

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 15 December, 2011

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.

President U Thein Sein meets Head of Department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of European Union's Foreign Policy

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the European Union's Foreign Policy Mrs. Catherine Ashton, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House here at 3:00 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi and departmental heads.

Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the European Union's Foreign Policy Mrs. Catherine Ashton, was accompanied by European Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Bangkok Mr. David Ramon Lipman, French Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Thierry Mathou and European Union External Action Services Director for Asia Mr. Seamus Gillespie.

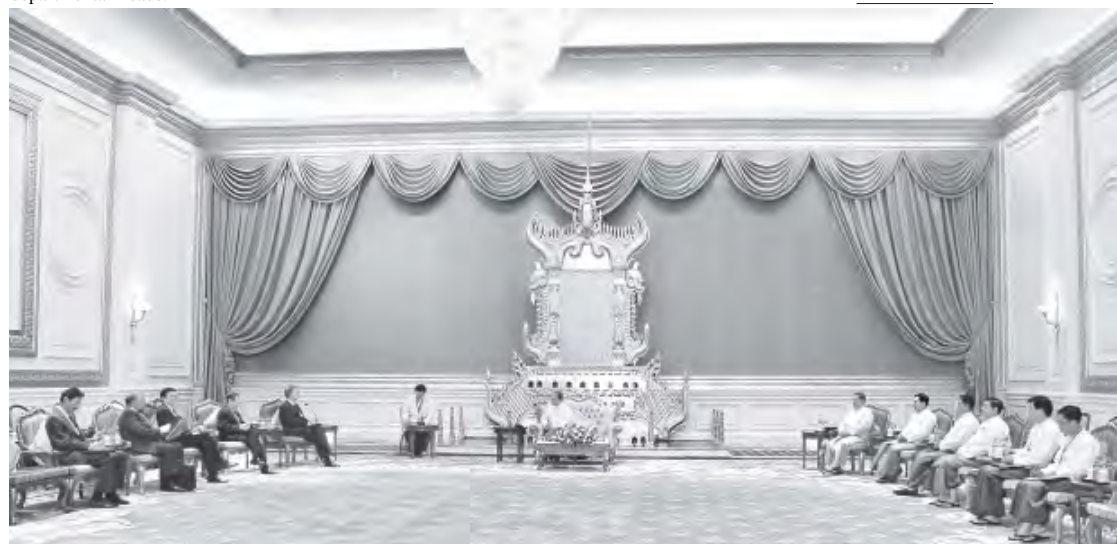
They had a cordial and frank discussion on further strengthening friendship between Myanmar and European Union and fostering mutually constructive relations.

MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of Department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of European Union's Foreign Policy Mrs. Catherine Ashton.

MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of Department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of European Union's Foreign Policy Mrs. Catherine Ashton at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House.

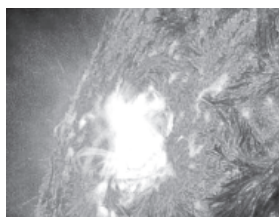
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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa meets Mr. Robert Cooper and Professor Bronislaw Misztal of Community of Democracies



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Old stars reveal sun's future



PAGE 5

Madrid beats third-tier Ponferradina 2-0 in Copa



PAGE 14

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 December, 2011

Together with December mornings

Peaceful and pleasant are the mornings of the cold season. When the rays of sunshine lend cheerfulness and warmth to them, mornings of December are second to none in beauty.

Today, the government is gearing up reforms for sector-wise development. Especially, political, economic and social areas have witnessed dramatic changes. Realizing that no progress can be made without peace, the government is building internal peace with might and main.

Thanks to the call of the Union government for peace negotiations, peace negotiation team representing RCSS/SSA armed group and Shan State government signed a State level preliminary peace agreement on 2 December, which is seen as the sign of peace and tranquility for the whole Shan State. It is hoped that Union-level peace agreement can be reached soon.

On 11 December, Klu Htoo Baw group (former DKBA) and Union-level peace making group met in first Union level negotiation in Hpa-an of Kayin State in consequence of State level initial peace talk at the same venue on 3 November, inking six-point agreement. Thus, rays of peace are finally shinning on the skies of Kayin State.

This December is extraordinarily beautiful and energetic with hopes of peace and stability. We wish coming mornings as warm and hopeful as these December mornings.

Pakistani Ambassador donates hockey sticks to MHF

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Republic of Pakistan donated hockey sticks to Myanmar Hockey Federation at the Pakistani Embassy on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Qazi M Khalilullah explained the purpose of donating 50 hockey sticks worth US\$ 100.

Next, the ambassador donated hockey sticks to President of Myanmar Hockey Federation member of Yangon City Development Committee U Htin Zaw Win and Secretary of the federation U Kyaw Win. The president of the federation spoke words of thanks.—NLM



Pakistani Ambassador Mr Qazi M Khalilullah donates hockey sticks to officials of Myanmar Hockey Federation.

NLM

Myanmar, Brazil to make cooperation in cooperative system

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fishery U Ohn Myint received Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior, at the ministry here this morning.

They held a cordial discussion on sending delegation and trainees for cooperation in cooperatives, livestock and fishery sectors, cooperation with Brazil through cooperative system, based on livestock sector and import of quality semen tubes of ox.

Also present at the call were Managing Director, Deputy Directors-General and officials from



Cooperative Department, Small Scale Industries Department, Cooperative Export and Import Enterprise under the Ministry of Cooperatives.

MNA

Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fishery U Ohn Myint receives Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior.

MNA

Union Minister at President Office receives Brazilian Ambassador



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung receives Brazilian Ambassador Mr Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung received Ambassador of Brazil Mr Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior at the hall of the President Office, here, at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Director-

General U Zaw Win of the Union Ministry at the President office and officials.

They cordially discussed political and diplomatic relations between the two countries, cooperation in technologies, matters related to trade and investment.—MNA

Singaporean Minister of Foreign Affairs and party conclude visit

YANGON, 14 Dec—The goodwill delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam and wife left here by air this afternoon.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung of Protocol Department, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert, wife and officials.—MNA

Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2011 on 22-25 December

YANGON, 14 Dec—Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2011 (including Automobile show 2011), mainly sponsored by Shine Construction Company, will

be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall here from 22 to 25 December. The exhibition covers computers and computers-related materials, electronic and

assorted electrical equipments, cosmetics and personal goods, clothing and fashion wears, kitchen utensils, automobile and related materials, floor ties,

modern furniture, foodstuff, medicines and travel service.

As a special program, automobile agent companies and other companies will showcase automobiles at the Exhibition. For further information, please dial 09-8626080.

NLM

NATO: Pakistan talking again to US-led coalition



In this picture taken on 8 Dec, 2011, a Pakistani truck driver take care of trucks transporting NATO supplies, at a terminal in Karachi, Pakistan.—INTERNET

KABUL, 14 Dec— Voicing cautious optimism, the top NATO commander in

Afghanistan said Tuesday that he's seeing some signs of a possible lifting of Pakistan's communications blackout imposed on the US-led coalition after NATO airstrikes killed two dozen Pakistani forces last month.

Marine Gen John Allen revealed for the first time that he spoke on the phone Monday with Pakistan army chief Gen Ashfaq Pervez Kayani — their first conversation since the airstrikes — and that they both expressed a commitment to work through the incident and try to restore coordination between their forces along the border. "I do have a sense of progress," Allen told reporters at a news briefing at Camp Eggers in Kabul, describing the phone call as businesslike and cordial. "The conversation was clearly about attempting to resolve the issue ... around the border incident, in the sense that, lets restore border coordination so that we can move on."

He added that he believes Pakistan will soon send its liaison officers, who were pulled after the 26 Nov incident, back to the border coordination centers and/or NATO headquarters in Kabul.—*Internet*

Attack in Belgian city leaves five dead, 122 wounded

LIEGE, (Belgium), 14 Dec—Summoned for questioning by Belgian police, a man with a history of weapons and drug offences left home armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an assault rifle. Stopping at a central square filled with holiday shoppers, he lobbed three grenades into the crowd, then opened fire.

Four people were killed, including an 18-month-old toddler, and 122 were wounded in the assault Tuesday that brought tragedy to the pre-Christmas season of students reveling in exam results and preschoolers enchanted by brightly lit trees and holiday stalls.

Authorities said the

shooter also died, but they were at a loss to explain the reason for the onslaught. The prime minister said it was not related to terrorism.

In a second burst of

deadly violence in Western Europe on Tuesday — attacks rare for the continent — a man shot and killed two Senegalese vendors at a market in Italy.—*Internet*



Police and rescuers stand downtown Liege, Belgium on 13 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

UN seeks \$1.5 bln for Somalia famine crisis

MOGADISHU, 14 Dec— The humanitarian crisis gripping millions of Somalis due to a harsh drought this year will persist for the coming months, the UN said Tuesday as it appealed for \$1.5 billion for 2012.

The UN declared six regions in southern Somalia famine zones earlier this year, and although it said last month that three regions were now not facing famine, more than half of Somalia's 10 million people are in dire need of help.

"The Somalia crisis is everybody's responsibility and Somalis need support

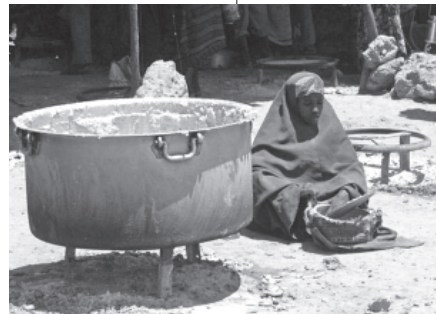
now. We cannot afford to wait or we will let down the Somali people," said Mark Bowden, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Somalia.

"The \$1.5-billion (1.14-billion euro) appeal is based on a realistic assessment of the emergency needs of four million people in crisis, tens of thousands of whom will die without assistance."

Relentless conflict since 1991, drought and insecurity have plunged Somalia into the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Donors contributed more than \$800 million (606 million euros) of the one

billion dollars requested this year to help some 12 million people affected by East Africa's worst drought in decades.—*Internet*



A Somali girl sits inside a feeding centre in the Hodan District of Mogadishu in October 2011.

INTERNET

Thai flood death toll rises to 708 with three missing

BANGKOK, 14 Dec— The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department reported on Wednesday that floods still prevail in nine provinces in central region while the accumulated nationwide flood toll now reaches 708 deaths with three people missing. A total of 3,652 villages in 80 districts of nine provinces in the central part of the country — Bangkok, Ang Thong, Ayutthaya, Lop Buri, Suphan Buri, Nakhon Pathom, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi and Samut Sakhon — are still suffering from the ongoing floods.

In the South, flooding has hit 2,057 villages in 65 districts of eight provinces — Phatthalung, Trang, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Yala and Pattani — causing damage to 118,358 rai (189 square kilometres) of farmland, 783 roads and 113 bridges.

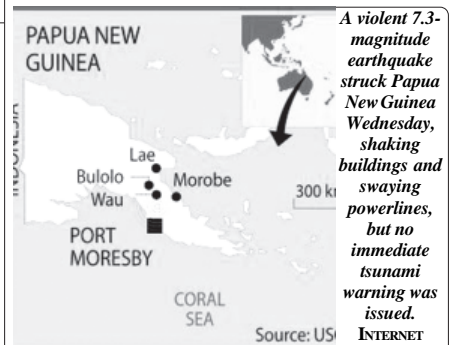
Thailand's most severe inundation has so far swamped a total of seven industrial estates and parks in central Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani Provinces in October, putting more than 1 million people at the risk of losing their jobs and causing initial loss of about 3.3 billion US dollars.—*Xinhua*

7.3-magnitude quake hits E New Guinea region, Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, 14 Dec— An earthquake of 7.3 magnitude occurred in Eastern New Guinea Region of Papua New Guinea on Wednesday afternoon. There is no report of casualties or tsunami threat warning so far.

According to US Geological Survey, the earthquake happened at 03:04:56 pm local time with the epicenter 89 km southwest of Lae of New Guinea and 221 km northwest of the national capital Port Moresby. The epicenter is of a depth of some 115.1 km. Papua New Guinea sits on the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire", a hotspot for seismic activity due to friction between tectonic plates. Earthquake activity is common in PNG but only a few are destructive.

PNG houses are mostly build out of wood and have a very high resistance against earthquakes.— *Xinhua*



Nine killed in attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Dec— Nine people were killed and nine others wounded, including three judges, in bomb and gunfire attacks in Iraq on Tuesday, the police said.

In Iraq's western Province of Anbar, gunmen opened fire on the convoy of Judge Jasim Dawood, head of the provincial appeals court, on a main road near the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, wounding him and other two judges who were with him in his

vehicle, the source from Anbar's operations command told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The attackers traded fire with policemen guarding the convoy, killing two of them and a civilian and wounding three other policemen, the source said.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in central of Fallujah, killing two policemen, the source added.

Afterwards, gunmen broke into the house of a

member of the Awakening Council group in Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, killing him and wounding his wife, he said.

The Awakening Council group, or Sahwa in Arabic, consists of armed groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni militant groups which fought al-Qaeda militants in the Sunni Arab areas after the US-led invasion of Iraq.

In northern Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Ayad

Karkja, chief of security office in the University of Mosul, was shot dead by gunmen near his house in western Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, a local police source anonymously told *Xinhua*. In Iraq's northern central Province of Salahudin, a police officer was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his car went off in front of his house in the City of Shirqat, some 120 km north of the provincial capital City of Tikrit, a source from Salahudin's operations command told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Xinhua

Six civilians killed in roadside bombing in Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, 14 Dec— Six civilians were killed when their car ran over a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, some 555 km south of capital City of Kabul, local government said in a Press release on Tuesday.

"A total of six civilians including women and children were killed as their vehicle touched off a roadside bomb along a road in Hidar Abad area of Gereshk District on Monday," the Press release said.

It also said two women were injured in the blast.

In a separate incident, two policemen and three civilians were injured when a motorbike bomb went off near a police vehicle in Helmand's Sangin District Tuesday afternoon, according to the Press release. "The motor cycle bomb was

detonated when a police vehicle was running along a road in Sangin District at about 02:00 pm Tuesday. But police after a search operation detained a suspected man who might use a remote control device to detonate the bomb," it said.

It blamed Taleban militant for initiating the attacks. However, the militant group, who launched a rebel offensive against Afghan and NATO-led forces stationed in the country in May, has not made comments yet.

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

Xinhua

Health Tip: Find time for you

If you're the type of person who is always doing things for others, you need to find time for yourself, experts say.

The American Academy of Family Physicians offers this advice:

- * Try to maintain a healthy balance between work and your personal life.
- * Find the time to foster important relationships.
- * Don't be afraid to seek help from others when you need it.
- * Exercise and practice relaxation techniques, which will help lower stress.
- * Keep an open mind, and be willing to try new hobbies and activities.
- * Ask your family doctor for help when it's needed.—Internet

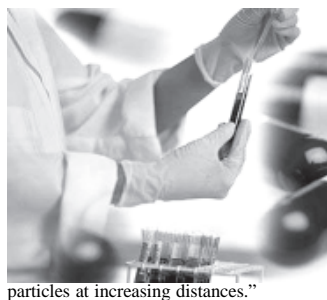
Israeli scientists develop cancer 'cluster bomb'

JERUSALEM, 14 Dec—Israeli medical researchers say they have developed a new technique for blasting cancer tumours from inside out which reduces the risk of the disease returning after treatment.

Tel Aviv University professors Yona Keisari and Itzhak Kelson are about to start clinical trials of a pin-sized radioactive implant that beams short-range alpha radiation from within the tumour.

Unlike conventional radiation therapy, which bombards the body with gamma rays from outside, the alpha particles "diffuse inside the tumour, spreading further and further before disintegrating," a university statement quoted Keisari as saying.

"It's like a cluster bomb — instead of detonating at one point, the atoms continuously disperse and emit alpha



particles at increasing distances."

The university said that the process takes about 10 days and leaves behind only non-radioactive and non-toxic amounts of lead.

"Not only are cancerous cells more reliably destroyed, but in the majority of

Health

cases the body develops immunity against the return of the tumour," the statement said.

The wire implant, inserted into the tumour by hypodermic needle, "decays harmlessly in the body," it added.

It went on to say that in pre-clinical trials on mice, one group had tumours removed surgically while another was treated with the radioactive wire. "When cells from the tumour were reinserted into the subject, 100 percent of those treated surgically redeveloped their tumour, compared to only 50 percent of those treated with the radioactive wire," it said.

"The researchers have had excellent results with many types of cancer models, including lung, pancreatic, colon, breast, and brain tumours."

It added that the procedure would begin clinical trials at Beilinson hospital, near Tel Aviv, "soon."—Internet



US Federal Reserve building.—INTERNET

Business

Fed keeps interest rates low

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—The Federal Reserve's top policymakers left interest rates near zero on Tuesday — where they have been for three years — as they described a moderate economic expansion fraught with problems.

The Fed reiterated its promise to keep interest rates at "exceptionally low levels... at least through mid-2013," in a largely pro-forma statement after its last meeting of the year.

Cautioning that the drop in unemployment to 8.6 percent did not spell plain-sailing ahead, the Fed warned that joblessness was still high and more stimulus may yet be on the cards.

"While indicators point to some improvement in overall labour market conditions, the unemployment rate remains elevated," the Federal Open Market Committee said in a statement at the end of the meeting. The main storm on the Fed's horizon appeared to come from Europe.

"Strains in global financial markets continue to pose significant downside risks to the economic outlook," the central bank said, in what appeared to be an opaque reference to Europe's debt crisis, which has roiled financial markets.

Given the stormy outlook, the Fed issued its standard promise to step in if needed. "The committee will continue to assess the economic outlook in light of incoming information and is prepared to employ its tools to promote a stronger economic recovery in a context of price stability."

One member of the Fed panel Charles Evans voted against the statement, saying more stimulus was needed now. The statement made no mention of discussion within the FOMC about a communications overhaul that could see the bank adopt an inflation target.—Internet

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—The International Monetary Fund denied Tuesday it is in talks for a second huge rescue loan for Greece, after Greece's finance minister said discussions were under way for new financing.

"The mission here is not for a discussion on a new programme," said Poul Thomsen, head of the IMF's mission to Greece.

"We have a programme in place, and we continue to expect to be supporting Greece. There's no request for a new programme," he said in Athens, speaking in a conference call with journalists.

On Monday, Greek Finance Minister Evangelos

Venizelos said the government had launched into talks with its global public and private creditors, including the IMF, on a new bailout to ease its debt burden.

Venizelos said he hoped a further 89 billion euros (\$117 billion) in loans to the government and support for banks would be ready by the end of January.

But Thomsen said he was in Greece following up its progress under the current three-year, 110-billion-euro loan programme from the IMF, European Commission and European Central Bank.

Greece has already received 73 billion euros of that money, and by all accounts it is not near enough



The logo of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC.—INTERNET

to stabilise the country's finances.

The IMF instead pushed for Athens to complete a crucial restructuring of its bonds held by private banks — the so-called private sector initiative (PSI) — which is expected to substantially cut

its debt payments.

And it urged European officials to move ahead on their own talks for new funding for Greece.

"European leaders have, at the previous summit back in July, said that they'd continue to support Greece for as long as it takes for Greece to restore (debt) market access," Thomsen said, adding: "Of course, assuming that the programme remains on track."

"I think this combination of private sector support and official sector support... together with this comprehensive PSI is a major improvement in the prospect for debt sustainability," he said.—Internet

US stocks fall

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—US stocks fell in late trade Tuesday after the IMF warned Greece's economy was facing deep risks and the Federal Reserve refrained from providing any new spark for the economy.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 66.45 points (0.55 percent) to 11,954.94.

The broader S&P 500 fell 10.75 (-0.87 percent) to 1,225.72, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slid 32.99 (1.26 percent) to 2,579.27.

"The Fed signalled that while they are concerned (about the economy), they don't have any plan, any new aggressive policies," said Mace Blicksilver of Marblehead.

Blicksilver also said new rumours that ratings agencies were poised to issue cuts to European sovereign ratings also pushed stocks lower.—Internet

Business



US stock traders.—INTERNET

Business

Japan buys 13% of eurozone rescue fund sale

TOKYO, 14 Dec—Japan has purchased 13 percent of the eurozone rescue fund's latest bond sale, a government official said Wednesday, as the region continues fundraising to help contain its sovereign debt crisis.

The Japanese government bought 260 million euros (US\$338 million) of the three-month bills, or 13 percent of the 1.972 billion euros raised by the bailout fund, the official said. Data published by Germany's Bundesbank showed there was strong demand for the debt issued by the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF).

The sale was oversubscribed by more than three times with investors bidding a total 6.286 billion euros, the German central bank said.

Japan bought 10 percent, or 300 million euros worth of an earlier sale in November, lower than the average 20 percent it purchased in three other bond sales from the start of the year. The four previous sales comprised medium and long-term bonds while the latest issue was short-term bills. Tokyo has voiced concern over the deepening crisis with worries it will dent the country's fragile economic recovery following Japan's devastating March quake and tsunami. Europe is a key export market for Japanese products.

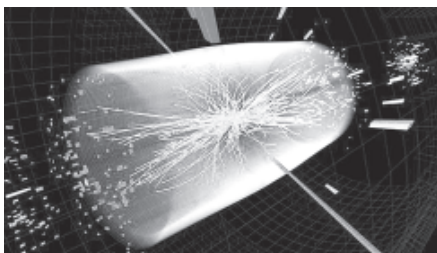
The 440-billion-euro rescue fund was created last year to protect vulnerable eurozone nations after Greece was bailed out by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.—Internet



Scientists narrow search for 'God particle'

GENEVA, 14 Dec—Physicists said on Tuesday that they had narrowed the search for the elusive sub-atomic Higgs boson particle that would confirm the way science describes the Universe. Experiments at Europe's giant atom smasher have "reduced the window where scientists think they will find the Higgs boson," also known as the God Particle, said Bruno Mansoulie, a researcher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

The Higgs boson is the missing link in the so-called Standard Model of physics, which explains how the basic building blocks of observed matter fit together. Its existence—if confirmed—would explain in a single stroke the mystery of what gives the invisible constellation of particles mass. Such a discovery would rank in



This document provided by European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva shows a graphic showing traces of two high-energy photons measured in the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experience.

INTERNET

importance with major breakthroughs of the last century, going back to Einstein's first formulation of quantum physics. For now, however, the cagey boson only exists in theory. If it turns out to be a mirage, it would force scientists back to the drawing board to rewrite the textbook of particle physics. CERN reported on Tuesday the midpoint results from two separate experiments that independently arrived at the

same conclusion. The Web-cast presentation was made before several hundred scientists in an atmosphere charged with excitement and punctuated with applause.

Taken together, the results provide " tantalising hints " that the sought-after particle is hiding inside a narrow range of mass, CERN said in a statement. " If it exists, it is most likely to have a mass constrained to the range of 116 to 130 gigaelectronvolts (GeV), "

Science

CERN said, using the standard measure for the mass of sub-atomic particles. One GeV is roughly equivalent to the mass of a proton. Both experiments showed telltale activity at a sweet spot around 125 GeV.

" It's too early to draw definitive conclusions, we need more data, " said Fabiola Gianotti, head of the ATLAS group. " But we have established a solid foundation for passionately exciting months ahead, " she said, adding that a definitive answer was expected within 12 months. The new results have a higher degree of certainty—99 percent—but still fall well below the threshold of discovery. " For scientists, certainty requires a threshold of a no greater than five in ten million chance of error, " Daniel Fournier, an Atlas researcher, told AFP.

Internet

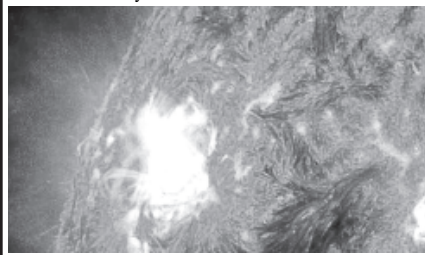
Old stars reveal sun's future

SYDNEY, 14 Dec—Old stars, called red giants, have offered insight into what our sun will look like after five billion years—its outer layer will expand and cool down, so it'll look red, and the core will contract and become extremely hot and dense.

Tim Bedding and Dennis Stello, professors of astronomers at the University of Sydney, and colleagues discovered that red giants have slowed down on the outside while their cores spin at least 10 times faster than their outer layers.

The finding tells what the sun will look like in five billion years when it develops into a red giant, the journal *Nature* reports. " The heart of a star determines how it evolves, and understanding how a star rotates deep inside helps us to understand how stars like our sun will grow old, " said Bedding, according to a university statement.

Using NASA's Kepler space telescope, the team observed deep inside ageing red giants to make their discovery of the difference in rotation rate between the core and outer layers of the stars.—Internet



Science

Apple launches iTunes store in Brazil

Tech

SAO PAULO, 14 Dec—Apple on Tuesday launched its iTunes store in Brazil as well as in 15 other Latin American countries.

The iTunes store in Brazil offers a catalogue of more than 20 million songs, including those from top Brazilian stars Ivette Sangalo and Marisa Monte, the California-based firm said in a statement.

Also available for purchase and download are a broad selection of international artists such as the Beatles, Rihanna and Coldplay.

Most of the songs are priced at 99 US cents and most albums at \$9.99.

Apple said it was also bringing the iTunes Store to 15 other Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.



Apple on Tuesday launched its iTunes store in Brazil as well as in 15 other Latin American countries.

INTERNET

Apple's app store offers more than 500,000 apps to hundreds of millions of iPad, iPhone and iPod users in 123 countries.—Internet

Researchers transmit record 186 GB data per second

Tech

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—Researchers have successfully transmitted 186 gigabits of data per second (GBps), accomplishing a new world record and helping usher in the next generation of high-speed network technology.

The rate is equivalent to moving two million gigabytes per day, fast enough to transfer nearly 100,000 full Blu-ray discs—each with a complete movie and all the extras—in a day.

The international team of scientists at the SuperComputing 2011 (SC11), Seattle, accomplished the feat mid-November, transferring data in opposite directions at a combined rate of 186 GBps in a wide-area network circuit, according to a California Institute of Technology (Caltech) statement.

The team of high-energy physicists, computer scientists and network engineers was led by Caltech, the University of Victoria, University of Michigan, European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN), Florida International University and other partners.

According to the researchers, the achievement will help establish new ways to transport the increasingly large quantities of data that traverse continents and oceans via global networks of optical fibers. These new methods are needed for the next generation of network technology—which allows transfer rates of 40 and 100 GBps—that will be built in the next couple of years.

" Our group and its partners are showing how massive amounts of data will be handled and transported in the future, " says Harvey Newman, professor of physics and head of the high-energy physics team.—Internet



An international team of researchers transferred data in opposite directions at a combined rate of 186 gigabits per second (Gbps) in a wide-area network circuit.—INTERNET

Microsoft founder Paul Allen unveils space-rocket plan

Science



Paul Allen is one of several Silicon Valley billionaires innovating in the private space industry.

INTERNET

LONDON, 14 Dec—Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen has announced plans to launch unmanned rockets and carry cargo into space.

The 58-year-old plans to develop a giant aircraft that would put spaceships into orbit, rather than lifting them off from a launch pad.

Other moguls are in the private space race, too, after Nasa this year ended its 30-year space shuttle programme.

Virgin Galactic is working on a commercial space venture which aims to fly passengers into sub-orbit by 2013. Aerospace

pioneer Burt Rutan is a partner on Mr Allen's project, which is called Stratolaunch Systems.

The project is the latest to be led by Silicon Valley tycoons who think they spy a gap in demand opened by the retirement of the US government's space shuttle programme.

While Nasa put rockets into space from a launch pad, the Stratolaunch plan is to launch unmanned rockets from high-flying aircraft, and eventually undertake manned missions too.

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, right, with aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan in Seattle in 13 December 2011 Paul Allen (R) and Burt Rutan have been working on their craft for years.

The developers said their aircraft could ferry cargo for the commercial satellite industry and the International Space Station.

The giant plane would be powered by six 747 jumbo jet engines and have a wingspan of 385ft (117m), developers said. It would be wider than the biggest aircraft ever, legendary Hollywood tycoon Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose.

The first test flights are scheduled to begin in 2016.

Mr Allen and Mr Rutan said that preliminary designs for the Stratolaunch aircraft have been put together over the course of 10 years.

Construction has begun on a hangar in California's Mojave Desert, they said.—Internet

Crash chopper with Indian newlyweds 'was off course'

LAS VEGAS, 14 Dec—A helicopter carrying four tourists including a young Indian newlywed couple crashed in a ravine near Las Vegas after veering off course, an initial investigation said Tuesday.

The pilot and all passengers died last Wednesday when the chopper they were taking to see the Hoover Dam, a popular tourist flight, crashed in mountains near the Nevada

gambling mecca.

Anupama Bhola, 26, and her husband, Lovish Bhanot, 28, from New Delhi, were among the dead, according to Clark County Coroner Mike Murphy, cited by the *Las Vegas Review Journal*.

"It is my understanding that they were married sometime in November in their home country," Murphy said. "They were vacationing in Las Vegas." An initial report by the National

Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), released Tuesday, said the helicopter appeared to be flying on a normal route until shortly before the crash.

"The helicopter... followed a normal route of flight easterly out of the (Las Vegas) airport traffic area, then turned toward Hoover Dam, it said, adding: "Weather was reported as clear with good visibility and dusk light conditions."

"Tour routings are standardized for all the area tour operators," it said, noting that all seemed normal until a minute before the accident, when "the helicopter climbed to 4,100 feet MSL and turned about 90 degrees to the left."

"The left turn and climb are not part of the normal route," it said, adding that the helicopter then descended to 3,300 feet and flew northeast for about 20 seconds, until entering a left turn then a descent," it said.

The last radar reading was when the chopper was an 1/8 of a mile before it crashed, the report added.—*Internet*



A general view of the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge part of the Hoover Dam in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada, 2010. A helicopter carrying four tourists including a young Indian newlywed couple crashed in a ravine near Las Vegas after veering off course, an initial investigation said Tuesday.—INTERNET

Deaths from malaria fall but funding woes loom

LONDON, 14 Dec—Deaths from malaria have fallen dramatically in the past decade thanks to increased aid giving more people access to nets and medicines, but the economic slowdown could curb future progress, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday.

In its annual global report on the mosquito-borne parasitic disease, the WHO said international funding for the fight against malaria rose to about \$1.7 billion (1 billion pounds) in 2010 and \$2 billion in 2011, the highest annual amounts ever reached.

But this is still far short of the estimated \$5 billion to \$6 billion needed each year to achieve the WHO's target - zero deaths from malaria by 2015. "The increased

funding has resulted in tremendous progress," the United Nations health agency said.

The estimated number of deaths from malaria dropped to 655,000 in 2010, 36,000 lower than in 2009.

"The toll taken by the current economic crisis must not result in our gains being

reversed, or progress slowed," Ray Chambers, the UN secretary general's special envoy for malaria, said. "Turning back now is not an option."

While the reduction marked significant progress, the report said, death rates were still "disconcertingly high for a disease that is

entirely preventable and treatable".

"Worldwide this remains a tragedy of children; 86 percent of deaths occur in children less than five years of age," Robert Newman, director of the WHO's global malaria programme, told a briefing in Geneva.

Malaria is endemic in more than 100 countries worldwide but can be prevented by the use of bed nets and indoor spraying to keep the mosquitoes that carry the disease at bay.

Reuters

A child is given an injection as part of a malaria vaccine trial at a clinic in the Kenya coastal town of Kilifi, on 23 November, 2010.

INTERNET



James Murdoch received key hacking email in 2008

LONDON, 14 Dec—News International chairman James Murdoch was sent key emails in 2008 showing that phone-hacking was rife at the *News of the World* tabloid, according to details released by members of the parliament

Tuesday.

But Murdoch said in a letter to a parliamentary committee that he had not read the emails forwarded to him by the newspaper's then editor Colin Myler because he was using a Blackberry

Rupert Murdoch's son James, seen here in July 2011, was sent key emails in 2008 showing that phone-hacking was rife at the *News of the World* tabloid, according to details released by British lawmakers Tuesday.

INTERNET



and it was the weekend.

Murdoch has previously denied being aware of the full scale of hacking at the now-defunct *News of the World* when he authorised a huge payout to Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association trade union, in 2008.

In an email "chain" dated Saturday 7 June, 2008, and published by the committee on Tuesday, Myler requested a meeting with Murdoch to discuss the case and warned him: "Unfortunately, it is as

bad as we feared."

Below that was another email from *News of the World* legal adviser Tom Crone to Myler speaking of a "nightmare scenario" in that it was not only Taylor's phone that had been hacked, but a colleague's as well.

A third email in the chain sent to Murdoch, written by lawyer Julian Pike to Crone, said that Taylor "wants to demonstrate that what happened to him is/was rife throughout the organization (the *News of the World*)."—*Internet*

18 missing in landslide in Colombia

BOGOTA, 14 Dec—Local Colombian emergency rescue teams are searching for 18 people missing in a landslide which buried three houses in the southwestern department of Narino.

Major of La Cruz Alexander Realpe said Tuesday that the rescue work started Tuesday morning and is "very difficult" due to heavy rains which have continued to lash the region.

Speaking on local television, Realpe said that the landslide buried three houses with at least 18 people inside, and that the exact number of victims is still unknown.

The landslide was triggered by heavy rains in the past days.

Narino's Civil Defence head Mario Orozco has called on people to stay away from the affected area for fear of new landslides.

A report from the Colombian Red Cross said a total of 583,761 people have been affected by the rain, and that among them 144 people were killed, 125 injured, and 16 are still missing.—*Xinhua*



Afghan widows wait for transportation after receiving food rations at a CARE International food distribution centre in Kabul.—INTERNET

Canada provides aid to drought-stricken Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 Dec—Canada announced Tuesday millions of dollars in aid for food assistance to drought-affected areas of in Afghanistan.

Ottawa said it was allocating CAN\$13 million (US\$12.6 million) for the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide emergency food "to almost three million people in 14 northern and north eastern Provinces of Afghanistan," International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda said in a statement.

The aid will buy food

rations for 1.2 million people, as well as cash vouchers worth the equivalent value of 50 kilograms of wheat flour for six months for 42,000 families in urban areas.

Millions of Afghans are reportedly facing food shortages after one of the worst droughts to strike the north of war-torn Afghanistan in a decade.

A news article posted on WFP's website describes children being treated for malnourishment, wells having dried up and families selling off domestic animals at cut-rate prices before migrating to cities to find food, water and work.

Oda said aid agencies are racing to help them before snow blocks access to the remote areas.—*Internet*

Two Army helicopters crash in Washington state, 4 dead

SEATTLE, 14 Dec—Two US Army helicopters crashed on Monday during training exercises at a Washington state military base, killing four aviators on board, the base said in a statement. Brendalyn Carpenter, a spokeswoman for Joint Base Lewis-McChord, confirmed that "there was an accident" in the evening and that military police and emergency personnel were en route to the accident scene at the base near Tacoma. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family, friends and loved ones of the soldiers involved in this tragic accident," said Major General Lloyd Miles, acting senior Army commander at the base.

"We will conduct a thorough investigation into this incident, and we will do everything in our power to support the families of the brave soldiers who died this evening," he added. The base identified the aircraft involved in the crash as a pair of OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopters. Local television station KIRO 7 reported that the helicopters had crashed in Thurston County in a wooded training area, and that there were no survivors.—*Reuters*



A US Army Humvee drives down a dirt road near the scene where two US Army helicopters crashed during a training exercise on Monday, killing four aviators on board near the Town of Rainier, Washington, on 13 December, 2011.—INTERNET

Japan chooses F-35 as mainstay fighter jet

TOKYO, 14 Dec—Japan has chosen the US-made F-35 stealth jet as its next-generation mainstay fighter in a multi-billion dollar deal, reports said Tuesday.

The defence ministry picked the jet made by Lockheed Martin to replace its ageing fleet of F-4 jets over two rivals, the Boeing-made F/A-18 Super Hornet and the Eurofighter Typhoon, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* said.

Japan's biggest daily said the defence ministry had "agreed in principle" to select the F-35, with a formal announcement expected Friday at the Security Council of Japan, chaired by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda.

Kyodo News cited unnamed government sources as saying the ministry had decided to buy 40 F-35 fighters, while the *Nikkei* business daily said only that the jet remained a "prime candidate".

Earlier reports said Japan could buy as many as 50 new jets, equipped with stealth technology, with a price tag of more than \$6 billion.

A defence ministry spokesman on Tuesday declined to confirm the reports, saying: "We are still trying to do our best to make a final decision by the end of this year."

And Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura denied



This file photo shows a F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet (background) with its extension gadget on display at the Asian Aerospace show in Singapore, in 2006.—INTERNET

the reports that a final decision had been made, Dow Jones Newswires said.

The F-35, the most expensive weapons programme in Pentagon history, has been plagued by cost overruns and technical delays.—*Internet*

Climate change blamed for dead trees in Africa

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—Trees are dying in the Sahel, a region in Africa south of the Sahara Desert, and human-caused climate change is to blame, according to a new study led by a scientist at the University of California, Berkeley.

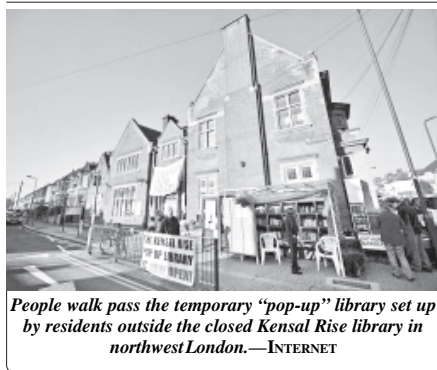
The study, which is scheduled for publication on 16 Dec in the *Journal of Arid Environments*, was based upon climate change records, aerial photos dating back to 1954, recent satellite images and old-fashioned footwork that included counting and measuring over 1,500 trees in the field. The researchers focused on six countries in the Sahel, from Senegal in West Africa to Chad in Central Africa, at sites where the average temperature warmed up by 0.8 degrees Celsius and rainfall fell as much as 48 percent.

They found that one in six trees died between 1954 and 2002. In addition, one in five tree species disappeared locally, and indigenous fruit and timber trees that require more moisture took the biggest hit. Hotter, drier conditions dominated population and soil factors in explaining tree mortality, the authors found. Their results indicate that climate change is shifting vegetation zones south toward moister areas.—*Xinhua*

resources and environmental degradation.

Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Vietnam Setsuko Yamazaki said, the green economy strategy will enable Vietnam to mobilize public and private financial sources and technological reforms, especially in the framework of the international agreement on climate change.

Xinhua



People walk pass the temporary "pop-up" library set up by residents outside the closed Kensal Rise library in northwest London.—INTERNET

Fight to stop page turning on historic London library

LONDON, 14 Dec—Kensal Rise library was opened by Mark Twain in 1900—and how it could do with the support of the great American man of letters now to fight off its threatened extinction as government cuts bite. The red-brick Victorian building has closed its doors and will be shut down permanently unless a determined campaign organized by the residents of the multi-ethnic district of north London can save it.

Signs attached to the walls proclaim "Save our library" and "Let us run our library" and volunteers have even organized a temporary "pop-up" library next door to try to fill the gap, using books donated by local residents.

Kensal Rise is among six out of 12 libraries in the London borough of Brent that the local council has decided must close to make savings to meet sweeping public spending cuts imposed by the British government. In fact it is one of more than 400 public libraries in Britain—ten percent of the total—set to fall victim to council cuts as Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative-Liberal government attempts to slash a budget deficit. The council also claims the library is underused, but the residents of Kensal Rise reject that argument and claim the closure of the library would hit the poorest hardest.—*Internet*

Antarctic teams struggling to reach South Pole

OSLO, 14 Dec—Roald Amundsen's feat of reaching the South Pole on skis 100 years ago is proving a tough act to follow for polar adventurers trying to get there in time to celebrate the centennial of the Norwegian pioneer's expedition.

Fierce, icy winds have delayed some of the teams skiing across Antarctica with the aim of reaching the geographic South Pole for the anniversary celebration on Wednesday. Some explorers gave up and were picked up by airplane so they could make it in time for the ceremony, according to their blogs and the Norwegian Polar Institute. Others including Norwegian cross-country great Vegard Ulvang and adventurer Boerge Ousland were still hoping to make it. Steffen Dahl, a Norwegian adventurer, who returned to Norway on Tuesday after a 700 mile (1,150-kilometre) solo trek to the South Pole, said he, too, had to travel the final stretch by plane. Dahl said he was exhausted and running behind schedule due to bad weather during part of the expedition, with storm winds and temperatures as low as minus 58 F (minus 50 C). "I saw the sun twice in 14 days. It was like skiing inside a milk carton.



This image released by the Norwegian Prime Minister's Office on 13 Dec, 2011 shows employees at the Amundsen-Scott research station at the South Pole pose for a picture with Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg on 12 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

You see nothing," he said.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Stoltenberg flew to Antarctica on Monday to attend the ceremony, calling Amundsen's accomplishment "a great and important achievement for Norway as a young nation." Norway became independent in 1905 after nearly 100 years in a union with Sweden.

Internet

Vietnam to establish legal environment for green economy development

HANOI, 14 Dec—Vietnam will establish a legal environment for green economy development, with favourable mechanism and policies so as the country's economy will develop towards an ever greener trend.

The statement was made by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan at the

forum "Green economy in the context of sustainable development in Vietnam" held here on Tuesday by the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

Green economy is closely connected with sustainable growth, and it is a new model for

development, contributing to ensure social welfare and protect the environment, the Deputy PM said, adding that green economy is an essential strategy that will provide jobs and ensure stable, sustainable economic growth, and prevent environmental pollution, global warming, exhaustion of natural

Singapore's oldest person dies at 113

SINGAPORE, 14 Dec—Singapore's oldest person Teresa Hsu, who has been well-known for her role in community work, passed away peacefully last week, local media reported on Wednesday.

Hsu passed away at home last Wednesday, her adopted son and caregiver Sharana Rao, 62, said in a note posted on the website of Heart To Heart, a non-profit charity organization founded by Hsu.

She was cremated on the same day, in accordance with her wish to depart quietly and peacefully, without holding any rituals or ceremonies that might inconvenience others, he wrote.

"I have duly carried out her instructions, and respected her wishes. It is hoped that all friends, supporters, donors, volunteers and well-wishers respect her wishes too, so that she can rest in peace," Rao said.

Hsu reportedly had been in and out of hospital over the past two months after an infection. Hsu she set up the Home for the Aged Sick in 1965 and later founded Heart To Heart. Some have dubbed her Florence Nightingale—a famous English nurse—while others have described her as Singapore's own Mother Teresa—the nun known for her work among the poor in India, the *Straits Times* said.—*Xinhua*



Pigeons are released during a memorial ceremony at the Memorial Hall of the Victims in the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 13 Dec, 2011. Some 5,000 people gathered here Tuesday, marking the 74th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre. Nanjing was occupied on 13 Dec, 1937, by Japanese troops who began a six-week massacre.—XINHUA



*Vice-President of the
Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
in meeting with
national races in
Lashio.*

MNA

To ensure livelihood, economic...

(from page 16)

The Vice-President urged them to be reliable and trustworthy employees loyal to the State.

In doing their daily routine, they need to have a pure mind and goodwill and they are to take responsibility for whatever they do staying away from corruption.

with 12400 lecturers and 490,000 students.

Current universities and colleges turn out over 100,000 graduates per year. Although some graduates were found to be qualified, the majority, according to surveys, were found to be far behind in qualification in comparison with graduates from previous decades. For this, education workshop was organized to find out the cause and solution and some suggestions were undeniable as follows: (1) To maintain the balanced ratio of competent teachers and students; (2) Teaching methods should be ones arousing the curiosity of



*Vice-President of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
views students learning at
No. 7 Basic Education High School in Lashio.*

MNA

Now is the time of democracy changing from the Tatmadaw government. Any kind of problems and conflicts can be reported to the State directly or through representatives of people.

Government organizations as well as media and the people are now setting vigilant eyes on how they are acting for works in their regions, townships, wards and villages. They need to prove themselves as dutiful and devoted to interests of the nation and the people.

To ensure livelihood, economic and religious affairs of the people and prevalence of law in their respected regions, administrators are to coordinate with all organizations keeping balance while doing their bit in setting up economic and social development of the State, the Vice-President said.

Next, ward and village administrators of Lashio District and townsenders reported on education, health and development undertakings.

In response to the reports presented by the district administrator on extent, location and development measures of the district, the Vice-President attended to the needs.

The general manager of Shwe Thanlwin Co donated 20 sets of Sky Net TV for 12 wards of Lashio and Nampong, Nongmon, Einaing, Mongyaw, Hopate, Matchinu, Hsonlwe, Lwetaw village-tracts.

The In-charge Rector of Lashio University explained salient facts about the university to the Vice-President and entourages. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said as university was the birthplace of the leaders of the future, faculty members of Lashio University are to nurture the students to become competent human resources.

It was learnt that 133 lecturers were giving notes to 2005 day students and 5716 distant students, totaling 7721 undergraduates in 2010-2011 academic year. Of the 161 universities and colleges across the nation, there were 64 universities and colleges under the Ministry of Education

students and help students develop thinking power; (3) To realize the importance of English language proficiency for further study; (4) To extend one academic year; (5) To avoid the system in which two MA degrees can be got within three years; (6) To cancel supplementary exam; (7) To ensure no tuition; (8) To encourage students to make researches on their own without reliance on instructors; (9) To grant educational cash assistance and resurrect scholarship system; (10) To encourage sports activities at universities.

The Vice-President concluded that there were plans to confer honorary titles on outstanding lecturers. The Vice-President and party then looked around the proposed site for three-storey building and football ground.

The Vice-President and party then visited Lashio No.1 basic Education High School and viewed students learning at classrooms, computer room, science lab and library. The Vice-President presented K 2 million to the fund of the school. Union Minister for Sports presented sports gear for the school. General Manager of Shwe Thanlwin Co contributed 14 sets of Sky Net satellite for Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 BEHSs. Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Shwe Thanlwin Co, Loi Hein Co, Asia World Co, IGE Co and Tarmoeyne Chantha Co presented K 5 million to the No.1 BEHS for equipment of 10 computers to the school.

The Vice-President then cordially greeted teachers of No. 1 BEHS. The Vice-President and party then proceeded to State General Hospital and comforted the patients.

The Vice-President then viewed the land plot for construction of Myanmar Medical Association (Lashio) in the compound of the hospital.

The Vice-President and party went to Lashio Nursing and Midwifery Training School where the Vice-President heard reports on functions of the state general hospital presented by the Medical Superintendent and of the training school by school head Daw Nan Kyayon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that

Lashio People's Hospital (200-bed), providing health care services to the people of Lashio region, is a reliable for all the people of Shan State (North). Therefore, the government is fulfilling the requirements of the hospital.

In conformity with the changing situations, the hospital is being provided with extension of hospital buildings, appointment of specialists, nurses and staff and hospital equipment, he said.

He urged them to give health care services to the patients with sympathy, family spirit and goodwill and to disseminate health knowledge to the people at the same time.

He stressed the need for doctors and nurses to make strenuous efforts for constant learning to uplift their proficiency and study outcomes and therapies of international researches.

As Lashio General Hospital is an institution not only for medical treatments but also for teaching, it is necessary to train the trainee doctors and nurses to become highly-qualified human resources, he said.

He noted that the hospital is to participate in turning out eligible local people to become health staff or auxiliary midwives so as to provide preliminary health care services for the rural areas which is playing a key role in rural development and poverty alleviation.

Next, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Loi Hein Co, Shwe Thanlwin Co, Asia World Co, IGE Co and Tarmoeyne Chantha Co donated K 400 million for installation of CT Scan at the general hospital, K 10 million for Nursing and Midwifery Training School and K 100 million for Myanmar Medical Association,



Shwe Thanlwin Company General Manager presents 20 sets of Sky Net satellite dish for urban wards and rural villages of Lashio. —MNA

the General Manager of Shwe Thanlwin Co one set each of Sky Net TV receiver to the general hospital and the training school through officials.

At the hall, the Vice-President and wife and party were welcomed by national races.

They attended the ceremony to pay homage to the members of the Sangha and donated alms, rice and edible oil to members of the Sangha. Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Nayaka Committee Manhsu Phayagyi Monastery Bhaddanta Kodañña delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

While in Lashio, the Vice-President met national races and delivered an address. He said that if those wish to secure development of the nation, it must be peaceful and stable. He noted that it should not accept that those of

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To ensure livelihood, economic...

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leadership role are responsible for striving to ensure peace and stability, and it should accept that all the national people are responsible for ensuring peace and stability. He stressed the need for the national races to participate in securing peace and stability of the nation as much as they can.

Leaders of the national race groups submitted their requirements.

At the cash donation ceremony, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Loi Hein Co, Shwe Thanlwin Co, Asia World Co, IGE Co and Tarmoenye Chantha Co presented cash donations to officials.

Shwe Thanlwin Co gave one set each of Sky Net TV receivers to six national race groups.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President expressed his thanks for submissions on the requirements and he will attend to the needs as much as possible.

Later, the Vice-President cordially greeted members of the national race groups.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham converses with doctors, nurses and health staff of Lashio State General Hospital.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa meets Mr. Robert Cooper and Professor Bronislaw Misztal of Community of Democracies



Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Mr. Robert Cooper and party. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa separately received Mr. Robert Cooper, Advisor to Chief of the European Union's Foreign Policy, and party at the meeting hall of Hluttaw Building here at 2 pm today, and Executive Director of Community of Democracies of Poland Professor Bronislaw Misztal and party at that place at 3 pm today.

Also present at the meetings with the Deputy Speaker were Chairman of Vetting Committee for Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings U Win Sein, International Relations Committee Secretary U Ko Ko Tun, Member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Than Tun, and officials concerned.

Both sides concentrated on matters relating to promotion of relationships between Myanmar and European Union, as well as bilateral cooperation between the Hluttaws of Myanmar and Poland.

MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Executive Director Professor Bronislaw Misztal of Community of Democracies of Poland and party.

MNA

Union Constitutional Tribunal gives verdict

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The tribunal comprising the chairperson and all the members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union delivered the verdict on proposal No. 2/2011 submitted by 23-member group including Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Aye Maung through the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker in accordance with Section 15 (d) of the Union Constitutional Tribunal Law, at Room No. 1 of the tribunal this morning.

The verdict stated that the proposal of 23-member party including Dr Aye Maung was allowed; according to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 4 (c) of Emoluments, Allowances and Insignias Law of Region or State level Officials covers Region or National Races Affairs Ministers as they are the ministers of regions or states concerned and provisions in Section 5 and 17 of this law is not in compliance with the constitution.—MNA

As humanitarian activities,...

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temporarily moved in Kachin State due to situation of security by the government, the UN and international organizations, social organizations and wellwishers amounted to K 268 million and clothes, personal goods, foodstuffs, medicines and school stationery worth K 1222.5 million.

The Kachin State Government is systematically providing necessary assistance for basic needs of the households at the relief camps while making systematic



arrangements for enabling the children to pursue education.

As a total of 51 schools where altogether 7872 students from 10 townships were closed down due to the conflict in the state, the state government has opened temporary schools for the students from the relief camps to continuously learn education. A total of 3153 students from the temporary relief camps are attending the schools.

Furthermore, free health care services are being provided to the families of the relief camps by opening the clinics systematically.

At present, under coordination by the Kachin State Government, humanitarian assistance by various government departments, internal social organizations and UN agencies are being distributed to the population in the relief camps and their basic necessities were provided for. However, with the

coming of cold weather, there is a need for warm clothes and blankets. Families are randomly put together in temporary accommodations which pose a challenge to families, particularly, those with young children. From the individual interviews, almost all the people from the relief camps want to return to their own villages. Children appear to be suffering from psychological trauma and the adults seem to experience a sense of insecurity and diminished confidence.

Over 14,000 displaced persons had to leave behind their homes and worldly possessions which adversely affected their economic, social and spiritual well-being.

It was learnt that as now is time to harvest paddy, the people at the relief camps especially want to live in their own areas peacefully and they are delightfully welcoming and waiting for the endeavours of the President and the Government for peace.—MNA



A bullet train pulls out of Tianjin South Railway Station in Tianjin, north China, on 12 Dec, 2011. A new operation chart was released for the Beijing-Shanghai High-speed Railway on Monday.

XINHUA

Safety board proposes ban on cell use while driving

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—US safety investigators called on Tuesday for a nationwide ban on texting and cell phone use while driving, a prohibition that would include certain applications of hands-free technology becoming more common in new cars.

The National Transportation Safety Board recommendation covers portable devices only but still goes beyond measures proposed or imposed to date by regulators and states, most of which already ban texting while behind the wheel.

"When it comes to using

electronic devices, it may seem like it's a quick call or a quick text or a tweet, but accidents happen in the blink of an eye," said NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman. "No emails, no texts, no calls. It's worth a human life."

More than 3,000 people were killed in distracted driving crashes in the United States in 2010, according to Transportation Department figures.

Most motorists participating in a Transportation Department survey released last week acknowledged few situations in which they would



A driver uses his smart phone while in traffic in Encinitas, California on 10 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

not use a cell phone or text while behind the wheel although they supported measures to curb the practice.

The five-member NTSB recommendation to states for a ban, except in an emergency,

stemmed from an investigation of a Missouri chain-reaction crash that killed two people last year, an accident blamed on a driver who was texting.

Reuters

Malaysia seizes hundreds of African elephant tusks

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Dec—Malaysian authorities say they have seized hundreds of African elephant tusks worth 4 million ringgit (\$1.3 million) that were being shipped to Cambodia.

Customs official Aziz Yacub says inspectors at Port Klang harbor found the tusks hidden in containers of handicrafts from Kenya's Mombasa port.

The shipment was headed for Cambodia's beach resort area of Sihanoukville. Officials said Tuesday they had no precise figure for the number of tusks, which weighed nearly two tons.

The seizure followed a tip-off Monday. No arrests have been made. Malaysia has stepped up inspections for illegal ivory after wildlife groups said the country was becoming a transshipment hub for tusks amid robust demand in China.—Internet

Tourism threatens tiny Philippine primate

MANILA, 14 Dec—The tiny creature turns its head slowly through 180 degrees and stares, boggle-eyed as another group of noisy tourists takes its picture from just inches away. This is the Philippine tarsier, one of the smallest primates in the world. It is a remarkable animal, just 10 centimetres (four inches) tall, weighing 120 grams (four ounces), with a rat-like tail, bat-like ears, and giant eyeballs, each one as big as its brain.

Its strange appearance is obvious, but what these tourists may not realise is that their very presence is putting the animal at risk.

The tarsier is nocturnal, lives in the forest, and is highly sensitive to daylight, noise and human contact.

According to conservationists, if it becomes stressed it will kill itself by bashing its head against a tree or the bars of its cage. "People go near and they're loud, or make a picture with the flash, or they're touching them.

Most of those tarsiers, when they become stressed they commit suicide," says Carlito Pizarra, known as The Tarsier Man.

"They don't breathe and slowly die. If you put them in a cage they want to go out. That's why they bump their heads on the cage, and it will crack because the cranium is so thin." Pizarra is the field manager at the Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary in Corella on the island of Bohol, one of the country's most popular tourist destinations.

Unlike other tarsier attractions on the island, visitors at the sanctuary are allowed to look, but not to get too close, and definitely not to touch. Different species of tarsier are found in the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. And populations in all these countries are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as "decreasing".

Internet



Philippine tarsier clinging onto a branch on Bohol island, in the Philippines Central Visayas region. The tarsier is nocturnal, lives in the forest, and is highly sensitive to daylight, noise and human contact.—INTERNET

Gunman kills two in market in Florence

ROME, 14 Dec—An Italian man with extreme right-wing views opened fire in an outdoor market in Florence Tuesday, killing two vendors from Senegal, then critically wounded three other Senegalese immigrants in another Florence market before killing himself, authorities said. Florence prosecutor Giuseppe Quattrocchi said the man shot himself in the head in an underground parking lot under the covered market of San Lorenzo, in the heart of the Tuscan capital, as police were approaching him.

Investigators identified the attacker as 50-year-old Gianluca Casseri. RAI state TV said he was known to police for having participated in racist marches by an extreme right-wing group. It said he used a .357 Magnum revolver.

Italy's president, Giorgio Napolitano, decried what he called the "barbarous killing of two foreign workers" and denounced "this blind explosion of hatred." In a statement, Napolitano called on Italian authorities and society to "combat in the bud every form of intolerance and to reaffirm the tradition of openness and solidarity in our country."

Florence Mayor Matteo Renzi described the assailant as a "clear-headed, mad and racist killer," the Italian news agency ANSA said. Renzi added: "Florence is weeping."

After the attacks, Senegalese immigrants in Florence started spontaneously marching toward the centre of the city, yelling "Senegal, Senegal." Many Senegalese work as vendors, selling scarves, wallets, belts, handbags and other items to locals and tourists near monuments in several Italian cities, including Florence and Rome.

Internet

Food poisoning affects 77 in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 14 Dec—At least 77 people were poisoned after eating spoiled food in the central Mexican state Aguascalientes, Sanitary Regulation and Control Vice Director Juan Antonio Muro said Tuesday.

The first case of food poisoning was detected Saturday in Tepezala

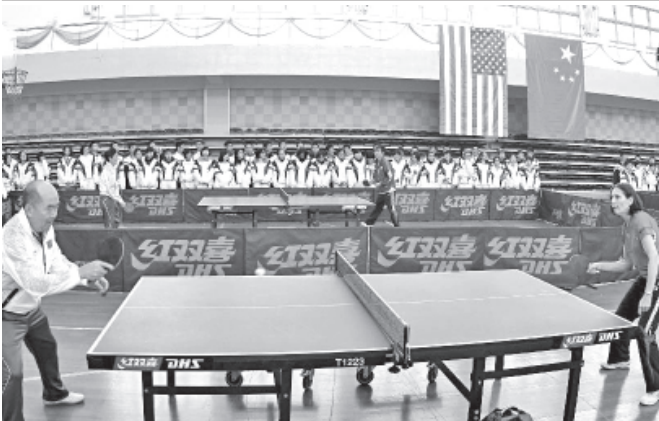
municipality, Muro said in a statement.

The food poisoning was due to the spread of a bacteria caused by poor management and preservation of cooked food, the epidemiologist from the state health ministry said.

People ate the rotten food during a party in El

Porvenir town, in Tepezala municipality. Muro said no company was responsible for the poisoning because the food was prepared by the hosts of the party.

The affected people are being treated in local hospitals. The last medical report said they are out of danger.—Xinhua



Judy Hoarfrost (R, front), a member of the original 1971 American team, plays with Liang Geliang, one of the Chinese team members in 1971, in a friendly match in Shanghai, China, on 12 Dec, 2011, as part of the events to mark the 40th anniversary of the Ping Pong Diplomacy, which led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States.—XINHUA



A customer browses through business-themed books at a bookstore in Mumbai. Whether it's a large chain retailer or the smallest bookstall at an airport departure gate, Indian bookshops all have one thing in common — the predominance of business and management titles. —INTERNET

Read for success? India's business books take off

NEW DELHI, 14 Dec—Whether it's a large chain retailer or the smallest bookstall at an airport departure gate, Indian bookshops all have one thing in common—the predominance of business and management titles.

English-language biographies of leading business figures and self-help books about how to make a fortune pack the shelves, tapping an apparent thirst for success and self-improvement in the fast-growing South Asian nation.

"Business books are very important to us," said Sonal Gandhi, head buyer at the leading chain Crossword, which has 86 stores across India.

"It's the more populist ones that really sell. We don't really do a lot of technical stuff. But we do business management, self-

help books, a lot of biographies, which sell a lot," she told *AFP*. Precise data on sales and the size of the publishing market in India are difficult to come by, given the vast unorganised retail sector and lack of accurate, computerised measuring.

But Nielsen BookScan, which tracks retail sales, said the value of the business publishing sector grew at a rate of more than 25 percent from the second to third quarter of the current financial year. The overall market increased at a rate of 18 percent value-wise in the same period.

Nielsen BookScan estimates that it tracks more than a third of all English-language Indian trade book sales, using data from retailers including Landmark, Crossword and the online book, film and music store Flipkart. —*Internet*

Trio trek Empty Quarter in footsteps of Thesiger

ABU DHABI, 14 Dec—A British explorer and two Emiratis on Tuesday completed a 44-day trek across one of the world's largest deserts, the Empty Quarter, in the footsteps of the late traveller Sir Wilfred Thesiger.

The three men riding two camels were welcomed with a large round of applause from

crowds who were waiting for them at Abu Dhabi's corniche, marking the conclusion of their 1,600-kilometre (990-mile) trip. Following closely the route taken by the British explorer in the 1940s, the team began the trip in late October from the tropical forests of Salalah south of Oman, before navigating across one of the

biggest bodies of sand on earth. British explorer Adrian Hayes made the trip with UAE nationals Saeed al-Mesafry and Ghafan al-Jabry. "I feel incredibly privileged to have undertaken such a special experience," said Hayes, 53.

"It is a lot different from 65 years ago when Mubarak Bin London visited Arabia," he said quoting the name given by bedouins to Thesiger. "I have so much respect for the journey he



British explorer Adrian Hayes arrives in Abu Dhabi after completing with two UAE nationals a 44-day trek across one of the world's largest sand deserts, the Empty Quarter, in the footsteps of late traveller Sir Wilfred Thesiger. —INTERNET



In this image taken from a video released by Luis Calvo Mackenna hospital, Jessica Navarrete, right, and Roberto Paredes, parents of conjoined twins Maria Paz and Maria Jose Paredes Navarrete kiss them before a separation surgery in Santiago, Chile, on 13 Dec, 2011. —INTERNET

Chile doctors try separating conjoined twins

SANTIAGO, (Chile), 14 Dec— Jessica Navarrete and her husband hugged in the doorway of the surgery ward Tuesday morning and kissed their twin babies Maria Paz and Maria Jose.

Inside, an army of experts was ready to try yet again to work on separating the conjoined twins, this time at the thorax, stomach and pelvic regions. It would be the seventh operation that the girls would undergo in their 10 months alive. This time, Chileans would be watching on television and the Internet.

"Sadness, a lot of sadness," Navarrete said as the operation got under way at the Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital in the capital of Santiago. "Because one as any mother feels fear, but (I have) faith that everything

undertook." Relying on basic provisions, nature and Thesiger visited during his Arabian travels in the 1940s. —*Internet*

will turn out well and I'm going to see them separated, because this is my dream.

"A miracle from God is what I'm waiting for."

The twins had lost a lot of blood by Tuesday night, but Navarrete and the girls' father, Roberto Paredes, had issued a call early in the day for the public to donate blood and doctors said later that they had enough to ease the bleeding problem.

By midnight, the twins were two-thirds separated.

"We had to completely separate the chest, and now we are starting the final separation stage of the abdomen and pelvic region," Francisco Ossandon, head of the surgical team, told reporters. —*Internet*

US drone crashes at Seychelles airport

NAIROBI, (Kenya), 14 Dec—An American military drone which had been used to monitor piracy off the East African coast has crashed at an airport on the island nation of Seychelles during a routine patrol, officials said.

The US Embassy in Mauritius said the unmanned US Air Force MQ-9 Reaper was not armed and that Tuesday's crash caused no injuries. The crash sparked a fire that was quickly extinguished.

Lina Laurence of Seychelles' civilian aviation authority said the drone developed engine problems minutes into its flight and needed to land as soon as possible Tuesday morning. "But due to its accelerated landing speed, the aircraft was unable to stop before the runway's end," Laurence said. The embassy's statement said the cause of the crash is being investigated.

"It has been confirmed that this drone was unarmed and its failure was due to mechanical reasons," Laurence said.

The affected runway was closed for about 10 minutes as a "precautionary measure," but was later reopened with no disruption to airport operations, Laurence said.

The US military and the civilian aviation authority of Seychelles have coordinated to remove the debris, officials said. —*Internet*

Taylor's ring from Burton fetches \$8.8m in NY

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—A 33.19-carat diamond ring given to Elizabeth Taylor by actor Richard Burton, whom she married twice, sold for \$8,818,500 at an auction of gems, fabulous clothes, accessories and memorabilia amassed by the late actress.

The ring, estimated to sell for \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million, was included in a collection of Taylor's necklaces, earrings, pendants and rings and other gems that went on sale Tuesday night at Christie's auction house in New York City. The ring was purchased by a private buyer from Asia, according to a Christie's spokesman.

A pearl known as "La Peregrina" purchased at auction for \$37,000 in 1969 by Burton for Taylor reached the world record price of \$11,842,500. It was estimated to sell for \$2 million to \$3 million.

The price surpassed the previous auction record for a pearl, set in 2007 at Christie's New York with the sale of The Baroda Pearls for \$7,096,000. —*Internet*



This, 1 Sept, 2011, file photo shows "The Elizabeth Taylor Diamond," a 33.19 carat a gift to the actress from Richard Burton at Christie's, in New York. —INTERNET

Japan to install radar at Tokyo Haneda airport to reduce bird strikes

TOKYO, 14 Dec—Japan will install radar equipment at Tokyo's Haneda airport in April to prevent birds from colliding with airplanes that could cause plane crashes, according to local media citing officials from ministry of transport.

It is the first such high-tech effort to be made in the country due to the rising bird strikes at the nation's busiest airport, the officials said.

The radar after installation can locate the positions of birds up to 300 meters high, so that people can track their movements on screen and deal with them more easily. The radar can measure the size and the type of birds while the monitors will be able estimate where birds are likely to fly, and it can disperse the birds by using popping sounds over loudspeakers. Bird strike cases have been increasing at the Haneda airport in recent years. Last year there were a total of 171 cases, and this year already outpaced last year, with 176 cases in the first nine months. Similar equipment will be installed at other airports if the project proved to be effective, the officials said. —*Xinhua*

FOR SALE BY OWNER

A plot of Grant Land area (50) acres situated on Salon Island, Kawthaung District, Taninthayi Region has to be sold.

Contact directly to the Owner
Phone No. 09 5010043, 09 5158413
Suitable for hotel accomodation, Resort and Natural Garden.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES

It is found out that some members (Myanmars/ Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmars/Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are kindly requested to come and clear their outstanding dues at our Reception Counter by 31st January, 2012 at the latest.

General Manager
 City Golf Resort

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (047)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (047) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2011 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SEA DRAGON VOY NO (12)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA DRAGON VOY NO (12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Take Fire Preventive Measures

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DAGGER VOY NO (15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAGGER VOY NO (15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD S'PORE

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (09)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (09) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: NYK LINE TOKYO, JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADEMARK CAUTION

SmithKline Beecham (Cork) Limited of Currabinny, Carrigaline, County Cork, Ireland is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

AVANDARYL

(Reg. No. IV/7088/2008)
 (Reg. No. IV/10514/2011)

in respect of - Int'l Class 5: "Pharmaceutical preparations and substances"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
 E-mail: mtpp@mtppmail.net.mm
 Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666
 Yangon. 15 December 2011



Toyota will be supplied with clean diesel engines by BMW.—INTERNET

Japan extends tax breaks on fuel-efficient vehicles

Tokyo, 14 Dec — Japan has extended tax breaks for fuel-efficient vehicles, in a bid to help its struggling domestic car industry. Originally scheduled to expire in April, the incentive will con-



Stephen King with the surfboard after the shark attack.— INTERNET

Shark spares surfer by the skin of its teeth

CANBERRA, 14 Dec — A surfer has had a lucky escape after a shark took a bite out of his board while he was in the sea off the coast of Australia. Stephen King was taking an early morning surf near the village of Angourie in New South Wales when the shark swam up and lunged at him. He quickly pulled his legs out of the water, saving them from major injury, and escaped with only minor puncture wounds.

His board fared less well, ending up with a large chunk out of one side and in two pieces. Mr King said: "There was just a bang from the side and I went cartwheeling through the air, then there was this thrashing beside me. "I'm probably the luckiest

guy on two legs at the moment. Yeah, unbelievable," he added as he showed off his damaged board. Hours after the lucky escape, children were swimming on the same beach.

Experts warned that people must take care when entering the sea, which is ultimately a shark's domain. "You've got to be realistic. This is their territory and we're just the visitors," said Vic Peddemors, a researcher from the government Department of Primary Industries. Safely back on shore, Mr King laughed with his friend about the close call and said:

"I'm blessed." He has agreed to allow his board to be displayed in a local museum.

Internet

Woman charged with village murder

LONDON, 14 Dec — A 23-year-old woman has been charged with the murder of Emma Jones in the village of Penygroes in Gwynedd in the early hours of Saturday. Police said Alwen Eluned Jones, from the nearby village of Llanllyfni, will appear before Caernarfon magistrates on Monday. Earlier, detectives confirmed 31-year-old Emma Jones died as a result of a stab wound.

A man and woman who were also arrested have been released without charge. An appeal for witnesses has been issued. Ms Jones was pronounced dead in hospital following the stabbing. On Sunday, forensic experts have remained at flats in Trem y Wyddfa. The coroner has been informed and a family liaison officer is supporting Ms Jones' family.

The death came as Penygroes was about to celebrate its Christmas fayre, with preparations for the community event filmed for the S4C programme, Mel a Nia. Tributes to Ms Jones have been posted on a special page on the social networking site Facebook.

Internet

Over 90,000 detained for illegal food production, gambling, drug trafficking

BEIJING, 14 Dec — Chinese police had investigated over 132,000 cases and detained more than 90,000 suspects by November in a nationwide crackdown on a set of highly attended offenses, especially food and drug safety cases.

The high-profile campaign, launched on 22 Aug by the Ministry of Public Security, aims to eliminate illegal food producers and vendors, factories producing counterfeit goods and markets built for the disposal of stolen goods, pornography, gambling and drug trafficking.

A statement issued on Sunday by the ministry summarized the "preliminary progress" of the campaign, stating that 28,000 venues used for illegal activities have been shut down during the first 100 days.

Xinhua

tinue until April 2015. Japan's domestic car sector has been hit by natural disasters at home and abroad, as well as by the strength of the yen. Tax breaks on green vehicles vary according to the model and type of car.

Although companies such as Toyota and Nissan are known around the world, Japan's overall domestic car market has grown very little in recent years. Fuel-efficient vehicles have offered a bright spot within the sector.

The news from Japan came as negotiators at the United Nations climate change talks in Durban agreed for the first time to bring the world's biggest polluting countries into efforts to limit global warming.

Internet

Man trashed house, thought woman trapped

Police in Utah said a man who had taken a substance destroyed the inside of his father's home because he was convinced his girlfriend was trapped in the walls.

West Valley City police said the man, who had apparently overdosed on a substance, called for help Saturday afternoon and told officers he had heard his girlfriend calling from help from behind the walls of the home, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported Monday.

Police said they found the man had destroyed the interior of the home, which belongs to his father, who was out of town at the time of the incident.

Investigators said they found the girlfriend was vacationing in Texas and was unaware of the incident.



School gives belts to sagging pupils

Administrators at a South Carolina high school said students caught with saggy pants will now receive loaner belts instead of written referrals.

William Cureton, an administrative assistant and assistant football coach for Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, said he came up with the idea for the loaner belts after talking to colleagues who were similarly frustrated by students whose pants sag beneath their underwear, the *Rock Hill Herald* reported Monday.

"We see kids with their britches hanging down all the time," Cureton said. "We want to change the culture."

Museum sells grenade-shaped ornaments

Visitors to the Swedish Army museum are questioning whether its hand grenade-shaped Christmas tree ornaments are in bad taste.

The Stockholm museum is selling the ornaments to raise money for Christian Aid, a charity that combats poverty and helps with disaster relief, Swedish news agency *TT* reported Monday.

"Support Christian Aid and their work for peace and against poverty by buying our Christmas ornaments which are a subtle reminder of those who are less fortunate than we are during the holiday season," the museum said in announcing the ornaments on its Web site.

However, some museum visitors said they find the ornaments to be distasteful.

"Quite simply I think it's distasteful, especially if they are raising money for charity."

This is a museum frequented by children and it's hard to explain to them why there are hand grenades in the Christmas trees," visitor Elinor Lindeborg said. "This is an Army Museum, but should still try to highlight a non-war perspective."

News Album

Megan Fox gets oxygen facial once every week



Megan Fox

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—Megan Fox has revealed that she gets an oxygen facial once a week as she thinks that it's important to take care of her skin.

The stunning actress said that when not working, she likes to indulge in a weekly treatment to keep her looking at her best.

"I don't have time to do masks, but I love having them done as part of a facial. If I'm not working, I have an oxygen facial once a week. It's important to go out and have

a steam and get the toxins out," Contactmusic quoted her as telling Britain's *InStyle* magazine. The 'Jennifer's Body' actress also revealed that she tries not to wear make-up when she doesn't have to.

"I don't wear make-up when I'm not working, unless I'm going on a date with my husband. Then, I'll do a dewy tinted moisturiser with a lip gloss and tons of mascara. I have a lot of mascara."

"I wash my face and moisturise twice a day with Epicuren Discovery's Bulgarian Rose Otto and apply Perricone MD's Vitamin C Ester Eye Serum a few times a day. I don't wear sunscreen, because I feel like I'm allergic to the chemicals in it. I stay out of the sun as much as possible and always wear hats," she added.—*Internet*

Julianne Moore did her research before playing Sarah Palin's role

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—Julianne Moore has revealed that she did her research on Sarah Palin before tackling her role as the former Alaskan governor for HBO's 'Game Change' miniseries.

The 51-year-old actress said that she "read every single thing" she could about Palin and "watched every interview" in order to prepare for her role as the former Alaska governor in the new TV series.

Moore was asked if she had developed a newfound respect for Palin after delving deeper into her life. The actress raised an eyebrow and sighed deeply, and quietly said "No". The series is based on the book of the same name



Julianne Moore

by journalists John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, the *New York Daily News* reported. It will primarily track the actions of the Republican Party during the 2008 Presidential Election.—*Internet*



Jessica Simpson

Pregnant Jessica Simpson signs 3 million-dollar weight-loss deal

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—Mom-to-be Jessica Simpson has signed a 3 million-dollar deal with Weight Watchers, according to reports. Sources have told the *New York Post* that the blond star has been flooded with offers from a number of weight-loss programmes.

"The deal is in place, and after having her baby, she'll start with Weight Watchers to lose her baby weight," a source told the publication.

Another reason, which has prompted Simpson to get in shape fast is that she hopes to wed her fiancé, Eric Johnson, soon after she gives birth.—*Internet*

Blake Lively designs charity cupcake

LONDON, 14 Dec—Actress Blake Lively, known for teen drama "Gossip Girl", has designed cupcakes for charity.

The 24-year-old was spotted at a Sprinkles Cupcakes store in New York 9 Dec making deserts which will be sold to raise cash for charity.

"She came in with girlfriends to create it. Blake (Lively) helped design and add her own touches to it. It's a S'mores cupcake."

It features a Graham cracker bottom, deep gooey chocolate, and a S'mores-like burned-marsh-mallow top," female-first.co.uk quoted Lively as saying.

The cupcake will be launched in January next year and all proceeds will benefit Oxfam International Somalia.

Internet



Actress Blake Lively

Lindsay Lohan gets stolen purse back, but without cash

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—Actress Lindsay Lohan's stolen purse has been returned but cash worth USD 10,000 has gone missing.

According to tmz.com, Lohan had accidentally left her USD 5,000 Chanel purse in a car while partying in Hawaii, however, when she returned, it was missing. Apart from USD 10,000 cash, the purse also contained her passport and probation papers. One of her friends questioned a "suspicious-looking local" who firstly denied any knowledge of the handbag, but showed up with the bag in hand just minutes later.—*Internet*



Sandra Bullock recalls 9/11 attack

LONDON, 14 Dec—Actress Sandra Bullock says her upcoming movie "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" has special significance in her life because the film reminds her of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre.

The 47-year-old plays one of the lead roles in the movie, which is an adaptation of the novel with the same name.

The film tells the story of a young boy whose father die in the 9/11 attack.

"I was here on that day with my sister and brother-in-law...It was just one of those days that you saw New Yorkers being the amazing human beings that they are and everyone helping and bonding together," contactmusic.com quoted Bullock as saying.

Although Bullock didn't lose anyone directly in the tragedy, she is still affected by the terror attacks.

"It's so hard to talk about. I didn't lose someone directly, but I was there to experience other people's loss. It's not just



Sandra Bullock

an accident [or] something that happens, it was an intended action and that's hard to understand," she added.—*Internet*

Madrid beats third-tier Ponferradina 2-0 in Copa

BARCELONA, 14 Dec — Real Madrid shrugged off its weekend defeat by Barcelona to beat third-tier Ponferradina 2-0 away in the fourth round of the Copa del Rey on Tuesday.

Jose Callejon put the cup holders ahead



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, right shoots to score during a Spanish Copa del Rey, round of 16, first leg soccer match against Ponferradina at the Toralín stadium in Ponferrada, Spain.

INTERNET

in the 29th minute of the first leg match.

Callejon steered Sami Khedira's bouncing cross into the top right corner as the former Espanyol forward continues to make the most of his limited opportunities with his new club.

Madrid played with 10 men from the 69th after defender Raul Albiol collected a second booking, but Cristiano Ronaldo made the game safe five minutes later.

The Portugal forward—heavily criticized for his performance in Saturday's 3-1 league defeat by Barcelona—ran onto Gonzalo Higuain's pass and shot under the goalkeeper from the left side of the area for his 22nd goal in all competitions this season.

Despite the score and the steady rain, the 8,500 fans at Toralín Stadium celebrated the rare match against the nine-team European champion by doing a Mexican wave in the game's dying minutes.

Internet

Inter Milan beats Genoa 1-0 in Serie A



Inter Milan midfielder Ricardo Alvarez, left, of Argentina, challenges for the ball with Genoa defender Emiliano Moretti during the Serie A soccer match at the Ferraris stadium in Genoa, Italy.

INTERNET

MILAN, 14 Dec — Inter Milan's revival gathered pace on Tuesday with a 1-0 win at Genoa that moved the club into the top half of the Serie A table.

However, the entertainment of the night was to be found in Sicily, where Siena progressed to the quarterfinals of the Italian Cup by beating Palermo on 3-0 penalties following a thrilling 4-4 draw.

Josip Ilicic scored a hat trick for cupholder Palermo, including two penalties, but missed his spot-kick in the shootout.

In Genoa, Japanese international Yuto Nagatomo headed the winner in the 67th minute, though the victory margin would have been greater were it not for a glaring error by misfiring striker Diego Milito.

It was Milito's first game against Genoa, where he

spent two and a half highly prolific seasons. The Argentine left in 2009 to join Inter.

Genoa almost leveled in the closing stages but keeper Julio Cesar pulled off a stunning save to deny Miguel Veloso.

Internet



Inter Milan defender Yuto Nagatomo, of Japan, scores a goal during the Serie A soccer match between Genoa and Inter Milan on 13 Dec.

INTERNET

Toure admits to feeling 'guilty and confused' after Manchester City delay the Ivorian's departure

LONDON, 14 Dec — Manchester City have been granted special dispensation to delay Yaya Toure's departure for the Africa Cup of Nations.

The Ivory Coast international had looked set to miss out on the FA Cup third round match against Manchester United and the first leg of the League Cup semi-final with Liverpool, but he will now be able to feature in both.

Although glad he can take part in two important matches, Yaya admits to feeling indifferent about the situation, with his loyalties split between club and country.

The former Barcelona man told reporters: "Our country needs people like myself and Didier Drogba

because there is a war and it's important we do what we can for our people, but this is also a crucial time of the season.

"There are two crucial months coming up and now I am going to miss one of them. "The team, the club and the manager need me, but I will have to go away and play in a different competition.

"It's difficult as I am very focused for City and we need all the players.

"I have to go because my country is going through some difficult things, but I am a little bit guilty and confused about it.

Internet



Yaya Toure admits to feeling 'guilty and confused' after Manchester City delay the Ivorian's departure for the African Cup of Nations.—INTERNET

Villas-Boas targets Chelsea title challenge



Andre Villas-Boas and his Chelsea staff celebrate their 2-1 win against Manchester City.

INTERNET

LONDON, 14 Dec — Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas believes his team are right back in the race for the Barclays Premier League title after their 2-1 win over leaders Manchester City.

The Blues came from a goal behind to condemn City to their first defeat of the

season at Stamford Bridge on Monday, with Raul Meireles and a Frank Lampard penalty proving decisive.

The win lifts Chelsea to third and means they are now only seven points behind City, who face Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

"Seven points behind in this League with so many teams competing for the title is nothing," said Villas-Boas. "To shorten it to seven is good for us, but we must continue to perform.

"In the next couple of weeks, City play Arsenal and we play Tottenham, and for our title challenge to stay alive we have to be competent right throughout December.—Internet

International Sports

Murray's mother to captain Britain in Fed Cup



Judy Murray

LONDON, 14 Dec — Andy Murray's mother has been appointed captain of Britain's Fed Cup team.

The Lawn Tennis Association said Thursday that Judy Murray will lead Britain in its 1-4 Feb Europe-Africa Group I match against Israel in Eilat and mentor other female per-

formance coaches.

Murray, who was the Scotland national coach for nine years, trained three-time Grand Slam finalist Andy Murray early in his career. She is a familiar figure at the No 4-ranked player's matches—regularly jumping to her feet to shout encouragement from the stands.

She also coached son Jamie, a Wimbledon mixed doubles champion in 2007.

"It is a huge honor for me to represent my country in this way," she said. "The role presents a very exciting challenge, given the mix of talent, experience and determination we have in our top female players right now.

Internet

Podolski snatches 1-1 draw for Cologne with Mainz

BERLIN, 14 Dec — Lukas Podolski scored a late equalizer to earn Cologne a 1-1 draw against Mainz on Tuesday in a Bundesliga game postponed because of a referee's suicide attempt.

Podolski unleashed a fierce shot from 20 metres (yards) that flew in off the right post in the 85th minute.

It was the Germany forward's 14th goal of the season.

"You can never completely stop Poldi. That's the difference," Mainz goalkeeper Christian Wetklo said.

Sami Allagui put Mainz

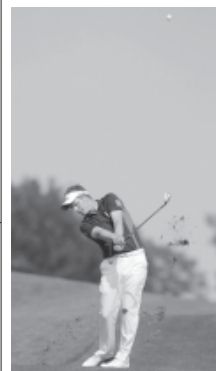
Cologne's striker Lukas Podolski celebrates during the German first division Bundesliga football match on 13 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET



Winning 2 money titles kept Donald on the go

JACKSONVILLE, 14 Dec — Luke Donald is the first player to win the money title on the PGA Tour and the European Tour in the same season. He is not the first player to win the most money on both tours in the same year.



England's Luke Donald hits a ball on the 2nd hole during the final round of the Dubai World Championship golf tournament on 11 Dec.

INTERNET

The European Tour media guide lists Tiger Woods as the "leading money winner in Europe" six times—1999, 2000, 2002 and three straight seasons starting in 2005. The Order of Merit was won those years by Colin Montgomerie ('99, '05), Lee Westwood ('00), Retief Goosen ('01), Padraig Harrington ('06) and Justin Rose ('07).

This is more than a case of semantics, though. To be eligible for the money title, a player must be a member of each tour. Membership requires a minimum number of starts. And that requires some juggling of tournaments and a fair amount of travel.

Donald played 25 times this year between the PGA Tour and European Tour, with the majors and World Golf Championships counting toward both tours. Technically, he was credited with 19 starts on the PGA Tour and 13 starts on the European Tour.

Internet

Johnson goes back to his old caddie

JUPITER, 14 Dec — Dustin Johnson has hired a new caddie—his old one. Johnson said Tuesday that he has rehired Bobby Brown, who was on his bag for four of his five PGA Tour wins. Brown also was at his side when Johnson shot 82 in the final round of the US Open at Pebble Beach, and when Johnson was given a two-shot penalty in the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits for not realizing he was in a bunker.

Johnson fired Brown in the spring and hired Joe LaCava, who then left Johnson in October to work for Tiger Woods.

Johnson, who is recovering from minor knee surgery, says he's expecting a big season next year. Brown says he and Johnson have remained friends and he's happy for another chance.—Internet

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(15-12-2011) (Thursday)**

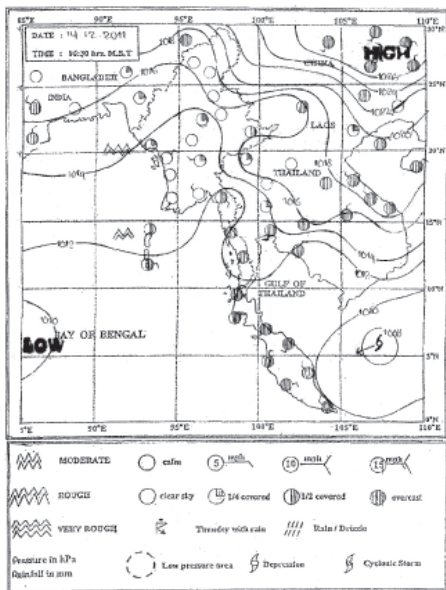
Local	Transmissions	Times
Overseas Transmission	- (09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST - (15-12-11 09:30 am ~16-12-11 09:30 am) MST	

Local Transmission

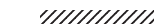
- * Opening
- * News
- * A Festival on Buddha's Life Story (Part-2)
- * News
- * A Trip to the City of Rakkhita, Rakhine
- * News
- * Record Album
- * Reed Handbag
- * News

- * Myanmar Social and Charitable Association (Episode-2)
- Overseas Transmission**
- * Opening
- * News
- * A Festival on Buddha's Life Story (Part-2)
- * News
- * A Trip to the City of Rakkhita, Rakhine
- * News
- * Record Album

- * Reed Handbag
- * News
- * Myanmar Social and Charitable Association (Episode-2)
- * News
- * Youth & Technology (Chin TwinTechnology Training School)
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Against All Odds
- * News
- * Ever Blooming Flower
- * News
- * Travelogue "A Short Trip With Wayne"
- * Myanmar Movies "Essence of Devotion"

**Weather Map of Myanmar and
Neighbouring Areas**


**Thursday,
15 December
View on today**



7:00 am

1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta

7:30 am

2. Morning News

7:40 am

3. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am

4. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am

5. Health Programme

8:10 am

6. Dance of National Races

8:20 am

7. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

8:30 am

8. Dance of Variety

8:40 am

9. International News

8:45 am

10. Musical Programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:10 pm

2. Musical Programme

4:25 pm

3. Cute Little Dancers

4:35 pm

4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

4:45 pm

5. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)

5:00 pm

6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:10 pm

7. One village & One Product

5:20 pm

8. Science and Environment

5:40 pm

9. Documentary

6:00 pm

10. Evening News

6:15 pm

11. Weather Report

6:20 pm

12. Myanmar Series

6:40 pm

13. Approachaig Science discovery World

7:00 pm

14. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International News

17. Weather Report

18. Documentary

19. TV Drama Series

20. TV Drama Series

WEATHER

Wednesday, 14 December, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Pinlaung (4°C), Heho and Mogoke (5°C) each and Namhsan (6°C).

Nay Pyi Taw weather: Maximum temperature on 13-12-2011 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 14-12-2011 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-12-2011 was 82%. Total rainfall hours on 14-12-2011 was (Nil).

Nay Pyi Taw (Airport) weather: Maximum temperature on 13-12-2011 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 14-12-2011 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-12-2011 was 73%. Total rainfall hours on 14-12-2011 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 14-12-2011 was (Nil) at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and Mandalay each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (59.88) inches at Nay Pyi Taw, (128.19) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (48.54) inches at Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (4) mph from West at (12:30) hours MST on 14-12-2011.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and West Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Special Feature: According to the observation at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over South China Sea is centered at about (220) miles South of (Con Son) island, Southern Vietnam. It is forecast to move West- Southwest direction.

Forecast valid until evening of 15th December 2011: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State and weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of night temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-12-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-12-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-12-2011: Generally fair weather.

'The Help' leads Screen Actors honours with 4 noms

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec—The Deep South drama "The Help" cleaned up with four nominations Wednesday for the Screen Actors Guild Awards, among them honours for Viola Davis, Jessica Chastain and Octavia Spencer. The adaptation of the best-selling novel also was nominated for best ensemble cast, along with the silent film "The Artist," the wedding comedy "Bridesmaids," the family drama "The Descendants" and the romantic fantasy "Midnight in Paris."

Davis is up for best actress and Spencer for supporting actress as black maids who agree to share stories of their tough lives with an aspiring white writer at the start of the civil-rights movement in 1960s Mississippi. Chastain also was nominated for supporting actress as Spencer's lonely, needy new boss.

"The Artist" ran second with three nominations, including a best-actor



In this 3 Sept. 2011 photo, from left, Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer and Allison Janney, pose for a photo for their film "The Help" during the 37th American Film Festival in Deauville, Normandy, France. The Deep South drama "The Help" leads the Screen Actors Guild Awards with four nominations, among them honors for Viola Davis, Jessica Chastain and Octavia Spencer.—INTERNET

honour for Jean Dujardin as a silent star falling from grace amid the advent of talking pictures and supporting actress for Berenice Bejo, who plays a rising sound-era movie star.

Along with Davis, best-actress contenders are Glenn Close as a woman disguising herself as a male butler in 19th-century Ireland in

"Albert Nobbs"; Meryl Streep as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady"; Tilda Swinton as a grief-stricken woman coping with her son's horrible deeds in "We Need to Talk About Kevin"; and Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe in "My Week With Marilyn."

Internet

To ensure livelihood, economic and religious affairs of the people and prevalence of law in their respective regions, administrators to coordinate with all organizations keeping balance while doing their bit in setting up economic and social development of the State

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, accompanied by Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and departmental heads, left here for Lashio, Shan State (North) by special flight yesterday morning. They were welcomed by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Ministers and officials concerned.

The Vice-President and party visited learning of students, science lab, reading room, computer lab, language lab and library at No.7 Basic Education High School in Lashio.

Later on, the Vice-President met teachers from Basic Education High Schools at Pyinnya Yadana Hall there.

At the call, he said that the aim of their tour was to know education programme being implemented by the President and fulfill the need of BEHS.

The State has opened the school across the country as well as employing a lot of teachers to be able to cope with the increasing number of students. But, the large number of teachers is still in need. When there is the large proportion of students and teachers, there would be weakness in teaching. So, the State is still trying to reduce this high proportion, he said.

Strenuous efforts are being made by every school across the country in order to meet the high matriculation exam pass rate. It is so crucial that all those students who have passed the exam need to be qualified. The State has been holding workshops occasionally so as to promote the weak education system. Due to that, there emerge fruitful suggestions not only for basic level education but also for higher level education.

The more the quality of students; that emphasis should be placed on students-centered approach to be able to get rid of parrot learning method and the teachers on their part are to give more time for the teaching, he said.

The State is practising compulsory education system in order that every student has easy access to basic education. The State is distributing text books free of charge this year. Efforts are being made to provide them with stationery in addition to text books, based on the State's financial budget. English is the most commonly-used language after mother tongue. So, the teachers on their part are to teach their students English to get good command. Lessons like moral characters, public ethics in addition to formal lessons should be put in the syllabus. It is also

essential that the syllabus should cover health and sport activities, generating moral, mental and physical development. It is very important to nature students to turn out the outstanding students with a view to promoting the sport standard of the country, he said.

The teachers should nature their students to know the good practice of clean environments since young. Arrangements have been made for granting scholarship programme and stipends for the outstanding and needy students, which will be in operation in coming academic year. The State on their part has already provided the necessary assistances. But, to meet the need of the rest, cooperation between parent-teacher association and school boards of trustees is essential, he said.

After that, the Vice-President donated K 2 million to the education fund through the school head.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented sports gears donated by the Sports Ministry to the headmaster. And General Manager U Aung Min Thein of Shwe Than Win Co also donated two sets of Sky Net TV.

The Vice-President then greeted teachers.

The Vice-President said in meeting with village/ward/township/district level administrators of Lashio and townselders that the onus is on administrators to serve as a bridge between the State and the people.

Some administrators are government employees and some are ones elected by the people. Whoever they are, they are to implement policies set by the State while serving public interests and reporting necessary measures to the government.

(See page 8)



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets doctors, nurses and staff at Nursing and Midwifery Training School in Lashio.—MNA

As humanitarian activities, Union government, MRCS, UNHCR, UNICEF and USDP donate relief supplies such as rice, sweater and personal goods to families who were displaced due to conflict in Maijayan region of Bhamo District

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The government formed a Union level peace group with 11 members for achieving eternal peace in Kachin State and assigns duty to the group to meet KIA/KIO group not only for serving the interest of local national people but also for focusing on peace and stability of the Union. In so doing, the President Office on 10 December has instructed the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for the government military columns in the Kachin State not to engage in offensive operations against the KIA and not to move the troops except in its defence to be able to build trusts between the two sides while making peace talks. It was reported that the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has sent instructions to regiments, units and columns in the region. On other hand, members of the peace group are seriously striving for holding peace talks.

As humanitarian activities, the Union government, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, UNHCR, UNICEF and Union Solidarity and Development Party donate relief supplies such as rice, sweater and personal goods to the families who were displaced due to present conflict in Maijayan region of Bhamo District. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission went to Bhamo and coordinated with local authorities for soonest distribution of donated supplies

possible to the respective camps in Bhamo.

The donations for the families displaced as a result of conflicts comprised six relief items for 1000 households by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, 300 bags of rice and 1000 sweaters by Union Solidarity and Development Party, 400 sets of family kit by Myanmar Red Cross Society, four relief items for 500 households by UNHCR, 25 relief items for 300 households by UNICEF. All donations have been sent to Maijayan region on 12 December.

Moreover, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided six relief items for 2345 households, 300 boxes of instant noodle and 3560 sweaters for 3022 households from 55 relief camps, WFP 343.87 tons of rice, 43.862 tons of gram, 22.17 tons of edible oil and 3.655 tons of salt, UNHCR 270 tents, 1459 blankets, 1459 mosquito nets, 755 sets of kitchen utensils and 755 sheets of tarpaulin, and UNICEF medicines for emergency cases, 30 boxes of medical equipment and health aid materials.

Under the arrangements of the ministry, Nyein Foundation donated stationery, soaps and mosquito nets worth K 49,553,030, Myitta Foundation general relief supplies worth K 255.2 million, Kachin Baptist Church (KBC) cash and general assistance worth K 121 million,

World Vision 18 items of general supplies worth K 49,227,000, Karuna (Myitkyina) Social Society general supplies worth K 92.3 million, Swiss Aids K 400,000 and World Concern stationery and clothes.

Likewise, the Kachin State Government and people donated foodstuffs, personal goods, clothes, medicines and school stationery worth K 32,092,000 and K 2,8643,000, departments concerned in Kachin State relief supplies worth K 99,833,530 and K 23,014,400, MRCS family and kitchen utensils worth K 165 million, social and religious associations and wellwishers various items of aids worth K 50 million and K 33.7 million, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives K 70 million. The donations and provisions for the families who

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Over 14,000 displaced persons had to leave behind their homes and possessions which adversely affected their economic, social and spiritual well-being.