* Our Three Main National Causes *

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

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**President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to King of Bhutan**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.—MNA

**President U Thein Sein felicitates Prime Minister of Bhutan**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Lyonchoen Jigme Yoezer Thinley, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.—MNA

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**Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Chairman of China Power Investment Co Mr Lu Qizhou**

NAV PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo received Mr Lu Qizhou, Chairman of China Power Investment Co, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House, here, at 3pm today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo were Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Director-General of the President Office U Min Zaw and officials. Together with Mr Lu Qizhou were Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and responsible persons of the company.

During the call, they cordially discussed matters relating to the generating of hydro electricity and cooperation in mutual interests.—MNA

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**Talks on Independence Day given in Palauk Sub-township**

NAV PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Palauk Sub-township Information and Public Relations Department in Myeik District of Taninthayi Region and township Women’s Affairs Association jointly organized a talk to mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day at Palauk Basic Education High School on 14 December.

Chairperson of township WAA Daw Nilar Aye spoke on the occasion and staff officer Daw Ni Ni Cho of Myeik District IPRD gave talks on independence, followed by quizzes about Independence Day to students with prize-presentation.—MNA

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**Significant night temperature**

(16-12-2011)

- Haka: (-2°C)
- Pinlaung: (2°C)
- Heho: (4°C)
- Mogok: (5°C)

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**Paddy of GAP increases per-acre yield**

GANGAW, 16 Dec—Production of Manawthukha paddy strain cultivated by three farmers through good agriculture pattern in Shwebo Village of Gangaw Township exceeded 53.28 baskets per acre than that of previous year.

On 29 November, a total of 169.34 baskets per acre of wet paddy were produced and 155.79 baskets of dried paddy. In the previous year, the plot produced 102.51 baskets of dried paddy. The harvesting of paddy was attended by departmental personnel and local people.—Myanma Alin

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**Smaller lobsters released into sea**

THANBYUZAYAT, 16 Dec—As part of efforts to conserve water resources, smaller sizes of lobster than that of sale standard were released into the water in Anansan Village of Thanbyuzayat Township on 9 December.

Department officials presented pamphlets on sales for sizes of lobster to fishermen and accepted the smaller sizes of lobster dutifully handed over by local entrepreneurs.

Officials concerned released 500 smaller lobsters to the sea.—township IPRD

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**Union Election Commission issues Notification No. 60/2011**

Cash and kind donated to displaced people in Kachin State
Human resources needed to harness ICT

Globally, 21st Century has marked an age of Information and Communication Technology. With increased application of ICT to various fields, it has become an indispensable part of our lives. Through ICT, a considerable number of countries have found their roads to wealth and prosperity.

In other words, in modern world, most of the nations are making effective use of ICT for development. ICT is used as a tool to enhance socio-economic life of urban and rural people. ICT plays the main role in modernizing a nation. The development of ICT has direct relation with how much it is applied in daily life and technicians and human resources with expertise in ICT therefore have become essential.

For this reason, the government is opening Technological Universities and Universities of Computer Studies the length and breadth of the nation. Currently, the nation has seen 32 Technological Universities, four Government Technological Colleges, 11 Government Technical Institutes and 36 Government Technical Training School.

Likewise, Universities of Computer Studies were founded in respective regions and states, reaching to 25 in number. Yearly, these universities are turning out technical human resources.

Youths graduated from these universities should not be content with a degree, but are to make efforts to become competent technicians, only then can they run shoulder to shoulder with global countries.

For the emergence of technical human resources to tap ICT for national development, what should we be doing?
Shots fired at Chinese consulate in LA

Los Angeles, 16 Dec.—Shots were fired at the Chinese consulate in Los Angeles, but no one was injured, police said, adding that an Iranian suspect was being sought.

The Los Angeles Times newspaper reported that the shooting occurred after a scuffle between protesters outside the building and a security guard, but police could not confirm this.

Police were hunting for a suspect described as an Iranian man in his late 30s or early 30s with white hair, said Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) spokesman.

“Apparently this man shot numerous rounds into a building. Officers are searching for the man right now. There is no evidence that he is in custody yet,” the spokesman told AFP.

“None was hurt” in the shooting at the Chinese diplomatic building, which is between downtown LA and Hollywood, he added.

The LA Times reported that a protester fired shots at a security guard outside the consulate, missing his target and hitting a building in the compound instead.

It cited early reports indicating that a group of protesters had gathered outside the building, and one of them got into a dispute with a security guard, who allegedly had taken a sign from the man and tossed in the trash.

The protester got into a vehicle and fired several shots in the direction of the security guard, all of which missed, the newspaper reported.

Hanoi office tower fire spreads smoke around city

HANOI, 16 Dec.—A five-story office building was caught on fire Thursday in downtown Hanoi in black smoke.

Police sealed off the diplomatic building, which is between downtown Hanoi and the Chinese consulate in Los Angeles, the United States, police said.

An Asian suspect was being sought.

Several workers waved their shirts from an upper-floor balcony to call for help after smoke began to engulf the building. Others used cellphones and flashlights to summon help.

Police sealed off the building and declined to comment, but the fire appeared to be out by mid-evening, several hours after it started, but fire engines and ambulances still crowded the area.

The unoccupied tower is one of two being built for Vietnam Electricity’s Centre for Telecommunications and Information Management. Vietnam Electricity, known as EVN, has a monopoly in power distribution in Vietnam.

The official Vietnam News Agency quoted Nguyen Huy Hoc, a worker who escaped the blaze, as saying sparks from welding in the basement ignited nearby material in the air-conditioning system.

Four killed, eight injured in roadside bombing in Farah, Afghanistan

FARAH, 16 Dec.—Four civilians were killed and eight others were injured Thursday when a roadside bomb went off in western Afghanistan’s Farah Province, police said.

“The bloody incident occurred at around 11:00 am local time when a civilian mini-bus touched off a roadside bomb in Malo area of Part Cham District,” police chief of Farah Province Syed Mohammad Roshandali told Xinhua.

He said the injured were shifted by police to a local hospital in the provincial capital of Farah City, some 695 km west of capital city of Kabul. Talibane militants have been largely relying on roadside bombing and suicide attacks in fighting against Afghan security force and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan, often causing civilian casualties.

A total of 1,462 Afghan civilians were killed in the first half of 2011, a 15 percent rise over the period of 2010, according to the United Nations mid-year report released in Kabul in July this year.—Xinhua

Nigeria’s potholed roads among world’s most deadly

Movt. (Nigeria), 16 Dec.—The tractor-trailer trail alongside the busy Nigeria expressway like a child’s forgotten toy, its cargo of cosmetics smashed on the hot, uneven strip of asphalt road and its driver left bleeding with a head wound.

Burned-out metal carcasses of crashed minibuses and wrecked cars line the Lagos-ibadan Expressway, a rutted and potholed highway that connects two major cities in Africa’s most populous nation.

Horns screeched from drivers waiting impatiently to pass, as those on the other side of the highway sped on without slowing for the axle-crashing bumps in the uneven lane. Despite decades as an oil producer, Nigeria’s roads remain neglected scenes of needless carnage. And despite the World Health Organization warning that Nigeria’s traffic fatalities among the highest in the world, the deaths continue unabated. “For now, it’s a death trap,” said Abdul-Azeez Ibrahim, a lecturer at Lagos State University who studied the traffic crashes.

Africa as a whole has one of the highest road traffic death rates in the world, the WHO’s 2009 study determined. Nigeria saw more than 47,800 people killed in traffic crashes in 2007 alone, according to WHO statistics. That put it No. 3 in the world in the number of fatalities, behind China and India.

Paved roads only constitute 15 percent of Nigeria’s total road network, and crashes happen with a horrifying regularity.

Death toll from India toxic liquor rises to 167

KOLKATA, 16 Dec.—The death toll from a mass poisoning in eastern India caused by toxic home-brewed alcohol rose to 167 on Friday, as police made more arrests in the case.

“We have already arrested 155 confirmed dead,” Shya-mapada Basak, health services director of West Bengal state told AFP.

Another 160 people were critically ill in local hospitals.

Police said they had arrested another two people, taking the number detained to 12 over the past two days.

“We are now looking for the kingpin of the racket involving the sale of illicit, spurious liquor in the district,” West Bengal police additional director general.

Surojit Kar Purokayastha said. The victims are from 10 villages in an area near West Bengal’s border with Bangladesh.

Many were labourers and rich farmers too poor to afford branded alcohol who stopped for a drink at illegal bars or bought from bootleggers after work on Tuesday. Local hospitals have been overwhelmed by victims arriving either unconscious or complaining of abdominal pains and burning in their chests.

District magistrate Narayan Swamp Nigam told AFP that methanol had been detected in at least 21 victims.

Four killed, eight injured in roadside bombing in Farah, Afghanistan

PHOENIX, 16 Dec.—A small plane crashed in the front yard of a northeast Phoenix home and exploded Thursday, killing the pilot who was trapped inside and seriously injuring a passenger.

The single-engine plane went down just before 10 am, about a half-mile short of the Scottsdale airport runway.

The plane missed hitting any homes in the residential area, and no one on the ground was hurt.

Police spokesman Sgt Tommy Thompson said the name of the 62-year-old pilot already there helping,” she said. “The first guy got out (of the plane), and he was screaming for his friend. His face and shoulder was burnt, noticeably burnt.”—Internet

Bloodied, burnt man in his 60s turned himself in

DAVIDSON, Ark, 15 Dec, 2011. An Asian man in his 60s turned himself in to police Thursday, claiming responsibility for shooting at the Chinese Consulate General building, police said.—Xinhua

Small plane crashes in Phoenix; one dead, one hurt

Patients receive treatment for alcohol poisoning at a hospital in Diamond Harbour, south of Kolkata. The death toll from a mass poisoning in eastern India caused by toxic home-brewed alcohol rose to 167 on Friday, as police made more arrests in the case.

Black smoke rises from a high-rise building, left, in Hanoi, Vietnam, after a fire started Thursday afternoon, on 15 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Texas woman claims her name on 62-year-old pilot

Police check near the Chinese Consulate-General building in Los Angeles, the United States, on 15 Dec, 2011. An Asian man in his 60s turned himself in to police Thursday, claiming responsibility for shooting at the Chinese Consulate General building, police said.—Xinhua

Dashed hopes from Minivan, 15 Dec, 2011. A 15 percent rise over the same period of 2010, fighting against Afghan security force and NATO-led troops largely relying on roadside bombing and suicide attacks in hospital in the provincial capital of Farah City, some 695 km

In this 24 Nov, 2011 photo, an official of Nigeria road safety commission walks past the wreckage of a tractor trailer that crash while transporting cosmetics on the busy Nigeria expressway, near the town of Mowe 30 miles from Lagos.—INTERNET

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In this 24 Nov, 2011 photo, an official of Nigeria road safety commission walks past the wreckage of a tractor trailer that crash while transporting cosmetics on the busy Nigeria expressway, near the town of Mowe 30 miles from Lagos.—INTERNET
**Iron supplements could prevent life-threatening blood clots**

A new research has indicated that iron supplements could be prevented deep vein thrombosis and other life-threatening blood clots.

Each year, one in 1,000 people in Britain is affected by clots that form in the veins, and scientists now believe that the risk could rise in those with a lack of iron.

DVT is often associated with long distance air travel and other situations that involve being immobile for long periods of time.

Clots frequently form in the legs causing painful swelling and, in some cases, a danger that lungs will dislodge and travel to the lungs with fatal results.

Researchers at Imperial College London studied 609 patients with blood vessel disease haemorrhagic telangiectasia, who have a higher risk of blood clots.

They found that this increased risk disappeared when the HHT sufferers took iron supplements.

Many of the patients had low iron levels, because of iron loss through excessive bleeding — asymptomatic of HHT.

"Our study shows that in people with HHT, low levels of iron in the blood is a potentially treatable risk factor for blood clots," the Daily Mail quoted lead researcher Dr Claire Shovlin, from the University’s National Heart and Lung Institute as saying.

"There are small studies in the general population which would support these findings, but more studies are needed to confirm this."

"If the finding does apply to the general population, it would have important implications in almost every area of medicine," she added.

The finding was published in the journal Thorax.

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**FedEx earnings soar; to buy 27 Boeing planes**

**New York, 16 Dec—US parcel delivery giant FedEx reported on Thursday solid quarterly earnings and unveiled an order for 27 Boeing aircraft as it updates its product line.**

Net income leaped 76 percent in the fiscal second quarter ending 30 November from a year ago, to $497 million, the company said.

Earnings per share excluding special items were $1.57, beating analysts’ average forecast of $1.52.

Revenue of $10.59 billion was up 10.6 percent from $9.63 billion in the 2010 second quarter.

“Our improved performance was largely a result of effective yield management programmes and strong demand for FedEx Home Delivery and FedEx SmartPost services,” Frederick Smith, FedEx chairman, president and chief executive, said in a statement.

“With the healthy growth in online shopping this holiday season, demand is increasing for these residential delivery services.”

As part of the company’s modernisation of its aircraft fleet, FedEx said it had signed an agreement with Boeing to purchase 27 new 767-300F aircraft, a deal worth about $4.7 billion at list prices.

The first three of the 767s are scheduled to be delivered in fiscal 2014 ending in May and six per year in the fiscal period of 2015-2018, FedEx said. "The 767s were selected as the best choice to begin replacing FedEx Express’s MD10 aircraft, some of which are more than 40 years old," said the Memphis, Tennessee-based firm.

**RIM stock sinks on profit plunge**

**Toronto, 16 Dec—Blackberry maker Research In Motion on Thursday saw its stock price sink after reporting a plunge in quarterly earnings and dimmed expectations for the months ahead.**

The Canada based firm reported a profit of $911 million in the current fiscal quarter but in the current fiscal quarter but preliminary estimates were sometimes, for whatever reason, Facebook is more tempting.” My gut feeling is that device shipments would slide and that it would not meet its original forecast of earning $5.20 to $6 per share.

A costly BlackBerry service outage and deep discounting of the price of the PlayBook tablet computer were cited as factors in RIM’s disappointing financial performance. Internet

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**New York, 16 Dec—Computers, smartphones and other devices intended to help US medical staff avoid medical errors may in fact be causing a dangerous distraction, experts say.**

"You justify carrying devices around the hospital to do medical records," he said. "But you can surf the Internet or do Facebook, and sometimes, for whatever reason, Facebook is more tempting.” My gut feeling is that device shipments would slide and that it would not meet its original forecast of earning $5.20 to $6 per share.

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**CONCERNS GROW OVER ‘DISTRACTED DOCTORING’**

"If the finding does apply to the general population, it would have important implications in almost every area of medicine," she added.

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**Few foods are source of vitamin D**

**Santa Monica, (Calif) 16 Dec—Vitamin D deficiency is common in winter, with earlier sunsets and weaker rays, and few foods are sources of vitamin D, a US food expert says. Phil Lempert, a food industry analyst, trend watcher and creator of the Web site supermarketguru.com, said vitamin D refers to a group of fat-soluble vitamins that can be obtained several ways — from exposure to sunlight (ultraviolet B), by consuming certain foods and by taking supplements.

In the summer months, most people who maintain their vitamin D needs through planned sun exposure like sunbathing, or unintentionally from exercising outdoors in a T-shirt. Direct sun exposure for 15 minutes three times a week is thought to keep the body’s vitamin D stores at healthy levels, Lempert said.

"Few foods naturally contain vitamin D Salmon, tuna, sardines, mackerel, shrimp and fish liver oils are the best sources. Vitamin D can also be found in small amounts in beef liver, cheese, egg yolks and some mushrooms," Lempert said in a statement. "Other foods have been fortified with vitamin D, but do not naturally contain the vitamin, and include milk — cow, soy and rice — some brands of orange juice, margarine, and yogurt. Breakfast cereals often contain around 10 percent of the daily recommended intake of vitamin D as well.”

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**Health**

This undated photo provided by Melinda Guido’s Medical Centre. Melinda was born premature at one pound, eight ounces at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Centre. Melinda born premature at at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Centre. Melinda was born premature at one pound, eight ounces at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Centre.

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**Concerns grow over ‘distracted doctoring’**

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**Business**

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The Canada based firm reported a profit of $911 million in the same quarter last year.

RIM profit in the quarter ended 26 November fell far short of Wall Street forecasts and the stock price dropped more than six percent to $14.13 in after-hours trading that followed release of the figures.

RIM said it had yet to finalise its outlook for the current fiscal quarter but preliminary estimates were that device shipments would slide and that it would not meet its original forecast of earning $5.20 to $6 per share.

A costly BlackBerry service outage and deep discounting of the price of the PlayBook tablet computer were cited as factors in RIM’s disappointing financial performance. Internet

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Google launches data centre in Singapore

**SINGAPORE, 16 Dec—** Search engine giant Google on Thursday formally launched the first data centre in Southeast Asia, setting up shop in line with where it sees the biggest Internet applications based in the fast-growing region in the world in terms of Internet usage and we have a very strong Google business here,” Google’s Southeast Asia managing director Julian Persaud told AFP.

“So I think we would allocate resources in line with where we see the biggest opportunity, which I think would be APAC (Asia-Pacific) and Southeast Asia,” he added after the groundbreaking ceremony.

The Singapore data centre will be the Silicon Valley company’s first in Southeast Asia and second in Asia after construction began for its Hong Kong facility last week.

Google figures show Asia has the fastest growing number of Internet users in the world. But it faces stiff competition, particularly in China where domestic search engines like Baidu are popular and censorship last year forced Google to move its Chinese search engine overseas. Google will invest US$120 million in the 2.45-hectare (6.05 acre) Singapore facility, with construction expected to be completed by early 2013.

The company is also due to build a third Asian data centre in Taipei on top of its current six facilities in the United States and two in Europe.

The Asian centres will give regional Google users faster and more reliable services and enable the company to enhance applications like Gmail without being constrained by capacity issues, company officials said. —Internet

Hackers breach servers of Japan’s Square Enix

**SHENYANG, 16 Dec—** A local earthquake monitoring station in northeast China’s Liaoning province said on Thursday it keeps about 30 animals to aid in local earthquake monitoring because animals are more sensitive to upcoming seismic events than humans, local authorities said Thursday.

Located in Faku county in the City of Shenyang, the Faku Seismic Station’s macro observation site has raised more than 30 animals, including mammals, reptiles, and fowl, as an earthquake pre-warning system, said Zhou Zheng, deputy director of the station.

Animals are likely to act abnormally several days or hours prior to a devastating earthquake, Zhou said.

“We keep daily records on the animals’ abnormal responses and eating habits,” said Yang Xing, a staff member with the station. “But we can not completely rely on the animals’ help because people who will be buried in the collapse and weather and fear can also lead animals to behave abnormally,” Zhou said.

A total of 19 townships in Fuku county have established similar observation sites and report the results to the Fuku Seismic Station every week.

“At the present time and in view of the fact that there are no significant earthquakes,” said Zhou. Therefore, we will continue to use this method.” —Xinhua

Astronomers identify source of supernova

**SANTA BARBARA, 16 Dec—** A supernova that exploded in August was a white dwarf star, but its companion could not have been a red giant as previously supposed, US astronomers say. The new “type Ia” thermonuclear supernova exploded 24 Aug in the Pinwheel galaxy, located in the constellation Ursa Major, also known as the Big Dipper.

“It is been nearly 50 years since the original theoretical suggestions were made that these supernovae were caused by white dwarfs,” physicist Lars Bildsten of the University of California, Santa Barbara, said in a university release Wednesday. Astronomists have discovered type Ia supernovae are part of binary systems, two stars orbiting each other.

White dwarf stars are small but very dense stars, and red giants are stars that swell to massive proportions when they approach middle age.

A white dwarf results when a star similar in size to our sun reaches the end of its life and normally would be dead forever unless it has a companion star. Then the white dwarf can steal its companion star’s matter and come back to life. If it steals too much matter the result can be an explosion as a Type Ia supernova.

Scientists are not yet sure of the type of the companion star to the recent white-dwarf-turned-supernova but have ruled out the type of star theories had them to expect, a red giant. “This is the first time through direct imaging of the explosion site, we were able to rule out certain types of stars as the companion to a Type Ia supernova,” Weidong Li, a research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, said. “The second star couldn’t have been a massive red giant.” —Internet

China’s spaceship item to go on tour exhibition

**BEIJING, 16 Dec—** A round of space exhibitions, featuring items carried on China’s space missions, is to be held across China throughout 2013.

The exhibitions will display items from Shenzhou-8, China’s fourth manned spaceship, according to a press release issued at a launch ceremony in Beijing Thursday. Shenzhou-8’s return to Earth on 17 Nov ended a mission that saw China complete its first ever space docking.

Precise pictures of space missions, space beaches and remains of rocket launching and real re-entry module would also be presented to audiences, the release said, without specifying an itinerary for the exhibitions. The main exhibition is scheduled to open in Beijing on 30 Jan next year, and it will then go on tour to other cities. —Xinhua

Science

Animals assist in earthquake monitoring in NE China

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“At the present time and in view of the fact that there are no significant earthquakes,” said Zhou. Therefore, we will continue to use this method.” —Xinhua

Microsoft announces automatic upgrades for Internet Explorer

**SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Dec—** Microsoft on Thursday announced that it will automatically upgrade the Internet Explorer (IE) to the latest version to give Windows customers more protection against malware attacks. According to the company’s blog post, starting from Australia and Brazil next January, users of Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 will get the IE updates if they have turned on automatic updating via Windows Update.

Microsoft said the industry has been moving toward automatic up-dates as a norm since the biggest online threat these days is social engineering malware typically targeting out-dated software like Web browsers. Automatic upgrades, also called silent updates for displaying no messages or windows during the progress, has been deployed by Google’s Chrome and Mozilla’s Firefox.

It can ensure users have the newest versions of the browser, and therefore is seen as a big improvement to Internet security. —Xinhua

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 17 December, 2011**
UN sends more peacekeepers to Sudan’s Abyei

Abyei, 16 Dec—The United Nations has begun deploying more peacekeepers to the contested Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, a UN official says, while Khartoum insists it is still not ready to withdraw its forces. “The flights are already coming in,” a spokesman for the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Alok Singh Rawat, told AFP by phone. “We’re expecting some more troops to be arriving today.”

South Sudan Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin in November alleged that deployment of the peacekeepers was being “intentionally delayed” by Sudan. But UNISFA’s spokesman said troops are arriving “as planned.” He said a third battalion had begun landing over the past two days after the UN Security Council authorised the peacekeeping mission, troop numbers are at 3,333 and likely to reach full strength of about 4,200 by month’s end as the deployment peaks, Rawat said.

The Sudanese army in May overran the deli- terious border district claimed by north and south.—INTERNET

Japan set to declare Fukushima plant shutdown

Tokyo, 16 Dec—Japan on Friday looked set to announce it had finally tampered leaking atomic reactors at the Fukushima Daichi power station, nine months after one of the world’s worst nuclear crises began. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda was expected to tell a disaster-weary public that all reactors at the plant were in a state of cold shutdown.

The government and plant operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) have long targeted the year-end for the

Russian fishing ship lists badly near Antarctica

Wellington, 19 Dec—A Russian fishing vessel with 32 crew members was taking on water near Antarctica on Friday. Heavy sea ice was hampering rescue efforts, and officials said it could be four or five days before anybody reaches the ship to try to rescue the crew. The Sparta was listing at 13 degrees next to the Antarctic ice shelf in the Ross Sea, according to Maritime New Zealand. The agency said that the crew was safe and was throwing cargo overboard to lighten the ship, and that some of the crew had boarded lifeboats as a precaution. The ship has a 1-foot (30 centimetre) hole in the hull about 5 feet (1.5 metres) below the water line, the agency said. The crew so far had managed to pump out much of the incoming water and had attached a tarpaulin over the outside of the hole to slow the water flooding in, the agency said.

The crew have asked for more pumps to be sent to them and will try and make repairs to the hull, the agency said, adding it was trying to figure out a way to get the pumps. “It’s a very remote, unforgiving environment,” said Andrew Wright, executive secretary of the Australian-based Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which has licensed the Sparta to catch toothfish in the Southern Ocean.—INTERNET

Filipino police rescue US boy from kidnappers

Manila, 16 Dec—Philippine police stormed a kidnappers’ hideout and rescued a 4-year-old American boy who was held for ransom for eight days, officials said Friday. Five suspects were arrested in the second recent case of a kidnapped US minor in the Philippines. The boy, who was living with his Filipino mother and American father, was seized in Manila on 6 Dec by three gunmen who cut off the car he was traveling in with the mother, said Isagani Nerez, head of the police anti-crime unit.

A $13,600 ransom was paid three days later, but the kidnappers demanded $113,000 more before releasing the boy, whose identity was withheld, Nerez told reporters. The father, an engineer, sought the help of the US Embassy and FBI, who sent representatives to the national police headquarters to coordinate with local authorities in securing the victim’s release, Nerez said.

He said police feared the boy would be harmed and traced his location to the kidnappers’ hideout in Prieto Diaz town in eastern Sorsogon Province. On Wednesday, police stormed the site, rescued the boy, who was unharmed, and arrested three of the alleged captors. A follow-up operation led to the arrest of two more suspects in Manila on Thursday. “We were worried that the kidnappers would kill the boy if their demand was not met,” Nerez said. “It was the reason why we decided to launch the assault on the kidnappers’ lair.”

After a medical checkup found the boy to be in good health, he was reunited with his family, Nerez said.

The boy’s identity was withheld because of privacy concerns. Nerez said he was attending an international school in a Manila suburb. US Embassy spokesman Betina Malone told The Associated Press that the US authorities were appreciative of the efforts of Philippine police in rescuing the boy. “It was the result of a great deal of hard work,” she said, adding that US authorities expected those responsible to be prosecuted and punished.—INTERNET

Brazil seizes 115 tons of drugs in border sweeps

Rio de Janeiro, 16 Dec—More than 115 tons of drugs have been seized and some 4,200 traffickers detained in border operations by Brazil’s military over the past six months, authorities said Thursday.

The Brazilian government launched the Strategic Borders Plan in June to crack down on drug and weapon trafficking along the borders.

“There was perfect cooperation between the federal and state govern- ments’ organs,” Brazilian Vice President Michel Temer said, confirming that the border operations would continue next year. Besides 99.5 tons of marijuana and 15.8 tons of cocaine, about 535 firearms, 473 million pharmaceutical drugs and 4.5 million cigarette packages were also seized, officials said. The government had invested about 37 million reais (19.9 million US dollars) in the plan, they added.

The plan, carried out in the country’s 11 border states, includes two major permanent operations responsible for fighting criminal gangs and long-term border patrols respectively.—Xinhua

Street shooting injures two in western Germany

Bielefeld, 16 Dec—Two people were critically injured in a ram- pant shooting in the city of Bottrop in western Germany on Thursday. The incident took place around 18:00 local time (GMT 17:00) in front of Albrecht-Durer Primary School in Bottrop, North Rhine-Westphalia State, local media reported. Several gunshots were heard, witnesses said.

The victims were reportedly two brothers aged between 24 and 25. Police suspected there were two perpetrators. A massive manhunt has been launched for the criminals who escaped the site. Their motivation for the shooting remained unknown.

The scene of the crime, located in a residential area, was cordoned off. Local newspaper reported one of the suspected shooters drove a dark Volkswagen Golf to flee the site.—Xinhua

Brazilian government launches Strategic Borders Plan in June to crack down on drug and weapon trafficking along the borders. —AFP

A photo released by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) shows UN peacekeepers patrolling the Todach area, north of Abyei, in May. The United Nations has begun deploying more peacekeepers to the contested Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, a UN official says, while Khartoum insists it is still not ready to withdraw its forces.—INTERNET

A forensic expert searches for evidence at a site where two brothers were shot and seriously injured in the western German town of Bottrop on 15 December, 2011. The brothers, 24 and 25 year-old, were shot by a man who is on the run a police spokesman said on Thursday.—Xinhua

Black smoke rises from reactor number three at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011. —INTERNET

a major headache for TEPCO, which had been gathering new solutions, including the use of series of jerry-rigged power generators knocked offline, leaving a small band of men—dubbed the Fukushima 50—to carry a series of jerry-rigged power generators knocked offline, leaving a small band of men—dubbed the Fukushima 50—to carry on the cooling process subsequent to the disaster, with its reactors’ cooling systems, fuel rods.

Fukushima nuclear power plant was severely damaged by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that smashed into Japan on 13 March, March in 2011.

In this undated photo provided by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Russian fishing vessel Spartz is tied up at an unknown location.—INTERNET

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Black smoke rises from reactor number three at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011. —INTERNET
Britain to have 13,500 troops on duty for Olympics

BRUSSELS, 16 Dec— Russian officials indicated Thursday that their country may offer more than the $10 billion it already promised the International Monetary Fund to help support the struggling euro currency.

Speaking at a news conference with EU President Herman van Rompuy and the head of the IMF, Jose Manuel Barroso, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said: “We are ready to invest the necessary financial means to back the EU and the eurozone. We are ready to consider other measures of support.”

He didn’t elaborate, but Russian officials have said their country would offer up to $10 billion to the IMF to help support the euro. And Arkady Dvorkovich, a Medvedev economic adviser, indicated Thursday the total may be greater because Russia has a big economic stake in the EU, where a debt crisis is dragging down economies and the 17-nation eurozone.

“We are ready to contribute our part via the IMF. We are committed to do it. Ten billion dollars is the minimum commitment,” Dvorkovich told journalists reporting from the 28th EU-Russia summit in Brussels, where other major issues included visa liberalization and alleged fraud during Russia’s parliamentary election last week.

Last week, EU governments said they would give the IMF’s euro200 billion ($264 billion), which in turn could help out the eurozone.

The fund also expects other nations to participate in the rescue fund. Medvedev said it is in Russia’s interest to assist its largest trade partner overcome the economic crisis.

Russia scrambles to save some 100 trapped whales

MOSCOW, 16 Dec— Russia’s agencies are scrambling to save some 100 beluga whales — an endangered species — that are trapped among large chunks of polar ice floating in the frigid Bering Sea.

Russia’s nature protection watchdog says there is a chance that the whales might perish. Authorities say the ice is 10-15 centimeters (4-6 inches) thick and is preventing the whales from reaching the open sea where they can swim free.

Russia’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology said Thursday that it has asked the Transportation Ministry for help and that an inter-departmental group is working on how to save the whales.


Medvedev: Russia pledges to help euro

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Departments concerned to solve problem...

(from page 16)

After looking into the checkpoint, the Vice-President gave necessary instructions to officials.

At Hsenwi People’s Hospital, the Vice-President and party visited patient wards, x-ray room and medical store. In meeting with the Medical Superintendent and doctors, the Vice-President heard the reports on coverage of health care services and continual medical teaching by the medical superintendent.

After that, the Vice-President donated K 10 million to medical fund through the medical superintendent. Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat donated K 1 million and the Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Company, two sets of Sky Net receivers. On arrival at Basic Education High School in Hsenwi, the Vice-President inspected classrooms and learning of students.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan donated sports gear to the State Chief Minister, K 1 million; Shwe Than Lwin Co, Asia World Co, United Amara Bank, Tamoe Chantha Co, Loi Hein Co and Kanbauzwa Bank Ltd, school fund of K 10 million, the Chief Minister of Shan State K 1 million and Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, two sets of Sky Net receivers through officials.

Afterwards, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met township, ward and village administrators at Aungmangala Hall in Hsenwi. At the meeting, the administrators reported to the Vice-President on education, health, road transportation and religious affairs. Later on, the township administrator also reported on implementation of regional development.

With respect to the reports, the Vice-President coordinated essential and gave a conclusive speech. Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co Kyaw Win donated two sets of Sky Net receivers via the township administrator.

Then, the Vice-President and party proceeded to Kunlong via Hsenwi. He gave a speech in meeting with township/ward/village level administrators and town/city elders at Thanlaw Hall in Kunlong. Then, ward/village administrators reported on the need to the Vice-President.

Next, district and township administrators reported on regional development tasks.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win gave supplementary reports.

The Vice-President then attended to the needs.

The Shan State Chief Minister presented K 1 million each to officials concerned for availability of safe water in Namkyahna and Tattu villages.

The Vice-President and party visited Kunlong People’s Hospital and inspected operation theater, x-ray room, men’s ward, women’s ward and child ward.

At the meeting hall of the hospital, the Shan State Chief Minister presented K 1 million to medical fund. Kanbauzwa Bank Ltd, Loi Hsein Co, Shwe Than Lwin Co, Asia World Co and United Amara Bank and Tamoe Chantha Co K 10 million to medical fund. Shwe Than Lwin Co then donated two sets of Sky Net MPS receiver to the SWAT, two sets of Sky Net receiver to the medical superintendent and one set of Sky Net receiver to Border Areas and National Races Development Training School, and the six companies K 30 million to Kunlong Shan Monastery and 31 sets of Sky Net receiver to six wards and 23 villages.

On arrival at Kunlong Basic Education High School, the Vice-President and party viewed the students learning education multi-media classrooms, and inspected the classrooms. At the assembly hall of the school, the six companies provided K 10 million to school fund.

The Shan State Chief Minister donated K 1 million to school fund, the Union Sports Minister sports gear and the Shwe Than Lwin Co chairman two sets of Sky Net receiver, and the six companies K 5 million for 10 sets of computer and its accessories to the headmaster.

Next, the Vice-President and party left Kunlong by helicopter and arrived back in Lashio in the evening.

In meeting with township/ward/village level administrators of Hsenwi and Kunlong townships of Shan State (North), he said that the intention of the inspection tour was to find out the effects of ongoing reforms on the public, what hardship the people were facing and how those problems can be resolved. He defined the meaning of administrators as those who are assigned by the government to serve the interests of the public and are obliged to perform that duty successfully with devotion to wishes and requirements of the people. He then called administrators of townships, villages and wards to submit the difficulties respective places were facing and requirements.

The Vice-President after coordinating needs of respective places said that he welcomed the reports on requirements and called them to table regional requirements during their visit without hesitation. He added that proposals of requirements could be presented verbally like now or submitting through respective departments or direct mailing to the government or through Hluttaw representatives at different levels or private media. Those had become open in ongoing democratization process. It needed to systematically use the legal channels to demand the government.

The Vice-President, in conclusion, said that regional administrators at different levels to play an affordable role in unison to ensure eternal peace in the nation.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts patients at Hsenwi People’s Hospital.—MNA

The government was moving heaven and earth to bring permanent peace and tranquility, and prevalences of law and order. Those regions were neither near nor distant from borders, linking with self-administered regions and thus it needed to carefully handle cases that can cause misunderstanding between national brethren. Over 100 national races had lived in the country till now through thick and thin, however there occurred cases leading to mutual mistrust resulting in conflicts. Thus, the government was endeavours to make eternal peace with all the national races.

Only when there was eternal peace, could the nation see progress. So long as there was no peace, the nation would be lost in vicious circle of construction and destruction. He then urged to prevent and oppose any acts harmful to peace in union to ensure eternal peace in the nation.

The Vice-President in conclusion of his speech urged regional administrators at different levels to play an affordable role in unison to ensure eternal peace in the nation.

Teak, hardwood plants weeded

Hsipaw, 16 Dec.—Jointly organized by Hsipaw Township Forest Department and Township Environmental Conservation Committee, teak saplings, hardwood saplings and commercial teak plantations grown in the last rainy season were weeded in Hsultan Village on 6 December morning.

Township level officials, workers of Forest Department, students and local people enthusiastically participated in weeding and watering the teak and other hardwood saplings.—Myanma Alin
Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets local reporters at UEC Tribunal Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 Dec—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye met local reporters at UEC Tribunal Office here this morning.

All UEC members were present. The Chairman and members replied to the questions about by-election, political parties and electoral arguments raised by the reporters.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses Passing-out Parade of 14th Intake of DSTA

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 Dec—The Passing-out Parade of the 14th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in Pyin Oo Lwin at 7.30 am today, with an address by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Central Command, the Pyin Oo Lwin Station commander, the commandant of DSTA, senior military officers of Pyin Oo Lwin Station, guests and parents and relatives of cadets.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services took the salute of the cadet companies and inspected them. Next, the cadet companies marched past the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Hla Myint Swe, Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Aung Phyoe Pyae and Excellence in Study Award to Cadet Khin Maung Tun.

Afterwards, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said that technicians and intellectuals must contribute their efforts towards building a stronger, able and modern Tatmadaw, bearing in mind the motto: “Technology for Military Might”. The role of the engineering technicians is pivotal to reinforce physical strength including weaponry, ammunition, vehicles, machines and other military equipment, he said.

He said that nowadays, every country in the world is competing in inventing advanced science and technology and there comes the Era of Technology. Today is modern warfare but is fighting with science and technology, he noted. He said that according to “Revolution in Military Affairs”, military science and technology have been advancing more and more. That is why their ability must improve in accordance with new technologies during the period of modernizing the Tatmadaw, he said.

Furthermore, he said that they were uplifting their agricultural based country to industrialized one. They must serve efficiently the country with their technical know-how and ability to enhance the development of science and technology in building a modern Tatmadaw. In striving to build a developed, industrialized nation and modern Tatmadaw, they all, to be trusted technocrats, will have to study the subjects constantly on military science and technology that are advancing.

He said that it is necessary to cooperate in science and technology among engineering officers from Army, Navy and Air Force who have been produced from that Academy. Fundamentally, he said that military weaponry, warships and aircrafts can be repaired and made more effective domestically. Secondly, he said that they should be able to produce modern military weaponry in the country, independent of others. He said that Tatmadaw engineers can make whatever others have invented and we must keep abreast with other countries, adding that he would like to urge them to do research on new territory of technology.

He said that the aim of building a modern Tatmadaw is to catch up with the future development of military science and technology. Sectors on space, air force and navy will play vital role in modern warfare, he said. Therefore, he said that they all need to focus on specializations which are principal points for modern Tatmadaw. In the technical fields, he said that both outstanding individual efforts and team innovations are required. Without depending on others in technology is the first and foremost objective, he noted. The comrades are necessary to strive to become young engineer professionals and good sons who can uplift military science and technology which can enable them in modern warfare, he said.

In building a modern Tatmadaw, he said that all military engineers must take actions vigorously. Nowadays, he added that in modern warfare, advanced weaponry with pin-point accuracy, vehicles, machinery are being used together with the combination of military sciences such as Command, Control, Communication, Computer (C-4), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and Military Strategies. In Science and Technology, he said that they have to come to the stage “invent and utilize” from “produce and make use”, thus in order to handle them skillfully they all must study continuously, he said.

He noted that as the new technologies have been emerging unprecedentedly, the nature and contexts of modern wars have also changed. He said that with the use of modern and sophisticated weaponry in today’s wars, it also has been changes in the military tactics. In the previous wars, he said that they used enormous manpower and ammunition. He said that today’s warfare but are fighting with advanced weaponry with pin-point accuracy based on precise figures.

He added that as they are about to be commissioned as engineering officers, they are technicians as well as Tatmadaw members. Thus, he said that they are going to serve the main duties of the Tatmadaw which are to safeguard the State and provide security. He said that they have been given training in engineering and related technologies as well as military science up to the infantry platoon commander level at the Academy. Later on, he said that in their career, they will have to attend the Platoon Commander Course, the Company Commander Course, the Battalion Commander Course and the Military Staff College. There have been precedents in the history of the Tatmadaw wherein the units from the Engineering Corps defeated the enemies alone without the infantry support, he said.

In today’s world, he said that efforts are being made to utilize new and powerful weapons of mass destruction to achieve land, sea and air supremacy as well as dominance in space and to exploit it in warfare. However, he said that as in all matters, strong points are always accompanied by weaknesses and shortcomings. He said that they can confront anything and win if they avoid their opponents’ strong points, exploit their shortcomings and strike at their weaknesses. So, he said that he would like to urge them, who are military engineers to engage in constant study and creative thinking.

In conclusion, he said that he would like to urge them to discharge the duty of building a strong and capable modern patriots Tatmadaw as a duty that has been passed on to them,

- strive to become good professionals and good sons serving the duty of National Defence,

- participate with energy and vigour in the development of the Science and Technology of the Tatmadaw and in the building of a modern Tatmadaw,

- ensure that they become the leaders of new generation who will defend the Twelve Noble Traditions of the Tatmadaw, even at the cost of their lives.

- join in the activities for the building of a modern developed nation while they work for the development of Science and Technology of the Tatmadaw.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an address by Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses Passing-out Parade of 14th Intake of DSTA.

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The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Hla Myint Swe at Passing-out Parade of the 14th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy.

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 Dec—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye met local reporters at UEC Tribunal Office here this morning.

All UEC members were present. The Chairman and members replied to the questions about by-election, political parties and electoral arguments raised by the reporters.
Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 Dec.—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 60/2011 today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification No. 60/2011 6th Waning of Nadaw, 1373 ME (16 December, 2011) Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substituted a Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multi-party democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative hereunder stated in Notification No. 1/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against him.

BC 31872 (Substitution) BC 30105

Major Yan Naing Win

By order

(Win Ko)

Major Zin Myo Latt

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Union level peace-making group receives reporters

Yangon, 16 Dec.—Leader of the Union level peace-making Group Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw from Taungtha Township U Aung Thaung and Deputy Leader of the group Representative of Myitkyina Township U Thein Zaw received reporters from media agencies and journals.

In meeting with the reporters, U Aung Thaung and U Thein Zaw clarified that the government is taking measures for ensuring peace and tranquility, security and development of the nation in accord with the people’s desire. Peace is of great importance for progress of the nation. As the government extended invitation for peace talks, 10 armed groups have accepted the offer and state level initial peace talks and Union level negotiations are going on. In making coordination and negotiations, there are no restrictions on both sides.

MNA

Union level peace-making group meets reporters from media agencies and journals. MNA

A pair of red pandas...

(from page 16)

of Kachin State, northern most of Myanmar, and Kachin Special Region (1) donated the red pandas to Forest Department from Myitkyina to Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden by air.

As part of efforts for ensuring Ex-Situ Conservation, Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) breeds red pandas for the first time. Now, a booth facilitated with air-conditioner system is being built in conformity with their original habitat as quickly as possible. The red pandas will be shown for public observation in the near future.—MNA

Photo shows Myanmar indigenous Red Panda (red) which is on the edge of extinction in the world.—MNA

Fire preventives measures inspected

Lankho, 16 Dec.—Fire preventive measures are being taken in Lankho Township.

On 24 November morning, township level departmental officials who are members of the township fire preventives measures committee, and party inspected preventive measures against fire at Lankho Development Market. District IRPD

Monsoon paddy harvested on model plot

Taungtha, 16 Dec.—One acre plot of Hsinthukha monsoon paddy was harvested in Thayagyi Village of Taungtha Township on 25 November morning. The paddy plot produced 113,125 baskets per acre.

The paddy harvesting was supervised by district and township level officials and staff of Myanmar Agricultural Service.—MAS

Navy Pyi Taw, 16 Dec.—The harvesting of model paddy plot for 2011-2012 was held at Yadanoate paddy field of farmer U Than Gyoung in Inma Village of Hsinbaungwe Township on 27 November morning.

District and township level personnel and local farmers participated in the harvesting of paddy that produced 125 baskets per acre.—Township IRPD

Model paddy plot harvested

Hpaanawtgwe, 16 Dec.—The harvesting of model paddy plot for 2011-2012 was held at Yadanoate paddy field of farmer U Than Gyoung in Inma Village of Hsinbaungwe Township on 27 November morning.

District and township level personnel and local farmers participated in the harvesting of paddy that produced 125 baskets per acre.—Township IRPD

Yamethin Township harvests model paddy plot

Yamethin, 16 Dec.—Farmer U San Aung’s Yangon Pyin Township harvests model paddy plot was harvested in Myitpa Kankwin field in Ingyinkane Village in Yamethin Township on 27 November morning.

Production of paddy plot reached 67.84 baskets per acre. The harvesting ceremony was attended by district and township level officials and staff of Myanmar Agricultural Service.—MAS

A pair of red pandas...

(from page 16)

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Photo shows Myanmar indigenous Red Panda (red) which is on the edge of extinction in the world.—MNA

Workshop on drafting Yangon Concept Plan (Vision 2040) held

Yangon, 16 Dec.—Two-day long workshop on drafting Yangon Concept Plan (Vision 2040), organized by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction, took place at Micasa Hotel here yesterday morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tin.

A total of 25 papers were submitted by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar Architect Society, Ministry of Science and Technology, consultant scholars, Yangon Institute of Economics (YIE), Ministry of Culture, Myanmar Port Authority, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Yangon City Electricity Supply Board (YESB), Fire Services Department and Yangon Region General Administration Department.

The 30-year Yangon Concept Plan is drafted by departments and organizations and civil project scholars, including YCDC, and organized by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.—MNA

District News

Loans disbursed to rubber growers

Kyaikto, 16 Dec.—With the aim of ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, the Kyaikto Township Rubber Production Micro-credit Association disbursed loans to local growers for the second time at its office on 2 December morning. Township Administrator U Kyi Thein Maung presented K 37.25 million to 99 rubber growers.

The association has so far disbursed K 96.05 million to the growers.—Township IRPD

Research farms, mechanized farms inspected

Navy Pyi Taw, 16 Dec.—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited Vietnam Palethwe hybrid strain paddy field jointly run by Vietnamese and Myanmar agriculturalists at 40-acre farmland near Chaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township this morning.

The Union Minister inspected land reclamation near Thatgegon Village in Zabuthiri Township, nurturing of Palethwe hybrid strain at 369-acre farmland near Ahlindyo Village in Pyinmana Township and irrigation system of Nagleik Dam. He viewed monsoon paddy fields by Kyaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

The Union Minister also viewed conditions of vegetable and fruit gardens, bio vegetable gardens and Palethwe hybrid strain paddy plantations at 500-acre farmland near Zabuthiri Township in Pyinmana Township.—MNA

MNA

Union FM felicitates Bhutan's counterpart

Navy Pyi Taw, 17 Dec.—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2011, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dasho Daw Penjo, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.—MNA

Global markets cautious over economic outlook

LONDON, 16 Dec—Signs of a global economic slowdown and stresses in Europe’s financial system kept investors cautious on Thursday, causing losses in Asian markets and holding the euro near 11-month lows. Relatively upbeat US jobs data, however, helped stocks rise in Europe and on Wall Street.

Surveys showed Japanese business confidence and Chinese manufacturing had both slipped, while European industrial and services sectors continued to contract, though less than expected.

Concerns over Europe’s debt crisis are squeezing credit conditions for banks in the region. The fear that a bank might not be able to withstand losses on its holding of shaky government bonds makes the banks less inclined to lend to each other, as they normally do to fund their hugely expensive daily operations.

Many banks are relying on cheap credit from the European Central Bank for that money, but in the meantime they are cutting down on lending to businesses and households.

As a result, the real economy in Europe is sliding toward recession.

The purchasing managers’ index published by financial data company Markit showed eurozone manufacturing and services output contracting for a fourth month in December, although not as much as economists were expecting. The combined index for the two sectors stood at 47.9 in December, up from 47.0 in November. A figure below 50 indicates contraction.

“The likelihood remains that eurozone GDP will contract in the fourth quarter, even if the decline may not be as has been feared,” said Howard Archer of IHS Global Insight in a report.

A day after suffering sharp losses, European stocks recovered somewhat, thanks partly to US economic data showing a drop in weekly jobless claims.

Britain’s FTSE 100 rose 0.6 percent to 5,700.62 and France’s CAC-40 added 0.8 percent to 2,998.73.—Internet

Giant steps: Vacationing with Thailand’s elephants

CHIANG MAI, (Thailand) 16 Dec—Guests volunteering at the Elephant Nature Park don’t have phone service or television, and Internet access is limited to a single area. But what they get instead of TV is ele-vision, all day long.

They can see elephants eating, playing in the mud, bathing and even floating in a river. They can watch large family groups and their ever-changing relationships, which one observer compared to a soap opera. And while first impressions might suggest there is nothing subtle about a six-ton animal, by the end of a stay at the Elephant Nature Park, most guests come to realize there’s a lot about elephants that’s easy to miss.

There’s the rubbery rasp as they exhale through the trunk, the leathery skin and sharp bristly hair, the pink-orange patch between the eyes, and the freckles that run down the trunk and across the lower part of the ears.

Heard all of this during a week of observing and helping out at the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai province, northern Thailand. The park is home to 36 elephants, most of them rescued from handlers who had them begging for food in the streets or hauling timber, carrying tourists on treks, or doing tricks in “elephant shows.”

The elephant is Thailand’s national symbol, but tame elephants are considered livestock. Most of the park’s elephants are enduring brutal training and decades of work, and some are now disabled. A few have been crippled by land mines.

The Elephant Nature Park offers sanctuary and a calm life, and its founders are hoping to show Thailand that there is another way to treat elephants. They believe that tourists will come to Thailand to see elephants in a more natural setting.—Internet

Unpublished Bronte manuscript sells for $1 million

LONDON, 16 Dec—An unpublished manuscript by a 14-year-old Charlotte Bronte, who went on to write “Jane Eyre”, sold at auction in London on Thursday for a record $690,850 ($1,069,000, 822,900 euros).

Sotheby’s auction house said the sale, at more than double the guide price, was the highest ever price for auction for any literary work by Charlotte Bronte or her two famous sisters, Emily and Anne.

The miniature manuscript, titled “Young Men’s Magazine, Number 2” and dated August 1830 was bought by the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts in Paris and will be exhibited in January.

The manuscript consists of 19 pages measuring just 35mm by 61mm as well as the original folder and case.

It includes characters who inhabited the imaginary world called Glass Town that Bronte and her siblings created when they were growing up.

It includes a passage very similar to a scene in “Jane Eyre”: the novel Bronte wrote 17 years later, in which the insane wife of the eponymous hero’s love interest, Mr Rochester, sets fire to his bed curtains.

Sotheby’s director Philip Errington said: “Sotheby’s was delighted to present to the world this tiny manuscript. It is a rare and striking example of Bronte’s early creativity and provides a rare and intimate insight into one of history’s great literary minds.

The manuscript was sold by a private owner.—Internet

In this 13 Dec, 2011 photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Europe’s stock markets fell again on 14 Dec, 2011 as worries over the ability of governments to get a handle on their debts also pushed the common currency to an 11-month low below $1.30. —Reuters

Australia, Indonesia join in fight against animal diseases

JAKARTA, 16 Dec—Indonesia and Australia are working together to control infectious animal diseases in South Sulawesi and West Sulawesi in a new partnership to strengthen animal health systems, a Press statement from the Australian Embassy in Jakarta said here on Wednesday.

A $2 million Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases funded by AUSAID and will be delivered by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in collaboration with Indonesian animal health authorities and the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry.

The Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases focuses on Sulawesi, a key centre for livestock production in eastern Indonesia, relatively close to Australia’s northern borders.

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Greg Moriarty said that the programme is an example of partnership between the two countries that will benefit both Indonesians and Australians.

The partnership will include technical and field activities in both provinces that will work towards a long-term and sustainable animal health system. All programme activities aim to build the country’s own capacity to control and prevent diseases.

“A more robust animal health system in Indonesia will help protect human and animal health and increase livestock production, as well as reduce poverty and promote regional stability,” said Moriarty.

Xinhua

DIY approach the norm in India’s ‘Jhollywood’

JHARKHAND, 16 Dec—In one of India’s poorest, most violence-wracked states, being a movie star means doing your own make-up in a car mirror and then dancing to a sounds track from a mobile phone. Los Angeles has Hollywood, Mumbai has Bollywood — and then there’s Jhoollywood, atty but enthusiastic film industry in the eastern state of Jharkhand.

“Jhoollywood” prides itself on telling the stories of the state’s low-caste and tribal people, making movies on shoestring budgets with minimal equipment.

Producers raise capital by cashing in anything—from parcels of land—to CDs.

“Jhoollywood” stars may have lives far different from Bollywood’s adored big- name screen legends, but they are hugely popular in the state.

Lakra and her actor husband Monuraj, 25, are household names, and are regularly mobbed by fans.

“Recently I was out with my family and some village women saw me. They just grabbed me, and wouldn’t let me go. They kept saying, ‘you must come to our home for a meal,’” she says.—Internet

Sotheby’s auction house employee holds a small autographed manuscript by 19th century British author Charlotte Bronte before its sale Thursday. An unpublished manuscript by a 14-year-old Bronte, who went on to write “Jane Eyre”, sold at auction in London on Thursday for a record $690,850 ($1,069,000, 822,900 euros).—Reuters

A small manuscript is held by a Sotheby’s auction house employee before its sale Thursday. An unpublished manuscript by a 14-year-old Bronte, who went on to write “Jane Eyre”, sold at auction in London on Thursday for a record $690,850 ($1,069,000, 822,900 euros).— Reuters
**US-China rivalry dominates start of WTO meeting**

**Geneva**, 16 Dec — Sparring between China and the United States dominated the start of the World Trade Organization biennial conference on Thursday, with each obligingly blaming the other for deadlock in the Doha round of trade talks which has all but paralysed the WTO.

Without mentioning each other by name, China’s Commerce Minister Chen Deming and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk each suggested the other was to blame. Kirk said the current impasse in negotiations came down to “one single, vexing quandary: the WTO has not come to terms over core questions of shared responsibilities among its biggest and most successful members. The world has changed profoundly since this negotiation began a decade ago, most obviously in the rise of the emerging economies. The results of our negotiations thus far do not reflect this change, and yet we must if we are to be successful,” he said in a speech at the opening of the meeting. The rise of developing countries, chief among them China, has tied the Doha negotiations in knots. The trade liberalisation effort was originally meant to help developing countries, but those same countries are now trading giants, calling into question the need to give them special help. But China and other developing countries have refused to give up on the Doha. Chen suggested the negotiations were being held up by US politics and could be resumed after the presidential and congressional elections next year. “I know that the current difficulties were not just brought about by the current financial crisis.”

**US scientists develop vaccine that attacks breast cancer in mice**

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — Researchers from the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Mayo Clinic in Arizona have developed a vaccine that dramatically reduces tumors in a mouse model, according to a study published online on Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The vaccine works by training the immune system to attack tumors that have a protein known as MUC1 on their surface. MUC1 is found on more than 70 percent of all cancers that kill. Many cancers, such as breast, pancreatic, ovarian and multiple myeloma, express MUC1 with the shorter carbohydrate more than 90 percent of cases.

**US scientists uncover evidence on how drug-resistant tuberculosis cells form**

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — A new study led by Harvard School of Public researchers provides a novel explanation as to why some tuberculosis cells are inherently more difficult to treat with antibiotics. The discovery, which showed that the ways mycobacteria cells divide and grow determine their susceptibility to treatment with drugs, could lead to new avenues of drug development that better target tuberculosis cells. The study appeared Thursday in an advance online edition of Science. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that kills more than 1.5 million people annually. It is a difficult disease to treat; people are prescribed a combination of antibiotics to be taken daily for six to nine months, a regimen that is hard for patients to follow and for nurses and doctors to administer. Even after beginning appropriate treatment, it appears that some of the infectious cells survive for long periods of time. The researchers set out to determine what distinguishes a cell that lives from one that dies. They designed a unique microfluidic chamber in which they grew Mycobacterium smegmatis cells (which behave similarly to Mycobacterium tuberculosis cells) and filmed their growth with a live-cell imaging system.
Black widows hitch ride to shipyard

A spokesman for a Maine shipyard said about two dozen venomous black widow spiders stowed away in a shipment of equipment from California. He was 56.

James DeMartini, a spokesman for Bath Iron Works, said the spiders arrived in a shipment of vertical launch system parts from a California supplier. He said a professional pest exterminator was brought in to eradicate the spiders and fumigate some compartments of the future USS Michael Murphy, an Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyer being constructed at the shipyard, the Bangor (Maine) Daily News reported Wednesday.

“If there was some excitement when the spiders were found, but the more we looked into it, the more we’re confident that what we did was all we needed to do,” DeMartini said.

DeMartini said there were workers in some of the areas where the spiders were found, but no bites were reported.

An ornamental pumpkin is grown at an agricultural scientific research institute in Foshan, South China’s Guangdong Province, on 24 Nov., 2011.

Steve Jobs named ‘Most Fascinating’

New York, 16 Dec—US broadcast journalist Barbara Walters has declared the late Apple Inc co-founder Steve Jobs the Most Fascinating Person of 2011.

Jobs died in October after an eight-year battle with cancer. He was 56.

“All his life, Steve Jobs could see things other people couldn’t see,” Walters said in the TV special, “The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2011,” which aired on ABC Wednesday night.

“He embodied qualities you rarely see in one person,” Walters noted.

“It’s hard to imagine there ever being anyone quite like him again. He was a computer geek and a visionary, a romantic and a businessman, a Buddhist and a marketing genius.

“He was the smartest person in the room since childhood. He always thought he was right and he almost always was.”

Walters’ list of the year’s most fascinating people also included Pippa Middleton, the new sister-in-law of Britain’s Prince William; professional baseball player Derek Jeter; pop star Katy Perry; reality TV staple, the Kardashians family; television personality Simon Cowell; “Modern Family” co-stars Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet; and American business tycoon/author/television personality Donald Trump.

Liz Taylor’s jewels sell for $115M

New York, 16 Dec—Jewelry belonging to the late screen icon Elizabeth Taylor has sold for $115 million at an auction in New York, Christie’s said.

The auction house told the New York Post “The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor” sale set a world record for the auction of one private jewelry collection. Some of the proceeds from the sale are intended to go to Taylor’s AIDS foundation, the newspaper said.

The item that fetched the highest price Tuesday was a Cartier pearl and diamond necklace given to Taylor by her then-husband, actor Richard Burton. It sold for $11.8 million.

“It’s one of the most extraordinary auctions that Christie’s has ever had and a testament to the affection for Elizabeth Taylor worldwide,” the Post quoted Christie’s Americas President Marc Porter as saying.

The two-time Oscar-winning actress died 23 March at age 79.

Lady Gaga highest earning female singer

London, 16 Dec—Pop star Lady Gaga has topped the Top Earning Women in Music List of 2011 beating the likes of Taylor Swift and Katy Perry.

According to Forbes.com, the singer earned USD 90 million which is more than double any other female pop star earned over the past 12 months. Singer Taylor Swift was second with position with USD 44 million. Beyonce Knowles and Rihanna rounded off the top five with USD 35 million and USD 29 million, respectively. reports femalefirst.co.uk.

George Clooney and Meryl Streep top nominations for Screen Actors Guild awards

Melbourne, 16 Dec—George Clooney and Meryl Streep have topped nominations in the Best Actor and Best Actress category respectively for the Screen Actors Guild awards this year.

Clooney has been nominated for his portrayal of a single father in ‘The Descendants’, while Streep for playing Margaret Thatcher in the ‘The Iron Lady’.

Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Glenn Close and Tilda Swinton are also among stars tipped for prizes from the Guild whose nominations traditionally kick off Hollywood’s annual awards season.

The “Descendants”, The Artist’, ‘The Help’, ‘Bridesmaids’ and ‘Midnight in Paris’ were nominated for outstanding cast performance, which has sometimes proved an indicator of best picture winner at the all-important Oscars, the Daily Telegraph reported.

The SAGs announcement, whose winners will be announced on 29 January, came a day ahead of the nominations for the Golden Globes, also seen as a key indicator of hopes for the Oscars.

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Steve Jobs immortalized in wax

London, 16 Dec—British actor Colin Firth has become the latest star to be immortalized in wax.

The 51-year-old, dressed in a black tuxedo and bow tie, has been put on display at London’s Madame Tussauds museum.

“Colin is one of the hottest leading men of our time, an Oscar winner and a true British gent.” contactmusic.com quoted a spokesperson of museum as saying. Firth’s waxwork has been placed next to Kate Winslet’s statue and those of David and Victoria Beckham.—Internet

George Clooney and Meryl Streep talk at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on 23 Jan, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Apple drop from sky on English road

Rush hour on a road in the English Midlands was complicated Wednesday by an actual windfall—a freak shower of windblown apples.

Police said about 100 pieces of fruit dropped from the sky in a few minutes in Keresley outside Coventry, the Daily Star reported. Britain has been hit by storms this week, and meteorologists said the apples were probably lying on the ground in an orchard when a freak wind picked them up and carried them to Keresley.

One woman who was traveling with her husband said apples came down hard on the hood of their car.

“Everyone had to stop their cars suddenly,” she told the Star. “I know the area well and there are no apple trees around.”

Britain has had previous experience with such showers. Great Britain is a minuscule island, so there is no coastline, and it has been known to fall in 1996 in Llandewi in Wales.

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News Album
**Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney:**

We want to win the Europa League

London, 16 Dec — Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has targeted Europa League success following the club’s Champions League exit last week. United will enter the knockout stages of Europe’s secondary competition following 2-1 defeat to Basel, with the draw for the round of 32 set for Friday. However the 26-year-old is hopeful of a strong run in the tournament, with both himself and Sir Alex Ferguson yet to win the trophy.

Asked if he wanted to win the Europa League, Rooney told the club’s official website: “Definitely. It’s a shame we’re out of the Champions League. That’s what we all want to play in. Unfortunately we went out and now we turn our attention to the Premier League and Europa League. I don’t think the manager’s won the Europa League, so I’ll sure as hell want to win it. ‘The England striker also admitted that the loss of captain Nemana Vidic for the rest of the season due to injury, coupled with the news that Darren Fletcher is taking an extended absence from football, had come as a major blow to the Red Devils. Rooney said: ‘The two of them are both important players for us. With Nemana being our captain it’s a shame we’ve lost him for the season as he’s a great defender. But the younger lads have been great. One is a shame for Darren, too — he’s a great player and a great person. Hopefully he gets well soon and comes back strongly for us.’

The former Everton man is also keen to remedy the 6-1 defeat to Manchester City in next month’s FA Cup third round match against Roberts Mancini’s men, but believes both sides would have preferred to have met earlier in the competition. — Internet

**US teen Thompson leads in Dubai; Wie 4 shots back**

Dubai, 16 Dec — American teenager Lexi Thompson has taken a two-shot lead after the second round of the Dubai Ladies Masters. The 16-year-old Thompson, who is the youngest LPGA Tour winner, had six birdies and a bogey-free 66 under 66 Thursday and 136 total. “I just made a few more puts today,” Thompson said. “I hit a little bit closer. I was just thinking ‘stay steady’ and playing consistent.”

Swedish veteran Sophie Gustafson (67) and Margherita Rigon (68) shared second place, while Julieta Granada and Becky Morgan trailed the leader by three shots. Michelle Wie is four shots behind after a 67. The 22-year-old American, who is looking for her first win of the year, rallied after an opening-round 73.

She had five birdies overall, including two on the back nine. “I made a couple more puts,” Wie said. “I have two more days to try and shoot some more low scores.” — Internet

**Tottenham exit Europa League despite win**

London, 16 Dec — A comfortable win in Ireland was not enough to see Tottenham upset the odds and reach the Europa League knockout stages. Steven Pienaar’s shot put Spurs ahead, then a stunning strike from Andros Townsend and close-range finish from Jermain Defoe made it 3-0 by half-time, with Harry Kane firing in from close range in the closing stages for his first senior Tottenham goal.

However, a point for Group A rivals Rubin Kazan was enough to mean Spurs’ efforts were in vain and put the Russian side through alongside PAOK Salonika. Ahead of the match Tottenham knew that to qualify they had to win and Rubin Kazan had to lose — and that along with those results they had to overturn a five-goal deficit in goal difference. With PAOK Salonika taking an early lead against the Russians and Spurs hitting three goals in the space of 16 first-half minutes, the unlikely qualify- ing looked distinctly possible.

But a Rubin Kazan equaliser in the second half meant Spurs’ result was ultimately irrelevant, despite the emphatic nature of the scoreline. In Group H, Birmingham City — who were relegated from the Barclays Premier League last season and beat Slovenian side Maribor 1-0 at home but in was not enough to see them progress as they finished third in Group H. — Internet

**Barclays Premier League Table**

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**Tiger Woods attended Stanford for two years before turning professional.**

New York, 16 Dec — Tiger Woods will serve as an honorary captain for the Stanford football team in its Fiesta Bowl game against Oklahoma State on 2 January. Woods said on Thursday that his job was to Think Coach Schw and I had a class together. We go way back. It’s neat to be able to come back and help him any way that I can.”

Woods will open his 2011 season at the Abu Dhabi Championship, which is the same week as the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines. — Internet

**Barcelona confirms David Villa will be sidelined for up to five months with fractured tibia**

Munin, 16 Dec — Barcelona has announced via its official website that David Villa will be sidelined for up to five months after sustaining a fractured tibia in Thursday’s Club World Cup semi-final victory against Al-Sadd. It was initially feared that the striker would spend six months on the sidelines after picking up an injury in the first half of the contest, which his side won 4-0. Such scenarios would count him out of the rest of the club’s campaign, and could cost him a place in Spain’s Euro 2012 squad. However, further tests at the Rosai Hospital in Yokohama have revealed that the striker has an estimated layoff of four to five months. Villa is currently on a plane to Barcelona, where he will undergo surgery on the problem in the coming days. This is the first injury that has affected the 30-year-old since he joined the club from Valencia in 2010. Earlier on Thursday, Barca sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta was noncommittal when asked if he club planned to sign a replacement for the striker, who has scored nine goals in all competitions this season. — Internet

**Lionel Messi (R) of Spain’s Barcelona vies for the ball during the Club World Cup semi-final football match against Qatar’s Al Sadd in Yokohama, Japan on 15 Dec, 2011. Barcelona won 4-0 and advanced to the final.** — Neos

** WoW**

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins were not invented in England or French fries in France. Steamed meats are not steamed, while sweetbreads, which aren’t sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxings rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. Why is it that the letter ‘u’ is in胡同, but ‘gung’ doesn’t groce, and hammers don’t ‘ham’? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn’t the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one mose, 2 moses? One index, two indices? Is cheese the plural of choes? If teachers taught, why didn’t preachers prayth? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital? Ship by truck, and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another? When a house burns up, it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out, and an alarm clock goes off by going on. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it. — Internet

**Michelie Wie of the USA tees off at the par 4, 9th hole during the second round of the 2011 Omega Dubai Ladies Masters on the Majilis Course at the Emirates Golf Club on 15 Dec, 2011 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.** — Internet

**公園**
World's shortest woman wants to be Bollywood star

NAGPUR, 16 Dec—high school student in central India was recognized as the world’s shortest woman by Guinness World Records on Friday as she turned 18 and said she hopes to earn a degree and make it in Bollywood.

Jyoti Amge stood just 62.8 centimeters (24.7 inches) tall — shorter than the average 2-year-old — when Guinness representatives visiting from London measured her at a ceremony attended by about 30 relatives and friends in the town of Nagpur, in Maharashtra state.

A teary-eyed Amge, dressed in one of her finest saris, called the honor an “extra birthday present” and said she felt grateful for being recognized. After receiving a plaque, she and her guests cut a birthday cake.

“I have put Nagpur on the world map. Now everyone will know where it is,” said Amge, who says she dreams of one day becoming a Bollywood film star as well as pursuing a university degree after she finishes high school this year.

“I want to be an actor,” she said.

She measured 72 centimeters (2.76 inches) shorter than 22-year-old American Bridgette Jordan, who held the title since September.

“Jyoti encourages us all to look beyond mere size and to just celebrate our differences,” Guinness adjudicator Rob Molloy said.

This was Amge’s first Guinness record.

Internet
Departments concerned to solve problem for enabling all commodities to deal with legal trade activities

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on tour of Hsenwi Township, Kunlong District

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Union ministers, the Shan State Chief Minister, deputy ministers, departmental heads and national entrepreneurs left Lashio yesterday morning and arrived at Yaypu commodity checkpoint of Border Trade Department near Yaypu Village, 23 miles of Lashio.

At the briefing hall, the Vice-President heard reports on briefed history of the checkpoint, location and area, aim, strength of staff, undertaking of tasks, export of agricultural produce, and export marine products and animal products, import of commodities and seizure of illegal goods in fiscal years presented by the director of Border Trade Department.

He stressed the need to close the illegal gates on border trade commodities flow. However, he noted that seizure on goods, motorcycles and automobiles passing through illegal gates and taking action against the offenders are not original aims. In the time of the new government, he said that there should not be trading illegally. Therefore, departments concerned are to solve the problem for enabling all commodities to practise the legal trade route, he said. In doing so, he stressed the need not to put burden on the people and help them walk on the right track through best means.

In conclusion, he said that the Shan State government should seek the best means and ways for smooth and swift flow of commodities.

(See page 8)

Hopes for unity and development:
4th GMS Summit on 19, 20 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Myanmar will host the 4th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit to be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre here on 19 and 20 December.

On the 1st day session, the working group will meet for final coordination for the summit along with economic and investment conference.

On the 2nd day session, video clips on successful cooperation of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries in tourism, agriculture and environmental conservation will be shown followed by presentation of 2012-2022 Strategy Framework for Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, signing of MoUs in the presence of heads of GMS countries, and issuance of joint declaration. This GMS Summit is believed to bring about unity and development in GMS countries.

Central Committee, Work Committee and Sub Committees were formed to prepare for successful holding of the 4th GMS Summit and preparation has now been completed cent per cent, it is reported.

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