof new case to protect and charge your iPhone while still allowing you full access to its touch screen while you cycle.

Designed with multitasking bike commuters and cycling fitness buffs in mind, the ReeCharge Case integrates a powerful 1400 mAh lithium polymer battery to help keep your iPhone charged on long rides and its mini USB charge-out port can be used to charge other devices as well. The ReeCharge Case, which sells for \$99.99, can be mounted to any bicycle.

While designed for cyclists, the case can be used on ski slopes, hiking trails, or other outdoor adventures, according to the Press release. Competitors offering similar weatherproof bike mounts for iPhones include UltimateAddons and Tigra,

as well as Belkin, which offers an armband for running and jogging with your iPhone while keeping it secure and dry.

BioLogic has also developed an app for cyclists called BikeBrain, available in the iTunes store for \$1.99. The app offers GPS mapping, interval training, calorie counting, and easy access to social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.

Upping the ante in Japan, Sony's nav-u NV-U37,

released in June, is a full-fledged navigation system for your bike that monitors times and distances, provides a scrolling map, and can direct you to routes with less steep inclines or alternatives to main roads with heavy traffic. Also just released in Japan, Panasonic's The Gorilla CN-MC01L is a waterproof navigation system for cyclists that also tracks your speed and calculates calories burned while you ride.—*Internet*



Protect and charge your iPhone while you cycle with BioLogic's new ReeCharge Case.—INTERNET

Japan PM calls for greater economic engagement with India

NEW DELHI, 29 Dec—India and Japan need to establish firm partnerships and enter a new era of economic cooperation to capitalise on mutual complementarities, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said today.

He said Japan can contribute to India's rapidly growing manufacturing sector which is being driven by a large middle class income people.

A total of 421 Japanese companies have established

their presence in India and created 1.5 lakh jobs.

"We need to step up cooperation at all levels. In the economic sphere, there are mutual complementarities with India. Japan can contribute a lot by entering into a new era of partnership," the visiting Prime Minister said while addressing the joint business forum organized by leading industry chambers ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI.

Earlier, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma said both countries need to work

closely to address current global challenges and have a defining influence in Asia and beyond.

Mr Sharma said Japanese companies have a major opportunity in India's infrastructure and manufacturing, adding India plans to invest one trillion dollars in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) to build infrastructure.

The two-way trade can reach a level of 25 billion dollars by 2014, up from 13.82 billion dollars in 2010-11.—Internet



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (C) presides over a State Council meeting to hear the report on the investigation of the fatal high-speed train crash in July, in Beijing, Capital of China, on 28 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA



Workers clean the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Al-Shurta al-Khamissa district, northern Baghdad recently. A roadside bomb followed by a car bomb killed five people and wounded 14 others in Baghdad's southwestern Al-Shurta al-Khamissa district, a police source said.—REUTERS

Python attacks Australian infant

SYDNEY, 29 Dec—An Australian infant was attacked by a python which wrapped itself around his body and attempted to suffocate him, his terrified mother said Thursday, recalling his "blood-curdling scream".

The two-year-old boy was chasing a ball around his Port Douglas backyard in Australia's tropical north when the snake struck, biting his leg before looping itself around his body, his mother told the local Cairns Post newspaper.

"I heard this blood-curdling scream," she said.



"The snake was biting his leg and was wrapped around his whole body, to his chest. It started constricting."

She was unable to pull the snake from her son but neighbours who heard her distressed cries came to his rescue and managed to lift the snake off.

The boy suffered four bite wounds but the snake

was not poisonous and he was released from hospital after 24 hours' observation.

Pythons can grow to several metres in length and are usually active in the tropics between October and April, but local veterinarian Rod Gilbert told the paper it was the first time he had heard of one trying to eat a child.

"I suppose a two-year-old boy is not much different from a wallaby, it could definitely happen," Gilbert said, referring to the native marsupials that are a more typical part of a python's diet.

Internet

Spending more time at school may boost IQ

LONDON, 29 Dec—An increase in the number of years spent in school may boost intelligence, a study of Norwegian men has revealed.

The research suggested that an extra year in the classroom could increase IQ by nearly four points.

But they do not know if this applies to all children, or just those in the study.

Researchers from Statistics Norway, which publishes official government data, and the University of Oslo took advantage of a natural experiment in the Norwegian education system and its effect on 107,223 pupils.

Between 1955 and 1972 regional governments in Norway increased compulsory schooling from seven to nine years. It meant pupils left school at 16 instead of 14. The effect of this forced increase in schooling was measured at the age of 19, when the military gave all men eligible for drafting an IQ test.

"An unusually large increase in both average education and average IQ is apparent at the same time as the reform was introduced," BBC quoted the researchers as saying.

However, determining whether spending more time in school actually improves IQ is more difficult, as it is possible that children with a naturally higher IQ are those who choose to spend more time in the education system.

The statisticians involved in the study also cautioned against drawing too many conclusions, as they admit that the effect may only apply to Norwegian society or its education system at the time.—Internet

Now, world's most resilient 18-karat gold that is harder than steel

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—Scientists have come up with the world's first unscratchable 18-karat gold that is harder than steel and can be used in jewellery, watches and other high end products.

Gold is a beautiful and popular precious metal but it is also soft and vulnerable to scratches. Therefore other metals are needed to make it more resilient however that brings down its quality.

Now, a research team from the EPFL in Switzerland,

with support from Swiss watchmaker Hublot, have created a very hard high-quality gold. And recently, they unveiled the shiny result, the *Discovery News* reported.

"What is radically new is being able to make something that is both extremely hard and 18-karat gold. The challenge was to stick with that boundary," said Andreas Mortensen, a metallurgy professor at the EPFL in Switzerland who led the work. Others have been

able to create hard gold in the past but they have not been successful in achieving the level of hardness required to meet the 18-karat standard, separating real gold from impure gold.

The EPFL team used boron carbide, a ceramic that is one of the hardest materials in the world, along with diamonds to make the new gold. This material has myriad applications, including as a component in bulletproof vests.—Internet



Argentina's President Cristina Kirchner has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and will undergo surgery on 4 January.

INTERNET

False alarm sends 1,500 Colombian cops on wild goose chase

BOGOTA, 29 Dec—A Colombian television reporter found herself in hot water after contacting police about an abduction that never happened, media report said.

The incident began in the early hours of Wednesday, when Karen Gamba climbed into a Bogota taxi and began sending text messages to her friend, police Col Diego Hernandez, alerting him to an "express

kidnapping", in which the victim is driven around and forced to withdraw cash from ATMs.

Gamba's messages spurred police commanders to deploy 1,500 officers and enlist some 17,000 taxi drivers in a search for the ostensible victim.

The giant mobilization came to a halt when a highly intoxicated Gamba was found safe and sound at her home, Col Hernandez told the

media.

In the meantime, however, the unwitting cabbie who was driving Gamba was briefly detained.

Gamba denied having mounted a hoax, telling the media that she was only trying to inform police about a discrepancy between the taxi's registration number and the information on the driver's identification card, displayed inside the vehicle.

Internet



Britain's Prince Philip (R) smiles as he leaves Papworth hospital in Cambridge, England, after undergoing treatment for a blocked coronary artery.

INTERNET

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan inspects high-tech land reclamation (369 acres) in Ayinlo Village in Pynmana

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec— Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan together with Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Shwe and officials concerned this morning paid an inspection tour of high-tech land reclamation (369 acres) in Ayinlo Village in Pynmana Township here.

There, they heard reports presented by Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw Myint Hlaing on progress of land reclamation being carried out.

Then, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan and Union Minister U Myint Hlaing gave Palethwe hybrid strains to farmers.

Afterwards, the Union Ministers and officials participated in broadcasting activity at the farm.—MNA

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint presents uniforms for paddy growers at high-tech land reclamation farm (369 acres) in Ayinlo Village in Pynmana Township.

MNA



Fire breaks out in Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp, leaves 17 dead, 83 injured

140 households accommodated at relief camps

YANGON, 29 Dec—A fire broke out in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning, killing 17 people, injuring 83, leaving 140 households homeless and

100 bags of borax, 50 bags of red sandalwood and 100 bags of liquorice.

An explosion occurred due to chemical reaction of the herbal materials,

Fire breaks out in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

MNA



engulfing 16 warehouses, destroying four fire engines, warehouses, houses and two monasteries.

The fire started around 1.40 am at the warehouse No. 80 which stored TVs, EVDs and DVDs electronics and spread to the warehouse No.79 storing herbal materials for medicines including 400 bags of salammoniac, 400 bags of yellow orpiment, 20 bags of saltpetre, 50 bags of rauwolfia, 200 bags of odoriferous medicinal salt,

destroying four fire engines. The fire engulf sixteen of 42 warehouses, destroying 26 warehouses, two quarters near the warehouses, 18 rooms, 76 houses in Kadoseik Road in Kadoseik Ward, Kemawuntha Monastery and one monastery which is under construction and one religious building.

The explosion left a 15-foot-deep and 40-foot-wide crater. Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs

Col Tin Win, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials of the Myanmar Police Force and Fire Services Department arrived at the scene and 57 fire engines, nine command vehicles and seven water carriers fought the fire and controlled it at 6.45 am.

The fire killed 12 men and five women. The injured 65 men and 18 women were brought to Yangon General Hospital.

Five of the dead and 33

of the injured were firefighters.

The deadly fire left over 1000 people : 458 men and 592 women : from 140 households homeless and they were temporarily accommodated in relief shelters set up at two basic education primary schools and Maha Wizaya Yama Monastery in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Specialists Group of the

Ministry of Health and doctors of the Tatmadaw medical unit, Mingala Taungnyunt Township Free Health Care Services Society, Phyto Health Care Services Society and social organizations have provided health care services, accommodation and food to the fire victims. Meanwhile, wellwishers donated relief aids and food to them.

The cause of the fire is under investigation and the loss caused by the fire is under scrutiny.

The explosion rocked Yangon and broke windowpanes and destroyed windows of the buildings and homes in many townships in Yangon Region. Flying debris caused by the explosion also hit watercrafts in the Pazaundaung Creek.

MNA



Firefighters putting out fire in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

MNA

DISTRICT NEWS

Model paddy plot harvested

MYAUNGMYA, 29 Dec—Hnankar paddy on 38.24 acres of farmlands was harvested in south Kyaphungon field in Myaungmya Township on 17 December.

Region, district and township level officials supervised the harvesting of paddy. The model paddy plot produced 59.86 baskets per acre.—District IPRD

Agriculture and livestock breeding discussed

NYAUNGSHWE, 29 Dec—An educative talk on agriculture and livestock breeding was held at the hall of Affiliated Basic Education High School in Alemyaung Village in Nyaungshwe Township on 4 December.

State level departmental officials held discussions on cultivation of special yield hybrid paddy in ThaleU Village-tract and other officials on their respective sectors.

Kyemon

New blood midwifery turned out

TACHILEK, 29 Dec—The midwifery six-month course concluded at District General Hospital in Tachilek on 16 December.

Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Htay Htay Win presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Specialist Dr Myint Thuang handed over medical kits to the trainees and Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Shwe Moe Thuza, certificates to the trainees and gifts to trainers.—Myamma Alin



**Vice-President
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
delivering a speech
at the ceremony to
present the literary
awards held at the
Ministry of
Information..**

MNA

Myanmar economic stand-
ard.

He expressed State's attitude to the literary world. The government has given relaxation of media regulations to a certain extent and is redrafting media law. So, literary freedom will emerge soon. Literati, on their parts, are to serve the national interest with the sense of duty. Media men are urged to stand by people and the county without any bias to

guage genre and Myinmu Maung Naing Moe for his "Alwan-tha-din-pan-takhin" in the collective poems genre.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presented the national literary awards for 2010 to Saya Ye Shan for his "Bu-tar-yong-galay" in the collective short stories genre, Saya Tin Myint for his "From Shinma Mountain to the Ayeyawady" in the

and Dr Aung Myint Oo for "Research on Language" in general knowledge(arts) genre.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing presented the national literary awards to U Okka on behalf of his father U Han Tun for his "Narathukha Treatise and prose treatise" in the general knowledge (science) genre, Saya Saw Ngu Wah (Pyinmana) for his "IM bio-technological agriculture in the general knowledge

secret journey of a Myanmar youth group to the battlefield of Vietnam" in the political literature genre.

Union Minister at the President Office presented the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2010 to the winners. In the novel genre, K (Taungdanpyar) won the second prize and Hnin Sat (Lashio) the third prize. In the collective short stories genre, Myaylatt Min Lwin won the first prize, Maung Maung



Literature, great valuable cultural heritage...

straighten fourth pillar.

Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Hlaing re-

youth literary genre, Saya Nay Win Myint for his "Ye-kantha Kyar-daing-aye" in the translation (Aesthetic) genre

(applied science) genre and Daw Aye Aye Than on behalf of her father Saya Ko Than (Kyimyindine) for his "The

Moe Aung the second prize and Ko Naing (Chin Hill) the third.

(See page 9)

Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung presents award to Maung Maung Moe Aung, second prize winner.



MNA

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik awards second prize winner Min Thway Nwe.



MNA

(from page 1)

National literary must deserve a historic one of the county. The country needs books that can ensure national and Union spirits and keep tradition and culture and national characters dynamic.

Emergence of such kinds of literature is national literary objective of literati and the State's need. Only when literati keep track of Myanmar literature with nationalistic views, can readers enjoy literature with true thought.

And it would become a good example to new generation writers, poets, journalists. Successive Myanmar literati gives Myanmar people right thought, bravery and na-

tional prestige and integrity. Those literati served the interests of people dutifully.

The term of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is short. But the government has to serve a lot of duties and there are so many duties to be done.

Attempts are to be made to overcome any hindrances in building up disciplined, democratic nation. It can be seen that all-out efforts are being made for the emergence of good governance and clean government in the interest of people. On the other hand, poverty alleviation project is under implementation. Job opportunities for all walks of life are to be created so as to boost

ported on review of the National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee over the award-winning works for 2010.

Afterwards, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented the Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award to U Thaw Kaung (Dr Thaw Kaung) and national literary awards for 2010 to Tint Swe (Pyapon) for his "Kyaw-bo-eik-galay-kochi-gar-lwe" in the Belles-letters genre, Saya Boe Hlaing for his translation work of "Discovery of India" in the translation (General Knowledge) genre, Saya Kyaw Latt for his "Art and Architecture of Bagan and Historical Background" in the English Lan-

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan presents award to second prize winner Aung Soe (Agri/107).

MNA



Literature, great valuable cultural heritage...

(from page 8)

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik awarded the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2010. In the collective poems genre, Aung Thar Hsan (Thandwe) won the first prize, Min Thwe Nwe (Zeegon) the second and Maung Han Tint (Pinebu) the third.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint awarded the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and in the general knowledge (Art) genre, U Thaug Ngwe won the first prize and Minbu Aung Kyaing won the

second.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan awarded winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards, and in the science and applied science genre, Dr Myint Than won the first prize and Aung Soe (Agri/107) the second.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin presented prizes to Hla Myint (Yangon University) won the second prize in the Belles-letters genre and Myat Wai Toe (University of Education) who won the first prize in the Myanmar culture and Arts genre.

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win awarded the winners of the children literature genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, and Kantbalu Khin Maung Swe won the first prize, Zaw Myo Han the second and U Kyaw Thu Soe in place of Zarni the third.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin awarded the winners of the youth literature genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, and Inpin Than Htay Aung won the first, Thein Zaw (ShweliOo) the second and Kyunsinmyay Saw Hket the third.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin awarded the winners of the drama literature genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, and Maung Sanda (Lewe) won the first

prize, Maung Soe Htaik (Thonze) the second and Dr Nyan Hein Latt who stand first in Translation Literature genre.

On behalf of the winners, Literary Award winner Dr Thaw Kaung spoke words of thanks, saying that it is the duty of the authors and writers to widen the horizon of the people and to help them to have right thinking and to

keep the spirits of the people up while the country was making efforts for development. He also said that today's awards are encouragements for authors and writers to continue to serve their duty. After the ceremony, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party had documentary photos taken together with the winners.

MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presents national literary award to Saya Nay Win Myint.—MNA

Union Minister hosts dinner to winners of Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award and National Literary Awards

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec— Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan hosted a dinner to winners of Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award for 2010 and National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and members of Committee for Scrutinizing Na-

tional Literary Awards, at the assembly hall of the Ministry here at 6:30 pm today.

It was attended by departmental heads of Departments and Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, literati, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and vice-chairmen,

CEC members, members of the Scrutinizing Committee, winners and guests.

Fine Arts Department of Ministry of Culture and Myanma Modern Music Troupe entertained those present with songs and dances before and during the dinner.—MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan hosts a dinner to winners of Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award, National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and members of Committee for Scrutinizing National Literary Awards. MNA



Union Level Peace-making group and Special Region-4 Peace-making group have documentary photo taken at Special Region-4 office in Mongla.—MNA

Union Level Peace-making Group, Special...

(from page 16)

- (3) The Union government agrees to help increase the opportunities for youths of national races in Special Region (4) 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 health care to national people in Special Region (4), acquiring health knowledge.
- (5) It is agreed to continue negotiating matters related to enable representatives of people in townships of Special Region (4) take seats in each Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to represent desires of the people in Special Region (4).
- (6) Special Region (4) is an important part of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Special Region (4) agrees to continue to hold talk to cooperate with defence forces of the State for security and defence of the State as well as it agrees not to disintegrate the State and secede from the State at all and to devote all the capacities of Special Region (4) to perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State.

After the meeting, Leader of Union level peace-making group U Aung Thaug presented gift to Chairman of Special Region (4) U Sai Lin. Later, both parties posed for documentary photo after exchanging gifts.

MNA

All prisoners express their ardent hope for granting of next general amnesty by President

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—The Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and party visited the Insein Prison and Hlay-Hlaw-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp and issued a statement today.

The full text of the statement is as follows:-

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on its visits to the Insein Prison and Hlay-Hlaw-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp

1. An eight-member team of the Commission, headed by its Chairman visited the Insein Prison on 27 December 2011 and the Hlay-Hlaw-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp in Hlegu Township on 28 December 2011. Earlier a four-member team of the Commission visited Myitkyina Prison on 9 December 2011. The visits provided a valuable opportunity to observe at firsthand the daily lives of the prisoners and the general conditions in which they are serving their respective prison terms. In this regard, the Commission is grateful for the full cooperation extended by the prison authorities.
2. During the visits to Insein Prison and Hlay-Hlaw-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp, the team was briefed by the prison officials that management of the prison was based on the Myanmar Jail Manual and UN Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. The team observed the provision of health care and recreational facilities, serving of daily meals, provision of linguistic and computer training, conduct of formal education classes and religious activities carried out in the prison.
3. The Commission had received communications from different chapters of the Amnesty International alleging that the prisoners who recently staged hunger strike were put in "dog cells", maltreated and deprived even of water.
4. During the visit, therefore, the team interviewed three prisoners who took part in the recent strikes.
5. All prisoners interviewed stated that they were not deprived of water and were provided with medical attention both during and after the strikes. The allegations regarding "dog cells" also proved to be untrue. The hunger strikers were each held in cells measuring

- 10 feet by 22 feet which were clean and properly ventilated.
6. During the visit to Hlay-Hlaw-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp, the team observed the camp facilities and interviewed a number of prisoners, who expressed their views and concerns in a candid manner. The camp authorities took notes of them with a view to taking corrective actions.
 7. Based on the tour of the prison and the interviews, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission wishes to make the following observations and recommendations:
 - The number of prisoners in the Insein Prison far exceeds its maximum holding capacity. The Commission finds this prison congestion as an important source of grievances which should be addressed in a timely fashion.
 - The provision of meditation sessions, in the view of the Commission, has a salutary effect on the prisoners' state of mind in the long term and its continuation is strongly recommended.
 - Bible studies for Protestants and Confessional and Communion Services for Catholics and suitable religious programs for Muslims and Hindus should also be organized as appropriate. In this regard, the Commission is pleased to find a chapel, a mosque, a Hindu temple and Buddhist shrine on the prison premises.
 8. All prisoners interviewed expressed their ardent hope for the granting of the next general amnesty by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In this regard, the Commission would like to recall that it had appealed to the President on 12 November 2011 for the release of the remaining prisoners who do not pose a threat to the stability of the State and public tranquility. The Commission would earnestly like to reiterate this appeal.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
30 December 2011
Yangon

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence...

(from page 16)

technologists. In performing services for diagnostics, curative and rehabilitative, psychological support which is rooted in their attitude and soul, is more effective than drugs and medical equipments.

Apart from conventional medicine, they should study traditional medicine using medicinal plants. Traditional medicines are so efficient that the Ministry of Health opened the Traditional Medicine Department to upgrade the traditional medicine. Rural population mainly utilizes traditional medicines and it is found that they are useful and effective. With effective and readily available traditional medicines, they should study and apply the traditional medicine in providing effective healthcare services.

He went on that concerning skills, they should be able to decide promptly based on theories and systematic practices in order to provide medical services accurately and effectively. Today, science and technologies have advanced in a great momentum. Since they are combat soldiers-cum-medical professionals who ought to be acquainted with injuries likely to be caused by modern nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, they must constantly study military science along with medical advances in biotechnology, radiography and nanotechnology.

He said that they must take care of the health of members of the Tatmadaw and their families, so that the

Tatmadawmen could carry out their national defence duties in good health. At the same time, they are required to keep on studying the nursing and paramedical sciences in relation to the nature of the modern wars in order to excel in their respective specialized fields. Only then will they become well-trained, skilled and confident members of the medical corps who could achieve victories.

Chapter (7), Section (340) of the 2008 Constitution prescribes that the military strategy has to be implemented with Tatmadaw leadership. In accordance with the constitutional act, all have to develop solidarity with local people in assigned areas by supporting the rural development and poverty alleviation activities which have been initiated by the State.

The Tatmadawmen participated effectively within a short time frame in relief and rehabilitative measures for damages in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions hit by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008. Along with the Tatmadaw, the medical corps also carried out health care activities with special medical teams in the affected regions.

He continued that similarly, Cyclone Giri that hit Rakhine State in October 2010, and Earthquake that struck in Tarlay, Eastern Shan State in March, 2011 in which the medical corps actively participated in provision of healthcare services. For the flooded areas in Pakokku District in October, 2011, Tatmadawmen from Meiktila, Kyaukpadaung, Magway, Pakokku, Yesagyo, Monywa, Ayadaw and Shwebo Cantonnments participated in relief and rehabilitative activities in collaboration with local officials and local people.

The Tatmadaw had been doing such public welfare

tasks since pre-Independence days, and throughout the post-Independence era striving for stability, peace, and development. In the democratization task currently initiated by the government, Tatmadawmen must take up defence and national politics duties in order to bring about peace and tranquility.

In conclusion, he urged them to

- adhere to Our Three Main National Causes, and to safeguard the noble traditions of the Tatmadaw, and strictly abide by the sixty codes of military conduct.
- be qualified nurses and medical technologists, they need to study continuously according to the motto of MINP "Skillful, and Supportive Medical corps".
- build the Tatmadaw into a strong, capable and modern patriotic armed forces with the four unit building tasks and three responsibilities as guidelines.
- develop a firm and lasting national unity and support the local community in line with sound and noble ethical norms so as to become inseparable with the people, and Tatmadawmen who abide by the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

After the ceremony, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the Institute and spoke words of honour to them.

MNA

Relief aid flows to fire victims in Yangon

YANGON, 29 Dec—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi this evening gave relief aids to the fire-victims of this early morning warehouse fire in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here.

The Union Minister went to a temporary relief camp for the victims at Maha Wizaya Yama Monastery and presented relief aids and food for two weeks to the victims whose houses were destroyed by the fire started at the warehouse.

The Union Minister and officials concerned also donated relief aids and robes to monks whose monasteries were collapsed.

The relief aids include six materials for rehabilitation, 236 Korea-made blankets, 4504

packages of noodle accommodated to K 12187540 to the victims who are now accommodated at Maha Wizaya Yama Monastery

Htoo Co donated K30 million, Kanbawza Bank 20 million and wellwishers K8.6 million to the fire victims through the Union Minister.

The Union Minister and officials also handed over K 1650000 to families of the victims who died in the fire and comforted them. They also comforted the families of the five firefighters who died in the fire.—MNA

Second work committee for holding Myanmar Health Research Conference 2011 meets

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Second work committee meeting for holding Myanmar Health Research Conference 2011, took place at medical Research Department (lower Myanmar), Yangon on 24 December, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin.

Secretary of Committee Deputy Director-General Dr Ye Htut reported on progress of works and those present coordinated

essentials. After that, the Deputy Minister gave concluding remarks.

Opening of the Conference, paper reading

session and poster show will be held at Medical Research Department (lower Myanmar) from 9 to 13 January, 2012.

MNA

Self-reliant power station launched

KYAUKPYU, 29 Dec—The opening of a diesel power station was held in Hnanphetaung Village of Kyaukpyu Township on 16 December.

Responsible persons formally opened the power station by switching on the supply of electricity. The station supplies electricity to 417 people of 8 houses in the village from 6 pm to 9 pm daily.—District IPRD

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Hackers say to publish emails stolen from Stratfor

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—Hackers affiliated with the Anonymous group said they are getting ready to publish emails stolen from private intelligence analysis firm Strategic Forecasting Inc, whose clients include the US military, Wall Street banks and other corporations.

Strategic Forecasting Inc, which is also known as Stratfor, disclosed over the weekend that its website had been hacked and that some information about its corporate subscribers had been made public.

The hacking group known as AntiseC has

claimed responsibility for the attack and promised to cause "mayhem" by releasing stolen documents.

AntiseC has already published what it claims are the names of thousands of corporate and government customers, as well as email addresses, passwords and credit card numbers of individual subscribers to its services. Customers on the list published by AntiseC include Bank of America, Exxon Mobil Corp, Goldman Sachs & Co, Interpol, Thomson Reuters, the US military and the United Nations.

Stratfor said in a letter to subscribers over the weekend that it would offer identity theft protection and monitoring services to affected subscribers. Its website has been offline for several days.

Stratfor Chief Executive George Friedman said on the company's Facebook page that the people whose names were published by AntiseC had simply subscribed to the firm's publications and did not have a deeper relationship with the company.

Officials with Stratfor could not be reached on Tuesday to comment on

AntiSec's latest threat.

Anonymous said that the emails the hackers intended to publish would be more sensitive.

"Stratfor is not the 'harmless company' it tries to paint itself as. You'll see in those emails," Anonymous said via Twitter.

The group said it would release those emails once it had finished formatting them for distribution and prepared more than 9,000 "mirrored" copies. Creating that many copies of the file would allow the hackers to distribute it more quickly and also make it more difficult for authorities to shut down servers holding the data. A spokesman for the FBI declined comment on the matter.—Reuters



The exhibit covers a wide range from various vessels to weapons and some 30 pieces make their first appearance in 20 years. 104 pieces are selected as the most symbolic bronze art of ancient China. They are lined up to chronicle the past glory running through 12 centuries, from late Shang Dynasty to the end of Warring States Period, around the second century BC. They altogether demonstrate the history of brilliant bronze art in ancient China.—INTERNET

Beijing gets 200 million tourists

BEIJING, 29 Dec—The Chinese capital received a record 200 million tourists this year, an official said Wednesday. The number—both domestic and overseas tourists—rose about 15 percent year-on-year, Lu Yong of the Beijing Municipal Tourism Commission told Xinhua.

The number of foreign tourists who stayed in Beijing for at least one night broke the five-million mark for the first time. The capital earned a revenue of 300 billion yuan (USD 47 billion), up 16 percent year-on-year.—Internet

5.4-magnitude quake hits Halmahera, Indonesia

HONG KONG, 29 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Halmahera, Indonesia at 17:33 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 159.70 km, was initially determined to be at 1.6658 degrees north latitude and 127.5154 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 27 Dec, 2011, shows the scene of rime on the Songjiang Central Road in Jilin City, northeast China's Jilin Province. The scenery of rime along the Songhua River attracted lots of tourists and citizens.

XINHUA

Suspected food poisoning sickens 57 in SW China

CHENGDU, 29 Dec—Suspected food poisoning landed 57 people in hospital on Tuesday in southwest China's Sichuan Province, local authorities said Wednesday.

The patients suffered from vomiting after eating at a restaurant in Xiping Township of Santai county in Mianyang late Tuesday afternoon, the Press office of the county committee of the Communist Party of China said.

Of the 57 people who were hospitalized Tuesday night, one was still under observation and the other 56 had been released by Wednesday morning, it said.

Specialists with the local disease control and prevention center said they were poisoned by nitrite, as lab tests found the chemical in the restaurant's kitchen and in samples of the patients' vomit. The restaurant has been closed for further investigation. While industrial nitrates are poisonous, sodium nitrate and nitrite approved for human consumption are commonly added to food as preservatives and colour-enhancers.—Xinhua



A skier performs during the opening ceremony of an ice and snow festival in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 28 Dec, 2011. The 9th Silk Road Ice and Snow Festival opened here on Wednesday.

XINHUA

Plane tires catch fire during takeoff

SACRAMENTO, 29 Dec—No injuries were reported when a Southwest Airlines plane aborted takeoff Tuesday after two tires caught fire on a California airport runway, officials said.

The accident occurred on the 6:05 pm departure of Flight 2287 from Sacramento International Airport to Seattle, an airline spokeswoman said. An emergency crew extinguished the blaze. The Sacramento Bee reported.

The 130 passengers on board the plane were safely taken off. The spokeswoman said they would be able to proceed to Seattle on a later flight.

An airport spokeswoman said one runway was closed but other flights were not delayed.

Internet

Three killed by cold lava flood in Indonesia's N Maluku

JAKARTA, 29 Dec—Three people were killed by cold lava flood from Mount Gamalama in Indonesia's North Maluku Province. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, head of the Centre of Data, Information and Public Relation at the National Agency of Disaster Management (BNPB), said in a statement that the flood

hit villages of Tubo and Tofure, killed three people and ruined several houses.

"The flood was caused by heavy rainfall, causing rivers of Togorara and Marikurubu overflow and brought cold lava material," he said. Nugroho added that the Regional Agency of Disaster Management (BDPB) of North Maluku

Province and related institutions have evacuated residents whose house exposed by the flood.

He also said that BNPB and BPBD keep coordinating with the Centre of Volcanology and Geologic Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) to monitor Mount Gamalama.

"Danger status remains at level III," he said.—Xinhua

Passenger plane overshoots runway at Kyrgyz airport, seven injured

BISHKEK, 29 Dec—A Tu-134 passenger plane carrying 69 people overshoot the runway upon landing at an airport in the southern Kyrgyz City of Osh on Wednesday, leaving seven injured, local media reported.

The accident happened when the plane arrived at the Osh airport shortly after noon following a 3.5-hour flight from Bishkek, the 24.kg news agency reported, adding that 13 children were among those on board.—Xinhua

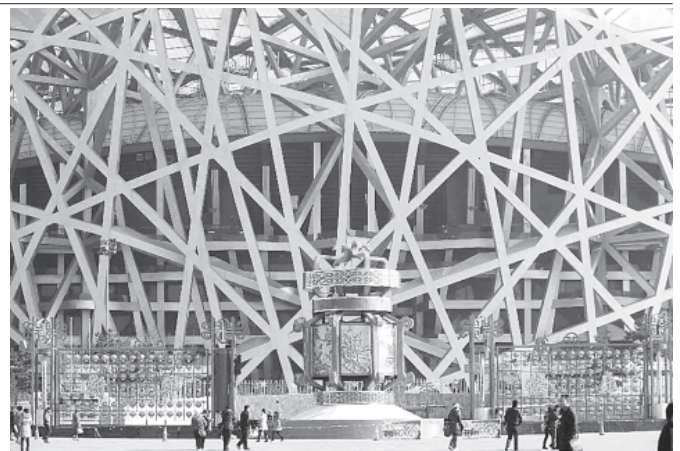


Photo taken on 28 Dec, 2011 shows the red lantern decorations outside the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest, in Beijing, capital of China. Four sets of New Year decorations including red lanterns and Chinese folding fans have been placed in the Olympic Park of Beijing recently to greet the coming New Year and the Spring Festival.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (0032)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (0032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BALTIC STEAMER VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BALTIC STEAMER VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MONZA EXPRESS VOY NO (8)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MONZA EXPRESS VOY NO (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN-CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (95)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (95) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th JANUARY 2012 (Independence Day) Goods Shipped or delivered on payment will be received as Holiday Fees.

Mexico rehab clinic sausage poisoning kills five

MEXICO CITY, 29 Dec — Five patients at a drug rehab clinic in Mexico have died after being poisoned by a sausage dish served as a Christmas meal, the Red Cross says. Another 37 residents of the clinic in the central city of Guadalajara, west of Mexico City, were taken to hospital. Three are said to be in a serious condition. The authorities are investigating whether the food had been deliberately contaminated.

Mexican drugs gangs have targeted rehab centres several times in recent years. The affected patients in Guadalajara were all admitted to hospital suffering from dizziness and vomiting after eating a dish made with soy sausage, medical officials said. Red Cross spokesman Daniel Nunez said forensic scientists were investigating the possibility of cyanide poisoning.

Internet



Police are carrying out tests to see if the poisoning was deliberate.—INTERNET

Man arrested for trying to smuggle 15 venomous vipers aboard in his luggage

BUENOS AIRES, 29 Dec—Samuel L Jackson would probably be pretty angry with Karel Abelovsky, a Czech national who tried to smuggle 15 venomous vipers aboard an airplane in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He nearly succeeded in taking more than 200 mollusks on a plane to Madrid, Spain, in his checked luggage, but airport screeners discovered from an x-ray that his over-loaded suitcase was full of wriggling, moving live animals. Included in the mix were nine species of poisonous snakes, among them two yararas -- an aggressive species that can grow up to five feet.

Authorities believe Abelovsky is part of an exotic animal smuggling ring and was planning to take the creatures out of the country to sell abroad. The animals were all



Just like the movie? In the cult movie Snakes on a Plane, Samuel L. Jackson fights off hoards of deadly snakes.

INTERNET



Snakes on a plane: Karel Abelovsky was arrested after trying to sneak 15 venomous vipers aboard an airliner.—INTERNET

packed in clear plastic containers. Two of them were already dead when authorities found them. Experts say the rest likely would have died from lack of oxygen in the cargo hold when the plane made it up to cruising elevation. Workers discovered the suitcase on 7 December.

A judge charged Abelovsky with smuggling this week. He could be sentenced to 10 years in prison if he is convicted. The case brings to mind the infamously ridiculous movie 'Snakes on a Plane,' that features Mr Jackson as an FBI agent on a plane filled with deadly venomous snakes. The most famous line of the movie was Mr Jackson's character yelling: 'Enough is enough! I have had it with these motherf***** snakes on this motherf***** plane!' — Internet

Celebrity chef fighting for his life after fire destroys home and kills his entire family

QUEENSLAND, 29 Dec — Television chef Matt Golinski is fighting for survival after a fire ravaged his home and killed his entire family. The Ready Steady Cook star fought to save his wife and children before they died in the blaze that tore through his house on Australia's Sunshine Coast. Hours after the family celebrated Christmas together, the celebrity chef was battling third-degree burns that covered 40 per cent of his body, while wife Rachel and his three daughters lay dead.

He was found by neighbours at 3.30am 'burned from head to toe' screaming 'my family, my family' outside his home, according to Australian media. After being woken by a deafening ex-

plosion, neighbours in Tewantin, Queensland, rushed to help Mr Golinski. Neighbour Gary Siljac told the Herald Sun that Mr Golinski had only been worried about his beloved wife Rachel and daughters Starlia and 12-year-old twins Sage and Willow.

'It was the most heart-breaking thing I have ever seen. There was nothing we could do,' Mr Siljac said. 'Those kids were so cute and their mother was always smiling. They were the perfect little family.'

Internet

Matt Golinski's house was destroyed and his wife and three daughters died as he fought to save them from the flames.—INTERNET

Mengniu, China's largest milk producer, says the toxic milk was destroyed before it went on sale.

XINHUA



Man dies after attack in Falkirk car park

FALKIRK, 29 Dec—A man has died in hospital two days after being attacked in a car park in Falkirk. A 42-year-old man will appear in court later this week in connection with the incident, which happened at 22:30 GMT on Fri-

day. Central Scotland Police appealed for witnesses to the incident at Woodside Court. A 43-year-old man, who has not been named, died in hospital on Christmas Day.

A Central Scotland Police spokesman said: "The cause of death at this time is unknown pending a post-mortem." A 42-year-old male will be appearing at Falkirk Sheriff Court on 28 December in relation to the incident. "Inquiries are at an early stage and anyone with any information can contact Central Scotland Police on 01786456 000, or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers."—Internet



TSA agent confiscates cupcake from woman

A Peabody, Mass., woman says a security officer at the Las Vegas airport took a frosted cupcake from her because he felt the icing posed a security risk.

Rebecca Hains was at the McCarran International Airport returning home Wednesday when a Transport Security Administration agent told her the frosting on her cupcake was too similar to a gel that violates TSA restrictions, WFXT-TV, Boston, reported.

While TSA does not allow liquids or gels aboard flights, cupcakes, they say, are allowed. "TSA is reviewing the circumstances of this situation.

However, passengers are allowed to take cupcakes through the checkpoint," TSA said in a statement.

Hains said she passed through security at Logan International Airport in Boston days earlier with no problems.

News Album



A Filipino woman looks forward as others raise their gifts during an attempt to break a Guinness world record for the biggest, simultaneous exchange of gifts, or kris kringle, in Manila, Philippines on 18 Dec, 2011.

ATM stolen from Calif bank parking lot

The Orange County Sheriff's Department said at least two suspects were involved in stealing an ATM from a bank parking lot in Laguna Woods, Calif.

The theft happened at about 5 am Friday at a Chase bank in Laguna Woods, KTLA-TV, Los Angeles, reported.

Sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said the suspects wrapped a cable around a drive-up ATM and tried to pull it out of the ground, but the cable snapped.

The suspects then used a tow truck to knock the ATM

over, then loaded it onto a flatbed truck.

Police found the ATM dumped behind an auto shop several hours later, still sitting on the flatbed truck used to steal it with.

The truck was reported stolen from Santa Ana, police said. It was not clear how much money was inside the ATM.

Police hope surveillance video from the parking lot will help them identify the suspects, who wore hooded sweatshirts to hide their faces.

Old fruitcake brings \$525 for charity

How much is a 70-year-old fruitcake worth? For a winning auction bidder the answer is \$525, which will go to help the homeless in Ohio, the cake's owner said. The fruitcake was baked and sold by a Cincinnati-area Kroger store in 1941 and wound up back at the store in 1971. A note left with the returned fruit cake said it was one of six bought by a man named EF Helbing, WHIO-TV, Dayton, reported. The note said the owner had been carting it around for decades and was finally unloading it on its maker, the Kroger store. Store manager Frank Bates, now 86, took possession of it and kept it until recently when he gave it to Elite Estate Group owner Larry Chaney, whose firm decided to auction it off for charity.

While even higher offers — some over \$1,000 — came in later, the winning bid of \$525 came Thursday night from a man in Arizona who asked to remain anonymous, WHIO-TV reported. The money will go to a church outreach programme, providing food and other items for the homeless in the Cincinnati area, the TV station said.

Mystery nativity arrives a piece at a time

A Canadian family says a nativity scene mysteriously showed up at their home this Christmas season, one piece at a time.

Karen Michael of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp each night for the past week and a half someone would knock on the door, leave one piece to a nativity scene and disappear before being spotted.

"We have no idea who it is — they just run away so quick," Michael said. The family was awaiting the final piece of their Christmas puzzle Saturday night, the CBC said.

Selena Gomez thanks fans for support



Singer-actress Selena Gomez

The 19-year-old was left devastated earlier this month when her mother Mandy lost the baby she was expecting with Gomez's stepfather Brian. Gomez has now posted a message on social networking site facebook expressing her gratitude to all the fans who sent her messages of support after the tragedy, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Belated Merry Christmas everybody... I can't thank you enough for all of your thoughts and prayers. We appreciate every one of you... I love you all so much and we hope you and your family had a beautiful Christmas," she posted.

Internet

LONDON, 29 Dec— Singer-actress Selena Gomez has thanked her fans for standing by her as she dealt with her mother's miscarriage.

Peter Andre loves 'Star Trek' movies



Singer Peter Andre

LONDON, 29 Dec— Singer Peter Andre was amazed by sci-fi series "Star Trek" after watching it while holidaying with his children.

The 38-year-old spent the holiday in Spain with his children — Junior, six, and

four-year-old Princess Tiaamii — with ex-wife Katie Price. "Me and the kids were in Spain having a holiday while they were on half-term. It wasn't actually that warm but we were staying in an amazing villa with a beautiful view and it was really nice to have a change of scenery," contactmusic.com quoted Andre as saying. "The villa had a cinema room and Carl, my tour manager, who came away with us, made us watch all the 'Star Trek' films. I can't believe I've never seen them before, they're amazing," he added.—Internet



Alan Taylor to direct 'Thor 2'

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec—"Game of Thrones" director Alan Taylor is to direct "Thor 2," the sequel to the blockbuster "Thor," *The Hollywood Reporter* said. Patty Jenkins was initially attached to direct the movie, but she dropped out for creative reasons.

The first movie was directed by Kenneth Branagh, but he declined to helm the second installment, which is set for release in November 2013. Chris Hemsworth will again play the titular hero. *The Hollywood Reporter* said Marvel Studios did not comment on its story about Taylor's hiring when contacted.

Internet

Chris Hemsworth and his wife, actress Elsa Pataky, attend the premiere of the film "Captain America: The First Avenger" at the El Capitan Theater in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 19 July, 2011.

INTERNET

Jessie J to show pain in next album



British singer Jessie J

LONDON, 29 Dec— British singer Jessie J says there will be a "lot more pain" in the lyrics of her next album.

The 23-year-old is planning to explore the darker

side of her character and the struggles she had before she was famous for her upcoming record.

"There will be a lot more pain in the lyrics on my next album. For the seven years before I signed my record deal I was in a bad place and I was scared that I couldn't get out of it." "That's why I wrote such upbeat music, as a way of trying to escape how I felt," contactmusic.com quoted Jessie as saying. "Now that I am happier, I won't be afraid to explore my pain. But in a good way; it'll be me saying that it's OK not to feel OK," she added.—Internet

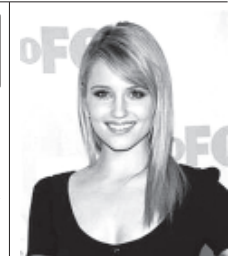
Steven Tyler to wed again?



"Aerosmith" rocker Steven Tyler

LONDON, 29 Dec—"Aerosmith" rocker Steven Tyler is set to wed for the third time after reportedly proposing to his long-time girlfriend Erin Brady. Brady, 38, was spotted wearing a diamond ring on her wedding finger during the Christmas vacation, reports Tmz.com quoting sources as saying that she's set to marry Tyler.

The couple has been dating since 2006. Tyler was previously married to Teresa Barrick and Cyrinda Foxe.—Internet



"Glee" actress Dianna Agron

Dianna Agron loves sleeping

LONDON, 29 Dec—"Glee" actress Dianna Agron says getting plenty of rest helps her to stay looking good.

The 25-year-old says getting plenty of rest is the main factor in looking good and staying in shape. "We do a lot of dancing on the show and that's enough to keep the weight off. Plus in Los Angeles, everyone eats really healthily and I also sleep a lot—that's a key factor," contactmusic.com quoted Agron as saying.

"I'm happy with my body but don't feel the need to stay trim," she added.—Internet



Celtic beats Rangers to go top of Scottish league

GLASGOW, 29 Dec—Celtic have wrestled top spot in the Scottish Premier League from Rangers, after edging their Old Firm rivals 1-0 in the derby on Thursday morning.

Joe Ledley's goal seven minutes into the second half was enough to clinch the three points for Celtic, completing their revival in the title race after lying 15 points behind Rangers on 5 November. The win was Celtic's ninth in succession, but the result could have been far different had the linesman at Celtic Park awarded a goal to Lee Wallace after seventh minutes.

The Rangers defender's header looked to have crossed the line, but the goal was not given.

Rangers could have again

taken the lead when Carlos Bocanegra somehow prodded the ball over the bar instead of past Celtic goalkeeper Fraser Forster from close range, and he was to rue that miss when Neil Lennon's side took the lead early in the second half.

Charlie Mulgrew sent a corner from the right to the back post, and Ledley's header beat the flat-footed Allan McGregor in Rangers' goal.

Celtic had a handful of chances to extend their lead as they began to dictate proceedings, but instead held on by the slightest of margins.

Elsewhere, St Mirren missed an opportunity to move into the upper half of the table, after being held 2-2 at home by Dundee United.—*Internet*

Italian coach Ancelotti to manage Paris Saint-Germain

PARIS, 29 Dec—French top league soccer club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) will sign later on Wednesday Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti to replace the French Antoine Kombouare, a local daily reported.

Ancelotti, 52, is due to meet PSG directors to sign an agreement by which he will manage the French club for two and a half years, Le Figaro said. Under the sharing agreement, PSG will offer 500,000 euros (653,464 US dollars) to the veteran

Italian coach, the highest salary in the history of the local top championship.

Currently managing Britain's Chelsea, Ancelotti's mission will consist in leading the club to win French championship title, it added. After David Beckham, Ancelotti was the second famous face to be recruited by PSG whose new Qatari managers are investing billions of petrodollars to improve the club standing and win European titles.

Xinhua

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo:

La Liga is the best league in the world

MADRID, 29 Dec—Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo believes that La Liga is the best soccer league in the world.

Speaking in the aftermath of being awarded Best Player at the annual Globe Soccer convention in Dubai on Wednesday, the 26-year-old maintained that his experi-



Cristiano Ronaldo (C)

ence in the Premier League helped him mold his game but feels that he now plays in a superior domestic league.

"When I was at Manchester United, I learned the basic rules of soccer, especially the discipline of tackling, but La Liga is the best in the world because it is based on players' skills and technique," asserted Ronaldo. Ronaldo further shared his take on life, revealing that he prefers to live for the present day rather than anticipate what will happen in the future.

"I do not want to think about what will happen, but instead I [prefer to] enjoy the moment," he stated.

The Portugal international has enjoyed a fine individual season for Real Madrid, scoring 25 goals in just 23 appearances for the Blancos so far.—*Internet*

Manchester United target Adil Rami only thinking about Valencia

LONDON, 29 Dec—Valencia defender Adil Rami has distanced himself from reports linking him with a move to Manchester United after pledging his future to the club.

Recent speculation has seen the English champions allegedly pinpoint the 26-year-old as the ideal replacement for injured duo Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic, but speaking to Superdeporte on Wednesday, he spoke of his passion to build a legacy in the Primera Division.

"Currently, I am only thinking about Valencia and fighting for a major trophy like the Copa del Rey," said

Rami. "Here I feel well and my desire is to become an important player of this historic team. Of course the interest of a team like United is nice, but it is not my goal."

Rami joined Valencia during the summer following a successful four-year spell with Lille, where he earned international recognition with France.

Internet



Valencia defender Adil Rami

International Sports

Spain captain Corretja hopeful on Nadal for Davis

BARCELONA, 29 Dec—New Spain captain Alex Corretja is hopeful that Rafael Nadal will be available to the Davis Cup champions despite the second-ranked Spaniard announcing he won't compete in the event in 2012.

Corretja said Wednesday that neither Nadal nor David Ferrer have told him personally they will be unavailable for the five-time winners, so the newly appointed captain plans to speak to the pair at the Australian Open to see if they could play certain matchups.

"My obligation as captain is to speak to all of the players and the coaches. Not one player has personally told me that they will not play," Corretja said from Barcelona's Olympic Stadium.

"If some players say they need time to rest, I can only respect that and try to put

together the best team possible for each series."

Nadal and fifth-ranked Ferrer indicated after beating Argentina in the final earlier this month that they would be unavailable with 2012 being an Olympic year, which has compressed the calendar.

Internet



Liverpool's charge of failing to control their players related to red card for Jay Spearing.

Internet

Arteta: Arsenal need to be ruthless

LONDON, 29 Dec—Arsenal midfielder Mikel Arteta says they need to learn to be ruthless after they were held at home by Wolves on Tuesday. The Gunners drew 1-1 despite having the bulk of possession and chances and Wolves playing the last 15 minutes with 10 men.

The draw meant they missed the chance to jump above London rivals Chelsea and into the top four in the Barclays Premier League table.

Their next three League matches all come against teams in the bottom half of the table - QPR at home, followed by away trips to Fulham and Swansea.

Arteta, 29, told Arsenal Player: "I don't think you can ask much more than we put in to win the game." Everyone tried really hard, it was



Mikel Arteta joined Arsenal from Everton in the summer

one of those games. We had seven to 10 chances to win it but it did not happen for us.

"Every side in the Premier League works hard but one goal is not enough. We have to be ruthless at home and keep more clean sheets to make sure we don't drop points." "We have to stand up now. This is a very important period and we have another game in four days."

Internet

Suarez and Liverpool punished by the FA

LONDON, 29 Dec—The Football Association has suspended Liverpool striker Luis Suarez for one match with immediate effect and has fined his club £20,000 for failing to control their players during the 1-0 defeat by Fulham on 5 December.

Uruguay international Suarez admitted a charge of

improper conduct after making an abusive hand gesture at the end of the match and has been fined £20,000 and warned about his future conduct.

He will miss Liverpool's Barclays Premier League match against Newcastle on 30 December.

Liverpool accepted the charge, which related to the red card shown to midfielder Jay Spearing, but contested a £20,000 penalty.

But an Independent Regulatory Commission hearing on Wednesday upheld the fine.

Suarez was banned for eight matches by the FA following an independent hearing on 20 December after he was found guilty of racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra.

Internet

Tiote happy at Newcastle

LONDON, 29 Dec—Newcastle United midfielder Cheick Tiote says he has no intention of leaving the Sports Direct Arena during the January transfer window. The Ivory Coast international has impressed during the Magpies' spectacular start to the season and his name has been linked with a move to a number of prominent Barclays Premier League clubs.

But the 25-year-old, who joined the Magpies in August 2010 from Dutch club FC Twente, insists he is enjoying his football in the north-east. "I am flattered by clubs interested but there is nothing official," he said. When teams such as Chelsea, City, Liverpool, United are interested in you it makes you think twice, but I love Newcastle, I belong to Newcastle and I enjoy my life here. "Meanwhile, Newcastle manager Alan Pardew has prioritised signing a central defender when the transfer window opens on 1 January.

The club had been set to sign striker



Tiote has become an integral part of Newcastle's midfield this season.

Modibo Maiga for £6m from French club Sochaux, but the move broke down during the medical stage because of concerns about the Mali international striker's knees.

Newcastle will lose top scorer Demba Ba in January when the striker goes on international duty with Senegal for the Africa Cup of Nations. But Pardew insists he has adequate cover with the likes of Shola and Sammy Ameobi, Peter Lovenkrands and Leon Best.

Internet

Dalglish says Gerrard looking superb

LIVERPOOL, 29 Dec—Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish is excited by the prospect of having a fit Steven Gerrard at his disposal.

Reds skipper Gerrard returned as a second-half substitute against Blackburn on Boxing Day after missing Liverpool's previous eight Barclays Premier League matches with an ankle problem.

The 31-year-old also missed the start of the season after undergoing groin surgery earlier in the year.

Dalglish says he will ease Gerrard back in slowly but admits he is already looking sharp.

"He is back and looks even better than he did the last time he came back," said the Reds boss. "But we are not going to be



irresponsible and throw him in and take a chance.

"We know he's fit and we know he just needs game time in the same way as we monitored him through last time and we'll do the same this time.

"He looks superb at the moment."

"He looks superb at the moment"
- Kenny Dalglish

Internet

Bachchans yet to find a suitable name for Beti B



Amitabh Bachchan with daughter-in-law Aishwarya Rai and her baby girl outside Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai.
INTERNET

BANGALORE, 29 Dec—It has been a month since Bollywood diva Aishwarya Rai Bachchan gave birth to a baby girl and the Bachchans are yet to name her. They are still in search of an appropriate name for the new member of the family.

"I would let you know as soon as I have decided upon a name (for my daughter)," Abhishek Bachchan told reporters here at the promo of his latest flick 'Players'.

Asked what was his feeling when Aishwarya gave birth to the baby, he said it was the most "incredible thing that ever happens" to anybody. "No matter how good is your vocabulary, you can never get (proper) words of what you feel when you see the child... It is wonderful," he said. Replying to another question, Abhishek said his daughter resembled his wife and he wants her to look like the former Miss World. "Thankfully she (daughter) resembles her mother, but I have been told by the veterans that children's face changes over time... I think it sounds better she looks like her mother," he said.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-12-11 09:30 am ~ 31-12-11 09:30 am) MST Overseas Transmission

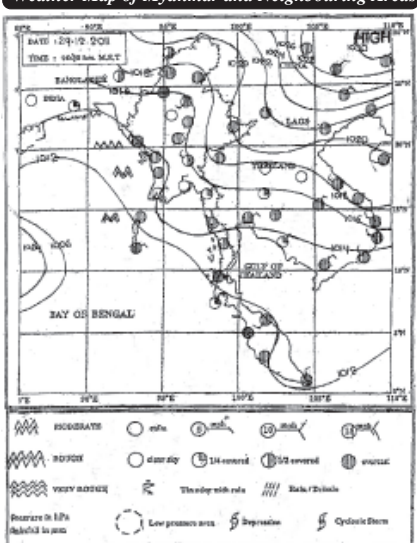
- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Electric Power, Energy)
- * "Fruits of Success" River Ayeyawady... demarcated cannot be "Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) (Part-2)"
- * News
- * VCD Centre
- * News
- * Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist U Lun Gywe
- * News
- * Technology Boost Nation's Prestige (University of Computer Studies, Yangon)
- * Usefulness of the Whole Toddy Palm
- * Music Gallery
- * From The Union Highway to Forever Friendship
- * Myanmar Movies "Uncontrollable Heartbeat"

MYANMAR TV

(30-12-2011) (Friday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Health Programme
- 8:20 am
- 5. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:40 am
- 6. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 7. Martial Song
- 4:30 pm
- 8. Dance Of National Races
- 5:05 pm
- 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 10. Myanmar Language
- 5:45 pm
- 11. Sports Highlight
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. Song Lover

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 30th December, 2011

No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29/84	16/61	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	19/66	14/57	Isolated rain	(85%)
3	Kayah	34/93	19/66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	14/57	10/50	Isolated rain	(85%)
5	Upper Sagaing	29/84	17/63	Isolated rain	(85%)
6	Lower Sagaing	22/72	16/61	Isolated rain	(85%)
7	Yantingyi	32/90	19/66	Isolated rain	(85%)
8	Bago	31/88	18/64	Isolated rain	(85%)
9	Magway	21/70	19/66	Isolated rain	(85%)
10	Mandalay	22/72	19/66	Isolated rain	(85%)
11	Man	32/90	20/68	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	33/91	18/64	Isolated rain	(85%)
13	Rakhine	24/75	19/66	Isolated rain	(85%)
14	Southern Shan	17/63	13/55	Isolated rain	(85%)
15	Northern Shan	20/68	16/61	Isolated rain	(85%)
16	Eastern Shan	18/64	16/61	Isolated rain	(85%)
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	20/68	Isolated rain	(85%)
18	Neighbouring My Pyi Taw	22/72	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	22/72	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain has been widespread in Lower Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, scattered in Magway Region and Rakhine State, isolated in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C to 4°C) above December averages temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and (9°C to 10°C) above December averages temperatures in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States and about December averages temperatures the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Pongling (4°C) and Poto (8°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyanmar (1.85) inches, Mandai (1.42) inches, Mnaik U (1.18) inches, Saw (0.98) inch and Haha (0.62) inch.

According to the observation at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, very severe cyclonic storm, THANE, over Southwest Bay and is centered at about (120) miles Southeast of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move West wards and likely to cross Tamilnad Coast, (Southern India) next (24) hours commencing this noon. Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas likely at time off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days
Likelihood of isolated rain in the Central Myanmar Areas

Quality paddy strain harvested



KALAY, 29 Dec—Shwebo Pawhsan paddy on 5.31 acres of model plot was harvested in Nagapwet Village of Kalay Township on 14 December.

District and township officials of Myanma Agriculture Service and officials super-vised harvesting of paddy.

The paddy strain was cultivated on test in Kalay in 2011. The model plot of paddy produced 96.95 baskets of paddy per acre.—District IPRD

DISTRICT NEWS

Cash and kind donated to Home for the Aged

THANDWE, 29 Dec—Smart Technical Trading Co Ltd donated cash and kind to Myittawaty Home for the Aged in Thandwe on 9 December.

The donor presented K 250,000 to the home and 500 sachets of coffeemix to the aged. The chairman of the home committee accepted the donations and gave a certificate of honour to donor.—District IPRD



Pathein-Chaungtha tarred road in progress

PATHEIN, 29 Dec—Pathein District Public Works and Chaungtha Hotel Zone Committee jointly take responsibility for tarmacking Pathein-Chaungtha Road.

On 10 December, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport U Than Tun and Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw inspected progress of works. Assistant Engineer (Civil) U Min Lwin Tun conducted them round the construction site.

Township IPRD

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) addresses 9th Intake Passing-out Parade of Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—The Passing-out Parade of the 9th Intake of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was held at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon this morning. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address.

It was also attended by wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Than Than Nwe, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief's Office and their wives, the Yangon Command commander, the Mingaladon Station commander, the commandant of the Institute, senior military officers of station, invited guests, and parents and relatives of cadets.

Lt-Gen Soe Win took salute of the trainees companies and inspected them. After that, the cadet companies marched past the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services later presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Nyi Nyi Tun, Excellence in Training Award to Trainee Zaw Myo Htet and Excellence in Study Award to Pyai Phyo Aung.

Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win said in his address that at the auspicious passing-out parade of

the 9th intake of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, he would like to emphasize on what the trainees should know as they are going to be assigned duties in the Medical Corps of the armed forces.

The aim of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences is to produce skillful nurses, paramedical and pharmaceutical professionals with physical and intellectual progress for the National Tatmadaw which safeguards Our Three Main National Causes.

He continued that in order to achieve the objective, more than 20 departments of academic disciplines have been set up in the Institute, teaching foundation subjects of Arts and Sciences, Computer Science and major subjects such as Nursing, Pharmacology, Pathology, Radiology and Physiotherapy.

The Institute has also been conducting Master's Degree Courses and it has produced 214 Master Degree graduates with 74 students currently attending the course. The outstanding students have been sent to post-graduate courses abroad. Arrangements have been made to open PhD courses beginning 2012-2013 academic year. He urged the cadets to work hard in order to serve the national and the Tatmadaw for higher education.

He said that they have to make united efforts in fulfilling the three capabilities of



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win awards Excellence in Training Award to Trainee Zaw Myo Htet of the 9th intake of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences.
MNA

good moral, discipline and loyalty. Since they were cultivated with the great vision of the nation and Tatmadaw, they also have to maintain and flourish those basic capabilities.

He emphasized that they must constantly study advanced nursing and medical science in order to be efficient nurses and
(See page 10)

Union Level Peace-making Group, Special Region (4) sign agreement



Union Level Peace-making Group and Special Region (4) Peace-making Group hold 2nd Union Level peace talk at meeting room of the Special Region (4) Headquarters in Mongla.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Leader of Union Level Peace-making Group Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thaug, deputy leader of the group 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 arrived in Mongla of Shan State at 9.45 am on 27 December.

They were welcomed by Special Region (4) Chairman U Sai Lin and vice-chairmen and members.

Leader of the Union Level Peace-making Group U Aung Thaug, deputy leader U Thein Zaw, Union Ministers U Ohn Myint and U Win Tun met Chairman of Special Region (4) U Sai Lin, Vice-Chairman U San Pae and Secretary U Kham Maung at the hall of the Special Region (4) Headquarters and discussed peace processes.

The Union Level Peace-making Group and Special Region (4) Peace-making Group held the Union level peace talk for the

second time at the meeting room of the Special Region (4) Headquarters in Mongla.

They cordially discussed future peace process based on the points agreed in Kengtung on 9 October 2011, and signed a six-point agreement and exchanged the documents.

The six-point agreement is as follows:-

- (1) Both sides have reached agreement to continue implementing agreements signed in Kengtung on 9 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 Special Region (4) and for regional economic development.

(See page 9)

Storm "THANE" likely to cross Tamilnadu Coast (Southern India)

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced today that according to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, very severe cyclonic storm "THANE" over Southwest Bay and its centered at about 120 miles Southeast of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move Westwards and likely to cross Tamilnadu Coast (Southern India) next 24 hours commencing this noon. Current stage of the very severe cyclonic storm is coded as yellow colour which means is not moving Myanmar. Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm, rain 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 Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h. —MNA