Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Administrators to carry out their daily tasks with pride and genuine goodwill without hopes for any reward

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, who are in Lashio of Shan State (North), together with Union Ministers, Shan State Chief Minister, Deputy Ministers, Departmental Heads and entrepreneurs, left Lashio for Muse by Tatmadaw helicopters yesterday morning.

Upon arrival at No.1 Basic Education High School in Muse, the Vice-President and party inspected teaching aids rooms and learning of students.

The cash donation ceremony for the school was followed. Six entrepreneurs donated K 5 million for school funds and K 5 million for 10 sets of computer and related materials; the Shan State Chief Minister, K 1 million for school funds; Union Minister for Sports, sport gears; and Shwe Thanlwin Company, 12 set of Sky Net TV receivers through officials and school head.

On arrival at Muse People’s Hospital, the Vice-President and party encouraged the patients at patient wards and intensive care unit.

Then, they also inspected infant ward, operation theater, X-ray room, HIV/STD department, Blood Donation Bank, librarian room, dental outpatient unit.

After that, cash donation ceremony for medical fund was held at the meeting hall of the hospital. Medical fund of K 20 million was donated by Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Loi Hein Co, Shwe Thanlwin Co, Asia World Co, IGE Co and Tamoeyen Chantha Co and two set of Sky Net TV receivers by Shwe Thanlwin Co via Medical Superintendent.

The Vice-President and party visited learning of students at BEHS (branch) in Zay Ward in Muse. There, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, ACE Co, IGE Co, Loi Hein Co, Tamoeyen Chantha Co, Asia World Co and Shwe Thanlwin Co donated K 120 million for construction of two-storied school building through the school head. The Vice-President and party posed for a documentary photo together with the school head, teachers and entrepreneurs.

Then, the Vice-President, wife and party attended a ceremony to pay obeisance to senior monks held at Labamyitta Dhammyon of Mahawonmyauk monastery, and offered offertories, rice and oil.

Afterwards, the Vice-President proceeded to Nandaw border trade gate in Muse of Myanmar-China border. At the gate, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan and Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win reported to the Vice-President on daily inflow and outflow of travelers and inspection of import and export for smooth flow of goods.

Regarding the reports, the Vice-President urged officials to undertake more development of tourism industry, to manage quick availability of visa and to carry out the work in line with designated law and regulations.

After that, the Vice-President and party took documentary photo in the front of border post in Muse Nandaw gate.

The Vice-President met administrators of wards and village-tracts and townselders in Muse District and Township at Shweli Yadana Hall in Muse.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that he met all administrators of Muse region to urge them to dutifully take up their tasks in line with the changing situation.

After the multiparty democracy general election has been held, all Hluttaw representatives elected by the people are now discharging their duties in three powers, he said. He said that courts at different levels and judges freely adopt verdicts by practising judicial power.

With regard to legislative power, he said that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw (See page 8)
March towards destiny of drug elimination

Narcotic drug is posing a major threat to mankind throughout the world. Myanmar is applying two strategies and three tactics in combating danger of narcotic drug.

Two strategies are to exert all-round efforts so as to accelerate the anti-drug campaign as a national concern and to gradually eliminate the practice of poppy cultivation, while improving the economic and social life of the national races and the border areas. Three tactics are the supply elimination, the demand elimination and the law enforcement.

Myanmar is implementing the 15-year narcotic elimination plan as of 1999-2000. A target was set out to complete the plan in 2014 one year ahead of 2015 adopted by the ASEAN.

With momentum, Myanmar is destroying poppy plantations in eliminating the narcotic drugs, while incinerating the seized narcotic drugs for several times.

A plan is underway to open development camps in respective poppy cultivated areas in 2012 for prevention against poppy cultivation. At present, plans on alternative development, uplift of social life, food sufficiency, raising crop cultivation and micro-economy, jointly organized by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Yangon-based UNODC, are being implemented in three townships of Shan State (South), starting from 2010.

Besides realizing the plans on narcotic drug elimination at home, Myanmar is joining hands with international drug control committees. Especially, Myanmar exchanges information with DEA and APF inexchanges with international drug control committees.

Nowadays, Myanmar is accelerating elimination of narcotic drug threatening the mankind in line with the plans.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee meets Harvard economists delegation

YANGON, 15 Dec—A Harvard economists delegation led by Harvard Economist of United States Mr. Thomas J. Vallely, called on Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee U Aung Thaung and members at the meeting hall of Myanmar Banks Association on Sibun Road in Yankin Township here at 9.00 am today. Together with the Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee were Committee Secretary U Maung Maung Soe, committee members, chairpersons of private banks, directors, administrative directors, and officials concerned.—MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister drives stakes at chosen places for factories, workshops in Hpa-an Industrial Zone

YANGON, 15 Dec—A stake-driving ceremony of factories and workshops whose owners are those who invest their property on development of Kayin State took place at Hpa-an Industrial Zone on 7 December, 2011, in the presence of Kayin State Chief Minister U Win Sein. Chairman of Myanmar Southern Development Co Ltd U Than Zin Tun, the company members.

Afterwards, the State Chief Minister and party participated in stake-driving activities at the ware House of Myanmar Southern Development Co, the ware houses of Thein Lin Myaung Co and UMH Co, the chosen places for ware house projects including industrial enterprises of the residents, the chosen places for a sub-power station of Thanlwin Ayera Industrial Production and Construction Co, the chosen place for Myanmar Police Station in Hpa-an Industrial Zone, the chosen place for mobile communication station of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, the chosen place for a workshop for wearing out of bikes of Myathatkywe Co.

Besides, the State Chief Minister and party gave a hand for stake-driving events at the chosen place for a ware house of Sein and Thaung Family Co, the chose place for a factory of Shwe Than Win Co, and the chosen place for a hotel near Hpa-an Golf Course.—MNA

2nd ASEAN Men’s Hockey Tournament continues

YANGON, 15 Dec—Second ASEAN Men’s Hockey Tournament jointly organized by Asian Hockey Federation and Myanmar Hockey Federation commenced.

YANGON, 15 Dec—The opening of National Badminton Championship (Great Wall) 2011 took place at National Tennis Court in Lanmadaw Township here this morning. On the occasion, President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe made an introductory speech. First-day matches then started.—MNA

12th National Badminton Championship (Great Wall) commences

YANGON, 15 Dec—The opening of National Badminton Championship (Great Wall)-2011 took place at National Tennis Court in Lanmadaw Township here this morning. On the occasion, President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe made an introductory speech. First-day matches then started.—MNA

Myanmar, Brazil to promote bilateral ties

NAVPYITAW, 15 Dec—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Winna Maung Lwin received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brazil to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior at 11.30 am at the minister’s office here today.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation on matters of mutual interest. —MNA

Work-coordination meeting of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and ministries, Union level departments held

NAVPYITAW, 15 Dec—A work-coordination meeting of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and the ministries and Union level departments was held at the meeting hall of No. 3 building of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee of Hluttaw Building here at 1:00 pm today, with an address of Chairman of Committee for Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings U Win Sein.

It was attended by Vice Chairman of the Committee, Secretary and committee members, officials concerned from the ministries and Union level departments.

Chairman U Win Sein discussed matters relating to the queries and the proposals assured at the first second regular session.

Those present at the meeting respectively presented progresses of tasks being carried out, which are related to the queries and the proposals promised at the first second regular session.

The meeting came to an end after the committee chairman had carefully considered the presentations. —MNA
Iraq ready to start nuclear work in bunker

VIENNA, 15Dec—Iran could soon begin sensitive atomic activities in an underground facility deep inside a mountain, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday, a move that would up the ante in a stand-off with big powers demanding Teheran curb such work.

Iranian experts have carried out the necessary preparations at Fordow near the Shi’ite Muslim holy city of Qom, paving the way for the Islamic Republic to start higher-grade uranium enrichment at the site on a former military base.

The machines, equipment and nuclear material needed have been transferred and installed at Fordow, the sources added, suggesting the work itself — until now conducted above ground at another location — could start when Iran takes the decision.

“They are ready to start feeding,” a diplomatic source said, referring to the process in which low-enriched uranium gas is refined by centrifuges to increase the fissile isotope ratio.

Tension is escalating between Western powers and Iran after a UN nuclear watchdog report last month that said Teheran appeared to have worked on designing a nuclear weapon, and that secret research to that end may be continuing.

The United States and its European allies have seized on the unprecedented document by the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to crank up the sanctions pressure on Iran, one of the world’s largest oil producers.

Enriched uranium can be used to fuel power plants and other types of reactors, which is Iran’s stated aim, or provide material for atomic bombs if processed much further, which the West suspects is the country’s ultimate intention.

Bootsleg liquor kills 102 people in eastern India

KOLKATA, 15 Dec—A tainted batch of bootleg liquor killed 102 people and sent dozens more to the hospital in villages outside the eastern Indian city of Kolkata, officials said.

Day labourers and other poor workers began falling ill late Tuesday after drinking the brew that was laced with toxic methanol around the village of Sangrampur, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Kolkata, according to district magistrate Narayan Purkayastha.

“It’s a very sad thing that this has happened. Why don’t the police stop this? I cannot understand? What connection do they have?” said Anwar Hassan Mullah, who brought six people from his village to the hospital. All of them died, Mullah told NDTV news channel.

Police arrested four people in connection with making and distributing the methanol-spiked booze, said police official Surajit Kar Purkayastha. Highly toxic methanol can be used as a fuel, solvent and anti-freeze.

By Thursday morning, the death toll had skyrocketed to 102, and dozens more remained hospitalized, Nagam said. Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of the state of West Bengal, promised a crackdown.

“I want to take strong action against those manufacturing and selling illegal liquor,” she said, according to Press Trust of India.

“But this is a social problem also, and this has to be dealt with socially also along with action.”

NATO soldier killed in militant attack in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 15Dec—A NATO soldier was killed in an militant attack in restive Afghanistan’s southern region on Wednesday, the military alliance said on Thursday morning.

“An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member died following an militant attack in southern Afghanistan, yesterday,” the NATO-led ISAF said in a press release here.

However, the brief released did not reveal the nationality of the victim under ISAF policy, only saying “it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.”

Troops mainly from US, Britain and Australia have been stationed in the southern area within the framework of ISAF to fight Taleban militants there.

The Taleban-militancy has been rampant since the militant group announced it would launch a rebel offensive starting from 1 May against Afghan and some 130,000 NATO-led troops in Afghanistan.

A total of 548 foreign soldiers, most of them Americans, have been killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Journey with Taleban shows militants’ resilience

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN, 15 Dec—For 15 hours, we walked with Taleban fighters through territory supposedly controlled by the Pakistani army and frequently pounded by US drone strikes.

Avoiding roads and towns, we easily evaded soldiers and were shown recruits drilling with weapons, militant positions and — from a distance — a compound used by foreign fighters.

The rare trip to South Waziristan revealed resilience of militants in the northwestern tribal areas, some of whom are also battling American soldiers across the frontier in Afghanistan. It also demonstrated that the militants, who once ruled much of South Waziristan from permanent bases with many hundreds of fighters, are now largely a guerrilla force there.
Novel hydrogel regenerates burnt skin tissues

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Researchers have developed a hydrogel that regenerates healthy and scar-free tissue on skin damaged by severe burns. The procedure, which promotes the formation of new blood vessels and skin, including hair follicles, could lead to greatly improved healing for injured soldiers, fire victims and people with third-degree burns, say researchers. The treatment involved a simple wound dressing that included a specially designed hydrogel, a water-based, 3D framework of polymers, the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported.

This material based on mouse tissue tests was developed by researchers from Johns Hopkins’ engineering, medical and pathology streams.

Third-degree burns typically destroy the top layers of skin down to the muscle. They require complex medical care and leave behind ugly scarring. But Johns Hopkins team reported that their hydrogel resulted in better results, according to a Hopkins’ statement.

“This treatment promoted the development of new blood vessels and the regeneration of complex layers of skin, including hair follicles and the glands that produce skin oils,” said study author Sharon Gerecht, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering.

Gerecht said the hydrogel could form the basis of an inexpensive burn wound treatment that works better than currently available clinical therapies. It would be easy to manufacture hydrogel on a large scale, she added.—Internet

Secrets of ‘sleep hormone’ may lead to new treatments for insomnia

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Scientists have unravelled the inner workings of melatonin, also known as the “sleep hormone,” making a major breakthrough for the development of new and promising treatments for insomnia. The team from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) and McGill University revealed the key role played by the melatonin receptor in the brain that promotes deep, restorative sleep. This discovery led the researchers to develop a novel drug called UCX765, which selectively activates this receptor.

The results may pave the way for the development of new and promising treatments for insomnia, a common public health problem that affects millions of people worldwide.

“We’ve spent many years to develop medications that act selectively on a single melatonin receptor to specifically promote deep sleep, which we believe is the key to curing insomnia,” said Dr. Gabriella Gobb, a researcher in psychiatry at the RI-MUHC and the study’s principal investigator. To date most treatments for insomnia, such as benzodiazepines, have not been selective for deep sleep, and can lead to dependence and cognitive impairment. The research team discovered that two pricipal melatonin receptors, known as MT1 and MT2, played opposite roles in sleep regulation.

“We discovered that MT1 receptors act on rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and block non-REM sleep, while MT2 receptors favour non-REM sleep, also known as deep sleep,” explained Dr. Gobb.—Internet

The dollar gained 15 of its major counterparts as Greek lawmakers must approve the 78 billion-euro ($110 billion) austerity package to receive a loan payment and future financing.

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Crude oil prices fell below $95 a barrel Wednesday, losing $5.19 to close at $94.95 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Home heating oil fell 1.9 cents to settle at $2.83 a gallon. Gasoline closed at $2.50 a gallon, off 12.1 cents.

Henry Hub natural gas picked up less than a penny, closing at $3.154 per million British thermal units. At the pump, the national average price of unleaded gasoline dropped slightly from Tuesday’s $3.269 per gallon to $3.264, AAA said.—Internet

The dollar rose against major currencies in late New York trading on Wednesday as the yield of newly-issued Italian bonds surged to new euro-era highs and the rising US import cost worried investors and also rose to 1.0322.—Canadian dollars from 0.9448 Swiss francs to 0.9533.

Dollar rises on debt concerns

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—The US dollar rose against major currencies in late New York trading on Wednesday as the yield of newly-issued Italian bonds surged to new euro-era highs and the rising US import cost worried investors and also rose to 1.0322.—Canadian dollars from 0.9448 Swiss francs to 0.9533.

The dollar’s rise was mainly due to a pickup in risk aversion, with investors buying dollars in the hope of keeping their money safe. The dollar rose 0.7 percent in NOVEMBER.

Meanwhile, US Labour Department said import prices rose 0.7 percent in November, the largest increase in seven months. The surging import prices added concerns about the inflation.

The dollar was lifted by risk-aversion appetite. The dollar index rose 0.36 percent to 80.53 on Wednesday. In late Wednesday trading, the dollar bought 78.07 Japanese yen, comparing with 77.97 from late Tuesday. The euro fell to 1.2977 dollars from 1.3043. The British pound sold 1.5487 dollars from 1.5487. The dollar rose from 9.0488 Swiss francs to 9.9533, and also rose to 1.0402 Canadian dollars from 1.0322.—Xinhua

Crude oil closes under $95 a barrel

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Crude oil prices fell below $95 a barrel Wednesday, losing $5.19 to close at $94.95 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

US oil prices fell below $95 a barrel Wednesday, losing $5.19 to close at $94.95 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

One driver begins the process of a credit card gas purchase in Denver on 15 April, 2011.—Internet

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**Science**

**Russian Mars mission called ‘impossible’**

**MOSCOW, 15 Dec—** Russia’s Photos-Grunt spacecraft, stuck in the wrong orbit for more than a month, will not be able to complete its Mars mission, one of its builders says.

“We should admit that Photos-Grunt has failed to fulfill its main mission of reaching Mars,” Viktor Khartov, the head and chief designer of the Lavochkin spacecraft construction bureau, told RIA Novosti in Moscow Wednesday. “This is a fact. Mission Impossible.”

The spacecraft, launched 9 Nov, was designed to bring rock and soil samples from the Martian moon Phobos, but has been stranded in a so-called support orbit since its thrusters failed to put it on course for the Red Planet.

It will probably fall back to Earth in mid-January, Khartov said.

Attempts by Russian and European specialists to regain control of the troubled spacecraft have failed, and a special commission has been formed to analyze the causes of the mission failure, RIA Novosti said.

**Supernovae black hole will ‘eat’ gas cloud**

**BERLIN, 15 Dec—** Researchers have spotted a giant gas cloud spiraling into the supernova black hole at our galaxy’s center.

Though it is known that black holes draw in matter more massive than our Sun. As the name implies, beyond a certain ‘horizon’—nothing can escape it. But this violent process will literally shed light on the closest example of an enigmatic celestial object. — Internet

**Apple plans to buy Israeli flash memory maker Anobit**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Dec—** Apple is in talks to acquire Israeli flash semiconductor maker Anobit for 400 million to 500 million US dollars, US media reported on Tuesday.

Apple is likely interested in Herzliya Pituach, Israel-based Anobit for an exclusive access to its embedded flash controllers which can significantly boost memory performance of smartphones and tablet computers, said technology news site TechCrunch, citing Calcalist, an Israeli newspaper in Hebrew

which first reported the possible acquisition.

Apple already uses Anobit’s technology in iPhone, iPad and the MacBook Air.

If the deal works out, it could be Apple’s largest acquisition ever, surpassing its 404 million-dollar purchase of NeXT in 1997.

It could also become Apple’s first acquisition in Israel and the first with Tim Cook as CEO. The deal may also open up opportunities for Apple’s other products, such as its Apple Watch, and its operating system, iOS.
UK clears Areva/EDF, Westinghouse reactor designs

LONDON, 15 Dec— Britain’s nuclear regulator issued interim design approval for Areva and EDF’s European Pressurized water Reactor (EPR) and Westinghouse’s AP1000 nuclear reactor on Wednesday, paving the way for UK plant developers to use them in new power stations.

“Generic design for two nuclear reactors proposed for construction in the UK have been granted interim design acceptance by the independent nuclear safety, security and environment regulators,” Britain’s Office for Nuclear Regulation said in a statement.

Both companies have additional technicalities to clarify but the regulator said it was satisfied they would resolve remaining issues to gain a full licence, which is needed to start construction and costs applicants around 25 million pounds.

Areva will supply two 1,600-megawatt (MW) EPRs to follow French company EDF to build Britain’s first new nuclear power plant in nearly 20 years at Hinkley Point in Somerset.

“This (announcement) will open the way to construction of the first EPR in the UK and all the benefits our low carbon technology will bring in terms of employment and assured energy supply,” said Areva’s UK Chairman, Alain-Pierre Raynaud.

 Toshiba-owned Westinghouse is banking on a selection of its 1,150 MW reactor by German nuclear group Horizon, which unites rivals EON and RWE.

“This announcement marks a tremendous milestone on the road towards seeing AP1000 reactors built in the UK,” said Westinghouse’s Vice President for the UK, Middle East & Europe, Mike Tynan, adding it follows four and a half years of work to gain approval.—Reuters

**Egypt tour guides debate alcohol and bikini ban**

CAIRO, 15 Dec— At the foot of the ancient Pyramids, tour guides and vendors are divided over the affects an Islamist-dominated parliament might have on the lucrative tourism industry.

Egyptians are voting Wednesday in the second phase of three-round parliamentary elections — the first since president Hosni Mubarak was ousted in February — that will shape a new constitution.

“Much of the buzz has been sparked by calls from the ultra-conservative Salafists, standing under the banner of the Al-Nur party, for tourism that is “halal,” a reference to that which is allowed in Islam. Alcohol, bikinis and mixed bathing would be banned.”

“Those are just a few of the questions looming over a federal recommendation that seeks to rein in what has become an essential tool of American business.”

Woodside said the ban, if adopted, would devastate his sales. Because he lives in a rural state, his minimum drive is an hour and a half.

“I keep both hands on the steering wheel and just look down my nose and read my text messages and emails.”

Like millions of other Americans, Woods uses his car as an ambo office, relying on his phone almost every hour of every workday to stay productive and earn a living.

“Like millions of other Americans, Woods uses his car as an ambo office, relying on his phone almost every hour of every workday to stay productive and earn a living. So would drivers ever abide by a proposed ban on almost all cell phone use behind the wheel, even if it is hands-free? Could they afford to?”

(C)Buron

**Egyptians ride horses past the great pyramids on the outskirts of Cairo in March. Tour guides and vendors are divided over the affects an Islamist-dominated parliament might have on the lucrative tourism industry.**

—INTERNET

**India to make dedicated satellite facility for armed forces**

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec— The Indian government Wednesday said it would soon provide a dedicated satellite facility to the country’s armed forces.

“Satellite requirement of the armed forces are being met from the existing facilities. Steps have also been taken for provision of dedicated satellite facilities for the armed forces,” Indian Defence Minister AK Antony told the Parliament.

He added that the government has put in place mechanisms to effectively exploit space resources for the defence and security of the country.

On the shortage of equipment in armed forces, he said: “Modernization of the armed forces is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges, technological changes and available resources.”

—Xinhua

**Mob kills 10 suspected pirates in Bangladesh**

DHAKA, (Bangladesh) 15 Dec— Bangladesh police say fishermen have beaten to death 10 suspected pirates who were wounded in a gunfight with security forces.

Local police chief Bashir Ahmed says the wounded men were being brought to a police station late Wednesday when hundreds of angry fishermen snatched them from the police and beat them to death. He said Thursday that police were far outnumbered by the mob and could not save the suspected pirates.

The deaths occurred in southern Bhola district. The area is 65 miles (104 kilometres) south of the capital, Dhaka.

“The crowds won’t show any mercy to that which is allowed in Islam. Alcohol, bikinis and mixed bathing would be banned.”

“I keep both hands on the steering wheel and just look down my nose and read my text messages and emails.”

“I want to get back hands on the steering wheel and just look down my nose and read my text messages and emails.”

“The crews won’t show up,” said Francois Robert, a vendor selling miniature castles and Christmas items. “People are scared.”

At the outdoor bus depot that Amrani attacked, a long parade of people banded against the wind and rain paid tribute to the victims. Young women cried and families lit toys, flowers and candles. The glass still littered the pavement.

“Warum (why)?” asked one card, surrounded by toys, flowers and candles. The victims included a 1 1/2 year-old toddler and two teenage boys, both students. Five others are reported in critical condition.—Internet

**Belgian city after deadly rampage asks ‘Why?’**

LUZEE, (Belgium) 15 Dec— A card at a memorial to the victims asked the question haunting all of Belgium: “Why?”

Why did Nordin Amrani, a 33-year-old with a history of law breaking, swept into this city’s holiday shopping centre to unleash a grenade-and-gun rampage that killed three people and wounded 123 others? Why did he then kill himself?

“Deeper probing the mystery,” police announced Wednesday that another body had been found, that of a 45-year-old woman, in a shed where Amrani grew cannabis close to his home.

Lieuve Prosecutor Daniele Reyners said, after searches of Amrani’s house, terrorism could be excluded.

“It was a cleaning lady. This is how she met him yesterday morning,” she said. “She died, shot with a bullet in the head.”

The Ferris Wheel at Liege’s Christmas market started turning again Wednesday, hoping to restore some festive cheer, but the mood remained black as the coal that once drove this rust belt city in eastern Belgium.

“The crowds won’t show up,” said Francois Robert, a vendor selling miniature castles and Christmas items. “People are scared.”

At the outdoor bus depot that Amrani attacked, a long parade of people banded against the wind and rain paid tribute to the victims. Young women cried and families lit candles as shards of unswept glass still littered the pavement.

“Warum (why)?” asked one card, surrounded by toys, flowers and candles. The victims included a 1 1/2 year-old toddler and two teenage boys, both students. Five others are reported in critical condition.—Internet

**Could US drivers ever abide by cellphone ban?**

DALLAS, 15 Dec— Junior Woods has a well-practiced routine for conducting business on the road: While driving throughout rural Arkansas, the electronics salesman steals a glance at his cellphone every so often, checking for text messages and emails.

“I can keep both hands on the steering wheel and just look down my nose and read my phone almost every hour of every workday to stay productive and earn a living. So would drivers ever abide by a proposed ban on almost all cell phone use behind the wheel, even if it is hands-free? Could they afford to?”

(C)Buron

**A father and his son mourn as they look at the scene Tuesday’s attack in the City centre of Liege, Belgium, on 14 Dec, 2011. The body of a woman has been found in the garage of a grenade-lobbing gunman, bringing to four the number of people killed in an attack in the City of Liege, officials said Wednesday.**

—INTERNET

**A driver uses a cellphone while driving on 14 Dec, 2011, in Los Angeles.**

Could US drivers ever abide by cellphone ban?

The National Transportation Safety Board declared Tuesday that texting, emailing or chatting while driving is too dangerous to be allowed anywhere in the United States. It urged all states to impose total bans “except for emergencies.”

**Internet**
Thousands of birds make crash landing in Utah

Saint George, 15 Dec—Thousands of migratory birds were killed or injured after apparently mistaking a Wal-Mart parking lot, football fields and other snow-covered areas of southern Utah for bodies of water and plummeting to the ground in what one state wildlife expert called the worst mass bird crash she’d ever seen.

Crews went to work cleaning up the dead birds and rescuing the injured survivors after the creatures crash-landed in the St George area Monday night.

By midday Wednesday, volunteers had helped rescue more than 3,000 birds, releasing them into a nearby pond.

There’s no count on how many died, although officials estimate it’s upwards of 1,500.

“They’re just everywhere,” said Teresa Griffin, wildlife programme manager for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource’s southern region. “It’s been nonstop. All our employees are driving around picking them up, and we’ve got so many people coming to our office and driving them off.”

No human injuries or property damage have been reported.

Officials say stormy conditions probably confused the flock of eared grebes, a duck-like aquatic bird likely making its way to the Mexican coast for the winter.

Gibbon attacks two children in Malaysia zoo escape

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Dec—A gibbon attacked two children, including one who was seriously injured, after escaping from an enclosure at a zoo in southern Malaysia, an official said Thursday.

The male siamang first bit a 5-year-old girl on her ankle Tuesday, Malacca Zoo director Ahmad Azhar Mohammed said. Minutes later, the ape attacked a 3-year-old boy and ripped off part of his right thigh, he said.

The girl received outpatient treatment, but the boy, Muhammad Aqif Hariz, was hospitalized in serious condition, the zoo director said. The siamang is a stleress, black-furred gibbon native to forests in Malaysia and Indonesia’s Sumatra Province.

The boy’s mother, Anita Sulaiman, told The Star newspaper that her family was relaxing at an aviary park when they heard people screaming and saw the gibbon charging at visitors.

She said the gibbon snatched her son from her husband’s arms before biting off part of his thigh.

Climate goals to lift energy bills 10 percent

LONDON, 15 Dec—Britain’s low-carbon goals could increase household energy bills by 10 percent out to 2020, although costs need not rise if homeowners are encouraged to use heating controls and more efficient appliances and lighting, a government adviser said Thursday.

In a report, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) said its best estimate showed the government’s low-carbon policies will add 110 pounds to average household energy bills in 2020, compared with an average bill of 1,000 pounds in 2010.

Under a scenario with only “limited success” in achieving existing energy efficiency measures, however, bills could rise by nearly 20 percent.

“If we introduce new policies to stimulate energy efficiency improvement, then bills in 2020 could broadly be contained at current levels,” said Aadi Turner, chair of the CCC.

The CCC, which reports to parliament on the government’s progress in reducing emissions, on Thursday published its first blanket analysis of how the government’s climate policy could affect household energy bills.

“The Committee’s findings disprove often repeated claims that recent bill increases are due to environmental policy costs and that major investments in low-carbon power capacity will drive dramatic bill increases over the next decade - as high as 3,000 pounds,” it said in a statement.

Two arrested in Mali over French kidnappings

Hombori, 15 Dec—A hotel manager and a guide have been arrested in Mali for involvement in the abduction of two Frenchmen in the northern town of Hombori last month, security and judicial sources told AFP Wednesday.

Security and judicial sources confirmed that the unnamed pair were the managers of the hotel where Serge Lazarevic and Philippe Verdon had been staying prior to their kidnap and the guide they used.

The French nationals were abducted by armed men and taken to an unknown destination on 24 November.

The kidnapping was claimed by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

The group also claimed responsibility for the abduction of three Westerners a day later in Timbuktu, northwest Mali. A German tourist with the three men was shot to death when he tried to resist. The group was started in the late 1990s by radical Algerian Islamists who sought the overthrow of the Algerian government to be replaced with Islamic rule.

On 9 December, the organization published two photos of hostages surrounded by armed men. One photo showed Lazarevic and the Verdon, and the other showed the three snatched from Timbuktu.

In all, 12 kidnapped Europeans are currently being held in north Africa’s Sahel region. A previously unknown Al-Qaeda splinter group, calling itself the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, has claimed responsibility for three of the kidnappings.

Tajik women trafficking heroin in shoes caught at China airport

Urumqi, 15 Dec—Two Tajik women who tried to smuggle 945 grams of heroin into China by hiding it in the soles of their shoes were caught at a northwest China airport, local customs officials said Thursday.

The pair, who claimed to be mother and daughter, were caught after arriving at the Urumqi airport in northwest China’s Xinjiang

The pair have been placed in custody pending a police investigation, local officials said.

Nearly 5 kg of smuggled drugs have been confiscated at the Urumqi airport so far this year, customs officials said. China has strict laws against drug-related crimes.

According to the national penal code, smuggling 50 grams or more of drugs is a crime punishable by death.
Administrators to carry out their daily…

(from page 1)

as well as Region and State Hluttaw comes into operations and they promulgate and amend the laws in conformity with their respective regions.

To practise the executive power, he said that the Union government, Region and State governments and Leading Bodies of Self-Administered Zones are operating their administrative machinery.

Nowadays, he said that all the administrators are to take responsibilities for the tasks of the Union government and state government. He noted that the administrators at different levels must be highly-qualified personnel as Muse is a border area with significant character.

Among the tasks of the region, he pointed out that the administrators are to supervise salient points to avoid the behaviors undermining peace and stability of the region and relations of border area, to contribute towards

combating narcotic drugs, human trafficking and transnational crime, to disseminate public ethics to the people for avoiding betel spits and throwing of garbage indiscriminately to be able to keep Muse clean and pleasant as it is a tourist destination, to study Chinese and English languages in addition to mother tongue for ensuring smooth process of works, to build public toilets and trashs in all wards, to prohibit illegal cutting of trees and encourage growing of more trees emphasizing the environmental conservation, and as railroads will be constructed in the region coming years, it should take more careful for their tasks.

He said that the administrators are to carry out their daily tasks with dignity and genuine goodwill. They should not do their works with the hope for any bribes from the public. Likewise, he noted that they are to be free from bribes and discharge duties with fair management. Moreover, he said that they are responsible for their performances.

He highlighted that the Head of State has given directives that it must be clean government, and deterrence action will be taken against bribery.

In conclusion, he urged the administrators to give helping hand to the people in dealing with their basic needs, religious, economic and social affairs while dutifully taking up their tasks assigned by the State.

The administrators reported on their requirements in education, health and development sectors of respective regions.

The Deputy Commissioner reported on undertakings of development tasks in the district. The Vice-President attended the needs.

At the checkpoint of Muse 105-Mile Border Trade Zone, the Vice-President inspected the checkpoint by car and viewed displays of beans, sesame and agricultural produce at the bean, maize, sesame and agricultural brokerage.

After hearing the reports by the responsible persons

Thailand Trade Exhibition-2011 launched

YANGON, 15 Dec—An opening ceremony of Thailand Trade Exhibition-2011 took place at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township here this morning, with an address of Director-General U Khin Maung Lay, Chairman U Win Aung, Director General Mrs. Nuntawan Sakuntanaka and Chargé d'affaire ai of Thai Embassy to Myanmar Mr. Kallayana Vipattpumiprates pressed the button to open the Thai expo.

MNA

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung, Director-General U Khin Maung Lay, Chairman U Win Aung, Director General Mrs. Nuntawan Sakuntanaka and Chargé d'affaire ai of Thai Embassy to Myanmar Mr. Kallayana Vipattpumiprates followed.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung extended greetings and Chargé d'affaire ai of Thai Embassy to Myanmar Mr. Kallayana Vipattpumiprates followed.


MNA

Myanmar, Japan to share technology for stock market development

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyeto of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue received Deputy Director Ms Makiko Yamamoto and party of Policy Research Institute of Japan at the hall of the CBM, here, this morning.

They cordially discussed share of technological expertise for development of stock and share market in Myanmar and provision of legal assistance. Also present at the call were the Vice-Governor and heads of departments of the CBM.

MNA

Substituted vehicles to be taken out without more ado

YANGON, 15 Dec—Customs Department has been taking expedient measures to take out substituted vehicles in the place of outdated vehicles at respective ports.

Vehicle owners to take out vehicles may submit import declaration forms at export & import supervision branch of Customs Department (Head Office) with related all documents in hand.

If license permit for imported vehicle and all documents are found authentic, the department will take all necessary steps in an instant. Required tax amount is to be paid at government or private banks with payment order (PO cheque) or at Accounts Session of the Customs Department for those who have opened deposit account at the department not later than 4 pm daily.

Measures for import declaration forms are also being taken on Saturday.

MNA
The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, wife and party to pay a goodwill visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed, (ND), ndc, psc, of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, left here by air at 8 am on 12 December and arrived at Kurmitola Airbase in Dhaka at 9.45 am local time.

They were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador U Min Lwin and wife, Military Attaché Col Myint Thein and wife, Naval Admin Authority Dhaka Commodore A S M Abdul Baten, (E), ndc, psc. BN of Dhaka and senior military officials of Bangladesh and staff of Myanmar Embassy.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and party laid a wreath at Shikha Anirban in Dhaka and signed the visitors’ book.

They arrived at Kurmitola Airbase in Dhaka and then inspected the Guard of Honour at 10:00 am today.

In the afternoon, Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun arrived at the naval command in Dhaka Station and took the salute of the Guard of Honour of Bangladesh Armed Forces and then inspected the Guard of Honour.

Next, Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun met Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed, (ND), ndc. They cordially discussed further strengthening of relations between the two armed forces and bilateral cooperation.

Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and party called on Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Minister of Defence Mrs Sheikh Hasina at her office at 5.55 pm.

Afterwards, the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun attended a dinner hosted by the Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff and exchanged gifts. Later, they posed for documentary photo together with entertainment troupe.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 16 December, 2011 9

**Workshop on management of Wanbike mangrove forest reserve project**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—**The Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and FAO jointly held a workshop on management of Wanbike mangrove forest reserve project at Forest Department this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

After that, on behalf of FAO resident representative, Technical Officer, Region of Asia and Pacific, Forestry group Mr Jeremy Broadhead extended the greetings.

Officials from Forestry Department discussed the reports by Technical Cooperation and Development Consultant Dr Oswin D Stanley and Mr Jeremy Broadhead.

Afterwards, Dr Oswin D Stanley spoke words of thanks for successful completion of the workshop.

**Union Minister U Win Tun speaking at workshop on management of Wanbike mangrove forest reserve project.—MNA**

**Local Sports**

**Yangon Region clinches titles in badminton championship**

**Yangon, 15 Dec—**A ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the 43rd Inter-Region/State Badminton Championship was held at the National Badminton Gymnasium in Nanning Township yesterday morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw L Khun Yi and the vice-president gave prizes to the respective winners. President U Maung Maung Swe presented best player awards to Shoon Le Khuang (Yangon Region) and Lin Htet Kyu (Yangon Region).

Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Ohn Myint Os awarded championship shields and duplicate shields to Yangon Region women’s and men’s teams. —Myanma Alin

**Traditional boat race trial held**

**Maungdaw, 15 Dec—**Path Mein held a sport trial in traditional boat race on 12 December at Papin Village of Maungdaw Township to join Champion Challenge Club of Ayeawady Region.

Four villages from Maletto Village-tract took part in the traditional boat race. Qualified rowers were selected for the champion challenge club representing Ayeawady Region. Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Lin awarded the qualified rowers. —District/IBRD

**District News**

**Local farmers harvest model paddy plots**

**Sittwe, 15 Dec—**The 0.80 acre model plot of Shwewathun monsoon paddy of farmer U Than Lone Aung was harvested in Thetel Village-tract in Ponnagyun Township on 28 November. The production of model plot hit 75.4 buckets per acre.

**Training courses conclude at Vocation School**

**Pakokku, 15 Dec—**The Advanced Tailoring Course No. 15 and the Basic Domestic Science Course No. 18 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training School on 2 December.

**District and township level officials awarded outstanding trainees. Chairperson of District Women’s Affairs Organization Dr Yi Yi May presented completion certificates to the trainees. —Myanma Alin**

**Dy Hotels and Tourism Minister meets Indonesian Ambassador**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—**Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung received Indonesian Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono at his office here at 10.00 am today.

At the meeting, they discussed airline programmes between the two countries, designation of sister cities, promotion of pilgrimage tour and investment in Myanmar’s tourism sector, and the Indonesian ambassador expressed his honour over increased tourists arrival and emergence of modern hotels in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and officials concerned.—MNA

**Union Minister U Win Tun speaking at workshop on management of Wanbike mangrove forest reserve project.—MNA**

**DISTRICT NEWS**

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Ohio boy who weighed 200 pounds to live with uncle

CLEVELAND, 15 Dec—A boy removed from his mother’s custody over health concerns when his weight ballooned to more than 200 pounds will be taken from foster care and placed in the custody of an uncle, a judge ruled Wednesday. Judge John Hoffman also said the boy, who celebrated his 9th birthday Wednesday but didn’t appear in court, would be allowed a weeklong visit with his mother for Christmas. His name was withheld by Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

The mother left court without commenting, but the placement with her brother living in the Columbus area had been accepted by all sides before it was announced during a brief court hearing.

The court-appointed attorney representing the boy’s interests, John Lawson, said he was sure the youngster would be happy with the agreement.

“This is only an interim plan because the real goal of everybody here is to get him back in his home with his mother and his sibling,” a brother, Lawson said. “He’s a very smart boy and I think he’s got goals about himself.” Lawson said, including losing weight.

While in foster care, the boy’s weight dropped from about 200 pounds to 192.

Mary Louise Madigan, speaking for the Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services agency that sought foster care for the boy over weight-related health issues, said having the uncle caring for the boy was part of the county’s goal of getting him to a healthy weight and back with his mother.

“He’s in a least restrictive placement with a family member and I think that’s what the court was looking at,” she said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio joined the case on the boy’s behalf and said he should be with his family. —internet

Israel set to free 550 prisoners to finalize swap deal with Hamas

JERUSALEM, 15 Dec—Israel Prison Service (IPS) Wednesday evening announced a list of 550 Palestinian and Arab prisoners, who are slated to be released as the second phase of a prisoner-swap deal between Israel and Hamas.

“Pursuant to the Government of Israel’s decision...550 prisoners will be released on Sunday,” said an IPS statement.

After preliminary identification and medical checks, the prisoners will on Thursday night be escorted to two detention facilities, from where they will leave for West Bank and Gaza.

According to local Ynet news service, some 400 of them have already served two-thirds of their jail terms.

The release of these inmates is the second and final stage of a landmark swap deal, in which Israel sets free 1,027 Palestinian and Arab prisoners in exchange for captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

The first batch of 477 prisoners were released on 18 Oct, the same day Shalit returned home after being held by Hamas for over five years.—Xinhua

Caribbean-bound cruise ship rescues two ocean rowers

SAN JUAN, (Puerto Rico), 15 Dec—A Caribbean-bound cruise ship has rescued two men whose small boat capsized as they rowed across the Atlantic.

The Crystal Serenity picked up the pair from a life raft about 1480 miles (772 kilometres) west of the Canary Islands.

The men said they had been in the raft about 10 hours when they were rescued Wednesday, apparently unharmed.

A large wave sank the boat of British rower Tom Fancett and Dutch rower Tom Sauer. The men were competing with 16 other boats in the 2011 Atlantic Challenge Race.

Britain’s coast guard was alerted and sent out a request for help.

Ship operator Crystal Cruises says the Crystal Serenity diverted south and spent five hours searching for the men.

The ship was on route to St Maarten.—internet

Colo, SD eyed for Yellowstone bison

BILLINGS, (Mont.), 15 Dec—For the first time in decades, the federal government is considering moving bison captured leaving Yellowstone National Park to public lands in Colorado, South Dakota and elsewhere as part of efforts to curb periodic slaughters of the animals.

However, Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer said Wednesday the animals will not be taken from his state and he will block any attempt to move them.

In a Tuesday letter obtained by The Associated Press, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar told Schweitzer his agency is looking at relocation sites including Ballards National Park on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado.

Salazar also mentioned Wyoming’s Wind River Reservation, where a prior attempt to place Yellowstone bison collapsed two years ago.

The proposal came as state and federal officials have been trying to come up with alternatives to the periodic slaughter of bison leaving the park in search of food. Cattle ranchers say those migrations raise the chance of livestock being infected by diseased bison.

Many of Yellowstone’s 3,700 bison have been exposed to diseases such as brucellosis, yet the animals remain prized for their pure genetics. The bison to be transferred have been tested and are considered disease-free.

“I want to work with you to manage bison numbers and reduce disease prevalence in the Yellowstone herd,” Salazar wrote to Schweitzer. “While the Department of Interior alone cannot resolve this issue, I am willing to look at options of moving Yellowstone bison onto other DOI properties.”

After receiving the letter, Schweitzer issued an order blocking any fish and wildlife shipments by the Interior Department in Montana. The governor wants the bison to go to the National Bison Range near Moiese in western Montana. —internet

Rescuers mobilize after report of buried miners

MULLAN, (Idaho), 15 Dec—An Idaho sheriff’s official says an underground rescue team has been sent to a mine after authorities received a report that miners have either been trapped or buried.

Shoshone County sheriff’s Capt Holly Lindsey said Wednesday night that it’s unknown how many miners are involved or whether there are any injuries at the Lucky Friday Mine in northern Idaho.

Lindsey says air and ground ambulances have been dispatched, and the sheriff was also headed to the mine for a first-hand assessment.

Hecla Mining Co operates the Lucky Friday, one of the nation’s deepest underground mines. A spokesman didn’t immediately return a call from The Associated Press.

A roof collapse in a tunnel more than a mile underground trapped a 53-year-old silver miner at the mine in April. Crews recovered the man’s body nine days later.—internet

Heavy fog causes flight delays in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 15 Dec—A heavy fog blanketed Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on Thursday morning, delaying dozens of flights and stranding more than 1,000 passengers.

Forty-six flights were delayed as of 10:30 am, including 27 planned takeoffs and 19 arrivals, the airport authority said in a Press release.

Some inbound flights were forced to land at the Turpan, Kashi and Dunhuang airports, it said. More than 1,000 passengers were stranded at the airport as of 11 am and there have been no signs of an immediate clear-up, the Press release said.

The local weather bureau said the fog began at 3 am and visibility at the airport was around 100 metres.—Xinhua
Helping drivers make switch to electric cars

As the cost of fuel continues to rise, drivers are being encouraged to switch to electric vehicles to promote the use of clean energy, but a genuine increase in sales has yet to come. Potential customers have been left cold by the high cost of electric cars, their small driving range and, particularly, the under-developed charging infrastructure.

For example, the E6 electric car produced by the Shenzhen-based BYD Automobile Co Ltd, accounts for less than 2 percent of the company’s production capacity, company sources said.

“If you analyze the Chinese car market, you’ll find that a lot of Chinese buyers are unlike those in Europe,” Ofer said.

“Most Chinese are new buyers who don’t have a history of car ownership, so they don’t know what it is like to drive such a car,” he said. “In the West, most people are not first-time buyers. They have a long history of using gasoline-powered cars. If you tell Chinese buyers what an electric car is and how convenient it is to charge the battery, they will prefer the green car.” — Xinhua

Children pose with Polipaka Gattaiah, who stands at seven-and-a-half feet (2.28 metres) and claims to be the tallest man in India, at the arts and crafts centre in the southern Indian City of Hyderabad on 11 December, 2011. Gattaiah entertains people who visit the centre. Visitors often give money to the 38-year-old man and pose for photographs with him. In March 2011, he was given a prosthetic foot by a charitable organization after it was reported in the local media. Gattaiah is paid 6500 rupees ($130) a month by the state tourism department, officials said. — Xinhua

S Korea’s trade surplus contracts to 3.54 bln USD in November

SEOUL, 15 Dec — South Korea’s trade surplus contracted to 3.54 billion US dollars last month due to a reduction in exports to Europe, the customs office said Thursday. Trade surplus reached 3.54 billion dollars in November, down from 4.07 billion dollars tallied in the previous month, according to the Korea Customs Service (KCS). For the first 11 months of this year, the accumulative trade surplus amounted to 29.3 billion dollars, down from 37.1 billion dollars recorded in the same period of last year.

The country’s trade balance has been in the black for 22 straight months in November despite Europe’s debt crisis and economic slowdown in advanced nations. Exports grew 12.7 percent on-year to reach 46.49 billion dollars last month due to solid demand for major export items such as petroleum products, cars and steel products that jumped by 46 percent, 33 percent and 18.2 percent on an on-year basis respectively.

Overseas shipments of ships expanded 6.7 percent on-year in November after contracting for the previous two months, but exports of motorboats, communication devices, display panels and semiconductors shrank by 27 percent, 5.9 percent and 1 percent each over the cited period.

By country, overseas shipments to Japan and the Southeast Asian countries increased by 26.7 percent and 21.2 percent each on-year in November, while exports bound for China and the United States grew 6 percent and 21.2 percent respectively.

In contrast, exports to the European Union (EU) contracted 5.1 percent on-year to 4.03 billion dollars last month, sending the nation’s trade deficit with the EU members to 380 million dollars. Meanwhile, imports expanded 11.1 percent on-year to 42.96 billion dollars in November due to robust demand for raw materials and consumer goods. — Xinhua

Vietnam to earn $600 mln from fruits, vegetables exports in 2011

HANOI, 15 Dec — Vietnam’s fruits and vegetables export turnover is estimated to reach 600 million US dollars this year, making the country among the top-five largest Asian exporters in the field.

The news was announced by Vice President of the Vietnam Fruits and Vegetables Association (VFVA) Huyenth Quang Dau at an international conference on Vietnamese tropical fruits and vegetables held in southern Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesday, reported Vietnam News Agency.

In the first ten months, the country earned 515 million US dollars from fruits and vegetables exports, up 40 percent year on year. Main fruit exports included dragon fruit, star apple, mangosteen, longan and litchi, which are exported in big quantities to European and Asian countries, of which Japan took the most.

Currently, fruit export value to Japan reached more than 51.2 million US dollars, up 21 percent year on year.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) forecast in 2012 the world’s demand on agricultural products will be on the rise, which will boost Vietnam’s fruits and vegetables exports.

To promote more exports, VFVA advised the farmers and related businesses to apply the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to meet strict requirements on product quality from the importers. — Xinhua

India, Russia to boost cooperation of private sectors

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec — India and Russia expected to boost economic cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries during the visit by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Moscow on Thursday, reported local daily Thursday.

Meanwhile, the differences over India’s nuclear liability law and the failure to arrive at the terms of credit ensured the commercial content for two more nuclear reactors at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in southern India, remain a work in progress, said the Hindustan Times.

At the annual India-Russia summit, Singh would have a restricted meeting followed by delegation level talks with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on 16 Dec. He will also meet with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The Russian Prime Minister will have a joint interaction with Indian and Russian chief executive officers to boost the bilateral trade, said the report.

London 2012 ticket resale plans confirmed

LONDON, 15 Dec — The London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has confirmed details of its ticket resale process for Olympic and Paralympic ticket holders here on Wednesday.

Those who have bought tickets directly from LOCOG before 6 January 2012 will be able to resell their tickets via wwwtickets.london2012.com from 6 January 2012 until 3 February 2012. There will then be further opportunities to resell from Spring 2012.

The resale process will allow those who are no longer able to attend or no longer want their tickets to sell them to other sports fans and help ensure that venues are full at Games time.

Those who purchased tickets from LOCOG and wish to resell them will be able to choose which tickets they wish to resell via their ticketing account on wwwtickets.london2012.com.

“I’m convinced that most people will want to hold on to their tickets,” LOCOG CEO Paul Deighton said.

“But we are pleased to offer this resale programme which will give those who wish to use it, an opportunity to securely sell their tickets to others who wish to go to the Games or purchase more tickets and help us to achieve our aim of having full venues.”

Remaining tickets for the Olympic Football Tournament and the Paralympic Games are currently on sale until 6 February 2012 when the seat allocation process will begin.

Moroccan fishing boats are seen in Rabat 2008. European Parliament lawmakers blocked a deal Wednesday allowing special access for EU fishermen to Moroccan waters, prompting Morocco to impose an immediate ban on European fishing boats. — INTERNET

A general view of the site of the ancient Sun Pyramid at the Teotihuacan Citadel outside of Mexico City during the Gran Premio Gigante-Telmex, round 19 of the CART (Championship Auto Racing Teams) Fed Ex Championship Series on 15 Nov, 2002 at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, in Mexico City, Mexico. — INTERNET
MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT
KYAW MIN TUN

The son of U Maung Maung Khin @ Wong Khin Yu and Daw Tin Tin Hla residing at Yangon, Myanmar married to
EISWE LNN

The daughter of U Shin Nyunt and Daw Mya Aye residing at Yangon, Myanmar on Wednesday, 14th December, 2011 by entering marriage agreement before Yangon Region, High Court. Parents of both sides Kyaw Min Tun & Ei Swe Linn

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (09A)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (09A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2011 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.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MAILING ADDRESS
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11026)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11026) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2011 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.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MAILING ADDRESS
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TS LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Boeing 787 Dreamliner makes debut in Ethiopia for African tour

Addis Ababa, 15 Dec — Touring the world, Boeing 787 Dreamliner on Sunday touched down in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, first on Africa’s soil. Said after a four-day stay in Ethiopia, the aircraft will fly to Nairobi, Kenya as part of Boeing’s 787 Dream Tour, a six-month worldwide tour featuring the Dreamliner Ethiopian’s officials, employees and invited guests on Monday started having a closer look at the innovations and advanced technologies of the 787 at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport.

Briefing journalists at the airport, representatives from Boeing said the company has been a partner with the Ethiopian Airlines for many years. According to the Ethiopian Airlines, Vice President Flight Operations of the Ethiopian Airlines Desa Zenevren, the new aircraft from Haikou, China to Addis Ababa, becoming the first African captain to fly the 787. “Aviation throughout Africa continues to grow at pace faster than the world average and it is airplanes like the game-changing 787, and airliners like Ethiopian Airlines, that will help spur that growth,” said Van Ren Gallard, vice president of sales for Africa, Latin America & Caribbean of Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

The 787 is the perfect airplane to carry Africa into the future of aviation due to its low operating costs, size, and range. Boeing is very pleased we are able to show this airplane to the customers who put their faith in Boeing and the cutting-edge technology of this airplane,” said Gallard. Teodoro Gebremaer, CEO of the Ethiopian Airlines, said Ethiopian Airlines will be starting flying with Boeing 787 between April and June in 2012. — Xinhua

Thieves with brass neck sought after tubas disappear

Los Angeles, 15 Dec — Police in Los Angeles are advising the city’s schools to tighten security after a rash of burglaries in which thieves have broken into music department classrooms and made off with tubas. The large brass instruments are worth $5,000 ($3,200) when new and half that second-hand. Even a badly dented specimen is worth hundreds of dollars on the scrap-metal market.

There are several tuba players in most high-school marching bands, where the burglaries are occurring, many schools are now unable to field a full band. “We still have three tubas left, but we have more players than instruments,” Ruben Gonzalez Jnr, the band leader at South Gate High School, told the Los Angeles Times. He’s lost five tubas so far this term.

Scientists at Cern ‘Glimpse God particle’

CERN, 15 Dec — Scientists are set to confirm they have caught a glimpse of the elusive ‘God particle’ — the so far theoretical concept that helps to explain some of the mysteries of the Universe. The Cern physics research centre in Switzerland is expected to reveal that experiments in the Large Hadron Collider have produced signals that provide the clearest evidence yet that the sub-atomic particle exists. “I am feeling quite a level of excite- ment,” said Oliver Buchmueller, one of the senior scientists seeking the particle. The Higgs particle, or boson, is a key missing piece in the most widely accepted theory of physics — called the Standard Model — which describes how particles and forces interact. For more than a year scientists at Cern have been firing particles in opposite directions around a 27km long ring-shaped tunnel 100m below ground. When the particles have accelerated to almost the speed of light they are encouraged to collide. Sensi- tive detectors are then used to examine the debris for new particles. — Internet

Cuban, US scientists discuss cooperation

Havana, 15 Dec — US and Cuban scientists met here Monday to seek ways to enhance cooperation in joint projects in health, environment and technology, said the Cuban Academy of Sciences (CAS). Co-organized by the CAS and the American Association for the Advance of Sciences (AAAS), the five-day event is aimed at achieving “a scientific cooperation in joint projects in health, environment and technology,” said the Cuban representative. — Xinhua

Scientists at Cern fire particles in opposite directions around a 27km long ring-shaped tunnel 100m below ground. When the particles have accelerated to almost the speed of light they are encouraged to collide. Sensitive detectors are then used to examine the debris for new particles. — Internet
Woman collects 1,700 Christmas decorations

A Welsh woman who has been collecting Christmas decorations since 2002 said she now has 1,700 of them hanging from her ceiling. Sylvia Pope, 68, of Swansea said she has been collecting the baubles for nine years and now has so many she began hanging them in September to ensure her home is ready for Christmas, Wales on Sunday reported.

“I don’t rush it. If I started at the beginning of December I would be up and down then and wouldn’t do such a good job,” Pope said. Pope, who has ornaments from as far away as New York and Egypt, said the cheapest decorations in her collection cost about 90 cents and the priciest cost nearly $25 apiece.

Pope, who turns 69 the day after Christmas, said her collection is not yet complete. “There’s still quite a lot of space up there,” she said.

1,300 jump into cold Pennsylvania river

Organizers of the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge said nearly 1,300 people jumped into the frigid Allegheny River to raise money for Special Olympics Pennsylvania.

The organizers said the Sunday event, which marked its second year, raised $275,000 to $300,000 for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, nearly double the amount raised last year, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Monday. The air temperature was in the mid-20s and the water temperature was in the upper 30s during the plunge, officials said. “It’s amazing, just amazing,” said Eric Cushing, spokesman for Special Olympics Pennsylvania. “It’s exceeded our every possible expectation.”

“The polar plunges are growing by leaps and bounds,” Cushing said. “They are a huge driver of revenue for us, and they are growing.” Special Olympics Pennsylvania sponsors similar events in York, Harrisburg, Philadelphia and the Laurel Highlands.

Tom Cruise plans global celebration for 50th birthday

LONDON, 15 Dec—Hollywood actor Tom Cruise plans to retire from Hollywood after promoting his next movie, “Mission Impossible: The Ghost Protocol,” plans to celebrate his 50th birthday in a grand way by visiting every country he has been to, and party there.

“T’m gonna be 50 on 3 July and I think we’ll have a big party. I’m gonna have a party in every country. I’m gonna go, ‘Look, I’m 50, man! Where’s my party?’” femalefirst.co.uk quoted Tom as saying.

“Mission Impossible: The Ghost Protocol” is the fourth movie installment of the “Mission Impossible” franchise that started in 1996 with Cruise playing the lead role of Ethan Hunt.

Tom was recently in India for a special screening of “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol.” 15 days prior to its general release on 21 Dec. The movie, that has a part of it shot in India, will also see Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor playing Brj Nath, a wealthy Indian businessman.

Police car ends up vertical

Miami Police said an investigation has been opened into how a police officer managed to drive his cruiser into a vertical position on a light pole.

Police said the officer, who was not injured, wound up with his vehicle in a vertical position alongside the light pole Tuesday morning and the car was tangled in wires attached to the pole, WSVN-TV, Miami, reported Tuesday.

Investigators said they are looking into the cause of the crash. Resident Donovan French said he was able to take some pictures before the cruiser was removed. “What I’m going to do with the footage is, I have to let the world know a police car has went up on the pole on my block,” French said.

13
Jacksonville, 15 Dec — Sixty years after he wrote from the first of 210 major championships, Dan Jenkins is headed for the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Jenkins, 82, will be only the sixth media member in the hall when he is inducted May 7 at the World Golf Village along with Phil Mickelson, Hollis Stacy and two other inductees who are to be announced Thursday in London.

His career goes from Ben Hogan to Tiger Woods, from the manual typewriter to Twitter, and Jenkins is still going. He previously worked for the Fort Worth Press, the Dallas Times Herald and Sports Illustrated, and he has been writing for Golf Digest since 1985. Jenkins has written 20 books, including “Dead Solid Perfect.”

“Being from Fort Worth, I would follow Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson anywhere,” Jenkins said Wednesday on a conference call to announce that he was selected through the Lifetime Achievement category. “Since they’re in there, I’m happy to be the third guy from Fort Worth so included.”

“I’m delighted to be in such good company with the people who are already in there, especially the players.”

The other five media members in the Hall of Fame are writers Herbert Warren Wind, Bob Harrow, Herb Furbush, Bernard Darwin and television producer Frank Chirkinian. They were inducted posthumously.

“I should note that over the years, the World Golf Hall of Fame has been very rare in their recognition of people from Dan’s craft, only recognizing the very, very best,” PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said.

“Since they’re in there, I’m happy to be in there, especially the players.” — Dan Jenkins

Paris Saint-Germain 4-2 Athletic Bilbao

PARIS, 15 Dec — A late own goal from Inigo Perez and a penalty from Guillaume Hoarau sent 18th-place Bilbao out of the Europa League in September.

The 27-year-old has been out of favor with Roberto Mancini this season, and hasn’t featured for the team since refusing to come on as a substitute against Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

Carlos Tevez wants to join Boca Juniors

AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Brazilian Serie A champions Corinthians have all also been heavily linked with the forward. Despite Tevez’s intentions to play for Boca, the club has already gone on record stating it would not be able to afford the forward, who is rated at around 40 million euros.


University of Chile wins Copa Sudamericana final

SANTIAGO, 15 Dec — Universidad de Chile won its first continental competition Wednesday with a 3-0 victory over Ecuador’s Liga de Quito in the second leg of the Copa Sudamericana final.

Striker Eduardo Vargas scored two goals and Gustavo Lorenzetti found the other to give Universidad a 4-0 aggregate victory after Vargas got the only goal in Thursday’s first leg.

Tevez linked with a return to Boca

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University of Chile’s Universidad de Chile’s players celebrate at the end of the Copa Sudamericana final soccer match against Ecuador’s Liga Deportiva Universitaria in Santiago, Chile, on 14 Dec.

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University of Chile’s Universidad de Chile’s players celebrate at the end of the Copa Sudamericana final soccer match against Ecuador’s Liga Deportiva Universitaria in Santiago, Chile, on 14 Dec.
Rare white rainbow lights up the North Pole

Cold voyage: As their ice breaking ship cruised through the chilly waters, Sam clocked the arching rainbow, but was stunned to see it was completely white.— Internet

LONDON, 15 Dec — This is the amazing moment a white rainbow streaks across the Arctic sky. The rare phenomena, named a fog bow, was spotted by Sam Dobson during a recent expedition to the North Pole. As their ice breaking ship cruised through the chilly waters, Sam clocked the arching rainbow but was stunned to see it was completely white. He quickly grabbed his camera, and despite freezing temperatures, captured the unique sight.

The 51-year-old, from Russia, said: ‘It was completely white.—'

It is actually closer than it looks in the pictures. ‘I was stunned and amazed by the natural miracle. Despite the fact I am totally obsessed with photography, I sometimes forget to press the shutter button. ‘I was just staring at the natural wonder in front of me.’

Internet
Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win, wife welcome back Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai welcomed back the Myanmar Tatmadaw visit led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint who paid a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh at the invitation of Chief of the Naval Staff of Bangladesh Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this afternoon.

Also present at the airport to welcome back the delegation were Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife, senior military officers and their wives of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

Members of the delegation Commodore Tin Aung San of Kyaukpyu Station and senior military officers and Defence Attaché of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Brig-Gen MD Shahidul Hague, psc, also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

London 2012 ticket resale plans confirmed

London, 14 Dec.—The London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has confirmed details of its ticket resale process for Olympic and Paralympic ticket holders here on Wednesday.

Those who purchased tickets from LOCOG and wish to resell them will be able to choose which tickets they wish to resell via their ticketing account on www.tickets.london2012.com.

“I’m convinced that most people will want to hold on to their tickets, “ LOCOG CEO Paul Deighton said.

“But we are pleased to offer this resale programme which will give those who wish to use it, an opportunity to securely sell their tickets to others who wish to go to the Games or purchase more tickets and help us to achieve our aim of having full venues.”

Remaining tickets for the Olympic Football Tournament and the Paralympic Games are currently on sale until 6 February 2012 when the seat allocation process will begin.—Internet

Myanmar, Brazil to promote bilateral ties

Smoking behind most cancer cases

Secrets of ‘sleep hormone’ may lead to new treatments for insomnia

Affiliated BEPS gets new building

WAKEMA, 15 Dec.—The opening ceremony of new building for Affiliated Basic Education Primary School was held in Kyaungsha Village of Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 6 December.

Township level departmental officials explained matters related to the new building.

The school building, 60 feet long and 30 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 15 million sponsored by U Tha Toe Hein-Daw Soe Marlar (Myanma Awba family).