True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening of Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section, the associated section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Project built on 1 January this year was opened today, providing shortened direct link between Yangon and Mandalay for automobiles.

The opening of the road section was held at the pavilion near Taguntaing Roundabout in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, this morning, attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Science and Technology Minister U Aye Myint, Union Electric Power No (2) Minister U Khin Maung Soe, Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thein, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung, deputy ministers, Region ministers, departmental heads and staff, members of social organizations, locals, drum troupe and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint said that Yangon-Mandalay Highway started from Htaukkyant, No. 3 Junction as the mile post No (0/0), from which to Nay Pyi Taw Junction was 202 miles and one furlong long, from Nay Pyi Taw Junction to Saga-in Roundabout was 150 miles and five furlongs long and from Saga-in Roundabout, the gate of Mandalay to TadaU-Taguntaing (Mandalay) was 13 miles and five furlongs long.

The 202 miles and one furlong section from No. 3 Yangon Junction to Nay Pyi Taw Junction was commissioned into service on 25-3-2009 and 150 miles and five furlongs long section from Nay Pyi Taw Junction to Saga-in Roundabout was 150 miles and five furlongs long and from Saga-in Roundabout, the gate of Mandalay to TadaU-Taguntaing (Mandalay) was 13 miles and five furlongs long.

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Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils the stone plaque of Saga-in-TadaU-Taguntaing road section.

MNA

Significant night temperature

(23-12-2011)

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Amyotha Hlutaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Passing-out Parade of DSMA 13th Intake

Interest rate to be reduced from 12% to 10% commencing 1 January 2012
Promote the quality of marketable crops

Myanmar has favourable soil conditions to grow fruits and vegetables well. With the use of quality crop strains plus modern agricultural techniques, the nation will enjoy not only domestic self-sufficiency but also prospects for global market. So it is necessary to ensure that marketable products are high in quality.

Only if all products ranging from farm produce, marine products, forest products, handcrafts, industrial products to industrial crops are in good quality, can they be marketable. Demand calls for public satisfaction and rapid sales generate more economic benefits.

More than 70 kinds of fruits and vegetables are being cultivated on a commercial scale in Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions and Shan, Mon and Kayin States. With the extended cultivation and exportation of watermelons, some companies are engaging in the business on thousands of acres of land with foreign investments. Benefits will be unlimited if over 150,000 tons of melons can be exported yearly. Yet, the watermelon market is still weak due to poor agricultural inputs of growers.

Measures should be taken to grow quality crops nationwide extensively. More efforts are also needed to promote the quality of pomelos from Yangon, Bago, Kayin, Mon and Taninthayi regions watermelons and cucumbers from Mandalay and Sagaing regions and pineapples from Mon State and Shan State (North).

In all, more efforts are to be exerted to produce crops of high quality in cooperation with Myanmar Agriculture Service, Myanmar Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association and local and foreign agricultural entrepreneurs.

Yangon Region Chief Minister presents in victory-flag handing-over ceremony

Yangon, 23 Dec.—A ceremony to hand over a flag that ensures victory over the participants of Department of Basic Education No.3 of Yangon Region, who will participate in State/Region Inter-Basic Education Schools Sports Game-2011 to be held in Nay Pyi Taw, which is organized by the Ministry of Education, took place at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Lannmadaw Township yesterday in the presence of Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister handed the flag over to Township Education Officer U Tin Toe, leader of Yangon Region Sports Group.

Myanmar disabled athletes win 11 gold medals, 9 silvers, 14 bronzes

Yangon, 23 Dec.—The Myanmar disabled athletes led by President of Myanmar Paraports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and Vice-President Col Myo Myint (Retd), who participated in the 6th ASEAN Para Game held in Indonesia from 11 to 22 December, arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

They won eleven gold medals, nine silvers and 14 bronzes, occupying the sixth place of all ASEAN countries on the medal standing table.—MNA

Public notice for remonstration

1. National League for Democracy, headquartered at No.97/B, West Shwegondaing Street, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, applied for registration as a political party on 23-12-2011 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and logo to be used as mentioned under.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

The logo of National League for Democracy

Union Election Commission

Public notice for remonstration

1. Myanma New Society Democratic Party, headquartered at No.6, Htanbingon street, Htanbingon Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, applied for registration as a political party on 23-12-2011 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and logo to be used as mentioned under.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

The logo of Myanma New Society Democratic Party

Union Election Commission

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 1.15 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by U Khun Tha Myint and Dr Nge Nge of NLD. Matters related to Hluttaw affairs were discussed.—MNA

Union Election Commission

Headmistress Daw Khin May Phone presents certificate of honour to Col Nguyen Van Vui, Chief of Vietnam Defence Attache Office, after receiving desks worth $ 500 at Donation Handover Ceremony at BIDV, Kamayut Township, Yangon today.—MNA
Indonesian president tells foreign NGOs to “stay away” from domestic affairs

Jakarta, 23 Dec— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono warned international non-governmental groups not to meddle in the country’s domestic affairs, saying that their campaigns against forest destruction could hamper his government’s efforts to lift people out of poverty, the Jakarta Post reported here on Friday.

Yudhoyono expressed gratitude for what international NGOs had done in the country, but reminded them to “stay away” from the country’s domestic affairs.

“I welcome all criticism addressed to the government. I welcome all criticism addressed to the government. Don’t tear this country apart,” he said.

He said the Indonesian government was committed to further developing the country’s natural environment.

“This country is blessed with an incredible environment that needs to be preserved,” he said.

“Don’t meddle in the country’s domestic affairs, saying that the possible suspects were responsible for the attack,” he added.

In his speech, Yudhoyono said the government would be given as when the formal investigation report into last month’s NATO strike on two army check posts in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Mohmand Agency was received.

“The investigation has ascertained that a series of mistakes were made on both sides in failing to properly coordinate their locations and actions, both before the operation and during the resulting engagement.”

On Thursday, the US side issued an investigation into two army check posts in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Mohmand Agency, according to the NATO.

The report quoted an early finding that mistakes were made on both sides in failing to properly coordinate their locations and actions, both before the operation and during the resulting engagement.

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Health

Single gene links rare cancers

Researchers have discovered that a common gene links a number of rare reproductive cancers, a finding that could lead to new approaches for treatment, said a study published on Wednesday.

Ovarian, uterine and testicular cancer were all found to have the same mutation in a gene called DICER, said the researchers in the New England Journal of Medicine. Scientists have known about DICER for many years, but its exact role in sparking tumour cells to grow has been unclear.

When the gene mutates, DICER’s function is changed “so that it participates directly in the initiation of cancer, but not in a ‘on-off’ fashion,” said co-author Gregg Morin, a lead scientist from the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. “The mutations we discovered do not totally destroy the function of DICER, rather they wriggle it — the orchestra is still there but the conductor is drunk.”

Researchers are examining whether DICER plays a role in other cancers, and will investigate if mutant DICER can be manipulated to treat the cancers it causes. Ovarian cancer kills about 15,000 women in the United States each year, and about 22,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. More than 46,000 cases of uterine cancer and 8,100 deaths arise each year in the United States. Testicular cancer is more rare, with about 3,000 new cases per year and 130 US deaths, according to the American Cancer Society.

“This breakthrough will be of interest both to the clinical and the fundamental science communities,” said Philip Sharp, Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and co-winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for the discovery of the structure of genes.

Health Tip: Diabetes can raise the risk of skin infections

At some time in their lives, as many as one-third of people with diabetes will develop a skin infection, the American Diabetes Association says.

The ADA says these common bacterial infections may affect diabetics:

- Styes, infection of the eyelid glands.
- Folliculitis, infection of the hair follicle.
- Boils.
- Carbuncles, a type of deep skin infection.
- Infections of the skin surrounding the nails.

Canadian researchers have discovered that a common gene links a number of rare reproductive cancers, a finding that could lead to new approaches for treatment, said a study published on Wednesday.

Business

Taiwan to offer $266 mln to help small companies

Taipei, China, 23 Dec.—Taiwan said it will put an extra Tw$ 8 billion ($266 million) into a credit guarantee fund aimed at helping smaller companies as the global economy slows. The fund, designed to help small and medium enterprises short of collateral to secure external financing, will provide an additional coverage of Tw$112 billion (about $3.6 billion) once the money has been added, the presidential office said on Friday.

The move is part of a recent series of government measures aimed at countering the fallout for the island’s export-dependent economy from Europe’s deepening debt crisis.

The authorities announced earlier this week that they will intervene in the stock market and spend up to Tw$500 billion to buy stocks. Taiwan’s weighted index has dived 29 percent since the beginning of the year, and the fall is one of the chief complaints against President Ma Ying-jeou, who is seeking a second and final four-year term next month.

Exclusive: Petronas talks to Shell, Exxon for petchem tie-up

Petronas advertising boards are seen near the grandstand ahead of the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at the Sepang circuit outside Kuala Lumpur on 7 April, 2011.—Reuters

Petronas is in talks with several oil majors including Shell and Exxon Mobil to develop petrochemical plants within its $20 billion refinery complex in southern Malaysia, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Malaysia’s national oil company is also talking to Japanese firms Itochu Corp <8001.T> and Mitsubishi Corp <8058.T> as well as Dow Chemical and Exxon Mobil for responsible business principles and standards are recommendations providing voluntary guidelines for responsible business conduct for multinational corporations.

OECD calls for tougher standards of corporate behavior

PARIS, 23 Dec.—The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Thursday urged multinational enterprises in 42 countries to commit to new and tougher standards of corporate behavior. In the newly released 2011 edition of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs), the organization are ongoing.

They have moved to the basic engineering and design stage and after this the tendering process for building the complex will start,” the source added. Petronas, Shell and Mitsubishi officials in Malaysia declined to comment. Itochu, Dow Chemical and Exxon Mobil were not immediately available for comment.

Petronas first unveiled the Refinery and Petrochemicals Integrated Development (RAPID) project in May and has said the complex will be commissioned by end-2016, which both sources said was on track.

The $20 billion complex is to be built in southern Johor state which is one of the largest oil trading hub in Asia.

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The $20 billion complex is to be built in southern Johor state which is one of the largest oil trading hub in Asia.
Cassini delivers Saturn holiday pictures

The pictures released by Cassini’s imaging team show Saturn’s largest, most colorful “holiday ornament,” the moon Titan, and other icy boulders in orbit around the ringed planet. As Earth’s northern hemisphere experiences the chill of winter, Saturn’s northern half is enjoying springtime—and will for several Earth years, astronomers say.

“Another year traveling this magnificent sector of our solar system draws to a close, all of us on Cassini wish all of you a very happy and peaceful holiday season,” Carolyn Porco, Cassini imaging team lead at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo., said.

Space telescope mirrors pass ‘chill’ test

HUNTSVILLE, 23 Dec—NASA says it has completed cryogenic testing in Alabama for the final six primary mirror segments that will fly on the James Webb Space Telescope. The Webb telescope has 21 mirrors, with 18 mirror segments working together as a large 21.3-foot primary mirror, and each individual mirror segment now has been successfully tested to operate at minus 373 degrees Fahrenheit, the space agency said in a release Wednesday. The testing of the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope took place at the X-ray and Cryogenic Test Facility at Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville.

“The mirrors need to be cold so their own heat does not drown out the very faint infrared images,” Lee Feinberg, at the agency’s Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Md., said. “With the completion of all mirror cryogenic testing, the toughest challenge since the beginning of the programme is now completely behind us.”

During the tests engineers took extremely detailed measurements of how each individual mirror’s shape changed as it cooled to ensure each one will be the correct shape upon reaching the extremely cold operating temperature in deep space.

In this 6 Jan, 2010 file photo, Microsoft Entertainment and Devices Division President Robbie Bach speaks at the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.—INTERNET

Microsoft says 2012 CES tech show will be its last

NEW YORK, 23 Dec—Microsoft Corp. is pulling out of the International Consumer Electronics Show, the largest trade show in the Americas. It’s joining Apple in saying that it prefers to put on its own events when the time is right to show off its products.

Microsoft said the next show, to be held on 9 to 12 Jan in Las Vegas, will be the last show at which it has a booth or the CEO delivers the customary kick-off speech.

Company founder Bill Gates delivered keynote speeches at the show for 11 straight years. Current CEO Steve Ballmer has delivered the speech for the past three shows and will present his last next month.

The software company has been one of the biggest US supporters of the annual event, which gathered nearly 150,000 people this year. Originally focused on living-room entertainment, the annual US event has become a platform for all consumer technology after the demise of big computer-focused shows such as Comdex.—INTERNET

Slovak education ministry launches website with e-textbooks

BRATISLAVA, 23 Dec—The Slovak Education Ministry on Thursday launched an internet website to provide the general public with digitalized textbooks.

According to Education Minister Eugen Jurecza, the public could access a total of 26 digitalised textbooks, compulsory-reading books and download 65 audio-recordings on the website of eaktovka.sk. The word aktovka means schoolbag in Slovak. “We hope that pupils will be able to study in even places where they don’t bring their textbooks, such as during the holidays at their grandma’s, but also that teachers will have an easier time putting together various textbooks or their sections on, for example, physics or chemistry,” said the minister. Jurecza said he estimated that 92 percent of households with school-age children which own personal computers and 70 percent of those which have access to the internet would visit the website.—Xinhua

The Slovak Education Ministry on launched an internet website to provide the general public with digitalized textbooks.—Xinhua

Saturn’s third-largest moon Dione can be seen through the haze of its largest moon, Titan, in this view of the two posing before the planet and its rings from NASA’s Cassini spacecraft.—INTERNET

Boulder, (Colo.), 23 Dec—NASA says its Cassini spacecraft has delivered some holiday gifts in the form of stunning new images of the planet Saturn and its varied moons.

The pictures, released by Cassini’s imaging team, show Saturn’s largest, most colorful “holiday ornament,” the moon Titan, and other icy boulders in orbit around the ringed planet, a space agency release said on Thursday.

“Earth’s northern hemisphere experiences the chill of winter, Saturn’s northern half is enjoying springtime—and will for several Earth years, astronomers say.”

The launch of an unmanned supply ship for the space station failed in August and the ship crashed gripping each others’ hands in celebration as the final stage of the booster rocket separated.

The three aboard the Russian spacecraft will join three others already on the ISS, NASA’s Dan Burbank and Russians Anton Shkaplerov and Anatoly Ivanishin. The six are to work together on the station until March.

The launch came amid a period of trouble for Russia’s space programme, which provides the only way for crew to reach the space station since the United States retired its space shuttle programme in July.

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UK to buy 100 more Force Protection vehicles

LONDON, 23 Dec—Britain will buy about 100 more light-armoured Foxhound patrol vehicles from US defence firm Force Protection Inc for use in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said on Thursday.

The purchase is part of a drive to better protect British forces from roadside bombs planted by Taliban insurgents that have claimed many of the nearly 400 British soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2001.

The Ministry of Defence did not give a value for the order, saying the deal was subject to final contractual negotiations with Force Protection’s European arm.

US defence contractor General Dynamics Corp said in November it would buy Force Protection Inc for $360 million (229 million pounds).

The Ministry of Defence said the order was part of a 400 million pound package to better protect British soldiers in Afghanistan, including more than 200 million pounds to be spent on technology to counter roadside bombs.

The order will bring to around 300 the number of Foxhound vehicles available to the 9,500-strong British force in Afghanistan.

Britain signed a 180 million pound contract in November with Force Protection Europe and engineering and automotive consultancy Ricardo, the Ministry of Defence said.

Organic polymer protects burnt forest soil

TEL AVIV, 23 Dec—Wildfires destroy forests and hasten erosion of the burnt soil which slows efforts toward its natural regeneration, but hope is at hand in the form of organic polymer.

Working with organic polymer Polyacrylamide (PAM), Assaf Inbar, graduate student at Tel Aviv University’s Porter School of Environmental Studies, and his supervisors tested their method in Israel’s Biyara forest that was burnt by fire.

Following a wildfire, soil often erodes because of burnt vegetation. Deprived of the vegetative cover, the soil can’t absorb intense rains, causing a run-off. The researchers then turned to PAM, widely used in agriculture to prevent soil erosion, according to a university statement.

They tested PAM on samples of burnt soils both in the lab and under natural rainfall. These show that burnt soils remained much more stable with PAM than without, reports Inbar, reducing erosion by 50 percent.

H5N1 virus found on bird body in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 23 Dec—Laboratory tests have confirmed a dead Oriental magpie robin, found in northern Hong Kong’s Tin Shui Wai on 17 Dec, was H5N1-positive, the city government said in a statement on Friday.

The city’s Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said it would continue to inspect poultry farms to ensure that proper precautions against the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu have been implemented.

It came three days after a chicken carcass, found at a poultry market in Hong Kong, was tested positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. As a result, nearly 20,000 chickens were culled at the poultry market on Wednesday.

Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a contagious disease of animal origin caused by viruses that normally infect only birds and, less commonly, pigs. It can be fatal to humans.

Winter solstice is darkest day of the year

STATE COLLEGE, 23 Dec—Thursday is the darkest day of the year with the shortest amount of time between sunrise and sunset, and it’s all due to the Earth’s tilt, US scientists say.

The amount of sunlight for the 21 Dec winter solstice varies by region, however, with New York, for example, getting nine hours and 13 minutes of sunlight for the solstice while Phoenix will see nine hours and 57 minutes of sunlight, AccuWeather.com Chief Meteorologist Elliot Abrams said. “On the day when the sun appears to be as far south as it ever gets, that’s the winter solstice.”

While the solstice is the darkest day of the year, it’s not the coldest, Abrams said. “The oceans take a long time to heat up and cool down and by December they still retain some of their summer warmth and usually the coldest days of winter do not occur for another month and a half,” he said.

Japanese Emperor celebrates 78th birthday

TOKYO, 23 Dec—Japanese Emperor Akihito celebrated his 78th birthday Friday while expressing concern and support for people affected by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

The year 2011 has been “a truly distressing year, dominated by disasters,” the emperor said in a statement released through the Imperial Household Agency. “I feel that the Japanese people have come together at a nation to squarely face the disaster and do what they can to be of help for the victims,” he said.

The emperor was admitted to hospital on 6 Nov and received treatment for bronchial pneumonia for more than two weeks. “I would like to express my gratitude to all the people for their concern and compassion regarding my health,” the emperor said.

Celebration ceremonies were held at the Imperial Palace, when the Emperor greeted the public and expressed his gratitude to the well-wishers.

China objects to EU’s carbon tax on airlines

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China opposes the European Union’s “mandatory and unilateral” legislation of a carbon emissions tax on airlines, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

China has made its stand on this issue and has expressed its concern to the EU via bilateral channels, said spokesman Liu Weimin at a daily press conference.

Many countries oppose the EU’s move, and China hopes the EU will act with caution and settle the issue in a positive and pragmatic way through sound consultation with relevant countries, Liu said.

According to the plan, all airlines flying to and from the 27 EU countries will have to pay for 15 percent of the polluting rights accorded to them in 2012, which will rise to 18 percent in the period of 2013-2020.

US and Canadian airlines filed a lawsuit against this legislation but it was dismissed by the EU’s highest court.

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L), poses for photos with Thailand’s Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra at a welcoming ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 Dec. 2011. Xinhua

A girl picks up presents in the Christmas Fair in Kiev, capital of Ukraine, on 22 Dec, 2011. The annual Christmas fair opened here on Thursday, will last till on 24 Dec, 2011. Xinhua

Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski (R) visits the Great Wall in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Dec, 2011. Xinhua

A girl picks up presents in the Christmas Fair in Kiev, capital of Ukraine, on 22 Dec, 2011. The annual Christmas fair, opened here on Thursday, will last till on 24 Dec, 2011.

A Foxhound Light Protected Patrol Vehicle in an image courtesy of the Ministry of Defence. —Reuters

An Oriental magpie robin, tested positive for the H5N1 virus by the Department of Agriculture, is kept at the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for further testing.

The oceans take a long time to heat up and cool down and by December they still retain some of their summer warmth and usually the coldest days of winter do not occur for another month and a half,” he said.

While the solstice is the darkest day of the year, it’s not the coldest, Abrams said. “The oceans take a long time to heat up and cool down and by December they still retain some of their summer warmth and usually the coldest days of winter do not occur for another month and a half,” he said.

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Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Dec—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 1.30 pm today. Also present at the call together with the Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swe, chairman and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by U Khun Tha Myint and Dr Nge Nge of the National League for Democracy Party (NLD). They had a cordial discussion on Hluttaw affairs.

Union Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun speaking at the 135th meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association.

MNA

Interest rate to be reduced from 12% to 10% commencing 1 January 2012

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Dec—The executive boards of Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association met at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue here this morning, with an address by Union Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said the ministry was adopting suitable monetary policies by assessing current economic and monetary conditions for stable economic growth of the nation. The Central bank of Myanmar had adjusted interest rates since 1 September, 2011 with a view to accelerating the national economy, encouraging investment, higher performance by creating competitiveness among banks, and setting different interest rates of bank savings. Despite reducing of interest rates, the national economy was rather slow in growth. Although monthly supply was growing little monthly but it was mainly due to increase in savings at the banks. The Union Minister added that to push forward the investment and national economy, the interest rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar would be reduced from 12 per cent to 10 per cent and thus the central bank would adjust the interest rate for deposit not to be less than 8 per cent, which is 2 per cent lower than bank rate and interest rate for loans not to be higher than 13 per cent, which is three percent higher than bank rate commencing 1 January, 2012. As the interest rates for deposit and loans would be reduced respectively, the interest rate for bonds would be fixed at 8.75 per cent for two-year period, 9.00 per cent for three-year period and 9.50 percent for five-year period.

The Central Bank of Myanmar issued authorized dealer licenses to 11 private banks on 25 November, 2011 and those banks were trading foreign currencies in line with rules and regulations set by the Central Bank of Myanmar. Currently, Myanmar workers were working legally or illegally in Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Korea and Middle East countries. And incomes of illegal workers were sent back home through illegal channels. So his ministry gave green light to proposals of authorized dealer license holder banks Cooperatives Bank, Kanbauzwa Bank, Ayeyawady Bank, and Asia Green Development Bank to handle transferring of remittance for workers in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia to their families in Myanmar. Through domestic private banks, Myanmar migrant workers can send back money to their families in Myanmar legally and safely, which will contribute to calculating national income as the government can know the amount of remittance easily. It was also attended by Deputy Minister U Win Than, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of the Finance and Revenue Ministry, governors, executive directors and members of executive boards of State-owned and private banks.

MNA

Aux Air Conditioners at YITF

Yangon, 23 Dec—Aux Air Conditioner is exhibited at Yangon International Trade Fair 2011 in Dagon Township from 22 to 25 December. Aux air conditioners are environmentally friendly as they are equipped with dual rotor compressor to reduce energy consuming rate. They worked by the auto restart system, digital display, 4 way system airflow and Japanese branded compressor and circuit. DC inverter type air conditioners which consume power 60 percent lower than normal air conditioners are also available at the booth of Aux. Aux air conditioners have for-year guarantee. Agents and customers may contact the United Asia Co Ltd at No. 225, Anawrahta Road, between 11th Street and Hledan Road, Lanmadaw Township.

MNA

Chairman of Aungmyaythazan Township Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Aung on behalf of Myanmar Libraries Foundation presented K1 million for libraries in Mandalay Region on 16 November.

NLM
Vice-President Thiba Thura U Tin Aung Myint O attends opening of Saga-in-Tada-U-Taguntaing road…

(from page 1)

13 miles and five furlongs long Saga-in-Tada-U-Taguntaing (Mandalay) section today. Thus, 366 miles and three furlongs long section from No (3) Junction of Yangon to Mandalay allowing two-way traffic had been in service. The road was constructed through Yangon Region, Bago Region and Mandalay Region.

The road was intended to ensure two way traffic and roadside safety as the allowed speed on the road is 60 mph. The road constructed through Wanne Lake, Myitsvp Lake and Taungthaman Lake, had three overpasses, namely 90 feet long overpass at the entrance to Yatanaporn University, 120 feet long overpass on Sagaing, Myitsvp shortcut, and 90 feet long overpass on Yangon-Mandalay Railroad. The road has a toll gate and Taguntaing Roundabout as the symbol of Mandalay, the cultural showcase of Myanmar. He quoted the speech of the President to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 31 March, 2011 as saying “According to the previous experiences, action speaks louder than words in building national consolidation and mere oral discussions at the table won’t work at all. We have to build motor roads, rail roads and bridges to link the regions of national brethren separated by geographical barriers. We have to promote education and health standards, building sound economic foundation to improve the socio-economic life of national brethren. We have to enhance the socio-economic status of the national brethren by using these bridges, schools, hospitals and clinics.”

The Union Minister continued that it was also important to maintain the bridge for long lifespan and to systematically use the roads and bridges in accordance with the set rules. Drivers using the Saga-in-Tada-U-Taguntaing road section were to abide by traffic rules. He then urged locals to give a hand in maintaining the use.

Next, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint gave a speech saying that Yangon-Mandalay Highway was constructed south to north in Central Mandalay Region, serving as an axis for all townships in the region and smoothing the transportation of the region. Moreover, as Mandalay had links with Kachin State, Sagaing Region, and northern Shan State, the Yangon-Mandalay Highway could be said linked with the whole nation. So, the road would bring about smooth transportation in the entire nation. The Vice-President unveiled the stone plaque before the road section and other facilities by the government.

Next, U Aung Khaing Soe, a local from Amarapura Township spoke words of thanks for construction of the road section and other facilities by the government. Moreover, as Mandalay had links with Kachin State, Sagaing Region, and northern Shan State, the Yangon-Mandalay Highway could be said linked with the whole nation. So, the road would bring about smooth transportation in the entire nation. The Vice-President unveiled the stone plaque before the road section and other facilities by the government.

New Social Security Law to benefit over 500,000 workers

NAVPYITAW, 23 Dec — The new social security bill has been finalized and it would benefit over 500,000 workers when it is enacted, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi said today.

Speaking at the Human Resource Development in ICT for Social Security Scheme Workshop at the Labour Ministry here today, the Union Minister also said that the Ministry would set up Information and Technology Section (IT Section) under its Social Security Board to handle functions of the board well.

The workshop was participated by experts from e-Government Department of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Professionals’ Association, Myanmar Computer Industrialists’ Association, Assembler Computer Centre, directors-general of the Ministry of Labour and employees.
Nav Pyin, 23 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the Passing-out Parade of DSMA 13th Intake in Yangon this morning.

It was also attended by wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Yangon Region Chief Minister,

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Hwai Hwai Nyunt, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and their wives, the commander of South-East Command, the commander of Coastal Region Command, the commander of Yangon Command, the commander of South-West Command, the commander of Southern Command, the commander of the Tatmadaw (Navy) of Region, guests and others.

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

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Ye Thura Myint. He said that the aim of the Defence Services Medical Academy is to bring up medical officers of physical and intellectual prowess for the national armed forces. The knowledge on medical and military sciences that cadets have gained at the Defence Medical Academy will be utilized at the respective units assigned to them for providing healthcare and disseminating health education among Tatmadawmen and family members, and the people as well. Next, they all will have given medical cover for combat forces at the front-line areas as well as provide healthcare and health education for those serving at various unit headquarters and their families. So, they have to keep on studying to put into practice what they have learnt in order to become highly qualified medical officers. They will have to improve their medical practicing skills within a short time. They as soldiers need to be good leaders of physical prowess and at the same time, as medical doctors, they need to possess a noble, sympathetic and high mental faculty. They will have to constantly train themselves to become such kind of leaders.

He said that medical science as well as military science has advanced with the changing times. And those two disciplines are combined to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. They need to know more about medical science. He continued that since all the cadets have become members of the Tatmadaw, they also need to possess the attitude of every good soldier. Discipline is the core factor in becoming a good soldier. So, they need to obey orders, and a good soldier must be spotless in character and ethics. They must hold on to love, compassion and sympathy.

The 60 ethical codes of military conduct must be part and parcel of their character. They must abide by military as well as civil laws, regulations and rules, and as medical doctors there is the medical ethics to adhere to. They have to perform their duties well. He went on that the perpetuation of sovereignty depends on Union Spirit among the more than a hundred ethnic groups of the Union. The State is striving for stability and development and they all must take part in the endurance heart and soul. All citizens should have patriotism to work for the perpetuation of the Union. They must instill the Union Spirit among the indigenous brothers as they provide healthcare for them, and also by taking part in the development tasks for them.

He noted that at present, the State is involved in the implementation tasks for the development of the nation in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Constitution. As prescribed by the Constitution, the Tatmadaw is to take the leading role in the national defence duties to protect the nation from internal as well as external threats. For the purpose, it is needed to build up a strong and capable army. Next, he urged the cadets to study both medical and medical sciences to be able to face the modern warfare, and do research on the medical knowledge in order to become a highly competent and qualified force. In conclusion, he urged the cadets to be part and parcel of their respective units, to be prepared to face external threats. For the purpose, the cadets should assist in the implementation tasks for the Main National Causes, and who can be relied upon by the State and Tatmadaw, to emphasize on health education, and preventive measures so that the armed forces will be fit to fight,

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Passing-out Parade of DSMA 13th Intake.

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Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, wife attend graduation dinner of DSMA 13th Intake

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended a dinner in honour of the graduation of 13th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy at the graduation hall of the academy in Yangon today.

It was also attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) U Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, senior military officers and their wives, the commander of the Coastal Command, the commander of the Yangon Command, the commander of the South-West Command, the commander of the Southern Command, the commandant of DSMA, guests and relatives of the graduate cadets.

General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted graduate cadets individually.

Afterwards, General Min Aung Hlaing and party had dinner together with graduate cadets and their relatives.

After the dinner, they enjoyed the entertainment of Myawady Music Band and Anyein at the graduation hall.

Yangon Region Chief Minister meets Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Governor

YANGON, 23 Dec — Yangon Region Chief Min- ister U Myint Swe received the Chinese delegation led by Guangxi Zhuang Autono mous Region Governor Mr. Ma Biao at the meeting hall of the regional government office here yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on mutual cooperation between the two sides.

It was attended by Yangon Mayor Region Minister for Development U Hla Myint, Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock U Soe Min, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo and Yangon Region Government’s Secretary U Pe Thein.

KDP permitted to form as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — As the Union Election Commission is scrutinizing applications for registration and allowing formation of political parties, National League for Democracy and Myanma New Society Democratic Party applied to the commission for their registration today.—MNA

Fish oil may hold key to leukemia cure

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—A fish oil compound that targets leukemia stem cells also holds the key to its cure.

Leukemia refers to cancer of the blood or bone marrow (which produces blood cells), resulting in abnormal production of leukemia (white blood cells). The D12-PGJ3 compound targeted and killed stem cells of a particular class of leukemia, CML, in mice, said Sandeep Prabhul, associate professor of molecular toxicology at the Penn State University.

D12-PGJ3 is produced by Ecosapentanoic acid, an Omega-3 fatty acid found in fish and fish oil, said Prabhul, according to a university statement. Some of leukemia symptoms are poor blood clotting, impaired immune system, anaemia besides nausea, fever, chills, poor blood circulation, impaired immune system, anaemia besides nausea, fever, chills, a decrease in travelers and this year they are finally saying we have had enough of staying home,” AAA spokesperson Tara Hanley said on Thursday.

“Even though times are still tight, we are going to travel, we are going to spend Christmas with our family and friends, so that is the kind of shift in attitude this year,” Xinhua quoted her as saying.

Meanwhile, Airlines for America, the US airline industry’s trade group, is forecasting about 43.3 million air travelers during the 21 days surrounding Christmas and New Year, a percent drop from the same period last year.

It would be the smallest number of air travelers since the organization started collecting holiday sample data seven years ago.

US, Mexico seize nearly 80 mln USD in counterfeit goods

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—US and Mexican authorities seized numerous counterfeit products worth 76.8 million US dollars in a six-week operation, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announ ced on Thursday.

During Operation Holiday Hoax II conducted between 1 Nov and 16 Dec, ICE says agents and law enforcement officers seized more than 327,000 counterfeit items including cell phones, handbags, DVDs, perfume, integrated circuits, wallets, computer software, the agency said in a statement. Thirty-three people were arrested and charged with trafficking in counterfeit goods.

The operation targeted stores, flea markets and swap meets involved in the importation, distribution and selling of counterfeit and pirated products in 66 US cities and 55 Mexican cities, as well as in Seoul, South Korea.

“Counterfeiting remains a significant problem that demands strong enforcement efforts both here and abroad,” said ICE Director John Morton.

“This year’s success during Operation Holiday Hoax was a result of the close partnership with the governments of Mexico and South Korea.”

This was the second iteration of Operation Holiday Hoax. The first netted more than 26 million dollars worth of counterfeit goods when it was conducted in December 2009.

US authorities have recently taken new steps to fight counterfeiting. A total of 150 websites were shut down in November as authorities found them engaged in the illegal sale and distribution of counterfeit goods and copyrighted works.

Xinhua

Political parties applying for registration

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Xinhua

83 million Americans to hit the road for holidays

NEW YORK, 23 Dec—Over 83 million Americans plan to drive this Christmas and New Year, up 2.1 percent from last year, the American Automobile Association (AAA) has predicted.

“Since the recession in 2008, we have actually seen night sweats, flu-like symptoms and tiredness, the Journal Blood reports.

Internet
Family trapped by snow in SUV for two days

CLAYTON, 23 Dec—A Texas family has been rescued in New Mexico after spending two days in their sport utility vehicle buried under snow, authorities said.

David Higgins, his wife and 5-year-old daughter Hannah were headed for a skiing vacation when their GMC Yukon got stuck in a blizzard on Monday on US Highway 412 outside the town of Clayton, the Houston Chronicle reported.

“It got to the point where it was a complete whiteout,” Higgins, a firefighter from Pasadena, said. “You couldn’t even see anything other than white.”

Higgins and his wife used their cellphones to call 911. Dispatchers told the family to conserve their gas and to keep the vehicle’s muffler clear of snow, running the engine for 10 or 20 minutes and then turning it off.

Higgins did that two or three times but when he decided to check the muffler at 5 p.m. he couldn’t open the door as a solid wall of snow had built up against the vehicle. “We became encased in a vehicle igloo,” Higgins said. “You could roll the window down and it just slid down, and you could touch it, and it was solid.”

The family had three flashlights in the car, along with two cases of water, food, two sleeping bags, two pillows and their ski gear.

“I mean, we were really fairly well-supplied and then we had our two cellphones. Every now and then, we’d get a signal and that’s how we were calling out, calling 911, and calling our families,” he said.

About 1 am Wednesday, rescuers using poles to search the snow struck the top of the Yukon then dug down to the driver’s side window. The rescuers broke the window of the Yukon with an ax and pulled the family out a 4-foot snow tunnel to the surface.

Fake bomb threat called in to LAX

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—A woman allegedly made a false bomb threat to delay her husband’s flight out of Los Angeles International Airport following a disagreement, the FBI said.

Johnna Woolfolk was charged Tuesday by the US attorney’s office in Los Angeles with providing false and misleading information for allegedly calling in a fake bomb threat, the Los Angeles Times reported.

“Making a threat to an airline is a serious offense and will be prosecuted,” FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said. “The response to these hoaxes is a great expense to the government.”

Court documents state Woolfolk called an AirTran Airways representative and said a man with a bomb was aboard a flight to Atlanta.

After FBI agents tracked her down, Woolfolk admitted her report was false and that she had recently had marital trouble with her husband. She later told agents she did not mean to harm anyone.

Woolfolk is expected to appear in federal court next week.

25 killed, 16 injured in Turkey collision

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 23 Dec—A head-on collision between a bus and a truck killed 25 people and injured at least 16 in southeast Turkey, officials said.

Ferit Basar, the mayor of the small town of Yukari Salat near the crash site, said the accident occurred amid heavy fog on Wednesday in Diyarkabur’s Bismil district on a stretch of road reduced to a single lane because of roadworks.

Today’s Zaman reported. Fog, which had reduced visibility to about 16 feet, was likely a contributing factor in the accident between the mid-sized passenger bus and the truck, which was carrying bricks, Basar said. The injured, many of them in serious condition, were taken to Bismil State Hospital. DIYARBAKIRGov Mustafa Toprak said.

Man jailed for copying 10,000 novels

BRING, 23 Dec—A man in China has been imprisoned for 10 months and fined 50,000 yuan (about USD 7,890) for copyright infringement after he illegally downloaded nearly 10,000 online novels and reproduced them on his website.

The 25-year-old website founder, surnamed Yan, reproduced the downloaded novels on his own site to make profits.

He was sentenced to 10 months in prison with a one-year reprieve, for copyright infringement, the Shanghai Daily quoted the Pudong Workers of Caterpillar (Suzhou) Co, Ltd install a Cat980 wheel loader at a production line in Caterpillar (Suzhou) Co, Ltd in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 14 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA.

WW II mines still a threat in Germany

NEUHAUSEN, (Germany), 23 Dec—Land mines from World War II, decaying and threatening to become unstable, pose a growing risk in Germany, authorities say.

The first blast occurred 14 Dec and tore a crater 33 feet deep next to a road 62 miles southeast of Berlin. Another mine exploded on 17 Dec, officials said.

Although no one was injured in the blasts, experts say the risk of such blasts from unexploded shells and other munitions left over from World War II is increasing as the trigger mechanisms in the mines deteriorate with age.

Earlier this month, about 45,000 people were evacuated from their homes in Koblenz while experts disarmed a 1.8-ton British bomb found in the Rhine River.

New Area People’s Court is saying.

Yan created a reading website last year in March and started providing online readers with free access to novels that he reproduced from other websites.

He earned his income from his website. Shanghai police arrested him from his home in July this year.

The man pleaded guilty in court and said he could not find a job after graduation and started his own online library business after purchasing management software.

A group of people look on at an apartment fire in the Western Addition area of San Francisco, USA. Internet.
discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the convenience and expense of the bailees and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AN BAO JIANG VOY NO (184)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN BAO JIANG VOY NO (184) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2. Where it will lie at the convenience and expense of the bailees and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DAGGER VOY NO (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAGGER VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2. Where it will lie at the convenience and expense of the bailees and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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MV DAGGER VOY NO (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAGGER VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2. Where it will lie at the convenience and expense of the bailees and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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A Michigan woman who mistakenly loaded her Christmas gifts into the trunk of a look-a-like car said she is hoping the items will be returned.

Linda Gipson of YpsiLanti said she loaded about $700 worth of gifts into the trunk of a vehicle she believed to be her daughter’s 2003 silver Ford Focus sedan while shopping with her family Thursday at the Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and went back inside to continue shopping, the Detroit Free Press reported Tuesday.

However, after leaving the mall with her family she discovered she had placed the items into a car that resembled her daughter’s and opened with the same key.

“It’s a sad story,” Gipson said. “I’m just waiting here hoping that person is going to turn everything back.”

Ford officials said they were unaware of any other instances of someone being able to open a vehicle lock with the key to a different car. They said they will investigate the incident.

Bon Jovi jokes about death rumors

Bon Jovi posted the photo Monday after a fake news report circulated on Twitter claiming the 49-year-old singer had died during a tour stop in New Jersey, The (Newark, NJ) Star-Ledger reported Tuesday.

“Rest assured that Jon is fine! This photo was just taken,” the text accompanying the photo reads. People magazine reported there were also false rumors on Twitter Monday claiming rapper Li’l Kim had died.

‘Overzealous’ worker censors TV titles

A British TV listings said “a temporarily overzealous profanity checker” censored innocuous programme titles, including changing the film “Hancock” to “Hanc**k.”

Virgin Media said the titles were fixed after visitors to the listings Web site noticed “Hancock” had been changed along with the children’s show “Dick and Dom,” which became “D**k and Dom,” and the panel game “Never Mind the Buzzcocks,” which was listed as “Never Mind the BuzzC**ks.”

The Web site even changed the name of soccer team Arsenal to “A***nal,” the British tabloid said. A Virgin Media representative said the changes were the work of an employee described as “a temporarily overzealous profanity checker.”

Kate Beckinsale’s dressing hassles

Beckinsale has a 12-year-old daughter Lily with former partner Michael Sheen. She’s currently married to director Len Wiseman. But at her age, she looks fit as a fiddle thanks to yoga, which gives her a lot of relaxation.

“Thanks for the thread of the day - I get to lie down for 10 minutes. If that part didn’t exist, I wouldn’t do it. Always hated the idea of it - yoga and golf are similar in that people can become obsessive and boring about it. I never thought that would be me, but I do feel a lot better (for doing it). And a happy side effect is that it lifts my bottom,” she added.

Washingon, DC — Former child star Tracey Gold has died during a performance in New Jersey. The internet claimed the 49-year-old singer had died during a show at the Palace Theater in Newark.

“Rest assured that Jon is fine! This photo was just taken,” the text accompanying the photo reads. People magazine reported there were also false rumors on Twitter Monday claiming rapper Li’l Kim had died.

Jamie Bell to propose Evan Rachel Wood

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec.— British actor Jamie Bell has fuelled reports that he might propose to girlfriend Evan Rachel Wood after the couple was seen shopping for an engagement ring.

“They have been shopping for rings for at least a month,” usmagazine.com quoted a source as saying. However, another insider says Bell “hasn’t made a purchase yet, but he is starting to seriously look and has met with a few jewelers.”

“Even and Jamie were really young and just getting going in their careers when they first met and they just weren’t ready,” the insider said. “Now that they are older and both excelling in their professional lives, I think they feel ready to take their relationship to the next level,” the insider added.

Elvis Presley gets posthumous Grammy nomination

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec.— Elvis Presley has been nominated for a posthumous Grammy Award. Young Man With the Big Beat: The Complete 56 Elvis Presley Masters, a five-CD box set of the star’s early recordings, has been tipped in the Best Historical Album category by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

The release will go up against records by singers including Sir Paul McCartney and Chris Statckwitch at the ceremony, which will be held in Los Angeles on 12 Feb, according to reports.

The King of Rock and Roll garnered 14 Grammy nominations and won three during his lifetime. He died at the age of 42 in 1977.

Brad Pitt losing enthusiasm

LONDON, 23 Dec.— Actor Brad Pitt feels he is losing enthusiasm with age and that he felt more optimistic when he was younger.

“I was more optimistic and naive when I was younger and I arrived in Los Angeles with a few hundred dollars in my pocket and took any job I could find, then worked as an extra before I started to get acting jobs,” contactmusic.com quoted the 47-year-old as saying. “I gradually grew more cynical and realistic about the world, and in some ways I’m sorry I lost some of that openness and enthusiasm,” he added.

However, the actor admits that being a father has helped him regain some of his youthful zest. “Being a father and being part of my own family has rekindled a lot of that lost spirit although I still have a naggingly realistic outlook on things,” says the actor, who raises six children with partner Angelina Jolie.

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Arsenal postpone Boxing Day match

LONDON, 23 Dec — Arsenal have delayed their home Barclays Premier League fixture against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Boxing Day by 24 hours because of a proposed tube strike. The match will now take place on Tuesday December 27th — a public holiday — at 3pm. The proposed industrial action could affect London Underground services and cause travel disruption for people attending the match at the Emirates next Monday.

In a statement, Arsenal said: “The club has been liaising closely in order to make this decision, with all the relevant agencies, including the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, London Underground, The Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and Islington Council. “The paramount concern was always the duty of care towards the fans.”

London derby ends in stalemate

LONDON, 23 Dec — Title hopefuls Tottenham and Chelsea shared the points following an entertaining draw in the Barclays Premier League Standing

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The home side took the lead in the eighth minute when Emmanuel Adebayor nudged Gareth Bale’s dangerous cross past the outstretched Petr Cech. But Daniel Sturridge levelled 15 minutes later when he tapped in from four yards after Tottenham’s defence failed to deal with Ashley Cole’s left-wing cross.

Both teams had excellent chances to steal three points in the final minutes; Chelsea’s Ramires headed wide from eight yards from an unmarked position before John Terry diverted Adebayor’s goal-bound strike past the post in the second minute of injury time.

Barclays charity donation marks 20,000th goal

INTERNATIONAL SPORT

Yaya Toure is named Caf African Player of the Year

LONDON, 23 Dec — Yaya Toure has been named the 2011 African Footballer of the Year by the Confederation of African Football. The Ivory Coast and Manchester City player held off competition from Seydou Keita, the Mali and Barcelona midfielder, and Ghana’s Ayew, who plays for Olympique Marseille. Toure, 28, was chosen by coaches of national teams on the continent. “This is the highest prize I can get in my career,” said Toure, who has helped City to the top of the Barclays League. He also scored the only goal of the game as Manchester City beat Stoke to win the FA Cup in May. An emotional Toure said he was proud to have received the honour on “a special day for me,” and he hopes the honour will spur the Ivory Coast on as they look for a second Nations Cup title next year.

“I’ve always known that an award like this would come, and in a few months we will look for the Africa Cup of Nations which is very important for me and my country,” he said. “But now I am very happy and very proud. “It’s unbelievable, it’s amazing. It’s a first step in my big career.” Toure’s triumph capped a fine night for Ivory Coast who also scooped the referee of the year award, which went to Nsama Soko of Congo. Tottenham’s Souleymane Coulibaly won the Most Promising Talent. Esperance’s Oussama Darragi was named the African-based Player of the Year.
**WEATHER**

Friday, 23rd December, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperature in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Mandalay Region and (5°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.

The significant night temperatures were Haka and Pinlaung (2°C) each, Putao, Namhsam and Heho (3°C) each, Mandalay Region and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Pinlaung (2°C) each, Putao, Namhsam and Heho (3°C) each, Mandalay Region and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Pinlaung (2°C) each, Putao, Namhsam and Heho (3°C) each, Mandalay Region and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(24-12-11 09:30 am - 25-12-11 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- News
- Travel to the Southern Part of Myanmar
- News
- All About Gold
- Myanmar Traditional Bronze Casting
- News
- Trade’s Charity Bazaar
- Live Concert
- News
- ARTIST’S EMOTION
- News
- 26th SEA ME WE 3
- Cable System Management Committee Meeting
- News
- Music Gallery
- A Day Trip to Thanbyzit
- News
- Secret Places for Yummy Foods (Shwe Taung Noodle)
- News
- Mya Nan San Kyaw (The Golden Palace)
- Myanmar Movies “Life is struggling”

**MYANMAR TV**

(24-12-2011) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am
  - 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
  - 2. Morning News
  - 3. Nye and Sweet Song
  - 4. Health Programme
  - 5. Documenttery
  - 6. 8:35 am
  - 7. International News
  - 8:00 pm
  - 9. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
  - 10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
  - 11. Infr Science News
  - 12. Beautiful “ASEAN”
  - 13. Myanmar Movies
  - 14. News
  - 15. Cartoon Series
  - 16. Myanmar Movies

**Track runs, heart rate with “first app” for Bluetooth Smart**

Sas Financiers, 23 Dec—Developer Body-Pro claims its new app CardioMapper is the first app of its kind to support Bluetooth 4.0 in the iPhone 4S, monitoring your heart rate as you exercise with either a Bluetooth Smart or Wi-Fi heart monitor. Announced this week, the app also records your workout routes via GPS, with analysis tools, an assortment of virtual coaches, and an interval training mode. Now available in Apple’s AppStore, the app can track your runs, hikes, and bike rides while providing data on speed, calories burned, distance, and when, connected to a heart-rate monitor, “live pulse data will graph heart beat rhythm to match your heart,” according to a release. Available for iPhone 4S users, CardioMapper sells for $1.99. In June, Dayton Industrial announced its new heart rate chest monitor equipped with Bluetooth 4.0, which can be plugged in and ready to use “in seconds,” writes medical technology website Medgadget. The new gadget can run for up to 1.5 years on its coin cell battery and features an ultra-slim (1.1 cm thick) plastic-encased sensor, according to the release.

A Bluetooth 4.0-equipped thermometer is also expected to be launched soon. According to the Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG), there are more than 40 million Bluetooth-enabled health and medical devices on the market, and many more are expected in the coming year.

**INTERNET**

Want a day off work?

So you want a day off. Let’s take a look at what you are asking for. There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have 2 days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break which counts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a 1 hour lunch each day, you used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days per year available for work. We are off 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days. We generously give 14 days vacation per year which leaves only 1 day available for work and I’ll be darned if you are going to take that day off!

**Van der Vaart injury blow for Tottenham**

London, 23 Dec—Tottenham Hotspur are likely to be without Rafael van der Vaart for the Christmas and New Year English Premier League fixtures after the Dutchman injured his hamstring in their 1-1 draw with Chelsea on Thursday.

Van der Vaart, who has scored six league goals this season, failed to return after halftime against Chelsea and manager Harry Redknapp said he would miss away games against Norwich City and Swansea City next week.

“Rafa keeps getting hamstrings,” Redknapp told reporters after the match. “He seems to suffer from that problem but when he plays he is a fantastic footballer. “I would think he will be out for the festive period.” Tottenham, in third place, have mounting injury concerns going into a crucial period of the season with winger Aaron Lennon also sidelined by a hamstring injury and defender Younes Kaboul suffering a similar problem in the warm-up against Chelsea. Striker Jermain Defoe, who missed the Chelsea game, is another with hamstring problems. “A load of games in a short spell gives you problems,” Redknapp said.—Reuters

Indianapolis Colts’ Joseph Addai is tackled by Houston Texans’ Quinten Demps (27) and Brice McCain (22) during the first half of an NFL football game on December 2011. 12, 2011, in Indianapolis.—INTERNET

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses second coordination meeting of Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 met for the second time at Government Office here this afternoon, with an address by Committee Chairman Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was attended by members of the committee Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Information and Culture Minister U Kyaw Hsun, Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, central committee members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the meeting was the second coordination meeting of the Central Committee for Observing 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 and the first coordination meeting was held on 9 December during which subcommittees were formed under the central committee and assigned duties. He continued that the 64th Anniversary Independence Day would be observed nationwide on a grand scale in accordance with national objectives, naming the events on the occasion of 64th Anniversary Independence Day as State flag-hoisting and saluting the State flag, reading the message sent by the President on the occasion of 64th Anniversary Independence Day, conferring titles, and dinner party in Nay Pyi Taw. He added that apart from State flag-hoisting and reading of President’s message, Independence Day commemorative funfaurs would be held on a grand scale in respective regions and states and called subcommittees to report on completed duties.


Those present at the meeting discussed general matters related to observing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day. After making coordination, the Vice-President made concluding remarks saying that preparations of the respective subcommittees were nearly completed and called for coordination of subcommittees for more comprehensiveness of other preparatory works.

The 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 will be observed in accordance with four national objectives nationwide on a grand scale and it is the first in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Likewise, Independence Day commemorative funfaurs and sports activities will be held in ministries, districts, townships, wards and villages across the nation.

Kyunhla BEMS (Branch) gets new building

KYUNHLA, 23 Dec — A ceremony to open Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was held in conjunction with the handing over of new building to school in Ywathi Village of Kyunhla Township on 4 December.

Officials formally opened the new building of the school. Member of the School Board of Trustees U Soe Tint handed over documents related to Headmistress Daw Hla Hla. Later, officials donated exercise books, various publications and sports gear to students. — Township IPRD

MMCWA Central Council meets

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — The meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Central Council took place at the association office in Dekkhinathiri Township here yesterday morning.

It was attended by MMCWA Chairperson Dr Mon Mon Aung, Vice-Chairperson Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and CEC members, officials of the Department of Health, central council members and others. — MNA

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

WASHINGTON, 23 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 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 UCM765, 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 Gobbi, 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 principal 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 Gobbi. — Internet

Untimely rainfall warning

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — According to the observations at 09:00 hrs MST today, due to the convergence of the Southwest warm air and Northwest cold air, rain will be isolated in Lower Sagang, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States within next (48) hours commencing noon today.

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. — MNA

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