True patriotism

Literature, great valuable cultural heritage among national heritage being preserved in successive eras

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents literary award winners

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—A ceremony to present Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award was held at the hall of the Ministry of Information, here, this morning, with an address by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, deputy ministers, departmental heads, members of the Myanmar Historical Commission, members of the Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award and National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee, members of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutiny Committee, literati, members of the reference treatise committee, media persons, prize winners and their families, guests and staff of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that literary award presentation ceremony is held around Literati Day in honour of doyen literati and it is the first occasion of literary awarding ceremony in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He said that he takes pride of delivering an address at the national literary prize presentation ceremony.

He said that the best works for National Literary Award are selected from entries in Myanmar language for 14 genres yearly. This year, he said that one more prize for the work was added to the prize list to show off Myanmar history, culture and fine arts compiled in English. It was a significant prize presentation ceremony due to rising amount of cash award for the winners more than that of previous years, he said.

He noted that the literature emphasizing national cause can disseminate correct ideas and knowledge to the people, forging the spirit of unity and encouraging the people to maintain fine characters with nationalistic spirit.

He said that the annually-compiled books and manuscripts must be in line not only with aesthetic and knowledgeable works but also religious and social ethics. He stressed the need of writers to share their knowledge with goodwill to the readers and of readers to apply cultural and knowledge benefits from the literature.

He pointed out that literature is great valuable cultural heritage among the national heritage being preserved in successive eras. These heritages can be seen as recorded works in Myanmar literature, he said. He added that it is necessary to hand down the national literary heritage to new generations for its perpetuity. He urged the writers to accept such task as national duty.

In reviewing the current literary arena, over 3000 items of books came out in the year of 2000. He said, however, that about 200 monthly magazines and about 200 weekly journals are now in circulation while over 10,000 items of books have been published. Today’s prize winning works published in a year have been selected in line with the rules and disciplines of the National Literary Award, he said. Likewise, he said that Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award has been presented since 2001, and now, time has rolled on one decade.

There are 12 kinds of subjects in Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award genres. Such kinds of subjects help contribute not only to the emergence of new literati and books but also to the outgrowth of modern technology. Arrangements are being made to include Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in English, starting 2011 competition.

The aim is to spread Myanmar culture, Myanmar fine arts and Myanmar history world-wide. National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee has chosen 11 out of over 2000 books published in 2010. The 23 out of 163 manuscripts were chosen for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2010. All kinds of subjects could not be awarded. Literati are urged to make contribution in the coming competitions and are to write aesthetic and general knowledge literature beneficial to the people.

(Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party pose for documentary photo with Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award winner writer U Thaw Kaung.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards National Literary Award winner writer Saya Kyaw Latt.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents literary award winners

(See page 8)
Towards e-Government

Today, being the age of IT, the World sees the rapid development of ICT. ICT has developed with the invention of new technologies. Computer companies produce different kinds of Personal Computers (PC). With rapid development of PC system, people can do their office works not only at their home but also on their tour.

A lot of information can be easily available world wide in a short time through online service. Thanks to online system, people have easy access to information across the world. Email, internet and fax contribute to development of IT age.

With the massive use of computer, e-mail, internet and fax, e-government plays an important part. Nowadays, most of government offices and companies are running their works with the effective application of these devices. Use of those is a basic factor to implement e-government system. E-visa, e-Ticket and e-banking systems are now in operation.

E-government system largely contributes to smooth running of all works. Collaborative efforts are to be made for development of e-Government system, essential for a modern, developed nation.

Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tournament to be held at Yetakkantaung Golf Club

YANGON, 29 Dec—SUMITOMO Golf Classic Golf Tournament will be launched at Yetakkantaung Golf Club in Mandalay Region from 11 to 14 January, 2012. Besides Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, other sponsors include Aung Hein Min Co and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery.

The tournament is separated into three categories; professional, senior (professional and Handicap 0-10). R&A Rules Limited (St. Andrew) golf rules and regional rules control the tournament.

Golf enthusiasts may contact Yetakkantaung Golf Club (Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474, and 651374) for their list, bringing entrance fee K 20,000 not later than at 2 pm on 9 January, 2012.—MNA

Talks on “Leadership in the era of Globalization” on 31 Dec

YANGON, 29 Dec—A talks on “Leadership in the era of Globalization” of Director of International College Dr. Jakarin Shinmoo Ph.D (Business Administration) from the University of Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) which had an understanding to implement Offshore MBA Programme with Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, will be held at UMFFCCI office Tower (first floor) on Minye Kyawzwa Road in Lanmadaw Township here at 2 pm on 31 December, 2011 (Saturday).—MNA

Lt-Gen Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe attend graduation dinner of 9th Intake of DSNPS

Departing Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe attended the dinner.

Also present at the dinner were senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, the commander of Mingaladon Station, the commandant of Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, senior military officers of the station, guests, graduate nurses and their parents and relatives.

First, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services cordially greeted the graduate nurses.

Next, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party had dinner together with the graduate nurses, their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, they enjoyed the entertainments of Myawady Anyent troupe of No. 1 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit under command of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.—MNA

1465 jade lots sold at Mid-Myanma Gems Emporium 2011

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Mid-Myanma Gems Emporium 2011, organized by Central Committee for holding Myanma GemsEmporium, continued for fifth day, at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near Myanma Gems Museum here this morning.

In the afternoon, Patron of the Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik visited the expo. Secretary of the Committee and Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise, Committee members and officials supervised the jade sale.

A total of 1465 jade lots were sold through open tender system today and over 5000 jade lots have been sold till date. The emporium will go on till 3 January. Jade lots will be sold from 27 to 31 December through open tender system and from 1 to 3 January through competitive bidding system. It is crowded with local and foreign merchants at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

Students take part in track and field competitions

NYAUNGDON, 29 Dec—The Junior and Senior Body-building and Physical Culture Contest commences.

Nine contestants are taking part in the junior body-building event, 19 in the junior physical culture event, eight in the senior body-building event and 10 in the senior physical culture event.

Among them, 10 players were chosen as selected athletes for final stage.

Body-building and Physical Culture Contest commences

YANGON, 29 Dec—The Junior and Senior Body-building and Physical Culture Contest for Universities/Colleges/ Education Colleges of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and Education Training and Planning Department kicked off at Diamond Jubilee Hall yesterday morning.

Nine contestants are taking part in the junior body-building event, 19 in the junior physical culture event, eight in the senior body-building event and 10 in the senior physical culture event.
**Pentagon warns Iran against blocking oil passageway**

WASHINGTON, Dec 29 — The Pentagon on Wednesday warned Iran against any attempt to block the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most critical oil route.

“Any attempt to block the Strait of Hormuz will not be tolerated,” John F. Hamre, president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, was quoted as saying.

**North Korea acclaims new “supreme” leader at memorial service**

SEOUL, Dec 29 — North Korea on Thursday staged a massive memorial service for late leader Kim Jong-II attended by tens of thousands, and declared his untested young son and successor the supreme party and military chief.

“Respected Comrade Kim Jong-Un is the supreme leader of our party and the military who inherited Kim Jong-II’s spirit, leadership, personality, morality and fortitude,” said ceremonial head of state Kim Yong-Nam.

Addressing a vast crowd filling a wintry Pyongyang square, he praised the late Kim for contributing to “global peace and stability of the 21st Century.”

Jong-Un, clad in black overcoat, headed the platform. The official news agency KCNA also described him as “supreme leader of the party, state and army.”

**Over 20 smugglers killed in air raid in SE Turkey**

ANKARA, Dec 29 — Over 20 smugglers were killed in an air raid in Turkey’s southeastern border province of Sirnak.

Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Daily News reported Thursday on its website.

The air raid was conducted Wednesday night under the guidance of unmanned aerial vehicles near the Ortasu village of Uludere Town in Sirnak Province, which borders Iraq.

Fehmi Yaman, the mayor of Uludere, said the dead were not members of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party as some media reported, but diesel smuggling peasants.

**Ten policemen dead in roadside bombing in S Afghanistan**

LASHKAR GAH, Dec 29 — Ten Afghan policemen were killed Thursday morning in a roadside bombing in the country’s southern Helmand Province, a spokesman for local government said. “A total of 11 local policemen were travelling in a vehicle toward a police training centre in Nad Ali District but their car ran over a roadside bomb triggering a powerful blast that killed 10 policemen on the spot and injured another,” Daud Ahmadzai told Xinhua.

According to Ahmadzai, the bloody incident occurred in Zarghon areas of the district at around 11:30 am local time in the province with Lashkar Gah City as its capital, some 555 km south of capital city of Kabul.

He blamed Taliban militants for the attack.

The Afghan local police force is community police, set up by the Afghan government on summer 2010 to defend their villages from Taliban attacks.

The Taliban-led militancy has been rampant since the militant group announced to launch a rebel offensive from 1 May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in Afghanistan.

The militant group warned people against supporting government and foreign troops.

Taliban has yet to make comments.—Xinhua

**Taliban kill four US soldiers in Afghanistan**

ISLAMABAD, Dec 29 — The Taliban Wednesday claimed to have destroyed a US tank and killed four soldiers inside it in Afghanistan, a media report here said.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman of the terror outfit, said the incident took place in Tarkano area of Gardez, headquarters of Paktika Province, according to Online news agency. The spokesman said the incident took place Tuesday night when a US convoy was passing through the area.

The tank was destroyed with the help of a remote-controlled mine. He said parts of the tank were still scattered in the area while the bodies were carried away in a US military chopper.—Internet

**NATO vehicles caused Rs.150 bn damage to Pakistan highways**

ISLAMABAD, Dec 29 — Pakistan has calculated that vehicles carrying NATO supplies in containers caused damage worth Rs.150 billion to its highways over the past 10 years.

Communications Minister Arif Alvi said that the National Highways Authority (NHA) carried out a survey to assess the cost of the damage.

The survey showed that NATO vehicles caused Rs.15 billion worth of damage every year to national highways and the total damage from 2002 to 2011 was calculated at a staggering Rs. 150 billion.

Islamabad blocked the NATO supplies passing through Pakistan following the 26 Nov NATO airstrike in Mohmand Agency that left two dozen soldiers dead. An outraged Pakistan had also boycotted an international conference in Bonn that focused on Afghanistan’s future and directed the US to vacate the key Shamsi airbase that was used to launch drone strikes.

Arif said they have written to the Foreign Office and the Planning Commission about the damage and asked them to take up the matter with NATO in Afghanistan.—Internet

**British troops in Afghanistan may suffer mental problems**

LONDON, Dec 29 — At least one in five British soldiers — or 20 percent — serving in Afghanistan will suffer from some mental illness after leaving the battlefield, a study has said.

Nearly 4,800 of the total 24,000 men and women who quit every year will have mental problems, according to The Daily Express.

The study, by King’s College, London, was as saying about 960 people were likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

A total of 572 British personnel have died fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001.

War veterans’ mental health charity Combat Stress studied 228 veterans from Afghanistan and 589 from Iraq. In a grim warning of what may be expected, it said “a staggeringly large number of veterans are suffering in silence.”

The study published in medical journal The Lancet also warned that 13 percent of veterans were at risk of alcohol abuse.

The ministry of defence has made available seven million pounds (around USD 10.9 million) for extra care over the next four years.—Internet

**People help clear casualties from the site of a suicide attack at a Shi’ite Muslim gathering in Kabul recently**

**A car carrying a portrait of late North Korea leader Kim Jong-II during a funeral procession in Pyongyang, as millions of grief-stricken people turn out to mourn him.—Internet**

**Soldiers are seen on a military road boat during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 28 Dec, 2011.—Xinhua**
Children recall memories back to age 2

Otago, 29 Dec—Events experienced by children as young as age 2 can be recalled later, researchers in New Zealand found.

Study leader Fiona Jack, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Otago, and colleagues looked at about 50 children and their parents. The children played a unique game when they were ages 2-4 in which they placed a large object in a hole at the top of a machine and turned a handle on the side. When a bell rang, a small but otherwise identical object was delivered through a door at the bottom of the machine, the researchers said.

Six years later, the researchers interviewed the children and their parents to determine how well they remembered playing the game.

The study, published in the journal Child Development, found about one-fifth of the children recalled the event and about one-half of the parents recalled the event. Both parents and children who recalled the event provided very similar reports about the game.

“Our results are consistent with theories that suggest that basic capacity for remembering our own experiences may be in place by 2 years of age,” Jack said in a statement.

S&P reviews Sears for possible downgrade

S&P Reviews Sears for possible downgrade.—Internet

VIRGINIA, 29 Dec—Standard & Poor’s placed Sears Holdings Corp’s credit rating on review for a possible downgrade on Wednesday, saying the retailer’s plan to close at least 100 stores may not do much to improve its performance. S&P currently rates Sears’ corporate credit at “B,” which is five notches into “junk” bond territory.

Sears shares tumbled on Tuesday after the company said it would close 100 to 120

Alibaba hires US lobbying firm as it eyes Yahoo

Beijing, 29 Dec—Alibaba Group has hired a Washington lobby firm in a sign that the Chinese e-commerce company would be willing to make a bid for all of Yahoo Inc in the event that talks to unwind their Asian partnership fail. Japan’s Softbank Corp, which owns a 30 percent stake in Alibaba and is a partner in Yahoo Japan, is also listed as an Alibaba affiliate in the disclosure by the lobbying firm, Duerstein Group Inc.

Alibaba Group’s founder, Jack Ma, said in September he was keen to buy all of Yahoo if the opportunity presented itself. Hiring a Washington lobbying firm could help Alibaba address any US political opposition to a complete takeover of Yahoo by a company from a country that controls and censors the Internet.

Chinese companies, such as telecoms giant Huawei Technologies Co, have run into opposition when they have tried to buy US assets over the years.—Reuters

Four cups of coffee a day may cut cancer risk by almost 25 percent

Wellington, 29 Dec—Drinking four or more cups of coffee a day may reduce risk of developing endometrial cancer by almost 25 percent, a new study has suggested.

Srove researchers in New Zealand have discovered that high levels of oestrogen and insulin are associated with an increased risk of the disease but researchers involved in the Nurses’ Health Study from the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health have discovered that high coffee-consumling women have lower levels of these hormones, compared with those who drink little or no coffee. Stuff.co.nz reported.

“This is an observational study—coffee intake is self-selected, not randomised—so our study cannot prove causal relationships between coffee and endometrial cancer risk, but we found an inverse association between coffee and endometrial cancer risk,” said study author Youjin Je, doctoral student at the Harvard School of Public Health.

“For four or more cups of coffee may contribute to lower risk of endometrial cancer by lowering levels of oestrogen and insulin which are related to endometrial carcinogenesis due to increased cell proliferation and reduced cell death,” Je noted.

The researchers took into consideration 67,470 women aged 34 to 59 from 1980 to 2006 and asked that them to report every four years how frequently, on an average, did they consume coffee over the previous year. They then calculated cumulative average coffee intake to show long-term consumption patterns for the individual subjects and found that those who had four cups per day on an average were 25 percent less likely to develop the cancer.—Internet

Retail sales resilient in final holiday stretch

Washington, 29 Dec—Retail sales look poised for a solid finish to the holiday season as warm weather and deep discounts encouraged shoppers to hit stores or go online to snap up last-minute gifts, according to data released on Wednesday.

Sales in the week ending 24 December soared 14.8 percent from a year ago to about $44 billion, helped by Christmas Eve falling on a Saturday, according to ShopperTrak, which monitors traffic at shopping malls. Good weather also helped as snowstorms had blanketed some areas at the same time last year. Sales on 26 December, a public holiday this year, soared 25.5 percent to $7.1 billion, ShopperTrak said. Deep discounts were prevalent throughout the season and drove the sales growth, but could crimp retailers’ profits. “The real issue is, what margins were those sales generated at because it was a very heavily promotional season,” said AlFerrara, director of BDO USA’s national retail practice.

“There were a lot of promotions and deep discounts, but I’m not sure how much the retailers were able to keep on the margin side of things,” Ferrara said.

S&P, like other analysts, said the store closures may not be enough to improve profitability.

“In our view, the company’s announcement of 100 to 120 store closures may do little to help its poor performance,” the ratings agency said in a statement. “We believe that one of the primary issues is that the company has underinvested in its stores base, especially when compared with its peers.” Seeks expects to report adjusted fourth-quarter earnings of less than half of those a year earlier due to lower sales, and expects to record a net-loss of more than $6.1 billion for 2011. S&P expects the company to post a $2.8 billion loss for 2012, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. S&P cut its rating on Sears to BB+ from BB last month and warned that the stock may fall another 10 percent. S&P cuts its rating on Sears to BB+ from BB last month and warned that the stock may fall another 10 percent.

Wearing a seat belt is particularly important during pregnancy, when you’re protecting for two. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers these suggestions for mommies-to-be while traveling in the car:

* Wear your seat belt properly, with the lap belt beneath your belly and the shoulder strap positioned between the breasts and to the side of the belly.
* Move your seat back as far as possible if you have airbags. Tilt the seat to give your belly more space.
* If you aren’t ‘driving,’ sit in the back seat.
* Always see your doctor immediately after a car accident, even if you don’t feel like you are hurt.—Internet

Health Tip: Wear your seat belt during pregnancy

Drinking four or more cups of coffee a day may reduce risk of developing endometrial cancer by almost 25 percent, a new study has suggested.

Wearing a seat belt is particularly important during pregnancy, when you’re protecting for two. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers these suggestions for mommies-to-be while traveling in the car:

* Wear your seat belt properly, with the lap belt beneath your belly and the shoulder strap positioned between the breasts and to the side of the belly.
* Move your seat back as far as possible if you have airbags. Tilt the seat to give your belly more space.
* If you aren’t ‘driving,’ sit in the back seat.
* Always see your doctor immediately after a car accident, even if you don’t feel like you are hurt.—Internet

Business

Tony Wu of San Leandro, California wearing his seat belt while traveling in the car.

A man walks past a logo of Alibaba (China) Technology Co Ltd at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province 11 August, 2011. —Reuters

Retail sales resilient in final holiday stretch

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—Retail sales look poised for a solid finish to the holiday season as warm weather and deep discounts encouraged shoppers to hit stores or go online to snap up last-minute gifts, according to data released on Wednesday.

Sales in the week ending 24 December soared 14.8 percent from a year ago to about $44 billion, helped by Christmas Eve falling on a Saturday, according to ShopperTrak, which monitors traffic at shopping malls. Good weather also helped as snowstorms had blanketed some areas at the same time last year. Sales on 26 December, a public holiday this year, soared 25.5 percent to $7.1 billion, ShopperTrak said. Deep discounts were prevalent throughout the season and drove the sales growth, but could crimp retailers’ profits. “The real issue is, what margins were those sales generated at because it was a very heavily promotional season,” said AlFerrara, director of BDO USA’s national retail practice.

“There were a lot of promotions and deep discounts, but I’m not sure how much the retailers were able to keep on the margin side of things,” Ferrara said.
So Cal whale census yields record number

Whale spotters stationed at Point Vicente in Rancho Palos Verdes have recorded a record 163 sightings so far in December, more than have been logged at that location in 28 years, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

The abundance of the marine mammals travelling south along the coast to Mexico is delighting tourists, boaters and divers, the newspaper said.

“I’ve seen some pretty good years but never anything like this,” said Joyce Daniels, a volunteer in the whale census, noting more than two dozen sightings on Monday.

“We had whales everywhere. So many I was having trouble figuring out which whale was which,” she said. “It’s a real adrenaline rush to have so many whales.”

By this point in December last year, the observers had logged 25 gray whales; the previous record was 133 observed in 1996.

More than 20,000 gray whales migrated each year from the Arctic to Baja California, where females give birth. They migrate back north in the spring.—Internet

NASA probes to arrive at the moon over New Year’s

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—NASA’s countdown to the moon has begun. NASA said Wednesday that its twin spacecraft were on course to arrive back-to-back at the moon after a 3½-month journey. “We’re on our way there,” said project manager David Lehman of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the $640 million mission. The Grail probes — short for Gravity Recovery And Interior Laboratory — won’t land on the lunar surface. Instead, they were posed to slip into orbit to study the uneven lunar gravity field. Grail-A was scheduled to arrive on New Year’s Eve, followed by Grail-B on New Year’s Day. Lehman said team members won’t celebrate until both probes are safely in orbit. It’s been a long voyage for the nearly identical Grail spacecraft, which traveled more than 2½ billion miles (3.22 million kilometres) since launching in September. Though the moon is relatively close at about 250,000 miles (400,317.35 kilometres) away, Grail took a roundabout way to save on costs by launching on a small rocket. Once at the moon, the probes will spend the next two months tweaking their trajectories before they start collecting data in March. The pair will fly in formation at an altitude of 34 miles (54.72 kilometres) above the surface, with an average separation of 124 miles (199.55 kilometres). The mission’s chief scientist, Maria Zuber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said many aspects of the moon remain a mystery despite being well studied.

“We actually know more about Mars — than we do about our own moon,” Zuber said. One puzzle scientists hope to solve is why the moon’s far side is more hilly than the side that always faces Earth. Research published earlier this year suggested that Earth once had dual moons that collided and formed the moon that people gaze at today. Despite the wealth of new knowledge expected from the mission, NASA has no near-term plans to send landing astronauts to an asteroid and eventually Mars.—Internet

Cycle outdoors, check email, and tweet with weathereproof iPhone case

NEW YORK, 29 Dec—Verizon Wireless is investigating reports that some customers were experiencing trouble accessing its fourth generation (4G) network, a spokesman told Reuters, as the company yet again had to face service problems with its faster wireless service.

Verizon customers around the United States are reporting widespread outages of the company’s 4G wireless service, as well as spotty performance of the older 3G service, the Los Angeles Times said on its website.

Verizon Wireless spokesman Mark Smith told Reuters that the company is investigating reports of network problems. “The network continues to operate and all customers continue to be able to make calls, send text messages and utilize data services. 3G devices are operating normally,” Smith said.

On 8 December, a problem prevented some US customers from accessing the Internet on their wireless devices for about 24 hours and again on 21 December, the company had to fix a data service problem. Verizon Wireless is owned by Verizon Communications Inc and Vodafone Group Plc.—Reuters

Internet

Science

Wolf pack addition caught by Ore cameras

PORTLAND, 29 Dec—A wolf pup photographed by an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife remote camera brings the state’s wolf population to 25, officials said.

The photos taken 11 Dec show Oregon’s Wenaha gray wolf pack produced a pup earlier this year, bringing the official count to 25, the Portland Oregonian reported Tuesday.

“That’s the number we can account for,” said spokeswoman Michelle Dennyehy said. “We are having trouble figuring out which pack the alpha male and female reproduced.”

The pup was probably born in April, Dennyehy said.

Oregon’s wolf packs live in the state’s mountainous northeast corner, with the Wenaha pack inhabiting the Blue Mountains along the southern boundary of the Wenaha-
Japan PM calls for greater economic engagement with India

New Delhi, 29 Dec—India and Japan need to establish firm partnerships and enter a new era of economic cooperation to capitalise on mutual complementarities, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said today. He said Japan can contribute to India’s rapidly growing manufacturing sector which is being driven by a large middle class income people.

A total of 421 Japanese companies have established their presence in India and created 1.5 lakh jobs.

“We need to step up cooperation at all levels. In the economic sphere, there are mutual complementarities with India. Japan can contribute a lot by entering into new era of partnership,” the visiting Prime Minister said while addressing the joint business forum organized by leading industry chambers ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI.

Earlier, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma said both countries need to work closely to address current global challenges and have a defining influence in Asia and beyond.

Mr Sharma said Japanese companies have a major opportunity in India’s infrastructure and manufacturing, adding Japan plans to invest one trillion dollars in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) to build infrastructure.

The two-way trade can reach a level of 25 billion dollars by 2014 from 13.82 billion dollars in 2010.

Wrist Money

the work. Others have been able to create hard gold in the past but they have not been successful in achieving the level of hardness required to meet the 18-karat standard, separating real gold from impure gold.

The EPFL team used boron carbide, a ceramic that is one of the hardest materials in the world, along with diamonds to make the new gold. This material has myriad applications, including as a component in bulletproof vests.

London, 29 Dec—An unusual large increase in both average education and average IQ is apparent at the same time as the reform was introduced,” BBC quoted the researchers as saying.

However, determining whether spending more time in school actually improves IQ is more difficult, as it is possible that children with a naturally higher IQ are those who choose to spend more time in the education system. The statisticians involved in the study also cautioned against drawing too many conclusions, as they admit that the effect may only apply to Norwegian society in its education system at the time.
**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Model paddy plot harvested**

MYAUNGMYA, 29 Dec—Hnankar paddy on 38.24 acres of farmlands was harvested in south Kyaphungon field in Myaungmya Township on 17 December. Region, district and township level officials supervised the harvesting of paddy. The model paddy plot produced 59.86 baskets per acre.—District IRPD

---

**Agriculture and livestock breeding discussed**

NYAUNGSHWE, 29 Dec—An educative talk on agriculture and livestock breeding was held at the hall of Affiliated Basic Education High School in Alemyaung Village in Nyangshwe Township on 4 December.

State level departmental officials held discussions on cultivation of special yield hybrid paddy in ThaleU Village-tract and other officials on their respective sectors.

Kyemon

---

**Fire breaks out in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, leaves 17 dead, 83 injured**

YANGON, 29 Dec—A fire broke out in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning, killing 17 people, injuring 83, leaving 140 households homeless and destroying four fire engines.

The fire started around 1.40 am at the warehouse No. 79 storing herbal materials, due to chemical reaction of the herbal materials, engulfing 16 warehouses, destroying four fire engines, warehouses, houses and two monasteries.

The fire engulfed 16 warehouses, destroying 26 warehouses, two quarters near the warehouses, 18 rooms, 76 houses in Kadoeik Road in Kadoeik Ward, Kemawuntha Monastery and one monastery which is under construction and one religious building.

An explosion occurred due to chemical reaction of the herbal materials, due to chemical reaction of the herbal materials.

The explosion left a 15-foot-deep and 40-foot-wide crater. Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials of the Myanmar Police Force and Fire Services Department arrived at the scene and 57 fire engines, nine command vehicles and seven water carriers fought the fire and controlled it at 6.45 am.

The fire killed 12 men and five women. The injured were firefighters. The deadly fire left over 1000 people -458 men and 592 women - from 140 households homeless and they were temporarily accommodated in relief shelters set up at two basic education primary schools and Maha Wizaya Yama Monastery in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Specialists Group of the Ministry of Health and doctors of the Tatmadaw medical unit, Mingala Taungnyunt Township Free Health Care Services Society, Phyo Health Care Services Society and social organizations have provided health care services, accommodation and food to the fire victims. Meanwhile, wellwishers donated relief aids and food to them.

MNA

---

**New blood midwifery turned out**

TACHILEK, 29 Dec—The midwifery six-month course concluded at District General Hospital in Tachilek on 16 December.

Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Htay Htay Win presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Specialist Dr Myint Thaung handed over medical kits to the trainees and Chairperson of Townshp MCWA Daw Shwe Moe Thuza, certificates to the trainees and gifts to trainers.—Myanmar Alin
thought, bravery and na-
Myanmar people right
Myanmar literati gives
journalists. Successive
generation writers, poets,
good example to new
literature with true thought.
views, can readers enjoy
literature with nationalistic
literati keep track of Myanmar
the State's need. Only when
ary objective of literati and
of literature is national liter-
pistorical and Union spirits and
cy county. The country needs
serve a historic one of the
(See page 9)

Union
Minister
at
President
Office
U Soe
Maung
presents
award
to
Maung
Moe
Aung,
second
prize
winner.

Union
Minister
for
Sports
U
Tint
Hsan
presents
award
to
first
prize
winner
U
Thaw
Kaung.
(MNA)

Union
Minister
for
Tourism
and
for
Hotels
and
Agriculture
U
Tint
Hsan
presents
award
to
second
prize
winner
Aung
Soe
(UAgri/107).
(MNA)

Vice-President
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
delivering a speech at the
ceremony to present the literary
awards held at the Ministry
of Information...

MNA

Literature, great valuable
cultural heritage...

Union
Minister
at
President
Office
U Soe
Maung
presents
award
to
Maung
Moe
Aung,
second
prize
winner.

MNA

(from page 1)
National literary must de-
scribe a historic one of the
county. The country needs
books that can ensure na-
tional and Union spirits and
keep tradition and culture and
national characters dynamic.
Emergence of such kinds of
literature is national liter-
ary objective of literati and
the State’s need. Only when
literati keep track of Myanmar
literature with nationalistic
views, can readers enjoy
literature with true thought.
And it would become a
good example to new
generation writers, poets,
journalists. Successive
Myanmar literati gives
Myanmar people, right
braveness, bravery and na-
tional prestige and integrity.
Those literati served the in-
terests of people dutifully.
The term of the govern-
ment of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar is short.
But the government has to
serve a lot of duties and there
are so many duties to be done.
Attempts are to be made
to overcome any hindrances
in building up disciplined,
democratic nation. It can be
seen that all-out efforts are
being made for the emergence
of good governance and clean
government in the interest of people. On the
other hand, poverty allevia-
tion project is under imple-
mentation. Job opportunities
for all walks of life are to be
created so as to boost

Union
Minister
for
Agriculture
and
Irrigation
U
Moe
Hlaing
presents
award
for
second
prize
winner
Maung
Moe
Aung.
(MNA)

Union
Minister
for
Mines
U Thein
Htun
presents
second
prize
winner
MinThway
Nwe.

MNA

Union
Minister
for
Information
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
presents
awards
for
literary
achievements
of
2010.
(MNA)

President
Office
presented
award
to
Minister
U Soe
Maung
as
the
second
prize
winner.

MNA

Myanmar economic stand-
ard. He expressed State’s
attitude to the literary world.
The government has given
relaxation of media regula-
tions to a certain extent and
is redrafting media law. So,
literary freedom will emerge
soon. Literati, on their parts,
are to serve the national in-
terest with the sense of duty.
Media men are urged to stand
by people and the county
without any bias to
straighten fourth pillar.
Chairman of Myanmar
Writers and Journalists As-
sociation U Tin Hlaing re-
guage genre and Myinmu
Maung Naing Moe for his
"Alwan-tha-din-pan-ta-
khin" in the collective
poems genre.

Afterwards, Union
Minister for Information
and for Culture U Kyaw Hsau
presented the national literary
awards for 2010 to Saya Ye
Shan for his "Bu-tar-yon-
galay" in the collective short
stories genre. Saya Tin Myint
for his "From Shunna Moun-
tain to the Ayeyawady" in the
and Dr Aung Myint Oo for
"Research on Language" in
general knowledge (arts) genre.

Union Minister for
Agriculture and Irrigation U
Moe Hlaing presented the
national literary awards to U
Okka on behalf of his father U
Han Tun for his "Narathukha-
Treatise and prose treatise
in the general knowledge (sci-
ence) genre, Saya Saw Ngu
Wah (Pymmana) for his "IM
bio-technological agriculture
in the general knowledge
secret journey of a Myanmar
Youth Group to the battlefield
in the political

Union Minister at the
President Office presented
the Sarpy Beckman Manu-
script Awards for 2010 to the
winners. In the novel genre, K
(Taungdanpyar) won the
second prize and Hnin Sai
(Lashio) the third prize. In the
collective short stories genre,
Myaylatt Min Lwin won the
first prize, Maung Maung

MNA

Myanmar literary awards to U
Win Myint for his "Ye-kan-
thay Waung-aye" in the
translation (Aesthetic) genre
and Saya Nay Win Moe for his
"Ye-Kan-
thay Kyar-daing-aye" in the
translation (General Knowl-
dge) genre, Saya Kyaw Latt
for his "Kyaw-bo-eik-galay-
ko-
chi-gar-lwe" in the Belles-
langue genre, Saya Boe Hlaing
for his "From Shinma Moun-
tain to the Ayeyawady" in the

Union Minister
at
President
Office
U Soe
Maung
presents
award
to
Maung
Moe
Aung,
second
prize
winner.

MNA

National literary must de-
scribe a historic one of the
county. The country needs
books that can ensure na-
tional and Union spirits and
keep tradition and culture and
national characters dynamic.
Emergence of such kinds of
literature is national liter-
ary objective of literati and
the State’s need. Only when
literati keep track of Myanmar
literature with nationalistic
views, can readers enjoy
literature with true thought.
And it would become a
good example to new
generation writers, poets,
journalists. Successive
Myanmar literati gives
Myanmar people, right
braveness, bravery and na-
tional prestige and integrity.
Those literati served the in-
terests of people dutifully.
The term of the govern-
ment of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar is short.
But the government has to
serve a lot of duties and there
are so many duties to be done.
Attempts are to be made
to overcome any hindrances
in building up disciplined,
democratic nation. It can be
seen that all-out efforts are
being made for the emergence
of good governance and clean
government in the interest of people. On the
other hand, poverty allevia-
tion project is under imple-
mentation. Job opportunities
for all walks of life are to be
created so as to boost

Union
Minister
for
Agriculture
and
Irrigation
U
Moe
Hlaing
presents
award
for
second
prize
winner
Maung
Moe
Aung.
(MNA)
Literature, great valuable cultural heritage...

(from page 8)

U Thein Htaik awarded the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and in the general knowledge (Art) genre, U Win Myint awarded the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and in the general knowledge (Art) genre, U Thaung Ngwe won the first prize, Min Thwe Nwe (Zeegon) the second and Maung Han Tint (Pindlebu) the third.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint awarded the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and in the general knowledge (Art) genre, U Thaung Ngwe won the first prize, and Minbu Aung Kyaw won the second. Dr Pe Thet Khin presented prizes to Hla Myint (Yangon University) who won the first prize in the Belles-Lettres genre and Myat Wai Toe (University of Education) who won the first prize in the Myanmar culture and Arts genre.

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win awarded the winners of the children literature genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, and Kantbalu Khin Maung Swe won the first prize; Zaw Myo Han the second and U Kyaw Thu Soe in place of Zarni the third.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin awarded the winners of the youth literature genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, and Inpin Thau Htay Aung won the first, Thet Zaw (Shwe6Oo) the second and Kyunsinnyu Saw Hket the third.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin awarded the winners of the drama literature genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, and Maung Sanda (Leve) won the first prize, Maung Soe Htaik (Thone) the second and Dr Nyan Hein Latt who stand first in Translation Literature genre.

On behalf of the winners, Literary Award winner Dr Thaw Kaung spoke words of thanks, saying that it is the duty of the authors and writers to widen the horizon of the people and to help them to have right thinking and to keep the spirits of the people up while the country was making efforts for development. He also said that today’s awards are encouragements for authors and writers to continue to serve their duty. After the ceremony, Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Khram and party had documentary photos taken together with the winners.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 30 December, 2011 9

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presents national literary award to Saya Nay Win Myint.—MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan hosts a dinner to winners of Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award and National Literary Awards.

Union Minister hosts dinner to winners of Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award and National Literary Awards

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan hosted a dinner to winners of Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award for 2010 and National Literary Awards. It was attended by departmental heads of Departments and Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, literati, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and vice-chairmen, CEC members, members of the Scrutinizing Committee, winners and guests.

Fine Arts Department of Ministry of Culture and Myanma Modern Music Troupe entertained those present with songs and dances before and during the dinner.—MNA

Union Level Peace-making Group, Special...

(from page 16)

(3) The Union government agrees to help increase the opportunities for youths of national races in Special Region (4) to pursue education with the mindset to develop their insights, to equip them with vocational education and to realize human resources development.

(4) The Union government agrees to adopt long-term plans for cooperation of local people in treatment, prevention and education processes of health care to national people in Special Region (4), acquiring health knowledge.

(5) It is agreed to continue negotiating matters related to enable representatives of people in townships of Special Region (4) to participate in the State. The Union government agrees to help increase the opportunities for youths of national races in Special Region (4) to pursue education with the mindset to develop their insights, to equip them with vocational education and to realize human resources development.

(6) Special Region (4) is an important part of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Special Region (4) agrees to continue to hold talks to cooperate with defence forces of the State for security and defence of the State as well as it agrees not to disintegrate the State and secede from the State at all and to devote all the capacities of Special Region (4) to perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State.

After the meeting, Leader of Union level peace-making group U Aung Thaung presented gift to Chairman of Special Region (4) U Sai Lin. Later, both parties posed for documentary photo after exchanging gifts.

Union Level Peace-making group and Special Region-4 Peace-making group have documentary photo taken at Special Region-4 office in Mongla.—MNA

MNA

MNA
Deputy Commissioner-in-Chief of Defence...

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on its visits to the Insein Prison and Hlaing-Hlawn-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp

1. An eight-member team of the Commission, headed by its Chairman visited the Insein Prison on 27 December 2011 and the Hlaing-Hlawn-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp in Hlegu Township on 28 December 2011. Earlier a four-member team of the Commission visited Myitkyina Prison on 9 December 2011. The visits provided a valuable opportunity to observe at firsthand the daily lives of the prisoners and the general conditions in which they are serving their respective prison terms. In this regard, the Commission is grateful for the full cooperation extended by the prison authorities.

2. During the visits to Insein Prison and Hlaing-Hlawn-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp, the team was briefed by the prison officials that management of the prison was based on the Myanmar Jail Manual and UN Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. The team observed the provision of health care and recreational facilities, serving of daily meals, provision of linguistic and computer training, conduct of formal education classes and religious activities carried out in the prison.

3. The team also had communication with the recent chapters of the Amnesty International alleging that the prisoners who recently staged hunger strike were put in “dog cells”, maltreated and deprived even of water.

4. During the visit, therefore, the team interviewed three prisoners who took part in the recent strikes.

5. All prisoners interviewed stated that they were not deprived of water and were provided with medical attention both during and after the strikes. The allegations regarding “dog cells” also proved to be untrue. The hunger strikers were each held in cells measuring 10 feet by 22 feet which were clean and properly ventilated.

6. During the visit to Hlaing-Hlawn-Inn Yebet Prison Labour Camp, the team observed the prison facilities and interviewed a number of prisoners, who expressed their views and concerns in a candid manner. The camp authorities took notes of them with a view to taking corrective actions.

7. Based on the tour of the prison and the interviews, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission wishes to make the following observations and recommendations:

   - The provision of meditation sessions, in the view of the Commission, has a salutary effect on the prisoners’ state of mind in the long term and its continuation is strongly recommended.
   - The provision of medical care is the primary responsibility of the prison authorities. The medical facilities should be improved and strengthened.
   - The provision of education for prisoners is important for their reintegration into society.

8. All prisoners interviewed expressed their ardent hope for the granting of the next general amnesty by the President of the Republic, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. In this regard, the Commission would like to reiterate its appeal.

Relief aid flows to fire victims in Yangon

The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyaw Oo gave relief aid to the fire victims of this early morning warehouse fire in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here.

Take Fire Precautionary Measures

The Union Minister, who went to a temporary relief camp for the victims at Maha Wizaya Yama Monastery, presented relief aid and food for two weeks to the victims whose houses were destroyed by the fire started at the warehouse.

The Union Minister and officials concerned also donated relief aid and robes to monks whose monasteries were collapsed.

The relief aid includes six materials for rehabilitation, 236 Kerosene lanterns, 4504 packages of noodle accordinck to K1218750 to the victims who are now accommodated at Maha Wizaya Yama Monastery.

The Union Minister and officials also handed over K1650000 to families of the victims who died in the fire and comforted them. They also comforted the families of the five firefighters who died in the fire. —MNA

Self-reliant power station launched

The opening of a diesel power station was held in Hlanhephaung Village of Kyaukpyu Township on 16 December. Responsible persons formally opened the power station by switching on the supply of electricity. The station supplies electricity to 417 people of 8 houses in the village from 6pm to 9pm daily. —DistrictIPRD
Hackers say to publish emails stolen from Stratfor

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—Hackers affiliated with the Anonymous group said they are getting ready to publish emails stolen from private intelligence analysis firm Stratfor Inc, whose clients include the US military, Wall Street banks and other corporations.

Stratfor, which is also known as Antisec, declared over the weekend that its website had been hacked and that some information about its corporate subscribers had been made public.

The hacking group known as Antisec has claimed responsibility for the attack and promised to cause “mayhem” by releasing stolen documents.

Antisec has already published what it claims are the names of thousands of corporate and government customers, as well as email addresses, passwords and credit card numbers of individual subscribers to its services. Customers on the list published by Antisec also include Bank of America, ExxonMobil Corp, Goldman Sachs & Co, Interpol, Thomson Reuters, the US military and the United Nations.

Stratfor said in a letter to subscribers over the weekend that it would offer identity theft protection and monitoring services to affected subscribers. Its website has been offline for several days.

Stratfor Chief Executive George Friedman said on the company’s Facebook page that the people whose names were published by Antisec had simply subscribed to the firm’s publications and did not have a deeper relationship with the company.

Officials with Stratfor could not be reached on Tuesday to comment on Antisec’s latest threat.

Anonymous said that the emails the hackers intended to publish would be more sensitive.

“Stratfor is not the ‘harmless company’ it tries to paint itself as. You’ll see in those emails,” Anonymous said via Twitter.

The group said it would release those emails once it had finished formatting them for distribution and prepared more than 9,000 “mirrored” copies. Creating that many copies of the file would allow the hackers to distribute it more quickly and also make it more difficult for authorities to shut down servers holding the data. A spokesman for the FBI declined comment on the matter.—Reuters

Beijing gets 200 million tourists

BEIJING, 29 Dec—The Chinese capital received a record 200 million tourists this year, an official said Wednesday. The number — both domestic and overseas tourists — rose about 15 percent year-on-year, Lu Yong of the Beijing Municipal Tourism Commission told Xinhua.

The number of foreign tourists who stayed in Beijing for at least one night broke the five-million mark for the first time.

The capital earned a revenue of 300 billion yuan (USD 47 billion), up 16 percent year-on-year.—Internet

5.4-magnitude quake hits Halmahera, Indonesia

HONG KONG, 29 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Halmahera, Indonesia at 17:33 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 159.70 km, was initially determined to be at 1.6658 degrees north latitude and 127.5154 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

A skier performs during the opening ceremony of an ice and snow festival in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 28 Dec, 2011. The 9th Silk Road Ice and Snow Festival opened here on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 27 Dec, 2011 shows the scene of rime on the Songjiang Central Road in Jilin City, northeast China’s Jilin Province. The scenery of rime along the Songhua River attracted lots of tourists and citizens.—Xinhua

A skier performs during the opening ceremony of an ice and snow festival in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 28 Dec, 2011. The 9th Silk Road Ice and Snow Festival opened here on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Three killed by cold lava flood in Indonesia’s N Maluku

JAKARTA, 29 Dec—Three people were killed by cold lava flood from Mount Gamalama in Indonesia’s North Maluku Province. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, head of the Centre of Data, Information and Public Relation at the National Agency of Disaster Management (BNPB), said in a statement that the flood hit villages of Tubo and Tofure, killed three people and ruined several houses.

“The flood was caused by heavy rainfall, causing rivers of Togorara and Marikurubu overflown and brought cold lava material,” he said. Nugroho added that the Regional Agency of Disaster Management (BPBD) of North Maluku Province and related institutions have evacuated residents whose house exposed by the flood.

He also said that BNPB and BPBD are coordinating with the Centre of Volcanology and Geologic Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) to monitor Mount Gamalama.

“Danger status remains at level III,” he said.—Xinhua

Suspected food poisoning sickens 57 in SW China

CHENGDU, 29 Dec—Suspected food poisoning landed 57 people in hospital on Tuesday in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, local authorities said Wednesday.

The patients suffered from vomiting after eating at a restaurant in Naping Township of Santai county in Mianyang late Tuesday afternoon, the Press office of the county committee of the Communist Party of China said.

Of the 57 people who were hospitalized Tuesday night, one was still under observation and the other 56 had been released by Wednesday morning, it said.

Specialists with the local disease control and prevention center said they were poisoned by nitrite, as lab tests found the chemical in the restaurant’s kitchen and in samples of the patients’ vomit. The restaurant has been closed for further investigation. While industrial nitrites are poisonous, sodium nitrate and nitrite approved for human consumption are commonly added to food as preservatives and colour-enhancers.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 28 Dec, 2011 shows the red lantern decorations outside the National Stadium, also known as the Bird’s Nest, in Beijing, capital of China. Four sets of New Year decorations including red lanterns and Chinese folding fans have been placed in the Olympic Park of Beijing recently to greet the coming New Year and the Spring Festival.—Xinhua

Plane tires catch fire during takeoff

SACRAMENTO, 29 Dec—No injuries were reported when a Southwest Airlines plane aborted takeoff Tuesday after two tires caught fire on a California airport runway, officials said.

The accident occurred on the 6:05 pm departure of Flight 2287 from Sacramento International Airport to Seattle, an airline spokeswoman said. An emergency crew extinguished the blaze. The Sacramento Bee reported.

The 130 passengers on board the plane were safely taken off. The spokeswoman said they would be able to proceed to Seattle on a later flight.

An airport spokeswoman said one runway was closed but other flights were not delayed.

Internet
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (0032)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (0032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BALTIC STEAMER VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BALTIC STEAMER VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MONZA EXPRESS VOY NO (8)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MONZA EXPRESS VOY NO (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Man arrested for trying to smuggle 15 venomous vipers aboard his luggage

Buenos Aires, 29 Dec — Samuel L. Jackson would probably be pretty angry with Karel Abelowsky, a Czech national who tried to smuggle 15 venomous vipers aboard an airplane in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He nearly succeeded in taking more than 200 mollusks on a plane to Madrid, Spain, in his checked luggage, but airport screeners discovered them from an X-ray that his over-loaded suitcase was full of wriggling, moving animals. Included in the mix were nine species of poisonous snakes, among them two yaras — an aggressive species that can grow up to five feet.

Authorities believe Abelowsky is part of an exotic animal smuggling ring and was planning to take the creatures out of the country to sell abroad. The animals were all packed in clear plastic containers. Two of them were already dead when authorities found them. Experts say the rest likely would have died from lack of oxygen in the cargo hold when the plane made it up to cruising elevation. Workers discovered the suitcase on 7 December.

A judge charged Abelowsky with smuggling this week. He could be sentenced to 10 years in prison if he is convicted. The case brings to mind the famously ridiculous movie ‘Snakes on a Plane,’ that features Mr. Jackson as an FBI agent on a plane filled with deadly snakes. The most famous line of the movie was Mr. Jackson’s character yelling: ‘Enough is enough! I have had it with these mother****** snakes on this mother****** plane!’ — Internet

Snakes on a plane: Karel Abelowsky was arrested after trying to sneak 15 venomous vipers aboard an airliner. — Internet

Man dies after attack in Falkirk car park

Falkirk, 29 Dec — A man has died in hospital two days after being attacked in a car park in Falkirk. A 42-year-old man will appear in court later this week in connection with the incident, which happened at 22:30 GMT on Friday.

Central Scotland Police appealed for witnesses to the incident at Woodside Court. A 43-year-old man, who has not been named, died in hospital on Christmas Day. A Central Scotland Police spokesman said: ‘The cause of death at this time is unknown pending a post-mortem. ‘A 42-year-old male will be appearing at Falkirk Sheriff Court on 28 December in relation to the incident. ‘Inquiries are at an early stage and anyone with any information can contact Central Scotland Police on 1086-456-000, or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers.’ — Internet
Singer-actress Selena Gomez

LONDON, 29 Dec—Singer-actress Selena Gomez has thanked her fans for standing by her as she dealt with her mother’s miscarriage.

Peter Andre loves ‘Star Trek’ movies

LONDON, 29 Dec—Singer Peter Andre was amazed to see ‘Star Trek’ after watching it while holidaying with his children.

Selena Gomez thanks fans for support

The 19-year-old was left devastated earlier this month when her mother Mandy lost the baby she was expecting with Gomez’s stepfather Brian. Gomez has now posted a message on social networking site Facebook expressing her gratitude to all the fans who sent her messages of support after the tragedy, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Belated Merry Christmas everybody. I can't thank you enough for all of your thoughts and prayers. I appreciate every one of you... I love you all so much and we hope you and your family had a beautiful Christmas," she posted.

ATM stolen from Calif bank parking lot

The Orange County Sheriff’s Department said at least two suspects were involved in stealing an ATM from a bank parking lot in Laguna Woods, Calif. The theft happened about 5 am Friday at a Chase bank in Laguna Woods, KTLA-TV, Los Angeles, reported. Sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino said the suspects wrapped a cable around a drive-up ATM and tried to pull it out of the ground, but the cable snapped.

The suspects then used a tow truck to knock the ATM over, then loaded it onto a flatbed truck. Police found the ATM dumped behind an auto shop several hours later, still sitting on the flatbed truck used to steal it with.

TSA agent confiscates cupcakes from woman

A Peabody, Mass., woman says a security officer at the Las Vegas airport took a frosted cupcake from her because he felt the icing posed a security risk. Rebecca Hains was at the McCarran International Airport returning home Wednesday when a Transport Security Administration agent told her the frosting on her cupcake was too similar to a gel that violates TSA restrictions, WFXT-TV, Boston, reported.

While TSA does not allow liquids or gels aboard flights, cupcakes, they say, are allowed. TSA reviewing the circumstances of this situation.

However, passengers are allowed to consume cupcakes at the checkpoint, "TSA said in a statement. Hains said she passed through security at Logan International Airport in Boston days earlier without problems.

Old fruitcake brings $525 for charity

How much is a 70-year-old fruitcake worth? For a winning auction bidder the answer is $525, which will go to help the homeless in Ohio, the cake’s owner said. The fruitcake was baked and sold by a Cincinnati-area Kroger store in 1941 and wound up back at the store in 1971. A note left with the returned fruit cake said it was one of six bought by a man named EP Helbing, WHIO-TV, Dayton, reported. The note said the owner had been carting it around for decades and was finally unloading it on its maker, the Kroger store. Store manager Frank Bates, now 86, took possession of it and kept it until recently when he gave it to Elite Estate Group owner Larry Chaney, whose firm decided to auction it off for charity.

Mystery nativity arrives a piece at a time

A Canadian family says a nativity scene mysteriously showed up at their home this Christmas season, one piece at a time.

Karen Michael of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. each night for the past week a half someone would knock on the door, leave one piece to a nativity scene and disappear before being spotted.

"We have no idea who it is — they just run away so quick," Michael said. The family was awaiting the final piece of their Christmas puzzle Saturday night, the CBC said.

Jessie J to show pain in next album

British singer Jessie J has decided to show a "lot more pain" in the lyrics of her next album.

"There will be a lot more pain in the lyrics on my next album. For the seven years before I signed my record deal I was in a bad place and I was scared that I couldn’t get out of it. ‘That’s why I wrote such upbeat music, as a way of trying to escape how I felt,’ contactmusic.com quoted Jessie as saying. ‘Now that I’m happier, I won’t be afraid to explore my pain. But in a good way: it’ll be me saying that it’s OK not to feel OK,’ she added."

Steven Tyler to wed again?

The Aerosmith frontman since 2006, Tyler was previously married to Teresa Barrick and Cyrinda Foxe..."
Manchester United target Adil Rami only thinking about Valencia

LONDON, 29 Dec—Valencia defender Adil Rami has distanced himself from reports linking him with a move to Manchester United after pledging his future to the club.

Recent speculation has seen the English champions allegedly pinpoint the 26-year-old as the ideal replacement for injured duo Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic, but speaking to Spanish media, Rami denied the reports.

"I am only talking about my life, revealing that he prefers to live for the present," he stated. "Real Madrid is a very important club, but I am only thinking about Valencia and fighting for a major trophy like the Copa del Rey," said Rami.

Speaking in the aftermath of being awarded Best Player at the annual Globe Soccer convention in Dubai on Wednesday, the 26-year-old maintained that his experience in the Premier League helped him learn the game but feels that he now plays in a superior domestic league.

"When I was at Manchester United, I learned the basic rules of soccer, especially the discipline of tackling, but La Liga is the best in the world because it is based on players' skills and technique," asserted Rami.

The Portuguese international has enjoyed a fine individual season for Real Madrid, scoring 25 goals in just 23 appearances for the Blancos so far.

Arteta: Arsenal need to be ruthless

LONDON, 29 Dec—Arsenal midfielder Mikel Arteta says they need to learn to be ruthless after they were held at home by Wolves on Tuesday. The Gunners drew 1-1 despite having the bulk of possession and chances and Wolves playing the last 15 minutes with 10 men.

The draw meant they missed the chance to jump above London rivals Chelsea and into the top four in the Barclays Premier League table.

Their next three League matches all come against teams in the bottom half of the table – QPR at home, followed by away trips to Blackburn and Swans. Arteta, 29, told Arsenal Player: "I don't think you can ask much more than we put in to win the game. Everyone tried really hard, it was together the best team possible for each series."

La Liga is the best league in the world

MADRID, 29 Dec—Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo believes that La Liga is the best soccer league in the world.

Speaking in the aftermath of being awarded Best Player at the annual Globe Soccer convention in Dubai on Wednesday, the 26-year-old maintained that his experiences in the Premier League helped him mould his game but feels that he now plays in a superior domestic league.

"When I was at Manchester United, I learned the basic rules of soccer, especially the discipline of tackling, but La Liga is the best in the world because it is based on players’ skills and technique," asserted Ronaldo.

The Portuguese international has enjoyed a fine individual season for Real Madrid, scoring 25 goals in just 23 appearances for the Blancos so far.
Dalglish says Gerrard looking superb

LIVERPOOL, 29 Dec.—Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish is excited by the prospect of having a fit Steven Gerrard at his disposal. Reds skipper Gerrard returned as a second-half substitute against Blackburn on Boxing Day after missing Liverpool’s previous eight Barclays Premier League matches with an ankle problem.

The 31-year-old also missed the start of the season after undergoing groin surgery earlier in the year.

Dalglish says he will ease Gerrard back in slowly but admits he is already looking sharp.

“He is back and looks even better than he did the last time he came back,” said the Reds boss. “But we are not going to be irresponsible and throw him in and take a chance. ‘We know he’s fit and we know he just needs game time in the same way as we monitored him through last time and we’ll do the same this time.

“He looks superb at the moment.”

Bachans yet to find a suitable name for Beti B

BANGALORE, 29 Dec.—It has been a month since Bollywood diva Aishwarya Rai Bachchan gave birth to a baby girl and the Bachchans are yet to name her. They are still in search of an appropriate name for the new member of the family.

“I would let you know as soon as I have decided upon a name (for my daughter),” Abhishek Bachchan told reporters here at the promo of his latest flick ‘Players’.

Asked what was his feeling when Aishwarya gave birth to the baby, he said it was the most “indescribable thing that ever happens” to anybody. “No matter how good your vocabulary, you can never get (proper) words of what you feel when you see the child... It is wonderful,” he said. Replying to another question, Abhishekh said his daughter resembled his wife and he wants her to look like the former Miss World. “Thankfully she (daughter) resembles her mother, but I have been told by the veterans that children’s face changes over time... I think it sounds like your vocabulary, you can never get (proper) words of what you feel when you see the child... It is wonderful,” he said.Internet

Quality paddy strain harvested

KALAY, 29 Dec.—Shwebo Pavhan paddy on 5.34 acres of model plot was harvested in Nagawpet Village of Kalay Township on 14 December.

District and township officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service and officials super-vised harvesting of paddy.

The paddy strain was cultivated on test in Kalay in 2011. The model plot of paddy produced 96.95 baskets of paddy per acre.—District IPRD

District News

Cash and kind donated to Home for the Aged

THANDWE, 29 Dec.—Smart Technical Trading Co Ltd donated cash and kind to Myintwaddy Home for the Aged in Thandwe on 9 December.

The donor presented K 250,000 to the home and 500 sachets of coffee/tea to the aged. The chairman of the home committee accepted the donations and gave a certificate of honour to donor.—District IPRD

Pathein-Chaungtha tarred road in progress

PATHEIN, 29 Dec.—Pathein District Public Works and Chaungtha Hotel Zone Committee jointly take responsibility for tarmacking Pathein-Chaungtha Road.

On 10 December, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport U Than Tun and Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw inspected progress of works. Assistant Engineer (Civil) U Min Lwin Tun conducted them round the construction site.—Township IPRD

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 30th December, 2011

INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 30 December, 2011 15

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) addresses 9th Intake Passing-out Parade of Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec.—The Passing-out Parade of the 9th Intake of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was held at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon this morning. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address.

It was also attended by wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Than Than Nwe, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and their wives, the Yangon Command commander, the Mingaladon Station commander, the commandant of the Institute, senior military officers of station, invited guests, and parents and relatives of cadets. Lt-Gen Soe Win took salute of the trainee companies and inspected them. After that, the cadet companies marched past the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services later presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Nyi Nyi Tun, Excellence in Training Award to Trainee Zaw Myo Htet and Excellence in Study Award to Pyai Phyo Zaw and members Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Myitkyina Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw, Chairman of Special Region (4) U Ohn SaiLin and vice-chairmen and members.

They were welcomed by Special Region (4) Chairman U Sai Lin and vice-chairmen and members. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win addressed the 9th intake of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, be would like to emphasize on what the trainees should know as they are going to be assigned duties in the Medical Corps of the armed forces.

The aim of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences is to produce skillful nurses, paramedical and pharmaceutical professionals with physical and intellectual prowess for the National Tatmadaw which safeguards Our Three Main National Causes.

He emphasized that they must constantly study advanced nursing and medical science in order to be efficient nurses and doctors. He said that they have to make united efforts in fulfilling the three capabilities of good moral, discipline and loyalty. Since they were cultivated with the great vision of the nation and Tatmadaw, they also have to maintain and flourish those basic capabilities.

The Institute has been conducting Master’s Degree Courses and it has produced 214 Master Degree graduates with 74 students currently attending the course. The outstanding students have been sent to post-graduate courses abroad. Arrangements have been made to open PhD courses beginning 2012-2013 academic year. He urged the cadets to work hard in order to serve the national and the Tatmadaw for higher education.

He said that they are going to be assigned duties in the Medical Corps of the armed forces in order to be efficient nurses and doctors. They have to make united efforts in fulfilling the three capabilities of good moral, discipline and loyalty. Since they were cultivated with the great vision of the nation and Tatmadaw, they also have to maintain and flourish those basic capabilities. He continued that in order to achieve the objective, more than 20 departments of academic disciplines have been set up in the Institute, teaching foundation subjects of Arts and Sciences, Computer Science and major subjects such as Nursing, Pharmacology, Pathology, Radiology and Physiotherapy.

The Institute also has been conducting Master’s Degree Courses and it has produced 214 Master Degree graduates with 74 students currently attending the course. The outstanding students have been sent to post-graduate courses abroad. Arrangements have been made to open PhD courses beginning 2012-2013 academic year. He urged the cadets to work hard in order to serve the national and the Tatmadaw for higher education.

He said that they have to make united efforts in fulfilling the three capabilities of good moral, discipline and loyalty. Since they were cultivated with the great vision of the nation and Tatmadaw, they also have to maintain and flourish those basic capabilities.

Union Level Peace-making Group, Special Region (4) sign agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec.—Union Level Peace-making Group Taungtha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Maung Maung Htet Myint and members Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Maung Maung Htet and deputy ministers, the deputy Attorney-General and members arrived in Mongla of Shan State at 9.45 am on 27 December.

They were welcomed by Special Region (4) Chairman U Sai Lin and vice-chairmen and members. Leader of the Union Level Peace-making Group U Aung Maung Maung Htet, deputy leader U Thein Zaw, Union Ministers U Ohn Myint and U Win Tun met Chairman of Special Region (4) U Sai Lin, Vice-Chairman U San Pyae and Secretary U Khin Maung at the hall of the Special Region (4) Headquarters and discussed peace processes.

The Union Level Peace-making Group and Special Region (4) (Peace-making Group) held the Union level peace talk for the second time at the meeting room of the Special Region (4) Headquarters in Mongla.

They cordially discussed future peace process based on the points agreed in Kengtung on 9 October 2011, and signed a six-point agreement and exchanged the documents. The six-point agreement is as follows:

1. Both sides have reached agreement to continue implementing agreements signed in Kengtung on 9 October this year.
2. It is agreed to adopt short-term or long-term socio-economic development plans in light of bilateral consultations to enable the Union government to participate in tasks for improvement of living standard of the national people in Special Region (4) and for regional economic development.

Storm “THANE” likely to cross Tamil Nadu Coast (Southern India)

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec.—Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced today that according to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, very severe cyclonic storm “THANE” over Southwest Bay and its centered at Tamil Nadu Coast (Southern India) next 24 hours commencing this instant.

Current stage of the very severe cyclonic storm is coded as yellow colour which means is not moving Myanmar. Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm, rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h. —MNA