Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.
Two golfers earn hole-in-one records at Myanmar Golf Club

YANGON, 20 Dec — While playing with U Maung Zaw, U Maung Maung and U Kyaw Zeya, U Aye Maung on 15 December scored hole-in-one with Titleist Pro VI No (2) ball and Honma Iron No (8) driver at hole No (17) from 142-yard distance at Myanmar Golf Club. Similarly, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Golf Federation Col Aung Kyi (Retd) drove Srixon Soft Feel No (2) Ball with Srixon GIE Iron (9) driver with the only stroke into No (12) hole from 141-yard distance on 17 December while playing with U Khin Maung Ohn, U Ba Ohn (Australia) and U Tun Nyunt.

U Paw Lwin Sein presents credentials to Governor-General of New Zealand

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—U Paw Lwin Sein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to New Zealand, presented his Credentials to His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, ONZM, QSO, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Realm of New Zealand, on 3 December 2010 in Auckland.—MNA

MEGA holds 2nd Annual General Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs’ Association held its 2nd Annual General Meeting at Myanma Gems Museum here this afternoon.

It was attended by MGEA Patrons Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo and Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein, departmental heads, the President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the chairman of MGEA, Vice-Presidents, CEC members and members.

Patron of the association Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint made a speech. MGEA Chairman U Tay Za and UMFFCCI President U Win Myint extended greetings.

Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems Enterprise explained matters relating to gems mining and selling.

In second session of the meeting, MGEA Joint Secretary-1 U Zaw Bo Khant presented the annual report of executive committee for 2009-2010 and Auditor Daw Htay Htay Kyi, financial statement.

Members made proposals on amending organizational set-ups and sought approvals. The CEC members of 2009-2010 then announced resignation. MGEA panel of patrons, CEC members and executives for 2011-2012 were named and sought approval. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks of newly-appointed Chairman U Tay Za.

MNA
2010’s world gone wild: Quakes, floods, blizzards

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—This was the year the Earth struck back. Earthquakes, heat waves, floods, volcanoes, super typhoons, blizzards, landslides and droughts killed at least a quarter million people in 2010 — the deadliest year in more than a generation. More people were killed worldwide by natural disasters this year than have been killed in terrorism attacks in the past 40 years combined.

“It just seemed like it was back-to-back and it came in waves,” said Craig Fugate, who heads the US Federal Emergency Management Agency. It handled a record number of disasters in 2010.

“The term ‘100-year event’ really lost its meaning this year.”

And we have ourselves to blame most of the time, scientists and disaster experts say.

Even though many catastrophes have the ring of random chance, the hand of man made this a particularly deadly, costly, extreme and weird year for everything from wild weather to earthquakes.

Poor construction and development practices conspire to make earthquakes more deadly than they need be. More people live in poverty in vulnerable buildings in crowded cities. That means that when the ground shakes, the river breaches, or the tropical cyclone hits, more people die.

Disasters from the Earth, such as earthquakes and volcanoes “are pretty much constant,” said Andreas Schraft, vice president of catastrophic perils for the Geneva-based insurance giant Swiss Re. “All the change that’s made is man-made.”

Investigators stand in front of a destroyed bus after a suicide attack in Kabul on 19 December, 2010.

Mexican City devastated by pipeline blast; 28 die

SAN MARTIN TEXMELUCAN, 20 Dec—A massive oil pipeline explosion lay waste to parts of a central Mexican City Sunday, incinerating people, cars, houses and trees as gushing crude turned streets into flaming rivers. At least 28 people were killed, 13 of them children, in a disaster authorities blamed on oil thieves.

The blast in San Martin Texmelucan, initially estimated to have affected 5,000 residents in a three-mile (five-kilometre) radius, scorched homes and cars and left metal and pavement twisted and in some cases burned to ash in the intense heat.

Relatives sobbed as firefighters pulled charred bodies from the incinerated homes, some of the remains barely more than piles of ashes and bones.

Officials identified all but four of the dead by Sunday night. Although they released some names, they didn’t say if they were all residents of the area or possible suspects.

Housewife Zoyla Perez Cortes, 27, said she awoke about 5:30 am to a strange, overpowering smell, like gasoline.

Roadside bomb, shooting kill seven in Somali capital

MOGADISHU, 20 Dec.—A roadside bomb planted at a checkpoint south of the capital Mogadishu killed six Somali government soldiers when they tried to remove it in a car and it exploded, a police officer said on Monday.

A civilian was killed in error when soldiers thinking they were under attack opened fire, the officer said.

Somalia has had no effective central government for 19 years and Western efforts to install one to stabilise the country have been greatly undermined by an insurgency by al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab insurgents and the Hizbul Islam group.

It was not known who had planted the device at Ex-control, a government soldiers' checkpoint south of Mogadishu where vehicles to and from the capital are inspected.

“The blast killed 7, 6 government soldiers and a civilian and injured 11 government soldiers,” Mohamed Muktar, a senior police officer at the checkpoint, told Reuters.

“At the checkpoint are police and military. Our police detected and removed the roadside bomb but unfortunately it went off when it was about to be transported. One of our cars was also completely destroyed,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

Iraqi security forces stand guard as a damaged vehicle is towed away after a bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 Dec, 2010.

Militants destroy two NATO tankers in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 20 Dec—A Pakistani government official says militants have fired rockets at a NATO convoy carrying supplies to Afghanistan, destroying two oil tankers and wounding two people.

Iqbal Khan says traffic along the route has been suspended after Monday’s attack in the Khyber tribal region.

He says two people travelling in the tankers sustained burns when the trucks were engulfed in flames.

Taleban militants occasionally attack trucks on NATO’s main supply route through Pakistan, though the vast majority of the goods are untouched.

Criminal gangs also sometimes destroy the vehicles.

A Pakistani government soldier carries the body of a Taleban militant near El Fasher, North Darfur, on 20 Dec, 2010.
Where unconscious memories form

New York, 20 Dec—

A small area deep in the brain called the perirhinal cortex is critical for forming unconscious conceptual memories, researchers at the UC Davis Centre for Mind and Brain have found.

The perirhinal cortex was thought to be involved, like the neighbouring hippocampus, in “declarative” or conscious memories, but the new results show that the picture is more complex, said lead author Weichun Wang, a graduate student at UC Davis. The results were published 9 Dec in the journal Neuron.

“We’re all familiar with memories that rise from the unconscious mind. Imagine looking at a beach scene, said Wang. A little later, someone mentions surfing, and the beach scene pops back into your head.

Declarative memories, in contrast, are those where we recall being on that beach and watching that surf competition: “I remember being there.” Damage to a structure called the hippocampus affects such declarative “I remember” memories, but not conceptual memories, Wang said. Neuroscientists had previously thought the same was true for the perirhinal cortex, which is located immediately next to the hippocampus.

Looking back in time to see Stars

Bursting into Life

New York, 20 Dec—

A UK-led international team of astronomers have presented the first conclusive evidence for a dramatic surge in star birth in a newly discovered population of massive galaxies in the early Universe. Their measurements confirm the idea that stars formed most rapidly about 11 billion years ago, or about three billion years after the Big Bang, and that the rate of star formation is much faster than was thought.

The scientists used the European Space Agency’s Herschel Space Observatory, an infrared telescope with a mirror 3.5 m in diameter, launched in 2009. They studied the distant objects in detail with the Spectral and Photometric Imaging Receiver (SPIRE) camera, obtaining solid evidence that the galaxies are forming stars at a tremendous rate and have large reservoirs of gas that will power the star formation for hundreds of millions of years.

Dr. Scott Chapman, from the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, has presented the new results in a paper in a special edition of the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society focusing on results from Herschel.

Stem cells used to make pancreas, gut cells

Washington, 20 Dec—

Stem cells can be transformed into the pancreatic cells needed to treat diabetes and into complex layers of intestinal tissue, scientists demonstrated in two experiments reported on Sunday.

In one, a team turned immature sperm cells into pancreatic tissue, while another team turned embryonic stem cells into complex layers of intestinal tissue.

Both studies show new ways to use stem cells, which are the body’s master cells and which can come from a variety of sources.

A team at Georgetown University in Washington worked with spermatogonial stem cells, master cells that give rise to sperm in men.

Ian Gallicano and colleagues used germ-derived pluripotent stem cells, which are made from the spermatogonial stem cells. They nurtured these cells in the lab with compounds designed to make these cells start acting like pancreatic beta cells, which produce insulin.

Notion Ink demos potential Apple iPad killer

Washington, 20 Dec—

As promised, Notion Ink has posted a video today showing the sight unseen Android tablet, the Adam, which is being touted as the strongest of the potential iPad killers.

The Adam is a 10-inch tablet starting at $375.33, and runs on a customized Eden UI which combines elements from Android 2.3 and 3.0. Pre-orders began for texting on iPhone, which sent unique ID numbers to eight ad companies, along with age and gender to two. The popular music app Pandora transmitted age, gender, location and phone ID to ad networks.

Google rolls out Shared Spaces using Wave technology

Washington, 20 Dec—

Google Labs has quietly debuted Shared Spaces, using Google Wave technology to let users quickly create a space with collaborative gadgets and a chat box inside.

As soon as it’s open to the general public, it will be simple and quick to create a space, grab a gadget from the gallery of 50 that already exist, and then paste the Space’s URL into a chat window, e-mail message, tweet or any other content-sharing platform. If users know JavaScript, they can create their own gadgets and then rapidly build a Space around it, inviting all to participate.

Google didn’t say when this semi-closed Shared Spaces beta will be available for everyone, but it’s nice to know that there is yet another form in which Google Wave will still continue to exist.
**Health Tip: Reduce the risk of pinworm infection**

Pinworm is the most common worm infection in the United States, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention confirms. It can affect people of any age or socioeconomic status, although it most commonly affects school-age children, the CDC says. Most often, the infection is acquired by putting the fingers in the mouth after touching a contaminated surface. Humans are the only known host of pinworms, which the CDC says cannot be acquired from pets.

Here are the CDC’s suggestions to reduce the risk of pinworm infection:

- Wash hands well and often with soap and water, especially before touching food, after using the toilet, and after diaper changes.
- Make sure fingernails are trimmed short and kept clean.
- Don’t bite fingernails.
- Avoid scratching near the anus.
- Give children a daily bath or shower and change underwear daily.
- Wash all clothing, linens and undergarments regularly in hot water.—Internet

**Fruits and vegetables save lives**

Oxford, 20 Dec — Researchers say if Britons adhered to current British dietary recommendations, 33,000 lives could be saved yearly.

The study, published online in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, finds one dietary recommendation — striving for five fruits and vegetables daily — would account for nearly half of those saved lives.

“In order to achieve a reduction in mortalities similar to those attained by achieving the fruit and vegetables recommendation, the salt recommendation should be set at 3.5 grams per day,” the study authors say in a statement. The current British daily recommendation is 6 grams.

Oxford University researchers, led by Peter Scarborough, fed data for 2005 to 2007 from four British countries on deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer, food/nutrient consumption and the results of analyses of published evidence of diet’s effect on mortality into a conceptual — DIETRON model — framework.

**Keeping holiday drinking in check may counter cancer**

NEW YORK, 20 Dec—Though holiday partying often includes alcohol consumption, cancer experts are urging partiers to partake moderately.

“Research shows that drinking even a small amount of alcohol increases your chances of developing cancer, including oral cancer, breast cancer and liver cancer,” Clare Mindkind, clinical dietician in the Cancer Prevention Centre at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre, said in a news release from the centre.

“Researchers are still trying to learn more about how alcohol links to cancer,” she added. “But convincing evidence does support the fact that heavy drinking damages cells and increases the risk for cancer development.”

To reduce risk, experts say, drinkers can do a number of things. First, stick to the recommended serving size. A drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of liquor.—Internet

**Dubai sells stake in Nasdaq OMX to repay debt**

DUBAI, 20 Dec—Borse Dubai, a majority stake-holder of Dubai Financial Market, has sold a 672 million-dollar share of its stake in Nasdaq OMX to help repay a 2.45 billion-dollar loan that matures in February.

The company sold 22.78 million shares for 497 million dollars to Nasdaq OMX itself, and eight million shares worth 175 million dollars to Nomura, it said in a statement carried by local media on Friday.

Borse Dubai, owned by the Dubai government holding group Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD), also raised 175 million dollars through a three-year loan arranged by Nomura and existing banking group to complete the refinancing of the remaining 1.283 billion dollars through a three-year loan arranged by Nomura and existing banking group to complete the refinancing of the remaining 1.283 billion dollars.

Emirati men walk past the stock market activity board at the stock exchange in Dubai, 2009. Borse Dubai, a majority stake-holder of Dubai Financial Market, has sold a 672 million-dollar share of its stake in Nasdaq OMX to help repay a 2.45 billion-dollar loan that matures in February.—INTERNET

**The worst performed the best in this bull market**

NEW YORK, 20 Dec—The daredevils are winning big this year.

Investors who bought the riskiest stocks when the economic recovery was in doubt this year are clocking the biggest gains. Among them: stocks from companies at risk of defaulting on their debt, ones already priced high and those that other investors bet would drop fast. Returns from this dicey lot are as much as double the gains in the broad market. "Greed is increasing, and people are going to risky stocks for higher return," says Paul Hickey, co-founder of stock researcher Bespoke Investment Group.

Consider shares of companies that rating agencies think could stiff lenders. Stock of so-called junk-rated companies rose 19 percent from the start of the year through 16 Dec, according to Bespoke. By comparison, those of stable and flush companies with ratings of AA or higher returned six percent.—INTERNET

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Five people killed in fire in Southern Italy

ROME, 20 Dec— Five people were killed on early Sunday after a fire broke out at a house in southern Italian Province of Benevento, local media reported.

According to ANSA news agency, the victims included a 44-year-old woman and her four children. The woman’s husband and father-in-law, both of whom were living in the same house with the victims when the fire broke out, managed to survive the incident.

Talking about the cause of the fire, rescuers said it was probably that the family did not put out the fireplace before going to bed. Accidentally, sparks from the burning wood ignited other objects and lit a gas tank, causing a terrible explosion.

At least 10 killed, eight injured in Thai tour bus overturns in Malaysia

SIMPANG PULAI, 20 Dec — At least 10 were killed when a tour bus hit the road divider and overturned Monday morning here in Perak, a northern state in the west coast of Peninsula Malaysia, leaving at least eight others injured. It was estimated that there were about 45 people on board the ill-fated bus.

Meanwhile, a spokesman from the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department was quoted as saying that at least 14 had been killed in the incident.

A police official told Xinhua that the incident happened between 11:45 am and 11:55 am when that at least 14 had been killed in the incident.

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Helicopter crash kills one in Russia

MOSCOW, 20 Dec— A helicopter crashed on the Russian Arctic island of Yamal, killing a crew commander and injuring 15 passengers, said the Russian Aviation Committee (Rosaviatsia) Sunday. The Mi-8 aircraft of Yamal Airlines, with three crew members and 15 geologists aboard, crashed near the Bovanenko gas field, Rosaviatsia news agency reported.

“The passengers received injuries of various degree of gravity while the crew commander was killed,” Rosaviatsia said. The chopper was badly damaged in the crash. Interfax news agency reported.

The Interstate Aviation Committee has set up a commission to look into the incident.

An aircraft is de-iced on the snow covered tarmac of Zaventem international airport near Brussels on 19 December, 2010. Heavy snow and freezing temperatures caused travel chaos across northern Europe during the weekend, with about 1,500 passengers being stranded for the night in Brussels due to bad weather conditions.—XINHUA

Chevron confirms breach of Nigerian pipeline

LAGOS, 20 Dec—Chevron confirmed on Monday that one of its pipelines was breached in Nigeria, causing a suspension in production, after a militant group over the weekend claimed to bomb three different facilities.

Chevron “confirms that there was a breach on its Dbis-Abiteye pipeline in Delta state on Friday, 17 December,” the US oil giant said in a statement.

“We have suspended production to minimise environmental impact and have informed relevant government agencies and other stakeholders. The breach is being investigated and we are reviewing our operations.”

Chevron did not provide figures on how much oil was affected by the suspension.

A militant faction claimed on Saturday to have carried out bombings of three oil flow stations operated by Chevron and Italian firm Agip.

The fact, the Niger Delta Liberation Force, is believed to be run by a notorious gang leader, John Togo, whom the military has been pursuing in recent weeks in the Niger Delta, the country’s main oil-producing region.

A recent operation in pursuit of Togo in a village led to the deaths of civilians. The military says eight soldiers and six civilians were killed.

Internet

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Armed separatists take army officer hostage in south Yemen

SANAA, 20 Dec— Armed wing of the Yemeni separatist Southern Movement took an army officer as hostage in the southern Province of Lahj to press for the release of a number of their activists, a security official of the Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

Captain Mohammed Ali Abdullah Hadween, who is also a prominent chiefteft of a pro-government northern influential tribe, was held late on Saturday in a checkpoint set up by the armed separatists while he was among passengers travelling from Aden to the Capital Sanaa, the official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

“IT is a dangerous development that the armed separatists began to establish their own checkpoints for terrorizing passengers along the safest highway in Lahj that links major southern Provinces to the north,” the Sanaa-based official said.

“Hadween’s tribe has dispatched high-level tribal mediators to visit the chieftains and dignitaries of Lahj to seek his release,” he added.

Xinhua
No matter how expert the youth are in technology, they will not be able to serve interests of State and people without spirit of cherishing the nation and people

Information Minister addresses award ceremony for school library development and developing reading habit festival

YANGON, 20 Dec—The prize-presentation ceremony for the school library development and developing reading habit festival was held at No.1 Basic Education High School in Dagon Myothit (North) Township here yesterday morning. Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan addressed the ceremony and awarded prize-winning students in the essay, poem and extempore talks competitions

Present on the occasion were departmental officials of the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education, the chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, members of Myanmar Motion Picture Association, members of social organizations, artists, teachers and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Patron of Rural Library Foundation Minister U Kyaw Hsan said today’s youth are strength of future nation that will serve the interests of the State and the people. To be able to gain full strength, there needs two fundamental points—quantity and quality. Strength cannot emerge without those two factors. So, students are to try to be equipped themselves with quantity and quality.

Today is the age of knowledge. Global countries are striving to develop in all aspects, including productivity, with the use of technology. If the country itself is unable to catch up with other nations in terms of technology, it will have to suffer a delay of progress. Therefore, the youth are to work hard for technological development in order to keep abreast of other nations. But, they will not be able to serve the interests of the nation and the people without a fundamental spirit no matter how expert they are in technology. They will not be the strength of the nation. And they can even do harm to the nation sometimes. So, it is necessary to have a fundamental spirit, which means the spirit of loving the nation and the people, noted the minister.

Today’s ceremony is a shot in the arm for the young people to try to become skilled in technology and develop their morale and morality. So, the similar ceremony will be held across the nation. It started in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. Now, a total of 55755 village libraries have been opened nationwide. The amount of investment in the establishment of libraries is K11.9 billion. However, there has been no guarantee for long-term durability of those libraries. So, measures are being taken to equip the libraries with five characteristics. More than half of the nation’s libraries have been equipped with those characteristics. Continued efforts are being made for the remaining.

As the Rural Library Foundation has been established, it will be a main organization responsible for long-term durability of the libraries and human resource development. To raise the funds of the foundation, the system of seeking funds based on community will be adopted. Therefore, all the people are urged to continue to render assistance to the foundation.

The foundation will do its best not only to get the people to develop constant reading habit but also to fulfill the needs of education and health sectors, the minister concluded.

Next, MWJA Chairman U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) and Village Library Foundation Chairman U Maung Maung made speeches. Then, documentaries on the activities of the festival were shown to those present with the use of projector.

The minister and officials awarded the prize winning students. Then, the minister donated publications for three village libraries that have the five characteristics and a Sky Net TV receiver for No.1 BEHS. U Maung Maung donated publications for five school libraries.

At the ceremony, wellwishers donated periodicals, exercise books and stationery worth K8716350. The donations will be distributed to 29 schools.— MNA

Patron of Rural Library Foundation Minister U Kyaw Hsan presents publications for village libraries through an official.

Technical Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Thai delegation led by Mr Apinan Phata Athiyanon, Director General of the Thai International Co-operation Agency (TICA) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, left Yangon for Thailand on 17 December after attending the coordination meeting on 12th Myanmar-Thailand Consultation on Technical Cooperation held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 15 and 16 December. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director-General U Maung Wai of International Organizations and Economic Department, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

At the meeting, Myanmar and Thai delegations discussed matters relating to technical cooperation between the two countries. — MNA

Second Myanmar-Thailand Consultation on Technical Cooperation in progress.—MNA
Kengtung-Wenkaung railroad section...

Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo, Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Minister for Cooperatives U Tin Htut, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, senior military officers, the Managing Director and staff of Myanma Railways, State and District level departmental officials, local people and members of social organizations.

The commander and the Rail Transportation Minister made speeches. A local spoke words of thanks. The commander and the ministers cordially greeted those present at the ceremony.

The commander and the ministers had documentary photo taken together with local people at the ceremony.

After sprinkling the special train, the commander and the ministers presented gifts to local people on board. They inspected Kengtung-Wenkaung railroad section while going on a trip with the special train to Wenkaung Railway Station where they cordially greeted local people.

Newly-opened Kengtung-Wenkaung railroad section has the length of 5.6 miles and is the very first railroad section of 226-mile Mongnai-Kengtung railroad project commissioned into service. Myanma Railways had built the section with 17 bridges, two stations, 18 turnings with maximum curve of 10° and maximum gradient of 1:80. The transportation of locomotives and coaches which will ply on the railroad section was completed in a short range of time with cooperative contribution of staff of Myanma Railways, officials of Public Works and of Township Electricity Supply, Tatmadawmen from local battalions.

Upon completion of 226-mile Mongnai-Kengtung railroad, Shan State (East) will see more development in various sectors following smooth and swift commodity flow.
NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than met artists who will star in the 66th Armed Forces Day commemorative TV play “Tu-hnaing-melt-thitsar” at Myawady Publishing House in Yankin Township this morning.

The chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Association and the director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise gave accounts of filming. An official presented facts about the TV play. The commander delivered a speech and cordially greeted the film stars. —MNA

Archeological buildings in Magway Region inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Minister for Culture U Khin Aung Myint inspected Beikthanoe Archaeological Museum, 12 miles north of Taungdwingyi, Magway Region, on 17 December. The minister instructed officials to spotlight high civilization of Pyu people. He inspected religious edifices and housing estates excavated in Beikthanoe City State and gave instructions on building site museums. On his inspection tour of Gwegyaung fortress on the eastern side of the Ayeyawady River near Gwegyaung Village in Magway Township, the minister called for maintenance of the fortress, which was built in 1861 by a French expert, an Italian expert and Myanmar engineers. He also inspected Minhla fortress built on the western bank of the river in Minhla Township, Magway Region, in 1862. The Ministry of Culture has been maintaining the brick fortresses since 1957. —MNA

Course on Training of Trainers for Civil Service No (2/2010) commences

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—ASEAN Resource Centre for Training of Trainers for Civil Service established at the Civil Service Selection and Training Board (CSSTB) conducted a course on Training of Trainers for Civil Service No. (2/2010) at the CSSTB Office here this morning.

CSSTB Chairman U Kyaw Thu delivers a speech at the opening of course for Training of Trainers for Civil Service No. (2/2010).—MNA

CSSTB Chairman U Kyaw Thu gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the course.

It was also attended by CSSTB Members U Hla Myint Oo, U Win Aung, U Soe Oo, U Nyi Htun and U Kyaw Aung; departmental heads; rectors of the institutes and university under the CSSTB; officials, course instructors and trainees.

A total of 30 trainees from the training centres of various ministries, organizations and the two Central Institutes of Civil Service are currently attending the course covering five modules focusing on training matters and methodologies. The duration of course is four weeks.—MNA
Ford bringing C-Max small minivan to US market

DETROIT, 20 Dec—Ford Motor Co will introduce a seven-passenger C-Max minivan to the North American market in 2012, a vehicle that is smaller than most current minivans in an effort aimed at young families.

The C-Max minivan built on the same platform as the Focus small sedan will be unveiled at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January.

“When you look at the C-Max, it’s really for young families, those folks that are moving up from a compact sedan and those kinds of things,” said Mark Fields, president of Ford in North and South America.

The US and Canadian versions of the C-Max are an adaptation of the C-Max Ford has sold in Europe.

Derrick Kuzak, Ford vice president for global product development, said the new C-Max is an example of Ford’s executing its “One Ford” plan worldwide.

“It is built on the same platform as the Focus small sedan, which will be the base for at least 10 different models with varying “tophats,”” Kuzak said.

More than 2 million Ford vehicles will be produced worldwide with this “C-segment” small-car platform by 2012, he said.

Since Chrysler introduced the minivan in the early 1980s, different versions of it have evolved. The C-Max is 178 inches long, about the same length as the minivans of three decades ago, Kuzak added.

Reuters

Weather strands Christmas travellers at Heathrow

LONDON, 20 Dec—Hundreds of Christmas travellers faced a third day stranded at Heathrow airport Monday as arctic conditions sparked fresh flight delays and cancellations.

Heavy snow and thick ice all but closed Heathrow, the busiest international passenger air hub in the world, over the weekend and forced holidaymakers to set up camp at the airport on Saturday night.

But there was little respite for people trying to get away for the festive period at Heathrow and other airports across the country, with operators admitting that the chaos was set to stretch into Christmas week.

Britain’s roads and railways were also hit by the harsh winter weather, with some roads made impassable after arctic conditions sparked fresh flight delays and cancellations.

But the other half of the Cape Wind project’s electricity remains available with no obvious takers, raising the possibility of a smaller project with pricier power.

The top prospect for Cape Wind is the state’s second-largest electric utility, NSTar. But NSTar is uninterested and says it can find cheaper renewable power elsewhere.—Internet

Buyer for controversial Cape Wind energy

BOSTON, 20 Dec—Cape Wind has outlasted a decade of government review, a slew of court brawls and fierce opposition from mariners, fishermen, Indian tribes and Kennedys just to win the right to sell its wind-fueled electricity.

Now, all it needs are customers.

Last month, the nation’s first offshore wind farm nailed down its first buyer when the Massachusetts Department of Public Utility approved a deal that sees Cape Wind selling half its power to National Grid, the state’s largest electric utility.

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Oil hovers near $88 amid holiday trading

SINGAPORE, 20 Dec—Oil prices hovered near $88 a barrel Monday in Asia amid light holiday trading volume ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Benchmark oil for January delivery was down 7 cents to $87.95 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 34 cents to settle at $88.02 on Friday.

Many oil traders are taking the next two weeks off amid the year-end holidays. Global crude markets are closed Friday for Christmas.

Analysts are mulling whether this year’s strong global oil demand can carry over into 2011. Emerging markets, led by China, have accounted for most of the growth in oil consumption this year as the US and Europe slowly recover from recession.

“The positive demand shock has continued relentlessly,” Barclays Capital said in a report. Prices will likely rise “given the strength in underlying fundamentals and with macroeconomic sentiment continuing to improve.”—Internet

Prince William approves wedding souvenirs for sale

LONDON, 20 Dec—Britain’s royal wedding is still four months away, but the first official memorabilia went on sale Monday — a range of wedding china personally approved by the couple.

Prince William’s office said the items had been commissioned by the palace department responsible for the royal family’s art collection and made in Stoke-on-Trent in central England, a traditional centre for British ceramics.

The three souvenirs — a tankard, plate and pill box — each feature the couple’s entwined initials, the prince’s coronet emblem and the date of the wedding — 29 April, 2011.

On sale at royal palaces and a website, profits from the collectables will be donated to the charity which curates the royal family’s artworks, known as the Royal Collection.

“The Royal Collection has been working on the design since around the time of the engagement — it’s a very fast moving process,” William’s office said in a statement.

His office said that the prince and his future bride had both approved the wedding merchandise.

William and Kate Middleton made her first public appearance on Saturday since announcing their engagement, attending a cancer charity fundraising event in eastern England.—Internet

Australia swaps summer for Christmas snow

SYDNEY, 20 Dec—Snow fell in Australia on Monday, as the usual hot and summery December weather was replaced in parts by icy gusts sweeping up from the Southern Ocean, giving the country a taste of a white Christmas.

Snow has fallen in parts of coast states New South Wales and Victoria, leaving ski resorts — some of which are usually snow-free at this time of year — with dumps of up to 10 centimetres (four inches).

“It’s white, everything is white,” Michelle Lovius, the general manager of the Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel at Charlotte Pass told AFP. “First thing this morning everything was just very still, very peaceful and every single thing was just blanketed in a thick cover of white.”—Internet

Ford bringing C-Max small minivan to US market

DETROIT, 20 Dec—Ford Motor Co will introduce a seven-passenger C-Max minivan to the North American market in 2012, a vehicle that is smaller than most current minivans in an effort aimed at young families.

The C-Max minivan built on the same platform as the Focus small sedan will be unveiled at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January.

“When you look at the C-Max, it’s really for young families, those folks that are moving up from a compact sedan and those kinds of things,” said Mark Fields, president of Ford in North and South America.

The US and Canadian versions of the C-Max are an adaptation of the C-Max Ford has sold in Europe.

Derrick Kuzak, Ford vice president for global product development, said the new C-Max is an example of Ford’s executing its “One Ford” plan worldwide.

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Kremlin to pitch fighters, nuclear deal in India

MOSCOW, 20 Dec — President Dmitry Medvedev will try to convince India to buy Russian fighter planes and seal a nuclear deal when he travels there this week for talks aimed at boosting ties with the second-fastest growing economy in the world. Russia was one of India’s closest partners in Soviet days, but the Kremlin will have to convince New Delhi that Moscow can deliver on vast defense and nuclear orders in the face of competition from the United States, Europe and China. Medvedev, who the Kremlin said will come with a large delegation of business leaders, is to hold talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pratibha Patil on Tuesday and visit Mumbai on Wednesday.

“Russian-Indian relations have moved to a completely new level which can be called a favored strategic partnership,” a Kremlin official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

But behind the rhetoric of expanding ties with its fellow BRIC economy the term Russia bilateral trade is dwarfed by Russia’s booming economics with the European Union and China.

The Kremlin said trade with India will total $10 billion this year while official statistics show Russia’s trade with the European Union stood at $246 billion in the first 10 months of 2010, and trade with China was $17 billion in the same period.

In this 18 Dec, 2010 photo, a CRH train runs on the Shanghai-Hangzhou high-speed railway as the sun sets in Jiaxing in east China’s Zhejiang province. The Chinese passenger train hit a record speed of 302 miles per hour (486 kilometres per hour) earlier this month during a test run of a yet-to-be-opened link between Beijing and Shanghai, state media said.—INTERNET

Two main Somali militant groups to merge

NAIROBI, 20 Dec — Somalia’s two main militant groups plan to merge to defeat the weak UN-backed government, a senior official with one of the forces said today.

The Party will join forces with the al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabab militia and fight under al-Shabab’s name, the Party’s head of operations, Sheik Mohamed Osman Arus said.

Fighters from the Islamic Party have been defeated several times by al-Shabab, including a battle to control the port city of Kismayo. But Arus denied the merger was a face-saving tactic for his weakened group, saying the planned union is “a bonus for the Mujahideen and a bane to the invaders and mercenaries.”

He said the merger would officially be announced soon, but did not give a specific date. Al-Shabab spokesmen were not available for comment.

The two groups have fought together against government forces in the past despite ideological differences and the recent clashes.

The Party has previously condemned al-Shabab’s use of tactics, including suicide bombers and summary executions. Its founder, Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys, criticized al-Shabab’s public pledging of allegiance to Osama bin Laden. The Party has around 2,500-3,000 fighters and was widely seen as having a more nationalist agenda than al-Shabab, which has been heavily influenced by Wahhabi ideology.

Arus said his group’s aim to unite with al-Shabab was to influence the hard line elements in it from within, “because any fighting between us will only give more power to the enemy.”—INTERNET

Worst floods in 50 years hit Western Australia’s town

SYDNEY, 20 Dec— Food and water are on the way to people trapped by the worst floods in 50 years around the Western Australian town of Carnarvon, said authorities of Western Australia on Monday. Carnarvon, about 900km north of Perth and at the mouth of the Gascoyne River, is hit by its worst flood since 1960. Residents were warned on Saturday to evacuate as torrential rain pounded the region overnight. An evacuation point was set up at the Carnarvon Civic Centre, where at least 80 people stayed overnight.

Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) spokesman said the river was expected to peak on early on Monday.

The river level had risen to 7.7 meters at Nine Mile Bridge by 9pm (local time) on Sunday and was expected to rise to 8.7 meters by 9.7 meters.

Two consignments of food and water were expected to leave Geraldton, the capital of Western Australia’s Mid West, early on Monday, while emergency workers in Carnarvon would audit food and water needs for people isolated in the town and in outlying areas.

Bones found on island might be Amelia Earhart’s

NORMAN, 20 Dec — The three bone fragments turned up on a deserted South Pacific island that lay along the course Amelia Earhart was following when she vanished. Nearby were several tantalizing artifacts: some old marijuana, some glass bottles and shells that had been cut open.

Now scientists at the University of Oklahoma hope to extract DNA from the tiny bone chips in tests that could prove Earhart died as a castaway from the tiny bone chips in tests that could prove Earhart died as a castaway.

Amelia Earhart was following a course around the globe.—INTERNET

Guatemalan military seizes drug-plagued province

COBAN, 20 Dec—The Guatemalan military declared a state of siege Sunday in a northern province that authorities say has been overtaken by Mexican drug traffickers.

The government initiated the monthlong measure in the Alta Verapaz Province to control cities that have been taken over by the Zetas drug gang, Ronaldo Robles, a spokesman for Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom, told radio station Emisoras Unidas. “It is to bring peace to the people and recover their confidence in the government,” he said.

A state of siege allows the army to detain suspects without warrants, conduct warrantless searches, prohibit gun possession and public gatherings, and control the local news media. Guatemalan law allows the measure amid acts of terrorism, sedition or “rebellion,” or when events “put the constitutional order or security of the state in danger.”—INTERNET

Honda Motor Co President and Chief Executive Takanobu Ito (C) asks Saitama Prefecture’s governor Kiyoishi Ueda (behind the car) to ride in Honda’s electric vehicle during a photo session.

INTERNET
CLoAss day noTICE
MV KOTA TABAh VOY NO (413)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (413) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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CLAIMS day noTICE
MV KOTA RAHMAT VOY NO (06A)
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VERSALLES TO LEASE NEARBY BUILDING AS A HOTEL
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The 23-room hotel, with views of the palace’s Orangerie garden, will open in late 2011. The building previously belonged to the Defence Ministry — which used it as an officers’ mess hall — and it later fell into disrepair. Versailles managers are granting a 30-year operating lease to Ivy.

First-class travel for orang-utan
London, 20 Dec — An abandoned baby orangutan had a luxury journey to its new adoptive home — as a first-class passenger on a cruise ferry. Silvestre, an 11-month-old Sumatran orang-utan (Pongo abelii), was abandoned by its mother at the Santillana Zoo in Spain. The Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre in Dorset stepped in and offered it a new home.

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A bicycle covered with new snow is pictured in Gelsenkirchen, western Germany, on 17 Dec, 2010. INTER 

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**Philippines in uproar over error-filled peso bills**

Geographically-challenged Philippine maps and a rare parrot with the wrong-coloured beak have perturbed the country after the central bank rolled out error-filled new editions of its peso bills.

The new-generation banknotes, rolled out earlier this month and containing the signature of President Benigno Aquino who took office this year, bombed spectacularly in the graphics department, critics say.

The reverse side of the new 500-peso (11 dollar) bill features a rare native bird, the blue-naped parrot, with its red beak incorrectly rendered in yellow and the tail feathers underneath coloured green instead of yellow.

A map on the bill — which also carries portraits of Aquino’s late parents — mislocates Saint Paul’s, a subterranean river that is designated as a UNESCO world heritage site.

“Yes, they have made a very big boo-boo on the parrot,” said Jon Villasper, a cartographer who is also a member of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines.

“Aside from that, they misplaced Tubbataha reef by around 400 kilometres and Balatanes is not on the map. I believe they also misplaced Saint Paul’s subterranean river,” he said.

**Liquor a factor in Swedish licker break-in**

A Swedish burglary suspect swears he has no idea how he wound up in the home of a couple, licking the arm of a sleeping woman.

The 22-year-old man, whose name was not released, told police in eastern Sweden he had had a little too much to drink and didn’t remember anything about his alleged break-in.

In fact, The Local said Sunday, the suspect had demanded to know who the two strangers were and why they were in his house.

The Local said the incident, which took place a couple of months ago, began when the woman woke up and found herself sandwiched between her boyfriend and another man who was licking her arm. She nudged her boyfriend and asked him if he knew who other fellow was.

**Men rescue trapped deer, get fined**

Two Maryland men who rescued a deer trapped in a frozen river say they were each fined $90 for not having life vests in the boat used to get to the animal.

Sgt Brian Albert of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police said about 5 pm Thursday a 911 caller reported a deer stuck in the ice of the Patapsco River, The Baltimore Sun reported.

A Department of Natural Resources Police officer and a crew from the Baltimore Country Fire department were dispatched on scene and started talking the situation over, Albert said.

**Women, 89, gets associate’s degree**

A Florida woman is preparing to receive her degree from Palm Beach State College with a 3.96 grade-point average — at the age of 89, school officials said.

Catherine Photos is set to don her cap and gown Monday to be handed the Associate in Arts degree she’s started working on in 2001, six years after her husband of almost 50 years died, The Palm Beach (Fla) Post reported.

“I felt why am I sitting home doing nothing,” she said. “You just don’t know how content I am that I went to college.”

“She’s tough,” her daughter Ilene, in town from Washington for the ceremony, said. “When my mother puts her mind to something, she does it.” Photos said she never gave up on the dream of a college degree, but marriage in 1946, running a private swim club in Pennsylvania, operating a bar and grill in Detroit, owning four McDonald’s restaurants in Maine and raising three children all kept her too busy, the newspaper said.

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**Nick Park plans Wallace and Gromit theme park ride**

LONDON, 20 Dec—Filmmaker Nick Park says he is in talks on the possible development of a theme park ride based around his beloved Wallace and Gromit characters.

The Preston-born animator told Kirsty Young about the plan on Saturday’s edition of the Radio 4 programme Desert Island Discs. “We are in the middle of discussions with Blackpool Pleasure Beach about a Wallace and Gromit ride,” Park said. “It’s not a hair-raising terrifying ride, it’s a family friendly ride.” Park, who has won four Oscars for his animated films, said some of his early inspiration came from his youthful reading of the Beano.—Internet

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Two Maryland men who rescued a deer trapped in a frozen river say they were each fined $90 for not having life vests in the boat used to get to the animal.

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Ferguson overtakes Busby’s United milestone

MANCHESTER, 20 Dec — Alex Ferguson on Sunday became Manchester United’s longest-serving manager as he passed Matt Busby’s previous record span at the helm.

Alex had hoped to celebrate the mark by landing Busby’s previous record manager as he passed Matt United’s longest-serving — Alex Ferguson on Sunday.

Jens Keller last weekend.

league game in charge baptism of fire in his first from mistakes in the Stuttgart Labyrinth inherits a side second from bottom and low on moral, but he acknowledged he has a relegation battle on his hands.—Internet

Gomez gifted hat-trick as Bayern smash Stuttgart

BERLIN, 20 Dec — Bayern Munich striker Mario Gomez claimed a hat-trick as an early Christmas present in an eight-goal thriller on Sunday as the German champions routed struggling Stuttgart 5-3 at home.

This was the Germany star’s second Bundesliga hat-trick of the season as he capitalised on a poor Bayern Munich’s striker Mario Gomez (L) celebrates scoring with his teammate midfielder Diego Contento during the German first division Bundesliga football match VfB Stuttgart vs. FC Bayern Munich in the southern German City of Stuttgart. —Internet

Busy’s total during two stints, from October 1945 to January 1969 and from December 1970 to June 1971.—Internet

All five of Bayern’s goals — especially Gomez’s three — came from mistakes in the Stuttgart defence as coach Bruno Labbadia had a baptism of fire in his first league game in charge since taking over from Jens Keller last weekend.

Hopkins, Pascal fight to draw

QUEBEC CITY 20 Dec — Bernard Hopkins missed a chance to become the oldest boxer to hold a major championship but Canadian Jean Pascal on Saturday night.

The 45-year-old Hopkins (51-5-2) rallied after being knocked down in the first and third rounds.

American judge Steve Morrow scored it 114-112 for Hopkins, but Canadian Claude Paquette (113-113) and Belgium’s Daniel Van de Wiele (114-114) had it even, which made it a majority draw and allowed Pascal (26-21-1) to keep his WBC and IBO light heavyweight titles.

Hopkins will be 46 on 15 Jan. George Foreman was 45 years, 10 months when he knocked out heavyweight champion Michael Moorer in 1994. Hopkins said he wants a rematch, but not in Canada.

Jean Pascal, left, of Montreal, hugs Bernard Hopkins, of the USA, at end of their WBC light heavyweight. —Internet

Ferguson overtakes Busby’s United milestone

Manchester United’s Scottish manager Alex Ferguson looks on before their quarter final League Cup football match against West Ham at Upton Park, London, November 2010.—Internet

The 68-year-old who has now been in charge for an astonishing 24 years, one month and 15 days (8,811 days) in one unbroken spell stretching back to November 1986.

His tenure overtook Busby’s total during two stints, from October 1945 to January 1969 and from December 1970 to June 1971.—Internet

Marseille coach Didier Deschamps said he had hoped for better but was still pleased by parts of the performance.

“All the fact that we came back from a goal down is a good thing,” said the World Cup and Euro winning captain, who has also had spells coaching at Monaco and Juventus.

“It’s a pity that we couldn’t get a winner at the end.”

His Lyon counterpart Claude Puel had also regrets, mainly that they had allowed Marseille to get into the match in the second half but overall he left a happy man. —Internet

Serie A shut down for winter break as Napoli stutter

ROME, 20 Dec — Lazio and Napoli closed the gap on leaders AC Milan to just three points with victories on Sunday but Juventus failed to keep pace as they were held to a 1-1 draw at Chievo.

Lazio edged out Udinese 3-2 in a thrilling match decided by Christian Zanata’s own goal two minutes from time.

Napoli looked to be heading for a frustrating stalemate until Edinson Cavani struck deep into injury time to thrust a stunning winner from 25 yards into the top corner.

Juventus, on the other hand, were the victims of a late equaliser as Sergio Pellissier popped up at the back post to stroke home the visitors’ top spot in the league table on Sunday.

Valbuena denies Lyon league lead

PARIS, 20 Dec — A second-half equaliser by French international Mathieu Valbuena saw champions Marseille draw 1-1 with Lyon and deny the Lyon in fourth place a point behind leaders Lille, who have a game in hand, while Marseille are another two points adrift.

Marseille coach Didier Deschamps said he had hoped for better but was still pleased by parts of the performance.

“The fact that we came back from a goal down is a good thing,” said the World Cup and Euro winning captain, who has also had spells coaching at Monaco and Juventus.

Lazio and Juve lead Milan chase as Napoli stutter

Rome, 20 Dec — AC Milan midfielder Andrea Pirlo will be out for a month, his club said Sunday, after suffering a thigh

strain in Saturday’s 1-0 home defeat to Roma.

Pirlo limped off during the first half of the match to be replaced by Clarence Seedorf.

However, he will join the team for their winter training camp in Dubai as Serie A shuts down for two and a half weeks.

“Pirlo will be with the team as normal in Dubai for the start of the winter preparation as the winter weather will help him,” said a club statement. —Internet

AC Milan’s midfielder Andrea Pirlo reacts after being tackled during the Italian serie A match against AS Roma at the San Siro stadium in Milan. —Internet

Results of respective leagues

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Pirlo out for a month
Random breath test yields 43 pounds of ecstasy

SYDNEY, 20 Dec — Police discovered 43 pounds (19.5 kilograms) of the illegal drug ecstasy during a search of a van after it was stopped to give the driver a random breath test.

New South Wales police said Monday that officers found seven boxes of chemical glassware used to make drugs when the van was stopped last Wednesday outside the town of Quirindi.

Two Sydney men, both 27, were charged with prohibited drug manufacturing and supplying ecstasy tablets. The two men were tracked down again and arrested on charges manufacturing and supplying a prohibited drug.

Police say the ecstasy had a street value of about 20 million Australian dollars ($19.7 million). — AP

**WEATHER**

Monday, 20th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Yangon Region. Weather has been partly cloudy in Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States. Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions with isolated heavy fall in Yangon Region. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Northern Shan State, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Upper Sagaing Region. (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Machanbaw (4°C) and Pinlaung (5°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Coco gym (3.15 inches).

**Nay Pyi Taw**

Maximum temperature on 19-12-2010 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 20-12-2010 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-12-2010 was (82%).

Rainfall on 20-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 19-12-2010 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 20-12-2010 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-12-2010 was (69%).

Total sunshine hours on 19-12-2010 was (8.3) hours.

Rainfall on 20-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingalardon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mingalardon, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 19-12-2010.

**Bay Inference**

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 21st December 2010: Light rain or thundershowers are possible to be isolated in Kayin State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-12-2010:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-12-2010:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-12-2010:** Partly cloudy.
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

Kengtung-Wenkaung railroad section of Mongnai-Kengtung railroad project inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — The opening ceremony of Kengtung-Wenkaung railroad section of Mongnai-Kengtung railroad project being implemented by Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation took place in Kengtung Railway Station in Kengtung of Shan State (East) yesterday morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of (See page 8)

Train making its debut on Kengtung-Wenkaung railroad section of Mongnai-Kengtung railroad project.—MNA

Defence Services C-in-C’s Shield Football Tournament-2010 goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — The second round matches of the 49th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament -2010 continued today.

The match between Tatmadaw (Navy) team and Tatmadaw (Air) ended 1- 0 at Paunglaung Sports Ground. Yangon Command team beat North-East Command team 1-0 at No (1) Sports Ground and Southern Command team had a goalless draw against Camp Commandant of Ministry of Defence at Paunglaung Sports Ground.—MNA

Wegyi village in Lewe Township gets new library building

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — The opening of the building for Pyinnya Shwedaung self-reliant library was held at Wegyi village in Lewe Township yesterday.

After officials had formally opened the library, wellwishers donated books and cash to the library.

The one-storey RC library was built with the contribution of K 2.3 million by the State, district development fund and local people.—MNA