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Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to pagodas in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay, Sagaing



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe views greening of Sagaing Minwun mountain range from SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, visited Maha Arnt-htoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

The Senior General offered food, fruit, flowers, water, lights and incensed sticks to the Buddha Image inside the Gandhakutitaik (chamber) of the pagoda, and made cash donations to the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General

and entourage had a stroll around the pagoda clockwise.

On arrival at Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image, the Senior General paid reverence and made cash donations to it.

Next, they helicoptered to Mandalay. There, they were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor U Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung and officials.

Upon arrival at Mandalay Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda, the Senior General paid homage to Dhamma Cakka Mudra Buddha Image in Gandakutitaik of the pa-

goda, and donated cash to it. Next, they walked around the pagoda clockwise in reverence of the pagoda.

The Senior General and party visited Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill, and paid homage to Kakusam Buddha Image and made cash donations to it.

From the view point of the hill, the Senior General and party inspected progress of Mandalay and tasks for greening the hill.

In his guidance, the Senior General called for sustained efforts to green Mandalay Hill.

They viewed documentary photos which are prizewinning works on Mandalay Hill three-season photo contest.

(See page 8)



Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 20 December, 2010

Work harder for speedy industrialization

Myanmar, being an agro-based country, focuses on boosting agricultural production. As a result, Myanmar has stood as one of countries that produce rice and peas largely. Besides, it has enjoyed food security for its future population.

The people on their part have to work harder than ever for greater development and industrialization of the nation. As part of the drive, the government has been constructing hydropower plants throughout the nation to meet local electricity demand. So far, the nation produces 3000 megawatts of electricity a year.

In addition, the government and national entrepreneurs should work in harmony for industrial development. Now, the nation has seen many industrial regions and zones, and establishing heavy industries and import-substitute industries are gaining momentum.

So far, there are more than 600 State-owned factories, 18 industrial zones and over 60,000 industries due to advanced technologies and many other forms of assistance rendered by the government.

To achieve the goal of becoming an industrialized country, Myanmar has yet to bring about more and more high-tech experts. The government has established Technological University (Yatanarpon Cyber City) in its bid to produce a growing number of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Production of goods is increasing considerably thanks to many new industrial regions and zones. Quality control should be a high priority in order that local products earn a foothold in international markets. The government has built many good foundations in over 20 years for national development, pouring huge investments into a large variety of projects. The people are therefore to keep working hard in harness to achieve the goal of transforming the nation into an industrialized one.

Book on "Chinese friend, a Myanmar poet's remembrances" introduced



People's Voice

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Commander tours Ottwin, Yedashe stations

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Chairman of Bago Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Soe Htut on 14 December viewed agriculture and livestock breeding at the local battalion in Ottwin Station and met servicemen and their family members.

In Toungoo, the commander inspected construction of culvert and road.

The following day, the commander inspected local battalions in Yedashe Station and met servicemen and their family members.

MNA

Foundation laid for construction of port and waterway terminal of Myanmar-India Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Foundation laying ceremony for construction of port and waterway terminal of Myanmar-India Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project was held at the pandal at the corner of Strand Road and



The chairman of Indian Inland Waterways Authority makes a speech at the cornerstone laying ceremony.

MNA

Indian Ambassador Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri speaking at cornerstones laying ceremony.

MNA



Mayyu Road in Sittway of Rakhine State this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Soe Thein, Minister for Transport U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister Mr Jayant Prasad of External Affairs of India, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri and embassy staff, chairman of Indian Inland Waterways Authority and officials, responsible persons of ESSAR Projects (India) Co Ltd Mumbai and Myanmar, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The minister and the indian ambassador formally opened the ceremony. After that, the commander unveiled the stone plaque. The commander, the minister and the ambassador sprinkled the scented water on it, and then inspected the project.

The commander and the minister made speeches at the second session held at the Sittway Hotel.

Afterwards, the ambassador and the chairman of Indian Inland Waterways Authority delivered speeches. ESSAR Projects (India) Co Ltd spoke words of thanks.

The minister and the ambassador presented the gifts to the Rakhine cultural troupe that entertained with dance.

MNA

YANGON, 19 Dec—Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Chinese Embassy in Myanmar jointly organized a ceremony to introduce the book titled "Chinese friend, a Myanmar poet's remembrances" written by Myanmar writer U Soe Nyunt (Htila Sitthu) at the office of MWJA on Merchant Street here yesterday.

Chairman U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) of MWJA made an opening speech. Cultural Counselor Mr Gao Hua of Chinese Embassy explained holding of the ceremony. The writer's son Deputy Director U Ye Yint Soe of Ministry of Religious Affairs spoke.

U Myo Win who translated the book into English explained facts about the writer. The Chinese Cultural Counselor presented gift to the late writer's wife. The ceremony ended with concluding remarks by Secretary U Ko Ko of MWJA (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho).

MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) presents gift to Cultural Counselor Mr Gao Hua of Chinese Embassy. —MNA

Foreign troop 2010 toll hits 700 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec—Taliban militants launched attacks in Kabul and a major northern city on Sunday as the death toll for foreign troops in Afghanistan hit 700, making 2010 the deadliest year of the nearly decade-long war.

Two militants wearing vests packed with explosives attacked a bus carrying Afghan soldiers in Kabul, killing at least one soldier, said Afghan Deputy Police Chief Khalilullah Dastyar.

The Taliban claimed responsibility

for the assault, which was the first major attack in the Afghan capital since May, when six foreign troops were killed in a similar incident.

Police killed the attackers before they could detonate their explosives, Dastyar said.

In the north, five Afghan soldiers and police were killed in an attack by three suicide bombers in the city of Kunduz, which was visited a day earlier by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Internet

Militants kill 10 Afghan soldiers in two attacks



Afghan security personnel stand guard near the remains of a car used in a suicide attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, 18 Dec, 2010.—INTERNET

KABUL, 19 Dec — Teams of Taliban militants assaulted the Afghan army in the north of the country and in the capital Sunday, killing at least 10 members of the security forces, officials said. In the first major attack in Kabul for months, two militants strapped with explosives ambushed a bus carrying Afghan army officers to work during the morning rush hour on the outskirts of the capital, killing five and wounding nine, said Defence Ministry spokesman Gen Mohammad Zahir Azimi.

The Afghan capital has been relatively peaceful in recent months aside from some scattered attacks with few casualties. The last major attack in the Kabul was a suicide bombing against a NATO convoy in May that killed 18 people, including six NATO troops.

In Sunday's assault, attackers first opened fire on the bus, and then one managed to detonate his explosives near the vehicle. Soldiers shot the second dead, Azimi said. A witness, Hamidullah Khan, said the gunmen ambushed the bus as it was heading down Jalalabad Road, a main route into the city centre.

Internet

Roadside bomb kills one child, injures four in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 19 Dec—A child was killed and four other children were injured as a roadside bomb struck a civilian car in Panjwai District of Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, district chief said.

"A civilian car ran over a roadside bomb at around 8 am local time as a result an innocent child was killed and four children injured," Hajji Baran Khaksar told *Xinhua*. He said the driver had not received any injuries. Meantime, he accused the enemies of peace, a term used against Taliban militants for planting the mine on the road, but the outfit has yet to make comment. Taliban militants fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan have been largely relying on roadside bombings and suicide attacks but the lethal weapons often harm civilians.—*Xinhua*

Blast in S Afghanistan kills two, wounding 11 children

KABUL, 19 Dec—A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (IED) detonated Saturday in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar Province, killing two civilians, including one child and wounding 11 children.

A Press release issued by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the incident took place in Kandahar District in the Province, but it failed to give more detail.

It said the ISAF is to work with the Afghan authorities to find those responsible for this attack and bring them to justice.

Kandahar Province is branded as the hotbed of the Taliban.

Xinhua

Afghan soldiers secure a site as smoke billows following an explosion during a gunbattle on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, 19 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET



Seven Bangladeshis, one Afghan kidnapped in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec—Unknown armed men kidnapped seven Bangladeshis and one Afghan in Balkh Province of northern Afghanistan Saturday, Interior Ministry said Sunday.

"Eight people including seven Bangladesh nationals and an Afghan guard were kidnapped in Balkh Province on Saturday night," spokesman for Interior Ministry Zamarai Bashari told newsmen at a press conference here.

The abducted people are the employees of a South Korean road construction company, he added.

"No one had been killed during the attack which led to abduction of the eight people," Bashari told *Xinhua*.

Some of the abductees are road engineers, working for the South Korean company to build road in the Northern provinces, he further said.

Xinhua

Series of storms threatens Calif with flooding

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—A series of winter storms bearing down on California Saturday was threatening parts of the state with flooding, and officials were posting mudflow warnings in areas recently affected by wildfires ahead of this weekend's rains.

Southern California will be hit especially hard by the storms, and officials were preparing for possible mudslides in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

"This is one big mother and it's going to have a



A vehicle drives through a puddle of rain water in Hollywood, California on 18 December, 2010.

INTERNET

lot of waves in it," National Weather Service spokesman Bill Hoffer said.

Internet

Heavy snow hits air travel, roads across Europe

LONDON, 19 Dec—Blizzards and freezing temperatures shut down runways, train tracks and highways across Europe, disrupting flights and leaving shivering drivers stranded on roadsides.

Airports in Britain, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark reported cancellations or delays to flights Saturday.

Heathrow Airport would not accept any arrivals Sunday and would allow only a handful of departures after snow and ice forced the closure of runways, but was preparing for a full reopening Monday, a statement on its website said.

"We are extremely sorry for the disruption," the statement said, urging passengers to check with their airline before traveling to the airport. Several hundred workers were doing their best "to keep passengers in the terminal as warm and as comfortable as possible while we do everything we can to get Heathrow moving."—*Internet*

A pedestrian walks a dog during a snow-fall in central London, 18 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

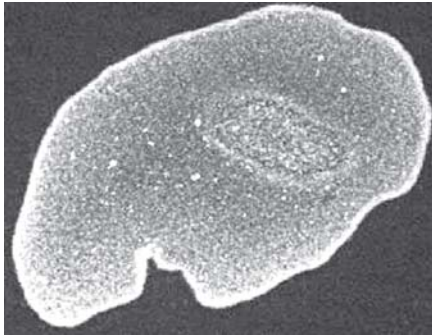




Science



Rise in oxygen drove evolution of animal life 550 million years ago



Original image of *Trichoplax adhaerens*.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—Researchers funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) at the University of Oxford have uncovered a clue that may help to explain why the

earliest evidence of complex multicellular animal life appears around 550 million years ago, when atmospheric oxygen levels on the planet rose sharply from 3% to their modern day level of 21%.

The team, led by Professor Chris Schofield, has found that humans share a method of sensing oxygen with the world's simplest known living animal — *Trichoplax adhaerens* — suggesting the method has been around since the first animals emerged around 550 million years ago.

This discovery, published in the January 2011 edition of *EMBO Reports*, throws light on how humans sense oxygen and how oxygen levels drove the very earliest stages of animal evolution.

Professor Schofield said "It's absolutely necessary for any multicellular organism to have a sufficient supply of oxygen to almost every cell and so the atmospheric rise in oxygen made it possible for multicellular organisms to exist.—*Internet*

Satellites give a heads up on thunderstorms

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—Thunderstorm predictions are notoriously unreliable, but satellites could greatly improve these forecasts, suggests one research team.

Thunderstorms can bring intense rain, hail, lightning and even tornadoes, but "predicting them a few hours out is one of the great problems of meteorology," said Chian-Yi Liu of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who works with these satellites.

And the consequences can be more serious than a rained-out hike - even major storms can be missed, Liu said, such as the one that dumped up to 10 inches (25 centimetres) of rain on La Crosse, Wis, on 18 Aug, 2007.

"Predictions for the day said a moderate chance of thunderstorms," Liu said, "but this one produced an inch or two of rain per hour and caused severe flooding."

Liu is making his case for using satellite data to improve thunderstorm forecasts at the 2010 fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco this week.

Internet

This image released by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in April, shows an artist's impression of what the Japanese satellite *Ikaros* might look like in space.—INTERNET



Space superfund needed to clean mounting orbital trash

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—The orbits around Earth are cluttered with chunks of space junk — high-speed ruffraff that poses a growing threat to robotic satellites and human-carrying spacecraft.

There are currently hundreds of thousands of pieces of space debris greater than 1 centimetre wide whizzing around in space. But while this space litter may be out of sight, out of mind for most of us, a new report on orbital debris has flagged potential solutions to deal with the threat.

The report anchors its space cleanup thinking and approaches to more down-to-Earth woes like acid rain, hazardous waste, chlorofluorocarbon and oil spills.

Internet



Technology



Travellers sleep on camp beds provided by airport operator Fraport at Frankfurt airport on 19 December, 2010. Several flights were cancelled or delayed due to bad weather conditions in Frankfurt on Saturday.—INTERNET

Avira: 25 pct of PC users disable antivirus software

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—A new survey from German antivirus and computer security firm Avira finds that about one in four PC users admit to turning off virus protection on their PCs because they thought the programmes were slowing down their computers. Furthermore, more than three out of five (62.8 percent) have tried multiple computer security products in the span of a year on the same computer, hoping to find one they like, and nearly one in eight (12 percent) have considered getting off the Internet altogether for safety reasons.

"The scary take-away from this survey is that 25 percent of the respondents admitted to just turning off their security products because they feel that it hurt the performance of the machine," said Avira's Sorin Mustaca. "That's not a good idea because such a practice leaves the computer totally exposed to the even simplest of viruses, allowing the bad guys to include it in a botnet used to distribute malware and phishing."

Avira says the survey questions were put to more than 100 million Avira customers around the world during November

2010, although the results are based on 9,091 respondents. Avira says the margin of error for the responses is between 0.28 and 1 percent although, if the respondents were self-selecting, it's difficult to know how well the results apply to general computer users, or even to Avira's customers. (For instance, most Mac OS X users don't use any antivirus software at all, since the universe of malware targeting the Mac is a tiny fraction of that targeting Windows—for now, anyway.)

Internet

Firefox backs "Do Not Track" with online stealth

MOUNTAIN VIEW, 19 Dec — As concern about online privacy grows, Mozilla is promising to let people cloak Internet activity in free Firefox Web browsing software being released early next year.

"Technology that supports something like a 'Do Not Track' button is needed and we will deliver in the first part of next year," Mozilla chief executive Gary Kovacs said while providing a glimpse at Firefox 4 at the Mozilla's headquarters in Mountain View, California.

"The user needs to be in control," he added.

There is a disturbing imbalance between what websites need to know about visitors to personalize advertisements or services and the amount of data collected, according to Kovacs.

"It is not that ads are

bad," he said. "It is what they do with my tracked behavior."

"Where I go on the Internet is how I live my life; that is a lot of data to hold just for someone to serve me ads."

Microsoft this month unveiled increased privacy options for the upcoming version of its popular Web browser Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) including a feature "to help keep third party websites from tracking your Web behaviour."

Microsoft said "Tracking Protection" will be built into a test version of IE9 being released early next year.

IE9 users will have to be savvy enough to activate the feature and create lists of the third-party websites that they do not want to track their behaviour.

Internet Explorer is the most widely used Web browser in the United

States followed by Mozilla's Firefox, Google's Chrome and Apple's Safari.

Google, which beefed up Chrome in recent weeks and is testing a notebook computer that operates on the Web browser software, cautioned that the mechanics and ramifications of stealth browsing need to be figured out.—*Internet*



Customers go online at a Sydney cybercafe. As concern about online privacy grows, Mozilla is promising to let people cloak Internet activity in free Firefox Web browsing software being released early next year.

INTERNET

Health



A hummingbird eats fruit from a tree Saturday, on 18 Dec, 2010 in Los Angeles. INTERNET

Not just the newest Toys hold risks for kids

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—Tiny magnets, powerful batteries and laser lights are among the features on modern toys that can be just as dangerous as small parts and sharp edges have always been.

"Toys are for fun, joy and learning," said Rachel Weintraub, director of product safety for the Consumer Federation of America. "They should be a source of all those things and less a source of potential and actual hazard. Parents need to be vigilant."

Her call for vigilance is backed by the numbers. Toy-related injuries sent more than 235,000 kids to US emergency rooms for treatment in 2008, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. Another 19 children died as the result of a mishap involving a toy.

Choking hazards have long been a leading cause of death in children, prompting the creation of warning labels detailing small parts and recommending minimum ages for certain toys.

INTERNET

'Chilled Out' people have higher obesity, depression risk

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—People who seem to face stressful situations without blinking an eye may have an increased risk of health woes such as obesity and depression, according to a new study.

These results mean that when the body underreacts to stresses in life, it can be just as bad for your health as overreacting, said study researcher Doug Carroll, a professor in the School of Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Birmingham in England.

Over-responding to stressors can increase the risk of hypertension and atherosclerosis, but under-responding to stressors may be associated with obesity, depression, poor immune functioning and poor overall health, Carroll said.

The finding doesn't necessarily apply to all people with relaxed personalities, Carroll said.

INTERNET

Cyclists compete in the women's omnium scratch race at the UCI Track Cycling World Cup in Cali, Colombia, on 18 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET



A Central American migrant stands on the train tracks during his journey toward the US-Mexico border on the outskirts of Mexico City, Saturday 18 Dec, 2010.

INTERNET

Early Alzheimer's tests a mixed bargain

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—New tests are finding diseases like Alzheimer's at earlier stages, but treatment is not keeping pace, posing ethical dilemmas, US researchers say.

Dr Michael Rafii, a neurologist at the University of California, San Diego, has diagnosed Alzheimer's years before major symptoms appear with tests like an MRI that assesses the volume of brain areas, and a spinal tap, *The New York Times* reports.

"I give them the diagnosis — we are getting pretty good at diagnosis now. But it's challenging because what do we do then?" he told the newspaper.

Some doctors, like John Morris of Washington University in St Louis, will not offer patients the new diagnostic tests. He uses them in research but does not tell subjects the results.

INTERNET

Business

BlackBerry Torch lights up RIM results

TORONTO, 19 Dec—Research In Motion's Torch, a touchscreen challenger to Apple's iPhone, lifted the BlackBerry maker's quarterly profit above analyst expectations on Thursday and the company forecast strong results from the current holiday season quarter.

RIM said net profit jumped 45 percent in its third quarter. Its shares rose as much as 3 percent in after-market trade.

The Torch, which

combines RIM's trademark mini keyboard with the glitzier touchscreen, shipped to dozens of carriers in the quarter after an August launch with AT&T in the United States.

"The results look pretty good. For the current quarter they definitely benefited from some new products... The guidance also looks quite strong," said Shaw Wu, of Kaufman Bros in San Francisco.

The Canadian

company said it expects to earn between \$1.74 and \$1.80 per share in the December to February quarter, sharply higher than analysts had been expecting.

RIM said it shipped 14.2 million BlackBerry smartphones in the latest quarter, a figure that edged past average analyst expectations. It added a net 5.1 million new subscribers, matching the average forecast for this key metric.

Reuters

Commuters transit from the PUTRA light rail coach in Kuala Lumpur in 2006. Malaysia is to start work on a 36 billion ringgit Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system to link the city's disparate commuter lines.

INTERNET



Britain, France, Germany demand EU budget freeze

LONDON, 19 Dec — Three of the European Union's big four states on Saturday demanded a freeze in the EU budget, saying Brussels cannot carry on spending more money as countries fight to sort their finances out.

Britain, France and Germany, backed up by Finland and the Netherlands, told European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso there should be a real terms

freeze at 2013 levels, as the EU next year begins negotiations for the 2014-2020 period.

The letter, signed by British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, along with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his Finnish counterpart Mari Kiviniemi, was released here by Cameron's Downing

Street office.

The leaders said the next EU spending round would come as states in the 27-member bloc made "extraordinary efforts to clean up public finances", bringing down debts and deficits to a sustainable level.

The EU finances "cannot be exempt" from such attempts to bring public spending "under control".

INTERNET

A worker at the Daimler AG plant assembles a C-class Mercedes-Benz car in Sindelfingen in 2008. The chief executive of German luxury car maker Daimler says the company is struggling to make enough Mercedes cars to satisfy demand, causing delays for buyers, a report said.

INTERNET



Saudi police seizes 641 overstayers in week-long operation

JEDDAH, 19 Dec—Saudi police has seized 641 foreign overstayers in a security crackdown staged across the kingdom's coastal city of Jeddah over the past week, the local *Arab News* daily reported on Saturday.

The police raids in the city's ten neighbourhoods also led to the arrest of up to 30 suspects involved in dealing in liquors and drugs, harboring illegal immigrants and stealing cars.

"This week's security sweeps resulted in the arrest of 32 crime suspects, and 641 illegal overstayers - men and women - were captured during the raids," Jeddah police spokesman Nawaf Al-Bouq told the English-language newspaper.

"Those arrested are all in custody now and they will be transferred - along with items seized as evidence during the raids - to the authorities concerned," the spokesman added.

The local residents have been urged to call security authorities in case of noticing any suspicious acts in the operations, the report said.—*Internet*



Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2010 shows a 68-storey building of China Minsheng Bank in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. The 325-metre skyscraper, the tallest building in Wuhan, was put into use Saturday. XINHUA

Sky-diving plane crashes in La, three killed, two hurt

CROWLEY, 19 Dec—A small plane carrying a group of sky divers crashed Saturday in south-central Louisiana, killing three people and injuring two others on board.

A pilot and four jumpers were aboard the single-engine plane when it crashed shortly after take off, Acadia Parish sheriff's deputy Maxine Trahan said.

Witnesses reported seeing the *Cessna 182* take off about 2:30 pm from LeGros Memorial Airport in Acadia Parish. The plane was about 200 feet in the air when it lost power and the pilot attempted to make it back to the runway, FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford said.

One of the survivors has been released from the hospital and the other is staying overnight, Trahan said. The group had done at least one jump earlier in the day, she said.

When the plane crashed, the wreckage caught fire and three-fourths of the plane was burned, Trahan said. The three victims died at the scene.

Trahan has not released the identities of those on board.—*Internet*

Boat capsizes in Bangladesh river, at least 37 die

DHAKA, 19 Dec—A boat packed with passengers capsized on a river in northeastern Bangladesh, and rescuers said Sunday at least 37 people died and 18 more were missing.

The boat carrying about 80 people collided

with a sand-laden cargo vessel in the darkness late Saturday on the River Surma, local government officials Abul Hashem and Matiur Rahman said.

They said from the scene of the accident in Sunamganj District, about 110 miles (175 kilometres)

northeast of the capital, Dhaka.

Some survivors swam to shore or were rescued by local villagers.

The death toll reached 37 after rescuers recovered two more bodies Sunday.

Thirty-five bodies were found soon after the accident, the officials said.

On Sunday, rescuers were still searching for about 18 people who have been reported missing, the two officials said.

All the dead were from the passenger boat. Dhaka's *Prothom Alo* newspaper reported most were women and children.

The boat was travelling from Sunamganj to the neighbouring Kishoreganj District.

Boat accidents, blamed on lax rules and unfit vessels, are common in Bangladesh, a delta nation of more than 230 rivers.

Internet



A worker applies cooking oil to roasted pigs, locally known as "Lechon", displayed in front of a store in Manila on 19 December, 2010. A roasted pig is a traditional food on Filipino tables during Christmas celebrations but health officials have warned against excessive eating of fatty foods like "Lechon", to avoid heart problems.

INTERNET

Tourists pose for pictures with a snowman at St James park in central London on 18 Dec, 2010. Plunging temperatures and heavy snow saw large swathes of Britain grind to a standstill, as London's Gatwick Airport closed its runway and British Airways canceled flights at Heathrow Airport.

INTERNET



A group of folk dancers from Colombia perform a traditional dance as they entertain children during a gift giving ceremony on 19 Dec, 2010, at the Children's Museum in Manila, Philippines.—INTERNET

15 dead, 12 injured in Philippine hotel fire

TUGUEGARAO, 19 Dec—A fire tore through a budget hotel, rousing some guests and trapping others in upper floor bathrooms Sunday in the northern Philippines. Many of the 15 dead and 12 injured were nursing students in town to take a licensing exam, police said.

Some firefighters wept and prayed as they retrieved badly burned bodies. Grieving relatives converged at a morgue where remains of victims, 14 burned beyond recognition, were brought. Some fainted as body bags were brought into a funeral parlor.

"Their families spent fortunes to send these

children to school only to see them end that way," fire investigator Daniel Abana said.

The fire raged for eight hours early Sunday and gutted the five-story Bed and Breakfast Pension House in Cagayan Province's capital of Tuguegarao city.

Dozens of guests, roused by the commotion, were rescued by firefighters and police or reached safety on their own, Abana said. Many of the dead had crammed in bathrooms on the top two floors. One victim had a foot stuck out of a window in a desperate attempt to survive, he said.

Internet

Moderate earthquake rocks western Indonesia

JAKARTA, 19 Dec—A moderate earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale rocked western part of Indonesia's Aceh province at 05:56 local time on Sunday (2256 GMT Saturday), the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said here in a statement.

The earthquake was centered at 196 kilometres southwest of Sabang city and at a depth of 10 kilometers under seabed.

The agency did not release a tsunami warning.—*Xinhua*

Garment scraps head for Western living rooms



A Bangladeshi woman is seen making handloom rugs at a factory in Hatibandha. A Bangladeshi entrepreneur has found a new, more lucrative way of dealing with the estimated 100,000 tonnes of scrap fabric the garment sector produces each year: making rag-rugs for export.—INTERNET

HATIBANDHA (Bangla-desh), 19 Dec — Every year, Bangladesh's garment sector produces billions of dollars worth of high-street clothes for major western brands — and generates mountains of fabric offcuts in the

process.

While an informal recycling sector has sprung up to deal with the scraps of leftover jeans and T-shirts churned out by the country's 4,500 garment factories, it produces only low-value products

for domestic consumption.

But one Bangladeshi entrepreneur has found a new, more lucrative way of dealing with the estimated 100,000 tonnes of scrap fabric the garment sector produces each year: making rag-rugs for export.

"The rags produced by the garment factories are seen as worthless waste but I saw that they could be a way to build a business — then Kik picked up my products and everything started to take off," Tauhid Bin Salam said.

Tauhid set up his company, Classical Handmade Products Bangladesh, in 2008 and has now built it into a successful business with an annual turnover of 80 million taka (1.2 million dollars) and a workforce of 530, mostly women.

Internet

Developing Asia leads global recovery in 2010

MANILA, 19 Dec — Developing Asian economies posted solid growth in 2010 as sound fundamentals and supportive monetary and fiscal policies that helped the region to survive the global financial crisis continued to sustain its growth.

The global recovery may be sluggish, given that US consumer spending remains lackluster while European countries struggle with a debt crisis. But Asia's economic prospects remain bright, with some of the region's economies even growing at pre-crisis levels.

Indeed, developing Asia didn't only prove to be resilient to the crisis, but is now leading the global recovery.—Xinhua

Lunar eclipse a rare treat for Hawaii

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — The lunar eclipse that will usher in winter will be the first visible in Hawaii in three years, scientists say.

By 9:42 Monday night Hawaii time, the moon will be in total eclipse, Mike Shanahan of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu said.

Since the full moon in December follows a high path across the sky, "this one will go way overhead," he said.

The Earth's shadow will begin to darken the moon at 1:33 am

Tuesday EST and the event will finish at 5:01 am, CNN reported, citing NASA.

The winter solstice occurs at 6:38 pm Tuesday.

The total phase of the eclipse, when the entire moon passes through the Earth's umbra, or inner shadow, will run from 2:41 to 3:35 am EST. Before and after the total eclipse, the moon will pass through the Earth's outer shadow, the penumbra, which blocks some of the sun.—Internet

China, Pakistan ink 10-bltn-US dollar deals



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao speaks during the Pakistan-China Business Cooperation Summit in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 18 Dec, 2010.—XINHUA

ISLAMABAD, 19 Dec — China and Pakistan signed a number of trade deals worth about 10 billion US dollars, visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Saturday.

Addressing the China-Pakistan Business Cooperation Summit in Islamabad, Wen said the deals reflected the huge potential for expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The two sides inked some 20 trade deals during Wen's visit

covering projects in the sectors of new energy, agriculture, cotton yarn and non-ferrous metal imports.

A major deal is aimed at developing wind and solar power. Another one is on remote sensing satellite between the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission and the China Great Wall Industry Corporation.

"Currently, the existing difficulties in our trade cooperation are temporary problems,

which we could completely overcome with joint efforts," Wen said.

The Chinese premier, who arrived here Friday, urged a boost in the scale of bilateral trade and investment. The China-Pakistan trade volume only accounted for one-tenth of Pakistan's overall foreign trade, he said, voicing his hope that the two-way trade could top 10 billion dollars as soon as possible.

With regard to trade imbalance, Wen said China understood the concern of Pakistan on the imbalance, and has taken measures to address the issue.

"China is ready to work closely with Pakistan to push forward the building of a bilateral free trade area in an all-round way, and gradually grant zero-tariff status to more Pakistani products," he said.

Xinhua

Visitors play on artificial snow inside the Olympic Stadium, also known as the 'Bird's Nest', in Beijing on 19 Dec, 2010. The stadium, which has been rarely used since it held the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, is now annually turned into a winter playground in an effort to attract more tourists during the quieter Christmas and Chinese New Year season.

INTERNET



A man reacts in front a home that was destroyed by heavy rain in Gramalote in northeast Colombia, 18 Dec, 2010. Authorities ordered Gramalote's residents to evacuate to a shelter on the outskirts of the town or move in with relatives in other towns due to the risk of a landslide that is expected to destroy a large part of the town.

INTERNET



Without Social Security many women poor

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — Half of US women age 65 and older — especially those not married — would live in poverty without Social Security, researchers found. Sara Rix, GSA public policy committee chairwoman, says with

Social Security the poverty rate for women drops from 50 percent to 12 percent.

"Older women — especially those who are not married — rely heavily on Social Security, as this research brief makes clear," Rix says in a statement. "Relatively modest changes to restore solvency to the Social Security system would ensure that these women and the generations that follow them will be able to depend on their Social Security benefits well into the future."

Socials Security is

critical for women because they often live longer, earn less and withdraw from working because of responsibilities taking care of children and the elderly.

In 2008, the median earnings of working-age women employed full-time, year-round were \$35,000, compared with \$45,000 for men.

Also in 2008, the average annual Social Security income received by women age 65 and older was \$11,377, compared with \$14,822 for men.

Internet



Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to pagodas ...

(from page 1)

The Senior General visited Maha Lawkamazein Buddha Image and made cash do-

nations to it.

They viewed the Buddha images around the precinct.

The Senior Gen-



Senior General Than Shwe presents cash to funds of Maha Arnt-htoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda through officials.

MNA

eral called for long-term conservation of old starflower trees and systematically nurturing young starflower trees in the pagoda precinct.

Next, the Senior General and party visited Sandamuni Buddha Image and donated cash to

there by departmental officials and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General offered flowers, water and lights and paid homage to it.

Members of the entourage: the Secretary-



it.

They inspected tasks for all-round renovation of the image and religious buildings.

Next, they visited Kyauktawgyi Buddha Image and paid reverence to it. The Senior General made cash donations and had a stroll in reverence of the

1, senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence and ministers offered gold foils to the Buddha image.

The Senior General signed in the visitors' book and made cash donations to the image.

They viewed the chamber of the image.

Later in the after-

Tin San reported on conditions of the alignment from Zaga-inn Roundabout of the highway to the bridge, and the seven bridges to be built on the alignment.

In response to the report, the Senior General called for comple-

Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn, senior military officers and departmental officials.

The Senior General and wife offered food, fruit, flowers, water and lights to Pinsalawha Buddha Image in the southern chamber of the pagoda.

The Senior General and wife donated cash to the image and signed in the visitors' book.

As a meritorious deed of saving lives of animals, the Senior General and wife and entourage members released several species of birds.

They viewed the pagoda in reverence.

The Senior General and wife and party arrived at SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda on Sagaing Hill, where they got a welcome from officials at the region level and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General and wife offered food, fruit, flowers, water and lights to Koektatkyi Buddha Image in the northern prayer hall of the pagoda.

The Senior General and wife and party made cash donations to the pagoda.

They observed the documentary photos and religious buildings in the pagoda precinct.

From the pagoda platform, the Senior General inspected the areas around the hill and called for constant conservation of Sagaing Minwun mountain range.

Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors' book of the pagoda.

The Senior General and party arrived back here by air via Mandalay International Airport this afternoon.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe makes cash donation to funds of Yazamani Sula Kaungmudaw Pagoda through officials.

MNA

image.

In the afternoon, they arrived at Dagundaing Bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Chief Engineer (Road) of Public Works U

noon, they arrived at Sula Kaungmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing, Sagaing Region, this morning. They were welcomed there by



Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image.
(News on page 1)—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image. (News on page 1)—MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe from view point of Mandalay Hill inspects progress in greening Mandalay Hill.
(News on page 1)
MNA



Prime Minister U Thein Sein takes part in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends...

(from page 16)

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented the first prize to the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team with 566 strokes, the second to Nay Pyi Taw Command team with 578 and the third to Yangon Command team with 579 in the inter-club (handicap) event; and the first prize to Central Command team with 672, the second to Eastern Command team with 718 and the third to the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) with 723 in the inter-club (scratch) event.

Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Wai Lwin gave first, second and third prizes to the winners in the individuals (handicap and

scratch) events.

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win awarded the golfers with most par and birdie.

Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Win Myint presented prizes to best golfers in the individuals (handicap and scratch) events at respective golf courses.

Later, Defence Services Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyto gave longest drive and nearest pin awards to the respective golfers, prizes to best golfers in handicap and scratch events and the best diligence award to Western Command team.

MNA

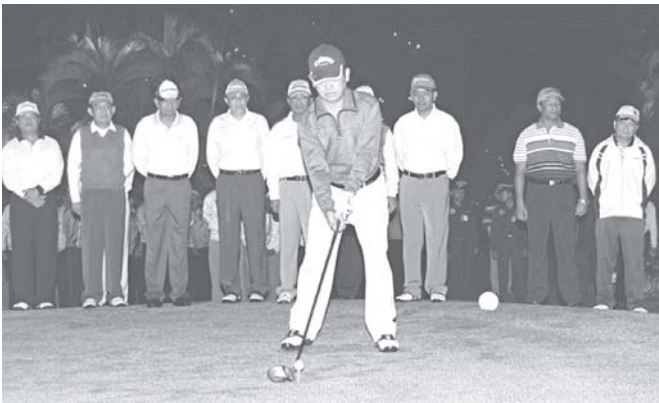
SPDC Member U Tin Aye takes part in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.

MNA





Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence attends Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2010. (News on page 16)—MNA



On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo tees off tracer ball to open Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament. (News on page 16)—MNA

*Adjutant-General
Maj-Gen Khin
Zaw Oo presents
first prize to Cen-
tral Command in
inter-club scratch
event of Tatmadaw
Golf Tournament.
(News on page 16)*

MNA



Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presents first prize to Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) in inter-club handicap event of Tatmadaw Golf Tournament. (News on page 16)—MNA



Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Win Myint presents best golfer award to winner in individual handicap and scratch event. (News on page 16)—MNA



Defence Services Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyto gives longest drive and nearest pin award to a winner. (News on page 16)—MNA



The opening ceremony of inter-basic school cricket tournament of Yangon Region in progress.—MNA

Yangon Region Inter-Basic Education School Cricket tourney kicks off

YANGON, 19 Dec —Co-organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No.3 Basic Education Department, Yangon Region Inter-Basic Education School Cricket tournament was opened in the sports ground of No.1 Basic Education High School, Lanmadaw Township yesterday morning. The opening ceremony was attended by No.3 Basic Education Department Deputy

Director General U Myo Myint, officials, President of MCF U Nyunt Win and executives, guests and cricket fans.

The participating teams first took their positions and Dy DG U Myo Myint made an opening speech and formally opened the tournament.

Seventeen men's teams and five women's teams are taking part in the tournament.—MNA



Photo taken on 17 Dec, 2010 shows seagulls on a beach in Qinhuangdao, a city in north China's Hebei Province. Qinhuangdao, a famous summer resort, remains beautiful in winter.

XINHUA

Poll finds older online presence

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—Older Americans are catching up to their younger counterparts when it comes to going online and being digitally savvy, a poll indicates.

The 2010 Generations report from the Pew Internet and American Life project found the "biggest online trend is that, while the very youngest and oldest cohorts may differ, certain key Internet uses are becoming more uniformly popular across all age groups," CNN reported Friday.

Those uses include e-mail, search engines, getting health in-

formation, following the news, researching or making purchases, online banking, supplying reviews or ratings, and donating to charity, the poll found.

While younger people are still significantly more likely to use social networking services, Pew reports that "the fastest growth has come from Internet users 74 and older: social network site usage for this oldest cohort has quadrupled since 2008, from 4 percent to 16 percent."

Younger users are increasingly discovering some Internet activities

previously used more by older Americans, Pew said. While it used to be mostly older adults who searched for online health information, Pew said, this has become "the third most popular online activity for all Internet users 18 and older."—Internet

Miss Tourism International 2010 Jenny (C) from Iceland, 1st runner-up Lexi (L) from the United States and 2nd runner-up Babara from Czech Republic wave in greeting during the world final of Miss Tourism International 2010 in Zhanjiang, south China's Guangdong Province, on 17 Dec, 2010. —XINHUA



Suspect arrested over US embassy vehicle attack in Yemeni capital

SANAA, 19 Dec—Yemeni Interior Ministry said Friday it captured an Arab resident who hurled a hand grenade to a Toyota Hilux pickup belonging to foreign residents in Sanaa.

The ministry did not specify the nationalities of the targeted foreigners or the arrested Arab suspect. US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley revealed on Thursday that the targeted car is affiliated to the US embassy in Sanaa while four US embassy personnel were onboard the car.

None of the targeted foreigners was hurt while their car was slightly damaged.

According to the Yemeni Interior Ministry, the arrested Arab resident,

identified as 40-year-old MM Alia, served as a car mechanic. He allegedly carried out the attack outside a Beirut restaurant in Hadda street in Sanaa frequented by Westerners late Wednesday.

The US embassy in Sanaa confirmed the attack on Wednesday, but said it targeted "foreign residents."—Xinhua



Gold bounces off on bargain hunting

CHICAGO, 19 Dec — Gold futures on the COMEX Division of the New York Mercantile Exchange regained some ground on Friday.

The prices were caught between stronger US dollar and a burst of bargain hunting, as the recent dips prompted physical buyers to increase purchases of the precious metal. Silver jumped and platinum barely changed. The most active gold contract for February delivery jumped 8.2 dollars, or 0.6 percent, to 1,379.2 dollars per

ounce. A trader mentioned that gold is still under pressure of a resurgent greenback, which continued to advance against the beleaguered euro after Moody's Investors Service slashed Ireland's credit rating, sparking renewed worries about the euro zone debt crisis.

A stronger dollar is usually considered quite bearish to gold prices, as it curbed the appeal of precious metals as alternative assets.

Xinhua

Comedian Andy Samberg performs a routine at the 2010 ESPY Awards in Los Angeles on 14 July, 2010. Samberg was dressed as Paul the octopus, which lives at Sea Life Centre in Oberhausen, Germany and correctly predicted eight matches at the recent 2010 World Cup soccer tournament in South Africa.

INTERNET

A foreign tourist feeds a reindeer in Lapland, a famous tourist resort of north Finland, on 15 Dec, 2010. Riding a reindeer sledge for tour is popular among tourists who come to the town in the Arctic Circle in winter. —XINHUA



GM recalls nearly 100,000 crossovers over safety belt problem

CHICAGO, 19 Dec—General Motors Co is recalling 97, 843 crossover vehicles to fix seat belts that could fail in a crash, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Friday.

The recall includes 2011 model year versions of the Cadillac SRX, Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain, the automaker said that the safety belt buckle anchor for the driver and front passenger seats may fracture and separate in a crash, increasing the risk of injury by failing to restrain the occupants.

GM spokesman said the automaker didn't receive any reports of injury or crash due to this problem, and they found the problem during testing in September. The recall is expected to begin in mid-January, and dealers will fix the seat belt buckle free of charge.

Xinhua

Man sentenced to 384 years for shooting spree in New York

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — The gunman behind a deadly shooting rampage was sentenced to 384 years in prison in New York, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday.

Matthew Coletta, 39, who targeted people during a six-hour shooting spree four years ago in which one man was killed and 13 others shot at, was convicted last month of second-degree murder and 13 counts of second degree attempted murder.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown was quoted as saying that the long sentence at least "serves as a measure of justice for (Mr. Coletta's) victims and their families."

Coletta, who had been on a cocaine and alcohol binge, targeted red vehicles and people wearing red shirts on the street throughout several Queens neighbourhoods in August 2006, according to the report.—Xinhua

34 prisoners escape in Venezuela

CARACAS, 19 Dec—At least 34 prisoners escaped from jail in the Barcelona Justice Palace of Anzoategui state, Venezuela during a riot, local Press released on Friday.

During the riot, the majority of the 80 prisoners in the building tried to escape on Thursday due to the lack of security personnel.

Members of diverse security forces, including State Police, the Bolivariana National Guard and the Scientific and Criminal Investigation Corps arrived at the scene in an attempt to contain the riot.

Authorities have not yet disclosed how many were injured during the event, nor an official report has been released about what happened.

Xinhua



In a picture taken on 10 December, Japanese school children visit a educational workshop at the Eco-Products 2010 exhibition in Tokyo. One of the country's largest environmental exhibitions showed off ways to save and sustain the planet that these youngsters will soon inherit. — INTERNET

Object shot out of sky above Israeli nuclear plant, military says

JERUSALEM, 19 Dec — The Israeli Air Force shot down an unidentified flying object over the Dimona nuclear plant in the Negev Desert on Thursday, the Israel Defence Forces said.

The object appeared in a designated no-fly zone, the air force was scrambled and the object was shot down, the IDF said.

The object could have been a party balloon, the IDF said, but forces have not yet found the debris to determine what it was. There have been unconfirmed media reports that it was a motor-driven object.

The air force reacted according to procedure when the object was spotted, the IDF said.

The Israeli daily newspaper *Haaretz* reported that last October "IDF warplanes intercepted an Israeli ultralight aircraft that accidentally flew into the area and forced it to land at an airstrip in southern

Israel." It also reported that "an Israeli surface-to-air missile downed a crippled Israeli fighter-bomber that strayed into

the restricted zone" during the Six Day War in 1967. The craft's pilot was killed.

Internet



An unidentified flying object was shot down in the skies above Israel's Dimona nuclear plant, pictured here in 2004. — INTERNET

Zoo's new little rhino goes full throttle as he meets his public

DUBLIN, 19 Dec — The new, snub-nosed, wrinkly resident of Dublin Zoo seems to be missing something important. The male southern white rhinoceros calf recently born in the zoo is missing his horns — but don't worry it is completely normal, according to keeper Helen Clarke-Bennet. "He was born with only the rough edge of the beginnings of one and the smaller one is just a dimple on his head. He will grow one," she said.

The horns will grow about 10cm in the first year and 5cm a year from then on. The latest arrival was born last Friday and is one very big bundle of joy, weighing in at just under 50kg. In time he will grow up to a considerable 3,000kg



The new southern white rhino calf checks in with mother Ashanti while taking his public bow in Dublin Zoo on Wednesday. — INTERNET

but for now he is still very much a newborn and can be seen full of life bounding around his enclosure under the careful watch of his mother Ashanti.

Internet

London, tuberculosis capital of Western Europe

LONDON, 19 Dec — The number of people infected with tuberculosis has jumped by 50 percent in London in the last decade, making it the tuberculosis capital of Western Europe, a new report says.

Unlike other countries in the region where tuberculosis is dropping, the disease is on the rise in Britain, particularly in London.

In 1999, there were about 2,309 cases. By 2009, London had 3,450 cases of Britain's more than 9,000 cases, according to an article published Friday in the medical journal, *Lancet*.

Since only about 70 percent of active tuberculosis cases are picked up, those numbers are an underestimate. "We are concerned to see cases of TB at their highest levels since the 1970s," said Dr Ibrahim Abubakar, head of tuberculosis surveillance at Britain's Health Protection Agency, in a statement.

He was not connected to the commentary. "The key to reducing levels of TB is early diagnosis and appropriate treatment," Abubakar said. While tuberculosis remains rare in the UK — about 15 people per 100,000 people are infected — that is still higher than elsewhere in Western Europe.

Internet

One Direction star top of the mops

LONDON, 19 Dec — Boy band heartthrob Harry Styles has been crowned top of the mops for his hit hairdo. The One Direction star — who came third in this year's X Factor — has topped a poll declaring him to have the "best celebrity hair" of the year.

Topping the worst hairstyle list in the annual survey, commissioned by Brylcreem, are the gravity-defying quiffs sported by the Jedward twins. Curly-locked Styles turned the tables on X Factor winner Matt Cardle, who finished in

second spot. But another contestant from the ITV1 show is an unlikely inclusion in the best barnet list — Wagner is listed in seventh place.

Internet



Boy band heartthrob Harry Styles has been crowned top of the mops for his hit hairdo. — INTERNET

Troops get anti-blast underpants



The new pants provide increased protection around the pelvic area. — INTERNET

LONDON, 19 Dec — British troops are being kitted out with special anti-blast underpants to protect them from homemade bombs. More than 340 soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan and thousands injured — often horrifically from roadside bombs. But troops are now being issued with "pelvic protection", a three-tiered system of clothing and ar-

mour consisting of special protective underwear and detachable armoured modular trousers. The £10 million system is designed to integrate with current kit.

Colonel Peter Rafferty, personal combat equipment team leader at Defence Equipment and Support, said: "Our troops in Afghanistan face specific threats and by working together, the MoD and industry have created a layered system of clothing and body armour that offers troops fighting on the frontline the best balance between protection, mobility and comfort. Troops on operations already have world-renowned body armour but we continually seek to improve the personal protection available to them." — *Internet*



A recent undated handout picture from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, shows a statue of the ancient god Hapi (L), one of the four sons of Horus, depicted here as a baboon and the legs of a King Amenhotep III, at a site that once housed ancient Egypt's largest funerary temple, at Amenhotep's mortuary temple on the west bank of Luxor. — INTERNET

A shortage of sodium thiopental in the US has led Oklahoma to use pentobarbital instead. — INTERNET



US inmate John Duty executed with animal drug

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — Officials in the US state of Oklahoma have executed a prison inmate us-

ing a drug cocktail that includes a sedative typically used to euthanize animals. John David Duty, 58, is thought to be the first US prisoner to be executed using the sedative pentobarbital. Duty, who killed a cellmate in 2001, was pronounced dead at 1818 local time (0018 GMT) at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. A shortage of sodium thiopental in the US forced

the state to make the change. A judge's ruling to allow Oklahoma to substitute pentobarbital for sodium thiopental was upheld by a federal appeals court this week. Sodium thiopental, an anaesthetic, is usually used in the state's lethal injection formula, which also includes drugs that paralyse muscles and stop the heart.

Internet

Swedish med students get teacher's body at first autopsy

It was their first ever autopsy, but students at one of Sweden's top medical schools were faced with a familiar sight in the classroom: the body on the table belonged to their late teacher.

"The first autopsy is really, really emotional, and we autopsied someone we knew!", one of the shocked students told news agency TT Friday.

"I feel something in the routines went a bit wrong," said another. Chief physician Birgitta Sundelin called the event "extremely unfortunate."

She said that students were normally informed ahead of time of whose body they were to examine and that it was also the case this time.

But according to a student, the class did not find out until they saw their teacher's name on the body's toe tag.

The head of the department, Tina Dalianis, said she regretted the incident, but added the students needed to learn the tricks of the trade.

Three southern Californians break Guinness world record for continuous TV watching

Three southern California men have broken a Guinness world record for continuous TV watching, having stared at a screen in a special Plexiglass theater for 86 hours and six minutes Monday.

Farris Hodo, Kevin Cood and Victor Lopez outlasted 97 other contestants to earn the record as the endurance contest concluded four days after it began three days ago at the Hollywood & Highland central courtyard. Each of the three finalists was awarded a Guinness World Record certificate and 10,000 US dollars in prize money.

They beat the Guinness record — which was 86 hours — by six minutes.

The event was organized to promote the DVD release of the entire eight-season, 192-episodes of the Fox series "24" starring Kiefer Sutherland. Rather than viewing live TV, the contestants watched reruns of the series. The series is slated to release on 14 Dec.



People measure the cold dish made from mashed potato during a food fair of the Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry University in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, 28 Nov, 2010. The 2.58-meter long and 2.48-meter wide cold dish cost eight chefs six hours to make with 1,294 kilogram mashed potato.



A villager dries handmade longevity noodles at a courtyard in Zhuji of Shaoxing City, east China's Zhejiang Province, 5 Dec, 2010. The longevity noodles are so called for their length of several meters, which is a metaphor for people's longevity according to Chinese tradition.

Money flying from window gives away Ala robbers

Authorities in Alabama say all they had to do to catch six bank robbery suspects was follow the money flying out the window of a speeding car.

The Gadsden Times reports that a deputy

spotted the red Nissan Maxima cruising down a state highway, the cash left in its wake.

Cherokee County Sheriff Jeff Shaver says four gunmen took an undisclosed amount of money during the robbery Tuesday at Union State Bank.

He says the six

suspects ditched their first getaway car and got into the Maxima to try and throw off authorities.

Shaver says all the suspects ran away after the car wrecked. But all six men were eventually arrested. One was found hiding in a garbage can by tracking dogs.

News Album

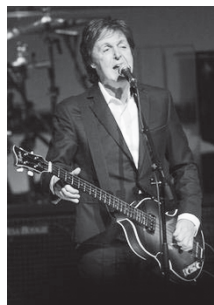
Berlin film fest to honour Germany's Mueller-Stahl

BERLIN, 19 Dec—Armin Mueller-Stahl, one of Germany's most internationally renowned actors, will receive an honorary Golden Bear lifetime achievement award at the 61st Berlin Film Festival, organizers said Friday.

Celebrating the 50-year career of the Oscar-nominated star, the Berlinale, which ranks among the top three European film festivals, hailed Mueller-Stahl as an "extraordinary artist."

"Today Armin Mueller-Stahl is celebrating his 80th birthday. We wish him the very best and are delighted we'll be awarding this extraordinary artist the Honorary Golden Bear ... in February," said festival director Dieter Kosslick.—Internet

Paul McCartney plays gig at tiny London club



Paul McCartney performs in concert for the first time at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater, 13 Dec, 2010 in New York.

INTERNET

LONDON, 19 Dec—Former Beatle Paul McCartney played his smallest gig in more than a decade Friday in a bid to save a landmark London club faced with closure because of a steep rent increase.

McCartney played a lunchtime show before about 300 fans at the 100 Club in central London, wooing the crowd with "Magical Mystery Tour," "All My Loving" and a host of other favourites.

It marked the first

time McCartney had played the 100 Club, which once hosted the Rolling Stones, the Who, Metallica and others, including American jazz great Louis Armstrong.

"Who wants to save the 100 Club?," McCartney asked fans after he and his band walked on stage singing an a cappella version of "Hey Jude." Tickets for the gig cost 60 pounds (\$90). Fans started lining up hours before the show in hopes of getting a seat.

Internet

Small expectations? Winfrey pick off to slow start

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—When she learned that Oprah Winfrey had a new book pick coming, Cathy Langer of the Tattered Cover store in Denver ordered hundreds of copies, as she always does, even though the actual choice is not officially revealed until Winfrey announces it on her show.

But so far, Langer has seen few takers for the bound paperback volume of Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" and

"Great Expectations."

"I think it's not all that exciting of a pick, frankly," said Langer, head buyer for the Tattered Cover, a leading independent store. "Oprah said she was going to promote the book. Well, good, it needs it. It needs some sexy hook to get people excited about it."

Dickens remains among the most popular of "classic" authors and Winfrey has been the publishing industry's most dependable maker of hits.

Internet

Photo shows talk-show host Oprah Winfrey announcing on 'The Oprah Winfrey Show' airing, 6 Dec, 2010, her book club selections, 'A Tale of Two Cities' and 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens.—INTERNET



Olivia Wilde, Maria Bello bring Hollywood to Haiti

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—After the devastating earthquake rocked Haiti earlier this year, food and medical aid poured into the island country, but in the months that followed a pair of Hollywood actresses and their friends had another idea. They wanted to build a movie theater.

It may seem like a far-fetched notion, but since it opened in September, the Sun City Picture House has become a place that generates smiles on the faces of children and adults. It also has been used as a community centre and school, and it helped spawned two similar buildings in different camps.

Internet



Barcelona's forward Pedro Rodriguez (L) scores a goal past Espanyol's goalkeeper Carlos Kameni during their Spanish league football match at the Cornellà-El Prat stadium in Cornellà de Llobregat.— INTERNET

Barcelona top for Christmas after derby demolition

MADRID, 19 Dec—Champions Barcelona will sit top of the Spanish first division for the Christmas break after notching a tenth successive league victory with a resounding 5-1 win over city rivals Espanyol at the Cornellà-El Prat stadium on Saturday.

Spanish World Cup winners Pedro Rodriguez and David Villa grabbed two goals apiece with compatriot Xavi Hernandez, one of three players shortlisted for the Ballon D'Or crown, netting the other as Barcelona triumphed in the Catalan derby, and opened up a five-point lead over second-placed Real Madrid.

Internet

Inter lift Club World Cup crown

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec—European champions Inter Milan lifted the Club World Cup on Saturday after a 3-0 win in the Abu Dhabi final over African champions TP Mazembe. The Italians largely dominated proceedings and had the match in their pockets once Goran Pandev and Samuel Eto'o had bagged goals in quickfire succession inside the opening 20 minutes at Zayed Sports City.

Frenchman Jonathan Biabiany slid home a third to add further gloss in the closing stages as Inter succeeded last year's winners Barcelona and added to Intercontinental Cup triumphs in 1964 and 1965 - a previous incarnation of the now expanded event.

The win meant that Inter chairman Massimo Moratti emulated his father Angelo, who held the post at the time of those two earlier successes.

Internet



Lyon's French forward Bafetimbi Gomis (centre) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring a goal during their French Ligue 1 match vs Toulouse, on 12 December, at the Gerland stadium in Lyon.— INTERNET

In-form Lisandro targets Marseille scalp

PARIS, 19 Dec—French title rivals Marseille and Lyon will each be hoping to strike a telling blow when they meet on Sunday evening, but it is visitors Lyon who have the momentum. Lyon, two points behind leaders Lille in third, are the division's in-form team and have not lost in the league since a 1-0 defeat at the

hands of local rivals Saint-Etienne on September 25 — a run of 10 matches. In stark contrast, Marseille are on a three-game winless run and go into the Stade Velodrome showdown two points behind their rivals in fifth.

Key to Lyon's revival has been the resurgence of Argentine striker Lisandro Lopez, who has scored seven goals in his last seven games.

Internet

SPORTS

Borriello comes back to haunt Milan

ROME, 19 Dec—Marco Borriello came back to haunt former club AC Milan on Saturday, scoring the only goal of the game as Roma blew the Serie A title race wide open.

Borriello struck 21 minutes from time with a lucky goal he knew next to nothing about but that won't have worried the 28-year-old who was ditched by Milan in favour of bog-money signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic at the start of the season.

Victory was vital for Claudio Ranieri's team, who would have fallen 13 points off the leaders had they lost. Instead they are now just seven points behind Milan whose lead will be cut to three points should either Juventus, Napoli or Lazio win on Sunday. Ranieri was understandably happy.

Internet



AC Milan's forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) reacts after missing a goal against AS Roma's goalkeeper Alexander Doni during their Italian Serie A football match at San Siro stadium in Milan.— INTERNET

Lindsey Vonn is 2010 AP Female Athlete of Year

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—Lindsey Vonn remembers being a 9-year-old wannabe Olympian, waiting in line for hours on end to shake the hand of a medal-winning skier and get an autograph. These days, Vonn is the one speeding to victories and hoping to inspire the next generation to hit the slopes.

Gold and bronze medals at the Vancouver Games, plus a third consecutive World Cup overall title, helped Vonn become the 2010 Female

Athlete of the Year, chosen by members of *The Associated Press*. She is the first skier — male or female — to win one of the annual AP awards, which began in 1931.

Internet



Lindsey Vonn of the United States

Benitez wants new blood despite Inter triumph

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec—Inter Milan coach Rafael Benitez was happy to land his first silverware with the



Inter Milan's players celebrate after beating TP Mazembe in their 2010 FIFA Club World Cup final football match at Zayed Sports City in the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi.— INTERNET

Serie A giants after Saturday's 3-0 Club World Cup final win over African champions TP Mazembe — but reiterated his demands for some new blood to bolster an injury-ravaged campaign. Benitez, arriving from Liverpool in the summer, has a job on his hands to come close to emulating predecessor Jose Mourinho after the latter won a treble of Champions League, Serie A title and Italian Cup last season.—Internet

Eto'o voted top star at Club World Cup

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec—Inter Milan's Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o was voted top player at the Club World Cup after Saturday's 3-0 final win over African champions TP Mazembe in which the

former Barcelona man scored. Eto'o took the golden ball accolade after organisers FIFA made him their top man with the silver award going to Dioko Kaluyituka of beaten finalists Tout Puisse Mazembe of DR Congo — the first African side to make it to the trophy match.—Internet



Inter Milan's Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o (C) poses with a giant key after winning a car following his team's 2010 FIFA Club World Cup final football match against TP Mazembe at Zayed Sports City in the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi.— INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle



Mainz close gap, leaders Dortmund downed by Gekas



Dortmund's striker Lucas Barrios (R) and Frankfurt's defender Aleksandar Vatoski fight for the ball during their German first division Bundesliga football match in the central German city of Frankfurt am Main.— INTERNET

BERLIN, 19 Dec—Mainz closed the gap at the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday to 10 points with a tense 4-2 win at wintry St Pauli as leaders Borussia Dortmund were beaten 1-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Both Mainz striker Andre Schuerrle and St Pauli midfielder Matthias Lehmann scored two goals, but a deft first-half chip by Mainz's Hungary striker Adam Szalai kept the guests ahead on a bitterly cold night in Hamburg.

Mainz midfielder Marco Caligiuri settled the matter in the 83rd minute when he took a clever pass from substitute striker Sami Allagui and drilled his shot past the goalkeeper as Mainz went second.

Internet

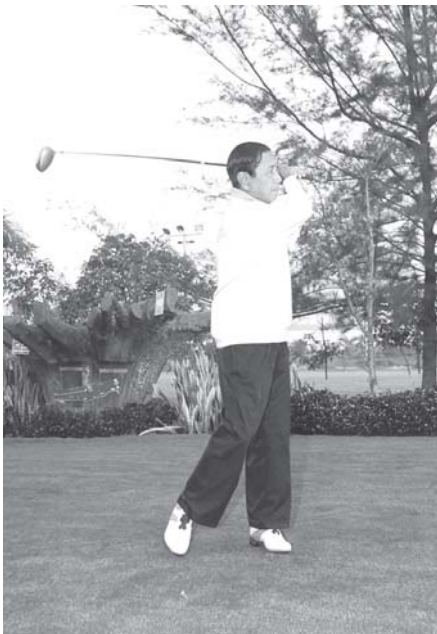
- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye participates in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2010 commenced at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course and Yepyaw Golf Course, here, at 5.30 am yesterday, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2010

Also present at the tournament were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Thura U Shwe Mann, Prime Minister U Thein Sein, Member of the State Peace and Development Council U Tin Aye, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Auditor-General, senior military officers, the members of the Organizing Committee for the Tournament and golfers from 14 contending teams.

The opening ceremony was held at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course where Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, teed off tracer ball to open the tournament. The golfers from 14 contending teams took part in the first round of the tournament.

The second round of the tournament started at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course and Yepyaw Golf Course, here, 6 am today.

The prize presentation ceremony followed in the evening. It was attended by Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the Auditor-General, senior military officers, the organizing committee members and golfers.

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SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann in action at Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.—MNA