True patriotism

* It is very important for every one 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.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo
inspects completion of Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section, Mandalay advanced stadium and gymnasium

NAV PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and officials, this morning left here by car along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and arrived at Sagar-in Roundabout in Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay Region at 9.30 am today.

They were welcomed by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Minister for Region Development Affairs U Phone Zaw Han, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and officials.

After looking into progress in construction of Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and Dagundaing Roundabout, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo gave necessary instructions.

Chief Engineer (Road) U Tint Hsan of Public Works reported that Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section will link the Nay Pyi Taw-Sagar-in Expressway opened on 29 December 2010 and Mandalay, and it will be 13 miles and five furlongs long. The road section comprises one 600 feet long bridge, six 90 feet long bridges and 17 under-50 feet long bridges. He also submitted reports on progress in construction of the concrete road, retaining walls, shoulder of the traffic island, road curb and surface layer, conduits, Sagar-in Rest Camp, police station, toll gate and staff quarters, completion of Dagundaing Roundabout at mile No. 366/3, extension of the Ohtoktan-HsayOhbo Road to the 100 feet wide facility, and preparations for opening of the road section.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint gave a supplementary report on progress of road section and plan for opening ceremony.

After hearing the reports, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo instructed officials to construct water retaining walls as necessary after observing the highest levels of overflow of Ayeyawady and Dokhtawady rivers as Sagar-in-TadaU-Dagundaing Road Section is the filled soil, grow suitable shade trees that cannot damage the road section and nurture all saplings.

(See page 8)

Model monsoon paddy harvested in Myeik Tsp

NAV PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Model monsoon paddy plot of farmer U Ba Soe of Ingamaw village-tract in Myeik Township yielded 106.01 baskets of damp Manaw Thukha rice per acre and that of farmer U Maung Nge of Sandawut village-tract of the same township gave the per-acre yield of 83.34 baskets of damp Paw Hsan Mway rice when the plots were harvested on 25 November.

Union Minister meets
Myanmar Music Association

PAGE 2

People with arthritis need more exercise

PAGE 4

Ygn, Taninthayi
witness mass walk
activities in second
week of December

PAGE 8

Study links tropical
cyclones to
earthquakes

PAGE 5

Scientists kick off debate over barefoot running

PAGE 4
Union Minister meets Myanmar Music Association

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan met the chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Music Association and officials of classic music, modern music, stereo music, mechanical and production groups at meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, officials and guests.

The Union minister explained about measures taken for development of music industry, future plans, reforms the government is making in accordance with the Constitution and desire of the people, and steps for peace, stability and development. Chairman of Myanmar Music Association U Maung Maung Latt reported to the Union minister on the organizational setup, undertakings, future plans and matters related to five groups of the association. Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Thein Aung, Managing Director of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and officials participated in the discussion.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the Union minister. He cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

YMCA serves X’mas dinner

Yangon, 10 Dec—Young Men Christian Association hosted Christmas dinner at M-3 Food Centre in Bahan Township in Yangon Region yesterday evening. YMCA Chairman Dr U Tin Hla extended greetings at the dinner. Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung delivered a speech at the dinner.

Myanmar to host second Southeast Asian men’s hockey tournament on 13-17 December

Yangon, 10 Dec—A work coordination meeting for holding the second Southeast Asian men’s hockey tournament in which Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia will take part was held at Thimbaya hockey pitch yesterday evening in conjunction with aceremony to donate bottles of drinking water for athletes. The tournament is scheduled to be held at Thimbaya hockey pitch in Mingala Taungnyunt Township from 13 to 17 December under the supervision of Asian Hockey Federation and Myanmar Hockey Federation.

First, Win Economic Group Co presented 2000 bottles of Aqua-K drinking water to MHF President Yangon City Development Committee member U Hnin Zaw Win. Next, respective committees discussed their tasks and preparations. Then the president and executives viewed the preparations being made at the pitch. — NLM

CEO Classic Golf Tournament on 5-8 Jan

Yangon, 10 Dec—Sponsored by CEO Group and organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, CEO Classic Golf tournament will take place at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club here from 5 to 8 January, 2012. Golfers with handicap ranging from 0 to 8 will be allowed to play professional and amateur games which will be held in St. Andrew and regional rules.

Golfers are to enlist with the fee of K20000 in Myanmar Training Golf Range not later than 2 January. Champions are qualified for Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012.

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Tasks for holding the second Southeast Asia men’s hockey tournament on schedule.—NLM

Priority given to combat Tuberculosis in national health plan

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—As Myanmar is one of the list of 22 high TB burden countries across the world, of 27 high MDR TB burden countries and of 41 high TB/HIV burden countries, priority is to be given to combat the disease in the national health plan; at present, five years national TB strategic plan is being drawn; the TB/AIDS strategic plan is being drawn; the TB/ HIV collaborative activities are being undertaken in 17 townships, and the scale-up plan will be extended; a total of 300 guests.

Information, officials and the Ministry of Health, here, yesterday morning.

The meeting was presided over by Professor/Dean Professor Dr Tin Myint. Technical Officer Ms Eva Nathanson of WHO discussed Overview of Childhood TB and Dr Myo Zaw of WHO, WHO Rapid Advice on Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children. Those present took part in the discussions.

The group meetings were held on the Rapid Advice on Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children, Recommendation 1-10 and the 1. Diagnosis of Childhood TB, 2. Contact Tracing ITP (Isomiazid Preventive Therapy).

The Union minister explained about measures taken for development of music industry, future plans, reforms the government is making in accordance with the Constitution and desire of the people, and steps for peace, stability and development.
Pakistan truckers back NATO supply route blockade

Chaman, (Pakistan) 10 Dec—Sleeping in a freezing cabin, running out of money and worried about militant attacks, Guljabah Jan is one of thousands of truck drivers stranded as a result of Pakistan’s blockade of the Afghan border to NATO and US war supplies.

But they and the businessmen who run what has been a lucrative trade for most of the last decade say they support the decision to shut the frontier in retaliation for coalition airstrikes almost two weeks ago that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers in two remote border outposts.

“We risk our lives and take these supplies to Afghanistan for NATO, and in return they are killing our soldiers,” said Jan, whose truck is parked in a terminal in the dusty, dangerous border town of Chaman in southwestern Baluchistan.

“This is unacceptable, and we unanimously support the government over closing the border.”

Given the current anti-US sentiment in Pakistan, drivers might not want to call public for the border to reopen. There is broad anger throughout the country over the attack, and the US faces a challenge in repairing a relationship critical to its hopes of ending the Afghan war.—INTERNET

Three killed, six injured in suicide bombing in E Afghanistan

Asadabad, 10 Dec—Three people including a district police chief were killed and six others were injured Friday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque during Friday prayer in eastern Afghanistan’s Kunar province, police said.

“A suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest inside a mosque in Ghan Abad District in Kunar Province at about 02:00 pm local time when people were holding a Special Friday prayer, as a result three people were killed and six others injured,” provincial police spokesman, Aiawz Mohammad Nazari told Xinhua. He said that Gulzai Abad district police chief Ismath Khan, a police officer and a civilian were confirmed dead in the blast while a policeman and five civilians were wounded in the attack in the province with Asadabad as its capital. 185 km east of capital city of Kabul.

“The suicide bomber was killed on the spot and the injured were transported to a district hospital by police,” the police chief said, adding “an investigation was launched by police into the case.”

Bomb wounds French peacekeepers in Lebanon

BURJUT, 10 Dec—A roadside bomb wounded five French UN peacekeepers in a statement on patrol in southern Lebanon on Friday, in an attack the Lebanese president said was aimed at driving French troops out of the country.

The UN Security Council has strongly condemned the third attack this year against the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The bomb targeted a French UNIFIL patrol on the southern outskirts of the coastal city of Tyre, a security official said. Five peacekeepers and two civilians were hurt, officials said.

An AFP correspondent in Tyre saw three peacekeepers—a woman and two men—standing by their badly damaged white vehicle with bandages on their heads. One had a bloodied face. None had-life threatening injuries, officials said.

“This vile and despicable act not only aims to cause harm to the peacekeepers but also to undermine the stability and peace that have been prevailing in the south,” UNIFIL commander Major-General Alberto Asarta Curbelo said in a statement.

UNIFIL patrols have been the target of a string of unclaimed roadside bomb attacks in recent years.

Friday’s blast took place amid heightened tension over the revolt in Syria, with politicians and diplomats warning the unrest could spill into Lebanon, whose government is dominated by the pro-Syrian militant group Hezbollah.

The UNIFIL force stationed in the southern Lebanon is considered an easy target of unrest that spread to Lebanon.

The office of Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, who is on a visit to Armenia, issued a statement denouncing the attack.

Four victims in small plane crash in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, 10 Dec—A small, two-engine plane began experiencing problems the plane was experiencing or whether the pilot radioed for help. The plane was a charter, and two men—standing by... the South Dakota Robotics Association, Anderson, an alumni of the school, was a staff member of the Sioux Falls School District.

Sioux Falls Fire Chief Jim Sideras told investigators do not yet know what was the plane was experiencing or whether the pilot radioed for help. The plane was a charter, and Sideras said he did not know who the owner was.

“Right now, it’s ashell of a plane. It’s essentially just a charred area right now,” Sideras told reporters gathered in a parking lot overlooking the crash site. “The amount of fire is not survivable.”

FAA records indicate it is registered to an Iwpich, SD, business. Attempts to reach that business were unsuccessful Friday.

Radioactive water leaked at second Japan plant

TOKYO, 10 Dec—An Japanese nuclear plant leaked 1.8 tonnes of radioactive water from its cooling system, the government said, heightening worries over nuclear safety as an atomic crisis continues at another plant. The leak, discovered Friday, caused no environmental impact as it was contained within an idled reactor at the Genkai nuclear plant in Saga prefecture in the southern Kyushu region, officials said.

Workers are still scrambling to contain an ongoing crisis at the Fukushima No 1 nuclear plant, triggered by the March earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan.

The operator of the Genkai plant, Kyushu Electric Power, said Friday that one of the water pumps connected to its number three reactor was taken offline after it sounded an alarm for increasing temperature.

But the utility did not announce leaked water at that time. The water kept around the pump and was later collected, said an official with the Nuclear and Industry Safety Agency.

The utility was not legally required to report the water leak, but the mayor of the small Genkai town hosting the plant voiced concerns. “It should have reported properly,” she said. It had reported the incident to the Genkai town and Saga prefecture, mayor Hidoko Kishimoto told local media.

Officials with the utility could not immediately be reached. The utility’s officials told newspaper the “Manchuk Shimbun” that water leaks can take place even in a safe operation environment.

But public concerns about nuclear safety came to the fore after the Fukushima crisis forced evacuations of tens of thousands of residents and left large areas of land uninhabitable.—INTERNET
Health

Meningitis epidemic in Brazil's Bahia state kills 109

SALVADOR, 10 Dec—A meningitis epidemic has killed 109 people in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia since the start of the year, according to a report released by local authorities Friday.

And Brazil's superstar singer Ivete Sangalo revealed that she had contracted viral meningitis, a mild form of the disease, press reports said. The 39-year-old, best-selling singer, who hails from Bahia, reportedly left hospital after undergoing treatment. But authorities said 109 people, most of whom contracted cerebro-spinal meningitis, have died since January.

The mortality rate for cerebro-spinal meningitis, characterized by an inflammation of the membranes of the brain and spinal cord, is around eight to 10 percent of cases. A total of 1,670 people have been hit by bacterial meningitis, the most serious form of the disease, officials said. In the tourist resort of Costa do Sauípe, dozens of tourists have canceled their bookings as a result of the epidemic, hotel staff told the media.—Internet

People with arthritis need more exercise

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—US health authorities on Thursday urged a 12-week drug regimen for people with latent tuberculosis as an effective alternative to the current nine-month regimen which many people do not finish.

People age 12 and over who test positive for TB or have been exposed but show no symptoms are among those who could benefit from the shorter treatment, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

A total of 8.8 million people around the world fell ill with the contagious lung disease last year and 1.4 million died, according to the World Health Organization. Three randomized controlled trials have shown that a new combination regimen that includes isoniazid (INH) and rifapentine (RPT), given weekly under a doctor's supervision, is as effective for preventing TB as other regimens,” the CDC said.

The shorter treatment “is more likely to be completed than the US standard regimen of nine months of INH daily without a doctor's supervision, it added in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Tuberculosis develops in five to 10 percent of people who get infected by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, usually after a period of six to 18 months when the infection lies dormant, but it can endure decades in some people.—Internet

Scientists kick off debate over barefoot running

LONDON, 10 Dec—Despite the cold and many other potential hazards, naked from the ankle down is the way Anna Toombs likes it, and she gets plenty of catcalls in the street as a result.

The 35-year-old co-founder of the personal training company Barefoot Running UK says she’s lost count of the times people yell at her “is there your shoes?” as she and partner David Robinson negotiate London’s parks and pavements to indulge their passion and train their clients.

“People give you a lot of weird looks,” says Robinson. They are also getting a lot of inquiries. A surge of interest in “natural,” or barefoot, training has seen runners around the world kick off their arch-supporting, motion-controlling, heel-cushioning shoes and try to feel the ground beneath their feet.

Top scientists—from sports physicians to podiatrists to evolutionary biologists—are jumping in.

At a recent sports science conference in London, hundreds of participants, many of them shod but a few daringly barefooted, flocked to a two-hour long discussion about the merits or otherwise of running without shoes.—Reuters

Business

Consumer sentiment up, trade gap narrows

NEW YORK, 10 Dec—An index of consumer sentiment rose to its highest in six months in early December and the trade deficit narrowed in October in the latest signs that the US economy’s health is slowly improving.

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan preliminary December reading on consumer confidence on Friday climbed for a fourth straight month to 67.7 from 64.1 in November.

“US consumers appear to be ending the year in a better mood,” said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics in London. Improved confidence could lead Americans to spend more readily, which would add to the recent momentum gained from strong retail sales and factory output.

Also supporting growth, the narrowing in the trade deficit showed that more goods and services bought by US businesses and consumers were produced within the country.

Employment has also made gains in recent months, although some economists expect the pace of improvement will be too slow for consumers to ramp up spending for long.

“The recent increase may provide that little bit of support to spending in the malls in the coming weeks, it won’t lead to an acceleration in consumption growth,” said Dales.

US economic growth appears to be accelerating, even as the global economy slows. The euro zone, for example, is widely believed to be slipping into recession as it struggles to contain a sovereign debt crisis.

That crisis, as well as the possibility that the United States will not renew extended unemployment benefits and a payroll tax cut next year, amount to dark clouds looming over the economy.

With signs US growth is quickening coming against big risks to the outlook, the US Federal Reserve is expected to hold monetary policy steady at a meeting on Tuesday.

Despite the improvement, the consumer sentiment gauge remains well below levels underlying the fragility of US household budgets as many struggle with a weak jobs market.

Sri Lanka’s consumerism to grow in 2012

COLOMBO, 10 Dec—International market research company Nielsen expressed optimistic views on 2012 economic progress in Sri Lanka, noting that rapid economic growth and consumer spending would be seen.

Nielsen, launching its 2012 Outlook this weekend, remarked upon the aggressively growing consumers who are moving towards lifestyle products that have now become essentials and engaging in lifestylebuying.

The company’s Managing Director in Sri Lanka, Sulshan Cader toldtheforecasts at the report launch that companies should work to leverage the growth momentum.

“Sri Lanka is slightly different from the rest of the world in that we see more growth in 2012. There is an emergence of a savvy rural consumer that companies need to consider,” he said.

Other key points found by Nielsen include the large-scale buying of vehicles with over 50 percent of households owning at least one vehicle in Sri Lanka. However, Nielsen warned that consumers were moving more towards borrowing for their spending and saving levels are remaining static at 8 percent.

Inflation effects resulting in higher prices remain the main concern moving forward into 2012 even though Sri Lanka has managed to maintain a rate of 7 percent on average this year. —Xinhua
NASA clears SpaceX for trial run to space station

"SpaceX has made incredible progress over the last several months preparing Dragon for its mission to the space station," NASA associate administrator William Gerstenmaier said in a statement. "We look forward to a successful mission, which will open up a new era in commercial cargo delivery for this international orbiting laboratory."

Since the retirement of the space shuttles this summer, the United States is relying on partner countries like Russia to transport supplies and crew to the space station. To encourage commercial cargo firms, NASA has hired SpaceX and a second company, Virginia-based Orbital Sciences Corp, to fly cargo to the space station, a $100 billion project of 16 countries, which orbits about 240 miles above Earth.

Study links tropical cyclones to earthquakes

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—US researchers said Thursday they have found evidence that tropical cyclones in Haiti and Taiwan were followed by earthquakes, suggesting that heavy rains and landslides may unleash temblors. "Very wet rain events are the trigger," said University of Miami scientist Shimon Wdowinski, an associate research professor of marine geology and geophysics.

"The heavy rain induces thousands of landslides and severe erosion, which removes ground material from the Earth’s surface, releasing the stress load and encouraging movement along faults," Wdowinski and a colleague from Florida International University analyzed data from major earthquakes — magnitude six and higher — in Taiwan and Haiti over the past 50 years and found that large quakes tended to follow within four years of a very wet tropical cyclone season. In some recent cases, quakes happened sooner, such as in 2009 when Typhoon Morakot in Taiwan was followed the same year by a magnitude 6.2 quake and another 6.4 quake in 2010. Morakot killed 614 people and left 75 missing, burying entire villages and dumping a record three meters (120 inches) of rain in what is considered one of the island’s worst natural disasters. Typhoon Herb hit in 1996, killing hundreds in China and Taiwan, and was followed two years later by a 6.2 earthquake, and then a 7.6 earthquake in 1999.

After 1969’s Typhoon Flossie was followed three years later by a magnitude 6.2 quake in 1972, the researchers said. The team also looked at the 2010 magnitude seven earthquake in Haiti and found it came a year and a half after two hurricanes and two tropical storms drenched the island nation within 25 days. The quake hit in January last year and leveled the capital Port-au-Prince, killing more than 225,000 people and leaving one seventh home. An ensuing cholera epidemic left over 5,000 people dead. The researchers said their theory is that the heavy rains and landslide shift enough weight away from the surface load above the fault that a quake is triggered.

Chile glacier in rapid retreat

SANTIAGO, 10 Dec—The Jorge Montt glacier in southern Chile is melting at a rate of a kilometer (0.6 miles) per year, making it one of the world’s most visible milestones of global warming, according to researchers. Chile’s Centre for Scientific Studies (CIECs) said Wednesday that several glaciers in the country’s south have shrunk because of global warming but that the 454-square-kilometer Jorge Montt is one of those shrinking the fastest.

The withering glacier is part of the 13,000-square-kilometer (5,020-square mile) Southern Ice Field, the third largest frozen landmass after Antarctica and Greenland. During the 1990s, the glacier retreated some seven kilometers, but its rate of melting has “accelerated,” releasing an increasing number of icebergs into the fjord where the glacier lay, according to Andres Rivera, of the CIECs. The latest study of the glacier took place between February 2010 and January of this year, during which two stationary canisters toed short fortunes a day took some 1,445 pictures of the glacier.
Heavy rains in Venezuela cause at least eight deaths

CARACAS, 10 Dec—Floods and mudslides unleashed by torrential rains have caused at least eight deaths in Venezuela, a government official said Friday. Thousands of families have left their homes to take refuge in government disaster shelters, Interior and Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said.

Five people died in western Zulia state, while three others died in Caracas and adjacent Miranda state, where others were moved into new public housing. El Aissami said about 29,000 families are being housed in hundreds of shelters due to this week’s rains and more than 1,000 homes have been seriously damaged.

He said the government is providing about $350 in cash assistance to each family. The government ordered schools closed due to the deluges.

Bomb alert forces evacuation of Eiffel Tower

PARIS, 10 Dec—The Eiffel Tower and its immediate surroundings in Paris were evacuated Friday after an anonymous caller phoned in a bomb threat.

“It’s not rainy season, there were heavy rains and typhoons. Our disaster preparedness continues, especially with the entry of La Nina,” she said.

Philippine gov’t assures contingency measures with entry of La Nina

MANILA, 10 Dec—The Philippine government assured on Friday that related agencies, including the local government units (LGUs), are ready to implement contingency measures in the wake of the La Nina phenomenon.

The national and local officials are all ready to carry out disaster preparedness plans to reduce the impact of natural disasters on people’s lives and properties, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said during the regular press briefing.

“As we can see that even if it’s not rainy season, there were heavy rains and typhoons. Our disaster preparedness continues, especially with the entry of La Nina,” she said.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) officer-in-charge and Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said that Villamor and some areas in the Bicol and Visayas regions will continue to experience heavy rains in the coming days.

Reports showed that local officials are ready to evacuate people living in areas declared as “highly susceptible” to flooding and landslides by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to protect people’s lives.

The LGUs started monitoring areas prone to flooding in their respective municipalities and cities, especially during heavy rains. The local officials will install early warning systems that will monitor water levels in the rivers.

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, fully-armed Chinese police officers line up on their boats as their patrol missions along the Mekong River are ready to start in Guanlei, Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 9 Dec, 2011. China said joint Mekong River security patrols with forces from Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand will begin on Saturday, a development likely to deepen Beijing’s influence in the region on its southern flank.

A Pakistani policeman stands guard as firefighters extinguish burning NATO supply oil tankers and goods trucks at a terminal following an overnight attack by gunmen in Quetta.

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani Friday warned the US and its NATO allies that any future cross-border attack would meet with a “demotivational response”.

Indonesia probes hospital fire as death toll reaches 39

KOLKATA, 10 Dec—Indonesian police are investigating the cause of a fire that killed 90 people in a hospital in Kolkata when poisonous fumes spread from the blaze in the building’s basement.

Seven patients were lowered down the outside of the hospital on ropes after the fire broke out in the early hours of Friday at the privately-run AMRI hospital, engulfing the multi-storey premises in thick smoke.

Firefighters and staff smashed glass windows to evacuate some of the 150 patients, with local media alleging that fire alarms and extinguishers had not been working.

“In all, 90 bodies have been extricated from the hospital. 88 of these bodies have been identified and handed over to the relatives,” Damayanti Sen, joint commissioner of police, told AFP on Saturday.

Sen, who is heading the team appointed to investigate the tragedy, added that all the deaths were due to the inhalation of toxic fumes which filled the wards in the middle of the night. Four staff were among the dead.

Initial investigations suggested the fire might have been started by a short circuit in the basement, which was used to store oxygen cylinders, plastic pipes, fibre coils, medical equipment.

Bomb alert forces evacuation of Eiffel Tower

PARIS, 10 Dec—The Eiffel Tower and its immediate surroundings in Paris were evacuated Friday after an anonymous caller phoned in a bomb threat.

On Friday afternoon police received a call around 5:00 pm local time (1600 GMT) from a man presenting himself as a member of al-Qaeda reporting a package bomb, the local media reported.

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A Tribute to 20th Anniversary of the University of Medical Technology

Khin Maung Tin

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary (Vigilennial) or Emerald Jubilee of the University of Medical Technology, 2011 December 11, I was privileged to write a short essay in this auspicious occasion. It is about a modality which is universally recognized and one of the family members of the medical imaging. That is medical ultrasound or sonography.

What is Diagnostic Sonography?

Sonography is a highly evolving profession with continuously developing technologies. Ultrasonography, commonly called sonography, is a diagnostic imaging technology. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce dynamic visual images (Real time images) of organs, tissues, or blood flow inside the body. This type of procedure is often referred to as a sonogram or ultrasound scan. Sonography can be used to examine many parts of the body, such as abdomen, breasts, female reproductive system, prostate, heart and blood vessels. Sonography is increasingly being used in the detection and treatment of heart disease, heart attack, and vascular disease that can lead to stroke. This technology can also visualize pregnancies from five weeks gestational age to term. Unlike X-rays, sonography is an imaging modality that is safe. This is most suitable for obstetrics cases. Sonography can also assist with the taking of cells from an organ (biopsy) for laboratory testing.

Who operate the ultrasound machine?

It is a good question. This question was asked to me by a visiting administrative official from a reputed hospital in Singapore. According to the present situation in Myanmar radiology atmosphere, I could not give the answer properly because there is no centre for producing sonographer. I told to her that universally, diagnostic medical sonography is performed by sonographer who has the basic knowledge of diagnostic medical imaging technology. That is in her country, medical ultrasound is also performed by medical sonographers. In UK and USA, sonography is a specialized modality and to whom those who wish to become a sonographer may have the basic medical imaging diploma. Then he can continue for sonography courses. There are many sonography courses such as basic certificate course, diploma course and degree courses of sonography throughout the world. However, in our country at this time the role of sonographer is absolutely no place for them. Why? There are no specialized diploma or degree courses only for sonography. Shouldn’t we organize to set up a postgraduate diploma or degree courses in diagnostic medical sonography under the umbrella of medical imaging within the frame work of the University of Medical Technology in Yangon and Mandalay.

What are the requirements of the sonographers?

A sonographer requires a wide general knowledge in:

- Human anatomy, embryology, physiology and pathology and a detailed knowledge of the anatomical regions in which he/she specializes. In particular it is necessary to have a three dimensional conceptual understanding of sonographic anatomical appearances, normal variations and pathological processes, in order to develop differential diagnoses.
- The physical principles of diagnostic ultrasound, including how the image are formed and recorded, and the associated artefacts which can be encountered.

What is the role of a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

Union Minister U Win Tun reduces poverty alleviation in Chin State with his donations

Nav Py Taw, 10 Dec—Together with Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun visited Reak Lake Protected Reserve in Kani Township in Monywa District on 7 December morning, he proceeded to the 605-hectare Reak Lake in Chin State on 6 December, K 2.5 million for the People’s Hospital in Rekkhawa Sub-township and K 4.5 million for the construction of a middle school (branch) in Ti-O Village.

The Union Minister visited Reak Lake in Chin State, where he left the officials concerned to take the necessary steps to safeguarding against loss of natural beauty of the lake to the middle school (branch) in Ti-O Village. He requested the area we expected to see the disease at this stage,” Save the Tasmanian Devil Programme’s Howel Williams said Friday.

Deadly Tasmanian Devil cancer found in ‘clean’ area

The facial tumour disease has so far been confirmed across more than 60 percent of the known perimeter, this detection is not in an area thought to be free of the disease, troubling officials struggling to keep the animal alive.

Anarchists claim bomb at Italy tax office

Rome, 10 Dec—A letter bomb exploded Friday at an office of Italy’s tax collection agency, wounding the organization’s director. Police said an Italian anarchist group that sent a letter bomb to Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt earlier in the week claimed responsibility for the attack.

A Rome police official, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, said Friday’s bomb was contained in a yellow bubble envelope mailed to the director’s attention at an Equitalia office on the outskirts of Rome.

The tax agency director, identified by the government as Marco Cuccagna, underwent surgery after injuries to a hand and his face, caused when a glass desk was shattered by the explosion. Equitalia official Angelo Coco told the ANSA news agency: “Italy’s Informal Anarchist Federation has claimed responsibility. The claim included in the package was ‘very similar’ to that which was contained in the Deutsche Bank letter bomb, which didn’t explode, a police official said. The group, known in Italy as FAI, had warned in its Deutsche Bank claim that there would be three ‘explosions’ in its latest campaign. Last year around Christmas, the anarchist group sent packages bombs to three Roman embassies, injuring two people.
Vice-President Thiha Thura
U Tin Aung Myint Oo
inspects completion...

(from page 1)
The vehicles that turn from Yangon-Mandalay Expressway may enter downtown Mandalay along Sagar-in-Tada-U-Dagundin Road Section with clear traffic facility, and the road sections will be inaugurated soon.

Next, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party left there and arrived at Mandalay Advanced Stadium and Gymnasmium construction project in Chanmyathazi Township and inspected progress of the stadium.

At the briefing hall, the Vice-President heard reports on completion of the Mandalay Advanced Stadium and Gymnasium presented by Managing Director U Ohn Kyaw of Myanmar Group of Companies.

Union Minister U Tin Aung Myint Oo gave a supplementary report on the project.

Next, the Vice-President said that two international level stadiums are under construction in Nay Pyi Taw to upgrade national sports standards of Myanmar and to host SEA Games.

At the same time, Youth Training Centre (Thawunnna) is being upgraded with extended construction of the stands to meet international standard stadiums. In building the international stadium, it is necessary to construct parking lot, recreation room, canopies and pavements and

Tatmadaw delegation led by Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win arrives back after attending 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2011 (LIMA-11)

Ygn, Taninthayi witness mass walk activities in second week of December

YANGON, 10 Dec—The mass walk activities for second week of December in Yangon Region was launched in front of the grand stand of Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Thet Htay, Region ministers and their wives, departmental officials, local people and students, totaling over 16,000 took part in the mass walk activity.

After walking along Alanpya Pagoda street, Kandawgyi ringroad and upper Pansodan Street, they practiced physical exercises at Aung San Stadium. Similar activities started in front of the office of Taninthayi Region Government this morning.

Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myat Ko, Region ministers, departmental officials, local people and students, totaling over 10,200 participated in the mass walk activity.—MNA

AIDS is a national concern.
Vice-President Thiha Thura
U Tin Aung
Myint Oo

(See page 10)

(from page 8)

other necessities. Moreover, he stressed the need to form the work completion inspection team, the quality control team and audit team for ensuring systematic construction of the buildings and timely completion of the works.

The Mandalay Advanced Stadium located in Chanmyathazi Township has 473,535 square miles of area including 76,826 square feet wide track. The stadium can host 30,589 spectators and the facility is constituted with 1408 feet long and 32 feet wide track.

Vice-President and party left Mandalay by car and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Information Ministry drafting amendments for Print Media and TV Laws

Beginning April 2011 with the aim of granting relaxation for motion picture and video censorship in conformity with new era and system

YANGON, 10 Dec—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met patrons of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board, and responsible persons of script writers, film directors, actors, supporting actors, technicians, producers, managers, editors, video (central) and background music layers at the hall of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (Head Office) in Bahan Township, here, this morning and gave necessary instructions on improvement of Myanmar motion picture and video field.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads of Ministry of Information, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and executives, guests and media personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said that he met them to coordinate the future tasks for those of motion picture field and the future plan. He said that the Myanmar motion picture field and those of film industry have fine traditions in dutifully carrying out the national task for serving the interests of the State and the people during the period of independence struggles and defending the independence of the State.

He noted that the governments in successive eras have improved the life of those from the movie world including presentation of movie academy awards to the winners as much as possible.

With regard to the cooperation with those of motion picture world, the Ministry of Information met the majority of those from the motion picture field has been fulfilling their wishes from 2004 to date, he said. Arrangements have been made for the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization to walk on its better way, and fulfillments were provided to the organization in all sectors, he added. In consequence, he said that the fund of the organization amounts to K 917.8 million compared with K 90 million from 2004 to 2006. Moreover, he said that the organization has property worth K 200 million. On the other hand, he said that the ministry has been focusing on enhancement of life of those from the motion picture world with K 90 million from 2004 to 2006.

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Furthermore, he said that the Ministry of Information met the majority of those from the movie world including presentation of movie academy awards to the winners as much as possible.

He continued to say that Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan meets patrons of MMPO, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects Panchaung Bridge in Sagar-in-Tada-U-Dagundaing Road Section. MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan meets patrons of MMPO, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board.—MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan greets those present at the meeting with patrons of MMPO, the chairman and executives, members of Motion Picture Censor Board and Video Censor Board. MNA

Katrina robe offering ceremonies, respect paying ceremonies and prize presentation for outstanding students of film industry. Moreover, he said, disputes among those of motion picture field, between those of motion picture world and other organizations and governmental departments were solved with genuine goodwill. It is necessary to place emphasis on securing achievements in processes of shooting, producing and showing Myanmar movies not only at home but also abroad. Therefore, relentless efforts have been made for cooperation with the international community from 2004 to date after holding discussions with Chairman of the organization U Sein Tin.

He said that the motion picture academy award presentation ceremony was held on a grand scale for uplifting prestige of those from the motion picture world. Academy awards were systematically scrutinized by the Motion Picture Promotion Board and the Academy Award Scrutiny Board, he added. Moreover, he said that special care was taken for smooth process between the Motion Picture Censor Board and those of motion picture world and that between the State and the people, and those of motion picture world. He said that the Ministry of Information on its part will cooperate with...
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann...

Dagon Township Constituency as Chairman, U Thein Swe of AnConstituency and U Hla Myin of Myauk Constituency as Vice-Chairmen. Commission members are retired Ambassador (Retd) U Lin Myaing, Director-General (Retd) U Mya Thein of the Supreme Court of the Union, Director-General (Retd) U Than Tun of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor (Retd) Dr Aung Tun Thet, Lt-Col Aung Khin Thien of Judge Advocate-General’s Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Professors Dr Tin May Tun and Dr Thida Oo of the Ministry of Education, Director (Retd) U Tin Win of the Supreme Court of the Union, Region Law Officer (Retd) U Khin Maung Oo, Advocates U Myint Lwin and U Than Maung, and Deputy Director (Retd) Daw Than Tha Yi of Attorney-General’s Office.

Information Ministry drafting...

them for enabling the motion picture world to secure the best development in the future.

He noted that one modern studio is needed for improvement of the motion picture world. He recalled that he himself has been giving instructions on establishment of the modern studio for many years: he discussed with the persons for putting investments in the studio through various ways and means; and he will make strenuous efforts for implementing the plan.

A coordination meeting was held with officials of the People’s Republic of China to enable the motion picture world not only to produce movies and TV series at home but also to join hands with international film community, he said. At present, he said, the plans are under implementation for production of one movie and one TV series on a basis of Myanmar-China friendly ties. He recalled that he himself had instructed officials to produce Myanmar TV series to be broadcast on MRTV at the motion picture outstanding award presentation ceremony in 2009. The plan will be implemented to achieve success, he said. Moreover, he said that strenuous efforts will be made for establishment of film processor and refreshment machine for the movie world.

After the new government has taken responsibilities of the state, the Ministry of Information is drafting the amendments for the Print Media and TV Laws beginning April 2011 with the aim of granting relaxation for motion picture and video censorship in conformity with the new era and system, he said.

After granting relaxation, it is inappropriate for restriction of censorship for movies and video, he said. Hence, the relaxation of rules and laws will be made step by step.

And some are saying that there should be no censor board regarding the film and video censorship and that the artistic works produced freely and openly will be assessed and supervised by those from the film world, artists and the people.

After making concluding remarks, the Union minister cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

Plane crashes onto Philippine slum, killing 13

A four-seater cargo plane crashed onto a Philippine slum on Saturday, sparking a fire that killed 13 people including a child and an infant from the crash site near Manila airport, Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general of the Philippine National Red Cross, told AFP.

“The crash set fire to at least 30 houses. These are shanties, made of light materials,” Pang told AFP in a telephone interview.

She said those killed included the pilot and the co-pilot of the aircraft, which aviation regulators described as a locally-owned Beechcraft that had taken off from Manila airport minutes earlier.

Florencio Bernabe, the mayor of Parañaque district where the crash occurred, said at least 20 other injured victims had been taken to hospital.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myin Oo accepting computer accessories donated by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua for the Hluttaw Office.

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WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—The US trade deficit narrowed in October to its lowest point of the year as Americans bought fewer foreign cars and imported less oil. Exports of American-made autos also fell. The Commerce Department said Friday that the trade deficit shrank 1.6 percent to $43.5 billion. That’s down from September’s revised figure of $44.2 billion.

Exports slipped 0.8 percent to $179.2 billion, the first drop after three months of gains. Shipments of industrial supplies, such as natural gas, petrochemicals, and chemicals, fell. Exports of autos and agricultural goods also dropped.

Imports fell 1 percent to $222.6 billion, reflecting a 5 percent decline in oil imports. The average price of imported oil fell for the fifth straight month to $98.84, the lowest since March.

A lower deficit could boost economic growth because it typically means foreign nations are buying more American goods. That can lead to more jobs and higher consumer spending, which fuels 70 percent of economic activity. The deficit shrank every month in the July-September quarter as exports grew. That contributed almost a half-point to the economy’s 2 percent annual growth rate in the quarter.

Rising consumer demand in the United States could push imports higher, particularly as the holiday shopping season gets under way. Retailers reported that shoppers got off to a slow start over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. And consumer confidence rose sharply last month, though it is still below levels that are consistent with a healthy economy. There are also signs hiring is picking up. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level in nine months. That suggests companies are more confident about the economy’s growth and are laying off fewer workers.

China Daily European Weekly, on Friday by a British anti-jargon group for its “clear communication of business news to a global audience.”

Europe’s first English-language Chinese paper, was awarded on Friday by a British anti-jargon group for its “clear communication of business news to a global audience.”

In this 8 Dec, 2011 photo, a container ship is docked at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, Calif. The US trade deficit narrowed in October to its lowest point of the year as Americans bought fewer foreign cars and imported less oil. Exports of American-made autos also fell.

China newspaper wins British media award

LONDON, 10 Dec—China Daily European Weekly, Europe’s first English-language Chinese paper, was awarded on Friday by a British anti-jargon group for its “clear communication of business news to a global audience.”

The independent, self-funding group based in New Mills, High Peak, gave its International Media Award to China Daily European Weekly. It is the first time that a Chinese media has won the award.

“The language of commerce can be very complicated, especially for new business people,” said Chrisse Maher, founder of Plain English Campaign.

“We do need clear and accurate information, and this is what we find in China Daily. A newspaper that brings business into our daily lives in a way that is easy to read and understand for a wide and varied audience,” Maher said.

China Daily European Weekly was launched in Britain and continental Europe in December last year. It now covers 38 countries in Europe.

India to step up oil import from Africa

NEW DELHI, 10 Dec—India will step up its oil and gas imports from Africa to reduce dependence on any particular region by forming joint ventures, a senior official said Friday. “We have been trying to diversify our sources of oil and gas imports so as to reduce our dependence on any particular region of the world,” the Indo-Asian News Service quoted Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee as saying.

“Meet the growing demand for crude oil and gas in India, Africa will play a major role in the coming years,” he said at the third India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference here. The Middle East accounts for around 70 percent of India’s oil and gas imports, with Saudi Arabia being the largest supplier of oil to India, followed by Iran. Africa accounts for over one-fifth of India’s oil imports, with Nigeria being the country’s second largest source of oil after Saudi Arabia. Nigeria sells about 10 billion US dollars worth of oil product to India annually.

Import of crude oil from Africa has increased from about 22 million tons per annum during 2004-05 to more than 35 million tons in 2010-11. “Today, more than one-fifth of India’s crude oil imports are from Africa, with major suppliers being Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan,” said the Indian finance minister.

He added that India’s refining capacity is set to increase to 238 million tons per annum by 2013 from around 194 million now, which means that India needs 40 million tons of additional crude per annum.

US trade deficit shrinks for fourth straight month

Ford recalls 129,000 sedans; wheels may fall off

CHICAGO, 10 Dec—Ford Motor Co has recalled nearly 129,000 of its Mercury Milan and top-selling Ford Fusion in the United States because their 17-inch steel wheels may fall off, US safety regulators said on Friday.

In some vehicles from model years 2010 and 2011, the wheel studs may fracture and make the car shake. If ignored, the wheels may fall off a moving car, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in its website.

For the November quarter, refining capacity is set to increase to 238 million tons per annum from 204 million now, which means that India needs 40 million tons of additional crude per annum. "Today, more than one-fifth of India’s crude oil imports are from Africa, with major suppliers being Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan," said the Indian finance minister.

He added, "India’s refining capacity is set to increase to 238 million tons per annum by 2013 from around 194 million now, which means that India needs 40 million tons of additional crude per annum."

In this 8 Dec, 2011 photo, a container ship is docked at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, Calif. The US trade deficit narrowed in October to its lowest point of the year as Americans bought fewer foreign cars and imported less oil. Exports of American-made autos also fell.
Snakebite called the most neglected of all tropical diseases

New Delhi, 10 Dec — Poisonous snakebites kill many more people in South Asia than is ever reported, and so the problem isn’t being treated like a critical public-health issue, a group of snakebite experts say. India, which has one of the biggest snakebite problems in the world, lost 59,800 people in 2008 to 2,000 deaths from venom in 2005. But a “verbal autopsy” project that sought to establish cause and effect of death in one million people found that 46,000 of them died of snakebites — with that level of underreporting typical across the region, according to David Warrell, co-author of a research presented in the journal PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. The total numbers show one Indian dies of a snakebite for every two who die of AIDS.

And it’s a growing problem in the region. Climate change is causing an increase in natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, which force people and snakes to seek shelter on the same marshy land. In the Bangladesh floods of 2007, snakebites were a greater cause of death than water-borne diseases. “In the 21st century, snakebite is the most neglected of all the neglected tropical diseases,” said Prof. Warrell, who is emeritus professor of tropical medicine at the University of Oxford. He joined other experts in a special session on the neglect of snakebite at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene’s annual meeting.

“The deaths and suffering from these venomous snakebites remain largely invisible to the global health community,” he said. 

In this 2007 photo, an Indian villager removes a snake found beside a parked cycle at the entrance of a house in the village of Choto Pushla, about 130 kilometres northwest of Kolkata.

New drugs prolong life for women with breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — Breast cancer experts are hailing what could be some of the biggest advances in more than a decade — two new medicines that significantly delay the time until women with very advanced cases get worse.

In a major international study, an experimental drug called Pertuzumab, from the company Genentech, held cancer at bay for an average of 18 months when given with standard treatment, as opposed to 12 months for others who were given only the usual treatment. It also showed improving survival rates. Patients are being followed up to confirm this.

“You don’t see that very often. It’s a spectacular result,” said one study leader, Dr Sandra Swain, medical director of Washington Hospital Center’s cancer institute. In a second study, another drug kept cancer in check for an average of seven months in women whose disease was worsening, despite treatment with hormone-blocking drugs.

Everolimus, which is sold as Afinitor by Novartis AG, has long been used in organ transplants but had not previously been tried against breast cancer.

A comparison group who received only hormonal medicine had just a three-month delay in disease progression. Afinitor works in a new way, seems ‘unusually effective’ and sets a new standard of care, said Dr Peter Ravdin, breast cancer chief at the UT Health Science Centre in San Antonio, Texas. Most patients had tumours like those in this study — their growth is fuelled by oestrogen.

Nick Rascovitz visited the derelict house near the mysterious Pendle Hill.

Abortion ‘does not raise’ mental health risk

London, 10 Dec — Abortion does not raise the risk of a woman suffering mental health problems, a major review by experts concludes. Data from 44 studies showed women with an unwanted pregnancy have a higher incidence of mental health problems in general. This is not affected by whether or not they have an abortion or give birth.

But anti-abortion campaigners said the review sought to “minimise” the psychological effect of terminating a pregnancy.

Experts from the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCMH) used the same research methods they use to assess evidence on other mental health issues for NICE. The work — funded by the Department of Health — came after concerns that abortion may adversely affect a woman’s mental health. Usually, a woman’s risk of suffering common disorders such as anxiety or depression would be around 11-12%. But the research showed that whether these women have abortions or go on to give birth, their risk of having mental health problems will not increase.

“They carry roughly equal risks,” researchers said.

Women who have unwanted pregnancies have a three times greater risk of mental health problems.

90yo banned after refusing breath test

Frasnes, 10 Dec — A 90-year-old woman has been put on a good behaviour bond after allegedly being caught drinking alcohol more than three times the legal blood-alcohol limit. Police said they had warned Mrs Lavis to avoid being hit by Beryl Lavis as they tried to stop her for a random breath test on the New South Wales south coast in September. Lavis was pulled over on the Princes Highway at Batemans Bay, about 20 kilometres from her home at Moruya.

She allegedly returned a blood-alcohol reading of 0.23 and later refused a second test at the local police station. The 90-year-old was charged with refusing a breath test and pleaded guilty today in Moruya Local Court. A drink-driving charge was withdrawn.

Lavis had its licence cancelled for one year and was given a nine-month good behaviour bond. She is appealing against the severity of the sentence.

** Nanoparticle hollowing method promises medical advances

London, 10 Dec — A process to “carve” highly complicated shapes into nanoparticles has been unveiled by a team of researchers. It involves a chemical process which hollows out the particles into shapes such as double-walled boxes and multi-chambered tubes. The researchers said this work could aid the creation of more complex nano-objects. They said this could ultimately be used to revolutionise medical tests and aids drugs treatments.

The research was carried out by the Catalan Institute of Nanotechnology in Bellaterra, Spain and is published in the latest issue of Science. To deliver their results, the scientists refined a series of existing corrosion techniques including the “galvanic effect”. This involved treating tiny silver cubes with cationic gold — a type of gold that had some electrons removed from its atoms, turning it into an ion. When brought together at room temperature the cationic gold “attacked” the silver, stealing its electrons.

The building is in a very poor condition. You can walk through it and get a real sense of what you’re seeing in the past. Pendle Hill has a real aura about it, and it’s hard not to be affected by the place. Even before we discovered the building, there were lots of people who were interested in the Pendle witches. The building contained a sealed room, with the bones of a cat bricked into the wall. It was believed the cat was buried alive to protect the cottage’s inhabitants from evil spirits.

Carl Sanders, United Utilities project manager, said: “It’s not often you come across a fairytale cottage complete with witch’s cat. The building is in repairable condition. Women who have unwanted pregnancies have a three times greater risk of mental health problems.

NICE. The work — funded by the Department of Health — came after concerns that abortion may adversely affect a woman’s mental health. Usually, a woman’s risk of suffering common disorders such as anxiety or depression would be around 11-12%. But the research showed that whether these women have abortions or go on to give birth, their risk of having mental health problems will not increase.

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**College essay questions get weird**

US colleges are adding unusual questions to their applications, including the University of Maryland asking to "my favourite thing about last Tuesday." The question, which the university asks applicants to answer in 25 words or less, is part of a recent trend of schools asking short answer questions on subjects atypical for a college application, such as New York’s Columbia University asking applicants to describe "the best movie of all time" with brevity, the Chicago Tribune reported Friday.

"Imagine you have to wear a costume for a year of your life. What would you pick and why?" asks Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

"What is your favourite ride at the amusement park? How does this reflect your approach to life?" Emory University in Atlanta asks applicants.

**Foster’s father gets 5 years in prison**

Jodie Foster’s estranged father Lucius has been sentenced in a Los Angeles court to five years in jail, People.com said Friday.

**Lohan’s Playboy spread leaked on Web**

Editors at Playboy magazine are upset images from a photo shoot of Hollywood actress Lindsay Lohan have been leaked on the Internet, TMZ said Friday.

**Judge orders man to stay away from Kirsten Dunst**

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—A judge on Friday granted Kirsten Dunst a temporary restraining order against a French man who has repeatedly written to the actress and travelled to Los Angeles at least five times to try to meet her.

**“Young Adult” is not women behaving badly, just real**

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—Nowhere is the old saying "beauty is only skin deep" less understood than in Hollywood where for years women have tried with sporadic success to overcome the notion that looks count for more than brains.

**Man return flags stolen in 1976**

Four men who stole two flags from an Illinois college in 1976 said they always knew they would have to return them someday.

Brian Carney, 55, who returned the flags to Joliet Junior College this week with the blessings of his co-conspirators, said the men have taken good care of the flags, a US flag and a bicentennial flag, since they rowed a canoe along a creek onto the school’s campus in July 1976 and made off with them, the Chicago Tribune reported Friday.

"We cherished them and took care of them," Carney said. "The flags meant something to us and we knew eventually they had to be returned." Carney said he and his fellow pranksters wanted to set a good example for their children by returning the pilfered flags.
Lesotho on Sunday in the All Africa Games, sending out to an international Lesotho on Friday left for Lesotho U20 women football team. Florence Adhiambo said they will be keen to safeguard their miserable surrender in Basel behind them in a display of attacking verve. The Italian giant is interested in signing Pato or Alexandre Pato will be on loan but City is interested in signing the Argentine on a permanent basis. AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani had an offer sent to Manchester City in a swap move with Carlos Tevez. “There is an offer sent to Manchester City. But our offer is to get the player on loan with an option to make that deal permanent,” he added.

Calcavecchia-Price, Bradley-Steele share lead

The two great-grandchildren of David Danskin, Arsenal’s founding father, will carry out the duty of handing over the match ball to referee Howard Webb, who will make the kick-off with a sixpence to commemorate the founding team members who each gave a sixpence to commemorate the founding of the club. The two great-grandchildren of David Danskin, Arsenal’s founding father, will carry out the duty of handing over the match ball to referee Howard Webb, who will make the kick-off with a sixpence to commemorate the founding team members who each gave a sixpence to commemorate the founding of the club. The two great-grandchildren of David Danskin, Arsenal’s founding father, will carry out the duty of handing over the match ball to referee Howard Webb, who will make the kick-off with a sixpence to commemorate the founding team members who each gave a sixpence to commemorate the founding of the club. 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Arsenal to celebrate 125th anniversary

LONDON, 10 Dec—Arsenal have planned a day of celebrations around their 125th anniversary. The Gunners were formed in 1886 and alongside club legends and notable supporters a number of descendants from the original team will be guests of honour at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday. The great-grandson of Fred Beardsley, who sourced kit for Arsenal from his former team Nottingham Forest, will join current kit manager Vic Akers in setting up the dressing room pre-match. The two great-grandchildren of David Danskin, Arsenal’s founding father, will carry out the duty of handing over the match ball to referee Howard Webb, who will make the kick-off with a sixpence to commemorate the founding team members who each gave a sixpence to buy a football. A souvenir edition of the matchday programme will be available and anyone purchasing will be in with a chance of finding one of 125 golden tickets to win one of the 18 commemorative shirts worn by the squad on the day or a souvenir leather football ball. Supporters are also encouraged to arrive at the stadium early to experience the special events take place.
Liverpool confirms Lucas successfully underwent knee surgery in Brazil

LIVERPOOL, 10 Dec — Liverpool confirmed midfielder Lucas has successfully undergone surgery on his knee in Brazil. The Brazilian picked up an injury to his ACL against Chelsea in the League Cup at the end of last month, and is expected to be out until well into the new year.

The operation took place in Sao Paulo and the 24-year-old is hoping to leave hospital on Friday. "LFC medical staff were present during the procedure," a statement on the club's website said. "Lucas will now begin an agreed rehabilitation program which will be overseen by the club's medical team."

Thierry Henry: Only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are better than Robin van Persie

LONDON, 10 Dec — Arsenal legend Thierry Henry is in awe of current club talisman Robin van Persie, claiming only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are better. Van Persie has scored 34 goals in 31 games in 2011 and is only two goals behind Alan Shearer's 1995 Premier League record.

Former No14 Henry left Arsenal in 2007 after netting 226 times. The current New York Red Bulls star was quick to praise the current form of Van Persie, suggesting only Barca star Messi and Real Madrid forward Ronaldo are in superior form at the moment.

"What can I say about Robin? I saw him come in here and at the very beginning he wasn't the easiest player to deal with - like I wasn't. I guess," Henry told Arsenal's official website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmissions Times</th>
<th>Local Transmission</th>
<th>Overseas Transmission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 am - 11:20 am</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Travelling to Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myoe Ma Market)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 11:40 am</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Easily Cooked &amp; Tasty Dishes &quot;Chicken Curry with Gourd&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50 am - 12:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Strengthen Bilateral Friendship through Economic Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10 am - 12:20 am</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Their Role In Our Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 am - 12:40 am</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Music Gallery</td>
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**Weather forecast for 11th December, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>34/93</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>29/84</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>29/84</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayin</td>
<td>38/100</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>31/88</td>
<td>Likelihood of scattered rain (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Shan</td>
<td>29/84</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Shan</td>
<td>29/84</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Mandalay</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Yangon</td>
<td>35/95</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Nyaungshwe</td>
<td>36/97</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Pindaya</td>
<td>36/97</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Sagaing</td>
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<td>Partly cloudy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Shan</td>
<td>36/97</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Mon</td>
<td>36/97</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Kachin</td>
<td>36/97</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of observations at 11:00 MST on Dec 10th 2011

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Thierry Henry: Only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are better than Robin van Persie.

Thierry Henry: Only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are better than Robin van Persie.
Yangon Region Hluttaw and members and guests.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the speaker of commission members, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Hluttaw Chairman of the Commission U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Kaba Aye Pagoda Roads in Bahan Township.

Yesterday morning met members of the commission at the commission office (Yangon branch) at room 209-210 of No. 66/B at Yuzana Condo Tower at the corner of Shwegondine and Kaba Aye Pagoda Roads in Bahan Township. It was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Chairman of the Commission U Nanda Kyaw Swa and commission members, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw and members and guests.

In his address, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said that the commission is a Union level organization that was formed under section 2, subsection (b) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law with experienced persons in legal, international and economic fields to be able to serve the interests of the Hluttaw and the State.

The commission is responsible for scrutinizing the existing laws whether they can be conformity with the constitution and Our Three Main National Causes—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Non-disintegration of Sovereignty, whether they can serve the interests of the State and the citizens, and whether they can be in conformity with the international convention and for submitting the reports on amendment, revocation and new promulgation to the Hluttaw through the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The suggestions and assessments of the commission will contribute much towards undertakings of the Hluttaw in serving the interests of the State and the people. Moreover, the commission is to assess the laws concerning economic sector and give suggestions for economic reform of the State. He called on the commission to take up its tasks dutifully for the Hluttaw and the State interests.

Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua donated computer accessories for the Hluttaw Office. Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo accepted the donations. The Ambassador explained the purpose of donation.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann spoke words of thanks. The Studying, Examining and Reviewing Commission on Legal Affairs and Special Cases is formed with Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa of

(See page 10)

General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend graduation dinner of 54th Intake of DSA

The graduation dinner of the 54th Intake of the Defence Services Academy was held at the parade ground of Anawrahta Battalion of the DSA in PyinUwainwin at 6 pm yesterday, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

Also present at the dinner were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Hway Hway Nyunt, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and their wives, commanders of North-East Command, North-West Command and Central Command, the commandant of DSA, guests, parents and relatives of graduation officers.

First, the General cordially greeted the graduation officers individually. Next, General Min Aung Hlaing and party had dinner together with graduation officers, parents and relatives. After the dinner, General Min Aung Hlaing and party enjoyed entertainments of Myawady music troupe and Myawady Anyeint troupe at Thabin Hall.

Kayin State Women Aerobic Team awarded

YANGON, 10 Dec.—A prize presentation ceremony of Kayin State Women Aerobic team who participated in the 17th State/Region Aerobic Contest- 2011 (Women) was held at Kayin State government Office in Kayin State, Hpa-an, on 8 December.

The team stood second in the contest as it came second in junior nine-double contest, second in senior nine-double contest, second in three-man contest, and fourth in single contest.

The team was awarded by Patron and State Women Sports Subcommittee members. —MNA

Sunday, 11 December, 2011

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Football Tourney goes on

YANGON, 10 Dec.—The semifinal of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-Township Men (Open Division) Football Tourney was held at the Region Sports Ground in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 9 December. And Kyunsu Township Team beat Myeik Township Team 2-1.

On 10 December, Dawei Township Team plays against Lombok Township Team in the second semifinal.—MNA