Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVII, Number 253 | 10th Waxing of Pyatho 1371 ME | Friday, 25 December, 2009

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

National unity is the most essential requirement for perpetuation of sovereignty of the State

True patriotism means not to harbour narrow-minded nationalism

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—*The following is the full text of the speech delivered by Senior General Than Shwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, at the Graduation Parade of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy today.*

***Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at the Graduation parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy.*—MNA**

Comrades,

Today is the graduation day of the 11th Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy. As you will soon have to discharge the duties of national defence and the duty of the Defence Services Medical Corps, I would like to give necessary guidance solemnly to all of you.

Comrades,

As you have successfully completed the military and medical studies at the Academy, you will have to provide health care services to the Tatmadawmen and their family members in the regiments you are posted to. By nature of work, our Tatmadawmen are always facing the brunt of severe weather, disease from different regions and injuries caused by various reasons. In addition, you will have to perform your duties in the far-flung remote areas where there would be neither communications nor medical health care services. Therefore, when you perform the duty of health care services for the Tatmadawmen and their families, apart from providing medical treatment, it is necessary for you to undertake extensive educational activities to promote public awareness so that they could live with health knowledge and consciousness. If each and every Tatmadawman will become smart enough to live with health knowledge and consciousness in line with the motto "Prevention is better than cure", losses caused by diseases could be prevented. It is an honour for a Tatmadawman to sacrifice his life for the country in the fight against an enemy. However, it is an undesirable loss for the country and the Tatmadaw if a Tatmadawman lost his

(See page 7)

It is an honour for a Tatmadawman to sacrifice his life for the country in the fight against an enemy. However, it is an undesirable loss for the country and the Tatmadaw if a Tatmadawman lost his life due to diseases.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 December, 2009

Upgrade rural gravel roads to all-weather ones

The government has been improving infrastructures for development of rural areas, home to the majority of the people. As part of the drive, it is seeking sources for adequate supply of irrigation water because agricultural farming is the main business of rural regions. Thanks to the dams, sluice gates, and clusters of dams and lakes, farmers are enjoying economic development, growing monsoon and summer paddy along with many other crops through double-cropping and multiple-cropping patterns.

In addition, the government has been constructing a large number of bridges over rivers and creeks for ensuring smooth transport for the convenience of the regions concerned. Now, rural people are benefiting from inter-village roads, and roads linking urban and rural areas, and enjoying swift flow of local goods to other regions.

Aung Mingalar-Thayetsein gravel road in Kyaukdaga Township was put into commission on 21 December, as a result of the efforts jointly made by Kyaukdaga Township and Pyu Township Development Affairs Committees in Bago Division. So, local people in 51 villages of nine village-tracts in Tawkywe-in and Kanyutkwin regions in the townships have easy access to smooth transport.

In the meantime, local people and well-wishers are making generous donations to help achieve ongoing projects for rural development. Now, many villages have got affiliated basic education high schools, new school buildings, and self-reliant village libraries, thus providing better learning opportunities for the youth and broadening the horizons of the people in rural areas.

Due to new station hospitals, health centres and rural dispensaries, better heath care is provided to respective villages and surrounding villages. In some regions there are a large number of model villages that reflect regional development in the economic, education, health and transport sectors.

The socio-economic life of rural people is now improving increasingly owing to the projects the government, local administrative bodies, social organizations and well-wishers have been implementing with goodwill and in collaboration for rural development.

Talks on Organizational Architecture for Tomorrows' Challenges on 26 Dec

YANGON, 24 Dec—For those who are studying the ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (AFTA), Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association will give talks on Organizational Architecture for Tomorrows' Challenges at Room-1009 on the 10th floor of Yuzana Tower at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township from 1 pm to 3 pm on 26 December.

Those wishing to attend the talks may dial 556183 or 095157032.

MNA

People's Desire

* **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**

Energy Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Administrator Mr Zhang Guabao of National Energy Administration, Vice-Chairman of China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) Mr Liao Yong Yuan and party from the People's Republic of China at the ministry here on 20 December. They discussed matters to enhance bilateral cooperation in energy sector.—*MNA*

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Administrator Mr Zhang Guabao of National Energy Administration and Vice-Chairman of China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) Mr Liao Yong Yuan of PRC.—MNA

MPMEEA holds annual general meeting

Secretary U Zaw Moe Khaing of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association reads out the annual report and financial statement for 2008-2009.—MNA

YANGON, 24 Dec—Myanmar Pharmaceuticals & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association held the 8th Annual General Meeting at UMFCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road in Lanmadaw Township on 22 December.

Chairman of the association Dr Win Sithu and President of UMFCCI U Win Myint spoke on the occasion. Secretary U Zaw Moe Khaing submitted the annual report and financial statement for 2008-2009 and sought the approval of the meeting.

Director U Than Aung Kyaw of Directorate of Trade announced the 13-member CEC list for 2009-2010 including Dr Win Sithu as Chairman, U Thant Zin as Vice-Chairman, U Zaw Moe Khaing as Secretary and Dr Thin Nwe Win as Joint-Secretary and 20 executives.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA

Two-year government treasury bonds to be in circulation

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Apart from three-year and five-year government treasury bonds in circulation, the Central Bank of Myanmar, on behalf of the government, will publish two-year government treasury bonds on 1 January 2010. Bonds can be freely bought in groups or individually.

The interest rate for two-year government treasury bonds is 10.5 percent; three-year government treasure bonds, 11.00 percent; and five-year government treasure bonds, 11.5 percent.

Interests are issued biannually: on 15 March, and 15 September. Bonds can be handed over or sold.

Government treasure bonds are available at Myanma Economic Bank Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw) in Banks Zone on Myat Pan Thazin Street in Nay Pyi Taw; Myanma Loan Certificates Trading Co Ltd at 21/25 on Sule Pagoda Road; and Myanmar Economic Bank Saving Bank (Branch) Nos (1), (2), (3) and (4) in Yangon; and Myanma Economic Bank Branch Nos (1), (2) and (3) in Mandalay.—*MNA*

Hninsi Hnitthit Concert on 8-10 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec — Directed by Director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyit) and performed by film and music stars, Hninsi Hnitthit Concert will be staged at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road in Dagon Township, Yangon, from 8 to 10 January 2010 in order to raise fund of Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association (Central).

MNA

Suicide bomber kills four in Pakistan's Peshawar

PESHAWAR, 24 Dec — A suicide bomber struck near an army and police checkpoint in Pakistan's northwestern Peshawar city on Thursday, killing at least four people and wounding about 10 more, officials said. The blast struck Peshawar's busy Mall Road, home to government offices, banks and private companies, in an army cantonment area.

"Four people were killed and more than 10 injured. Apparently it was a suicide attack," Sahibzada Mohammad Anis, the top administrative official for Peshawar, told *AFP*. Bashir Ahmed Bilour, a senior minister in the provincial government, confirmed the death toll and said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber, although it was not clear if the attacker was on foot or in a car.

"I can see smoke and injured people lying on the ground," witness Shahid Khan, who works for a local advertising agency, told *AFP* by telephone. The attack came two days after a teenage suicide bomber attacked a Pakistan journalists' club in Peshawar, killing three people in an unprecedented assault on the media.— *Internet*

***Map of Pakistan locating Peshawar. A suicide bomber struck near an army and police checkpoint in Pakistan's northwestern Peshawar city on Thursday.*— INTERNET**

British soldier killed in Afghanistan explosion

LONDON, 24 Dec – A British soldier has been killed by an explosion in southern Afghanistan, the third to die in the region in three days, the Ministry of Defence said on Wednesday. The soldier from The Parachute Regiment was killed on Tuesday "as a result of a suspected improvised explosive device (IED)" while on foot patrol south of Sangin in Helmand Province, the ministry said in a statement.

He was the third British soldier to be killed in southern Afghanistan since Sunday, and brings the death toll since the US-led invasion in October 2001 to 243, with 106 killed since the beginning of this year. Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government recently announced a 150-million-pound (240-million-dollar, 168-million-euro) programme to combat the threat of IEDs, which cause the vast majority of British troop deaths.— *Internet*

***Two missing US-made fighter jet engines, worth 29 million dollars, have been traced to Argentina, police said on Thursday.* INTERNET**

Bicycle bomb kills three Afghan civilians

KABUL, 24 Dec— An explosive device planted on a bicycle was detonated in Helmand Province south of Afghanistan, killing three civilians and wounding five others on Wednesday, a local official said.

"The gruesome incident occurred in a bazaar in Nadali District this morning," spokesman for provincial administration Daud Ahmadi said. "As a result, three innocent civilians were killed and five others, including four civilians and one Afghan soldier, sustained injuries."

He put the attack on enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban militants. But the outfit has yet to make comment. — *Xinhua*

Five killed, would-be suicide bomber captured in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Four policemen and a civilian was killed and three people wounded in separate attacks, while Iraqi security forces arrested a would-be suicide bomber in Baghdad, Iraqi security forces said on Wednesday.

Four policemen were shot when gunmen attacked their checkpoint in Abu Ghraib area, west of Baghdad, a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In Baghdad, a bomb attached to a minibus carrying passengers detonated in the neighbourhood of Kadhmiyah in northern the capital, killing a passenger and wounding three others, a police source told *Xinhua*.

In separate incident, Iraqi security forces searched a suspected house in Baghdad's western district of Jami'a and arrested a would-be suicide bomber, seizing three explosive-belts and 24 bags of chemical substances which can be used in homemade bombs, Qassim Atta, spokesman of Baghdad operations command, said in a statement. Intelligence reports said that the suspect was preparing to carry out suicide attack on civilians and Iraqi security forces in the neighbourhood, Atta added.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills two civilians, wounds three in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Dec— Two civilians were killed and three others injured as their car run over a roadside bomb planted by Taleban militants in Kandahar Province of southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, said a statement of Interior Ministry "The terrorist incident occurred today in Takhta Pul District," the statement added.

"As a result, two civilians were killed and three others got wounded." The statement blamed the enemies of Afghanistan, a term used against Taleban militants, for carrying out the blast.

It is the second bombing in the restive southern region on Wednesday.

A previous attack which rocked Nadali District in Helmand Province claimed the lives of three civilians and wounded five others including an Afghan soldier.

Taleban militants, who fight Afghan, NATO and US troops, often plant mines on roads and highways to target security forces. But such attacks often claim the lives of innocent Afghans.— *Xinhua*

At least two killed in explosion in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 24 Dec — At least two people were killed and five injured on Wednesday in a powerful explosion near a church in central Mosul, the capital of northern Iraq's Nineveh Province, a police source said.The blast took place in the morning near a church in the al-Sa'ah neighbourhood in central the city, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The police could not immediately say whether the powerful blast was caused by a car bomb or a roadside bomb, the source said. Eight day ago, Mosul was the scene for a twin bombing, carried out by a booby-trapped cart and followed by a roadside bomb explosions near another church in the city, killing five people and wounding 40 others. — *Xinhua*

***A government worker shows villagers the way to a truck after they were evacuated from their shanties near the Mayon Volcano in Guinobatan town, Albay Province, south of Manila on 24 Dec, 2009. The Philippines' most active volcano shot higher ash columns and rumbled louder on Wednesday as authorities warned of a potential hazardous eruption in Mount Mayon anytime.* INTERNET**

A plough works to keep the road open. A seven-year-old boy was stopped by police in northern Germany while trying to plough snow with a front loader he borrowed from his parents' business, authorities said.—INTERNET

IT industry hits bottom in 2009 but upward route still unclear

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Dec — It seems that some of the worst-case scenarios, predicted earlier in 2009 for the information technology (IT) industry, might have unexpected happy endings as the year draws to a close.

Research firm Gartner painted a gloomy picture in March, forecasting global personal computer (PC) shipments will plunge 11.9 percent in the year from 2008, a drop it said would be the sharpest for the industry in history and would dwarf the previous record decline reached in 2001 during the dot-com bust.

In the following months, Gartner made several adjustments to the predictions with optimism increasing each time. In most recent updates issued in November, the firm said it now expect worldwide PC shipments to climb 2.8 percent year-on-year in 2009 and will achieve double-digit growth in the coming year.

The increasing demand for PCs is seen as a key indicator that the overall IT market has bottomed out and may be embarking on the road to recovery.—*Xinhua*

Ford close to selling Volvo unit to China's Geely

STOCKHOLM, 24 Dec — Ford is close to selling its Volvo unit to China's Geely Group and expects a final deal early next year, the US auto giant said in a statement. "Ford Motor Company confirmed today that all substantive commercial terms relating to the potential sale of Volvo Car Corporation have been settled between Ford and Zhejiang Geely Holding Group," the statement said.

Ford said that work on financing and government approvals remains to be completed, adding that it expects the deal to close "in the second quarter 2010." "The perspective sale would ensure Volvo has the resources, including the capital investment, necessary to further strengthen the business and build its global franchise," Ford said. Ford's statement did not reveal the amount of Geely's offer.—*Xinhua*

A high-speed train stops at the high-speed railway maintenance base in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 22 Dec, 2009. This base is one of the four high-speed train maintenance bases in China. — XINHUA

Britain outnumbers France with cheese

BEIJING, 24 Dec — Britain has overtaken France and Italy in the number of cheeses it manufactures. According to Juliet Harbutt, a global authority on cheese who organizes the British Cheese Awards, about 700 varieties now boast a "Made in Britain" label. This is 100 more varieties than France produces, and twice as many as Italy.

Britain's cheese-making renaissance began 20 years ago when many of the nation's 200 specialist cheese companies started operations.

The big reduction, 15 years ago, in the powers of the Milk Marketing Board, which had bought up most milk from producers, and the introduction of European Union milk quotas in the 1980s, both proved the spur for dairy farmers to look for other ways of using their core product.

Xinhua

Indonesia's cocoa export predicted flat

JAKARTA, 24 Dec — The exports of cocoa from Indonesia is predicted to keep steady this year and next year, compared to that of at last year which stood at 350,000 tons, Indonesian Cocoa Association said on Thursday. Chairman of Indonesian Cocoa Association Halim Razak said that Indonesia has attempted to boost the quality of the commodity to raise its added value.

By conducting fermentation programme, the chairman said that it could give added value as much as 150 to 200 US dollars per ton. He said that currently, the Indonesia's cocoa quality is still lower than the products from Ghana.—*Internet*

US dollar falls against major currencies

NEW YORK, 24 Dec — The dollar pulled back against major currencies on Wednesday amid some disappointing US economic reports. US new home sales tumbled 11.3 percent in November to a 355,000-unit seasonally adjusted annual rate, the lowest since April, the Commerce Department reported. The estimates for sales in August, September and October were revised down.

A plausible explanation for the drop is payback for the first-time homebuyer's tax credit, which has been set to expire on 30 Nov. But the big decline is unexpected and disappointing as it showed that demand for new homes is still not strong enough to support expansion plans of homebuilders. US consumer spending rose 0.5 percent in November, according to another government report. After inflation, the increase was 0.2 percent. Personal income was up 0.4 percent in November, with an increase of 0.3 percent in wage and salary income.—*Xinhua*

Spain's Telefonica buys Internet phone provider Jajah

MADRID, 24 Dec — Spain's Telefonica said on Wednesday its 02 unit had bought Jajah, a provider of Internet-based phone service with headquarters in the US and Israel, for 145 million euros (207 million dollars).

The all cash deal is subject to approval by Spain's antitrust authorities, the former state monopoly said in a statement. Like Skype, Jajah allows its users to make free calls among its users over the Internet or very cheap calls to a fixed-line or mobile number.

The company, which has 25 million clients worldwide, had reportedly sparked interest from Microsoft and Cisco. It was founded in 2005 by Austrian entrepreneurs Roman Scharf and Daniel Mattes.

"The acquisition of Jajah broadens the scope of our communications offering and opens up new capabilities in the voice communication space," the chief executive of Telefonica Europe, Matthew Key, said in the statement.

Internet

Partial view of the building housing the Spanish telecom company Telefonica taken in downtown Madrid.Telefonica said on Wednesday its 02 unit had bought Jajah, a provider of Internet-based phone service with headquarters in the US and Israel, for 145 million euros (207 million dollars). — INTERNET

Chile gives priority to trade with ASEAN countries

SANTIAGO, 24 Dec—Chile held a business seminar on Wednesday to strengthen its trade ties with the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Organized by the state-run trade promotion organization, ProChile, and the Chamber of Commerce for Asia Pacific, the seminar aimed to have access to updated information about ASEAN countries and to discuss the benefits, challenges and opportunities for Chilean exporters and importers. Rodrigo Contreras, representative of the Economic International Affairs Direction, said that Chile has set its target on ASEAN countries, mainly Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

"We have entered the vast Asian markets and we have had trade agreements with China, South Korea, Japan and India, so currently our priority is given to trade negotiations with ASEAN countries," Contreras said. He said the "ASEAN countries represent big trade potential for Chile." Currently the trade exchange between Chile and ASEAN countries has surpassed 2 billion US dollars, Contreras added. Diplomats of Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam attended the seminar.—*Xinhua*

Poland to increase troops in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Dec— Poland would boost its military presence in Afghanistan within the framework of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a statement issued by Afghanistan's Presidential Palace said on Wednesday.

The statement was released at the conclusion of the meeting between the visiting Polish Defence Minister Bogdan Klich and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Defence Minister Bogdan Klich called on President Karzai at his palace on Wednesday and said that Poland would increase its troops within NATO framework to up to 2,600 by April 2010," said the statement.Some 2,000 Polish troops are currently stationed in Afghanistan under NATO command to help stabilize security in the war-ravaged country.

Karzai, according to the statement, called for Klich to facilitate Afghan youth study in Poland in both military and civilian fields. The Polish defence minister arrived in Afghanistan Tuesday to pay a visit to Polish troops, which were stationed in the central Ghazni Province.

Xinhua

***This photo released by Anthony M. Tortoriello shows Faith a two-legged dog walking down Michigan Ave to the wonderment of the human pedestrians.—*INTERNET**

A visitor watches a Chinese ink painting work during the exhibition "Spotlight on Chinese Ink Painting: International Art Exhibition in India" at Hotel Taj Mahal in New Delhi, capital of India, on 23 Dec, 2009.— XINHUA

Russia likely to buy foreign helicopter carrier

MOSCOW, 24 Dec— Russia's purchase of a foreign helicopter carrier is highly likely, Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov told the daily *Rosiiskaya Gazeta* in an interview. "We are now analyzing the terms on which it may be delivered to us. But I think the chances are very high," Serdyukov said in the interview to be published on Thursday.

Negotiations on the purchase of the French helicopter carrier *Mistral* are progressing "well enough," he said, adding that talks on the acquisition of a similar vessel are underway with other countries. Serdyukov also said Russia may buy some elements of the French military hardware.

"We are interested only in certain specific elements. For instance, communication and control systems," he said.

The Defence Minister said Russia's military reform will continue over the next few years. "According to the presidential decree, the troops will be reduced to 1 million by 2016," said Serdyukov.He said another major task is the rearmament of the armed forces. "We expect the share of modern hardware and weapons to reach one third by 2012 and then rise to 70-100 percent by 2020," he said.—*Xinhua*

Syria, Turkey move towards closer cooperation

DAMASCUS, 24 Dec— Syria and Turkey on Wednesday signed 50 agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoU) and a work programme for joint cooperation, as leaders of the two countries met and vowed to further enhance bilateral relations.

"The Syrian-Turkish relations have developed over the past few years, however we still have a long way to go," Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said at a joint Press conference with visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "The fruits of our deep relations could be seen in all fields, which became a reality that anyone couldn't ignore," said Assad.

Xinhua

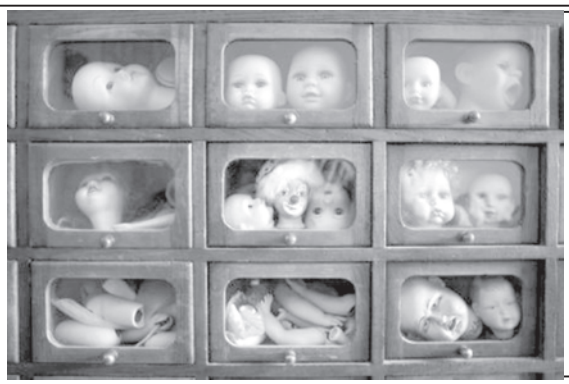
All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Climate change puts ecosystems on run

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—Global warming is causing climate belts to shift toward the poles and to higher elevations, to keep pace with which, the average ecosystem will need to shift about a quarter mile each year, said a new study led by scientists at the Carnegie Institution. For some habitats, such as low-lying areas, climate belts are moving even faster, putting many species in jeopardy, especially where human development has blocked migration paths, said the report in the 24 Dec issue of journal *Nature.*

"Expressed as velocities, climate-change projections connect directly to survival prospects for plants and animals. These are the conditions that will set the stage, whether species move or cope in place," said study co-author Chris Field, director of the Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology.

The research team, which included researchers from the Carnegie Institution, Stanford University, the California Academy of Sciences, and the University of California, Berkeley, combined data on current climate and temperature gradients worldwide with climate model projections for the next century to calculate the "temperature velocity" for different regions of the world.—*Xinhua*



Dolls heads and body parts are displayed in drawers at the Doll Hospital in Lisbon on 17 Dec, 2009. XINHUA

New study shows rise in drug resistance of dangerous infection in US hospitals

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—A new study in the journal *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* reports a surge in drug resistant strains of Acinetobacter, a dangerous type of bacteria that is becoming increasingly common in US hospitals. This study is being posted online on Wednesday and will appear in the journal's February print edition.

Acinetobacter infections attack patients in hospital intensive care units and others and have recently plagued soldiers returning home from the war in Iraq. These infections often appear as severe pneumonias or bloodstream infections, and require strong drugs to be treated, when they can be stopped at all.—*Xinhua*

Three dead, dozens missing in Philippine ferry collision

MANILA, 24 Dec—A ferry collided with a fishing boat off the Philippines on Thursday killing three people and leaving about two dozen missing, an official said.

Rescue boats picked up nearly 50 people from the ferry as it began to sink following the collision, Coast Guard spokesman Commander Armand Balilo said.

"Our search teams have found three bodies, but we continue to search for two dozen still missing," he told reporters.

The weather was clear at the time of the accident and officials said they would investigate what caused the collision.

Ferries are an important mode of transport in the Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,100 islands. But, accidents are common because if overcrowding, poor maintenance and tropical storms.

Internet

One of relatives reacts as they wait for news of their loved ones at the Philippine Coast Guard headquarters in Manila, Philippines on 24 Dec, 2009. INTERNET

Australian mother charged for locking baby in 60-degree Celsius car

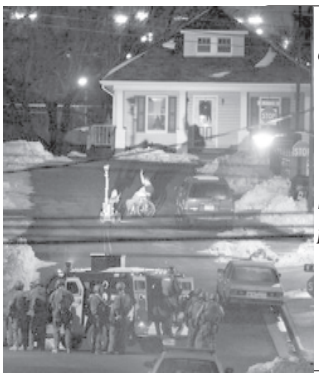
SYDNEY, 24 Dec—An Australian mother was charged on Wednesday with leaving her little boy locked inside her vehicle in extremely hot conditions while she went shopping. The woman, who has admitted making a "stupid mistake", was charged with leaving a child unsupervised in a motor vehicle.

The 18-month-old was rescued by shopkeepers who used a hammer to smash their way into a four-wheel drive in the car park of a shopping centre at McGraths Hill in northwest Sydney. The temperature inside the vehicle was estimated to be more than 60 degrees Celsius. The boy's 34-year-old mother, who has five children, had been contacted by caseworkers investigating the matter, authorities said. — *Xinhua*

Continued militancy makes future bleak for Afghans

KABUL, 24 Dec—"I have little hope to return home safe and sound in the evening," the nine-year-old Rahmat Khan said. Selling shopping bags in a dusty bazaar along Kabul river to support his five-member family, Khan said that he and his elder brother both earn between 150 Afghanis (3 US dollars) to 250 Afghanis (5 US dollars) daily. His elder brother washes cars in the afternoon and attends school in the morning.

Revealing his ordeal, the child said that his father was a shopkeeper and one day last year when he was going to his shop, suddenly a suicide bomber targeted foreign troops in Hodkhil area killing several persons including his father. "My father was martyred in the suicide attack and since then I cannot attend school regularly," the minor Khan, a student of grade three lamented.—*Internet*



A suspect in a wheelchair surrenders to a police robot after holding hostages at a post office in Wytheville, Va, on 23 Dec, 2009. INTERNET

Daylong Va post office standoff ends peacefully

WYTHEVILLE, 24 Dec – A daylong standoff at a small-town Virginia post office ended peacefully with three hostages being released and a suspect who came out of the building in a wheelchair in custody, police said late Wednesday.Warren Taylor of Sullivan County, Tenn., is being questioned and authorities do not yet have a motive, state police Sgt Michael Conroy said. The hostages and suspect left the building in Wytheville after authorities ordered the man to surrender.

The standoff began at about 2:30 pm when shots were fired at the one-storey brick post office in the mountain town in western Virginia. No one was injured, and relatives of two of the hostages said they were able to talk to their loved ones by phone. It ended about 8 1/2 hours later without the dozens of SWAT members armed with automatic weapons having to fire a shot. "We're just grateful it ended peacefully," Conroy said. "This is just the best outcome we could hope for."—*Internet*

Giant Pyramid UFO 'Hovers Over Moscow'

A mysterious 'UFO' seen in the sky over Moscow has sparked speculation that the city has been visited by an alien spacecraft.

The fuzzy grey shape was apparently captured on film in at least two separate videos - one filmed during the daytime and another at night - which became an online sensation.

But sceptics suggested there would be thousands of videos, rather than just two, if the object really had remained in the skies for hours.

Russian police have not commented on the alleged sightings.

The reports of the pyramid come just days after a Russian missile launch set off a spate of UFO sightings in Norway.

The dramatic light spiral seen over the north of the country prompted theories that it was caused by a meteor, the Northern Lights or even aliens.

However, HYPERLINK "http://uk.news.yahoo.com/fc/russia.html" Russia later revealed that its test-firing of a new intercontinental missile had ended in failure - at the same time as observers witnessed the early morning light show.

Giant Pyramid UFO 'Hovers Over Moscow'

"Superman" lifts car off 6-year-old girl to save her

A US man is hailed as "Superman" after lifting a car off a 6-year-old girl, according to media reports on Monday.

The girl escaped with minor injuries after she and neighbour Nick Harris said she was pinned under the vehicle.

Harris lives in the neighbour of Ashlyn in Ottawa, Kansas. The 5-foot-7 (1.74 m), 185-pound (83.9 kg) man said he doesn't know how he managed to lift the Mercury sedan off the child. He tried later to lift other cars and couldn't.

Harris was dropping off his daughter at school when he saw a driver backing her car out of a driveway and over the child.

"I didn't even think. I ran over there as fast as I could, grabbed the rear end of the car and lifted and pushed as hard as I could to get the tyre off the child," Harris said.

There were no witnesses to confirm what happened.

Police said they don't have anything to dispute it and it appeared Ashlyn wasn't pinned under the car long enough to be seriously hurt.

NEWS ALBUM

"Dead" woman, 73, revived after 30 minutes

A 73-year-old woman was revived half an hour after her heart stopped beating during an electrocardiogram test in Changsha, Hunan Province.

A coronary heart patient, the woman's heart stopped beating unexpectedly during a physical examination, according to doctors.

Doctors said it was rare for a person to come back to life after 30 minutes.

"Usually, if a person cannot be revived within six minutes, they die," a doctor said.

Clowns take part in an annual pilgrimage outside at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City . About 600 clowns took part in the annual event to thank the Virgin of Guadalupe for helping them find work through the year, according to local media.

Cat saved after being superglued to highway

A cat has escaped with all nine of its lives after being superglued to a highway in the US HYPERLINK "http://uk.news.yahoo.com/5/20091221/tod-cat-saved-after-being-superglued-to-870a197.html" \l "ynw-article-part2" Skip related content.

Cat saved after being superglued to highway.

Motorists passing by the stricken cat, named Timothy, did not bother to stop, thinking it had been injured.

But one couple driving along the busy road in Minnesota decided to investigate and pulled over.

It was only then they realized its paws had been cruelly glued to the tarmac.

Rosey Quinn, from Second Chance Rescue, told KSFY.com: "It's a mouth dropper because you are just like are you kidding me? But they did it."

She added the rescue service had never seen anything like it before.

Timothy is now recovering from injuries he suffered when he was removed from the road.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe awards cadet Phone Zaw Khaing who won Best Cadet Award.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe awards cadet Phone Zaw Khaing who won Award for Excellent performance in Training.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe awards cadet Wunna Taing Kyaw who won Award for Excellent performance in Studies.—MNA

National unity is the most essential...

(from page 1)

life due to diseases. Therefore, you must render health care services to Tatmadawmen who are performing national defence duties in accordance with the aim of the Defence Services Medical Corps "Sound Health and Fitness for Combat Capability" so that all the Tatmadawmen could fulfill their duties in good health without any trouble of diseases. Beside, our family members must also take part in rendering necessary support together with the Tatmadawmen in the remote regions where communication and transportation are difficult. I would like to urge you to treat such family members as your own close relatives and provide health care services to them.

Comrades,

You are medical professional as well as members of the Tatmadawmen shouldering the duties of national defence. Our Tatmadaw has always paid respect to its loyalty to the State and the people, as it is steadfastly upholding the "Four Oaths" of its commitments.

The Tatmadawmen are those who do not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for the country and the Tatmadaw if necessary. Those fine and noble traditions of our Tatmadaw must be upheld and maintained at risk of your lives. As the main responsibility of Tatmadaw is safeguarding of the country and national security, you must also perform your duty of defending the country playing whatever role you are in. You have to perform the duties of providing medical services hand-in-hand with the combatant Tatmadawmen in the frontline. Likewise, you will also have to render health care services of the Tatmadawmen and members of their families who have been carrying out the supplying duties in the base. In whatever region or situation you are posted, you need to render your services with goodwill and kindness according to the motto: "Goodwill and Kindness take harm away". The services of the members of the Medical Corps like you play an important role for the Tatmadaw, as the combating warriors will be able to fully perform their national defence duties only when they are in good health and fitness and high morale.

Comrades,

There have been advancements in medical science and military related science with the changes of eras and systems. Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons have been produced by combination of medical and military sciences. There were times when those weapons were used

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe meets with two outstanding cadets and their parents.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe taking salute of cadet battalion.—MNA

National unity is the most essential…

(from page 7)

in some regions although the international community is making efforts to control and restrict those weapons, as the attacks with such kinds of dangerous weapons could have serious consequences causing social sufferings for consecutive generations of mankind. **As you are members of Tatmadaw and medical professions, you are required to seek ways and means in advance to prevent the dangerous consequences of these nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Only then will you be able to protect the members of the Armed Forces effectively in the face of such dangers.** Therefore, apart from your studies at the Academy, you have to pursue further studies on a sustainable basis not only of the ever progressing medical science but also other related military science and tactics. I wish to urge you to apply your profession with innovative and creative efforts in the interest of the country and the Tatmadaw through exchange of knowledge and experiences gained in your practical life among yourselves.

Comrades,

Being Tatmadawmen performing duties of national defence, we should always undergo training to get ourselves ever ready for combat in accordance with the motto of "Three Forevers". You have been trained to acquire the military education by the Academy up to the level of a Platoon Commander. You will also have the opportunity to study further advanced military education occasionally at the military training institutes. While practicing continuously military profession, you need to keep pursuing studies in ever changing military tactic so that you will be able to lead your troops in the battle fields in time of need. Moreover, only when you keep on practicing your medical knowledge learnt from the Academy, will you be able to carry out health care activities effectively.

Being Tatmadawmen and medical doctors, you need to be not only military leaders with full of physical prowess and combat capability but also medical doctors with mental prowess and kind heart to help others. I wish to urge you to train and build up yourselves in order to become good leaders imbued with both physical and mental prowess.

Comrades,

As the Tatmadaw was born out of the peoples, we always uphold the interest of the people. During the course of the history, we have made our utmost endeavours to carry out the public welfare activities. Our members of medical corps sacrificed their own interest and rendered assistance to the people in the areas affected by the Cyclone Nargis in early May 2008. The Tatmadaw has proved its goodwill intention rendering help with warmth, goodwill and loving kindness to the people living in the far-flung remote areas lacking in communication and transportation facilities. The collective efforts of the State, people and the Tatmadaw has successfully overcome the ensuing epidemics that could arise in the areas struck by natural disasters. In that regard, contributions of the Members of the Medical Corps deserve commendation and have been put on record with high esteem and honour. As all of you are to be assigned at different regions of the country, you have to look after the health and wellbeing of the local people to the best of your ability. **Since majority of the people of our country live in the rural areas, the Government has laid down five programmes for Rural Areas Development with a view to emergence of the new, modern developed nation and is striving to achieve the objective of making every one free from curable diseases fully enjoy a long life.** Therefore, while lending your hands in implementing the National Health Plan laid down by the State, you have to continue to participate in the public welfare activities in line with the fine tradition of the Tatmadaw.

Comrades,

Being physicians and members of the Tatmadaw, all of you are also young leaders of the Tatmadaw. Therefore, you are required to equip yourselves with the leadership qualities. Whatever tasks assigned to you must be fulfilled together with the members under your charge by exerting correct leadership. Good leadership means having firm belief in yourselves, capabilities, and possessing

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Distinguished guests seen at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA

Distinguished guests seen at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA

National unity is the most essential…

(from page 8)

the ability to build the members under your leadership to have good morale, discipline, full capabilities, unity, and the ability to lead them to work together under your management.

Moreover, as you are going to lead and supervise the members of the medical corps, you have to be excelled in your respective professions in order to earn admiration, trust and reliance from the members of the corps.

In this way, you can successfully fulfill all the assigned duties harmoniously with the team spirit.

Comrades,

As you are to be assigned at different regions of the country, you have to build up the national unity while performing your duties to look after the health and wellbeing of the national brethren. National unity is the most essential requirement for the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State which is resided by over one hundred national races. Although we have different faiths and traditions, all the nationalities are the citizens of the Union of Myanmar with the same characteristics such as kindness, helpfulness, patience, bravery, and patriotism. **True patriotism means not to harbour narrow-minded nationalism, but to have the true patriotic spirit desirous of working together for the perpetuation, progress and prosperity of the Union.** While extending help in the health and welfare activities of the national brethren, you must organize the people so that such a **true patriotism** or **union spirit** be flourished among the national races.

Comrades,

I would like to conclude by urging you-

- To exert efforts to become reliable physicians of the Tatmadaw in line with the motto of the Defence Services Medical Academy **"Courageous Physicians, the Conquering Warriors"**.
- To try to become good leaders equipped with three designated capacities while upholding the "Our Three Main National Causes", and to undergo training and get yourselves ever ready for the national defence.
- To build national unity by serving the interests of the local people at any regions of your assignment.

MNA

Distinguished guests at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA

Dignitaries at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA

True patriotism means not to harbour narrow-minded nationalism, but to have the true patriotic spirit desirous of working together for the perpetuation, progress and prosperity of the Union.

Senior General Than Shwe addresses …

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Brig-Gen Than Soe, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Col Hla Myint, Maj-Gen Than Aung, Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein, Maj-Gen Nyan Tun, Maj-Gen Than Htay, Maj-Gen Sein Lin, Maj-Gen Aye Myint and Maj-Gen Hlaing Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers, Commandant of Defence Services Medical Academy Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin, senior military officers of the local station, parents and relatives of the cadet and guests.

On the occasion, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe took the salute of the cadet companies.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the cadet companies.

Afterwards, the cadet companies marched past the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe presented the Best Cadet Award and the Excellent Award in Training to Cadet Phone Zaw Khaing and Excellent Award in Studies to Cadet Wunna Taing Kyaw.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address on the occasion.

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

After the graduation parade, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe met two outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the main lecture hall of the DSMA and spoke words of honour to them.—*MNA*

Dignitaries at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 11th Intake of DSMA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The graduation dinner in honour of the graduate officers of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy was held at the assembly hall of the convocation hall of DSMA in Yangon at 6 pm today, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 Quartermaster-General General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice- Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, departmental heads, senior military officers from Mingaladon Station, the commandant of the DSMA and advisers, professors/ heads of department, deans, faculty members, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, artistes from Myawady Music Troupe and the Myanmar Music Association presented dances and songs to the accompaniment of the Myawady Band; and Myawady Anyeint troupe, non-dramatic performances at the convocation hall.—*MNA*

***Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner in honour of the graduate officers of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy.*—MNA**

EP No.1 Minister receives President of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI)

***Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min receives President Mr Lu Qi Zhou of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) and party.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min received President Mr Lu Qi Zhou of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) of the People's Republic of China and party at the meeting hall of the ministry here on 20 December.

The two sides discussed the matters on cooperation and investment in Maykha-Malikha Basin Hydropower project and Ayeyawady Confluence Hydropower Project.

MNA

Get-together of old medical students of IM-1 on 9 Jan

YANGON, 24 Dec—The get-together of old students who attended the Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon) in 1972-1980 will be held in conjunction with the ceremony to offer meals to members of the Sangha in memory of late faculty members and friends at Kyargu Dhamma Beikman on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township at 9:30 am on 9 January 2010.

Those wishing to make donations may contact Dr Naing Win (095127477), Dr Win Myat Aye (095004548), Dr Khin Thiri (09512732) and Dr Thawda Myint (095136584). The old students were invited to attend the get-together without fail.—*MNA*

General Banking Services Course opened

YANGON, 24 Dec—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address at the opening of General Banking Services Course No. 15, conducted by the Banks Supervisory Committee, at the hall of Myanmar Banks Association, here, this afternoon.

Next, the minister cordially greeted the trainees and instructors of the course.

Also present on the occasion were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

A total of 43 trainees from State-owned and private-run banks are attending the 10-week course. They will have the opportunity to study economic subjects concerning banking services, laws, rules and regulations on banking services and monetary affairs and general knowledge on international banking services.—*MNA*

Yazarlin medical university scholarship winners announced

YANGON, 24 Dec—The "Yazarlin medical university scholarship" organized by U Aye Kyaw-Daw Aye Aye Myint (Yazarlin family) granted eight medical students attending the University of Medicine for 2009-2010 academic year.

Those winning scholarship are Maung Soe Htet Oo (first year, University of Medicine-2, Yangon), Maung Thurein Kyaw (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Maung Sai Sithu Myo Aung (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Maung Ye Yint Thu (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Ma Khant Mon Tint (first year, University of Medicine, Mandalay), Ma Cho Mar Wai (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Ma Myat Thet Htar Khin (first year, University of Medicine, Magway) and Ma Thet Hnin Htet (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), each of them will get K 50,000 starting from 2009-2010 academic year and plan is arranged to annually provide scholarship until their graduations for those who abide by Yazarlin family's rules.

Scholarship winning students with their related documents may contact Yazarlin family, No. 50, Kanyeiktha-3 Street, Finger Lake, FMI City, Hlinethaya Township, (Ph: 682632, 687617 and 09-5131260).

MNA

Filipino troops try to keep volcano evacuees safe

LEGAZPI, 24 Dec — Police and soldiers donned Santa hats and red clown noses and belted out songs in crammed evacuation centers in hopes of keeping 47,000 displaced residents from sneaking back to their homes on the slopes of a lava-spilling volcano.

Despite the risk of an imminent explosive eruption of the 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) Mayon, which has been oozing lava and blasting ash for a week, some residents weary of temporary shelters are conspiring to go back to their abandoned villages for traditional Christmas Eve family gatherings. Others want to retrieve their livestock or harvest crops.

"We are not used to spending Christmas in the evacuation center," said Ramon Ayala, 48, whose home lies within a five-mile (eight-kilometer) zone around Mayon that authorities emptied last week when the volcano started rumbling.

"We and many others plan to spend Christmas Eve in our homes," Ayala said. Authorities are determined to make sure it does not happen.

"I have set a very high bar, which is zero casualty," said Gov Joey Salceda of Albay province in the central Philippines. "If there's a lull and you step back into the danger zone, you'll immediately be escorted out."Mayon volcano has erupted nearly 40 times over 400 years, sending people packing for months at a time. But never has it happened during the most important event in the Philippine calendar — Christmas time, which is associated with family, food, friends and songs.

Internet

***Soldiers, distribute rice and canned goods to children evacuees at an evacuation centre in Legazpi city, Albay Province, about 500 kilometres southeast of Manila, Philippines on 22 Dec, 2009.* —INTERNET**

Over 10 suspected Taleban militants killed, wounded in N Afghanistan

BAGHLAN, 24 Dec — In a joint operation carried out by Afghan National Army (ANA) and police in northern Baghlan province, over 10 Taleban militants were killed and wounded, Provincial governor Mohammad Akbar Barikzai said on Wednesday.

"ANA and Afghan National Police killed and wounded more than 10 suspected Taleban militants in a cleanup operation conducted in Baghlan-e-Markazi District on Tuesday," Barikzai told reporters at a Press conference. A local Taleban commander Mullah Zulmai was among the injured militants, he added.

He did not give the exact figure of Taleban causalities, but admitted four police officers were also killed in the firefight.Moreover, at the same Press briefing, Mohammad Kabir Andarabi, police chief of Baghlan, confirmed that some civilians were also hurt in the operation, but did not give more details. Baghlan, a relatively peaceful province until early this year, has been the scene of Taleban-led insurgency over the past several months. — *Xinhua*

***Tourists carry luggage past a moored boat during a period of flooding in the canal city of Venice on 23 Dec, 2009. Over half of the old town was submerged under waters peaking at 143 cm above sea level.* INTERNET**

Venice flooded as Italy's bad weather continues

ROME, 24 Dec – An unusually high tide flooded most of Venice early Wednesday, forcing tourists and residents to wade through knee-high waters or take to improvised, elevated boardwalks set up in St Mark's Square and other landmarks.

The waters came in before dawn and reached a peak of 56.6 inches (144 centimetres) above average sea level. City authorities said that put around 60 percent of Venice's streets and piazzas under water. Wednesday's level was still far from last year's record 63 inches (160 centimeters), Venice's worst flooding in more than two decades.

The tide receded during the day but the city said that more flooding is expected in coming days. Northern Italy has been hit by snowstorms and cold temperatures that have shut down airports, idled trains and wreaked havoc on traffic in Milan and other cities. Venetians are largely used to the "acqua alta" (high water) phenomenon, which occurs when strong winds from the south contribute to raise the sea level in the lagoon city.— *Internet*

Four arrested for murdering marine's family in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 24 Dec — Authorities in the eastern province of Tabasco have arrested four suspects on charges of killing four relatives of a marine who died in a high profile drug bust last week, the state's attorney Rafael Gonzalez Lastra told media on Wednesday.

Lastra said that soldiers arrested two gunmen late on Tues-day following searches of a hotel in Tabasco's capital Villahermosa. The gunmen killed four members of Melquisidic Angulo Cordova's family and injured two more on Monday night, apparently in revenge for the marine's participation in a raid last Wednesday that killed Mexico's third most wanted man, Arturo Beltran Leyva, he said.

He told media that the Zetas, the armed wing of drug trafficking organization the Gulf Cartel, had been responsible for killing the family, describing it as a "bloody event." Lastra also said there could be more arrests soon.— *Xinhua*

***Research in Motion (RIM) has apologized to users of its popular BlackBerry smartphone in the Americas after they were hit by an outage in email service overnight, the second in less than a week for some customers.*—INTERNET**

BlackBerry users beset by second outage in a week

TORONTO, 24 Dec – When Corey Marshall's BlackBerry mysteriously stopped sending and receiving messages, he realized all too clearly just how much he depends on the device: He had no way of contacting his friends because he never bothers to exchange phone numbers with anyone anymore.

"A lot of the times if I meet someone and I see they have a BlackBerry, I don't even want their number or care. I just want their BBM," or their BlackBerry instant-messaging ID, said the 23-year-old tanning-salon manager and student. "I didn't even have my boss' number. I only contact him through BB." He added: "I go to sleep with it in my hands. It's the first thing I do when I wake up in the middle of the night. It's the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning."—*Internet*

Iran to unveil new satellite in February

TEHERAN, 24 Dec — Iran's Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic will unveil its new national satellite early February, the Press TV reported.

"The new generation of Iran's national satellite called Toloo (Dawn) will be unveiled in the Ten-Day Dawn (celebrations)," Vahidi was quoted as saying.

The Ten-Day Dawn, which extends from 1 Feb to 11 Feb, marks the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in February 1979.

The satellite has been designed and built by Iranian scientists and experts at Iran's Electronics Industries Co (Sa-Iran), Vahidiadded.—*Xinhua*

MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE (Container Feeder Service)
ARRIVAL/ CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

Consignees of cargoes are hereby notified that the followings are the estimated time of arrival and berthing for the particular voyages.

	(ETA)	(ETB)
M.V Bago Voy BG888N	23/12/09	27/12/09
M.V Mandalay Voy MD234N	28/12/09	30/12/09
M.V Magway Voy MG331N	06/01/10	07/01/10
M.V Bago Voy BG889N	10/01/10	10/01/10
M.V Mandalay Voy MD235N	13/01/10	13/01/10

cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-law and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged Cargo will be surveyed daily from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM and Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No Claims against these vessels will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Dated: 24th December, 2009

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJA VOY NO (913)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJA VOY NO (913) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 25.12.2009 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 Claim Day.

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

US court orders treasure returned to Spain

MADRID, 24 Dec—A Florida court has ruled that US treasure hunting firm, Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., must return a priceless trove recovered from a 19th century ship to Spain, Spain's Culture Ministry said on Wednesday.

"Judge Steven Merryday of the US district court of Tampa reaffirmed Spain's rights over the shipwreck of the Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes and all the objects which were illegally taken from it by Odyssey," it said in a statement. In May 2007 the Tampa-based Odyssey announced it had found half a million silver coins and hundreds of gold objects from a ship they code-named the *"Black Swan,"* which went down in 1804, in the Atlantic Ocean off the Strait of Gibraltar.

Internet

The Odyssey Explorer, a ship belonging to US deep-sea explorer firm Odyssey is led into the port of Algeciras in 2007. A Florida court has ruled that US treasure hunting firm, Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., must return a priceless trove recovered from a 19th century ship to Spain, Spain's Culture Ministry said on Wednesday.— INTERNET

Three tigers escape from circus in southwestern Mexico

MORELIA, 24 Dec—Authorities say three tigers escaped from a circus caravan in southwestern Mexico. The Civil Protection agency says one of the tigers was quickly caught. But the other two escaped into a mountainous area about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Morelia, capital of the Pacific coast state of Michoacan.

The tigers escaped on Wednesday when their cage burst open while the caravan of the Circo Aquilar Hermanos drove along a highway. Police and circus employees are searching for the two missing tigers.

Mexico has a problem with dangerous animals escaping from their caretakers. Tigers, an elephant, a lion, buffalo and camels have escaped around the country over the past year, with some of the animals attacking people before being caught.—*Internet*

S Korea to voluntarily register 20% emissions cut by end of January

SEOUL, 24 Dec—South Korea said on Thursday it plans to register its goal of voluntarily reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from the projected emission level in 2020 compared to 2005 by the end of January.

The announcement by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy in a meeting with financial and research institutions came after the United Nations climate talks held in Copenhagen, Denmark last week, where the country showed its commitment to voluntary emission cuts.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, a climate regime that the Copenhagen summit aimed to replace, South Korea, part of non-Annex I countries, has no binding emission cut targets.

The ministry said South Korea is likely to retain its status as a country with no obligation of compulsory emission under the Copenhagen Accord, according to local media. — *Xinhua*

Stranded passengers of Spanish airline Air Comet lounge around in Madrid's Barajas Airport after the airline's flights were cancelled and its licence was suspended on 23 Dec, 2009.— XINHUA

Bolivian president in emergency plane landing

LA PAZ, 24 Dec—A plane carrying Bolivian President Evo Moarales had to make an emergency landing on Wednesday because of a failure in its hydraulic system, but no one was harmed, a spokesman said. Presidential spokesman Ivan Canelas said Morales was flying from La Paz to the southern city of Sucre, but had to stop in Cochabamba in central Bolivia. "It was only a small scare. The President was not worried or alarmed because it is not the first time it has happened," Canelas said.

He said the presidential jet has had to make two other emergency landings because of what he called small faults. The plane is a little more than 30 years old, and Bolivian officials have negotiated the purchase a new jet from the Russian airplane maker Antonov for $30 million as part of a loan from Russia's government.—*Internet*

Venezuela, Belarus set up commission to evaluate cooperation

CARACAS, 24 Dec—Venezuela and Belarus on Wednesday set up an extraordinary commission to evaluate the development of their strategic alliance and cooperation agreements in various areas. The commission, among other issues, would evaluate the cooperation between the two nations in the fields of energy, industry, food, science, technology, house building and military technology.

Venezuelan Vice President Ramon Carrizalez said the commission would help develop the strategic alliance and boost their cooperation, adding that the two countries have attached great importance to their ties. In September, Venezuela and Belarus signed 14 cooperation agreements and reviewed 70 others on defence, agriculture and environment preservation. — *Xinhua*

The World Heritage certificates confering ceremony is held in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Dec , 2009. Representatives of the five sites in China that have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which is Mount Wutai, the unique residential architecture of Fujian Province calling Tulou, Sanqing Mountain, the Diaolou (watchtower house) of Kaiping and South China Karst, are confered with certificates by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee here on Wednesday. — XINHUA

Man jailed for eating rare tiger

BEIJING, 24 Dec—A man who killed and ate what may have been the last wild Indochinese tiger in China was sentenced to 12 years in jail, local media reported on Tuesday. Kang Wannian, a villager from Mengla, Yunnan Province, met the tiger in February while gathering freshwater clams in a nature reserve near China's border with Laos. He claimed to have killed it in self-defence.

The only known wild Indochinese tiger in China, photographed in 2007 at the same reserve, has not been seen since Kang's meal, the Yunnan-based newspaper *Life News* reported earlier this month. The paper quoted the provincial Forestry Bureau as saying there was no evidence the tiger was the last one in China.

A local court sentenced Kang to 10 years for killing a rare animal plus two years for illegal possession of firearms, the local web portal Yunnan.cn reported. Prosecutors said Kang did not need a gun to gather clams. — *Internet*

An image of swan is projected on a screen created by a water fountain during a press preview of "Odaiba water illumination" show in Tokyo 18 December 2009. The 15 minutes show, which projects images on a 15 meters (49 feet) tall and 40 meters (131 wide) water screen, will be held from December 21 to January 11, 2010.—INTERNET

S Korean scientists cloning explosive-sniffing police dog

SEOUL, 24 Dec — A group of South Korean veterinarians said on Thursday they are in the process of cloning an explosive-sniffing dog, "Quinn," who is best known for finding the body of a missing child on Jeju Island in 2007.

The Sooam Biotech Research Foundation, led by the disgraced stem cell researcher Hwang Woo-suk, said they were successful in extracting a somatic cell from Quinn in October and an impregnated surrogate dog is scheduled to give birth in the first half of next year. The research institute said the Jeju Provincial Police Agency made an official request for the cloning of the sniffing dog, and all procedure will be free of charge.

"Quinn is the most outstanding sniffer dog for the Jeju police, having performed well in 181 missions," a spokesman for Sooam was quoted as saying by local news agency Yonhap. A breed of a German Shepherd dog, Quinn is credited for finding the body of a missing elementary school student in Jeju island after 20 minutes of being dispatched, quickly ending a search that involved 30,000 police officers.

The police said the dog received only three days of rudimentary training before the search, far-exceeding the pace of normal dogs who require four to five months to grow new cognitive abilities. The foundation created the first cloned dog, Snuppy, in 2005, and has been considered as the leader in the cloning field.— *Xinhua*

Study shows key protein helps control blood pressure

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — University of Iowa researchers have shown that a protein channel helps nerve sensors in blood vessels keep blood pressure in check. Without the protein channel, known as ASIC2, the sensors are unable to send the brain the signals it needs to properly control blood pressure. The finding, which was based on animal models, is important because it could be used to create new treatments to prevent high blood pressure (hypertension).

The study results will appear in the Dec. 24 issue of the journal *Neuron*. "Sensors in your body's blood vessels sense when your blood pressure goes up, for instance, when you get mad at someone," said the study's principal investigator Frank Abboud, director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at the University of Iowa.— *Xinhua*

Anti-inflammatory drugs interfere with aspirin's clotting ability

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — A new study conducted at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in Israel reveals that Celebrex and other anti-inflammatory coxib medications may counter the positive effects of aspirin in preventing blood clots.

The research, published this week in the U.S. journal of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), indicates that people who are taking aspirin and coxibs together are in fact inhibiting the aspirin's effectiveness in preventing heart attacks and strokes.

"This finding strongly suggests that humans who are consuming coxibs and a low dose of aspirin simultaneously are exposed to a greater risk of cardiovascular events," said Professor Gilad Rimonof BGU. In the past decade, a new group of anti-inflammatory drugs, coxibs, which include Celebrex and Arcoxia was developed to treat arthritis as well as other pain.

Xinhua

A worker shapes a snow sculpture prior to the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province on 18 Dec, 2009. The 26th Ice and Snow Festival will kick off on January 5, 2010, local media reported.—INTERNET

Scientists discover how brain encodes memories at cellular level

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — A team of US scientists have made a major discovery in how the brain encodes memories, thus becoming the first to uncover a central process in encoding memories that occurs at the level of the synapse, where neurons connect with each other.

The report, made by scientists at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and published in the 24 Dec issue of the journal *Neuron*, could eventually lead to the development of new drugs to aid memory.

"When we learn new things, when we store memories, there are a number of things that have to happen," said senior author Kenneth S Kosik at UCSB's Neuroscience Research Institute, who is a leading researcher in the area of Alzheimer's disease.— *Xinhua*

Scientists create world's first molecular transistor

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — A group of scientists have succeeded in creating the first transistor made from a single molecule. The team, which includes researchers from Yale University and the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea, will publish their findings in the 24 Dec issue of the journal *Nature*.

The team, including Mark Reed, professor of engineering and applied science at Yale, showed that a benzene molecule attached to gold contacts could behave just like a silicon transistor. The researchers were able to manipulate the molecule's different energy states depending on the voltage they applied to it through the contacts. By manipulating the energy states, they were able to control the current passing through the molecule."It's like rolling a ball up and over a hill, where the ball represents electrical current and the height of the hill represents the molecule's different energy states," Reed said. — *Xinhua*

Swine flu poses a threat to new moms

LOS ANGELES, 24 Dec – Swine flu is not only dangerous to pregnant women, but it's a threat to new mothers too, the first study to document this risk shows. An analysis of pregnant women and new mothers who were hospitalized with swine flu in California found that those who had a baby in the previous two weeks were at higher risk of severe flu complications.

The swine flu threat to pregnant women has been well-documented, and public health officials urged them to get vaccinated. Previous research showed expectant mothers infected with the virus are more likely to be hospitalized and face a greater risk of death than the general population. The new report, released Wednesday by the *New England Journal of Medicine,* is the first to look at the risk to women who recently gave birth and highlights "the continued high risk immediately after pregnancy," the researchers wrote.

Internet

Pine cone tiger : The 18-metre-tall and 21-metre-wide picture of a tiger is displayed to celebrate the upcoming Year of the Tiger at the Hitachi Beach park in Hitachinaka city, Ibaraki prefecture, north of Tokyo.—INTERNET

SPORTS

No festive cheer for Lyon, Marseille as Bordeaux win

PARIS, 24 Dec — Lyon and Marseille went into the Christmas recess nursing severe headaches after collapsing to home defeats to Montpellier and Auxerre respectively on Wednesday. Multiple champions Lyon slipped to sixth place after a 2-1 loss to one of the season's surprise packages Montpellier, while Marseille fell 2-0 to Auxerre.

Lille, who enjoyed a 4-0 goal spree at Nancy, jumped into second, on 34 points, nine behind Bordeaux who extended their lead with a 2-1 win over Toulouse in Wednesday's late kick-off. Montpellier go into third on 33 points, one point clear of Marseille and Auxerre with struggling Lyon 13 points off the top.

The dominant force of the past decade, Lyon have now won just once in their last eight league matches and their title challenge and morale appears to be fading by the week. Lyon, who are at least into the knockout stages of the Champions League, slipped up due to second half goals from Colombian striker Victor Montano and Joris Marveaux with Bafetimbi Gomis getting their only contribution.—*Internet*

Lyon's Argentinian forward Lisandro Lopez reacts after his team's 2-1 loss to Montpellier in French L1 football match at Gerland stadium in Lyon.
INTERNET

Senegal striker Diouf eligible to play for Man United

LONDON, 24 Dec — Senagal striker Mame Biram Diouf will be able to play for English Premier League giants Manchester United after he got the work permit. United signed Diouf from Molde in July before loaning him back to the Norwegian club.

Diouf will be free to play in the Premier League as Senegal failed to qualify for next month's African Cup of Nations. He scored 16 goals in 29 games for Molde this season.—*Xinhua*

FA charge Arsenal and Hull over brawl

LONDON, 24 Dec—Arsenal and Hull City have been charged with failing to control their players by the Football Association (FA) here on Wednesday following their Premier League match on 19 December.

A fiery match at the Emirates Stadium was inflamed further shortly before half-time when Arsenal's Samir Nasri appeared to tread on the ankle of Hull's Richard Garcia.

Stephen Hunt then clashed with Nasri and a mass confrontation ensued, with Gunners keeper Manuel Almunia running the length of the field to get involved.

Referee Steve Bennett eventually restored order and then booked both Hunt and Nasri.Arsenal won the match 3-0.

The clubs have until 13 January to respond..

Internet

Arsenal's French player Samir Nasri(2nd L) confronts Hull City's Nick Barmby during a scuffle in their English Premier League football match on 19 December.
INTERNET

Love intends to leave Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec — Vagner Love's agent, Evandro Ferreira, announced on Wednesday that his client no longer wishes to play for Brazilian club Palmeiras. Ferreira cited a lack of security as the main reason for his client's desire to leave. Love's lack of sense of security came after he was attacked by three Palmeiras fans while inside of a Sao Paulo bank in November. Additionally, the team's bus was attacked by an estimated crew of 25 irate fans while returning to the city of Sao Paulo in that same month.

"Ferreira called Saverio (the team's director of soccer) and officially declared Love's intention of leaving Palmeiras in 2010.Saverio responded by saying that the club demands his permanence. This is the first time that we have heard anything regarding the matter," described Palmeiras's vice-president of soccer, Gilberto Cipullo.

Upon hearing the news, the club immediately responded that they demand that Love fulfills his contract with Palmeiras that extends through May of 2010. Love is currently at Palmeiras by way of a loan from the Russian team, CSKA. Earlier on Wednesday, the team expressed their own concern for the player's security and demonstrated their desire to bring him back to Russia.— *Xinhua*

Asia set for mixed martial arts "revolution"

LONDON , 24 Dec —It has been branded "human cockfighting" by Senator John McCain and bloodlust unbound by its critics, but mixed martial arts has evolved from 'no holds barred' brawls to become one of the world's fastest growing sports. Popularized by the Ultimate Fighting Championship in the United States, MMA is a fusion of fight styles that melds the stunning strikes of boxing and muay thai, the sleek submissions of Brazilian jiu-jitsu and the devastating power of wrestling.

It has fought hard to gain credibility, regulatory backing and global appeal by introducing a comprehensive list of rules, stringent doping procedures and embarking on a educational campaign to win hearts and minds.—*Internet*

Mixed martial arts instructors spar with each other during a demonstration for the media in Singapore on 15 Dec, 2009.
INTERNET

Djokovic to act as "Yugoslav king" in TV series

BELGRADE, 24 Dec — Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic will act as a king in a new TV series about the life of Yugoslav King Aleksandar Karadjordjevic (1888-1934), according to an announcement in Belgrade on Wednesday.

Aleksandar Karadjordjevic was the first king of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia as well as the last king of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The series, comprising 10 episodes, will have a budget of 2,779,000 euros, while the role of King Aleksandar will be played by Novak Djokovic and the filming schedule begins in March 2010 and will be adapted in line with Djokovic's.

Novak Djokovic's youngest brother, Djordje, will be playing young Aleksandar Karadjordjevic. The director Stojan Stojcic noted that the work on the series dated back to 2005, adding that it was an important project that would help promote Serbia in the world and that it would probably be aired in 2011.

Xinhua

Sylvinho already over Hughes exit

MANCHESTER, 24 Dec— Manchester City defender Sylvinho has said players at Eastlands will have to forget about Mark Hughes's departure as manager. Hughes was sacked on Saturday after a 4-3 home win over Sunderland, even though the victory left City sixth in the table, and at the same time the club announced Roberto Mancini as their new boss.

Many observers felt Hughes had been harshly treated but Sylvinho said everyone at the club should now get behind former Inter Milan boss Mancini ahead of the Italian's first game in charge, against Stoke on Saturday. "Sometimes these things happen when you are talking about football at this level and as a player you have to be prepared to adapt quickly," Sylvinho told City's official website.—*Internet*

Manchester City defender Sylvinho.

Two more years with Spain for Del Bosque

MADRID, 24 Dec — Spanish football authorities have agreed a two-year contract extension with coach Vivente del Bosque taking him through till 2012.

"That's the rule with us - a two year extension for those who secure us qualification," said Spanish Football Federation president Angel Maria Villar referring to Spain's comfortable qualification for the World Cup in South Africa next year.

Internet

Spanish football authorities have agreed a two-year contract extension with coach Vivente del Bosque taking him through till 2012.
INTERNET

Spain to play three friendlies before World Cup

MADRID , 24 Dec — Spain will play three international friendlies in the weeks before the World Cup in South Africa next year and will be based near Johannesburg during the tournament, the nation's football federation said on Tuesday.

The European champions will play two friendlies at home, on 29 May and 8 June, and one away on 5 June.

The squad's opponents for the matches have not yet been determined.

The Spanish national team will be based in Potchefstroom, a university town about 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of Johannesburg during the 11 June-11 July World Cup. They will arrive in South Africa on 10 June.

Internet

Spain's Xabi Alonso(L) and David Silva during a training session in October 2009 in Madrid. Spain will play three international friendlies in the weeks before the World Cup in South Africa next year and will be based near Johannesburg during the tournament, the nation's football federation said on Tuesday.
INTERNET

Monks practise kungfu at the renowned Shaolin Temple.—XINHUA

S Korea approve plan to build LCD plants in China

SEOUL, 24 Dec— The South Korean government on Thursday approved a plan to build liquid crystal display (LCD) panel manufacturing lines in China, which was submitted by two of the country's largest electronics brands.

The application by Samsung Electronics and LG Display to export LCD panel technology to China was passed by Prime Minister Chung Un-chan at the 2nd Industrial Technology Safety Commission.

Under the agreement, the two manufacturers will each build a 7.5th-generation and 8th-generation LCD panel plants in China, further boosting their presence in the rapidly emerging Chinese market.

"We recognize the need for a local plant in order to meet growing demands in the Chinese flat-screen TV industry, and we anticipate this move to also strengthen the overall economic cooperation between the two countries," a government official was quoted as saying by local media *Yonhap*.

The government also said pre-cautionary measures were added to prevent the illegal leak of information and to protect what they labelled as "national key technology."—*Xinhua*

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(25-12-2009) (Friday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm~23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
* Amazing Sculptural Works of Poe-win Hill
* Inside Keng Tung
* Myanmar's intricate arts and crafts...silk fabric with wavy patterns
* Myanmar Modern Song
* Exhibition Centre Introducing Hkakaborazi National Park
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
* Amazing Sculptural Works of Poe-win Hill
* Inside Keng Tung
* Myanmar's intricate arts and crafts...silk fabric with wavy patterns
* Myanmar Modern Song
* Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
* Mann Ma - Yway
* Smogless sky, Enchanting Smiles (Evening Flight in Monywa)
* Floral Lovers' Paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
* An Educational Garden from Nay Pyi Taw (Soe San Training Centre)
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Myanmar TV

Friday, 25 December
View on today

7:00 am
1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ် တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. အင်္ဂလိပ်သတင်း (ယဉ်ကေးထွန်းတေးရေး-ဂီတစာဆိုမျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)

7:50 am
5. လူပျိုရွားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:00 am
6. Nice & Sweet Song

8:10 am
7. မြန်မာပြည်တစ်ဝန်းလွှင့်ပဲ့နေမည့်မြန်မာ့ရုပ်သံနှင့် ဆက်စပ်လိုင်း

8:15 am
8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am
9. "မြို့ကြီးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှု"

8:40 am
10. International News

8:45 am
11. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:50 am
12. The Mirror Image Of The Musical Oldies

4:00 pm
1. Myanmar National League MNL Cup (2009) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (Delta United FC အသင်းနှင့် မကွေး FC အသင်း)

4:50 pm
2. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ်(ပထဝီဝင်အထူးပြု) (ပထဝီဝင်)

4:55 pm
3. Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:05 pm
4. Song Of Yester Years

5:20 pm
5. ပဥ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်

6:00 pm
6. Evening News

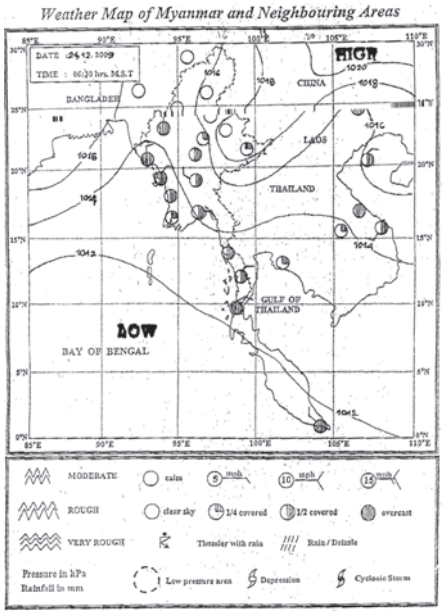
6:15 pm
7. Weather Report

6:20 pm
8. ရသစုံလင်အင်တာနက် ဥယျာဉ်

6:45 pm
9. ပန်းချစ်သူတို့ရဲ့ပန်းမြို့တော်

7:00 pm
10. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာလောင်းရိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)

8:00 pm
11. News
12. International News
13. Weather Report
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကိုယ်ရံတော်" (အပိုင်း-၃)
15. သီချင်းချစ်သူ (ထူးအယ်လင်း)



WEATHER

Thursday, 24th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above December average temperatures in Rakhine and Mon States, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (5 °C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-1°C), Loilem (0°C), Namsam (2°C), Katha (4°C), Lashio and Pinlaung, Mindat and Mogok (5°C) each, Heho and Pyin Oo Lwin (6 °C) each.

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2009 was 57°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 24-12-2009 was 60%. Total sun shine hours on 23-12-2009 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 23-12-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Central Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25th December 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in the Northern Shan, Rakhine States and Mandalay Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Stage of the sea: Strong Easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely attime Deltaic, and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in the stroung wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain in the extreme northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-12-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/32 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

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★ 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 broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of 11th Intake of DSMA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the graduation parade of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy at the parade ground of the DSMA in Yangon at 7:30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Lt-Gen Thein Htaik, Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Lt-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chief of Defence Services Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Maung Shein, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Hla Min, Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, U Thaung, U Nyan Win, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Dr. Kyaw Myint, Dr. Chan Nyein, Maj-Gen Aung Min, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and U Aung Kyi, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Maj-Gen Thoe Htein, Maj-Gen Thein Htay of the Ministry of Defence, Directors Maj-Gen Mya Win, Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt,

(See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects cadet company at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA