Established 1914

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.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) sees off Commander-in-Chief (Navy) on his departure for Bangladesh

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and senior military officers and their wives and Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, saw off Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, who will pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of Bangladesh at the invitation of the Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Navy Vice Admiral Zahur Uddin Ahmed, (ND); ndc, psc, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint were accompanied by Commodore Tin Aung San of Kyaukpyu Station, senior military officers and Bangladeshi Military Attaché Brig-Gen MD Shahidul Haque, psc as the delegation members.

MNA

Six points agreed in Union level peace talk with Klo Htoo Baw (former DKBA)

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec—The seven-member Union level peace-making group led by Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thaung and its six-member delegation of Klo Htoo Baw group led by U Saw Lah Pwe met in first Union level negotiation in Hpa-an of Kayin State yesterday afternoon, an outcome of State level initial peace talk in the same venue on 3 November, inking six-point agreement.

The agreed facts were:

(1) It is agreed to approve initial peace agreement signed by Kayin State Peace Making Group and Klo Htoo Baw (former DKBA) on 3 November, 2011.

(2) Kayin State is an important part of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is agreed not to secede Kayin State from the Union.

(3) It is agreed to uphold Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty forever.

(4) It is agreed to cooperate with the government in regional development, settlement of members of Klo Htoo Baw group and their families and improvement of socio-economic status in Sukali region under existing laws, basing temporarily in Sone Hsi Myaing region.

(5) It is agreed to cooperate with the Union government in the fight against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

(6) It is agreed to continue dialogue for establishing eternal peace.

Leader of the delegation U Aung Thaung and members presented 200 bags of rice and 100 viss of edible oil provided by the government and gifts of the regional command to the Klo Htoo Baw delegation which returned commemorative presents to them.

Representatives of the Union level peace making group and of the Klo Htoo Baw delegation posed for documentary photos.

MNA

Significant night temperature

Haka (1°C)

Mogok (7°C)
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 13 December, 2011

Water for the others

There is a saying, “One may be kept alive on a meal for seven days, but he may not survive more than a morning without water.” Water is one of the basic essentials for living creatures. Some places on the earth are blessed with natural access to water, but some are not. That is why some say they prefer water rather than gold.

In Myanmar’s most populous city Yangon, 64 out of 160 million gallons of daily supplied water do not reach consumers’ hands, flitting away along the pipeline. It accounts for 40 per cent of the water supply. Other towns and regions are witnessing similar water wastages to some extent as well.

The water-related organizations alone are not to blame, and consumers also have the same responsibility for such wastages. People with easy access to water should refrain from opening taps in no use and using undue amount of water. As the water closets are deeply rooted in urban community, water flushed the toilets are sources of water wastage.

A flush tank holds a basket of water (5 gallons). If a person goes potty twice a day, he uses 10 gallons of water. Letting alone the call of nature, daily water usage for a five-member family is 50 gallons. The number touches 100 when bath is added. Some world countries are seeking ways to reduce the usage of flush water. Our country should also consider some alternatives. Loosen and damaged taps and joints of pipelines also contribute to the water wastage. Fifteen litres of water are wasted daily from a drippy tap.

If an urban dweller saves 10 gallons of water from their daily usage, it means they set aside over 40 million gallons of water for people in need of water.

If the responsible personnel and consumers manage the usage of water well, it will give the excess amount of water at no extra cost.

Beans exports increase year by year

YANGON, 12 Dec—Myanmar Pulses and Beans, Sesame Merchants Association has been exporting various kinds of beans into foreign countries since the date of its establishment. During last November, Inter-national Pulses Trade Industry Confederation (IPTIC) had already been legally involved by the association in penetrating into new markets.

The association sends beans abroad in advance year by year. In 2010-2011 financial year, about 957,000 tons of beans worth over US$388 million were exported by the association, and about 960,930 tons worth over US $794 million recorded till December in 2011-2012 financial year.

According to the records, this year has got a higher exporting record—about 1,351,42 tons of beans worth US $17 million than before. The association is signing MoUs with foreign countries to continue its export, reported by Chairman U Tun Lwin.

AIDS is a national concern.

Union CPT Minister receives ministers, deputy ministers, who attended 11th ASEAN Communications and Information Technology Ministers’ meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications U Thein Tun received the ministers and the deputy ministers, who had arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 11th ASEAN Communications and Information Technology Ministers’ meeting at International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 December.

At 1 pm, the meeting between the Union Minister and Cambodian Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mr. So Khun and party focused on matters relating to stretching of Fibre optic cables, bilateral investments for communications, and direct communications between the two countries.

Indonesian Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Dr. Basuki Yusuf Iksanadar and party at 1:30 pm called on the Union Minister for matters relating to mobile communications and communication laws as well as cooperation in IT technology.

The discussion between Chinese Deputy Minister of Industry and Information Mr. Shang Bing and the Union Minister at 5 pm evening concentrated on matters relating to mobile communications, Roaming and extension of Fiber optic cables along Shweili-Lashio-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Chaungtha Road, including being able to connect with SE-Me-We-5.

Vietnamese Minister of Information and Telecommunications Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung and party at 5:30 pm discussed with the Union Minister on matters relating to connections of mobile phones and internet.

The Union Minister at 6 pm met Korean Commissioner of Communications Commission (KCC) Mr. Yong Sup Shin and party to discuss on upgrading of e-government system, being able to share knowledge on extension of mobile system, and implementation of Korea-Myanmar ICT Master Plan.

Also present at the meetings together with the Union Minister were Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin and departmental heads of the ministry.

Singaporean goodwill delegation calls on President’s advisors

Singaporean delegation led by Singapore Foreign Minister Mr K Shanmugam and wife arrived here at Yangon International Airport this morning. They were welcomed at the Airport by Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department, Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung of Protocol Department and officials and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert and officials.

After that, the delegation met President’s advisors U Ko Ko Hlaing, Police Col Sit Aye (Retd) and Dr Sein Hla Bo, at President’s advisor Branch Office (Yangon) in Kamayut Township. In the evening, they paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.

Dy EP-2 Minister attends opening ceremony of English proficiency course

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Aung Than Oo addressed concluding ceremony of English four skills proficiency course at the ministry here this morning and cordially greeted the trainees.

The four-week course is being attended by 30 trainees. —MNA
NATO to halt air mission at year-end

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec—NATO will withdraw its Iraq training mission at year-end after Baghdad refused to grant it legal immunity, Iraq’s top security adviser said on Sunday, mirroring the nearly-complete pullout of US forces. But a NATO official in Brussels denied that any decision had been taken. Iraq said the end of the mission was a surprise, with NATO previously having agreed in principle to staying through to the end of 2013. “NATO surprised us with this decision,” National Security Adviser Falah al-Fayyad said in an interview aboard a flight transporting Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to Washington.

“We are sorry that NATO has decided that it will withdraw its mission from Iraq, because immunity is something that is out of the government’s reach,” he added, saying Baghdad was informed of the decision on Thursday. The failure to agree on immunity from prosecution closely mirrors Iraq’s refusal to grant US soldiers similar protections earlier this year, sinking a potential deal between the two countries that means all American soldiers left in Iraq will leave by year-end. Around 60,000 US troops remain stationed in the country on three bases, down from peaks of nearly 170,000 soldiers and 500 bases. Fayyad added: “I would have preferred that there would be cooperation with NATO in other aspects, and not only through its mission in Iraq, and I was hoping that this mission would stay.”

14 militants killed, 11 arrested in Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Dec—A total of 14 militants were killed and 11 others captured in three different military operations in Pakistan’s southwest, by Afghan and NATO-led Coalition forces over the past 24 hours, Afghan Interior Ministry said on Monday. “Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army, NDS or intelligence agency and Coalition Forces launched three joint operations in areas surrounding Kunar and Zabul Provinces. Therefore 14 armed militants were killed and 11 other suspects were detained by joint forces,” the ministry said in a Press release.

The ANP also discovered and confiscated nine AK-47 guns with 10 magazines, one PKM machine gun, four pistols, nine different types of weapons, six anti-vehicle mines, eight hand grenades, 25 heavy bullets, 62 light bullets, 700 rounds of rocket propelled grenade Devices (IEDs), eight kg chemical materials and four motorbikes in the above operations, it said. Afghan officials often use the word “militants” referring to Taleban. However, the militant group, which launched in May this year a rebel offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, has not to make comments yet.

Afghan and NATO-led coalition forces keep up pressure on insurgents all over the country as over 230 militants were killed and around 300 were arrested by joint forces in November alone, according the Afghan interior ministry.

How a massacre killed an Afghan family’s hope

KABUL, 12 Dec—Tarana dressed up for the holiday in a specially tailored bright green robe, a 12-year-old Afghan girl excided to set off with her family for a religious pilgrimage at year-end. “I was really scared,” said the girl, whose name means “melody” in English.

Of 17 women and children from her family who went to a riverside shrine in Kabul a week ago to mark the Shiite holy day of Ashura, seven died including her seven-year-old brother.

Three killed in central Copenhagen explosion

COPENHAGEN, 12 Dec—Three people were killed in an explosion at an apartment in downtown Copenhagen on Sunday, which police authorities suspect is a criminal act. Police and local emergency services were alerted to the explosion shortly after Sunday mid-day, when they found the three victims, including two men and one woman, in different parts of the apartment. According to Danish news agency Ritzau, the two men had sustained severe burns and were taken to Copenhagen University Hospital for treatment, but died of their injuries. The woman is believed to have died shortly after the explosion.

“We suspect there may be a crime behind this. That is all I can say at this time,” said Deputy Inspector Lau Thygesen of Copenhagen Police, in comments cited by Ritzau. Police confirmed that the three victims are related to each other. According to Danish broadcaster TV2, they are a 34-year-old woman, her husband, 38, and a 69-year-old man who was the father of one of the married couple.

One of the dead men was a registered occupant of the apartment, which is located in the local council of Frederiksberg, in central Copenhagen, Ritzau added.

Deadly attack on NATO convoy in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec—Gunmen attacked NATO oil tankers stranded in southwest Pakistan for the second time in days as Islamabad warned it could freeze NATO’s grant of the US lifeline into Afghanistan for weeks.

The attackers shot dead a driver and destroyed seven tankers in a blaze of fire late Sunday, the second attack in four days in Pakistan’s volatile region of Baluchistan, which is rife with separatists and Taleban militants.

There was no claim of responsibility but Pakistan’s fragile alliance with the United States crashed to new lows after 26 November, when NATO air strikes killed 24 Pakistani soldiers in what Pakistan said was a deliberate attack.

Islamabad sealed its Afghan border to NATO convoys, closures that entered into force Monday, forcing trucks back to the Arabian Sea port of Karachi.

Sunday’s convoy was targeted in Dadar town, 90 kilometres (56 miles) southeast of the capital of Baluchistan, police said. “Around eight gunmen approached the convoy in Baluchistan, ordered to stop and started firing on the tankers,” senior local police official Inayat Bugti told AFP. “A driver of one of the tankers was also hit by a bullet and was killed instantly. The attackers later put the tankers on fire and escaped,” he said.—AFP

A Pakistani family saw a massacre at an overnight attack by gunmen in Quetta, on 9 December. Internet

Investigators look over the scene of a fatal shooting, on 9 Dec, 2011, in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles, Calif. A gunfighter who first at cars and shouted “kill me” and “I’m gonna die!” was shot to death Friday by police after wounding a driver in the heart of Hollywood, authorities and a witness reported.—Internet

A music exec shot by Hollywood gunman still critical

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec—A music industry executive who has worked with artists like Jessica Simpson, Brandy and the Spice Girls, was shot in the face and upper torso as he drove his Mercedes Benz through Hollywood Friday morning, police said in a statement. Paramedics took him to Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles, where he has remained in critical condition since, hospital spokeswoman Simi Singer said. Atterberry was seriously injured victim of 26-year-old Tyler Brehm, who angrily stalked the Hollywood streets in front of dozens of witnesses, screaming that he wanted to die and firing seemingly at random at passing drivers, unloading close to 20 rounds from what appeared to be a .40-caliber handgun.

An off-duty officer working at a movie set and a detective confronted and shot the gunman, police said. A truck and another car were struck by bullets, leaving two men with minor injuries — one man with a grazed wound and another with cuts from broken glass.

Friends and colleagues filled Atterberry’s Facebook page with well wishes and promises of prayers.
The report involves Madeline Mann, born in 1989 weighing 9.9 ounces. Then the world record, and 7-year-old Rumana Rahman, whose 9.2-ounce birth weight remains the world’s title. Rumana’s birth weight was initially reported as several ounces less, but that figure was based on a different conversion scale. Two other babies born since 1989 weighed less than Madeline, and a German woman was born last year at that same birth weight. The report was released online Monday in Pediatrics. 

It addresses a question that was hotly debated when Madeline was born 22 years ago, remains hot now — and still has no answer: “What is the real age of viability? No one knows,” said Dr Stephen Welty, neonatologist chief at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. —Internet

It investigates a question that was hotly debated when Madeline was born 22 years ago, remains hot now — and still has no answer: “What is the real age of viability? No one knows,” said Dr Stephen Welty, neonatologist chief at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. —Internet

S Korea cuts growth outlook amid eurozone crisis

SEOUL, 12 Dec— South Korea on Monday slashed its economic growth forecasts for this year and next because of the eurozone debt crisis and the slowdown in developed nations, which is hammering its export sector.

The finance ministry said it now expects the export-dominated economy, Asia’s fourth-largest, to grow 3.8 percent this year and 3.7 percent in 2012 — sharply lower than its previous forecast of 4.5 percent for both years. The ministry also raised its 2012 inflation outlook to 3.2 percent from 3 percent. The revision brings the ministry into line with the central bank’s, whose forecasts are normally less bullish.

“The Korean economy is slowing down as the external conditions are becoming unfavourable,” the ministry said. 

“The recovery has not been felt enough by the working class and potential risk factors and structural problems remain,” the ministry said. 

The government said it expected growth to slow to 7.4 percent next year from 19.2 percent this year, with the 2012 current-account surplus falling to $16 billion from $25 billion this year.

Australian firms in major coal merger

SYDNEY, 12 Dec— Australian miners Aston Resources and Whitehaven Coal announced they will merge to form the nation’s largest listed independent coal company, worth Aus$5.10 billion (US$5.18 billion).

Under the deal, valued at Aus$3 billion, Aston shareholders will receive 1.89 Whitehaven shares per Aston share, and majority owner Tinkler Group said it intended to vote in favour of the merger.

Billionaire mining magnate and Aston chairman Nathan Tinkler recommended shareholders approve the deal, which has the backing of both firms’ boards, describing it as an “important milestone.”

“The merger represents the next phase in Aston’s growth, providing share- holders with exposure to a larger and more diversified portfolio of coal mines, projects and exploration opportunities,” Tinkler said in a statement, released on Monday.

Aston will be a “transformative and exciting transaction” that would capitalise on the positive long- term prospects for Australian coal exports. —Internet

Listening to body signals aids weight loss

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec—Mastering mindful eating — awareness of eating and stress-reduction techniques help prevent weight gain even without dieting, US researchers say. Jennifer Daubenmier and the Elissa Epel University of California, SanFrancisco, said the women involved in their study were not on calorie- counting diets.

Instead, 24 of the 47 chronically stressed, overweight and obese women were randomly assigned to mindfulness training and practice.

The other 23 served as a control group. No diets were prescribed, but all participants attended one session about the basics of healthy eating and exercise. The training included nine weekly sessions, each lasting 2.5 hours, during which the women learned stress reduction techniques and how to be more aware of their eating by recognizing bodily sensations, including hunger, fullness and taste satisfaction.

At week six they attended an intensive 7-hour, silent meditation retreat, the researchers said.

The study participants were asked to set aside 30 minutes daily for meditation exercises and to practice mindful eating during meals. The study, published online in the Journal of Obesity, found those who had greater improvements in listening to their bodies’ cues, or greater reductions in stress reactivity — stress/hormone — experienced the greatest reductions in abdominal fat.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 13 December, 2011

Health

Tiniest babies are growing up healthy despite odds

CHICAGO, 12 Dec— One is a healthy first-grader, the other an honors student majoring in psychology. Once the tiniest babies ever born, both girls are thriving, despite long odds when they entered the world weighing less than a pound.

A medical report from the doctor who resuscitated the infants at a suburban Chicago hospital is both a success story and a cautionary tale. These two are the exceptions and their remarkable health later should not raise false hope: Most babies this small do poorly and many do not survive even with advanced medical care.

“These are such extreme cases,” said Dr. Jonathan Muraskas of Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill. They should not be considered “a benchmark” to mean that caretakers should try to save all babies so small, he said.

Healthier kids’ food a hot menu trend

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec— Mastering mindful eating — awareness of eating and stress-reduction techniques help prevent weight gain even without dieting, US researchers say. Jennifer Daubenmier and the Elissa Epel University of California, SanFrancisco, said the women involved in their study were not on calorie-counting diets.

Instead, 24 of the 47 chronically stressed, overweight and obese women were randomly assigned to mindfulness training and practice.

The other 23 served as a control group. No diets were prescribed, but all participants attended one session about the basics of healthy eating and exercise. The training included nine weekly sessions, each lasting 2.5 hours, during which the women learned stress reduction techniques and how to be more aware of their eating by recognizing bodily sensations, including hunger, fullness and taste satisfaction.

At week six they attended an intensive 7-hour, silent meditation retreat, the researchers said.

The study participants were asked to set aside 30 minutes daily for meditation exercises and to practice mindful eating during meals. The study, published online in the Journal of Obesity, found those who had greater improvements in listening to their bodies’ cues, or greater reductions in stress reactivity — stress/hormone — experienced the greatest reductions in abdominal fat.

The Six Pack “Shortcut? Before

...
Species, threats grow in Mekong region

A team of national and international climber, scientists, archaeologists, historians and anthropologists has found evidence of thousands of years of civilization in this mystical land.

According to Monday’s Kathmandu Post, a team of national and international climbers, scientists, archaeologists, historians and anthropologists has found evidence of thousands of years of civilization in this mystical land. After beginning the first phase of its research in 2008, the team discovered human remains dating back to 3,000 years, bringing out untold stories of an “independent” civilization.

3,000-year-old human remains uncovered in western Nepal

According to Mohan Singh Lama, an archaeologist with the Department of Archaeology (DoA), the findings go back to the pre-history period (before the beginning of the Christian era) when the Indus Valley and the Chinese civilizations were slowly making inroads into Nepal via present day India and the Tibetan plateau. “Since cave settlement was not popular in other places around, we can view this as an independent civilization,” he said, adding that one of the most important cultures of the past that they found out is the unique burial pattern.

“According to him, dead bodies used to be buried in caves, along with jewelry and utensils. The team found square coffins in the caves with human skeletons, perched under kilos of jewelry and utensils.”

Saturn’s moons

According to Monday’s Kathmandu Post, a team of national and international climbers, scientists, archaeologists, historians and anthropologists has found evidence of thousands of years of civilization in this mystical land. After beginning the first phase of its research in 2008, the team discovered human remains dating back to 3,000 years, bringing out untold stories of an “independent” civilization.

Saturn’s moons

Spacecraft to observe two Saturn moons

A quartet of Saturn’s moons, from tiny to huge, surround and are embedded within the planet’s rings in this Cassini composition.

Japanese launches new spy satellite

Tokyo, 12 Dec—Japan launched a new spy satellite into orbit Monday amid concerns over North Korea’s missile programme and to monitor natural disasters in the region.

The Japanese H-2A rocket carrying an information-gathering radar satellite lifted off at 10:21 am (0121 GMT) from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan, officials said.

The government decided to build an intelligence-gathering system following North Korea’s missile launch in 1998 into the Pacific over the Japanese archipelago.

In defiance of international pressure, North Korea launched what was believed to be a three-stage Taepodong-2 missile in April 2009, with an estimated range of 6,700 kilometres (4,100 miles).

For security reasons, the government has refused to divulge details about the functions of satellites.

Demand for domestic land surveillance grew after Japan was hit by the 11 March quake and tsunami.—Internet

Playful texting icons ‘emojis’ are all the rage among smartphone users

Sydney, 12 Dec—More elaborate cousins of emoticons, ‘emojis’, are becoming more and more popular among smartphone users.

Instead of typing a plain simple text message, people are now resorting to sending a cartoon picture of their message. “Instead of saying ‘I love you,’ I’ll just use a heart,” the Sydney Morning Herald quoted a student at Berkeley College in New York as saying.

“Or when I’m writing ‘LOL,’ I’ll put a laughing-crying face instead.”

Emojis are those creative combinations of colons, parentheses and other punctuation that people use to drop a facial expression into a text message or email.

Unlike emoticons, emojis don’t require tilting your head sideways to make sense of the image. They are a kind of pictorial alphabet stored on a phone that can be displayed in place of the regular keyboard, making it easy to tap out a visual message.

Outside their native Japan, emojis have been available to in-the-know smartphone owners for some time via add-on applications. But now they may be on the verge of going mainstream, thanks in part to Apple’s latest update to its iPhone software. The latest version, iOS 5, comes with an installed library of emojis that can be turned on as an ‘international keyboard’ in the device’s ‘settings’.

A 39-year-old lawyer in Oklahoma City, who was familiar with using such elaborate emoticons in email services such as Gmail, said they were an entertaining way to communicate with his nine-year-old son.

The lawyer revealed that he and his son often use pictures of tiny footballs or basketballs as they trade banter about sports and coming games.—Internet

Japanese launches new spy satellite

Tokyo, 12 Dec—Japan launched a new spy satellite into orbit Monday amid concerns over North Korea’s missile programme and to monitor natural disasters in the region.

The Japanese H-2A rocket carrying an information-gathering radar satellite lifted off at 10:21 am (0121 GMT) from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan, officials said.

The government decided to build an intelligence-gathering system following North Korea’s missile launch in 1998 into the Pacific over the Japanese archipelago.

In defiance of international pressure, North Korea launched what was believed to be a three-stage Taepodong-2 missile in April 2009, with an estimated range of 6,700 kilometres (4,100 miles).

For security reasons, the government has refused to divulge details about the functions of satellites.

Demand for domestic land surveillance grew after Japan was hit by the 11 March quake and tsunami.—Internet

Playful texting icons ‘emojis’ are all the rage among smartphone users

Sydney, 12 Dec—More elaborate cousins of emoticons, ‘emojis’, are becoming more and more popular among smartphone users.

Instead of typing a plain simple text message, people are now resorting to sending a cartoon picture of their message. “Instead of saying ‘I love you,’ I’ll just use a heart,” the Sydney Morning Herald quoted a student at Berkeley College in New York as saying.

“Or when I’m writing ‘LOL,’ I’ll put a laughing-crying face instead.”

Emojis are those creative combinations of colons, parentheses and other punctuation that people use to drop a facial expression into a text message or email.

Unlike emoticons, emojis don’t require tilting your head sideways to make sense of the image. They are a kind of pictorial alphabet stored on a phone that can be displayed in place of the regular keyboard, making it easy to tap out a visual message.

Outside their native Japan, emojis have been available to in-the-know smartphone owners for some time via add-on applications. But now they may be on the verge of going mainstream, thanks in part to Apple’s latest update to its iPhone software. The latest version, iOS 5, comes with an installed library of emojis that can be turned on as an ‘international keyboard’ in the device’s ‘settings’.

A 39-year-old lawyer in Oklahoma City, who was familiar with using such elaborate emoticons in email services such as Gmail, said they were an entertaining way to communicate with his nine-year-old son.

The lawyer revealed that he and his son often use pictures of tiny footballs or basketballs as they trade banter about sports and coming games.—Internet

Japanese launches new spy satellite

Tokyo, 12 Dec—Japan launched a new spy satellite into orbit Monday amid concerns over North Korea’s missile programme and to monitor natural disasters in the region.

The Japanese H-2A rocket carrying an information-gathering radar satellite lifted off at 10:21 am (0121 GMT) from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan, officials said.

The government decided to build an intelligence-gathering system following North Korea’s missile launch in 1998 into the Pacific over the Japanese archipelago.

In defiance of international pressure, North Korea launched what was believed to be a three-stage Taepodong-2 missile in April 2009, with an estimated range of 6,700 kilometres (4,100 miles).

For security reasons, the government has refused to divulge details about the functions of satellites.

Demand for domestic land surveillance grew after Japan was hit by the 11 March quake and tsunami.—Internet

Playful texting icons ‘emojis’ are all the rage among smartphone users

Sydney, 12 Dec—More elaborate cousins of emoticons, ‘emojis’, are becoming more and more popular among smartphone users.

Instead of typing a plain simple text message, people are now resorting to sending a cartoon picture of their message. “Instead of saying ‘I love you,’ I’ll just use a heart,” the Sydney Morning Herald quoted a student at Berkeley College in New York as saying.

“Or when I’m writing ‘LOL,’ I’ll put a laughing-crying face instead.”

Emojis are those creative combinations of colons, parentheses and other punctuation that people use to drop a facial expression into a text message or email.

Unlike emoticons, emojis don’t require tilting your head sideways to make sense of the image. They are a kind of pictorial alphabet stored on a phone that can be displayed in place of the regular keyboard, making it easy to tap out a visual message.

Outside their native Japan, emojis have been available to in-the-know smartphone owners for some time via add-on applications. But now they may be on the verge of going mainstream, thanks in part to Apple’s latest update to its iPhone software. The latest version, iOS 5, comes with an installed library of emojis that can be turned on as an ‘international keyboard’ in the device’s ‘settings’.

A 39-year-old lawyer in Oklahoma City, who was familiar with using such elaborate emoticons in email services such as Gmail, said they were an entertaining way to communicate with his nine-year-old son.

The lawyer revealed that he and his son often use pictures of tiny footballs or basketballs as they trade banter about sports and coming games.—Internet

Japanese launches new spy satellite

Tokyo, 12 Dec—Japan launched a new spy satellite into orbit Monday amid concerns over North Korea’s missile programme and to monitor natural disasters in the region.

The Japanese H-2A rocket carrying an information-gathering radar satellite lifted off at 10:21 am (0121 GMT) from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan, officials said.

The government decided to build an intelligence-gathering system following North Korea’s missile launch in 1998 into the Pacific over the Japanese archipelago.

In defiance of international pressure, North Korea launched what was believed to be a three-stage Taepodong-2 missile in April 2009, with an estimated range of 6,700 kilometres (4,100 miles).

For security reasons, the government has refused to divulge details about the functions of satellites.

Demand for domestic land surveillance grew after Japan was hit by the 11 March quake and tsunami.—Internet

Playful texting icons ‘emojis’ are all the rage among smartphone users

Sydney, 12 Dec—More elaborate cousins of emoticons, ‘emojis’, are becoming more and more popular among smartphone users.

Instead of typing a plain simple text message, people are now resorting to sending a cartoon picture of their message. “Instead of saying ‘I love you,’ I’ll just use a heart,” the Sydney Morning Herald quoted a student at Berkeley College in New York as saying.

“Or when I’m writing ‘LOL,’ I’ll put a laughing-crying face instead.”

Emojis are those creative combinations of colons, parentheses and other punctuation that people use to drop a facial expression into a text message or email.

Unlike emoticons, emojis don’t require tilting your head sideways to make sense of the image. They are a kind of pictorial alphabet stored on a phone that can be displayed in place of the regular keyboard, making it easy to tap out a visual message.

Outside their native Japan, emojis have been available to in-the-know smartphone owners for some time via add-on applications. But now they may be on the verge of going mainstream, thanks in part to Apple’s latest update to its iPhone software. The latest version, iOS 5, comes with an installed library of emojis that can be turned on as an ‘international keyboard’ in the device’s ‘settings’.

A 39-year-old lawyer in Oklahoma City, who was familiar with using such elaborate emoticons in email services such as Gmail, said they were an entertaining way to communicate with his nine-year-old son.

The lawyer revealed that he and his son often use pictures of tiny footballs or basketballs as they trade banter about sports and coming games.—Internet
Airport search complaints prompt calls for on-site advocates

NEW YORK, 12 Dec—Two New York politicians urged the Transportation Security Administration on Sunday to provide passenger advocates on site at airport screenings after four elderly women complained of intrusive searches by security agents in recent months. Senator Charles Schumer and State Senator Michael Gianaris told Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano and TSA Administrator John Pistole in a letter that an on-site passenger advocate would help strike the right balance between security and protecting vulnerable travelers.

“I appreciate the TSA’s work to keep air passengers safe, but passengers should not be humiliated and degraded during their travels,” Gianaris said in a statement accompanying the letter. The call came after several elderly women came forward in the busy travel weeks around Thanksgiving to complain they were “strip searched by TSA agents”, including three at New York’s John F Kennedy International Airport, the letter said.

On Sunday, the TSA denied on its blog that the women had been strip searched.

“TSA does not and has never conducted strip searches, and no strip searches occurred in any of these incidents,” the official statement posted by TSA blogger Bob Burns said. He said the TSA was in the process of establishing a roll-free phone number dedicated to travellers who may require assistance during screening and which could be called to “get guidance and information about screening.”

The number of people on board wasn’t immediately available.

Jetliner with engine out lands safely in W Colo

GRAND JUNCTION, 12 Dec—The Federal Aviation Administration says a United Airlines 757 with one of its two engines shut down has landed safely at Grand Junction Regional Airport in western Colorado. FAA spokesman Ian Gregor says the plane was flying from Denver to Los Angeles on Sunday when the right engine shut down and the aircraft was diverted to Grand Junction. The cause of the problem was unknown. The plane landed around 11:44 am.

A United spokesman said he was checking on the report but had no information immediately.

Boats shelter in Forthcath harbour on the north coast of County Antrim as storm force winds batter the north coast of Northern Ireland with gales forecast to reach 80mph on 8 December, 2011.—INTERNET

Chinese fishermen kill S Korean coastguard officer

SEOUL, 12 Dec.—A South Korean coastguard officer was stabbed to death and another was injured in a struggle with Chinese sailors who were being detained for illegal fishing, a coastguard spokesman said. It was the second time in less than four years that a coastguard officer had died, amid increasingly violent clashes in the rich fishing grounds of the Yellow Sea between the two countries.

Monday’s 41-year-old victim was rushed by helicopter to hospital in the city of Incheon, west of Seoul, but died of organ failure.

The coastguard said it started an operation early Monday to seize two Chinese fishing boats 85 kilometres (53 miles) off Socheong island and managed to take control of a 66-tonne boat.

But the other boat suddenly rammed the seized vessel, prompting nine Chinese fishermen on board to start attacking officers. It said the 41-year-old surnamed Lee, who was searching the steering room, was stabbed in the side by a Chinese fisherman with a piece of glass and a 33-year-old officer was also stabbed.

The coastguard said the pair, along with the Chinese skipper, were taken by helicopter to hospital but Lee could not be saved. The 66-tonne boat and nine crew were being brought to Incheon.

Illegal fishing by Chinese vessels is common in South Korean waters, with 475 boats seized so far this year compared with 370 in the whole of last year, according to official figures.

Mexican army finds tunnel in northern border city

MEXICO CITY, 12 Dec—The Mexican army says it has found a 50-yard (metre) long tunnel starting under a building in the northern City of Nogales, which is across the border from Nogales, Arizona.

The Defence Department says the tunnel two yards (metres) under the surface may have been used to cross the border into the United States. However, the department’s statement Sunday does not say whether the tunnel actually reaches into US territory or whether any entrance on the US side has been found. Such tunnels found previously in Nogales and elsewhere on the border have been used to move drugs or migrants.

The tunnel was discovered by soldiers Friday. The army says one man carrying an illegal weapon was detained at the scene.

Peacekeeping soldiers with the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) secure the area near the village of Ein Ebel in South Lebanon, where rockets were fired into Israel in November 2011. INTERNET

Jetliner with engine out lands safely in W Colo

GRAND JUNCTION, 12 Dec.—The Federal Aviation Administration says a United Airlines 757 with one of its two engines shut down has landed safely at Grand Junction Regional Airport in western Colorado. FAA spokesman Ian Gregor says the plane was flying from Denver to Los Angeles on Sunday when the right engine shut down and the aircraft was diverted to Grand Junction. The cause of the problem was unknown. The plane landed around 11:44 am.

A United spokesman said he was checking on the report but had no information immediately.

Boats shelter in Forthcath harbour on the north coast of County Antrim as storm force winds batter the north coast of Northern Ireland with gales forecast to reach 80mph on 8 December, 2011.—INTERNET

Chinese fishermen kill S Korean coastguard officer

SEOUL, 12 Dec.—A South Korean coastguard officer was stabbed to death and another was injured in a struggle with Chinese sailors who were being detained for illegal fishing, a coastguard spokesman said. It was the second time in less than four years that a coastguard officer had died, amid increasingly violent clashes in the rich fishing grounds of the Yellow Sea between the two countries.

Monday’s 41-year-old victim was rushed by helicopter to hospital in the city of Incheon, west of Seoul, but died of organ failure.

The coastguard said it started an operation early Monday to seize two Chinese fishing boats 85 kilometres (53 miles) off Socheong island and managed to take control of a 66-tonne boat.

But the other boat suddenly rammed the seized vessel, prompting nine Chinese fishermen on board to start attacking officers. It said the 41-year-old surnamed Lee, who was searching the steering room, was stabbed in the side by a Chinese fisherman with a piece of glass and a 33-year-old officer was also stabbed.

The coastguard said the pair, along with the Chinese skipper, were taken by helicopter to hospital but Lee could not be saved. The 66-tonne boat and nine crew were being brought to Incheon.

Illegal fishing by Chinese vessels is common in South Korean waters, with 475 boats seized so far this year compared with 370 in the whole of last year, according to official figures.

Mexican army finds tunnel in northern border city

MEXICO CITY, 12 Dec—The Mexican army says it has found a 50-yard (metre) long tunnel starting under a building in the northern City of Nogales, which is across the border from Nogales, Arizona.

The Defence Department says the tunnel two yards (metres) under the surface may have been used to cross the border into the United States. However, the department’s statement Sunday does not say whether the tunnel actually reaches into US territory or whether any entrance on the US side has been found. Such tunnels found previously in Nogales and elsewhere on the border have been used to move drugs or migrants.

The tunnel was discovered by soldiers Friday. The army says one man carrying an illegal weapon was detained at the scene.
Three dead as low pressure area affects parts of Philippines

MANILA, 12 Dec — At least three people died as a low pressure area (LPA) continued to affect some parts of the Philippines, a senior government official said Sunday. Undersecretary Renato Ramon, executive director of the National Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), said the victims died due to drowning.

He said the rise of the river water due to continuous rains caused a flashflood in Oras, Eastern Samar Province, resulting to the death of two people, while another person of Antipolo del Norte, Virac, Catanduanes Province drowned while crossing the river. LPA has brought much rain in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Negros Occidental and Eastern Samar under water.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that the northern Philippine region of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers, thunderstorms and wide-spread rains over eastern sections of northern and central Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. —Xinhua

Australia coal miners to combine in $5.2B deal

SYDNEY, 12 Dec — Australian miners Whitehaven Coal Ltd and Aston Resources Ltd have agreed to a $5.1 billion Australian dollar ($5.2 billion) business combination that will create one of the country’s biggest coal producers.

The companies said on Monday that Aston shareholders will receive 1.9 Whitehaven shares for each Aston share.

Net worth of the combined company will be $5.2 billion, with Whitehaven shareholders to receive a special dividend of 50 Australian cents per share prior to the transaction.

The Tinkler Group which owns 12 percent of Aston, said it will vote in favor of the deal.

The remainder of the Aston and Whitehaven boards have unanimously recommended the transaction to shareholders.

Meetings for shareholders are expected to be held in late March.

New UN climate deal struck, critics say gains modest

DURBAN, 12 Dec — Countries from around the globe agreed on Sunday to forge a new deal forcing all big polluters for the first time to limit greenhouse gas emissions, but critics said the plan was too timid to slow global warming.

A package of accords agreed after marathon UN talks in South Africa extended the 1997 Kyoto Protocol — the only global pact enforcing carbon cuts — allowing five more years to finalize a wider pact which has so far eluded negotiators.

Kyoto’s first phase — due to expire at the end of next year but now extended until 2017 — imposed limits only on developed countries, not emerging giants like China and India. The United States never ratified it.

Those three countries and the EU held a last-ditch huddle in the conference centre before finally agreeing to wording that commits them to a pact with legal force.

Although exactly what form it will take was left vague. Countries also agreed the format of a fund to help poor nations tackle climate change.

But many small island states and developing nations at risk of being drowned by rising sea levels and extreme weather said the deal marked the lowest common denominator possible and lacked the ambition needed to ensure their survival.

Agreement on the package, reached in the early hours of Sunday, avoided a collapse of two weeks of climate talks and spared the blunders of last South Africa, whose stewardship of the fractious negotiations came under fire from rich and poor nations. —Reuters

Indonesia says Sumatra, Kalimantan at risk of Dec floods

JAKARTA, 12 Dec — Indonesia’s commodity-rich Sumatra and Kalimantan regions are among areas at high risk of flooding in December, the state weather agency said on Monday.

The agency said the country’s rainy season is expected to peak in December and January. The rainy season can impact output in Indonesia’s agricultural and mineral sectors.

A prolonged wet season last year hurt crops such as coffee and flooded coal mines. “Parts of Indonesia has begun their rainy season in November (and) most of Indonesia’s territory may have normal rain,” said Sri Woro Harjyono, head of the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

“At coastal areas, there are higher potential for flood when sea water enters coastal areas. “There are 21 provinces with flood potential, of which 16 provinces have high flood potential.”

In recent weeks, many Indonesian palm oil producers have said that while the wet weather has arrived on plantations, there has been no flooding and rains are not comparable with last year.

Australia’s weather bureau said last week that La Nina, a weather phenomenon usually linked to heavy rains and flooding in the Asia-Pacific and South America and drought in Africa, has strengthened, adding that the condition will persist until the end of the Southern Hemisphere summer.

London 2012 Olympics chief defends budget hike

LONDON, 12 Dec — London 2012 Olympics supremo Sebastian Coe has defended a controversial budget hike for the Games’ opening and closing ceremonies, saying it will make for the “largest piece of television ever”.

The British government last week agreed to more than double the budget for the ceremonies to $11 million pounds ($127 million), sparking criticism by Olympians such as world-record-holding marathon runner Paula Radcliffe.

“The government saw what we have created in the main ceremonies and wanted to invest more in this unique promotion of Britain to four billion people around the world,” Coe told reporters in Beijing on Sunday.

“— in the Chinese capital for an international meeting with the Paralympic movement — said criticism by Radcliffe, who called for the extra cash to be spent on grassroots sports, was misguided. “Paula is a great friend of mine but think grassroots sports funding through the National Lottery and through government activity is higher than it has ever been,” said Coe, the chairman of the London 2012 organizing committee.

Around 2000 perfect fireworks are set to take part in the Olympics and Paralympics opening and closing ceremonies, which are expected to net billions in advertising revenue. “With regards to perceptions of London and the UK and a tourism legacy you could say that they will be priceless,” Martin Sorrell, head of advertising giant WPP, said earlier this month.

“Shmadg Millennium” filmaker Danny Boyle has the task of producing the main opening ceremony, although few other details about the shows have emerged. —Internet
YANGON, 12 Dec.—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan meets chairman and executive committee members of Myanmar Artistes and Artisans Association at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and Television at 4.30 pm today."

In conclusion, the Union Minister urged those from the Thabin world to keep their cooperation in democratization process, peace, and stability and development endeavours of the new government while striving for the development of the Thabin world.

Then, Chairman U Sein Mardin of Myanmar Artistes and Artisans Association reported on innovative creations of fine arts and social affairs of the Thabin world, Vice-Chairman-1 on matters related to approving the association’s rules and penetration of dramatic art into the youth, Secretary U Aung Tin Win on the association’s funds, auditor U Moe Min on efforts being made to organize the public to take interest in dramatic art and information officer Rama U Ohn Maung on exposing of ancient dramatic features and plots.

Later, the Union Minister gave necessary instructions and cordially greeted those present.

---

**To promote public interest in Myanmar traditional culture and fine arts, performances should be made in combination with creation of innovative ideas without sacrificing own culture**

The Union Minister continued that the Thabin world is to try to develop itself by learning from outside and conducting workshops, paper reading sessions and training courses. Those from the Thabin world also have the duty to organize the younger generation to take more interest in joining the world.

The Ministry of Culture is carrying out upgrading tasks to modernize the national theatres in Yangon and Mandalay with a view to further developing the dramatic art. Similarly, Bagan region, a tourist attraction of Myanmar, should have a modern theatre and more efforts are necessary, noted the Union Minister.

The executives of the association need to discuss and coordinate with the people from the Thabin world to acquire funds so that the association in accord with its characteristics can contribute to the religious and social affairs of the Thabin world.

---

**Tube-wells donated by Singapore to Kawhmu Township**

YANGON, 12 Dec.—Singapore Government and Singaporeans held a ceremony to hand over tube-wells to a total of 25 villages of Kawhmu Township at Takuchan Village in Kawhmu Township this evening.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and regional ministers, Singaporean Foreign Minister Mr. K. Shanmugam and wife, Singaporean Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert and wife, officials from Singapore Embassy, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials of Mingala Myanmar Group, as well as distinguished persons.

The Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar presented the purpose of the donation at the ceremony.

Soon after the chief minister delivered an opening speech, he and the Singaporean Foreign Minister formally opened the stone inscription of the tube-well.

After that, the Yangon Region chief minister and those present viewed the newly-opened tube-well in Takuchan Village. It was known that the Singaporean guests happened to observe Myanma rural social living standard by making such donations.

---

**New school buildings opened in Tamu Township**

The Union Minister, Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Chairman Thura U Aye Myint and Dr Khin Shwe awarded victorious athletes.

On behalf of Myanmar archery contingent, an athlete spoke words of thanks. The sports team received K 55.5 million prize at the ceremony, plus US$ 5000 awarded while in Indonesia.

The Singaporean Embassy to Myanmar presented the purpose of the donation at the ceremony.

Similarly, the opening ceremony of a new school building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Pantha Village in Tamu Township was held at its place at 10:30 of that day, which was formally opened by Regional Representative U Htan Hlar Na, Regional Education Officer U Myint Soe and District Commissioner U Kyaw Zaw Lin.

It was noted that the headmaster and those present viewed the newly-opened tube-well in Takuchan Village. It was known that the Singaporean guests happened to observe Myanma rural social living standard by making such donations.

---

**Victorious archery athletes honoured**

Nav Pyi Taw, 12 Dec.—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan addressed honouring ceremony to victorious selected Myanmar archery athletes in XXVII SEA Games at the ministry yesterday evening.

Chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe explained future plans.

Well-wishers donated cash through the Union Minister.
Workshop on broadcasting...

(from page 16)

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan presented a souvenir to Mr Sharadindo Sadhu and cordially greeted those present.

Then, the Union Minister was conducted round broadcasting equipment of Harmonic Singapore, Broadcast Technology Limited, Forever Group and Playbox Technology (Asia-Pacific) displayed at the main building of Myanmar Info-Tech.

The workshop continues tomorrow.—MNA

Courses concluding ceremony held in Upper Myanmar CICS

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — The concluding ceremony of basic course No.20 for junior officers and basic course No.34 for clerical staff was held in Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) on 2 December.

On behalf of the rector, Pro-Rector (Training) U Ne Win delivered an address and presented completion certificates to trainees.

The junior officer course was attended by 204 trainees and the clerical staff course was completed by 191 trainees. The courses lasted for 14 week each.

MNA

District News

Sales of natural fertilizer brisk

TOUNGOO, 12 Dec — Farmers in Toungoo District give priority to growing sugarcane and beans and pulses in addition to paddy. As paddy has been harvested and sugarcane and beans and pulses are being cultivated, sales of both chemical fertilizers and natural fertilizers are brisk this month.

In Toungoo area, waste of fish is sold at K 500-1000 per bag depending on distance of fish market and residence of buyer.—Kyemon

Crime reduction, trafficking in persons explained

HLEGU, 12 Dec — An educative talk on crime reduction and trafficking in persons was held at General Administration Department in Hlegu Township on 9 December.

District law officer (retd) U Nan Tin explained facts about anti-human trafficking law and rules and regulations for checking household registration list in wards and village-tracts. IP Maung Maung Do of Hlegu Township Police Force also gave talks on crime reduction.

Township IPRD

Monsoon paddy model plot harvested

PYAWBWE, 12 Dec — Manaw Thukha quality paddy strain on 1.08 acres of model plot of farmer U Shwe Mann was harvested in Kyutawwa Village-tract in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region, on 29 November, and the model plot produced 105.27 baskets of paddy per acre.

The paddy harvesting on model plot was attended by district and township level departmental officials and local farmers.

MAS

Cash and kind donated to flood victims of Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 12 Dec — A ceremony to provide supply aids to flood victim households was held at Pakokku District General Administration Department on 27 November.

Director-General U Khin Ko Lay of Fisheries Department and wife donated 100 viss of dried fish, U Than Tun (retired Director-General) and U Myo Naing 100 viss of dried fish, U Mya Aung (Head of Yangon Region Fisheries Department) 100 viss of dried fish, U Maung Maung Aung (fishery entrepreneur) 300 viss of dried fish, U Nyein Myaung and party 100 viss of dried fish, U Than Gyi (Thanwedaw District Fisheries Department) 100 viss of dried fish, totalling 800 viss worth K 2 million, and UPG Co K 200,000, T-shirts, hats and bags.

Director-General U Khin Ko Lay handed over donations to member of Pakokku District Flood Relief and Supply Committee.

U Kyaw Hsan

Micro credit loans given out to vendors

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — Under the programme for private micro-finance institutions, which is one work programmes of poverty alleviation of the State, micro-finance services groups of township development affairs committees are giving out loans to needy vendors under the supervision of the Development Affairs and Development Affairs Bank Ltd.

Township development affairs committees concerned and micro-finance service groups loaned K 10 million to the vendors of Shwe Hntha Market of Mudon Township Development Affairs Committee, K 3 million to the vendors of Myoma Market No.1 & 2 of Chaungzon TownshipDAC,K 10.9 million to the vendors of Kyaukkaw Market and Aye Mya Khine Market of Thaton Township DAC on 25 November and K 8 million to the vendors of No.1 Myoma Market of Thabyuzayat Township DAC and K 13 million to the vendors of Rainbow Market of Kyaukkawar Township DAC on 26 November.

Similarly, under the supervision of Kachin State DAC, K 2 million was loaned to the vendors and trishaw men of Wangmaw Township DAC on 26 November. K 5.1 million to the vendors of Yeikinw Market of Myitkyina township DAC on 28 November, and K 3 million to the vendors of Aung Thaby Market of Myitkyina Township DAC and K 20 million to those of Thitayada Township DAC of Bhamo Township DAC.

MNA

Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Association holds educative talks on flourishing of patriotic spirit, Myanmar Culture and Traditions

YANGON, 12 Dec — Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Association organized an educative talk on flourishing of patriotic spirit, Myanmar Culture and Traditions at Myayaw Golf Course in Insein West Lines Township this morning.

Patron of the association Daw Khin Aye Nyi extended greetings. After that, the talks were given by Writer Manutha Kyaw Win on flourishing of patriotic spirit and on Myanmar Culture and Traditions by Writer Ma Sanda in the ceremony.

Patron of the association Daw Khin Thein Huye gave the doyens honouring gifts, and Chairperson of the association Daw Khin Swe Nyunt presented the association’s logo to Association member Daw San San Win who returned Chairperson Daw Khin Swe Nyunt a total of 600 proposals of the association’s membership from Yangon City Development Committee.

MNA
Australian host conducts 24-hour interview

SYDNEY, 12 Dec—Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio host Richard Glover was on Monday taking a well-earned break after completing a world record breaking 24-hour interview, the network said.

Glover sat down with Australian author Peter FitzSimons in a marathon interview that lasted 23 hours and 58 minutes.

The interview, which was recorded at a rate of half an hour and broadcast on-air, was the longest ever conducted in Australia.

It came after Glover completed a 24-hour marathon radio show on Monday, which he used to raise money for charity.

Glover said he had been well-supported by his colleagues and listeners during the marathon and that he had been able to maintain his energy levels throughout.

He added that the experience had been an “adrenaline-fueled” one and that he had enjoyed every moment of it.

The marathon was televised live on ABC News Online.

Cambodia, US start another joint exercise to boost military ties

PHNOM PENH, 12 Dec—Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and the US marines on Monday began another humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise to boost the two countries’ military relations, according to a Press release from the US Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The joint exercise was made just days after a similar one involving US marines and sailors from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Amphibious Squadron 5 aboard the USS Pearl Harbor.

The Press release said that the joint exercise will be held in the vicinities of Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville and last until 18 Dec.

It added that US marines and sailors from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Amphibious Squadron 5 aboard the USS New Orleans will exchange experiences with Cambodian forces pertaining to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response, as a means to enhance professional cooperation and coordination between the two forces.

Four dead, three remain buried in SW China landslide

GUIYANG, 12 Dec—The death toll rose to four in the explosion-triggered landslide in Guizhou Province, while another two people were rescued and three remain buried, local government officials said Sunday.

The four owners of the cement plant where the explosion took place have been detained by police.

Drug war failed across Latin America in 2011

MEXICO CITY, 12 Dec—Drug trafficking violence claimed thousands of lives across Latin America in 2011 as drug use soared, illustrating the failure of regional anti-narcotics policies and reviving a legalization debate. “I did not ask for this war,” read a poster near a casino firebombed by the Zetas drug gang in the northern Mexican city of Monterrey in August.

Fifty-two people were killed. Authorities blame the Zetas — a gang set up by elite army officers in the 1990s — for torching the casino because its owners refused to pay protection money. Over 45,000 people have been killed in Mexico since 2006 when President Felipe Calderon launched a major military crackdown involving 50,000 troops against the powerful drug cartels that have terrorized border communities as they battled over lucrative smuggling routes.

In Colombia, the world’s top cocaine producer, authorities reported a major decline in coca cultivation and cocaine production, but also a fresh spike in kidnappings attributed to narco-trafficking gangs that include ex-paramilitary groups. Police said the gangs were responsible for 47 percent of the 17,000 homicides perpetrated in 2010.

Four dead, three remain buried in SW China landslide

Global business shares fruits of China’s golden WTO years

BEIJING, 12 Dec—For many multinational firms, the past ten years in China has not only marked the rise of the world’s second largest economy but also a decade of expansion and profit growth.

They look at back this “golden decade,” which is often used to describe the days after China entered the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, their early expectations and ambitions in a more liberalized Chinese market were found to be more than fulfilled.

When German auto giant BMW set foot on the Chinese land by establishing its first office in Beijing in 1994, their products were still far too luxurious for ordinary Chinese. In 2001, only 6,500 vehicles were sold under BMW and Mini brands in China. But sales started to pick up with China’s WTO entry, when the removal of trade barriers brought unprecedented economic growth and a booming market.

In 2010, the auto maker, which started a joint venture with the domestic Brilliance China Automotive in 2003, sold 169,000 vehicles in China, and the record is set to be broken this year as more than 170,000 units were sold only in the first three quarters.

We are both beneficiaries and firm supporters of the open market system,” said Christoph Stark, president and CEO of BMW’s Greater China Region.
China minister defends Beijing Olympics legacy

Beijing, 12 Dec—A top Chinese minister defended the legacy of the 2008 Beijing Olympics on Sunday, citing an improved environment just as authorities in the capital face pressure to act on heavy pollution.

Vice sports minister Yang Shuitian was speaking at a briefing also attended by London Olympics chairman Sebastian Coe, in Beijing for an international meeting with the Paralympic movement to promote awareness of the disabled.

“The legacies of the Games for the Chinese people and those living in Beijing are multifaceted.

But the first two are an improved transport infrastructure and environment,” he told reporters.

“Everybody living in Beijing has realized the unique opportunities created by the Games and can see the overall environment has improved.” The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Chinese government said at the time of the Beijing Games in 2008 that improved air quality would be a major legacy of the sporting event.

But in recent months, the capital has often been shrouded in a cloud of smog, with many blaming the perennially gridlocked roads of Beijing and China’s continued reliance on fossil fuels to meet its energy needs.

The government is facing increasing pressure from the capital’s residents to change the way it monitors pollution, amid accusations authorities are underplaying the problem.

Yang admitted there were “challenges to sustain the Olympic legacies”, pointing to environmental protection as one of the issues.

Another major legacy promoted by the IOC was an improved human rights record, but pressure groups say this has deteriorated since the end of the Games.

This year, scores of activists and dissidents were detained amid government concerns over the wave of democracy protests sweeping the Arab world.

Gas drilling surges in Ohio; brings jobs, worries

Columbus, 12 Dec—After a childhood spent moving around, Patti Gorcheff vowed that she’d never uproot her daughter.

But she says wastewater disposal in her area from an oil and gas drilling frenzy that’s hit Ohio and other states has forced her to change her mind.

She and her husband are selling the family home and fleeing with their 15-year-old before the drinking water becomes contaminated, said Gorcheff, 56, of rural North Lima in northeastern Ohio.

She heard the accounts from neighbouring Pennsylvania of contaminant-laced water being discharged into rivers — and of fears there that, despite officials’ assurances, drinking water might be harmed.

“I’ve never been so afraid,” she said. “They’re taking advantage of us because we’re one of the poorest areas in the country. We have to move out of this area, we just have to.

“I just don’t know what else to do at this point. I just don’t trust these people.”

The drilling activity promises huge opportunity for eager energy companies and, says Republican Gov John Kasich, for Ohio’s struggling economy.

But many Marcellus and Utica shale formations are already paying off in thousands of wells in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, bringing great wealth to landowners and jobs throughout the region.

“We’re talking about a generation who have lived in poverty and this is an opportunity to pull them out,” Kasich told The Associated Press in an interview.

What he views as an opportunity and Gorcheff and other residents view with skepticism is the 5 billion barrels of recoverable oil underneath them, making Ohio the latest battleground between companies eager to profit off of the oil and landowners who want a more measured look at the potential impact.

Even before Kasich took office in January, his team worked on a strategy to exploit the energy riches embedded in the Marcellus and deeper Utica shale formations under eastern Ohio.

Volcano continues to spew ash in Indonesia

Beijing, 12 Dec—Mount Gamalama, on the eastern Indonesian island of Ternate, continues to spew ash. It has forced more than 1,200 nearby residents out of their homes.

A large ash cloud covered the peak, and ash continues to spew out near the crater. Scientists are constantly monitoring the nearby two thousand metre-high volcano.

Villagers living on the mountain’s slopes are staying in five different shelters, and are not equipped with enough supplies.

The area has been blanketed by smoke since last Monday, but there have been no casualties since the first eruption on 4 December. —Xinhua

Iran finds large gas deposit in Caspian Sea

Moscow, 12 Dec —A large natural gas deposit with reserves of 50 trillion cubic feet, or over 1.4 trillion cubic metres was discovered in the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea, an Iranian TV reported quoting the country’s Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi Sunday.

Qassemi said that reserves of the new deposit at a depth of 700 metres exceed a total volume of proven gas reserves of 11 trillion cubic feet in the country’s part of the Caspian Sea by almost 400 percent.

Iran’s gas reserves are the second largest in the world after Russia’s and amount to about 16 percent of the world reserves.

Iran’s National Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that the country is making use of an imported aircraft carrier body for refitting to be used for scientific research, experiment and training. —Xinhua

‘Sewage treatment plants abet growth of superbugs’

Washington, 12 Dec—Water discharged into lakes and rivers by sewage treatment plants may contain genes that help create resistant superbugs, warns researchers.

Timothy M LaPara, associate professor in environmental engineering at the University of Minnesota and colleagues, say superbugs are abundant in the sewage that enters municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Thevant Marcellus and Utica shale formations are already paying off in thousands of wells in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, bringing great wealth to landowners and jobs throughout the region.

They point out that the bacterial genes that cause antibiotic resistance, the journal Environmental Science and Technology reported, are a major problem.

However, genes or bacteria may be released in effluents from such municipal wastewater plants. Accordingly, scientists studied releases of those genes at the Duluth facility.

Sampling of wastewater at 13 locations detected three genes, for instance, that make bacteria resistant to the tetracycline group of antibiotics, which are used to treat conditions ranging from acne to sexually transmitted diseases to anthrax and bubonic plague.

LaPara’s team says their research demonstrates that even the most high-tech sewage treatment plants may be significant sources of antibiotic resistance genes in waterways.

Iran finds large gas deposit in Caspian Sea

Moscow, 12 Dec —A large natural gas deposit with reserves of 50 trillion cubic feet, or over 1.4 trillion cubic metres was discovered in the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea, an Iranian TV reported quoting the country’s Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi Sunday.

Qassemi said that reserves of the new deposit at a depth of 700 metres exceed a total volume of proven gas reserves of 11 trillion cubic feet in the country’s part of the Caspian Sea by almost 400 percent.

Iran’s gas reserves are the second largest in the world after Russia’s and amount to about 16 percent of the world reserves.

The coastlines of the Caspian are shared by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan.—Xinhua

Volcano continues to spew ash in Indonesia

Beijing, 12 Dec—Mount Gamalama, on the eastern Indonesian island of Ternate, continues to spew ash. It has forced more than 1,200 nearby residents out of their homes.

A large ash cloud covered the peak, and ash continues to spew out near the crater. Scientists are constantly monitoring the nearby two thousand metre-high volcano.

Villagers living on the mountain’s slopes are staying in five different shelters, and are not equipped with enough supplies.

The area has been blanketed by smoke since last Monday, but there have been no casualties since the first eruption on 4 December.—Xinhua

‘Sewage treatment plants abet growth of superbugs’

Washington, 12 Dec—Water discharged into lakes and rivers by sewage treatment plants may contain genes that help create resistant superbugs, warns researchers.

Timothy M LaPara, associate professor in environmental engineering at the University of Minnesota and colleagues, say superbugs are abundant in the sewage that enters municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Thevant Marcellus and Utica shale formations are already paying off in thousands of wells in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, bringing great wealth to landowners and jobs throughout the region.

They point out that the bacterial genes that cause antibiotic resistance, the journal Environmental Science and Technology reported, are a major problem.

However, genes or bacteria may be released in effluents from such municipal wastewater plants. Accordingly, scientists studied releases of those genes at the Duluth facility.

Sampling of wastewater at 13 locations detected three genes, for instance, that make bacteria resistant to the tetracycline group of antibiotics, which are used to treat conditions ranging from acne to sexually transmitted diseases to anthrax and bubonic plague.

LaPara’s team says their research demonstrates that even the most high-tech sewage treatment plants may be significant sources of antibiotic resistance genes in waterways.

Volcano continues to spew ash in Indonesia

Beijing, 12 Dec—Mount Gamalama, on the eastern Indonesian island of Ternate, continues to spew ash. It has forced more than 1,200 nearby residents out of their homes.

A large ash cloud covered the peak, and ash continues to spew out near the crater. Scientists are constantly monitoring the nearby two thousand metre-high volcano.

Villagers living on the mountain’s slopes are staying in five different shelters, and are not equipped with enough supplies.

The area has been blanketed by smoke since last Monday, but there have been no casualties since the first eruption on 4 December.—Xinhua

‘Sewage treatment plants abet growth of superbugs’

Washington, 12 Dec—Water discharged into lakes and rivers by sewage treatment plants may contain genes that help create resistant superbugs, warns researchers.

Timothy M LaPara, associate professor in environmental engineering at the University of Minnesota and colleagues, say superbugs are abundant in the sewage that enters municipal wastewater treatment plants.

They point out that the bacterial genes that cause antibiotic resistance, the journal Environmental Science and Technology reported, are a major problem.

However, genes or bacteria may be released in effluents from such municipal wastewater plants. Accordingly, scientists studied releases of those genes at the Duluth facility.

Sampling of wastewater at 13 locations detected three genes, for instance, that make bacteria resistant to the tetracycline group of antibiotics, which are used to treat conditions ranging from acne to sexually transmitted diseases to anthrax and bubonic plague.

LaPara’s team says their research demonstrates that even the most high-tech sewage treatment plants may be significant sources of antibiotic resistance genes in waterways.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1160)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMAN VOY NO (421)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMAN VOY NO (421) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (290)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (290) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OCEAN BLUE VOY NO (262)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN BLUE VOY NO (262) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TAIKLI VOY NO (1)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAIKLI VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Haemophilia gene therapy shows early success
London, 12 Dec — Just one injection could be enough to mean people with haemophilia B no longer need medical, according to an early study in the UK and the US. Six patients were given a virus that infects the body with the blueprints needed to produce blood-clotting proteins. Four of them could then stop taking their drugs. Doctors said the gene therapy was “potentially life-changing”. Other researchers have described it as a “truly a landmark study”. People with haemophilia B have an error in their genetic code, which means they cannot produce a protein called factor IX, which is critical for blood-clotting. Patients are currently treated with factor IX injections, sometimes multiple times per week, but the manufacturing process is expensive. Researchers at University College London said the total so far is $3,293 for a gallon of regular, the highest price ever 9 Dec. That was 28.5 cents more than the previous high in 2007 and 31.8 cents more than last year. OPEC is to discuss whether to raise production, which would bring prices down, at a meeting next week. Analysts do not expect any change, although cheaper oil would give Europe and the United States an economic boost.

People with haemophilia B have a faulty gene which means they cannot produce a protein called factor IX, which is critical for blood-clotting. Patients are currently treated with factor IX injections, sometimes multiple times per week, but the manufacturing process is expensive. Researchers at University College London said the total so far is $3,293 for a gallon of regular, the highest price ever 9 Dec. That was 28.5 cents more than the previous high in 2007 and 31.8 cents more than last year. OPEC is to discuss whether to raise production, which would bring prices down, at a meeting next week. Analysts do not expect any change, although cheaper oil would give Europe and the United States an economic boost.

Australian PM announces new Cabinet
CANBERRA, 12 Dec — Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard has announced details of a new expanded Cabinet which gives Labor new energy and process is expensive. Researchers at University College London said the total so far is $3,293 for a gallon of regular, the highest price ever 9 Dec. That was 28.5 cents more than the previous high in 2007 and 31.8 cents more than last year. OPEC is to discuss whether to raise production, which would bring prices down, at a meeting next week. Analysts do not expect any change, although cheaper oil would give Europe and the United States an economic boost.

Children queue up to take an American-style school bus of a kindergarten in Fushan District, Yantai City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 10 Dec, 2011. The Kangle Kindergarten in Yantai on Saturday put into use an American-style school bus, which is equipped with GPS positioning system, stop signals, special seats for school children and other devices to ensure its safety.”—Xinhua

Haemophilia gene therapy shows early success
London, 12 Dec — Just one injection could be enough to mean people with haemophilia B no longer need medical, according to an early study in the UK and the US. Six patients were given a virus that infects the body with the blueprints needed to produce blood-clotting proteins. Four of them could then stop taking their drugs. Doctors said the gene therapy was “potentially life-changing”. Other researchers have described it as a “truly a landmark study”. People with haemophilia B have an error in their genetic code, which means they cannot produce a protein called factor IX, which is critical for blood-clotting. Patients are currently treated with factor IX injections, sometimes multiple times per week, but the manufacturing process is expensive. Researchers at University College London said the total so far is $3,293 for a gallon of regular, the highest price ever 9 Dec. That was 28.5 cents more than the previous high in 2007 and 31.8 cents more than last year. OPEC is to discuss whether to raise production, which would bring prices down, at a meeting next week. Analysts do not expect any change, although cheaper oil would give Europe and the United States an economic boost.
Oldman signed new flick so he could ‘play Englishman’

I was just very flattered to be asked to play George Smiley at all. I mean, really, just to be involved in a film like this would’ve been fantastic. You’ve got John Hurt, Colin Firth, Kathy Burke, all these terrific actors, and it’s just a delicious part, he added.

Frosty the Snowman’ arrested at parade

“Frosty the Snowman” was arrested in Chestertown, Md., for allegedly assaulting a police dog and two police officers at a parade, authorities say.

“Frosty,” or at least the man wearing the snowman costume, Kevin Michael Walsh, 52, was arrested Saturday morning at the town’s annual Christmas parade, and charged with assault and disorderly conduct, the Cecil Whig newspaper in Elkton reported.

Sgt. John A Dolgos said Walsh kicked at a police dog that was sitting with handler Pfc. James Walker as part of the traffic control detail for the parade. Walker “kindly escorted him away from the crowd and then it got heated,” Dolgos said.

While taking of the head portion of his costume, Walsh allegedly hit Walker in the face with it, police said.

As Walker and Pfc. Marty Heinefield put Walsh on the sidewalk “as part of routine take down procedure,” Dolgos said, the man began yelling: “You have no right to arrest me.”

When the two officers tried to put Walsh in the back of a squad car, he allegedly pushed Heinefield, police said.

Walsh is on probation for a September conviction of disorderly conduct.

Lohan’s Playboy spread leaked on Web

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec—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.

The pictorial features Lohan paying homage to late screen icon Marilyn Monroe. TMZ said Playboy executives are “freaking out” because they fear the leaked images might damage sales of the magazine, which paid the “Freaky Friday” and “Mean Girls” star $1 million to pose for its layout.

The issue, due out next week, is expected to be the magazine’s best-selling copy of 2011, the entertainment news Web site said.

Lohan, 25, is on the comeback trail after years of drug addiction and legal troubles stalled her once-bright acting career.—Internet

$1M for William and Kate’s Canada security

OTTAWA, 12 Dec—The Royal Canadian Mounted Police spent nearly $1 million on security alone for the 2011 tour of Canada by Prince William and wife Kate, new documents show.

The newlywed couple, which was more than the $912,803.35 spent during the queen’s visit a year before, Canada’s Postmedia News reported Saturday.

The documents show the most money was spent on overtime for RCMP officers, about $650,000. Travel costs were about $295,000. Ottawa police also spent more on the duke and duchess’s visit to the capital, the cost was nearly $185,000, compared to about $163,000 for the queen, the news agency said.

William and Kate’s visit cost less overall.

Cooper accepts ‘Paradise Lost’ movie version

London, 12 Dec—Actor Bradley Cooper is so fascinated by John Milton’s epic poem “Paradise Lost” that he immediately grabbed the chance to star in its movie adaptation. The actor is set to play Lucifer in the film, which revolves around the biblical tale of Adam and Eve’s expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Cooper feels the film is likely to court controversy.

“I can really relate to the story of ‘Paradise Lost.’ I did not come from a quintessential English family, he said.

Florence Welch longed for simple life as a child

Florence Welch and singer in band

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Florence Welch has revealed that she craved for a more simple life during her childhood.

The Florence and the Machine singer’s parents divorced when she was young and she believed the trouble between them made her long for a simplistic lifestyle.

“Frosty” or at least the man wearing the snowman costume, Kevin Michael Walsh, 52, was arrested Saturday morning at the town’s annual Christmas parade, and charged with assault and disorderly conduct, the Cecil Whig newspaper in Elkton reported.

Sgt. John A Dolgos said Walsh kicked at a police dog that was sitting with handler Pfc. James Walker as part of the traffic control detail for the parade. Walker “kindly escorted him away from the crowd and then it got heated,” Dolgos said.

While taking of the head portion of his costume, Walsh allegedly hit Walker in the face with it, police said.

As Walker and Pfc. Marty Heinefield put Walsh on the sidewalk “as part of routine take down procedure,” Dolgos said, the man began yelling: “You have no right to arrest me.”

When the two officers tried to put Walsh in the back of a squad car, he allegedly pushed Heinefield, police said.

Walsh is on probation for a September conviction of disorderly conduct.

Lohan’s Playboy spread leaked on Web

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec—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.

The pictorial features Lohan paying homage to late screen icon Marilyn Monroe. TMZ said Playboy executives are “freaking out” because they fear the leaked images might damage sales of the magazine, which paid the “Freaky Friday” and “Mean Girls” star $1 million to pose for its layout.

The issue, due out next week, is expected to be the magazine’s best-selling copy of 2011, the entertainment news Web site said.

Lohan, 25, is on the comeback trail after years of drug addiction and legal troubles stalled her once-bright acting career.—Internet

$1M for William and Kate’s Canada security

OTTAWA, 12 Dec—The Royal Canadian Mounted Police spent nearly $1 million on security alone for the 2011 tour of Canada by Prince William and wife Kate, new documents show.

The newlywed couple, which was more than the $912,803.35 spent during the queen’s visit a year before, Canada’s Postmedia News reported Saturday.

The documents show the most money was spent on overtime for RCMP officers, about $650,000. Travel costs were about $295,000. Ottawa police also spent more on the duke and duchess’s visit to the capital, the cost was nearly $185,000, compared to about $163,000 for the queen, the news agency said.

William and Kate’s visit cost less overall.

Cooper accepts ‘Paradise Lost’ movie version

London, 12 Dec—Actor Bradley Cooper is so fascinated by John Milton’s epic poem “Paradise Lost” that he immediately grabbed the chance to star in its movie adaptation. The actor is set to play Lucifer in the film, which revolves around the biblical tale of Adam and Eve’s expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Cooper feels the film is likely to court controversy.

“I can really relate to the story of ‘Paradise Lost.’ I did not come from a quintessential English family, he said.

Florence Welch longed for simple life as a child

Florence Welch and singer in band

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Florence Welch has revealed that she craved for a more simple life during her childhood.

The Florence and the Machine singer’s parents divorced when she was young and she believed the trouble between them made her long for a simplistic lifestyle.

“Frosty,” or at least the man wearing the snowman costume, Kevin Michael Walsh, 52, was arrested Saturday morning at the town’s annual Christmas parade, and charged with assault and disorderly conduct, the Cecil Whig newspaper in Elkton reported.

Sgt. John A Dolgos said Walsh kicked at a police dog that was sitting with handler Pfc. James Walker as part of the traffic control detail for the parade. Walker “kindly escorted him away from the crowd and then it got heated,” Dolgos said.

While taking of the head portion of his costume, Walsh allegedly hit Walker in the face with it, police said.

As Walker and Pfc. Marty Heinefield put Walsh on the sidewalk “as part of routine take down procedure,” Dolgos said, the man began yelling: “You have no right to arrest me.”

When the two officers tried to put Walsh in the back of a squad car, he allegedly pushed Heinefield, police said.

Walsh is on probation for a September conviction of disorderly conduct.
**Stoke end Tottenham’s unbeaten run**

**LONDON, 12 Dec —** Two first-half goals from Matthew Etherington saw Stoke end Tottenham’s 11-match unbeaten run in the Barclays Premier League at the Victoria Stadium. The former Spurs winger put the hosts in front in the 13th minute after good work from Peter Crouch before doubling the lead two minutes before half-time.

Tottenham pulled a goal back when Emmanuel Adebayor scored from the penalty spot in the 62nd minute after luck had gone against him. Modric had been fouled by Glenn Whelan inside the area. The visitors saw Younes Kaboul sent off for a second yellow card as they pushed forward in search of an equalizer, but Stoke held on for a victory which takes them to eighth place in the Barclays Premier League. — Internet

**Manchester City reject AC Milan offer for Carlos Tevez**

**MANCHESTER, 12 Dec —** Manchester City have rejected an offer from AC Milan to take striker Carlos Tevez on loan with a commitment to signing him for 23m euros next summer. Italian champions Milan sent the proposal to City on 6 December but the Premier League club rebuffed it on Sunday that it had been turned down. City are only willing to sell the 27-year-old in a permanent deal. Tevez and City insist reports that Paris Saint-Germain have agreed a fee for the player are incorrect.

PSG made an informal approach to City in October, offering a loan deal, but both parties say this has not been followed up. A source close to the Tevez camp told BBC Sport: “There has been absolutely no contact with PSG. “Carlos has had no talk and it is unaware of any potential deal.” It is understood that Milan remain favourites to sign the Argentina international but the transfer is still some way off. “Manchester City want us to buy Tevez definitively,” Milan chief executive Adriano Galliani told Italian media. “We have suggested we sign the player on loan, with an option to purchase. We’re not changing our position. It’s going to be a long

**Real Madrid’s Jose Mourinho says Barcelona were lucky**

**MADRID, 12 Dec —** Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho believes Barcelona were fortunate to win Saturday’s El Clasico. The champions bounced back from conceding the fastest goal in the fixture’s history with 3:1, repeating Real at the top of La Liga. “Luck plays a part,” Mourinho said. “When it was 1-0, we could easily have gone 2-0 up. “Maybe under normal circumstances we would do, but Cristiano [Ronaldo] put it [a scoring chance] wide.”

Madrid took the lead inside 23 seconds through Karim Benzema but Alexei Sanchez equalized before Xavi’s deflected strike put Barca ahead. Cesc Fabregas completed the triumph with a diving header. Barcelona playmaker Lionel Messi could have been sent off for a second bookable offence when, after being shown a yellow card for dissent, he escaped a second caution for a late challenge two minutes before half-time.

“I thought Messi could have been sent off, but until I see it again I won’t say more in case I’m wrong,” Mourinho said. Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola, who is yet to lose Real to the league in seven games, was pleased with a result which took his team to the top of the table - they are level on points with Mourinho’s side but have played one game more. But he conceded there is still a long way to go in the title race. — Internet

**Shanghai Shenhua to sign Anelka on 2-year deal**

**SHANGHAI, 12 Dec —** Shanghai Shenhua have reached an agreement with Chelsea to sign French striker Nicolas Anelka on a two-year deal at the Chinese Super League soccer side said on Monday. The 32-year-old will join Shenhua in January, the club said in a statement on its website. Shang-

Anelka may signal an upswing for the sport in the country, Chinese soccer has lurchered from crisis to crisis in recent years and disaffected fans have turned away from the game amid corruption scandals, match-fixing and violence on and off the pitch. — Internet

**Brazil runs over Chile 4-0 in Sao Paulo International Tournament**

**RID DE JANEIRO, 12 Dec —** The Brazilian women’s national soccer team cruised to a 4-0 win over Chile in the second game of the Sao Paulo International Tournament on Sunday. With three goals in a span of 11 minutes as Erika opened in the 13th minute, Rosana in the 23rd minute and Thaisinha in the 26th minute, the Brazilian offense had no trouble in establishing an early and dominant lead. Fabio scored Brazil’s fourth goal in the 57th minute. Brazil beat Italy 5-1 in its first match. Next, Brazil will face Denmark on 14 December. The Brazilians have already guaranteed their presence in the finals of the tourna-

**Lille beats Dijon 2-0 in French league**

**PARIS, 12 Dec —** Defending champion Lille kept the pressure on Montpellier and Paris Saint-Germain at the top of the French league by beating Dijon 2-0 at home on Sunday. Striker Moussa Sow and midfielder Eden Hazard scored a goal in each half to help Lille back to winning ways after it failed to reach the next round of the Champions League when it drew 0-0 against Trabzonspor on Wednesday.

Lille is in third place, two points behind Paris Saint-Germain and Montpellier. After a slow start to the season, Lille’s title defense is gathering pace with three straight wins, and coach Rudi Garcia’s team can overtake Montpellier which will either be in Sweden or Denmark. In the only other match of the four-team tournament, Italy tied Denmark 2-2 on Sunday and tallied its first point of the tournament. — Xinhua

**Bradley, Steele win Franklin Templeton Shootout**

**NAPLES, 12 Dec —** PGA Champion Keegan Bradley and Brendan Steele shot a 13-under 59 in scramble play Sunday to become the first PGA Tour rookies to win the Franklin Templeton Shootout.

Bradley and Steele took control with an eagle by Steele on No 14 and a birdie on No 15, finishing at 32-

“Go called to a soft start, kind of like we did all three days, but we played this last stretch of holes re-

**Anelka’s lucrative contract at English Premier League side Chelsea to sign French striker Nicolas Anelka for a year. Anelka’s team mate at the Udine Friuli Stadium on Sunday. — Internet**
Sony Music acquires music rights of ‘Agneepath’

New Delhi, 12 Dec—Sony Music has acquired the music rights of Dharma Productions’ upcoming movie ‘Agneepath’, a remake of Amitabh Bachchan’s 1990 cult movie, the company said today.

The ‘Agneepath’ music album comprises six songs and Sony Music will first release an item number—‘Chikni Chameli’, featuring Katrina Kaif, digitally on 12 December, while the album will be available digitally on 16 December. The hard copy of the album will be released on 19 December across the key retail outlets.

Starring Hrithik Roshan, Priyanka Chopra, Rishi Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt, ‘Agneepath’ releases on 26 January next year.

National award winning musical duo Ajay-Atul have composed the music of the Karan Malhotra directed film. These songs encompass a wide array of themes ranging from romantic to dance to qawwals and devotional songs, making each of it blend strongly with the theme of the scene/character.

The extensive use of live instruments for recording these tracks gives this soundtrack tremendous scale and impact.

Fruits of Success River Ayeyawady… demarcated cannot be

“Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun)”

Youth and Language YUFL (Part-I)

Wings Sign Art

Music Gallery

History And Mystery Behind The Caves

Culture Stage

News

Sweet Memories in Pyin Oo Lwin

Myanmar Movies “Longing For Mother”
Union I & C Minister attends workshop on broadcasting technologies for ASEAN region

YANGON, 12 Dec—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan attended the opening of the workshop on broadcasting technologies for ASEAN region, organized by Forever Group Co Ltd and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union of Malaysia at Myanmar Info-Tech Conference Hall in Hlaing Township here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, responsible people from Forever Group Co Ltd and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union of Malaysia, resource persons, representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, responsible people from MRTV, Myawady, Forever Group Co Ltd, Shwe Thanlwin Co, Padamya, Mandalay, Pyinsawady, Cherry and Shwe FMs, technicians, service personnel and guests.

First, CEO of Forever Group Co Ltd U Win Maw extended greetings and Director Mr Sharadindoo Sadhu of Technology Division of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union of Malaysia made a speech.

(See page 9)

New building of G.T.I (Kanbalu) in Shwebo District opened

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Ministry of Science and Technology has been opening Technological Universities, Colleges, Universities of Computer Studies and schools across the county so as to turn out technological and computer experts. In addition, education plays an important part in building up a democratic country, said Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, at the opening ceremony of new building of Government Technological Institute (Kanbalu) held in Kanbalu Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region this morning.

At the ceremony, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing and Kanbalu Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Chan Nyein formally opened the new building of Government Technological Institute (Kanbalu) and Union Minister U Aye Myint unveiled the signboard of the facility.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has already generated over 120,000 G.T.I Diploma holders, over 50,000 B.Tech degree holders, over 30,000 B.E, more than 1300 M.E graduate and nearly 700 Ph.D. About 90,000 students are now learning at these universities, colleges and schools.

The institute can hold a total of 2040 trainees and offer seven engineering subjects.—MNA

Formation of political party allowed

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Union Election Commission allowed formation of National League for Democracy today as the application for registration as political party submitted by 21 members including U Tin Oo is accorded with law and rules as the commission is scrutinizing applications for registration and allowing formation of political parties.—MNA

Slight earthquake jolts

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about (150) miles north of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory (about 50 miles southwest of Nay Pyi Taw) was recorded at (20) hrs (46) min (50) sec M.S.T on 12th December, 2011.

Tube-wells donated by Singapore to Kawhmu Township

Shanghai Shenhua to sign Anelka on 2-year deal

Spacecraft to observe two Saturn moons

Species, threats grow in Mekong region

Australian firms in major coal merger