Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrives on goodwill visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—A goodwill Bangladeshi delegation led by Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina arrived here on a goodwill visit by special flight at 4 pm today.

The delegation was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin and departmental heads, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Maj-Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, ndc, psc and Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Min Lwin.

The visiting Bangladeshi Prime Minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni, high-ranking officials and entrepreneurs. MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (5-12-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rainfall (inches)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mingin</td>
<td>1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gyobingauk</td>
<td>1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathein</td>
<td>1.10</td>
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<td>Kawthoung</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cocogyun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meiktila</td>
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NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander’s solar panel and the lander’s Robotic Arm with a sample in the scoop are seen in this image taken 10 June, 2008 by the lander’s Surface Stereo Imager.
**Union Cooperatives and L&F Minister addresses opening of fish hatching course**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec —** Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint delivered an address at the opening of mixed breeding of fish and prawn and fish hatching basic course (3/2011) at the University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) this morning.

In his address, the Union minister called for sustainability of fisheries sector in Myanmar, conservation of marine resources, sharing new methods in fish hatching and creating job opportunities in fisheries sector. Poverty alleviation programmes can be realized by boosting fish production.

**At the residence of Thai Ambassador, Mr. Kallayana Vipattipumiprat, Charge d’Affaires ai of Thai Embassy to Myanmar, welcomes Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife at the reception to mark 84th birthday of His Majesty King of Thailand and the National Day on 5 December, 2011.**

**NDA**

**ODA policy consultation meeting held**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—** The Japan-Myanmar Official Development Assistance (ODA) Policy Consultation Meeting was held here on 28 November. The Japanese delegation was represented by Mr Kimihiro Ishikane, Deputy Director-General, South-east & Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, accompanied by officials from relevant ministries. The Myanmar side was led by Daw Myat Myat Soe, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar and was represented of relevant ministries.

At the meeting, discussion was held on development policies of the new administration of Myanmar Government, as well as on Japan’s assistance policies on ODA for sustainable economic development of Myanmar, including the formulation of projects that can be implemented under the current Japan’s economic cooperation policy towards Myanmar. Both countries agreed to build upon the meeting to further enhance coordination in the future.

**Blood analyzer donated to Yangon West General Hospital**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—** Under the auspices of Myittashin Sayadaw Ashin Javana, U Aung Hsan Oo (Saya U Aung Kyaw Than-Maths) and Saya U Than Lwin (Chemistry) presented K 5.3 for purchase of a blood analyzer collectively donated by U Aung Hsan Oo (Saya U Aung Kyaw Than-Maths), wife Daw Tin Huar Naing, teachers, students and friends to Yangon West General Hospital in Kyimyindaing Township, Yangon Region, on 16 November.

Medical Superintendent Dr U Khin Tint and in-charge of child ward Prof Dr Daw Khin Swe accepted the donation. Also present on the occasion were Dhammapala Sayadaw Ashin Pakatankara, on behalf of the Myittashin Sayadaw, disciples and some students.

The donation was contributed by this year’s students of 8th, 9th and 10th standards, teachers and friends. — **NLM**

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**Restrictions on company registration relaxed**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—** For companies to register, different job aims were prescribed depending on the classification of businesses. For trading companies, there was a requirement to submit any five out of 14 job aims for their registration; while for companies involved in manufacturing, to submit any four out of six job aims. However, the State has relaxed the restrictions on company registration in order that entrepreneurs from various economic sectors can get more opportunities and free from any difficulties in doing business. Entrepreneurs can now do business freely and two-year company license has been extended to three years, it is learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration.

**Students and examination**

Everyone who wants to be successful in life has their ambition, whether it is for knowledge or making money. Only with ambition, can they be successful and reach their goal. The goal of those trying to make money is to achieve prosperity. The goal of students or those seeking knowledge is to do well in their examinations.

Indeed, exams are the way students show their quality. And those exams will show how hard they have worked. The decisive factor for quality is only for hardworking students.

Authorities have announced the timetable of matriculation examination to be held in March 2012. Examinations will start on 12 March. The matriculation is only three months away.

Matriculation examination is more important than any other final exam because it will decide on one’s own life. Getting high marks in every subject guarantees more life opportunities and free from any economic sectors can get more opportunities and free from any difficulties in doing business. Entrepreneurs can now do business freely and two-year company license has been extended to three years, it is learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration.

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So, it is time that all students worked the hardest on their school lessons. It is important to learn prospective questions and ways of answering questions in accord with the prescribed marking rules. Students will be able to do well in their examination only if they learn the sample questions repeatedly.

Overall, each and every student needs to work hard to take their examination, which is their goal in life.
Hundreds of flights cancelled due to
Beijing smog

BEIJING, 5 Dec—Beijing authorities cancelled hundreds of flights and shut highways as thick smog descended on the Chinese Capital on Sunday and Monday, reducing visibility at one of the world’s busiest airports.

Air quality in Beijing reached “hazardous” levels on Monday, according to the US embassy, which conducts its own measurements, while China’s State Xinhua news agency said pollution was likely to reach “dangerous” levels.

Nearly 400 flights were cancelled on Sunday, China’s state television network CCTV reported. By midday Monday, Beijing’s main airport — the second busiest in the world — had cancelled 132 domestic and five international flights, according to its website.

Television footage of the airport concourse showed thousands of stranded passengers being turned away, or waiting around in hopes of booking later flights if the smog lifted.

Most major highways linking Beijing to other parts of north China were closed early Monday due to the smog, but sections of some roads began opening throughout the day as the visibility improved, CCTV reported.

Internet

Six killed, nine injured in Iraq’s violence

BAGHDAD, 5 Dec—Six people were killed and nine others injured in separate bomb attacks in north and central Iraq on Sunday, the police said.

In northern Iraq, two civilians were killed and three others wounded when a bomb went off inside a house in Durnez District in the south of the City of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In Baghdad, a roadside bomb detonated in Camp Sara District in the southeast of the capital, injuring six civilians, an Interior Ministry source anonymously told Xinhua. Earlier in the day, the police reported the killing of four Iraqi soldiers when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol in central Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of Baghdad. —Xinhua

Indonesia closes airport after
volcano erupts

JAKARTA, 5 Dec—Indonesia closed a domestic airport in eastern Indonesia on Monday after a volcano spewed ash 2,000 metres into the air, an official said.

Mount Gamalama, which forms the entire island of Ternate in North Maluku Province, erupted late Sunday and forced an airport in Ternate town at its foot to close Monday due to the smog, a witness told Xinhua.

“It’s a safety measure. The volcanic ash may pose a risk to planes. If there is no more eruption, the airport may be opened,” the witness said.

A 1,715-metre (5,630 feet) volcano caused some panic in 2003, when no fatalities were recorded.

“Panic for a while, screaming as they ran out of their homes,” he added. Lamane said that the volcano last erupted in 2003, when no fatalities were recorded.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific “Ring of Fire” where continental plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity. The archipelago nation is home to 129 active volcanoes, including 21 on Java. —Internet

Two killed, six injured in clash in eastern Afghanistan

ASADABAD, 5 Dec—An Afghan civilian and a soldier were killed and six civilians were injured Sunday night in a clash that took place in country’s Kunar Province, 185 km east of Capital Kabul, an official said on Monday.

“We are in the early stage of investigation into the incident, which has plunged the two uneasy allies into a diplomatic crisis. Obama “made clear that this regrettable incident was not a deliberate attack on Pakistan and reiterated the United States’ strong commitment to a full investigation,” the statement said.

Islamabad has so far refused to take part in a US investigation into the 26 November air strikes on the Afghan border.

But the White House said Obama and Zardari nonetheless “reaffirmed their commitment to the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship, which is critical to the security of both nations, and they agreed to stay in close touch.”

In the wake of the strikes, Pakistan decided not to take part in the Bonn Conference on the future of Afghanistan that opens Monday — a decision which, together with the Taleban’s boycott, has cast the event’s usefulness into doubt. —Internet

Obama condolences for Pakistan airstrike deaths

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—President Barack Obama on Sunday expressed condolences to Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari for the deaths last month of 24 Pakistani troops, saying the NATO airstrikes that killed them were not a “deliberate attack.”

A White House statement said Obama placed a call early Sunday to Zardari expressing his regrets over the “tragic loss” and promising a “full investigation” into the incident, which has plunged the two uneasy allies into a diplomatic crisis.

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Business

Japan’s Olympus hid up to $1.7b, but no call for charges

Tokyo, 5 Dec—An investigative panel has found Japan’s disgraced Olympus Corp hid up to $1.67 billion US dollars in losses from its investors, but stopped short of recommending criminal charges against executives involved in the cover-up, a source said on Monday.

Separately, the Nikkei newspaper said that the panel was likely to state it had found no proof that the funds flowed to organized crime syndicates, as part of its report into the scandal engulfing the once-proud maker of cameras and medical equipment. The panel’s report is due to be released as soon as Tuesday, almost two months after Olympus’s sacked chief executive, Englishman Michael Woodford, went public with his concerns over the firm’s accounting for a string of murky acquisitions.

MNA/Reuters

Online sales reach $6B in week after Thanksgiving

New York, 5 Dec—US shoppers are still spending heavily online after a record-busting “Cyber Monday,” research firm comScore Inc said Sunday. The firm, which tracks Web use, found shoppers spent nearly $6 billion online on Monday through Friday last week, a record. On Cyber Monday itself, sales reached $1.25 billion, the biggest online shopping day in history. Online sales on Tuesday and Wednesday also broke $1 billion. Cyber Monday sales topped $1 billion for the first time last year. ComScore says online sales are up 15 percent to $18.7 billion in November and the first two days of December, compared with the same period last year.

The holiday shopping season can make up to 40 percent of retailers’ annual revenue. This year’s holiday shopping has risen with help from discounting and promotions. Free shipping also appears to be a big draw, applying to 63 percent of sales, up from 52 percent a year ago.

“Consumers have come to expect free shipping during the holiday promotion periods, and retailers, in turn, have realized that they must offer this incentive,” said comScore chairman Gian Fulgoni in a statement. Online shopping accounts for between 8 and 10 percent of overall holiday shopping, by various estimates. ComScore’s spending figures exclude travel, auctions and large corporate purchases. Spending on items including clothing, general merchandise, toys and electronics and in department stores, rose 4.7 percent to $125 billion in the 30 Oct, 26 Nov period, according to MasterCard Advisor’s SpendingPulse.

People stand in front of an old grocery store on 2 December, 2011 in Rome. Local associations say that seven small businesses a day in Rome and the surrounding region are going belly-up, with rents on the rise, bank financing ever more elusive and consumer spending on the slide for months.—INTERNET

Business

China’s new loans may increase slightly in 2012

Shanghai, 5 Dec—China’s new bank loans in 2012 may increase slightly from this year’s quota of 7.5 trillion yuan ($1.18 trillion), but the government will maintain lending curbs on the property sector, the China Business News reported on Monday, citing an official from the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC).

“The growth in new loans should rise depending on economic growth. But I don’t think it will be too different from what we have this year,” Yan Qingming, assistant to the chairman of CBRC, was quoted as saying.

Yan also said the government would continue to restrict bank lending to the property sector next year and that Beijing will closely monitor property-loan risks as prices fall.

Of China’s 53 trillion yuan of outstanding loans issued in the first nine months of this year, about 10 trillion yuan went to the property sector, the paper said, citing official statistics. China’s trust firms also have about 7 percent of their outstanding lending, estimated at about 10 trillion yuan, exposed to the property sector.

Chinese banks extended a total of 6.3 trillion yuan in new local currency loans in the first 10 months of 2011, still far below the estimated annual credit quota of 7.5 trillion yuan set at the beginning of this year. Local media have reported that new bank loans would not exceed the quota this year, citing industry sources.

Reuters

Business

Chile row pressures Anglo American CEO

London, 5 Dec—Global miner Anglo American’s CEO Cynthia Carroll is under pressure to resolve a row with Chile’s state copper giant Codelco swiftly or shareholders will demand changes at the top, the Financial Times reported on Monday. Anglo shocked Codelco and investors in November when it sold a 24.5 percent stake in its Monday. Anglo shocked Codelco and investors in November when it sold a 24.5 percent stake in its

Chief Executive Officer of Anglo American Cynthia Carroll attends the G20 CEO Summit in Seoul on 10 Nov, 2010.—INTERNET

Business

3-D TV Doesn’t raise seizure risk for kids with epilepsy

Munich, 5 Dec—Children with epilepsy did not appear to face an increased risk for seizures while watching 3-D TV, a new German-Austrian study suggests.

However, the results did reveal that about one in five of these children is vulnerable to other unpleasant reactions when viewing 3-D television, including nausea, headaches and dizziness.

“Normal people have a very low risk to get a seizure while watching 3-D,” explained study author Dr Herbert Pitschke, executive director of the University of Munich’s Generation Research Programme. In contrast, he noted that people with epilepsy — particularly children — could be expected to have a “higher vulnerability” in terms of overall seizure risk in such a setting.

Recently, some researchers cautioned that nearly one-third of all viewers may be prone to experiencing headaches and/or eye fatigue when viewing a 3-D movie because of poor eye coordination. The resulting strain, they said, could prompt an unpleasant experience equivalent to that of seasickness. The team focused on 100 children (average age 12) who had epilepsy or were deemed to be at risk for epilepsy.

All the kids underwent a standard test for photosensitivity. Each was then asked to wear 3-D glasses and sit about six-and-a-half feet away from a 50-inch plasma 3-D TV. During 15 minutes of viewing, only one child experienced a seizure, and that particular child was noted as being prone to routinely experiencing three to four seizures per day.—INTERNET

Health

Children need at least an hour of moderate to strenuous physical activity every day to stay healthy, according to experts. But many kids just aren’t getting that much exercise. And most groups are unanimous on the prime culprit: sedentary entertainment, meaning the temptations of the TV, computer, and video games.

INTERNET

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INTERNET
The Royal Society, Interface, a journal of study published in the human colonization could be dependent on survival of humanity believe the ultimate Stephen Hawking — Many experts — studied their progress. Shuttle Discovery, and on board the Space or C elegans, into space blasted 4,000 of the Szewczyk from like Mars by giving clues helping humans may be the key to very similar to humans which are biologically British scientists believe deposited on an array films opens the door of regularly spaced indentations on the lists. Released 30 Novem- help kids and parents create a new application for the International Space Station. Amazon releases ‘Santa app’ for Kindle Fire, iPad Los Angeles, 5 Dec—Online retailer Amazon launched on 30 November a new application for the Kindle Fire and iPad to help kids and parents create and share personalized gift lists. Released 30 November per for iPad and Kindle Fire, the free Amazon Santa app enables children and parents to create personalized Christmas wish lists composed of products in the Amazon store. Once children have compiled a wish list it can be edited by parents and shared via email with relatives, once a gift is bought it will be removed from the list to avoid repeat purchases. The app requires sign in with an Amazon account and lists can only be shared with contacts selected by parents. Amazon, which last month also released an Android version of its price comparison app Price Check, is not the only retailer releasing apps in the run-up to the holiday season. Retail giant Walmart released an iPhone app on November 17; and on November 21 eBay updated its iPad app to include a ‘watch with eBay’ function which recommends product choices based on the user’s real-time TV viewing habits.—Internet Los Angeles, 5 Dec—Microsoft Corp is rolling out a new interface for its Xbox game console users — one that allows you to navigate through music, movies, TV shows and games with the wave of your hand or the sound of your voice. The interface, first demonstrated by CEO Steve Ballmer in September, is set up similarly to Microsoft Corp’s upcoming Windows 8 operating system with a series of large panes showing content options. Xbox owners with the Kinect motion controller can swipe through screens by waving their hand in the air. It also responds to direct voice commands, and incorporates Microsoft’s search engine, Bing. Windows phone users can control what to watch or hear by tapping on their portable devices. The interface will be available to Xbox users connected to the Internet via a download on Tuesday. In a demonstration for The Associated Press, a Microsoft employee demonstrated how saying, clearly, ‘Xbox. Bing. ‘Iron Man,’ ‘brought up a selection of movies, TV shows, games and soundtracks related to the title. Saying “Xbox. Show. Movies,” brought up places to rent or buy the movie, including Microsoft’s Zune store, Wal-Mart’s Vudu, Netflix or pay TV channel Epix.—Internet

“Community” gets syndication deal with Hulu

Los Angeles, 5 Dec—The network future of NBC’s “Community”—alarming absent from the midseason schedule that the network released last month — might be up in the air, but digital-age couch potatoes are in luck.

Hulu announced Friday that it has struck an exclusive deal to syndicate the series, with new episodes of the series airing the next day on Hulu’s subscription service Hulu Plus, along with the entire two-season catalog of the series in HD. The deal went into place Friday.

Users of Hulu’s free service will have access to five episodes of the current season the day after airing. Hulu said the “large contingency of die-hard ‘Community’ fans out there” as a factor in striking the deal, noting that the series was the top-performing comedy in the service’s “Best in Show” competition two year in a row. “Hulu is all about finding a specific show that we know will resonate with a specific audience segment on Hulu,” a statement from the company said. “We want to create a place where ‘Community’ fans can watch the show and share your favorite hilarious moments with your friends using Hulu’s social features like Facebook Connect and the Hulu app on Facebook.”—Internet

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Microscopic worms may hold key to living on Mars

London, 5 Dec—British scientists believe microscopic worms which are biologically very similar to humans may be the key to helping humans colonize other planets like Mars by giving clues on coping with long-term space living. A team of scientists led by Nathaniel Szewczyk from Nottingham University blasted 4,000 of the worms, known as Caenorhabditis elegans, or C elegans, into space on board the Space Shuttle Discovery, and studied their progress. Many experts — including astrophysic-ist Stephen Hawking — believe the ultimate survival of humanity could be dependent on the human colonization of other planets. In a study published in Interface, a journal of The Royal Society, Szewczyk’s team found that in space, their worms developed from egg to adulthood and produced offspring just as they do on earth.

This makes them an ideal and cost-effective experimental way to study the possible effects of long-term and long-distance space exploration in humans, they said. The researchers were able to successfully monitor the effect of low Earth orbit (LEO) on 12 generations of C elegans during the first three months of a six month voyage on the International Space Station. “While it may seem surprising, many of the biological changes that happen during spaceflight affect astronauts and worms in the same way,” Szewczyk said. “We have been able to show that worms can grow and reproduce in space for long enough to reach another planet and that we can remotely monitor their health.”

Szewczyk’s team worked with experts at the Universities of Pittsburgh and Colorado in the United States and the Simon Fraser University in Canada, to develop a compact automated C elegans culturing system which could be monitored remotely for the effects of environmental toxins and in-flight radiation. —Reuters

The Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 is displayed at the KT Mobile showroom in Seoul. Samsung has welcomed a ruling by a US court rejecting Apple Inc’s request for a preliminary injunction against sales of some of its Galaxy smartphones and tablet computers.—INTERNET

Tech

Microsoft releases ‘Santa app’ for Kindle Fire, iPad

Los Angeles, 5 Dec—Online retailer Amazon launched on 30 November a new application for the Kindle Fire and iPad to help kids and parents create and share personalized gift lists. Released 30 November per for iPad and Kindle Fire, the free Amazon Santa app enables children and parents to create personalized Christmas wish lists composed of products in the Amazon store. Once children have compiled a wish list it can be edited by parents and shared via email with relatives, once a gift is bought it will be removed from the list to avoid repeat purchases.

The app requires sign in with an Amazon account and lists can only be shared with contacts selected by parents. Amazon, which last month also released an Android version of its price comparison app Price Check, is not the only retailer releasing apps in the run-up to the holiday season. Retail giant Walmart released an iPhone app on November 17; and on November 21 eBay updated its iPad app to include a ‘watch with eBay’ function which recommends product choices based on the user’s real-time TV viewing habits.—Internet

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Russia’s ruling party to win Duma majority

MOSCOW, 5 Dec—Russia’s Central Election Commission (CEC) announced Monday that the ruling United Russia party won 49.54 percent of the votes after 95.71 percent of the ballots were counted. According to the CEC, the United Russia may gain 238 seats out of the 450 seats and enjoy a majority in the State Duma, or the lower house of the parliament. The United Russia was followed by the Communist Party with 19.16 percent. A Just Russia party garnered 13.22 percent, compared with 11.66 percent for the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. The seven political parties competing in the elections are the ruling United Russia party, the main opposition the Communist Party, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, A Just Russia, the Yabloko, the Patriots of Russia and the Right Cause.—Xinhua

India’s uranium mines cast a health shadow

NEW DELHI, 5 Dec—Gudiyas Das whines as flies settle on her face, waiting for her mother to swat them while she lies on a cot in Ichra, one in a cluster of villages around India’s only functioning uranium mines. The 12-year-old, whose skeletal frame makes her look about half her age, was diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy when she was a year old. “Back then there were 33 disabled kids here, now there are more than a hundred,” her father, Chhatau Das told AFP in his home in Jaduguda valley in the eastern state of Jharkhand. For Das and his wife Lakshmi, who have lost six children before the age of one, there is only one possible culprit — the nearby mines run by the state-owned Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL). “I know there is some connection between the mining and what’s happened to my daughter,” Lakshmi told AFP. “It’s because of the uranium in the water here.” Environmental groups say the mining company is polluting the groundwater by dumping radioactive waste inside three tailings ponds which hold the sludge produced by the mining process — a charge vehemently denied by UCIL.—Internet

Namibia vulnerable to climate change, tries carbon trading

WINDHOEK, 5 Dec—Slowly the old woman stacks freshly cut branches into a bundle and puts it on her head. Bent and burdened, she shuffles along a dusty footpath to a humble tin shack on the outskirts of Windhoek. “There are fewer trees left to get firewood. When I came here five years ago to live with my daughter, there were more trees than shacks. Today there are shacks all over but few trees,” said Laimi Mbinja. “It is sad — the trees are vanishing.” Unable to afford electricity, the 58-year-old widow needs firewood to cook. But as she and other migrants have moved to Namibia’s capital, their tree-chopping has helped the desert expand, leaving the country even more exposed to the threats of global warming. The Windhoek municipality is taking a first step toward fighting climate change with a scheme to harness methane produced by decomposing landfill waste to generate electricity.

Under the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Namibia can sell “credits” generated by reducing the methane output to companies in the rich world that need help meeting emissions-cutting targets. The sale of those credits is estimated at 2.3 million Namibian dollars ($280,000, 207,000 euros) annually, which would cover the cost of the investment within five years, while cutting down the city’s electricity use.

A similar project will harness methane from the digestion of sewage sludge at a wastewater treatment plant to generate electricity for the city, said the city’s chief engineer Cobus de Waal. “We are hoping that what we are doing can inspire other servicedomains and their families who have gone through similar or worse experiences,” Row2Recovery spokesmen Sam Peters said.

The seven political parties competing in the elections are the ruling United Russia party, the main opposition the Communist Party, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, A Just Russia, the Yabloko, the Patriots of Russia and the Right Cause.—Xinhua

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (L) and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin meet members of the United Russia party and its supporters at the party’s headquarters in Moscow, Russia, on 4 Dec, 2011, after the completion of the country’s sixth parliamentary elections.—Xinhua

100,000 killed, hurt by abandoned weapons in Vietnam

HANOI, 5 Dec—More than 100,000 Vietnamese have been killed or injured by land mines or other abandoned explosives since the Vietnam War ended nearly 40 years ago, and it will take decades more to clear all of the country, officials said Monday. “The war’s painful legacy, which includes millions of tons of bombs and unexploded ordnance, continues to cause painful casualties every day,” Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung told a United Nations-sponsored conference on ways to deal with the problem.

Dung said 42,132 people have been killed and 62,163 others wounded by land mines, bombs and other explosives since the war ended in 1975. The United States used about 16 million tons of bombs and ammunition while allied with the former South Vietnam government, which was defeated by northern communist fighters who reunified the country.

US Ambassador David Shear told the conference that the United States has provided $62 million to help Vietnam cope with “this painful legacy.”

Injured British soldiers set for trans-Atlantic rowing challenge

LONDON, 5 Dec—Four British servicemen who were seriously injured in Iraq or Afghanistan are set to depart Monday on a grueling trans-Atlantic rowing challenge. They are part of a six-man team that intends to make the roughly 3,000-mile (4,800-kilometre) trip from the Spanish island of La Gomera in the Canaries to the Caribbean island of Barbados.

The voyage, dubbed “Row2Recovery,” had originally been scheduled to get under way Sunday at 12:30 pm (1230 GMT) but it was put off for 24 hours due to high winds. Two of the team members had one of their legs amputated, one needed a double above-knee amputation while the fourth was left with his right leg shorter than the other following surgery for a severed nerve and needs a leg brace to walk. The remaining two team members had not sustained injuries.

“The Ruacana waterfalls on the Kunene River flow in 2008 in Namibia. —Internet

British corporal Neil Heritage, member of the Row2Recovery team who lost both legs while serving in Iraq, prepares for the “Atlantic Challenge 2011” rowing regata on the Spanish Canary Island of La Gomera. —Internet

“Row2Recovery” team lost both legs while serving in Iraq. —Internet

“The team hopes to raise over £1 million ($1.6 million, 1.16 million euros) for three charities supporting wounded servicemen. They have already collected over £600,000 pounds in pledges. —Internet

Indonesian President M. Sofyan Dawood addresses the media in Jakarta. —Internet
Prize presentation ceremony to outstanding students in 2010-2011 matriculation exam held in Yinmabin Tsp

NAW PII TAW, 5 Dec—The prize presentation ceremony to students of Yinmabin Township who outstandingly passed 2010-2011 matriculation exam and to teachers who helped them win distinctions was held in People’s Hall of Yinmabin Township in Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 3 December. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thaung Sein, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Saw Myint Oo, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kan Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thaung Han, Region Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Myint Thein and officials awarded outstanding students in matriculation exam.

The Union minister, Deputy Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Thaung Sein, Region Minister U Saw Myint Oo, wellwishers U Sein Nyo and wife Daw San Yin, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kan Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thaung Han, Region Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Myint Thein and officials awarded outstanding students in matriculation exam.

The Union minister presented cash award for teachers, K 3 million for construction of libraries in two villages with the funding of the State and for the same purpose in one village with the funding of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, publications for rural libraries through officials.

On behalf of the award-winning students, four distinctions winner Ma Htoo Htoo Aung expressed thanks. The ceremony came to an end with the song performed by the students.

The Union minister and party cordially greeted those present after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Myanmar delegation back from China

YANGON, 5 Dec—The Myanmar Hluttaw delegation led by Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo was welcomed back by Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and officials. The Myanmar delegation led by U Hla Myint Oo comprised Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Ko Ko Tun of Aunglan Township Constituency in Magway Region, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Saw Hla Tun of ChiangU Township Constituency in Sagaing Region, Members of the International Relations Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Nelson (a) U Hsaung Hsi of Shan State, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Kyaw of Natmauk Township Constituency in Magway Region, Defence Services Personnel Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Aung of Pyin Oo Township Constituency in Magway Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker’s Office.

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Roads in Ygn to be closed temporarily on 8 Dec

YANGON, 5 Dec—Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic from the People’s Republic of China will be conveyed from Yangon Region to Mandalay Region at 6 am on 8 December. The conveyance from Kaba Aye Maha Pasana Cave to Yangon International Airport will use Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Pyay Road. During the conveyance, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road (from Parami Junction to 8-mile Junction) and Pyay Road (from 8-mile Junction to Airport Junction) will be closed temporarily. Vehicles are urged to use any alternative route.
**Special Appellate Bench hears special civil appeal cases**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—** Special Appellate Bench comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt and U Aung Zaw Thein heard six special civil appeal cases at Office No (1) of the Supreme Court of the Union this morning. **MNA**

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**U Nyunt Hlaing appointed as Ambassador to ROK**

**NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec—** The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Nyunt Hlaing, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea.—**MNA**

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**Course on Training of Trainers for Civil Service No. 2/2011 conducted**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—** AASEAN Resource Centre for Training of Trainers for Civil Service established at the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) conducted a course on Training of Trainers for Civil Service No (2/2011) at the UCSB office No. 17, here, this morning. U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the UCSB delivered an opening address on the occasion.

The opening ceremony was also attended by members of the UCSB Dr Win Myint, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay and U Soe Oo, heads of department under the UCSB, officials, course instructors and the trainees.

A total of 30 trainees from the training centres of various ministries, organizations and two Central Civil Institute of Civil Service are currently attending the course covering five modules focusing on training matters and methodologies. The duration of the course will be four weeks. **MNA**

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**Well-wishers generously donate cash and kind for Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic**

**YANGON, 5 Dec—** The Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic is being kept for public obeisance in Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, 14th day today.

Officials accepted cash donated by 378 well-wishers including K 1,060,000 donated by U Maung Maung-Daw Pan Pwint Shein, one piece of ruby and one gold ring made of six pieces of diamond, one gold ring and one soft gold bracelet made of 29 pieces of diamond worth K 1,084,000 by Major Soe Naing-Dhan Khin Thida, one gold ring and one gold chain worth K 989,000 by the family in memory of Daw Saw Myaing, one hand chain made of 12 pieces of peridot and one necklace made of 18 pieces of peridot worth K 958,000 by Major Aye Thein-Daw Khin Su Hlaing of Yangon Region Government Office and family, one gold ring and two gold bracelets worth K 656,000 by U Hla Sein of North Okkalapa Township, two gold bracelets and one gold ring worth K 630,000 by Daw May Kyi-Daw Khin Su Hlaing of Yangon Region Government Office and family, one gold ring and two gold bracelets worth K 630,000 by Daw May Kyi-Daw Khin Su Hlaing of Yangon Region Government Office and family, one gold ring and two gold bracelets worth K 656,000 by U Hla Sein of North Okkalapa Township, two gold bracelets and one gold ring worth K 630,000 by Daw May Kyi-Daw Khin Su Hlaing of Yangon Region Government Office and family, one gold ring and two gold bracelets worth K 656,000 by U Hla Sein of North Okkalapa Township, two gold bracelets and one gold ring worth K 630,000 by Daw May Kyi-Daw Khin Su Hlaing of Yangon Region Government Office and family, one gold ring and two gold bracelets. **MNA**
Min Taing Pin Model Village gets...

The government is making necessary arrangements for improvement in health care services. Arrangements are being made to provide free general surgeries to local people one more time. He called for public contributions in medical funds of township and station hospitals.

As a drive for assisting rural development and poverty alleviation programmes being implemented by the government, a microcredit institution with the funds of 100 million kyats is being operated in Pale Township to provide necessary assistance to farmers and those who are participating of the local people with the institution develop.

The Union Minister called on parents, teachers and students to try hard for improving the image of the school, and urged students to strive for the success of their educational aims, refraining from abuse of narcotic drugs and indulging in entertainment and gambling.

Next, BEHS Headmaster U Tin Myint of Min Taing Pin Village gave an account of the new school building, and U Zaw Win, member of the board of trustees of the school, handed over documents related to the new school building to Pale Township Education Department.

Khin May Ohn and Professor Practitioner Dr. U Min Taing Pin Model Village gets...

Sagaing Region Chief Minister on inspection tasks in Kalay Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Chief Minister for Sagaing Region U Tha Aye on 29 November visited the farm No. (810) Holding number (3) of Farmer U Kyi Aung in Nai Myaung Village in Kalay Township, where he viewed progress of double cropping of green peas, and greeted the farmers who accepted his instructions on one-year cropping paddy and bean one after another to meet target.

The chief minister attended the opening ceremony of Padamyar new school building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Setaw Village, together with officials concerned. The new school was established by the State and Myanmar Libraries Foundation for establishment of eight libraries in eight villages.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Protocol Department U Aye Thaw, Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs Department U Tha Aung Nyunt and Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Min Lwin.

Together with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister were Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Maj-Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, ndc, psc and officials.

The Union Minister presented cash assistance to education staff in Pale Township, K 17,378,160 for Kantkaw new school building, K 8 million contributed by the State and Myanmar Libraries Foundation for establishment of eight libraries in eight villages, publications for 54 libraries and 100 C1 sheets for construction of Post Primary School in Hsakkingyi Village to officials concerned.

Min Taing Pin Model Village gets...

Union Foreign Minister calls on Bangladeshi Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin called on Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, who is currently here on a goodwill visit, at Myat Tawwin Hotel at 6.30 pm today.

On the occasion, both sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on strengthening of bilateral friendship, economic cooperation and international issues.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Protocol Department U Aye Thaw, Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs Department U Tha Aung Nyunt and Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Min Lwin.

Together with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister were Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Maj-Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, ndc, psc and officials.

The newly-opened 140 feet long and 30 feet wide two-storey school building was built with the fund of K 52,878,160 raised by the Union Minister and cash donations of local people totaling K 66,611,227.

The construction works started on 12 July, 2011 and completed in September.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister and party cordially greeted local people.

Winter Hiking Team on way to go up Saramati

YANGON, 5 Dec—Executive of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Patron of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association Member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Professor Practitioner Dr Khin May Ohn and Chairman of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association Associate Professor U Myo Thant led a 25-member group, namely Selected Winter Hiking Team, which left Yangon for Leishi Township of Khamti District in Sagaing Region on 28 November.

The team will climb Mount Saramati (12553 ft) on India-Myanmar borderline. The team will provide health care to local people in villages of Naga ethnic races and make altruistic deeds along their route.

Running cottage industries in the region. Only through active participation of local people will the institution develop.

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Several hurt in fire at gas station near AK park

FAIRBANKS, (Alaska), 5 Dec—Authorities say several people are injured in a blaze that engulfed a gas station convenience store near Alaska’s Denali National Park. State Trooper Sgt Mike Roberts says crews suspect an explosion inside the store touched off the fire Sunday night in Cantwell. The area around the station has been sealed off as a precaution in case of gasoline tank or propane tank explosion.

Roberts says the fire was still burning late Sunday night, but it was diminishing. Several people were treated on the scene for minor burns, but two people were hospitalized with burns and another with head and back injuries from the initial blast.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported the high winds were causing problems for firefighters who are from three area departments. Cantwell is located just outside the eastern boundary of Denali National Park and about 175 miles north of Anchorage.—Internet

Four killed in crash of small plane in Colorado

SILVERTON, 5 Dec—All four people aboard a small plane were killed when it crashed in the southwest Colorado mountains, authorities said Sunday.

The single-engine plane was flying from Durango to Aspen when it crashed Saturday afternoon. Local officials say the crash site was about 1½ miles north of Silverton.

None of the victims’ names have been released, and the cause of the crash was unknown. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

The Socata TB-21 left Durango at about 1:30 pm Saturday. About 40 minutes later its emergency beacon signal was detected near Silverton, The Denver Post reported.

Bad weather cut short the search on Saturday. Temperatures in Silverton dipped to 4 degrees between Saturday night and Sunday morning, and 8 to 10 inches of snow had fallen at the scene after the crash, San Juan County Emergency Manager Kristina Maxfield said.

The plane crashed in a rugged, heavily forested area up to 11,000 feet above sea level, Maxfield told The Associated Press.

Maxfield said a search team reached the crash site Sunday and found two bodies, which were being carried to waiting vehicles, and an autopsy was planned for Monday. She and Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Fergus both confirmed to the AP that there were no survivors.—Internet

Death toll from flash flood in Indonesia increases to five

JAKARTA, 5 Dec—Death toll from a flash flood in Indonesia’s Central Sulawesi Province increased to 5 as of Monday morning, a Press statement said here. Purwo Nugroho, head of the Centre of Data, Information and Public Relation at the National Agency of Disaster Management (BNPB), said in the statement that the flash flood, hitting Bololapu Village of Central Sulawesi Province’s Sigi regency on Saturday, has claimed 5 lives and one is still missing. “Meanwhile, 412 people took refuge. Thirty six houses were ruined, 147 were heavily damaged and 46 were lightly damaged. One school and one assembly hall were heavily damaged,” said Nugroho. The Regional Agency of Disaster Management (BDPB) of Central Sulawesi Province has coordinated with related parties for emergency response.

Climate talks bust-up feared despite dire warnings

NEW YORK, 5 Dec—UN climate talks on Monday enter their second week entangled in a thick mesh of issues with no guarantee that negotiators and their ministers will be able to sort them out. The 194-nation process is facing, for the second time in two years, the prospect of a bust-up, even as scientists warn against the mounting threat of disaster-provoking storms, droughts, flood and rising seas made worse by global warming. The 12-day Durban conference is eyeing a deal which secures the future of the Kyoto Protocol, set to be cast into limbo just a year from now. It also would seek to coax China, the United States, India and Brazil into a new treaty on emissions cuts.

Wendel Trio of Greenpeace said everything now depended on the outcome of talks among environment ministers, due to start on Tuesday. “There is progress on some of the smaller technical issues, but the big political questions will have to wait till ministers arrive,” he said. The conference’s high-level session begins on Tuesday afternoon.

At the heart of the manoeuvring is the future of Kyoto, which stipulates legally-binding targets for greenhouse gases for rich countries. The European Union (EU) — nearly alone — has offered to extend its Kyoto pledges after they expire at the end of 2012. But it will do so, it says, only if major emitters — including the United States and emerging giants such as China — back plans for a new binding pact that would be completed by 2015 and take effect by 2020, when the current roster of voluntary pledges runs out.—Internet

As we all know that many children would keep kitten or puppy as their pets. But to our surprise, a six-year-old Cambodian boy keeps a 6.1-metre-long anaconda weighed at 120 kg, as his pet. The boy reportedly has made intimate friends with the anaconda nicknamed “Lucky” ever since he was three months old and has been living with the python ever since.

Flood-hit industrial parks in Thailand could resume operations by next March/April

BANGKOK, 5 Dec—All seven inundated industrial estates in central provinces of Thailand are expected to fully resume operations by March or April next year, Industry Minister Wannarat Charnnukul expressed his confidence on Sunday.

Speaking after leading a team to visit Saha Rattana Nakorn Industrial Estate in central Ayuthaya Province, the world heritage site, he added the government is currently working on a rehabilitation plan and a clear prevention plan for the future.

The Industry Ministry and related agencies are also planning road shows in other countries to boost confidence among business groups showing Thailand has a long-term flood prevention plan and that the flood situation in the country has eased, he added.

A total of seven industrial estates and parks in Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani Provinces were submerged by heaviest deluge in over 50 years in October. As a result, more than one million people have been suspended and initial loss has been anticipated at about 3.3 billion US dollars.

Floods inflicted by heavy monsoon rains and back-to-back tropical storms have ravaged the country since late July, killing more than 650 and affecting more than 13 million nationwide.—Xinhua

In this photo taken on 27 June, 2011, the remains of dead animals lay on a rural road on the outskirts of Torreon in northern Mexico. Mexico is seeing the worst drought during the winter months, and the situation will likely worsen, authorities said.—AP

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Bruce Lee’s kung fu style draws new generation

Hong Kong, 5 Dec—Sam Lau picks up his sword and waves it in a series of terrifying slashes as he runs towards a student, who retreating laughing nervously. All around them, kung fu students grapple fiercely. The pupils have come to Lau’s Hong Kong studio — some from as far away as Italy — to hone their moves in the kung fu style called wing chun, which is on the rise again decades after the death of its most famous follower, Bruce Lee.

Many credit wing chun’s renewed popularity to a series of films about Yip Man, one of the art’s greatest “sifus”, or teachers, and most famously the man who turned Lee from street fighter to martial arts legend. “I started to learn wing chun because of the movie ‘Ip Man’. He was a great person,” said Sam Ng, 12. “When Yip Man saw someone beating someone else, he would stand up and help to rescue them.” Ng shows off a series of sharp chopping gestures followed by a formal bow.

But though students may be brought to wing chun by the 2008 blockbuster starring Donnie Yen — or its sequel and prequel — it is the health and self-defence benefits that keep them sparring, said Yip’s son, Yip Ching, 77.—Internet

Rescue continues after 10 killed as wall falls in Indonesia

Jakarta, 5 Dec—Rescuers continue on Monday to search for nine missing persons being buried underneath the debris of houses after a concrete wall fell in South Sulawesi Province of Indonesia, in which ten people were killed and one was injured, according to rescuers at provincial Search and Rescue Office.

Heavy rain had the soil underneath the high concrete wall fallen along with the wall bordering between a compound of the houses complex of Villa D Mutiaras build by a developer and houses in Tanah Kukang district of South Sulawesi Province on Sunday, said Wahyu Tri Agung, rescuer at provincial Search and Rescue Office. Those from Search and Rescue Office in South Sulawesi, community and volunteers had been hand in hand to find the victims buried underneath the ruins, said Wahid Jamali another rescuer at the office. “Evacuation continue today (Monday), as the community told us there are some people still missing,” he said.

Xinhua

Twenty-two-year-old dies after completing half marathon in Singapore

Singapore, 5 Dec—A 22-year-old man collapsed after finishing 21.1 kilometre half marathon at the Standard Chartered Marathon in Singapore over the weekend, local daily Straits Times reported on Monday. Malcolm Sng Wei Ren, 22, collapsed at the finishing line on Sunday morning. He was rushed to hospital and died an hour later. The police confirmed the death of a 22-year-old at the hospital, saying that it was “looking into the matter.”

Event organizer Singapore Sports Council said in a statement that “the organizing committee will assist the police in their investigation (and) extends its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased.”

Sng was a first-year business management undergraduate at the Singapore Management University, where he was also a member of the symphonic band. He had completed Sunday’s run in one hour 53 minutes and 20 seconds in the cool weather, a decent time for an amateur runner.

Xinhua

Four billion TV viewers to watch London Olympic ceremonies

London, 5 Dec—More than four billion television viewers are expected to watch the opening and closing ceremonies for next year’s London Olympics, a minister said Sunday.

Around 20,000 performers are set to take part in the four events, which are expected to net £5 billion in advertising revenue.

“The four billion people around the world will be absolutely wowed by what they will see by the Olympic and Paralympic opening and closing ceremonies,” said Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Jeremy Hunt. “The ceremonies will be the most fantastic advert for everything that is great about our country.”

Slumdog Millionaire film-maker Danny Boyle is in charge of producing the main opening ceremony, although organizers have remained tight-lipped about which star performers will be on show.

Early rumours suggest former Beatles Paul McCartney and pop giants Take That will kick off proceedings. “The London 2012 opening and closing ceremonies will be four of the biggest moments in TV history,” said Martin Sorrell, head of advertising giant WPP.

Internet

Cambodia launches social protection strategy for poor

Phnom Penh, 5 Dec—Cambodia on Monday officially launched the National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable, aimed at protecting the poorest and most disadvantaged against chronic poverty and hunger, shocks, and destitution, said the government’s Press release.

The strategy, which will be implemented until 2015, would address the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable in situations of emergency and crisis, said the statement. It would reduce the poverty and vulnerability of children and mothers and enhance their human development.

Also, it would promote the poor to move out of poverty by building human capital and expanding employment opportunities.

The strategy would also promote affordable health care for the poor and vulnerable groups.

Speaking at the launch at the Peace Palace, Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen said the country has seen significant progress in reducing poverty rate in last decade—the national poverty rate had dropped from 34.7 percent in 2004 to 30.1 percent in 2007 and to 25.8 percent last year.

“The rate of poverty reduction drops about 1.2 percent per year,” he said. “We hope that Cambodia will be able to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by reducing the poverty rate to 19.5 percent by 2015.”

The premier noticed that despite declining poverty rate, the gaps between the rich and the poor and inequality between rural and urban areas are still challenging issues.
do what she did I wouldn’t even be here to talk about it.”—

Death experience, the 36-year-old mother told the newspaper, “They [the firefighters suffering an asthma attack and unable to breathe, 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.

World’s fastest toy car hits 100 mph

New York, 5 Dec—Radio Controlled racing car specialist Traxxas has introduced a new model that has top speed of 100 mph. The company claims it is the fastest production R/C car in the world. And it’s quick, too. The 1/7 scale car can accelerate from 0-60 mph in 2.3 seconds. That’s quicker than the world’s fastest real car, the Bugatti Veyron Super Sport.

Like the Bugatti, the XO-1 has all-wheel-drive and an independent suspension. Its bodywork was designed by computer to produce aerodynamic downforce making it stable at high speeds. It even has a vent molded into its flat underbody tray to direct cooling air to the car’s electric motor.

Girl saves mom’s life using CPR learned watching ‘Grey’s Anatomy’

Sheboygan, 5 Dec—A 10-year-old Wisconsin girl saved her mom’s life using CPR skills she learned watching the drama series “Grey’s Anatomy.” Madison Kestell and her 12-year-old friend, Katelynn Vreeke, began using the life saving techniques they had seen on the hit show on Kundace Seyferth, when they found her on the ground suffering an asthma attack and unable to breathe, The Sheboygan Press reported.

“Me and my mom watch the show every Thursday, and I learned it from there,” said Madison, of her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation skills. Recovering from her near-death experience, the 36-year-old mother told the newspaper, “They [the firefighters and paramedics] pretty much said if Maddie didn’t … remain calm and call 911 and do what she did I wouldn’t even be here to talk about it.”

Bollywood legend Dev Anand dies at 88 in London

London, 5 Dec—Legendary Bollywood actor-director Dev Anand has died in London of a heart attack, aged 88, family members say. Anand, who produced and acted in dozens of films, was unwell and had gone to London for a check up. He was known as the Adonis of Indian cinema for his good looks and the ease with which he played romantic roles. He films included Guide, Paying Guest and Jewel Thief. He continued to direct almost until the end, releasing his last film, Chargesheet, in September. In his 65-year career, which began in 1946, Anand became one of India’s iconic actor-directors. “An era has come to an end. Dev Anand leaves a void never perhaps to be filled again. He never gave up belief, his joy of life,”

Man who tried to rob closed bank in Germany jailed

Berlin, 5 Dec—A man who tried to hold up a bank that had been closed for years has been jailed by a court in Germany.

The man tried to hold up the branch in the northwestern town of Walchum in May with a toy gun and robbed a passer-by.

But the branch moved years ago, with only cash machines left. After first demanding a 10,000 euro ($8,600) ransom for the woman, he forced her to withdraw 400 euros and fled.

Father fails polygraph after claiming daughter stolen in carjacking

Detroit, 5 Dec—The father of a missing Detroit girl who claimed his daughter was stolen in a carjacking has failed a polygraph test, MyFoxDetroit.com reports. Police are still questioning 32-year-old D’Andre Lane, the father of 2-year-old Bianca Jones. Lane claims a man with a gun carjacked him Friday morning and drove off with Bianca buckled into her car seat. Lane’s car was recovered 10 minutes later, but Bianca was missing. Detroit Police Chief Ralph Godbee says the reward for information leading to Bianca’s return is now at $17,500 thanks to a businessman’s donation. Godbee asked witnesses to come forward with what they know during a news conference on Saturday.

“If you’ve seen her picture, seen that smile, if that does not move your heart to do the right thing — as my grandmother would say, there’s no ‘do right’ in you,” Godbee said.

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
**Man orders prostitute, daughter arrives**

A Zimbabwean man who called for a prostitute to come to his hotel room said he collapsed to the floor when his daughter showed up.

Father-of-three Titus Ncube of Bulawayo said he called for a prostitute to come to the hotel room in which he was staying while having marital problems and was shocked when his 20-year-old daughter arrived, the British tabloid the Mirror reported Friday. Ncube said he collapsed to floor upon recognizing his daughter, who quickly fled, crying.

“I am sorry for what I did,” Ncube said. “I spoke to my wife and daughter.”

**Firefighters make some bizarre rescues**

London firefighters said they have responded to emergencies for a man stuck in a child’s toy car and a woman with her hand stuck in a vending machine.

The London Fire Brigade said in addition to those calls, its most unusual calls also included a man with his head caught in a cat door, a man whose genitals were stuck in a life-threatening, emergencies,” Brown said.

“You would not believe some of the incidents we are called to deal with — people manage to get themselves trapped in some very weird and wonderful places,” said Dave Brown, the fire service’s assistant commissioner for operations and mobilizing.

“But there is a serious side to this — these incidents are time — consuming, costly and take up the precious time of our crews who are then unavailable to attend other, potentially life-threatening, emergencies,” Brown said.

**‘Twilight’ stays bright but Hollywood snoozes**

Los Angeles, 5 Dec—The latest “Twilight” movie cast the longest shadow with $16.9 million for a third-straight No 1 finish during one of the year’s slowest weekends at the box office.

Business was dismal, with box-office tracker Hollywood.com estimating Sunday that domestic revenues totaled just $82 million. That puts it barely ahead of Hollywood’s worst haul of the year, when revenues were $81.5 million over the second weekend in September.

Once studios release final numbers Monday, this past weekend could come in as the worst of the year if revenues finish even lower.

The first weekend of December often presents a lull in between big onslaught of year-end blockbusters that arrive a bit later. But this big slowdown is surprising given that there’s quality stuff out there among the top-10 films, particularly family fare such as “The Muppets,” “Hugo” and “Arthur Christmas.”

Sony finds magazine’s “Tattoo” plan “unacceptable”

Los Angeles, 5 Dec—Sony Pictures is steaming over the New Yorker’s plan to review David Fincher’s “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo” on Monday.

That will be eight days in advance of the 13 December embargo that the studio imposed on all critics and journalists who attended early screenings of the long-awaited film.

Early morning, Sony’s executive VP of motion picture publicity, Andre Caraco, sent an email to those who’ve attended advance screenings of the Daniel Craig/Rooney Mara film, including TheWrap, calling the New Yorker’s plan to publish a review by critic David Denby on 5 December “completely unacceptable.”

Sony’s first photo shoot sold for $300K at auction

In this 21 July, 2011 photo, from left, Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner pose at an event held to promote the film “The Twilight Saga: Breaking the Dawn Part 1” at the Comic-Con International 2011 convention 21 July, 2011, in San Diego.—INTERNET

A black and white photograph of Marilyn Monroe taken by Joseph Jasgur in 1946 is shown in this undated, watermarked publicity photograph released to Reuters on 8 November, 2011.—INTERNET

Beverly Hills, 5 December — Copyrights and images from Marilyn Monroe’s first photo shoot sold for $352,000 at an auction that included items from Lady Gaga and John Lennon. Julien’s Auctions spokeswoman Caroline Galloway tells The Associated Press on Sunday that the Monroe photos — taken in 1946 when she was still Norma Jeane Dougherty — were the highlight of the Beverly Hills auction known as “Icons & Idols.”—INTERNET

**Nine kids found in stolen truck in Canada**

Police in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, say when they caught up with a stolen truck they found a 14-year-old driver with eight other children along for the ride.

Along with the boy who was driving, there were six boys and two girls, ages 8-14, in the truck, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported Saturday. Provincial police said the vehicle had been stolen Wednesday and officers spotted it about 7:50 Friday.

“The 14-year-old male driver tried to evade police after the initial stop, but was unable to get traction on the icy road surface,” police said in a news release Saturday. “He got out of the vehicle and was apprehended immediately.”

**Stick shift foils carjackers**

Two would-be carjackers in St Petersburg, Fla, had to make a getaway on foot because they were unable to drive a stick shift. The robbery occurred at about 1 am Friday at a business with a locked gate, the St Petersburg Times reported. The victims were a man who had dropped off a work truck there and his girlfriend, who had come to pick him up driving her manual transmission Nissan.

The couple told police two men approached them as the man returned to the car after locking the gate. One of the men pointed a gun at them and told them to get out of the car and hand over their money and cellphone.

One of the men pointed his head caught in a cat door, a man whose genitals were stuck in a vehicle and was apprehended road surface,” police said in a news release Saturday. Provincial police said the vehicle had been stolen Wednesday and officers spotted it about 7:50 Friday.

“The 14-year-old male driver tried to evade police after the initial stop, but was unable to get traction on the icy road surface,” police said in a news release Saturday. “He got out of the vehicle and was apprehended immediately.”

**Tom Cruise visits India’s iconic Taj Mahal**

New Delhi, 5 Dec—Hollywood star Tom Cruise says his visit to India this week follows a lifelong desire to see the country.

He said while touring the iconic, white-marble Taj Mahal mausoleum in Agra that he is “very excited” about being in the country for a fan screening of his latest action-thriller, “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol,” days ahead of its world premiere on Wednesday. Cruise joins Bollywood star Anil Kapoor for the red-carpet Wednesday. Cruise joins Bollywood star Anil Kapoor for the red-carpet...
Ronaldinho’s future with Flamengo remains uncertain

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Dec — Flamengo star Ronaldinho Gauchó may have played in his last game with the team on Sunday. The veteran midfielder described the team’s final standing in fourth place of the Brazilian Championship as a sense of accomplishment. The placement qualified the team to play in the 2012 Libertadores Cup. However, despite carrying a contract through July of 2014, Ronaldinho may not be around to compete in next year’s Libertadores Cup.

Flamengo has not paid him over the last four months, causing much complaint from his brother

Boca Juniors 3-0 Banfield: Dario Cvitanich double drives Boca to Apertura crown

LA BOMBONERA, 5 Dec — Boca Juniors are the 2011 Apertura champions after a first half brace by Dario Cvitanich and a long range strike by Diego Rivero a minute into the second half earned the Buenos Aires giant a 3-0 victory over Banfield on Sunday at La Bombonera.

Needing only one point from their last three games to win the title, the Xeneizes secured their 30th league victory as a sense of accomplishment.

Internet

Tiger Woods ends 2-year victory drought

THOUSAND OAKS, 5 Dec — After going more than two years and 26 tournaments without a win, and after so much turmoil in his personal life and with his golf game, Tiger Woods stood over a 6-foot birdie putt Sunday to win the Chevron World Challenge and felt as though nothing had changed. Finally, the outcome was familiar, too. Woods poured in the putt to cap off a birdie-birdie finish at Sherwood, close with a 3-under 69 and beat former Masters champion Zach Johnson by one shot.

The win ended a drought that lasted 749 days, and might have signaled a change that Woods is on his way back.

He swept his arm across the air, yelled through the din of the gallery and slammed his fist in a celebration that was a long time coming. Relief. Satisfaction? Vindication? Woods wasn’t sure, and he didn’t much care. “It just feels awesome whatever it is,” he said.

Internet

O’Neill takes charge at Sunderland

LONDON, 5 Dec — Martin O’Neill has been confirmed as the new manager of Sunderland, taking over from Steve Bruce on a three-year contract. The 59-year-old, who has previously managed Leicester, Celtic and Aston Villa, is expected to watch his new team from the stands as they visit Stoke ahead of his job officially starting on Monday.

O’Neill is vastly experienced and has a strong reputation in the game, with his most recent achievement being to steer Aston Villa to three successive sixth-place finishes in the Barclays Premier League between 2008 and 2010.

He enjoyed successful spells at Leicester City and Celtic - winning domestic honours and securing European qualification with both. “It’s a very nice feeling to be back in football and to be the manager of Sunderland. It’s a big moment for me,” said O’Neill.

Internet

Fletcher adds to Sunderland woes

LONDON, 5 Dec — Steven Fletcher scored twice as Wolves took full advantage of a missed penalty from Sebastian Larsson to come from behind and beat Sunderland. New Black Cats boss Martin O’Neill was watching from the stands and was delighted when a fierce Kieran Richardson shot put the visitors ahead in the 52nd minute. But the complexion of the match changed when Wayne Hennessey saved Larsson’s penalty on 73 minutes and seconds later, Fletcher headed Wolves level. And the striker fired in the winner shortly afterwards as Sunderland’s winless run stretched to five matches.

INTERNET

Borges wins scoring title of 2011 Brazilian Championship

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Dec — Traded from Gremio to Santos in the middle of the 2011 season, it was crowned the top scorer of the Brazilian Championship on Sunday.

Despite not playing in the 38th and final round of the tournament, the player led the scoring with 23 goals. Due to his performance, he is likely to be named the most valuable player of this year’s competition during the annual award ceremony to take place next week.


INTERNET

Spanish Davis Cup

SEVILLE, 5 Dec — Rafael Nadal’s run in Davis Cup continued with a 6-1, 7-6(3), 7-6(3) win over Austria’s Jurgen Melzer to reach the final in Seville on Saturday. Nadal became the first player to reach the final of Davis Cup in four consecutive years.

In his quarterfinal match against Germany’s Thomas Berdych, Nadal won 6-2, 7-6(7), 6-3.

INTERNET

German defender Huth struck after 15 minutes of the match

INTERNET

Everton 0 - 1 Stoke

LONDON, 5 Dec — Robert Huth’s first-half strike was enough to give Stoke victory against Everton, their first win at Goodison Park since 1981.

The German defender struck early in the opening period when he diverted Dean Whitehead’s low volley past Tim Howard from close range.

Stoke created few other chances but came close to doubling their lead when Peter Crouch headed two yards wide. Everton’s best chance fell to Diniyar Bilyaletdinov, who fired horribly wide.

That strike was laughable on a rainy afternoon at Goodison Park where there few efforts on target and where the defences were on top.

The home side’s attack was particularly disappointing and bereft of ideas with Stoke never needing to back their half with the surging runs, while Russian Bilyaletdinov was substituted in the second half after another ineffective display.

INTERNET

International Sports
Bomb targeting pilgrims kills 16 in Iraq’s Hilla

BAGHDAD, 5 Dec—At least 16 people were killed and 31 wounded by a car bomb targeting Shi’ite pilgrims in Iraq’s Hilla city during a major religious ritual, local police sources said on Monday.

The bombing came at the height of Ashura, which commemorates the death of Prophet Mohammad’s grandson Imam Hussein and defines Shi’ite Islam and its split with Sunni Islam.

A car bomb was parked near a Shi’ite pilgrims’ procession inside the Nile area, and it killed 16 people, mostly women and children, and wounded 31 others,” a police source at Hilla hospital said.

Another police source confirmed the initial death toll.

The attack underscores Iraq’s fragile security as the last 10,000 American troops prepare to withdraw by the end of 2011, more than eight years after the invasion that ousted Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

Sunni Islamist insurgents often target Shi’ite shrines and ceremonies in an attempt to inflame sectarian tensions still simmering close to the surface in Iraq.

Violence has eased sharply since its worst years in 2006-2007 when Sunni and Shi’ite armed militias killed thousands in intercommunal assassinations and bombings. But Sunni insurgents and Shi’ite militias still carry out deadly attacks.

MNA/REUTERS

Weather forecast for 6th December, 2011

| Region/State | Temperature (°C/°F) | Forecast Percent | Precipitation
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------
| Rakhine      | 29/84 (85/74)       | Likelihood of scattered rain (60%) | 34/93 (93/70)
| Neighbouring Mandalay | 25/77 (77/58) | Likelihood of scattered rain (60%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Neighbouring Yangon | 33/91 (91/70) | Likelihood of scattered rain (60%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw | 29/84 (84/70) | Possibility of isolated rain (40%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Ayeyawady | 34/93 (93/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Eastern Shan | 22/72 (72/57) | Likelihood of scattered rain (60%) | 57/72 (30/57)
| Northern Shan | 21/70 (70/52) | Likelihood of scattered rain (60%) | 52/70 (30/52)
| Rakhine | 29/84 (84/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Neighbouring Yangon | 33/91 (91/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Mon | 34/93 (93/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 68/70 (60/48)
| Magway | 27/81 (81/60) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 60/81 (60/81)
| Bago | 31/88 (88/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 70/88 (60/70)
| Chin | 18/64 (64/45) | Partly cloudy | 45/64 (30/45)
| Kayin | 36/97 (97/71) | Partly cloudy | 71/97 (60/71)
| Kayah | 24/75 (75/59) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 59/75 (30/59)
| Kachin | 21/70 (70/57) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 57/70 (30/57)
| Magway | 27/81 (81/60) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 60/81 (60/81)
| Bago | 31/88 (88/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 70/88 (60/70)
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| Kachin | 21/70 (70/57) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 57/70 (30/57)
| Magway | 27/81 (81/60) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 60/81 (60/81)
| Bago | 31/88 (88/70) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 70/88 (60/70)
| Chin | 18/64 (64/45) | Partly cloudy | 45/64 (30/45)
| Kayin | 36/97 (97/71) | Partly cloudy | 71/97 (60/71)
| Kayah | 24/75 (75/59) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 59/75 (30/59)
| Kachin | 21/70 (70/57) | Likelihood of isolated rain (60%) | 57/70 (30/57)

Summary of observations at 09:00 hr MST on today

Weather in Baghdad is partly cloudy to cloudy. A few showers are expected in the Anbar and Nineveh Provinces. Other than the Nineveh Province, the remaining parts of the country are mostly clear.

Government sources said the recent instability is due to the recent security threats.

Iraqi security forces vowed to keep a tight control over the city.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 6 December, 2011
NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — The delegation led by Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief which will attend the 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2011 (LIMA-11) left Yangon for Langkawi Island of Malaysia by air this afternoon.

They were seen off by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo and senior military officers, Malaysian Defence Attaché to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Col Gan Seng Lock at Yangon International Airport.

Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief was accompanied by Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe and Brig-Gen Oo Kyaw of Myitkyina Station as members.

The 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2011 (LIMA-11) will be held in Langkawi Island of Malaysia from 6 to 10 December.

MNA

Min Taing Pin Model Village gets two-storey new school building

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan attended the opening ceremony of two-storey new school building (Annex) held at the Basic Education High School of Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 3 December.

It was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Sagaing Region Htuttaw U Thaung Sein, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Saw Myint Oo, Amyotha Htuttaw representative U Kan Nyunt, Region Htuttaw representative U Tin Swe and departmental officials, wellwishers, townelders, local people and students.

The Sagaing Region Htuttaw Deputy Speaker, the Region minister and Htuttaw representatives formally opened the new school building.

Next, the Union minister unveiled the signboard of Kantkaw new school building and inspected the school building.

In his address at the ceremony to hand over new school building, present prizes to outstanding students and provide cash assistance to teachers, the Union minister said that the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar elected by the people is striving for improvement in socio-economic status of the people by amending the laws to be in conformity with the present time, promulgating new laws, creating opportunities for national economic growth and making relaxations for ensuring more foreign direct investments.

For development of education sector, enactment of new laws, holding of workshops and opening of more schools in basic education and higher education level are being carried out.

For human resources development, the Union minister stressed the need to develop reading habit and strive for sustainability of already-opened libraries as a large number of libraries have been opened nationwide with the contribution of the State and the people.

The Union minister continued to say that free surgeries were performed for local people for two times in the region under his own arrangement while (See page 9)

MNA