

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 5 December, 2008

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to King of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone 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.

Edible oil crops thriving in Nawnghkio

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and departmental officials on 2 December visited edible oil crop (oil radish) plantation of farmer U Tin Yan at Shwemuhtaw Village in Nawnghkio Township.

(See page 8)



Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspects edible oil crop (oil radish) plantation in Nawnghkio Township.—MNA

How to destroy an asteroid: Blowing up killer space rocks without dangerous debris

TEL AVIV, 4 Dec— In the hit 1998 movie Armageddon, heroes of the movie blew up an aster-



oid to save the world. While the film was science fiction, the chances of an asteroid hitting the Earth one day are very real—and blowing up an asteroid in real life, says a Tel Aviv University researcher, will be more complicated than in the movies.

Astrophysicists agree that the best method for

avoiding a catastrophic collision would be to change the path of the asteroid heading toward our planet. "For that to work, we need to be able to predict what would happen if we attempt an explosion," says Tel Aviv University doctoral student David Polishook, who is studying asteroids with his supervisor Dr. Noah Brosch at the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Sciences.

Internet

Sun's magnetic field may impact weather and climate: Sun cycle can predict rainfall fluctuations

CANBERRA, 4 Dec — The sun's magnetic field may have a significant impact on weather and climatic parameters in Australia and other countries in the northern and southern hemispheres. According to a study in Geographical Research, the droughts are related to the solar magnetic phases and not the greenhouse

effect.

The study uses data

from 1876 to the present to examine the correlation between solar cycles and the extreme rainfall in Australia.

Internet



PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 5 December, 2008

Prevent and control HIV/AIDS collectively

Today, AIDS is spreading rapidly like an epidemic throughout the world. So, many countries are paying special attention to AIDS control measures and taking care of those infected with HIV.

Myanmar is launching AIDS control campaigns at the national level. In the process, the Central Committee for Prevention and Control of AIDS was formed in 1989. The committees at state and division, district and township levels are stepping up AIDS control measures.

In particular, they are working together with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and internal NGOs for prevention of HIV infection against women and caring for women infected with HIV. At the same time, the committees at all levels are providing consultancy, giving educative talks and rendering effective treatments to the victims.

The United Nations AIDS body announced that as a result of those measures, Myanmar's HIV/AIDS cases dropped from 0.94 per cent in 2000 to 0.67 per cent in 2007.

Myanmar is playing an active role in AIDS prevention and control campaigns hand in hand with UN agencies and international NGOs.

AIDS has adverse effects not only on the health but also on social and economic development of world people. Therefore, the entire people have to participate in HIV/AIDS control campaigns in collaboration with departments concerned and social organizations and console and look after the victims.

Eye specialists from Yangon and Mandalay render free treatment to eye patients at Homalin Hospital.—MNA



People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Partners meeting on sustainable TB drug supply



Partners meeting on sustainable TB drug supply in progress.—HEALTH

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — The partners meeting on sustainable TB drug supply in Myanmar was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 December.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint stressed the need for sustainable supply of TB drug to be able to retain the current achievement in STOP TB Strategy which has been implemented in Myanmar since 2006.

Under the national health plan (2006-2011), tasks for elimination of TB have been carried out in

Myanmar and Global Drug Facility (GDF) has provided TB drug to the country since 2003.

Acting Director-General of the Health Department Dr Win Myint and Mr Robert Matiru, Chief of GDF, reviewed the TB elimination tasks and the distribution of TB drug in Myanmar.

Myanmar has practiced Directly Objective Treatment Short Course Strategy (DOTS) and over 85 per cent of TB patients recovered from the disease.

MNA

Competition on “How to Teach Effectively” on 28 Dec

YANGON, 4 Dec — STI Education will be launching a competition on “How to Teach Effectively” at Parkroyal Hotel here on 28 December.

The competition in practicum is a partial requirement of English Teachership Training courses (TESOL, TEFL and TEYLT).

STI professors (native and local) will assess the practicum prepared by the candidates in the areas: Teaching and Methods; Management and

Procedures, Use of Teaching Aids, Assessment and Monitoring, Delivery and Presentation and Personal Qualities.

STI has been substantiating Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Certificate in Teaching English to Young Learners and Teenagers (TEYLT) and Certificate in English Communication Skills (CECS) courses in collaboration with London Teacher Training College

(LTTC) based in London, UK, since January 2006. LTTC has firmly established a strong network of 100 affiliated schools in 38 countries. STI coached English teachers and so far thirty-six English teachers scored high marks in both theory and practicum assessments.

STI is a member of International Association of TESOL Qualifying Institutions (IATQI) based in England and the only education centre in Myanmar with close affiliation to IATQI.

STI has invited interested English

teachers with at least 2 years experience to submit their curriculum vitae and lesson plan in advance and to register to enter the contest not later than 15 December.

Attractive first, second and third prizes will be awarded by STI. Registration to enter the contest deadline is 10 December.

More information are available at STI Education, Blk 4, Rm 7, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township, Yangon, No. 377, Upper Shwebontha Street, Pabedan Township.

MNA

Eye care services provided to patients in Homalin

YANGON, 4 Dec — Under the arrangements of Myanmar Border Areas Development Association, a ceremony to sponsor the eye care service was held at the meeting hall of Homalin Hospital (100-bed) on 25 November.

Dr Tun Myint of the

hospital explained the purpose of the ceremony. On behalf of the donors, Daw Kywe Kywe who donated K 10 million spoke words of thanks.

Treasurer U Nyi Phyu of the association explained the efforts of the association. Eye specialists from Yangon

and Mandalay provided eye tests and treatment to the eye patients. On 25 November, they gave eye treatment to 282 patients.

The medical team also provided eye care services to 2,211 eye patients and performed surgical treatment on 286 patients.—MNA

Kidnapped aid worker released by captors

KABUL, 4 Dec—A French aid worker abducted on the streets of Kabul a month ago has been freed, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Wednesday. Thirty-two year-old Dany Egreteau who worked for the non-government organization, Solidarity Laique, was kidnapped by armed men on 3 November while walking in the centre of the Afghan capital.

An Afghan driver was killed as he tried to prevent his colleague's abduction. The French Foreign Ministry said it had been working with Afghan officials to secure Egreteau's freedom.

Egreteau, an education specialist, had arrived in Afghanistan just one week before his abduction. He is expected to return to France on Thursday.

His abduction followed a string of attacks on foreigners in Afghanistan.

In October, a Briton and South African working for the DHL international courier company were shot dead in Kabul and British aid worker, Gayle Williams, was killed in the capital days later.

In a statement released on Wednesday, Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner thanked French and Afghan authorities for their efforts in obtaining Egreteau's release, and attacked the kidnappers for targeting aid workers.—Internet



A woman comforts her five-year-old daughter Suzan Abbas in a hospital in Baghdad on 3 Dec, 2008. Suzan was wounded when a bomb attached to a minibus exploded in eastern Baghdad. Five people were injured in the blast and one was killed.—INTERNET

Ind soldiers sue over chemical exposure in Iraq

INDIANPOLIS, 4 Dec—Sixteen Indiana National Guard soldiers sued the big defence contractor KBR Inc. on Wednesday, saying its employees knowingly allowed them to be exposed to a toxic chemical in Iraq five years ago.

The federal suit filed in US District Court alleges the soldiers from a Tell City-based unit were exposed to a carcinogen while protecting an Iraqi water pumping plant shortly after the US invasion in 2003.

The 23-page complaint claims that Houston-based KBR knew at least as early as May 2003 that the plant was contaminated with sodium dichromate, a known carcinogen, but concealed the danger from civilian workers and 139 soldiers from the Indiana Guard's 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry.

"It's not right, what they done," said Mark McManaway, a 55-year-old truck driver from Cannelton who has since retired from the Guard. McManaway, the main plaintiff in the lawsuit, has suffered nosebleeds and rashes he believes are due to the chemical exposure. The chemical, used to remove pipe corrosion, is especially dangerous because it contains hexavalent chromium, which is known to cause birth defects and cancer, particularly lung cancer, the lawsuit said. The cancer can take years to develop.—Internet



A man sits near a damaged vehicle at the site of a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad's Ameen district on 3 Dec, 2008. Iraqi police said at least one civilian has been killed and five others wounded in the blast when of a bomb attached to a minibus exploded.—INTERNET

Obama's plan to close Guantanamo forces decision about inmates

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec—Barack Obama's promise to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp for suspected terrorists will force the new president to decide what to do with inmates who can't be tried for war crimes yet are deemed too dangerous to be released.

About 250 detainees remain at the prison camp opened on a US Navy base in Cuba after the 11 Sept attacks. More than 520 others have been repatriated or sent to another country. Obama said 16 Nov on CBS he will close the prison as part of an effort, including a ban on torture during interrogations, "to regain America's moral stature in the world."

Logistically, Obama may be able to "close Guantanamo pretty quickly" once he finds facilities on the mainland to house the prisoners, said Matthew Waxman, a former Defence Department official who teaches law at Columbia University. "The bigger issue is on what



Detainees at prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. —INTERNET

legal basis are you going to hold them?"

More than 100 inmates can't be put on trial because of a lack of evidence and the Bush administration considers them too dangerous to release. Legal experts suggest several options, such as keeping them under the Bush administration designation of "unlawful enemy combatant," labeling them prisoners of war or asking Congress to create a new type of preventive or administrative detention.—Internet

Drought, poverty lead children to abandon school

CHEMTAL, 4 Dec—Eight-year-old Ahmad Shafi and his younger brother spend many hours a day fetching drinking water for their family in the drought-stricken Chemtal District of Balkh Province, northern Afghanistan. They have been unable to attend school as

a result.

"We start around eight in the morning and finish by midday," Ahmad told IRIN, adding that their job was "difficult" and "long".

Ahmad's uncle, Abdul Samad - with whom his family has been living since his father died two years ago - sells vegetables

at a local bazaar, and sometimes helps Ahmad and his brother when more than the usual volume of water is needed.

"I have to work and provide food or collect water... women cannot go far to collect water, so the boys have to do this job," he said—Internet



People gather next to a damaged taxi at the site of a suicide attack in front of the Habibya High School in Kabul. INTERNET



A terminal worker stands beside a burnt Humvee military vehicle caused by insurgents' attack at the Fasial terminal in Peshawar, Pakistan, on 1 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET



State police officers stand next to the bullet-riddled vehicle where an assistant federal prosecutor was killed along with his secretary in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on 3 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Police say shackled Calif boy jumped fence to escape

TRACY, 4 Dec — After being held captive for about a year, an emaciated and shackled 17-year-old boy climbed out a window in the home of his captors and walked into a nearby gym in search of help, police said on Wednesday.

Authorities were still investigating the boy’s alleged imprisonment and abuse by a California cou-

ple, but details of his escape were becoming clearer, police said.

The boy has been released from a hospital and was in the custody of Child Protective Services, Tracy police spokesman Matt Robinson said.

Law enforcement officers also were trying to determine how the aunt and one-time guardian of the teen knew the couple accused of holding him against his will for nearly a year.

Internet

Bus carrying students collides with truck in Illi

LOSTANT, 4 Dec — A chartered bus carrying students collided with a semitrailer Wednesday night on icy roads in north-central Illinois, sending at least 18 people to the hospital, authorities said. None of the injuries appeared life-threatening.

Ten ambulances were sent to the accident site on Interstate 39, said Illinois State Police spokeswoman Paris Ervin. At least two vehicles including the bus were involved in the collision, which occurred on an icy road, although it was too early to speculate on a cause, Ervin said. Students went to three area hospitals, said a dispatcher at the LaSalle County sheriff’s office. Fifty-six students were on the bus, but the dispatcher did not know how many people were injured.—Internet

Russia to send warship through Panama Canal

PANAMA CITY, 4 Dec — Russia said Wednesday it is sending a warship through the Panama Canal for the first time since World War II, a short journey loaded with symbolic weight: the destroyer will dock at a former US naval base, showcasing Russia’s growing influence in the region.

Russia appears to be relishing the idea of stopping at what was long a symbol of US global power; the Russian Navy announced it would visit “the Rodman naval base” — a name that the host nation, Panama has not used since taking over the base from the United States in 1999.

The destroyer Admiral Chabanenko is scheduled to enter the Panama Canal on Friday morning and arrive late in the day at what Panama calls the Balboa Naval Base.

“It is a sort of tit-for-tat for Russia’s perception of US meddling in Georgia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe,” and has little military purpose, said Adam Isacson, an analyst for the Washington-based Centre for International Policy.

Russia, like the United States, already has ports with access to both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

“Sending a destroyer through the Panama Canal obviously has a lot of symbolic significance (and) this is primarily symbolism,” said analyst Michael Shifter of the Inter-American Dialogue think tank in Washington.—Internet



An Iraqi covers his face as he passes a cluster bomb in the Baladiyat neighbourhood of Baghdad in 2003. Some 100 nations began putting their names Wednesday to a landmark treaty banning cluster bombs, amid calls for major arms producers such as China, Russia and the United States to join them.

INTERNET

Prosecutor slain in violent Mexico border city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 4 Dec — The No 2 federal prosecutor in a violent Mexican border city near Texas has been shot dead.

Jesus Martin Huerta is one of the highest ranking government officials killed in drug-fueled violence sweeping Ciudad Juarez.

The attorney general’s office says two gunmen opened fire on Huerta’s car while it was stopped at an intersection.

A woman behind the wheel who also worked for the attorney general’s office was also killed.

Police named no suspects in Wednesday’s attack.

But drug gangs have increasingly targeted po-

lice and federal officials as they resist a national crackdown.

More than a dozen police officers have been shot dead this year in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas.—Internet

Israel opens Gaza border to foreign journalists

JERUSALEM, 4 Dec — Israel has lifted a four-week-old ban on international journalists entering the Gaza Strip.

Israeli military spokesman Peter Lerner says the move also applies to international aid workers who had been banned. The announcement follows weeks of pressure from foreign governments and the leaders of major news organizations urging Israel to reopen Gaza to the media.

The Foreign Press Association in Israel condemned the ban as a violation of press freedoms.

The Israeli-Gaza crossing had been closed for more than four weeks since a shaky truce between Israel and Gaza’s Hamas rulers began to unravel.—Internet

Governor of key Afghan Province sacked

KANDAHAR, 4 Dec — The governor of Afghanistan’s key southern Kandahar Province said Thursday he was sacked by the central government and complained that powerful people in his region had been sabotaging his work.

Rahmatullah Raufi, a former army general, was appointed as governor of Kandahar Province in August, replacing a powerful but controversial former governor, Assadullah Khalid. But after only three months, Raufi told *The Associated Press* that officials in the capital said he must go.

“Last night I received a call from Kabul saying that you are fired,” Raufi said.

“Personally I do not want to work either, because some of the powerful people (in Kandahar) were creating problems in my job,” Raufi said, without elaborating. He did not identify who in the government told him he was sacked.

Kandahar Province is the spiritual heartland of the Taliban but also the power base of President Hamid Karzai. Karzai’s brother is the head of the provincial council. The province is also Afghanistan’s second-leading producer of opium poppies, behind neighboring Helmand Province.—Internet



The Admiral Chabanenko, Russian anti-submarine destroyer will sail through the Panama Canal this week for the first time since World War II, the Russian Navy announced on 3 Dec, 2008—INTERNET

Chinese shares open 1.39% higher on stimulus policies

BEIJING, 4 Dec—Chinese shares opened 1.39 percent higher on Thursday following the State Council (Cabinet)'s decision Wednesday to encourage commercial banks to grant more loans for stimulating economic growth and to stabilize the stock market.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index, which covers both A and B shares, rose 1.39 percent, or 27.31 points, to

1,992.72 at the opening.

The smaller Shenzhen index was up 1.16 percent, or 81.94 points, to open at 7,123.00 points.

Chinese shares also got a boost from a strong overnight rally on Wall Street, analysts said.

At an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao Wednesday, the Cabinet said nine measures would be taken to update the financial system, offer more loans

for bolstering economic growth and raise the country's ability to ward against risks among financial institutions.

"The government would stabilize the stock market, promote the stable development of the future market and give priority to the issue of bonds targeted at infrastructures, ecological and environmental projects and after-quake reconstructions," said the meeting.—Xinhua



The Hong Kong flagged merchant ship M/V Overseas Hercules uses fire hoses as a counter-measure against a possible pirate attack in the Gulf of Aden on 2 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA



A policeman introduces the harmfulness of drugs to waiters at a KTV store in Chaohu City, east China's Anhui Province, on 2 Dec 2008. —XINHUA

Bill Richardson nominated as US secretary of commerce



US President-elect Barack Obama (L) speaks while New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson looks on during the press conference held in Chicago on 3 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec—US President-elect Barack Obama nominated on Wednesday New Mexico governor Bill Richardson as the next secretary of commerce.

"Last week, Vice President-elect Biden and I began the process of announcing our economic team," Obama told a news conference at his transition office headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. "Today we are pleased to name another key member of this team—our nominee for secretary of commerce, my great friend, Gov. Bill Richardson."

Obama described Richardson as a leading "economic diplomat for America" who "has been seen from just about every angle what makes our economy work and what keeps it from working better" during his time in state government and Congress, and in two tours of duty in the cabinet.—Xinhua

Brazilian mining giant Vale cuts 1,300 jobs

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Dec—Brazil's largest mining company Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (Vale) announced Wednesday it had dismissed 1,300 employees worldwide amid the global financial crisis.

The mining giant also said it would grant 30-day vacations to another 5,500 employees this month and in February 2009, and it had put 1,200 others on training for new positions.

The job cut was a result of a drop in orders, which has forced the company to slash 30 million metric tons in its annual iron reproduction in October, Vale said. The company said 20 percent of the dismissed and 80 percent of those on leave are in southeastern Brazil, where most of Vale's operations are based. Vale had 62,000 employees before the job cuts.—Xinhua

A girl walks a "panda" in a street of Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China, attracting the attention of lots of people around. The "panda" turns out to be a dog wearing pandas' makeup!—XINHUA



All items from Xinhua News Agency

US economic activity has weakened since mid-October

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec—The US economy has weakened since mid-October as the worst financial crisis in decades, which is ongoing as of December, damps consumer spending and business investment, the Federal Reserve said on Wednesday in its latest survey on business conditions around the nation.

"Overall economic activity weakened across all Federal Reserve districts" since the last report, which was issued on 15 Oct, the Fed said in the survey, the so-called Beige Book. Districts generally reported decreases in retail sales, and vehicle sales were down significantly in most districts, according to the survey, which is based on economic information supplied by the Fed's 12 regional banks and collected before 24 Nov.

The survey showed that tourism spending was subdued in a number of districts, it said, adding that reports on the service sector were generally negative.

Xinhua

Security forces kill 14 militants in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 4 Dec—As many as 14 militants were killed in a raid by security forces in Pakistan's tribal area on Wednesday, private TV channel DAWN NEWS reported. Jet fighters and helicopters hit suspected positions in Lakaro, a sub division of Mohmand tribal region bordering Afghanistan, said the report.

According to unconfirmed reports, 14 militants and seven civilians were killed in the air strike carried out in Ziarat, Ghaziabad, Bagh Pahar and Karier areas in Mohmand. Militants have a strong presence in these areas adjacent to Bajaur, according to DAWN NEWS.

Xinhua

Russia hails Ukraine’s effort to improve bilateral ties

Moscow, 4 Dec—Russia welcomes Ukraine’s decision to set up a high-level group to improve bilateral ties, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.

“Any realistic steps and measures aimed at developing and advancing Russian-Ukrainian ties should be welcomed,” Andrei Nesterenko said in a commentary posted on the website of the ministry.

Moscow would be “closely watching all practical actions by our Ukrainian partners,” he said.

The spokesman also reiterated Moscow’s desire for constructive, prag-

matic and responsible co-operation with Kiev.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has decided to form a strategic group for relations with Russia amid the financial crisis. The group will be led by the National Security Council chief and will also include other security officials, cabinet members, and the head of Naftogaz, the national oil and gas company.

“We must do every-

thing to make relations with Russia rational,” Yushchenko was quoted by RIA Novosti news agency as saying on Monday.

Relations between the former Soviet republics have soured in recent years over a series of issues, ranging from Ukraine’s bid to join NATO to Russia’s Black Sea Fleet base in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol. —*Internet*

Some US airlines slashing fares to lure travellers

LOS ANGELES, 4 Dec—Some US airlines are slashing prices on some flight, hoping to lure travellers this holiday season and into the New Year, it was reported on Wednesday.

Deep discounts for airline fares come as no surprise, particularly since 2008 was an awful year for the industry, the San Francisco Chronicle said on its Web.

The devastation in the industry — coupled with falling oil prices — means bargains should be bountiful and continue into the New Year, just as demand slumps, said the paper.

“Of course, we have low fares all the time,” said Marilee Mcinnis, a spokeswoman for Southwest Airlines, was quoted as saying.

“But the economy is on the minds of everyone — and everything felt like we were in a recession and now we know it’s official.

“There’s a lot of trepidation out there,” she said.

Southwest Airlines on Wednesday reported its load factor — the percentage of seats filled — for November was 63.2 percent, compared with 69.3 percent for the same period last year.

With sagging numbers like that, at Southwest and at all the other airline struggling in a down cycle, an effort is under way to entice travellers who might otherwise not travel, said the report.

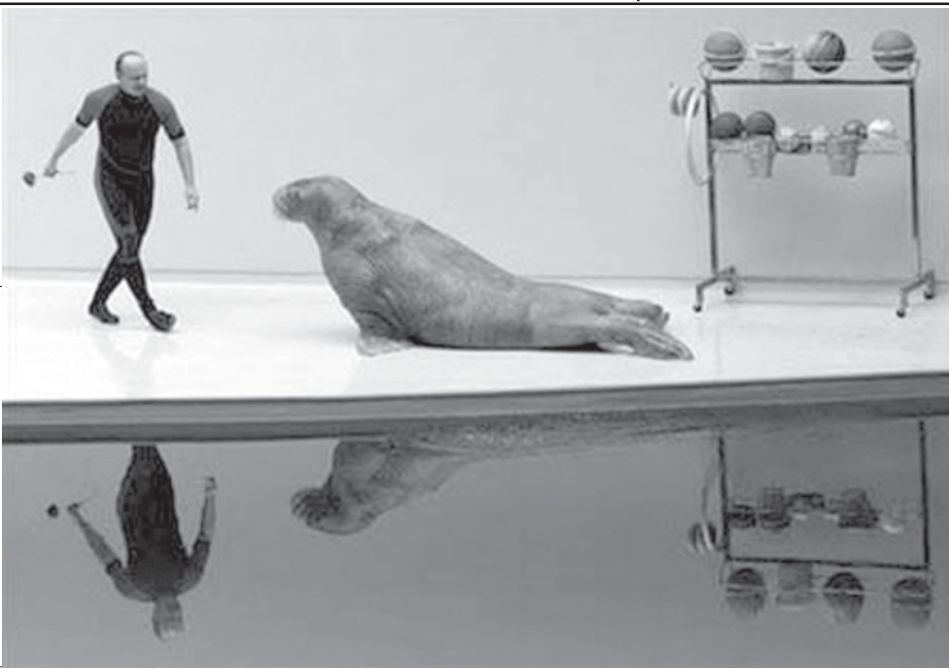
Internet

Strong quake hits Japan’s NE coastal areas

TOKYO, 4 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale hit Japan’s northeastern coastal areas Thursday, the Japanese Meteorological Agency reported.

The focus of the quake, which occurred at 12:11 pm (0311 GMT) following an earlier magnitude 6.1 quake, was about 10 km under the sea at Sariku Oki off Japan’s northeastern coast, the agency said. No Tsunami warning was issued.

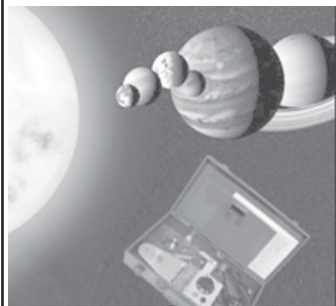
There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage to property. —*Internet*



Sara, the walrus and her Russian trainer Sergiy perform during a show at the newly-opened Istanbul Dolphinarium in Istanbul, Turkey, on 1 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

Lost NASA tool bag found! But by amateur astronomers



Amateur astronomers in the US have managed to find a tool bag, which NASA astronaut Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper lost during a space walk last week.

The first sighting was made by Edward Light from New Jersey, using 10x50 binoculars, on the night of 23 November.

He noticed the bag travelling in space near the Pisces star constellation. Another amateur astronomer, Kevin Fetter, managed to film the object and later posted the video on the Internet. The 50cm X 30 cm bag, is now orbiting the Earth at a height of 400

kilometres.

The tool bag is estimated to be worth about \$US 100,000. It was lost during repair works at the International Space Station on 19 November, preformed by US astronauts Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper and Stephen Bowen.

Various amateur astronomer communities are now trying to calculate the trajectory of the bag.

According to their data, next time it will be seen from North America in the evening on 26 and 28 November.

Meanwhile, NASA says the bag will burn in the atmosphere in June 2009.

But the amateur astronomers did a great job finding such a small object in endless space.

Maybe the US government should now hire them to find some important stuff on Earth, for example, Osama Bin Laden, the way out of the Credit Crunch and the way to cope with Global Warming.



People dressed as Santa Claus wave to a young boy during the annual Sidewalk Santa parade in New York.

Pumpkin drop at NY museum draws smashing crowd

What is the sound that a falling pumpkin makes when it hits the ground?

Hundreds of people know the answer on Long Island. They paid \$9 admission for a “smashing pumpkins” event at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY.

The crowd cheered Friday as several hundred overripe pumpkins were dropped from a second-story balcony to burst and splatter in a moist explosion of seeds and pulp.

The largest weighed several hundred pounds.

Eleven-year-old Brian Scala said it was “really cool.”

The pumpkins were donated by a local nursery and will be reused as compost.

New missile can beat any defence system

Russia’s military has tested a new-generation of intercontinental nuclear ballistic rocket. Defence sources say the RS-24, capable of carrying multiple independent warheads, can penetrate any defence system.

The missile was launched on 26 November from a mobile launcher at the northwestern Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Arkhangelsk region.

It reportedly travelled 6,000 miles across Russia to the Kamchatka Peninsula



where the missile’s multiple re-entry vehicles successfully landed on targets on the Kura testing range.

RS-24 is heavier than its predecessor — the RS-12 (Topol M), created in response to the missile shield that the United States wants to deploy in Europe.

Bulava missile hits bullseye

Russia has test fired the naval ballistic missile Bulava. It was launched from the strategic nuclear sub Dmitry Donskoy and hit its target at the Kura range in Kamchatka. It was the first successful test of the prospective weapon.

“The launch was from a submerged position and was performed as part of the state control and test programme of the weapon system. The trajectory parameters were according to normal operation mode. The warheads were delivered to the Kura range,” said deputy head of the Russian Navy, Igor Digalo.

The Bulava missile is the designated weapon for prospective Borey class submarines, which are meant to become the backbone of Russia’s nuclear deterrent fleet. It has multiple nuclear warheads and has a range of 8,000 kilometres.

NEWSALBUM

Chin State to become tea garden

Article: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon); Photos: Lay Nwe (Mingaladon)

(from page 16)

The government provided the region with funds of 128.265 million kyats for 6419.1 baskets of tea seeds.

Manager U Hon Kee of Township Myanma Agriculture Service told the Myanma Alin Daily that in 2007-2008 fiscal year, Chin State Peace and Development Council rendered 13.228 million kyats for tea saplings for departments, entrepreneurs and wards and villages.

Assistant Supervisor U Tint Ne Aung of Haka Township MAS said that Tiddim, Haka, Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi townships grew tea on a commercial scale; and that green tea prices ranged from 4000 to 12,000 kyats.

Deputy Director U Htan Doh Kyint said that world's largest tea exporting countries were India, China, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Indonesia; that Myanmar had tea farms of about 200,000 acres; that since 2007-2008,

green tea processing methods had been disseminated to local farmers for boosting production of green tea and black tea, and a black tea workshop was established under the leadership of Chin State PDC at Kyawbok agricultural farm in Haka on 15 May 2007; that a black tea factory was established in Mindat under the instructions of the commander of North-West Command; and another tea factory would be established at Daw Lwin Region of Tiddim Township; that

of more than 8.9 million acres, over 500,000 of which are put under crops. So, it still has a vast area of vacant lands to grow tea extensively.

U Htay Win (Moe Hein tea farm) of Kyawbok Ward, Haka, said that he was a native of Haka; that tea farming was his family business; that his parents ran a three-acre tea farm, but he had extended the tea farm into a 10-acre one; that he harvested tea two times a month and eight times a year and got 15



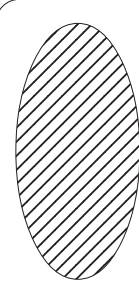
I harvest tea two times a month and eight times a year and get 15 viss of tea from three acres of tea. (U Htay Win, Moe Hein tea farm)

plans were being implemented to increase the tea sown acreage of 10 states and divisions to 26,500 by 2030-2031.

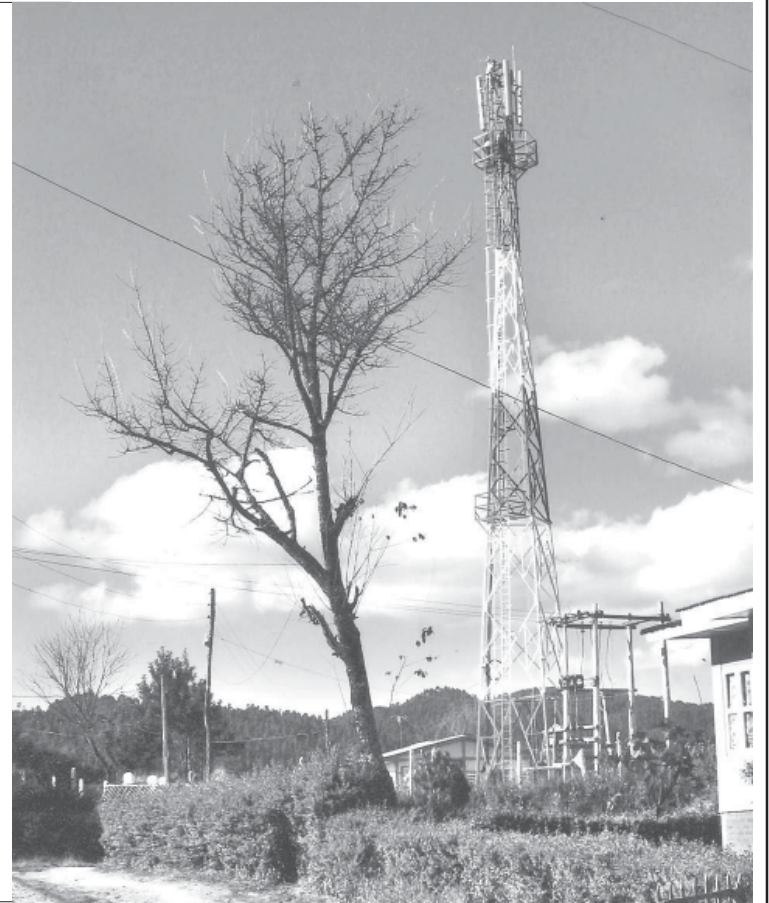
Chin State has an area

viss of tea from three acres of tea; and that he planned to run tea farming extensively.

Daw Ngun Kywe, owner of Golden City tea farm said that she began to run a two-acre farm in 2003; that then the tea farm had an area of nine acres and she had a plan to extend the farm to an



The microwave tower of Haka, Chin State.



Chin State has an area of more than 8.9 million acres, over 500,000 of which are put under crops. So, it still has a vast area of vacant lands to grow tea extensively.



Daw Ngun Kywe, proprietor of Golden City tea farm.

Now, Chin State has a growing area of tea farms. Local people are making more profits from tea farms year by year.

11-acre one; that she used Assam species; that up to June 2008, she had grown 8000 tea plants; that she got 120 viss of raw tea or 24 viss of dry tea from an acre; that a viss of dry tea was priced at 10,000 kyats; that she started to harvest tea when tea plants were at the age of four years; that she also grew avocado pear, papaya,

sweet sop, lime, banana, egg-plant, onion, garlic, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard, grape and passion fruit, and raised layers and pigs; and she ran Golden City Restaurant.

Now, Chin State has a growing area of tea farms. Local people are making more profits from tea farms year by year. Tea factories have created job

opportunities for local people. The region earns foreign exchange through tea export. So, the living standard of local people is getting high. Due to the instructions of State leaders and supervisions of Chin State PDC and Chin State, district and township tea farming supervisory committees, the region will achieve the goal.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin:

4-12-08

Edible oil crops thriving in Nawnghkio...

(from page 1)

Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and the commander inspected samples of edible oil crop strain, sample oil and oil radish plantation.

During the tour, he met with officers and other ranks of the Station Command at Dokhtawady Hall and presented clothes and foods to families of the station.

Next, he visited thriving oil radish plantation in the command. At Taungshe Hospital in the township, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visited the hospital and provided medicines and equipment to the hospital.

Afterwards, he inspected Naungshwe-Yerkhsuk-Indaw-Taungkham-Nawnghkio road section and maintenance of Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawnghkio).

Next, he visited construction of Basic Education High School (Lonca) at the village and made cash donations.

Next, he inspected Thein Yadana Oil Mill at Shwemuhtaw in Nawnghkio Township, and harvesting of Hsinshawli paddy plantation of farmer U Sai Tun Oo at Naungan Village in Kayukme Township.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Guan Mu.—MNA

Rural development and rehabilitation tasks ...

(from page 16)

The minister looked into repaving of Awba Road in Labutta and left necessary instructions.

Seven roads are under repair and the jetty at Ayeyawady River is under construction with the funds contribution of Development Affairs Department. So far, four roads have been repaved. The remaining roads are being re-surfaced with asphalt with the use of heavy machinery meeting the set standard.—MNA

Nancho Hydropower Project 24.18 per cent complete

YANGON, 3 Dec—Minister for Electric Power (1) Col Zaw Min yesterday morning inspected Nancho Hydropower Project being undertaken by No. (1) Construction, about seven miles upstream the Nancho Creek in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.

Director U Thaung Han of No. (1) Construction gave an account of the project, work progress, follow-up programmes, arrival of materials and requirements.

The minister called for stockpiling of construction materials and hard work for completion of the project ahead of schedule.

So far, the project has been completed by 24.18 percent. Upon completion, it will be able to generate about 152 million kilowatt hours a year.

MNA



Minister for Electric Power (1) Col Zaw Min inspects Nancho Hydropower Project in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.—MNA

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

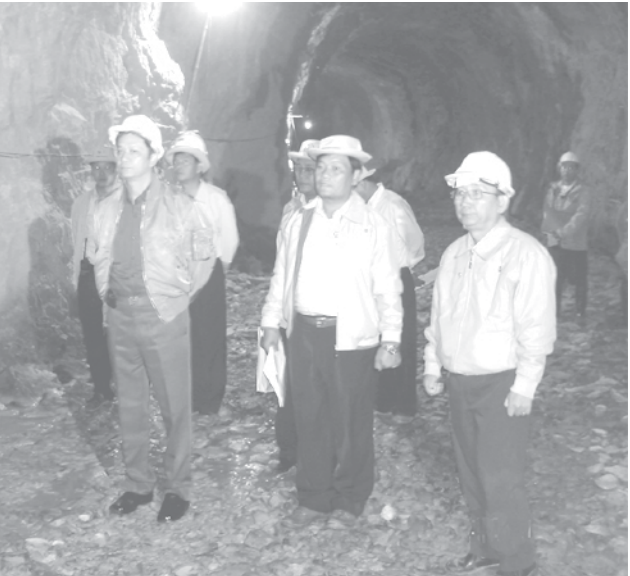
YANGON, 4 Dec—Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Guan Mu paid a courtesy call on Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation at Irrigation Department in Yankin Township here on 29 November. They discussed matters relating to boosting producing of agricultural produce and reconstruction and rehabilitation in storm-hit regions.—MNA

More donation for storm victims in Pyapon Township

YANGON, 4 Dec—Wellwishers are making donations to storm victims daily. On 3 December, U Aung Zaw Myint (Shwe Wah Linn Co) – Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family of Bahan Township donated K 12 million, for construction of 20 houses for storm victims in Pyapon Township.

Secretary of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accepts K 12 million from U Aung Zaw Myint (Shwe Wah Linn Co) – Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family.—MNA



Environmental Conservation Committee of Bago Division (East) meets

YANGON, 4 Dec—Environmental Conservation Committee of Bago Division (East) held its work coordination meeting (12/2008) at the meeting hall of director's office in Forest Department of Bago (East), Bago on 2 December.

Chairman of the Committee Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council U Pe Thein delivered a speech on the occasion. Afterwards, Secretary of the committee U Myint Ngwe reported on implementation of ten environmental conservation tasks, being undertaken in Bago Division during 2008-2009. Later, those present took part in the discussion on environmental conservation works carried out by their respective departments and future tasks.

MNA



Say No to Drugs



**Commander
Maj-Gen
Wai Lwin
views paddy
harvesting
in Thitlaylon
Village,
Nay Pyi Taw
Pyinmana**
MNA

Commander inspects paddy harvesting in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

NAYPYITAW, 4 Dec— Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin inspected harvesting and winnowing of paddy with the use of farm equipments manufactured by Ministry of Industry-2, Agriculture Mechanization Department

and Good Brother Co at 217-acre monsoon paddy model farmland, Field No (1707) of Farmer Bo Phyu in Thitlaylon village-tract of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township yesterday.

Hsin-thwe-lat paddy strain is a local quality strain. It can produce 129.13

baskets per acre. So far, 173,621 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana in 2008. A total of 71,937 acres had been harvested and 101,684 acres remained to be done. Paddy yielded 97.65 baskets per acre.

MNA

Foreign Minister holds bilateral talks with Chinese Counterpart

NAYPYITAW, 4 Dec— At the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Win, the delegation led by Mr Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by special

aircraft at 12:45 hrs this morning on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu. Mr Yang Jiechi was accompanied by Director-General of the Asian Affairs Department Ms Yang Yanyi, Deputy Director-General of Policy Planning Department Mr Xu Bu and Deputy Director-General of Information Department Mr Qin Gaung and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China.

The visiting Foreign

Minister held bilateral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win at the ministry at 4.00 pm today. At the meeting, the two delegations cordially discussed further strengthening of the friendly Pauk-phaw relations and promoting mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

In the evening, the Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of Mr Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and party at Aureum Palace Hotel here.

MNA



Foreign Minister U Nyan Win discussing with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Yang Jiechi.—MNA

Prizes presentation ceremony of Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Competition held

YANGON, 4 Dec— A prize presentation ceremony of Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Competition was held at National Indoor Stadium (1) of Thuwunna here yesterday.

After the final match, officials presented prizes to the winners. Resident Representative of Korea

International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Mr Cho Kwaung Golr awarded Olympic Weightlifting Championship Team, Korean Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Park Key Chong awarded first prize winner Shwe Kainnaray Team, second Yangon City Development

Committee Team and third Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) Team in U-14 and U-18 Taekwondo Competition.

The ceremony ended with the concluding remarks by KOICA Resident Representative Mr Cho Kwaung Golr.

MNA

Shwe Naing-Ngan Journal comes out

YANGON, 4 Dec— Shwe Naing-Ngan Journal Volume VII No.14 is now available.

The journal carries wide range of the internal and international news and photos including articles on "Does IT revolutionary really change to ET revolution in the world?" and what about Myanmar?, first batch arrival of eight locomotives from China, and political and educational articles.

The journal is available at Sarpay Beikman bookshop on Merchant Street, News and Periodicals Enterprise bookshop on Theinbyu Street, here.

Manuscripts can be sent to No. 228 Printing and Publishing Enterprise building, Theinbyu Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon (Tel 382070).

MNA



Cash donation ceremony of civil engineer alumni of Yangon Technological University for organizing the 3rd paying respect to teachers at home and abroad was held at the Meeting Hall of Myanmar Engineering Society on University of Hline Campus on 22 November. U Myat Khaing Swe, Daw Aung Maung Oo, Daw Khin Thida and Daw Soe Soe Tin presented K 1.6 million to Vice-Chairman of Organizing Committee U San Kyu.—NLM

Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination 14 Dec 2008 to 15 Jan 2009

YANGON, 4 Dec—The Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs will organize the oral and written tests of 61st Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from 14 December 2008 to 15 January 2009.

The opening ceremony of the examination will be held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township on 14 December.

Those wishing to offer meals to supervisor Sayadaws and the monks sitting for the exam may

donate K 1,000 for a unit of the funds, K 1,000 for the dawn meal of a monk and K 1,400 for the day meal of a monk at the donation centres of the eastern stairways of Kaba Aye Pagoda and the Religious Affairs Department, Tel: 652794, 663325 and 664578.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Rudi Vesstraeten as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Rudi Vesstraeten was born in Hasselt on 13 August 1958. He is a Roman Philologist. He joined the Belgium Foreign Services in 1987 and since then he has served in various capacities at the Belgium Foreign Ministry and also at the Belgium Embassies in Niger, Bulgaria, Thailand, Kenya and the United States of America. From 2004 to 2006, he served as the Director-General for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2006 to 2008, he was the Special Envoy in matters of Asylum, Migration, Human Trafficking.

Mr Rudi Vesstraeten will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. — MNA

**Minister for
PBANRDA Col
Thein Nyunt
inspects progress of
rural houses in
Dauntchaung
Village, Labutta
Township.**

PBANRDA



Energy Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — Ministry of Energy held its coordination meeting at the ministry here on 2 December.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi called for making efforts for boosting production of oil and natural gas, running of refineries at full capacity and achieving the targets of fertilizer factories. The minister also laid down the future tasks of the ministry.

The directors-general, managing directors and officials

concerned of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay reported on tasks of the ministry sector-wise.

In his concluding remarks, the minister stressed the need for maintaining the current production of oil and natural gas by drilling new oil wells in old oil fields and repairing old oil wells. In an attempt to exceed the target of oil and gas sufficiency at home, the ministry has planned to drill oil wells in new oil

fields with the use of new imported drilling machines, the minister added. He also urged officials concerned to work hard for timely completion of work for in land and off-shore oil and natural gas projects and laying pipe lines to transport oil and gas.

After the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi awarded outstanding employees who won prizes in the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy golf Tournament.—MNA

Development tasks in Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta townships inspected

YANGON, 4 Dec — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 2 December met with departmental Staff, members of village Peace and Development Council and social organizations and town selders at Hlinebone Village in Mawlamyinegyun township. The in-charge of Original Group Construction Co reported on progress in construction of a new building of basic education high school

and 150 rural houses. The minister fulfilled the needs and inspected the construction work.

Next, the minister visited the site for construction of the 150 rural houses and inspected the sinking of a 570-foot tube well and supply of water, generating of electricity with the use of 12.5 KV generator, Pynnyaalin Library and temporary offices of social organizations and dispensary.

Afterwards, the minister met the medical

team led by Dr Aung Kyi Tun of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) providing health care in Hlinebone Village and looked round the shops and restaurants in the village.

On arrival at Daukchaung Village in Labutta Township, the minister looked into progress in construction of 120 houses and met with the villagers. Then, he proceeded to Polaung Model Village where he inspected the settlement of people at the houses, crop patches, upgrading of the village sport ground and roads, temporary clinic, village PDC office, Tatnaywin Library and social organization offices.

Later, the minister met members of the village PDC, social organizations and responsible persons of Wah Wah Win Construction Co at the briefing hall of the company and inspected progress in construction of houses in Polaung Model Village.

MNA



China says Doha talks “difficult” to complete in 08



WTO's director-general will decide in a few days whether to call a meeting in Geneva to try to wrap up a framework agreement for the Doha round of talks.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 4 Dec—China is still seeking a conclusion to the Doha round of global trade negotiations, its foreign ministry spokesman said on Thursday, while expressing reservations as to whether a framework agreement could be successfully completed before the end of the year.

The World Trade Organization's director-general will decide in a few days whether to call a meeting in

Geneva to try to wrap up a framework agreement for the Doha round of talks, which have been under negotiation since 2001. "As it appears at this moment, it seems very difficult to complete the Doha round before year-end," Liu Jianchao told reporters at a regular briefing.

"But, as a responsible country, China will continue to participate in the talks actively, play a positive and constructive role, and work together with all parties to use the achievements of previous discussions to push the talks to a comprehensive result."

Chinese leaders had joined with their international counterparts in November in calling for a framework agreement to the Doha round of talks before the end of the year, Liu noted.

Previous negotiations collapsed in July, as developed and developing countries were unable to agree on lowering agricultural subsidies and tariff barriers.

India in particular insisted on safeguards to protect its farmers against a potential surge in imports. Export-dependent China worries that other countries may close their markets to its goods as their economies worsen. But China also maintains tariff barriers and quotas on some imports, including cotton, to protect its domestic growers. —Reuters

Militants kill seized Iran police

TEHRAN, 4 Dec— Iran officials have confirmed the deaths of 13 police officers who were being held by Sunni militants. The men were among 16 officers seized in south-eastern Iran in June by a group called Jundullah. Three of the group were killed in June and the others were reportedly taken across the border to Pakistan. Iranian police patrol the long border with Pakistan and suffer regular casualties in the battle against drug smugglers, say correspondents.

The BBC's Jon Leyne in Teheran says Jundullah, or Army of God, is engaged in a mixture of political violence and drug smuggling in the often lawless region. The group seized the men from a checkpoint in Saravan, Sistan-Baluchestan province, and demanded the release of 200 of its members from Iranian prisons.

Soon afterwards, Arabic news channel Al Arabiya showed footage of three of the police officers being killed by the militants. On Thursday, deputy police commander Ahmad Reza Radan said that investigations by the government, intelligence authorities and police had now shown that "all of our loved ones have been martyred by Jundullah terrorists".—Internet



South Korean children hold up "Love Pots" during a charity event to raise funds for the needy, on a street in Seoul.—INTERNET

Somalia nearing a 'total famine'



More than half the population is dependent on food aid in Somalia.—INTERNET

SOMALIA, 4 Dec—Somalia is in danger of descending into famine while the world's attention is focused on the problem of piracy off its coast, the Red Cross has warned.

BBC Africa analyst Martin Plaut says agencies like the International Committee of the Red Cross are very

wary about using words like famine.

The ICTR's Alexandre Liebeskind said the violence had made it almost impossible for aid agencies to operate.

About half of Somalia's population is dependent on food aid.

Drought, floods and nearly two decades of

conflict have driven many into destitution. Alexandre Liebeskind, head of the ICTR in East Africa, says families are now eating their most prized possessions: the camels and goats of reproductive age. It is a sign of increasing desperation, he says. He compared the

situation to the last great famine of 1992 when hundreds of thousands died. Yet the fighting between insurgents, the government and the Ethiopian forces in the country mean aid agencies are finding it all but impossible to work on the ground.—Internet

Russia welcomes NATO's desire to repair links



Russia is satisfied about NATO's stance on Georgia, Ukraine membership bid.

MOSCOW, 4 Dec—Russia on Thursday welcomed NATO's declaration that it wanted to repair ties after a war earlier this year between Russia and NATO-aspirant Georgia.

The Russian foreign ministry statement also said NATO's decision not to hand Georgia and Ukraine a firm timetable for membership showed

that NATO had now realised how risky any allegiance with the former Soviet states would be. "We're not supporters of a new version of the Cold War," the Russian statement said.

"We'll continue to work to overcome the confrontational logic of European affairs in order to prevent the emergence of new dividing lines or regions with different levels of security."

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said at a meeting of the 26-member NATO military alliance on Tuesday in Brussels that the suspended ambassador-level NATO-Russia Council would meet again on an informal basis.

A five-day war erupted in August between Russia and Georgia over

the Georgian breakaway region of South Ossetia.

NATO accused Russia of inciting conflict and using disproportionate force. Russia says it had to act against Georgian aggression to defend people living in North Ossetia.

At Tuesday's meeting, NATO reaffirmed a commitment to give Georgia and Ukraine membership one day but it did not give a specific timetable.

"The fact that no decision was taken on Georgia and Ukraine towards a Membership Action Plan in our assessment reflects an awareness of the risks associated with being dragged into a quick alliance with these countries," the statement said.

Reuters

Deadly bombings strike Iraqi city

FLUJA, 4 Dec—Two suspected suicide car bombs have exploded in the Iraqi city of Falluja killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens more, police have said.

The attacks targeted two police positions, both of which were badly damaged in the blasts, officials said.

Falluja is in the

western province of Anbar, which was the centre of a Sunni-led rebellion against US forces after the 2003 invasion.

The US military said the blasts took place shortly before noon (0900 GMT).

The bombers attacked police centres in the western neighbourhood of Golan and the eastern area of Shurta within minutes

of each other, a security official told the AFP news agency.

The explosions happened outside concrete barriers protecting the two police posts, reports say.

A senior police officer told the Associated Press that one of the police posts had been levelled and several nearby houses badly damaged.—Internet

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (133)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (133) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2008 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 up 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.

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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
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INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in Euro:

Tender No	Description	Quantity
12(T)10/MR(ML) 2008-2009	Nickel Cadmium Battery for Locomotive Engine Starting (52 cells/set (or) 54 cells/set, Rated Capacity- 140~160AH, Voltage - 69 V/set, Brand- HOPPECKE FNC 1803 HR (or) SRX 1500 (or) GNC 140 (or) Equivalent)	40 - Sets

Closing Date/Time-2.1.2009 (Friday)(12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from
3.12.2008 during office hours and for further detail please call:
Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanmar Railways,
Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon.
Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985

Study illuminates star explosion from 16th century

NEW YORK, 4 Dec—More than 400 years after Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe challenged established wisdom about the heavens by analyzing a strange new light in the sky, scientists say they've finally nailed down just what he saw.

It's no big surprise. Scientists have known the light came from a supernova, a huge star explosion. But what kind of supernova?

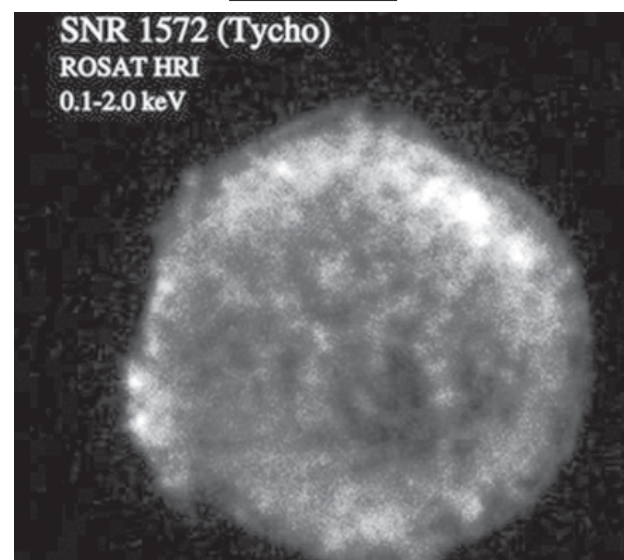
A new study confirms that, as expected, it was the common kind that involves the thermonuclear explosion of a white dwarf star with a nearby companion. The research, which analyzed a "light echo" from the long-ago event, is

presented in Thursday's issue of the *journal Nature* by scientists in Germany, Japan and the Netherlands.

The story of what's commonly called Tycho's supernova began on 11 Nov, 1572, when Brahe was astonished to see what

he thought was a brilliant new star in the constellation Cassiopeia. The light eventually became as bright as Venus and could be seen for two weeks in broad daylight. After 16 months, it disappeared.

Internet



This X-ray image provided by NASA, and captured by the German ROSAT satellite in the 1990s, shows the remnant of a supernova that was observed in 1572 by Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe. —INTERNET

Small plane crashes east of PR capital

RIO GRANDE, 4 Dec—Search teams slogged up a muddy, densely-wooded mountainside on Wednesday to locate a small plane with three people on board—including two American tourists—that crashed into a fog-shrouded forest east of Puerto Rico's capital.

The twin-engine plane slammed into the side of El Yunque mountain and was "totally destroyed," said Puerto Rican Police Agent Carmen Quinones. "I don't think there are any survivors."

A team of machete-wielding rescuers, whose progress was slowed by rain, fog, dense woods and

soggy underbrush, had to turn back after a five-hour hike because a steep mountain blocked their passage. Search teams said they found bits of scattered wreckage—but no survivors.

"We saw pieces of wing and other plane parts," said Jose Escobar of the Rio Grande civil defence force. He said rescuers called out for survivors in the wet forest—but no answers came.

A police spokeswoman, Marilyn Calo, identified the pilot as Ken Webster, of the US Virgin Islands. Police and federal investigators did not have confirmed information about

the two US tourists aboard the aircraft.

The plane took off from Tortola in the British Virgin Islands and was heading to San Juan, said Jose Daniel Echevarria, a spokesman for Puerto Rico's Department of Emergency Management.—*Internet*

The National Forest Service personnel (R), checks a map with a colleague during a rescue operation underway at El Yunque mountain, in Rio Grande, east of San Juan, on 3 Dec, 2008.
INTERNET

Bodies of 24 migrants wash up on coast of Yemen

SAN'A, 4 Dec—Authorities in Yemen say the bodies of 24 Somalis have washed ashore following an accident involving a boat trying to smuggle migrants.

Yemen's Interior Ministry has not released any details on what caused the accident, but says strong winds pushed the bodies on to beaches Tuesday and Wednesday near the town of al-Qasha'a. It says 184 more Somalis involved in the accident managed to swim ashore.

Internet



Zimbabweans ill and dying from cholera crossing border

MUSINA, 4 Dec— Doctors worry about the woman sitting on a bed inside the large tent, an IV in her arm. Chipso Matewe, 23, is eight months pregnant and stricken with cholera.

“When I started feeling sick, my whole body was so dry. I didn’t think I would be alive until now, because even the baby —my stomach was so tight ...



Medics worry that eight-months-pregnant Chipso Matewe is too weak from cholera to give birth.—INTERNET

it was not kicking at all. But now it’s kicking slowly, I don’t know what’s going on,” she said. Medics are concerned she is just too weak to give birth to a healthy child. Matewe is from Masvingo in Zimbabwe — one of hundreds of people so desperate for medical help that they have crossed the border illegally into South Africa. Cholera, a waterborne disease that causes diarrhea, dehydration and, if not treated, death in a matter of hours, is widespread in Zimbabwe but help is not.

At least 565 people in Zimbabwe have lost their lives in the outbreak, according to a statement from the United Nations Humanitarian Affairs Office on Wednesday. Doctors in Zimbabwe, however, say that more than 1,000 have died. The UN says that about 12,000 more people are suspected to be infected.

Internet



A statue of Chinese philosopher and educator Confucius presented by the government of east China's Shandong Province to the Nordic Confucius Institute is unveiled at Stockholm University in Stockholm, Sweden, on 3 Dec, 2008. The two-metre high statue, with Confucius' life engraved on its base, is the first Confucius statue presented by China to Sweden.—XINHUA

Somali pirates release ship without ransom



French soldiers, who have joined British, Indian, Russian and American patrols off Somalia, during an exercise.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec — Pirates have released a Yemeni cargo ship without receiving a ransom after negotiations with local elders, a Somali official said on Wednesday.

Aliabdi Aware, a minister in the

semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland, said the ship was awaiting refueling in Eyl, a fishing village in the region. The crew and the ship were safe, he said.

It was not immediately known how much ransom the pirates had demanded. Aware said hijackers let the ship go after elders intervened and negotiated for the crew members' release.

The cargo ship was one of many seized in recent weeks off Somalia's coast, which has seen a sharp spike in pirate attacks.

So far this year pirates have attacked almost 100 vessels and successfully hijacked nearly 40 in the area, according to the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre.

Internet

Scientists ask: Is technology rewiring our brains?

NEW YORK, 4 Dec — What does a teenage brain on Google look like? Do all those hours spent online rewire the circuitry? Could these kids even relate better to emoticons than to real people? These sound like concerns from worried parents. But they're coming from brain scientists.

While violent video games have gotten a lot of public attention, some current concerns go well beyond that. Some scientists think the wired world may be changing the way we read, learn and interact with each other.

There are no firm answers yet. But Dr Gary Small, a psychiatrist at UCLA, argues that daily exposure to digital technologies such as the

Internet and smart phones can alter how the brain works.—INTERNET



University of California, Los Angeles, Professor of Psychiatry Dr Gary Small plays with a digital memory electronic device at his office at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior in Westwood, Calif, on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Greenhouse gas emissions increase in US

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec — The amount of US greenhouse gases flowing into the atmosphere, mainly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, increased last year by 1.4 percent after a decline in 2006, the Energy Department reported Wednesday.

The report said carbon dioxide, the leading pollution linked to global warming, rose by 1.3 percent in 2007 as people used more coal, oil and natural gas because of a colder winter and more electricity during a warmer summer. Half of the country's electricity is generated by coal-burning power plants.

A shortage of hydropower also contributed to an increase in the demand for fossil fuels, said the department's Energy Information Administration.

The EIA said that in 2007 the United States produced 8 billion tons (7.28 billion metric tons) of greenhouse gases, compared to 7.9 billion (7.18 billion metric tons) in 2006. The tonnage, presented in terms of “carbon dioxide equivalent” also includes methane, nitrous oxides and a number of lesser greenhouse gases, although carbon dioxide accounted for nearly 83 percent of the releases.—INTERNET

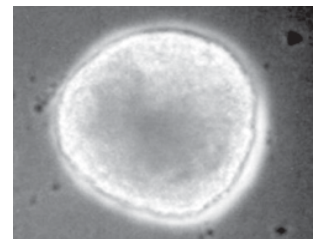


File photo shows the Los Angeles skyline being obscured by a heavy layer of smog and fog. Decreasing air pollution in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley would save more lives annually than ending all motor vehicle fatalities in the two regions, according to a study.—INTERNET

Study raps Web sites touting stem cell therapies

NEW YORK, 4 Dec— Consumers should be wary of Web sites from clinics that offer stem cell treatments, says a study that found a lack of firm medical evidence to back up their claims. The Web sites in the study generally portrayed their therapies as safe, effective and ready for routine use, but published research doesn’t support that “overoptimistic” picture, the study authors said.

The analysis is presented in the December issue of the journal *Stem Cell* by scientists at the University of Alberta in Canada. They cautioned that their overall findings can't be applied to



A cell cluster cultured from embryonic stem cells is seen in this undated handout photo.—INTERNET

the claims of any individual clinic.

The study is “a very important wake-up call,” said Dr George Daley, past president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research, who had no role in the new report.

Internet

SPORTS

Fergie plans to keep his stand-ins

MANCHESTER, 4 Dec— Sir Alex Ferguson insists he will not allow any Manchester United players to leave the club on loan as they continue to fight on four fronts heading into the new year.

The likes of Danny Welbeck, Manucho and Rodrigo Possebon would all have plenty of suitors if Ferguson was to allow them to leave Old Trafford on a temporary basis.

But, having squeezed into the League Cup semi-finals on Wednesday with a 5-3 win over Blackburn, as well as being two Premier League matches behind their rivals when they return from the World Club Championships later this month, Ferguson is determined to keep his squad together.—*Internet*



Manchester United's Argentinian forward Carlos Tevez (right) celebrates with French defender Patrice Evra after scoring against Blackburn Rovers during their English League Cup quarter final football match at Old Trafford in Manchester. —INTERNET

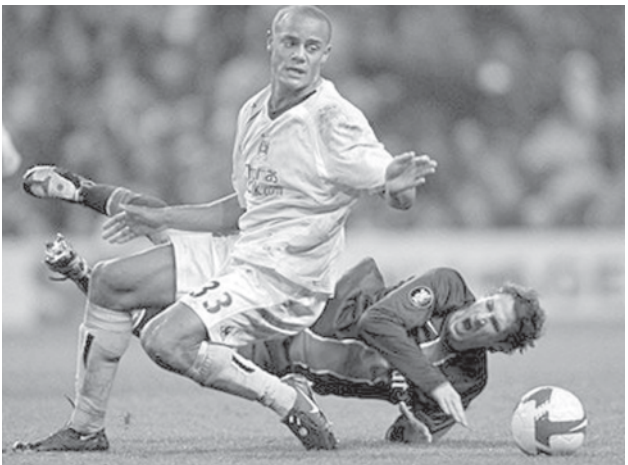
England flop McClaren is Euro football hit

PARIS, 4 Dec — Former England boss Steve McClaren's soccer rehabilitation continued on Wednesday when he guided Dutch club FC Twente into the UEFA Cup last 32.

McClaren, who was sacked after England's dismal failure to reach the Euro 2008 finals, saw his side beat German visitors Schalke, managed by former Twente coach Fred Rutten, 2-1 to clinch one of the three qualifying places from Group A.

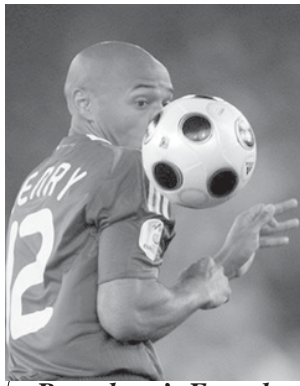
Rob Wilaert and Kenneth Perez scored the goals for the Dutch side while Gerald Asamoah's late strike for Schalke was just a consolation and left the German team relying on other results next week if they are to go through.

In the night's other game in the same pool, Manchester City, who had already made sure of their place in the last 32, were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Paris St Germain.—*Internet*



Paris Saint-Germain's French midfielder Jeremy Clement (R) is fouled by Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany during their UEFA Cup group A football match at the City of Manchester stadium, Manchester. —INTERNET

Henry blames 'too much running' for lack of goals at Barca



Barcelona's French striker Thierry Henry

MADRID, 4 Dec — Barcelona's French striker Thierry Henry, accused by many fans of the Catalan club of not scoring enough goals, said on Wednesday that he did not have to do as much running when he was at former club Arsenal.

"I understand that people want to see me score the goals (that I scored at) Arsenal, but it's not the same here", he said during

a press conference in Barcelona.

"When I was at Arsenal I didn't have to run like I run now," he added. "Sometimes you have to work for the team and not just for yourself."

"At Arsenal I would leave the centre to wait for the ball on the wing and keep myself fresh. Here it's the opposite. On the wing you have to make more effort to defend and maybe it means that I'm less sharp in the opposition penalty area."

Henry, who is typically deployed on the left flank in a 4-3-3 formation, has scored four goals in the league this season. Fellow winger Lionel Messi has nine and Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o leads the La Liga scoring charts with 14.—*Internet*

Bent comes in from the cold to fire Tottenham



Tottenham Hotspurs Russian striker Roman Pavlyuchenko (centre) is congratulated by teammates after scoring his penalty against Watford during their Carling Cup Quarter Final football match at Vicarage Road in London. —INTERNET

WATFORD, 4 Dec— Darren Bent admitted he was relieved to score Tottenham's League Cup quarter-final winner at Watford because it was too cold to play extra-time.

An additional 30 minutes of action was looming at Vicarage Road on Wednesday before England striker Bent, on as a substitute for Fraizer Campbell, struck with 14 minutes left to seal a 2-1 win for the holders.

Harry Redknapp's team joined Manchester United, Burnley and Derby in the last four, but Bent was more concerned with getting warm in the dressing room.

"It was good to score but it was more about not staying out for another half an hour in the freezing cold," Bent said. After winning the trophy under Juande Ramos in February, Spurs are closing in on a repeat with their third successive appearance in the semi-finals.

Redknapp, who led Portsmouth to FA Cup glory at Wembley last season, is on course for another trip to the English national stadium but he insisted climbing clear of the Premier League relegation zone is still more important.—*Internet*

Lazio knock 10-man Milan out of Italian Cup



AC Milan's Brazilian forward Ronaldinho (R) fights for the ball with Lazio's defender Lorenzo De Silvestri during their Italian Cup match at San Siro Stadium in Milan. —INTERNET

ROME, 4 Dec— Lazio fought back to claim an extra-time 2-1 Italian Cup win over 10-man AC Milan on Wednesday and claim a place in the quarter-finals.

Milan had Brazilian star Emerson sent off in the 69th minute but they still took the lead at the San Siro through Andriy Shevchenko in the 77th minute.

Lazio levelled in the dying moments when Giuseppe Favalli brought down Goran Pandev and Argentine Mauro Zarate scored from the penalty spot for his first goal since 9 November.—*Internet*

Federer cuts back on 2009 clay tournaments

PARIS, 4 Dec— Roger Federer said Wednesday that he will trim back his claycourt schedule in 2009 despite the French Open, played on clay at Roland Garros, being the only major missing from his 13 Grand Slam titles.

The world number two, who has lost the last three French Open finals to Rafael Nadal, will skip the Monte Carlo event and intends to play just the claycourt warm-ups in Rome and Madrid.

Federer, whose prime objective in 2009 is to win back the Wimbledon crown he sensationally lost to Nadal, played four claycourt events in 2008 at Estoril, Monte Carlo, Rome and Hamburg before heading to Paris.—*Internet*



Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer, seen here in November 2008, said Wednesday that he will trim back his claycourt schedule in 2009 despite the French Open, played on clay at Roland Garros, being the only major missing from his 13 Grand Slam titles. —INTERNET

Wie opens with a 69 on tougher qualifying course



Michelle Wie plays a shot on the 1st hole during the first round of LPGA Qualifying Tournament at LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Florida. —INTERNET

DAYTONA BEACH, 4 Dec— With little fanfare and even less to say, Michelle Wie took an important first step Wednesday toward earning an LPGA Tour card by opening with a 3-under 69 in the 90-hole qualifying tournament.

It was her first competitive round since 19 September, when she advanced out of the first stage of Q-school in California.

Internet

Drug Marketing Techniques may be risking patient safety

SCIENCE DAILY, 4 Dec—Dr David Kao from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Centre, argues that while drug regulatory bodies are under pressure to make new drugs available more quickly, there are concerns that the deadlines for approving drugs have shifted the focus away from safety.

Kao reviews trends in drug approval times in the United States, and suggests how drug marketing techniques could be used to improve the way new drugs are monitored.

Previous research has shown that drugs approved in the US during the two months before the mandated deadline were more likely to be withdrawn for safety reasons or to carry a warning. Today's marketing techniques are so sophisticated, says Kao, that once a drug has been approved the products can be released on websites within 90 minutes. He cites the example of Merck's new treatment (sitagliptin) for hyperglycaemia (high blood sugar levels)—within 14 days of approval 188 million patients or 73% of the insured US population had been targeted by the marketing campaign.

The danger with so many people trying a new drug very quickly, argues Kao, is that it can expose large numbers of patients to unknown risks. When Merck's anti-inflammatory drug Vioxx (rofecoxib) was withdrawn from the market for safety reasons it had been available for five years and 20 million patients had been exposed to it.—Internet



With new drugs being reviewed by regulatory agencies and then released onto the market faster than ever before, patients' safety is being compromised warns a study published on bmj.com.—INTERNET



Rhodri Armour designed Jollbot as part of his PhD thesis.—INTERNET

Robot that jumps like a grasshopper and rolls like a ball created for space exploration

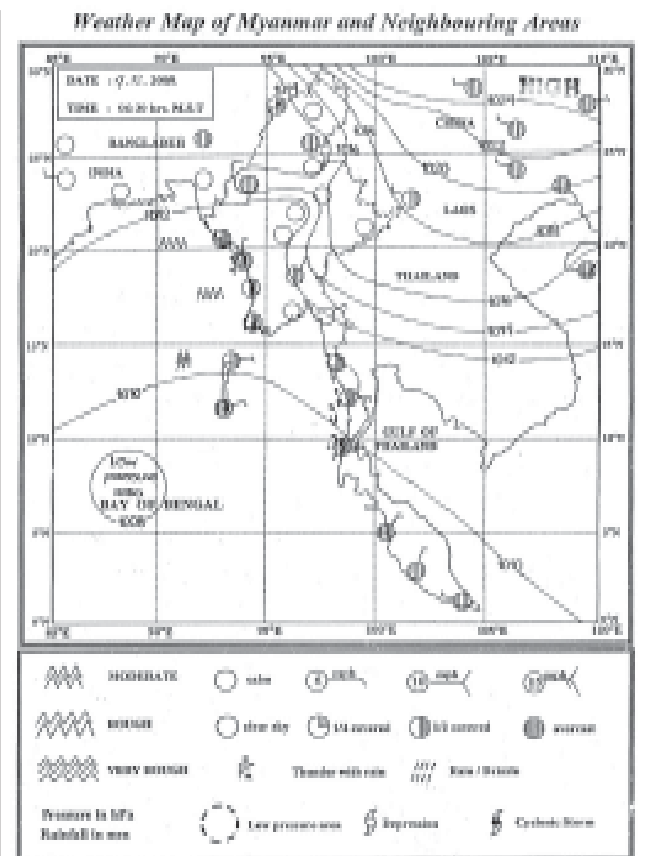
SCIENCE DAILY, 4 Dec—The first robot that can jump like a grasshopper and roll like a ball could play a key role in future space exploration.

The 'Jollbot' has been created by Rhodri Armour, a PhD student from the University of Bath. It's hoped his creation, which can jump over obstacles and roll over smoother terrain, could be used for space exploration or land survey work in the future. One of the major challenges that face robots designed for space exploration is being able to move over rough terrain. Robots with legs are generally very complex, expensive to build and control, and encounter problems if they fall over. Wheels are a simpler solution to this, but are limited by the size of obstacles they can overcome.

To solve the problem, Rhodri and colleagues in the University's Centre for Biomimetic & Natural Technologies have been looking to nature for inspiration - designing a robot that jumps obstacles in its path like an insect.

The 'Jollbot' is shaped like a spherical cage which can roll in any direction, giving it the manoeuvrability of wheels without the problem of overturning or getting stuck in potholes.

Internet



WEATHER

Thursday, 4 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan and Hakha (4°C) each and Pinlaung (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 3-12-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 4-12-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-12-2008 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 3-12-2008 was (9.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 4-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northeast at (17:30) hours MST on 3-12-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (12:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over South-east Bay has intensified into a depression, it is forecast to move West-Northwest. Weather is partly cloudy in North and Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5th December 2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely attimes Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Atmospheric unsettle condition will occur in the Andaman and South Bay.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-12-2008: Generally fair weather.



Friday, 5 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. သံသာချိုအေးမင်္ဂလာတေး

7:55 am

5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. “မပြောမပြီးမတီးမမြည်” (နေရဲလင်း၊ မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ ခင်မောင်စိုးတင့်၊ ရှင်မုန်းအိမ်ချယ်၊ ဖိုးစော်၊ နိုင်ဆုသွယ်၊ စိုင်းခန့်စိုးလင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်)

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. ကြေးမုံရိပ်သွင်တေးနယဉ်

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Songs of national races

4:20 pm

3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:30 pm

4. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:40 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

- ဒုတိယနှစ် (မြန်မာစာရသစာပေ၊ အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာအထူးပြုများ) (ဒဿနိကဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

6. Songs to uphold national spirits

5:00 pm

7. နှောင်းခေတ်တေးပဒေသာ

5:10 pm

8. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား(အပိုင်း-၂)

5:25 pm

9. “ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်ဆောင်ရွက်လျှင် အန္တရာယ်ကင်းစင်မွေးမိခင်” (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ဖိုးသောကြာ၊ မေသန်းနု၊ ပပဝင်းခင်၊ ဝဋ်နန္ဒာဖြူ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

5:45 pm

10. Musical programme

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်

7:00 pm

14. ဂီတစာဆိုတစ်ဦး၏အကြိုက်ဆုံးတေးများထဲကတစ်ပုဒ်

7:15 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကုန်သွယ်မုန်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၃၂)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၅၂)

20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

YANGON, 4 Dec—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 2 December met with local authorities, social organization members, townsenders and responsible persons of Wah Wah Win Co in Thitpok Village in Labutta Township.

The in-charge of Wah Wah Win Co reported on completion of 250 rural houses out of 475 and preparations for construction of more houses and the in-charge of Myat Noe Thu Co, on construction of a cyclone shelter that can accommodate 500 persons each.

The minister inspected settlement of people at rural housing and the library. At the salt farms in Yedwinseik Village-tract of Labutta Township, the minister viewed resumption of the tasks by 50 workers with the use of two tractors, five power-tillers on 150 acres of land.

To regenerate the salt farms damaged in the storm, the salt entrepreneurs were provided with loans, timber and fuel. In the township, workers of

Salt Production Cooperative Society and 180 salt entrepreneurs are making preparations for production of salt on 9,119.23 acres of land.

In Pyinsalu, the minister looked into construction tasks and met with departmental officials and social organization members at the hall of Max Myanmar Co.

The layout of Pyinsalu has been drawn, and temporary offices and two rural houses each for staff quarters are under construction. The plan is under way to build two 1000-person-capacity cyclone shelters. One of them will be used as Basic Education High School and another, as the combined office. Arrangements are being made for supply of electricity on the roads.

The minister inspected Kumudra Road and Pyidaungsu Road and progress in construction of staff quarters.

At the construction site of jetty, the minister heard reports on progress of the tasks presented by engineer-in-charge U Kyaw Lin Aung.

The jetty will be 108 feet long and 12 feet wide. (See page 8)

Rural development and rehabilitation tasks inspected in Labutta Township



Minister Col Thein Nyunt looks into Awba Road under repair in Labutta Township.
PBANRDA

INSIDE

Myanmar is playing an active role in AIDS prevention and control campaigns hand in hand with UN agencies and international NGOs.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — According to the observation at (3:30 p.m.) MST today, the small storm over the Southeast Bay of Bengal is centering at sea, 820 miles southeast of Chennai of the Republic of India. It is forecast to get intensified and move northwest, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Chin State to become tea garden

Article: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon); Photos: Lay Nwe (Mingaladon)



Two female workers plucking tea leaves in Moe Hein tea farm in Haka.

Haka of Chin State has changed a lot with a large number of fine buildings, library, post office, telegraph office, microwave tower, educational institutions, transport vehicles, sports grounds and economic enterprises.

Local people of Haka are engaged in agricultural farming and livestock farming from small scale to commercial scale. Their common farm animal is mythun. Mostly, they grow Shwe-yin-aye strain paddy, cabbage, corn, beans and pulses, sesame, cotton, sunflower, sugarcane, chilli, onion and garlic.

During his inspection tour of Chin State on 9 and 10 January 2000, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on transforming Chin State into a tea garden through the target of 10,000 acres of tea farms from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006. The region achieved the target.

The Prime Minister in his tour of Chin State from 27 to 29 November 2005 instructed responsible persons to grow 10,000 more acres of tea farms in the region from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008. So far, the region has put 7442 out of the targeted acreage under tea.

(See page 7)