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Sunday, 26 December, 2010

Implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project in Kachin State launched

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—A ceremony to launch the implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project of Kachin State was held at the project site on 22 December, attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Zaw, officials, responsible persons of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) of the People’s Republic of China, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, responsible persons of the Asia World Co Ltd and local people. (See page 8)

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.

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Conquest of Bago mountain range

Bago mountain range is stretching from Yangon Region to Bago-Magway-Mandalay Regions. It has been a natural barrier for the people residing both on its east and west sides.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Construction is speeding up construction of roads and bridges across the nation. Likewise, the ministry has conquered the mountain range by building seven roads across Bago mountain range that had only pavements and timber extraction ways in the past.

On 9 December 2010, I spent the night at the 19th-mile camp of the mountain range crossing road project of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Pein zalok (Penwegon) Road where I arrived in the evening by car with the assistance of Project Chief Engineer U Tin Hsan.

Heavy machinery at work in construction of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Pein zalok (Penwegon) Road.

In the morning of the following day, I took photos of progress in construction of the road with the use of heavy machinery by Public Works and construction companies.

Senior Engineer U Thaung Han Soe explained that Special Projects Construction Group (1) of Public Works cooperates with 15 construction companies in this project. (See page 7)

Photo shows bird’s eye view of Chipwe Hydropower Project in Kachin State.

MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 26 December, 2010

**Produce proficient physicians and victorious soldiers**

The Defence Services Medical Academy is producing qualified medical military officers with physical and mental attainments who will uphold Our Three Main National Causes. The Passing out of the Parade of No. 12 Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of DSMA in Yangon on 24 December.

In his guidance at the parade, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “You are the junior leaders in medical matters. Leadership is personality trait. You yourselves have to be models of hard work and win the respect and the admiration of your subordinates. In the same way, as medical professionals, you have to win the trust and confidence of patients. Only then will you comrades be successful as proficient physicians and victorious soldiers.”

As the mission of the Medical Corps is “make fit to fight”, the medical professionals are to constantly study military affairs and medical education together to be able to provide effective health care services at the battlefields. They have to do research on put rest on common diseases of respective regions and threats of new weapons in warfare and injuries at the battles.

Moreover, the medical officers are to issue health and hygiene regulations for battlefields for strict adherence of all ranks. Health knowledge about prevention against infectious diseases is to be disseminated to servicemen. Furthermore, health care services are to be provided to servicemen and people.

Health plays a key role in development of a human society. The government is producing highly-qualified medical professionals and building health infrastructures so as to uplift public health care services. At the same time, the good medical officers with full physical and mental attainments are being produced.

Junior leaders of Tatmadaw Medical Corps with combat ability, loyalty, unity, discipline and noble-mindedness are to constantly serve State defence duty and add the prestige to the Medical Corps.

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**Industry-2 Minister receives Executive Director of Sino Truck Import & Export Co Ltd of PRC**

NAI PSI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein received a Chinese delegation led by Executive Director of Sino Truck Import & Export Co Ltd Mr Yang Zheng Xu of the People’s Republic of China at his office here at 11 am yesterday.

They touched upon industrial and technological matters for producing of trucks. **MNA**

**Stakes driven for upgrading stadium of YTC (Thuwunna)**

YANGON, 25 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Mr. Thura U Aye Myint attended the ceremony to drive stakes for implementation of the project for extended construction of the stadium at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township yesterday morning.

MOC Chairman Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw, Chairman U Tint Hsan and Managing Director U Phyoo Ko Ko Tint Hsan, of ACE Construction Co Ltd Chief Executive Officer of MFF U Than Zaw, Sports Ground Director of MFF U Zaw Lin, Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Tun Myint Oo, Principal of Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yongon) U Tin Win and Deputy Director of SPED U Zaw Win drove stakes at the designated places.

The YTC (Thuwunna) was built in 1987 by spending ¥ 5500 million and K 169.5 million. The stadium of the centre can accommodate 20000 spectators. At present, the stadium is being upgraded to meet the international standard under the arrangement of the State.

The tracks of the stadium will be built to meet the international standards. As the grand stand on the west of the stadium has roof, a plan is under way to extend seats. The eastern stand will be extended with roof and seats. The southern and the northern stands will be added with seats. In addition, the masts will be upgraded at the stadium. **MNA**

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**Myanmar universities sports team arrives back**

YANGON, 25 Dec—The Myanmar universities sports contingent led by Chairman of Sports and Physical Education Organizing Committee Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min, after taking part in the 15th ASEAN Universities Games from 13 to 23 December, arrived back here on 23 December.

It was the first time for Myanmar to take part in the ASEAN Universities Games that takes place once every two years.

The Myanmar team comprising 66 players clinched bronze medals in football, tennis and Sepak Takraw.

Members of Myanmar Universities Sports Contingent being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport. **MNA**

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**Reminder for watercraft**

YANGON, 25 Dec—PTTEP International Ltd which is undertaking joint venture in oil exploration with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise will sink two oil exploration wells in M-3 and M-7 blocks with the use of Jack-up Drilling Rig West Juno from 15 January to 15 April 2011.

Aung Sinkha-1 oil well at Block M-7 is located at point A between north latitude 15° 13’ 35.6” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, point B between north latitude 15° 13’ 35.6” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, point C between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4” and east longitude 96° 26’ 04.4”, and point D between north latitude 15° 11’ 25.4”.

Any watercraft is advised not to pass through the areas of oil wells in M-3 and M-7 blocks and not to anchor and go fishing, according to the Department of Fisheries. **MNA**
**Bus crash kills 35 people in Ecuador**

**Quito, 25 Dec**—Rescue workers say a bus ran off a foggy, rainy mountain road in Ecuador and plunged about 1,100 feet (350 metres), killing at least 35 people and injuring 34 others. Red Cross worker Jorge Arteaga says by telephone that Friday’s accident occurred before dawn in the western province of Manabi.

The Red Cross sent 30 volunteers and five ambulances to the scene.

Police said late Friday that at least 35 people were killed in the accident and another 34 were injured. Authorities said an earlier total of 34 deaths did not include the driver.

Attorney General Washington Pesantez said last month that there are 43,000 road accidents a year in Ecuador, producing about eight deaths a day.—Internet

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**Afghan officials probe NATO raid**

**Kabul, 25 Dec**—Afghan authorities said Friday they were investigating an overnight raid by NATO troops on a private security company that killed two Afghan guards in an operation that NATO said was conducted following a threat against the US Embassy. Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary said the probe was looking into why international forces raided the compound of Tiger International, an Afghan private security company, killing two Afghan guards and wounding another two.

But NATO said the operation was conducted jointly with Afghan forces after receiving “a credible threat to attack the US Embassy.” It said coalition forces “coordinated with Afghan security forces” and moved into an area where intelligence reports had located two vehicles thought to be loaded with explosives.

The coalition forces were fired on after they had announced their arrival, and they returned fire, killing two of the shooters, NATO’s statement said. Two others were wounded, it said, and 15 people were detained in the operation.

The detained were released after a senior Afghan army official arrived and “personally vouched” for them, NATO said. A large amount of weapons was also seized.—Internet

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**Iraqi dad says killed daughter linked to al-Qaeda**

**Baghdad, 25 Dec**—When police came hunting for a 19-year-old woman they believed had been recruited by al-Qaeda to be a suicide bomber in a town north of Baghdad, they found she was already dead: Slain by her father, who told police he strangled his daughter out of shame and then cut her throat.

The killing of Shahlaa al-Anbaky, reported by police Friday, appeared to be from an unusual melding of motives — part to defend the family honour, part to prevent her from joining the militants.

**42 killed, 72 injured in suicide blast in Pakistan**

**Islamabad, 25 Dec**—At least 42 people were killed and 72 others injured in a suicide blast that took place Saturday morning in front of a World Food Programme office in Pakistan’s northwest city of Khar in Bajaur Agency, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo.

According to the local media reports, the blast occurred at about 8:40 am when a female suicide bomber, aged at about 23, blew herself up among the large crowds of people gathering at a checkpoint in front of the office of the World Food Programme near Civil Colony in Khar, the main city in Bajaur Agency bordering Afghanistan.

An estimated 1,100 to 1,500 people were gathering in an open area in front of the World Food Programme office, waiting for the food tokens to be distributed, said local media reports.

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**Blast rocks E Afghanistan, killing two**

**Khost, 25 Dec**—An explosion rocked Khost City the capital of Khost Province in east Afghanistan on Friday, killing two people and injuring two others, an official said.

“It was a roadside bomb struck a vehicle of Afghan army in Khost City the capital of Khost Province at 4:15 pm local time as a result two persons including an army soldier were killed,” an officer with the Afghan army in Khost Province Raz Mohammad Oryakhil told Xinhua.

Two more civilians sustained injuries in the blast, he added. The incident took place while some soldiers on the vehicle were on routine patrol, he further said.

He also blamed the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban fighters for organizing the attack but the outfit has yet to make comment.—Xinhua

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**Picture captions**

*Afghan policemen inspect the site of a suicide bombing in Kunduz on 23 December. Three people died in northern Afghanistan Thursday as a NATO helicopter opened fire on a car and a suicide bomber blew himself up at a busy city centre traffic checkpoint, officials said. Internet*

*A firefighter, centre, leaves after extinguishing a small fire at the creche started by fireworks during Christmas celebrations in Beirut’s Christian sector of Ashrafieh, Lebanon, on 23 Dec, 2010. Internet*

*Soldiers walk past a bus destroyed after a suicide attack in Kabul on 19 December, 2010. Five Afghan army training officers were killed and nine wounded in an attack by two Taleban suicide bombers in Kabul on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said. Internet*
**Science**

**Weird and wonderful plant and fungal discoveries of 2010**

Botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, are celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity as a time to reflect on the diversity of the planet’s plant and fungal life by highlighting some of the new species that have been rediscovered or newly catalogued.

Kew are celebrating the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, are celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity, drawing to a close, scientists at the Biodiversity Giants project. These discoveries from microscopically diverse fungal and plant species contribute to the description of approximately 10 per cent of new species, which will be reported on 22 Dec in an advance online publication of Nature.

**Honeybee virus may threaten wild cousins**

Eleven species of wild pollinators in the United States have turned up carrying some of the viruses known to menace domestic honeybees, researchers say. Scientists at Penn State University say the findings raise the specter of diseases moving between domestic and wild pollinators, dashing hopes that viral diseases afflicting honeybees will stay in honeybees. ScienceNews.org reported Friday.

**China’s first robot restaurant**

BEIJING, 25 Dec—A hotpot restaurant in China’s northern Shandong Province has unveiled its new staff - a team of robots. Automated waiters and female robot dancers move between tables, offering trays of food and drinks. The Dalu Robot Restaurant in Jinan City has over a dozen robots serving curious customers. The project was set up by the Shandong Dalu Science and Technology Company, which designed and built the mechanical waiters from scratch. Each robot costs around 6,000 US dollars to build, and has motion sensors designed to stop when objects or people are in its way. Their robotic serving powers are limited - they cannot physically serve customers or refill their cups. But most patrons find them amusing. Li Xiaomei, customer of Dalu Robert Restaurant, said, “They have a better service attitude than real people. Humans can be impatient. These don’t get tired, they just keep working and moving round and round.”

**21 million Skype users back online**

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—It’s one step forward and one back for security on Microsoft’s Internet Explorer browser. A new report from a security firm found that IE9 beta offers “vanishing” more protection from malware than other browsers, while Microsoft on Wednesday issued a warning that there is a vulnerability in IE 6, 7 and 8 that could allow someone to take remote control of the computer. The software giant said there is no evidence this vulnerability has actually been used. Dave Forstrom, director of Microsoft’s Trustworthy Computing Group, said Microsoft was “currently unaware of any attacks trying to use the claimed vulnerability or of customer impact. The attack could be hidden as malicious code in a web page, and involves the way computer memory is managed when the browser processes Cascading Style Sheets. CSS is widely utilized to control how a page is presented.

The service went down for almost all of its users starting at midday Eastern time on Wednesday. By Thursday afternoon, things had improved to the point where about 21 million users were logged in, said CEO Tony Bates. That was 10 percent less than the usual traffic for the time of day, as some people still could not log on. Voice calling, video-chatting and text-based instant messaging are working for most users, Bates said, but other features, such as offline instant messaging and group video calls, are still down.

Speaking through a computer running Skype, Bates declined to say what caused the outage, but said that a bug in the software could have been responsible. The company said it would work with Skype users to resolve the issue. Bates also said the company was working on a fix for the problem.

Researchers report for the first time how animals’ knowledge obtained through past experiences can subconsciously influence their behaviour in new situations. Internet

**How past experiences subconsciously influence behaviour**

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—Researchers at MIT’s Picower Institute for Learning and Memory report for the first time how animals’ knowledge obtained through past experiences can subconsciously influence their behaviour in new situations. He work, which he describes as a way of how our past experiences inform our future choices, will be reported on 22 Dec in an advance online publication of Nature. Previous work has shown that when a mouse explores a new space, neurons in its hippocampus, the centre of learning and memory, fire sequentially like a gunpowder igniting a makeshift fuse.

Individual neurons called place cells fire in a specific pattern that mirrors the animal’s movements through the space. By looking at the time-specific patterns and sequences recorded from the firing cells, researchers can tell which part of the maze the animal was running at the time.

**Internet**

**Technology**

**IE9 blocks malware, but older versions are vulnerable**

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—Researchers report for the first time how animals’ knowledge obtained through past experiences can subconsciously influence their behaviour in new situations.
Health

Joint pain and stiffness are classic symptoms of osteoarthritis, but there are many other factors that can make your joints hurt.

The University of Maryland Medical Centre says other causes of joint pain include:
* An autoimmune disease, such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis.
* Gout, which commonly causes pain in the big toe.
* Bursitis, an inflammation of the sac between a bone and tendon.
* Diseases such as chickenpox, the flu or Lyme disease.
* A joint injury.
* Tendinitis, an inflamed tendon.
* An overuse injury, or suffering a strain or sprain.

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Do all contraceptives lower ovarian cancer risk?

NEW YORK, 25 Dec—Birth control pills have long been known to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, but a new study suggests any type of contraceptive— even surprisingly, vasectomy—may also be protective.

After comparing women with ovarian cancer to those without, researchers found that women who used any type of contraception—birth control pills, tubal ligation (getting your “tubes tied”), intrauterine devices (IUDs), barrier method (such as diaphragms) or male vasectomy had between a 40 and 65 percent lower risk of ever developing ovarian cancer.

It’s a surprise to see an association between birth control pills and ovarian cancer, and even to see one for tubal ligation, since other studies have shown the same thing, said lead author Dr. Roberta Ness of the University of Texas School of Public Health told Reuters Health.

But to see a similar trend for women who relied on IUDs, the barrier method, or a partner’s vasectomy to avoid pregnancy is somewhat surprising, Ness acknowledged.

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Obese drivers at higher risk of death in car crashes

NEW YORK, 25 Dec—Here’s another reason not to pile on too many excess pounds: A new study finds that the obese and very obese are at raised risk of death in severe car crashes.

According to the research, published in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine, a moderately obese driver is 21 percent more likely to die in a severe motor vehicle crash compared to non-obese drivers, while being severely obese hiked the risk of death by 56 percent. However, being just slightly overweight seemed to lower the odds for death in a severe crash these drivers were actually less likely to die than either underweight or normal-weight drivers, according to researchers at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

In the study, the researchers analyzed data from the national Fatality Analysis Reporting System involving almost 156,000 drivers in severe motor vehicle crashes occurring between 2000-2005. The researchers included all fatalities occurring within 30 days of a crash.

The link between obesity and death risk was found for both men and women, the researchers noted.

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No sign of OPEC concern with oil heading for $100

PRETORIA, 25 Dec—South Africa announced on Friday it has been formally invited to join the Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) group of key emerging nations, bolstering its image as the economic gateway to Africa.

Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said China, which currently chairs BRIC, invited South Africa to join the group, whose current members will account for 61 percent of global growth in 2014, according to the International Monetary Fund.

“China, in its capacity as rotating chairperson of the BRIC formation, based on agreement reached by the BRIC member states, invites South Africa as a full member into what will in future be called BRICS,” she told journalists in Pretoria.

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S Africa formally invited to join BRIC

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Snow storm heading south, some flights canceled

After dumping at least 7 inches of snow in parts of Iowa by Friday morning, the storm was predicted to dip south into Tennessee and Georgia on Saturday, then move north Sunday. Winter weather advisories were in effect from Kansas east to Kentucky and from Minnesota south to Arkansas on Friday.

The National Weather Service said that for the first Christmas in 17 years, Nashville and Atlanta could get more than just a dusting of snow. The storm was expected to intensify and move northeast on Sunday to the mid-Atlantic states and New England. Delta Air Lines spokesman Morgan Durrant said 500 weather-related flight cancellations were planned for Saturday nationwide. That included 300 of the 800 scheduled departures from the Atlanta hub. Durrant said those affected had been notified. — Internet

Floods cause displacement in eastern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 25 Dec—Flash floods in eastern Sri Lanka have left over 30,000 people marooned, relief officials said Saturday. Pradeep Kodipilly, a top disaster management official said that more than 17,000 families have been affected in Eastern Province.

“We run six camps with relief services maintained throughout”, Kodipilly said.

Rains lashed the province as heavy monsoons fell upon most parts of the island.

The irrigation department said most of the main reservoirs such as Randenigala, Bowatanna, Rathkinda had reached spill levels, with a few reservoirs such as Randenigala, Bowatanna, Rathkinda having reached spill levels, with a few reservoirs such as Randenigala, Bowatanna, Rathkinda having reached spill levels. Floods sent most parts of the island under water in mid November. Floods caused displacement in Eastern Province.

Californians start cleaning up mud, water, debris

HIGHLAND, 25 Dec—Leslie Constantine burst into tears when she saw a red tag slapped on her parent’s garage in Highland, deeming it unsafe to enter.

“My mom and dad worked so hard for this,” said the 29-year-old pharmacy technician who was in the building. “I couldn’t get in to see how bad the damage was to Christmas presents and other belongings. Out front, two holiday reindeer were enveloped in mud several feet deep. Many California residents who endowed flooding, mudslides and evacuations during a weeklong onslaught of rain must now clean up or even rebuild — and some face the prospect of not being able to spend Christmas at home.

The storm’s push across the West left a muddy mess Thursday across Southern California and the threat of avalanches in Nevada, where Clark County officials urged residents of Mount Charleston, near Las Vegas, to leave after snow slides near two mountain hamlets. — Internet

5.4-magnitude quake shakes PR; no damage reported

SAN JUAN, 25 Dec—A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck the US Caribbean territory on Christmas Eve, rattling windows and doors across the island but causing no major damage, officials said.

The quake occurred at a depth of 102 kilometers (63 miles) south-southwest of the capital of San Juan, according to the US Geological Survey.

Blanca Saez, Ports Authority spokeswoman, told The Associated Press that the international airport is operating as usual. She said six ceiling panels fell at the American Airlines terminal, but that no one was injured.

The earthquake was centred just a couple of miles from the central mountain town of Aguas Buenas. Emergency officials and police told local media that no damage or injuries have been reported.

Heriberto Saun, emergency management director, told El Nuevo Dia newspaper that crews would inspect buildings at daylight if necessary. He could not be reached for comment late Friday. — Internet

Six killed in fire accident in Bangladesh’s Capital

DHAKA, 25 Dec—Six people were killed and many injured in a fire accident in a mosquito coil factory on Friday night in Bangladesh’s Capital Dhaka, fire brigade officials said.

Police and fire brigade officials said the fire broke out at Good Night Mosquito Factory in northern Dhaka at 9:35 pm local time. Ten units of the Fire Brigade controlled the blaze at 10:12 pm local time.

Fire Brigade Director General Abu Nayeem confirmed the death of six people who were all factory workers.

Six seriously burn-wounded people have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. — Internet
Industry-1 Minister inspects paper mills in Yeni

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected production of the 20-ton cardboard paper mill of Yeni Paper Mill No. 2 of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries this morning and stressed the need to produce quality products for exceeding the target. He visited the 50-ton Newsprint Mill and the 80-ton Packaging Paper Mill and looked into maintenance of machines and systematic storage of raw materials. MNA

Passenger vehicles collide, plunge following negligence of drivers

YANGON, 25 Dec—A Hilux passenger truck of Letpadan-Yangon Bus Line collided a head-on with another vehicle of Taikkyi-Thirimingala Market Bus Line at the mile post No 28/1 on Yangon-Pyay road near Tatkykyon village. Hmauby Township at 8 am on 20 December when it overtook a vehicle in front of it.

In the incident, passengers on board the two vehicles suffered cuts and bruises and they were admitted to Yagon General Hospital and Hmauby Hospital. Action is being taken against the driver of passenger vehicle of Letpadan-Yangon Bus Line by the Hmauby Township Police Station.

Likewise, a Canter passenger vehicle of Myinkaseik-Pathem Bus Line happened to scrub with Shwewahton Air-con passenger bus at 9 am 20 December and overturned on the road side when it overtook the Air-con bus. The Air-con bus also plunged into the drain on the left side of the road. Conductor Chit Phwe (a) U Win Kyi died in the incident and 27 passengers on board the two vehicles sustained cuts and bruises. Action is being taken against the driver of Canter passenger vehicle.

Most of traffic accidents were caused by negligence on the part of the driver. The drivers are, therefore, advised to be more mindful while taking the wheel in order to avoid the adverse consequences.—MNA

Sports Minister partakes in December mass walk activities

YANGON, 25 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint this morning took part in December Mass Walk activities held in front of Kyarkasan Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Yangon Region.

All together 12170 participants including Chairperson of Central Work Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, officials of the Ministry of Sports and their families, Principal and Conductor Chit MNA

Conquest of Bago...

(from page 1)

Construction of 89 miles and six furlongs long Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road under the supervision of Chief Engineer (Road) U Tin Han and Deputy Superintending Engineer (Civil) U Kyi Zaw Myint as project engineers together with himself.

He further explained that Public Works is taking responsibility for construction of Kyunghon (Peinzalok)-Pado-Myochaung section and Seinkantlant-Minhla Tarzon section. The Ministry of Forestry built Myochaung-Seinkantlant earth road from 2001 to 2003 and handed it over to Public Works.

Special Projects Construction Group (1) was assigned duty to construct 22 miles and six furlongs long section of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road. Aung Htet Lwin Co eight miles long section, Tun Lin Co five miles long section, Dragon Empire Co five miles long section, Smooth Life Co four miles long section, Kyaw Co five miles long section, Mya Shwekyar Co two miles long section, Mya Noe Thu Co four miles long section, Myat Eindray Co four miles long section, Ayea Shwewa Co eight miles long section, MMM Co five miles long section, Express Highway Co two miles long section, GPG Co eight miles long section, and NGR Co two miles long section.

One 270 feet long bridge, one 120 feet long bridge, one 90 feet long bridge, one 50 feet long bridge, six 40 feet long bridges, four 20 feet long bridges, five 15 feet long bridges, 192 100-foot retaining walls and 149 conduits are under construction.

Assistant Engineer (Civil) U Toe Toe said that a total of 20 excavators, 25 bulldozers, 60 dumpers trucks and 30 shift-foot rollers are being used in construction worksites.

On completion of Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Peinzalok (Penwegon) Road, Thawawady, Thonze, Letpadan, Minhla, Okpo, Zigon, Gyoingauk, Shwedaung, Natatlan, Paungde and Pyay on the western areas of Bago mountain range will enjoy fruits of social, economic, health and education sectors. The local people will have easy access to Bago and Yangon in a short time.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Public Works is making preparations to conquer the Bago mountain range by building seven roads. These facilities will contribute to transport of teak, ironwood and other woods from the forests and ensure strengthening of national unity in the near future.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 23-12-2010

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Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint participates in December mass walk activities.—MNA

Continuing Professional Development Forum on 29 Dec

YANGON, 25 Dec—Continuing Professional Development Forum, organized by Society of General Practitioners of Myanmar Medical Association (Central), will be held at the hall of MMA on Theinbyu Road here from noon to 3 pm on 29 December (Wednesday).

Paper reading session on “Q&A on Common OB/GY Problems in General/Family Practice” will be held.—MNA

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Photo shows completion of an earth road section on Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Road.
Implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project...

(from page 1)

The commander and Minister U Zaw Min delivered addresses. The Economic and Commercial Counsellor and the CPI Chairman spoke words of thanks.

At the construction site of Chipwe Hydropower Project being implemented by CPI Yunnan International Power Investment Co Ltd, the commander, the ministers, the CPI Chairman and party viewed progress of project from the observing desk.

At the briefing hall, engineers of the project reported on implementation of Chipwe Hydropower Project and future tasks. Minister U Zaw Min attended to the needs and gave instructions to officials. Later, the commander, the ministers, the chairman of CPI and party visited the construction site of main embankment for the project.

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7309.93 acres of poppy plantations destroyed in 2010-2011 season

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—In 2010-2011 poppy cultivation season, a total of 5745.03 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed up to 13 December. Out of 5745.03, 4080.73 acres were destroyed in Shan State (South), 730.93 acres in Monghsat, Mongkhat, Mongping, Kengtung, Taikkyi and Mongton townships in Shan State (East), and 1564.9 acres in Lashio, Tanbyo, Hsamwe, Namhkam and Kutkai townships in Shan State (North).—MNA

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Hole-in-one at No (1) Tatmadaw Golf Course

YANGON, 25 Dec—U Thein Aung today scored hole-in-one with Tour Special (2) ball and Callaway Wood (7) driver at hole No (17) from 155-yard distance at No (1) Tatmadaw Golf Course (Mingaladon), while playing together with Brig-Gen Aung Thein (Red), Col Soe Win (Red), U Than Tun and U Aung Soe.

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One dead, four injured, one vehicle damaged in two mine blasts

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—A villager named U Shan Kalar died on the spot in a land mine blast when he stepped on the mine planted by KNU insurgents yesterday in Shwelyin, Bago Region.

Another villager named Ko Zaw lost his leg in another land mine blast when the body of U Shan Kalar of Zidaw Ward, Shwelyin, was carried from the scene about 10 miles south-east of Shwelyin, Bago Region. The injured lives were receiving treatment at Bawgaligyi sub-township hospital and the People’s hospital in Shwelyin Township.

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Photo shows bird’s eye view of Chipwe Hydropower Project in Kachin State.—MNA

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Commander Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Ministers U Zaw Min, U Khin Maung Myint and U Thein Zaw and Chairman of CPI and officials concerned formally open Chipwe Hydropower Project.—MNA

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Minister U Zaw Min delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Chipwe Hydropower Project.

MNA

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Country will be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with world nations if education sector takes responsibility to forge patriotism and Union Spirit among nationals

The concluding of Special Refresher Course No. 39 for basic education teachers was held at Yadanar Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin District of Mandalay Region yesterday.

On behalf of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thiha U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman U Kyaw Thu of Civil Service Selection and Training Board delivered an address on the occasion and awarded outstanding trainees.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Labour U Tin Tun Aung, CSSTB members U Nyi Tun and U Kyaw Aung, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court (Mandalay), rector and faculty members of CICS (upper Myanmar), and trainees.

CSSTB Chairperson U Kyaw Thu said that education is integral part, and higher education sectors. With today’s climatic science and technology, the government implemented e-Learning system and built e-Education learning centres in universities, colleges and high schools to have easy access to educational information and lessons.

Moreover, education staff can now catch up globally changing technology and subjects thanks to Internet access in universities, colleges and some schools.

The chairman continued to say that the country will be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with world nations if the education sector takes the responsibility to forge patriotism and union spirit among the nationals.

The State assumes the teachers as architects of the future nation who are nurturing brilliant human resources.

Through the special refresher course, the teachers may learn the State’s strides in public interests, historical backgrounds, future plans, policy and national aspirations and will be able to disseminate the acquired knowledge to students and lead them towards understanding the reality, the chairman added.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu presented awards to outstanding trainees and completion certificates.

After the ceremony, the ministers cordially greeted the trainees.

A total of 1495 trainees had completed the five-week course.

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 translation: HKA

Myanmar Alin: 22-12-10
Credit Suisse offloading property loans

Crane active on a building site operate near Berlin’s landmark TV tower on 29 November, 2010. Credit Suisse is selling a $2.8-billion property portfolio in one of the largest bank sales of distressed loans since the 2008 financial crisis, the Wall Street Journal reported. —INTERNET

PARIS, 25 Dec—Credit Suisse is selling a 2.8-billion-dollar property portfolio in one of the largest bank sales of distressed loans since the 2008 financial crisis, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

The Swiss banking giant is to sell the portfolio for 1.2 billion dollars (913 million euros) to Apollo Management LP, the newspaper reported.

The loans were for apartment buildings in Germany and hotels in a number of European countries in areas hard hit by the economic crisis, it said citing sources familiar with the sale.

Credit Suisse declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

Since the onset of the 2008 financial crisis there have been relatively few sales of distressed property loan portfolios by banks to private equity firms, who often later make large profits after restructuring the loans or seizing the properties.

The Wall Street Journal cited sources as saying the Credit Suisse had already written down the value of the portfolio and that the bank may share in any gains realized by Apollo as it is taking an equity stake in the company as part of the deal.

GM recalling about 109,000 vehicles on passenger airbag concerns

CHICAGO, 25 Dec—General Motors (GM) on Thursday announced that it is recalling about 109,000 vehicles due to concerns of the passenger air bag failing to deploy.

The company said in a statement that the recalling covers Cadillac CTS models from the 2005-2007 model years, adding that there are no known injuries or fatalities related to this condition.

GM said that a kink, bend or fold in the front passenger presence system may lead to the passenger air bag failing to deploy, which could result in increased injury for the occupant.

Dealers will replace the passenger presence system in affected vehicles at no charge to the customer.

Xinhua

Mexican village evacuated due to pipeline leak

MEXICO CITY, 25 Dec—Local authorities evacuated San Jose Ayotla, a village of 120 people in central Mexican state Puebla, following a pipeline leak reported near 1:30 am Friday morning, Mexican broadcaster Milenio reported.

“At around 1:30 am villagers perceived a strong smell of gasoline, and because of that they called Public Security and Civil Protection officials, and saw fuel spurtting several meters into the air from one pipeline,” Puebla’s Civil Protection Director Miguel Angel Martinez told Milenio.

The incident took place just days after 28 people were killed after an oil pipeline exploded in San Martin Texmelucan, a larger town in Puebla.

The explosion was triggered by an attempt to steal fuel from Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), the state-run oil giant. Pemex said it had sent staff to the area to put the leak under control.

Fuel supply to the pipeline has been cut and barriers have been placed to prevent the spread of oil on the ground.

Xinhua

Angola state airline grounds 777s

LUANDA, 25 Dec—TAAG Angola Airlines has grounded its three Boeing 777s following an emergency landing by one of the jets.

The airline, which is 100 percent owned by the government, said a jet bound for Dubai was forced to return to Luanda because of engine problems, the BBC reported. Engine trouble on another jet was reported while it was at Lisbon, Portugal.

Rui Carreira, an airline spokesman, told the state radio network the step was taken “for the sake of caution and international security.”

Xinhua

Six wounded in an explosion in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 25 Dec—Six people were wounded in an explosion that rocked a church in southern Philippines on Christmas Day Saturday, police sources here said.

The improvised explosive device (IED) exploded around 7:15 am during a Christmas morning mass on the right side of the roof of the Asturias chapel in Jolo town, Sulu Province, said police sources, adding police sources, adding the victims, including a priest, were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Initial investigation showed that the IED was placed on the roof, where it damaged the metal roof and the ceiling.

Police investigators were already on site to conduct crime scene investigation.—Xinhua

A woman does morning exercise on a foggy day in Saining City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 21 Dec, 2010. Heavy fog cloaked Suining Tuesday, reducing the visibility in some places of the city to less than 200 metres.—XINHUA

Whooper swans are seen at the Wetland of Yellow River National Nature Reserve in central China’s Henan Province, on 22 Dec, 2010. Thousands of whooper swans migrated here from Siberia for wintering this year.—XINHUA

Mick Zeni (L) performs during the dance drama Marco Polo in the National Centre For The Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Dec, 2010. The NCPA’s first original dance-drama Marco Polo was on show Wednesday to celebrate the NCPA’s 3rd Anniversary.—XINHUA

Xinhua
Bangladesh’s once plentiful rivers run low on fish

CHAR PALAMARY, 25 Dec—Bangladesh’s rivers have provided for fishermen Rafiqul Islam’s family for generations but a few years ago the 27-year-old noticed his nets were coming up empty.

This year, Islam was forced to leave his small fishing community in northern Mymensingh District to find work, an early victim of what scientists are warning is an alarming decline in freshwater fish stocks.

“Eight, ten years ago it was possible for a fisherman to make a decent living all year round — now, our catches are tiny and most people are having to find other seasonal work to survive,” Islam said.

Surveys of fish stocks paint a gloomy picture. According to a report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2000, Bangladesh is home to 266 species of freshwater fish, 54 of which are classified as “threatened” in the group’s Red List.

But a more recent study by the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) stated that at least 25 of the freshwater species of fish are now extinct and over 100 species should be classed as threatened.

“We are losing our freshwater fish at an alarming rate,” said Professor Mostafa Ali Reza Hossain of the BAU, whose team has spent a decade travelling the country to track the decline in fish species.

The dwindling of freshwater fish has major repercussions for low-lying and deeply impoverished Bangladesh, home to numerous rivers, floodplains, lakes and lowland areas.

It puts over a million jobs at risk, will accelerate migration of the estimated 1.4 million fishermen to Bangladesh’s already overcrowded cities, and removes a crucial, free source of protein for the rural poor.

It also risks having a catastrophic effect on overall biodiversity as the impact ripples up the food chain to birds and reptiles, Hossein said.

Mount Bromo’s eruption in Indonesia paralyzes tourism

JAKARTA, 25 Dec—Mount Bromo’s eruption in Indonesia’s East Java Province on Friday paralyzed tourism industry as hotels were closed due to thick ashes, detikcom online news reported on Friday.

Hotels of Lava View, Cemara and Bukit Cemara have not received any guest in the past couple of days as ash on the streets is as thick as 15-40 centimeters.

Besides, blackout since Tuesday has been posing difficulties for the hotels to operate. The condition was worsened by disturbed water supply, leaving no choice for the hotels but to cancel reservation.

“We have to shut power down since Tuesday. Increasing eruption is feared to trigger power shorting,” said head of local police of Probolingo regency Adj Comm Zulfikar.

The volcanic centre also warned air operators against volcanic ashes which could disrupt flight.

TSA probes pilot critical of airport security

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Dec—Federal authorities are investigating a pilot who posted videos on YouTube that were critical of security at San Francisco International Airport, the pilot’s attorney said Friday.

Don Werno of the Santa Ana-based law firm Werno and Associates said the Transportation Security Administration is looking into whether his client revealed sensitive information. The pilot remains employed with a major airline, but he has withdrawn from a programme that trains flight crew to help prevent hijackings after authorities confiscated his federally issued firearm, Werno said.

He declined to release the pilot’s name, citing concerns about the man’s job.

The TSA wouldn’t answer questions but said in a statement it is responding to the situation and is confident in the security at San Francisco International Airport.

“As to access control at SFO, TSA is confident in the tools the airport has implemented and reminds passengers there are security measures in place that are both seen and unseen.”

The pilot posted several videos on YouTube in late November or early December that showed how ground crew members can enter secure areas by swiping security cards and without undergoing further screening.

Angola to reopen war-ravaged railway after 18 years

LUANDA, 25 Dec—An Angolan railroad destroyed during the country’s 27-year civil war is set to resume service next month, nearly two decades after the 125-year-old line was forced to close, officials said Friday.

Passenger service between the capital Luanda and the eastern city of Malanje will resume on 13 January after an 18-year hiatus, with freight service to follow two days later, a Luanda Railroad official told state radio station RNA.

The 424-kilometre (263-mile) line, which colonial power Portugal began building in 1885, was one of three major railroads destroyed during Angola’s 1975-2002 civil war. It will be the first to reopen as part of a four-billion-dollar (three-billion-euro) reconstruction project carried out by Chinese firms, officials said.

“Next year, we’ll also reopen the Mocamedes Railroad and in 2012, the Benguela Railroad,” Transport Minister Augusto Tomas told RNA, referring to two other major rail links to the southern port city of Namibe (formerly Mocamedes) and the central province of Benguela.

13 Vietnam sailors rescued from sinking vessel in East China Sea

BEIJING, 25 Dec—Thirteen of 17 Vietnamese crew members were saved by a Chinese rescue team after strong winds sank the Vietnamese ship, the Hung Cuong 413, near Minjiang estuary in the East China Sea on Friday evening, the Chinese rescue centre said.

According to the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre (CMSRC), the Vietnamese ship, which was overloaded with 5,200 tonnes of stone materials, had an engine breakdown this afternoon and overturned at around 5:00 pm due to high winds, with 17 crew members falling into the sea.

Being alerted about the accident, China’s East China Sea Rescue Bureau and the local maritime search and rescue centre in the coastal Fujian Province sent professional salvage vessels and helicopters to the scene where they rescued 13 sailors, as of 6:18 pm.

The rescue team is still searching for the remaining four sailors, according to the CMSRC.

Zimbabwean villager Webster Kurwaisimba sells wild mushrooms on the roadside in the rural district of Zimunya in Mutare, 280 kms east of Harare, taking home six dollars on a good day.
Air passengers evacuated after smoke fills cabin

LONDON, 25 Dec — Passengers escaped without injury on Wednesday when they were forced to make an emergency evacuation from an aircraft.

There were dramatic scenes at Kerry Airport shortly after 9am as all 160 passengers on board Ryanair flight FR701 from London Stansted had to make their escape via the aircraft’s emergency chutes.

Passenger Richard Hartnett said there was “panic” on board when passengers saw “black smoke” coming from the cockpit. He said people fled the scene in terror after firemen told them to “keep running”.

“The whole cabin filled up with a fog and it felt like five minutes had passed before anyone did anything,” Mr Hartnett told the Irish Independent.

“The pilot came out and told us we were in an evacuation procedure and the slides came out.

Wash man accused in theft of game cards

SEATTLE, 25 Dec — Police in Washington State say they’ve charged a former employee of a collectible card games company with stealing $45,000 worth of rare promotional cards.

Donald J Henry, 26, is accused of stealing hundreds of rare cards from the company’s “Magic: The Gathering”.

A card store owner reported on Internet.

French farmer jailed in shooting over truffles

PARIS, 25 Dec — French police have arrested a farmer who fatally shot a trespasser he suspected of trying to steal highly coveted truffles from his land on the edge of France’s southern Provence Region.

The 32-year-old farmer, who was guarding his truffle patch in the town of Grignan when he was frightened by the intruder and shot him in the legs and head with a hunting rifle, police said on Wednesday.

Police said the farmer believed the man was armed.

Frenchman landing on runway

Ryanair flight FR701 from London Stansted on the runway at Kerry Airport on Wednesday.

Nepalese celebrating Christmas

“Nepali way”

KATHMANDU, 25 Dec — The greatest of the Christian festival around the globe marking the birth of Jesus Christ, “Christmas” is also being marked in Nepal but in the Nepali way.

Nepalese following the Christian religion are busy going to the Church and celebrating the Christmas along with their family and friends.

However, in the present time in Nepal the non-Christian communities also celebrate Christmas marking the festival with enthusiasm.

Talking to Xinhua on Saturday after the celebration of Christmas, Father Silas Bogati of The Assumption Church (Catholic) in Kathmandu said that they celebrate Christmas in the Nepali way. “I have been serving as a father for 10 years and we celebrate Christmas as per the tradition but in the Nepali way just like other Nepali festival”, Bogati said.

He informed that there are around 2 million Christians around Nepal but among them there are only 7,000 Catholic Christians.

However, according to the population census of Nepal held in 2001, the number of Christian was only 100,000.

“Christmas means a lot to me and other Nepali Christians, we gather along with family, friends just like Dashain and worship our lord through holy songs and so on,” Bogati added.

Jennifer Bajracharya, an English literature student told Xinhua that she is Christian by birth and she is really excited for Christmas celebration with her family members at home.

“We are having party at home like previous years, we share gifts and this is what I love most”, she added.

Russian central bank increases deposit operations rate by 0.25 pp

MOSCOW, 25 Dec — Russia’s Central Bank (CB) announced on Friday its decision to raise deposit operations rate by 0.25 percentage points to 7.75 percent while leaving the refinancing rate unchanged at 7.75 percent.

The CB said that inflation risks remained moderate but still worth attention from the monetary authorities.

“Inflation disturbs us. For twenty days of December the consumer prices rose 0.7 percent against 0.4 percent for the same period last year,” CB head Sergei Ignatiev said, adding that the main contribution to the inflation speed-up was food prices hike.

In November, inflation rate in Russia reached 8.1 percent. The CB forecast that the cost of money loans would not rise and the volatility of the loan market would flatten.

In this 31 Jan, 2008 file photo, truffles are seen at the Aups truffles market, southern France.— INTERNET

Serenade : Bolshoi Ballet dancers performing during a rehearsal of Russian choreographer, co-founder and balletmaster of New York City Ballet George Balanchine’s Serenade at the theatre’s New Stage in Moscow.— INTERNET

Two African elephants use their trunks to greet each other. A New Zealand elephant handle won a wrongful dismissal claim Wednesday against a circus that falsely told him it had lost his beloved animal and his services were no longer required.— INTERNET

Disclaimer: The information and view presented in this report are the author’s own and do not reflect the position of Xinhua or Xinhua’s parent company, China National News Agency.
**Purse that hit gunman sells for $13,100**

A purse used by a Florida school board member to strike a gunman sold for $13,100 on eBay to benefit charity, the TV station behind the auction said.

The online auction for the purse, which Bay County School Board member Ginger Littleton used to strike gunman Clay Duke, was won by an unidentified man in Alexandria, Va, and New England handbag company Brahmin said it would match the winning bid with a contribution to Salvage Santa, the charity selected by Littleton.

Salvage Santa was started by security guard Mike Jones, who shot and wounded Duke during the incident. Duke later killed himself with a gunshot.

Salvage Santa restores old bicycles to give to children in low-income households for Christmas.

**Restaurateur takes photo of food critic**

A Los Angeles restaurant critic said her 40-minute wait for a table ended with the owner of an eatery snapping her picture and telling her to leave.

Los Angeles Times restaurant critic S Irene Virbila said she went to Red Medicine in Beverly Hills with her husband and two friends Tuesday at 8 pm and waited about 40 minutes for a table, the Times reported Friday.

Virbila said the wait ended with Red Medicine managing partner Noah Ellis snapping a surprise picture and telling her to leave the establishment. She said the photo was posted on several Web sites by Wednesday afternoon.

**Lichtenstein, Warhol works stolen from NY home**

This undated photo provided by the New York City Police Department shows Roy Lichtenstein's 'Thinking Nude.' The print was stolen, along with a surveillance video recorder and other artworks by Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and Carl Fudge, from a chic home in Manhattan's Meatpacking District between 24 Nov and 28 Nov, 2010, while the owner was away during the Thanksgiving holiday.—INTERNET

**Kevin Smith to screen horror film**

PARK CITY, 25 Dec—Director Kevin Smith says he will screen his first-ever horror film at Utah's Sundance Film Festival in January. "Red State," Smith's departure from comedy and satire, stars Michael Parks, John Goodman and Melissa Leo as people who run afoul of religious zealots in the Midwest, the New York Daily News reported.

Adding to the aura of Smith as provocateur, the movie references the Ku Klux Klan in its one-sheer, which shows a Hollywood stars Johansson, Reynolds divorce

LOS ANGELES, 25 Dec—Hollywood A-listers Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences, a week after they announced their amicable split, documents showed. The couple — named by sexiest man and woman alive in separate polls in recent years — both filed papers the same day to dissolve their two-year marriage, according to the documents obtained by the TMZ celebrity news website. The legal documents, filed at the Los Angeles Superior Court, gave the date of separation as 14 December — the day they announced their split last week — and ticked the box citing “irreconcilable differences” as the reason.

**Dutch police welcome snow as crime busting aid**

While commuters complain of disruptions caused by recent heavy snow, Dutch police have welcomed it as an unusual aid in catching illegal cannabis growers and other criminals.

“A clean roof amid others covered in snow is often an indication of the presence of attick growing lights for a cannabis plantation,” police spokesman Henri van Pinxteren of the south eastern Brabant region told AFP on Friday.

Police on patrol would list the addresses of homes with clean roofs for later inspection, he said. “It often leads to arrests. This is a well-known tool for the police in winter,” Van Pinxteren said.

The snow of the last week has also allowed police to literally track down several fleeing criminals.

**Studio lets customers build bamboo bikes**

Bikes started as wood and then they went to bamboo. That was back in the 1880s, and now, it’s coming back," he said. Odlin said the company is working to bring affordable bikes to Ghana, where bamboo is plentiful.

“A bicycle there means the same thing that a car might mean for someone here," Odlin said. “People can access 25 times more area on a bike ... that’s 25 times as many healthcare opportunities, 25 times as many educational opportunities, 25 times as many markets to sell their goods. Basically, giving somebody this cheap transportation can open up a whole world for them.”

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**View of the traffic jams on the A2 highway before it was closed by police due to heavy snowfalls near the Dutch City of Eindhoven.**

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**Studio lets customers build bamboo bikes**

A business with studios in New York and San Francisco is offering weekend classes for people who want to make their own bicycles out of bamboo.

Marty Odlin, one of the co-founders of Bamboo Bike Studio, said the classes, which start at $600, allow people to make eco-friendly bikes. Odlin said bamboo makes for a strong and comfortable bike frame. ABC News reported.

“Most people nowadays, they don’t really get to build things. And they especially don’t get to see things start to finish,” Odlin said.

“Some of the original bikes were bamboo.”

Despite a rise in the snow count, travel and flight delays continued Friday as the heavy snow of the last week caused by recent heavy snow, Dutch police have welcomed it as an unusual aid in catching illegal cannabis growers and other criminals.

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Hughes has no fear of Fulham axe

LONDON, 25 Dec — Fulham manager Mark Hughes insisted on Friday that he has no fears of the axe falling should his struggling side lose to rock-bottom West Ham on Sunday. — Internet

Hughton still stunned by Newcastle axe

LONDON, 25 Dec — Chris Hughton admitted on Friday his sacking as manager of Newcastle United had come as a total shock but he vowed to bounce back and continue his career in football.

Hughton was axed by the Premier League club on 6 December despite having guided the north-east club from the Championship back to the top flight of English football this season.

Newcastle were in 11th place when Hughton, who’d several times stepped in as caretaker boss during some typically turbulent times in the club’s recent history, was sacked to the widespread disbelief of many leading English football figures.

And Hughton, in an interview with Sky Sports on Friday, admitted he hadn’t seen his departure from St James’ Park coming.

“I got a phonecall in the morning from the managing director (Derek Llambias),” Hughton said. — Internet

Japan to play Montenegro, New Zealand in friendlies

TOKYO, 25 Dec — Japan will play friendlies against Montenegro and New Zealand in March to prepare for the World Cup qualifiers, the Japan Football Association said on Friday.

Japan will play Montenegro on 25 March and New Zealand in March to prepare for the World Cup qualifiers. — Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

Hodgson backs Torres to rediscover goal touch

LIVERPOOL, 25 Dec — Liverpool manager Roy Hodgson believes key striker Fernando Torres will rediscover his deadly accuracy in front of goal, starting with Sunday’s trip to Blackpool.

The Spanish World Cup winner has scored just five Premier League goals this season and wasted a golden chance in Liverpool’s 3-1 loss at Newcastle two weeks ago in the team’s last away game.

But Hodgson insists Torres is not struggling.

Couture, Boyle score in Sharks’ win over Oilers

SAN JOSE, 25 Dec — Logan Couture and Dan Boyle scored 3:28 apart in the second period, leading the San Jose Sharks past the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 on Tuesday night.

Antero Niittymaki stopped 26 shots to beat the Oilers for the third time this season and give the Sharks their first three-game winning streak.

Dustin Penner scored for the Oilers, who lost for the third time in four games. Nikolai Khabibulin made 28 saves, but Edmonton’s three-game winning streak on the road ended.

Couture netted his fourth goal in three games against fellow NHL rookie of the year contenders Jordan Eberle and Taylor Hall. Eberle had four goals in his previous three games, and Hall had three assists in the Oilers’ 6-3 victory over Columbus on Thursday.

Maradona threatens legal action against Grondona

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Dec — Diego Maradona threatened legal action against Argentine football association president Julio Grondona on Friday as their bitter post-World Cup war of words took another dramatic twist.

“I am not going to go on about Grondona. I am going directly to see my lawyers to start an action after all he has said. He has lost control,” Maradona told the Clarín newspaper.

Maradona and Grondona have been at loggerheads since the Argentine football legend was deposed as coach following the team’s 4-0 defeat to Germany at the World Cup quarter-finals.

On Thursday, the 79-year-old Grondona hit back at Maradona for describing him as “senile.”

“I am not senile. I am not an informer and I never will be,” said the federation chief.

Inter look to Leonardo to launch renaissance

ROSE, 25 Dec — Leonardo on Friday crossed the great San Siro divide, the former AC Milan coach being named as the successor to Rafael Benitez as boss of Inter Milan.

The appointment makes him the fifth man to have coached both Milan giants.

Long on personality, short on managerial experience, Leonardo Nascimento de Araujo was appointed AC Milan manager in May 2009, as successor to Chelsea-bound Carlo Ancelotti still lacking the required managerial badges. He imposed a characteristic attacking system of play but was barely settling into the job when he and the club parted company at the end of the 2009-2010 season, his last game in charge a 3-0 win over Juventus.

Maradona looked at the San Siro war of words took another dramatic twist.
Over 450 evacuated after land sinks in E China, salt mining blamed

NANCHANG, 25 Dec—A land cave-in prompted the evacuation of more than 450 villagers Friday night in east China’s Jiangxi Province, said local authorities.

Excessive salt mining caused the land to sink, according to an initial investigation.

With a diameter of 50 meters and a maximum depth of 5 meters, the cave-in occurred at 8:40 p.m. Thursday in Zhoutian Township, Huichang County in Jiangxi, said a local government spokesman.

Villagers said they had seen water spurting out of the ground, with jets reaching up to 2 meters high, and Thursday in Zhoutian Township, Huichang County in east China’s Jiangxi Province, said local authorities.

Tuesday in Zhoutian Township, Huichang County in east China’s Jiangxi Province, said local authorities.

Saturday, 25th December, 2010

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather has been generally fair in Chin and Kayah States, Lower Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Regions and partly cloudy in the remaining States.

Night temperatures were (4°C) above December average temperatures in Taninthayi Region, (6°C) above December average temperature in Mon States, and (3°C) to (5°C) below December average temperatures in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States. Upper Sagain, Mandalay and Bago Regions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions.

The significant night temperatures were Pindraung (-2°C), Nandaw, Heho and Loilem (0°C) each, Haka (1°C) and Taunggyi (3°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthaung (0.28) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2010 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 25-12-2010 was 54°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-12-2010 was (64%).

Rainfall on 25-12-2010 was (Nil) at Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Over 450 evacuated after land sinks in E China, salt mining blamed

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2010 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 25-12-2010 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-12-2010 was (54%).

Over 450 evacuated after land sinks in E China, salt mining blamed

Total sunshine hours on 24-12-2010 was (9.8) hours.

Rainfall on 25-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mingaladon, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (12:30) hours MST on 24-12-2010.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 26th December 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin, Rakhine and Mon States and Upper Sagain, Yangon and Ayeawaddy Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-12-2010: Generally fair weather.
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

Taking fire preventive measures, key to cut fire outbreaks

Article: Kyaw Zeyar Myint; Photo: Aye Min (Fire Services Department)

As a number of fire outbreaks were reported around the country on these days, I made an interview with officials at Fire Services Department (Headquarters) to inform the public of fire preventive measures and measures to be taken when fire breaks out.

Assistant Director Ye Kyaw Thu Tin Aye of the headquarters said, “It is much effectual that the media joins us in preventing fire. Oxygen, heat and fuel are required to make a fire. I want the public to know that one of those is needed to be removed to put out fire.”

When asked about the dissemination of fire preventive knowledge, the assistant director explained that 91 factories in Yangon which are assigned as first priority for fire risk are under supervision of the assistant director’s team and educative talks will also be given in 61 factories with second priority of fire outbreak potentials. In each markets and wards, respective auxiliary fire brigades are giving talks and demonstrating fire drills. The dangers of fire were shown on projectors in schools.

(See page 9)

Yangon Region Inter-school Cricket Competitions end

Yangon, 25 Dec — Yangon Region Inter-school Cricket Competitions concluded on 23 December, and Mingaladon No. 6 Basic Education Middle School won the first prize in the girls’ open event while Mingaladon No. 5 Basic Education High School seized the first prize in the boys’ open event.

The competitions was organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No. 3 Basic Education Department. The final matches and prize presentation of the competitions were held at the sports ground of Lannadow No. 1 BEHS.

Mingalataungnyunt No. 3 BEHS and Ahlon No. 4 BEHS won the second and third prizes in the girls’ open event. Ahlon No. 4 BEHS won the second while Dagon No. 2 BEHS and Kyauktada BEHS shared the third in the boys’ open event.

The deputy director-general of No. 3 BED and the president of MCF awarded the winners.

MNA

Monsoon paddy harvested in Maubin

Yangon, 25 Dec — The harvesting ceremony was held at Yadana Win quality-strain monsoon paddy model plot of farmer U Nay Win in Tamalo village of Maleto village-tract in Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

It was attended by Township Manager U Nyi Lay Maung of Myanma Agriculture Service, Assistant Staff Officer U Myint Tun of Township Settlement and Land Records Department, officials and local farmers. The 30-acre farmland has yielded 73.26 baskets of dried paddy per acre.—MNA