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Monday, 15 December, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe inspects development tasks of Yatanarpon Myothit Project and National Kandawgyi Gardens

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe went on an inspection tour of ongoing Yatanarpon Myothit Project and developing National Kandawgyi Gardens, in PyinOoLwin on 11 December and gave necessary guidance.

Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Members, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers, military officers and officials of the SPDC Office, arrived at Yatanarpon Myothit Construction Project site near mile post No. 27/0 on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin motor road in PyinOoLwin township at 11.30 a.m. and inspected progress in allotting lands to implement housing projects and IT workshops

in a motorcade.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party oversaw conditions of Incubation Centre buildings and the project area. Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe was conducted round Incubation Centre No. 7 by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and officials while inspecting booths of private companies, E-Telegram booths of Myanmar Telecommunications.

When Senior General Than Shwe and members arrived at Yatanarpon Teleport, which is the main building of the project, ministers, deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor, members of committee for building Yatanarpon Myothit, officials and IT experts of Myanmar Computer Federation and entrepreneurs welcomed them.

At the briefing hall of Yatanarpon Teleport, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard reports on formation of various kinds



Senior General Than Shwe views computers and accessories and IT equipment displayed at Myanmar ICT Week.—MNA

of soils in an area of 10,000 acres of project site, land preparations, progress in constructing factories and office buildings, housing project area and progress of implementation presented by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe.

(See page 8)

Yatanarpon Myothit Project will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase the project area is 2,200 acres where a teleport and seven structures for incubation centre have been built. Altogether 13 local and foreign companies have proposed to invest in IT industry including designs of factories, items to be manufactured and arrangements for producing human resources.



Senior General Than Shwe inspects National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 15 December, 2008

Expedite work for completion of large-scale hydropower project

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected implementation of Yeywa hydropower project on the Myitnge River, southeast of Mandalay in Mandalay Division the other day.

The project is a large-scale hydropower one of the State that will generate 790 megawatts and 3,550 million kilowatt hours annually.

The roller compacted concrete main dam with 2,264 feet in length and 433 feet in height is under construction on the Myitnge River and the project has been completed by almost cent per cent.

Efforts are being made for construction of power station, the diversion tunnel and inlet and outlet, intake structure and spillway, parts of the project and installation of penstock being carried out to complete the project in time.

Yeywa-Belin (Kyaukse) 230 KV power line, Yeywa-Meiktila 230 KV power line and Belin-Meiktila 230 KV power line are under construction for supply of 790 megawatts of electricity from Yeywa hydropower station to the national grid.

The Head of State gave guidance that the work for supplying power to the consumers also needs to be done as the tasks to generate electricity are being undertaken. He added that power supply tasks are to be carried out systematically without any loss and wastage.

It is believed that power demand of the people will be fulfilled on completion of Yeywa hydropower project.

Chairman of MDA Prof Dr U Thein Htut gives certificate to Managing Director U Ye Lin.—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

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held its meeting No. 44/2008 at Nay Pyi Taw Command on 14 December.

Patron of the supervisory committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin in his speech called for assessments of work committee and subcommittee-wise and successful completion of the second Traffic Rules Enforcement Educative Exhibition to be held from 26 to 31 December.

The records of the previous meeting were read out. Chairman of the supervisory committee Deputy Commander Col Min Zaw reported on previous and present accident rates, follow-up programmes for traffic rules enforcement, and work to be done by the organizing committee and subcommittees for the exhibition.

The committee and subcommittee reported on work progress. The commander gave concluding remarks.—MNA

Myanmar stand first in First Asian Compound Archery Tourney



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepts sports equipment, vitamin-c and auto parts for MAF donated by Professor Park Young Ill. —NLM

MDA presents acknowledgement certificate for Laser tooth paste

YANGON, 14 Dec—Myanmar Dental Association held a ceremony to present acknowledgement certificate for Laser tooth paste at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

First, Chairman of MDA Prof Dr U Thein Htut made a speech on the occasion and then presented an acknowledgement certificate to Managing Director U Ye Lin of Laser Company. Next, U Ye Lin explained of manufacturing Laser tooth paste to meet the set standard.

YANGON, 14 Dec —Myanmar stood first in the First Asian Compound Archery Tournament 2008 winning five gold and three silver medals.

Myanmar team beat India with 204-194 points in the women's event of the final matches of the tournament held at the Kyaikkasan Ground yesterday morning.

In the men's event, India won gold after beating Myanmar with 216-213 points.

Chairman of Central Work Committee of Myanmar Women's Sport Federation Daw Aye Aye presented prizes to Myanmar, India and Thailand that stood first, and second respectively. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented prizes to winning teams in men's event.

The minister accepted archery equipment worth US \$ 15,000 donated by Professor Park Young-III for MAF.

Prize-presentation and dinner in commemoration of the First Asian Compound Archery Tournament was held at Karaweik Hall yesterday evening. Officials of World Archery Federation, Asian Archery Federation and President of MAF presented gifts to judges and referees.—MNA

Dr Khin Shwe presents gifts to judges and referees.—NLM



Laser Company is cooperating with MDA to develop its tooth paste. Men use best quality soap manufactured by Laser Company is being distributing to the public.

MNA



Iraqi security men look at the damage to the “Abdullah” restaurant outside the northern city of Kirkuk on 11 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Arab League denounces suicide attack in Iraq’s Kirkuk

CAIRO, 14 Dec—The Cairo-based Arab league (AL) on Saturday condemned the suicide attack that killed at least 47 and injured some 93 others two day ago in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

In a statement issued on Saturday, AL Secretary General Amr Moussa said such attacks hinder the national reconciliation process and stability that “we all hope to be achieved” in Iraq.

The chief of the pan-Arab body called on the Iraqi people to “face up to such bloody attacks and protect their national unity,” said the statement.

On Thursday, a suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt detonated himself in the afternoon at the Abdullah Restaurant in northern suburb of Kirkuk, killing at least 47 and wounding 93 others.

Such violence was not unusual in the ethnically mixed oil-rich city, some 250 km north of Baghdad.

Iraq’s Kurds have been pressing forward with a campaign to annex the region into its autonomous region, while the Arabs and Turkomans oppose the move.

Internet

Three Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan

TORONTO, 14 Dec—Three Canadian soldiers were killed and one wounded in southern Afghanistan on Saturday when an explosive device detonated near the armored car in which they were riding, military officials said. With the latest casualties, 103 members of the Canadian forces have lost their lives since the country’s military mission in Afghanistan started in 2002. One diplomat has also been killed.

A statement by military officials did not identify the soldiers. They said further details would become available after the families were notified.

Canada has about 2,700 soldiers in the southern city of Kandahar on a combat mission set to end in 2011. Roadside bomb attacks on NATO forces in Afghanistan have risen sharply this autumn, reversing the seasonal decline that usually occurs with the onset of winter, according to Pentagon data released on Thursday. —*Internet*

Suicide bomb kills four policemen in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 14 Dec—A suicide bomb killed at least four policemen on Sunday in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, local police said.

The escalation of violence in Afghanistan this year, the bloodiest period since the Taliban was ousted in 2001, has raised fears about the prospects of stability in the country despite an increasing number of foreign troops.

A *Reuters* witness at the scene said the attacker detonated his device in front of the Chinese hospital in the capital of Kandahar Province.

Removed from power in 2001, the Taliban largely rely on suicide and roadside bomb attacks as part of their campaign to topple the Western-backed government and drive out foreign troops under the command of NATO and the US military.—*Internet*



Afghan parents keep children home

KABUL, 13 Dec—Fears of worsening security and a recent acid attack on schoolgirls have led many parents in one Afghan Province to keep their children at home.

There has been a significant decline recently in the number of pupils, especially girls, attending school in the central province of Ghazni. The provincial council says 15,000 pupils have stopped going to school so far this year.

Fifty schools have closed because of the security situation. The Taleban denied it was responsible for last month’s acid attack on schoolgirls in Kandahar Province, but parents fear something similar could happen to their daughters. Many of them have stopped sending their children to school. —*Internet*

A woman whose husband was killed during a shooting by employees of US security firm Blackwater, sits next to her daughter while attending a meeting with prosecutors and US Federal Bureau of Investigation officials in Baghdad on 13 Dec, 2008.
INTERNET



A convoy of the Afghan policemen passes by a bazaar as they head back to their police station after a routine patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan, 2008. Militant suicide bombings and ambushes last year killed more than 900 Afghan police.

INTERNET

Rows of destroyed Humvees and military trucks are seen at the Portward Logistic Terminal in Peshawar, Pakistan, 2008. Militants blasted their way into two transport terminals in Pakistan on Sunday and torched more than 160 vehicles destined for US-led troops in Afghanistan, in the biggest assault yet on a vital military supply line.

INTERNET





A speed boat from Indian customs patrols the sea close to the port in Mumbai on 13 Dec, 2008. Indian customs commissioned nine patrol vessels on Saturday.—XINHUA

Somali forces apprehend five suspected pirates

MOGADISHU, 14 Dec—Authorities in northwestern Somalia said on Saturday that local security forces captured five men suspected of planning to carry out piracy activities off the coast of the region, reports reaching here said.

The local coast guards managed to apprehend the five men along with their weapons and boat following a short exchange of gunfire in the Sanag province, Abdulahi Ismael Irro, a local Interior Minister, told reporters in Hargeisa, the capital of the self-proclaimed re-

public of Somaliland in northwest Somalia.

Irro said at a news conference in Hargeisa that there were no casualties from the gun fight between the suspected pirates and local coast guards, adding that the men were from the neighbouring semiautonomous Somali region of Puntland, hotbed for the piracy off Somalia.

Somaliland has not received international recognition for its secession from Somalia since the collapse of the Somali government in 1991.

However the region enjoys relative stability and has its separate self-government, flag, police and military forces and currency.

An international conference on piracy in Somalia concluded this week in the Kenyan capital Nairobi .

A number of international warships are currently deployed off Somali to fight piracy while the UN Security Council is expected to authorize further actions to deal with the scourge.

Xinhua

Jobs still aplenty for Singaporeans

SINGAPORE, 14 Dec—Singapore’s Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said on Saturday that despite the weaker economic outlook, jobs are still aplenty for Singaporeans.

Speaking to the local media at an Indian community event here on Saturday, Shanmugaratnam said that Singaporeans must be confident to fill the vacancies especially with ministries expected to bring forward hiring plans, but there is a need to sustain Singaporeans’ readiness for the changing workplace, according to Channel NewsAsia reports.

“In the retail sector, in the hotel sector, front line jobs, service jobs, quite a lot of jobs are available so Singaporeans need to

have the confidence so that they can obtain those jobs. We can provide them some training,”he said.

More job opportunities can be expected with all ministries looking to accelerate their hiring and spending plans, he said, adding that Singaporeans can take advantage of present wide-ranging job opportunities especially in the healthcare and childcare sectors.

After rising for two consecutive quarters, the overall jobless rate in the city state remained at a seasonally adjusted 2.2 percent in September, unchanged from June this year but higher than 1.7 percent in September last year.

Xinhua

Raul Castro begins first overseas trip, arrives in Venezuela

CARACAS, 14 Dec—Cuban President Raul Castro arrived in Caracas on Saturday for a brief visit to Venezuela on his first overseas trip since assuming office in February.

Castro was met at the airport by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Castro was to lay a wreath at a statue of Venezuela’s independence hero Simon Bolivar in Plaza Bolivar in downtown Caracas.

Then he will hold talks with Chavez at the presidential palace and attend the closing ceremony of

the 11th inter-governmental mixed committee between the two countries.

After Venezuela, Castro is expected to head to a summit of leaders of Latin American and Caribbean countries scheduled for 16 Dec in Brazil.—Xinhua

Cuban President Raul Castro (R) arrived in Caracas, on 13 Dec, 2008, for a brief visit to Venezuela on his first overseas trip since assuming office in February.

XINHUA



Obama’s choice for housing secretary Donovan

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—Shaun Donovan, New York City’s housing commissioner, was chosen by US president-elect Barack Obama on Saturday as his secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Donovan, 42, is expected to bring extensive experience with housing issues to the Obama administration.

Since he became New

York City’s housing commissioner in 2004, he has focused on ambitious goals of building more low-income housing in city while navigating the web of interests, including landlords, developers and lenders.

He also has experience in the HUD, where he served as deputy assistant secretary for multifamily housing in the Clinton administration, managing a multibillion-US-dollar housing subsidy program that served 1.7 million

people annually.

During this year’s presidential election, Donovan took a leave of absence from his job in New York to campaign Obama.

He also worked as a manager of Federal Housing Administration loans and affordable housing investments at Prudential Mortgage Capital Company.

After serving in the Clinton administration, Donovan was also a visiting scholar at New York University.—Xinhua

China to launch new remote sensing satellite

BEIJING, 14 Dec—China is scheduled to launch a new remote sensing satellite “Yaogan V” on Monday at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China’s Shanxi Province.

The satellite is to be launched into the space on a Long March-4B carrier rocket “at an appropriate time”, China News Service reports on Sunday.

At present, both the rocket and the satellite were in good condition and the preparation went on well, according to the launch centre. The satellite would be used for scientific research, land resources surveying, crop yield estimate and disaster prevention and relief.

Its predecessor “Yaogan IV” was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwestern Gansu Province. “Yaogan III” was launched in Taiyuan on 12 Nov, 2007. The “Yaogan I” and the “Yaogan II” satellites were launched in April 2006 and May 2007 respectively. —Xinhua

The mascot Dongdong of the game shows up at the ceremony held at the Speed skating Gym for the 24th Winter Universiade, in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 13 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency



North Korea warns nuclear dismantling might slow

BEIJING, 14 Dec— North Korea's envoy to nuclear talks warned on Saturday that Pyongyang will slow work on dismantling its nuclear programme if energy aid by Washington and others is delayed.

Four days of disarmament talks ended in a stalemate last week after North Korea refused to make written commitments on inspection of its nuclear programme. That blocked progress on an aid-for-disarmament agreement reached last year.

"Let's watch whether economic and energy compensation projects stop or move forward," the North Korean envoy, Kim Kye Gwan, said as he prepared to return to Pyongyang. "We'll adjust the speed of our disablement work if it (energy aid) doesn't come in."

South Korea's foreign minister said on Thursday the North might be trying to extract more aid by resisting verification of the dismantling of its nuclear programme. Pyongyang complained on Wednesday about a delay in energy aid, saying it has slowed disabling the Yongbyon reactor in response. It refused to allow outside inspectors to take samples from its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon.

North Korea has agreed to give up nuclear weapons but has resisted Washington's attempts to put in place strict measures to ensure it is not hiding any active atomic programmes.—*Internet*



A health worker wrings a chicken during a cull in the bird flu-affected area of Khanapara in Guwahati, the capital city of India's northeastern state of Assam. Officials fighting the spread of bird flu in northeast India stepped up surveillance on Saturday as poultry farmers resisted the slaughter of chickens in affected areas, a minister said.

INTERNET

Panic as Ukraine's currency plummets

KIEV, 14 Dec— The national currency of Ukraine, whose pro-West government wants to join the European Union, has almost halved in value in the last six months, prompting panic amongst its heavily indebted population.

The sudden fall in the hryvnia has sent Ukrainians rushing to exchange booths to change local money for hard currency, in scenes that recalled the hyperinflation suffered by the country in the early 1990s.

Not only do Ukrainian consumers have to pay back loans taken out in more prosperous times but many will also have to pay them back in dollars.

The hryvnia (UAH) was on Friday trading at 7.49 UAH against the dollar compared with 5.05 UAH at the beginning of the year and 4.84 UAH in July.

The National Bank of Ukraine has allowed the hryvnia to trade freely in line with the conditions of a 16.4-billion-dollar (12.8 billion euro) IMF loan aimed at helping the country through the financial crisis.

The hryvnia—a currency introduced in 1996 and named after money used in ancient Kiev—has endured the ignominy of suffering one of the worst devaluations, along with the Icelandic krona, in the global financial crisis.

"I consider myself a cultivated gentleman. But at the moment I'm thinking of taking petrol and a lighter and setting the National Bank of Ukraine on fire," said Egor Sobolev, a journalist who owes 60,000 dollars for his flat.—*Internet*



Dancers from the western Indian state of Gujarat perform "Sidhi Dhamal", a folk dance, during a 10-day handicraft fair in the northern Indian city of Allahabad on 10 Dec, 2008. — INTERNET

Mexican schools close as children are threatened

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 14 Dec—Fourth-grader Ricardo Ivan Ortega knows he is a target in this violent city. His school closed temporarily last month after an anonymous note demanded teachers hand over their year-end bonuses — or students would be kidnapped.

Ricardo has a plan.

"I will just hide," the shy 9-year-old said in late November, waiting in the family car while his mother inquired when Luis Urias Elementary would reopen. "My mom told me not to get near the front gate, and if I need to, to run out of my classroom."

Across Ciudad Juarez, parents and students are stricken by reports of

kidnapping and extortion threats, starting with a sign that appeared on 12 Nov on the front door of another school, the Elena Garro kindergarten, demanding: "Either give us your bonuses, or we will start to kidnap the children."

Police removed it before the children arrived. Some speculate that cartels now are targeting schools to supplement income with the Mexican government's crackdown on drug trafficking, much as they've already extorted businesses. Others say common criminals are trying to cash in on the fear that pervades border cities, where terrified residents are seeing ever more brutal murders—more than 1,300 so far this year in Ciudad Juarez.—*Internet*

100 passengers injured in bus accident in Nepali capital

KATHMANDU, 14 Dec—As many as 100 passengers were injured in a bus accident in the Nepali capital Kathmandu on Saturday evening.

A bus which was crowded with picnickers collided with another bus in Kathmandu, injuring 100 passengers, the National News Agency RSS reported.

According to Metropolitan Police Sector Gokarna, the accident occurred due to brake failure on the sloppy road and drunk drivers.

There were 300 passengers crammed in the two buses. Most of the injured were children, the report said.—*Internet*

Russia to attend OPEC summit

ALGIERS, 14 Dec—The head of OPEC says Russia and three other non-cartel members will take part in the oil producers' summit next week in Oran, Algeria.

Chakib Khelil says Russia will send its deputy prime minister in charge of energy and its oil minister to Wednesday's summit. The other guest countries invited by the 14-member cartel are Oman, Azerbaijan and Syria.

Khelil asserts that a final consensus has been reached by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce oil output levels.—*Internet*



Pakistani Rangers (In Black) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel perform the daily retreat ceremony on the India-Pakistan border at Wagah on 10 Dec. Pakistan accused India's air force of violating its airspace, drawing a swift denial from New Delhi, as Britain's visiting prime minister sought to defuse tensions on Sunday. —INTERNET

Zimbabwean President says UK caused cholera



Robert Mugabe
HARARE, 14 Dec —The cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe which has left hundreds dead was caused by the UK, an ally of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has said.
Information Minister Sikhanyiso Ndlovu described the outbreak as a “genocidal onslaught on the people of Zimbabwe by the British”.
On Thursday, Mr Mugabe said the spread of

cholera had been halted.
But aid workers warned that the situation was worsening and the outbreak could last for months.
In his comments to media in Harare, Mr Ndlovu likened the appearance of cholera in Zimbabwe to a “serious biological chemical weapon” used by the British.
He described it as “a calculated, racist, terrorist attack on Zimbabwe”.
Mr Mugabe has already accused Western powers of plotting to use cholera as an excuse to invade and overthrow him. —Internet

Moderate earthquake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 14 Dec—A 5.5-magnitude earthquake shook Ambon in Eastern Indonesia’s Maluku islands on early Sunday morning, without any injuries or damages reported yet, said the Indonesia Meteorology and Geophysics Agency quoted by the Jakarta Post.
The quake occurred at 02:00 am local time (1700 GMT Saturday), with the epicenter located 203 km northeast of Ambon and 10 km below the sea level.
Internet

Crews fight cold, ice to return power to Northeast

CONCORD, 14 Dec—Temperatures fell over the ice-coated Northeast on Saturday, where storm-related power failures had already plunged more than a million homes and businesses from Pennsylvania to Maine into the dark and cold.
“If you don’t have power, assume that you will not get it restored today, and right now make arrangements to stay someplace warm tonight,” Gov John Lynch of hardest-hit New Hampshire warned.
Officials expected to see more people in shelters on Saturday night with temperatures forecast to dip into the teens. It was the third night without power for many.
Utilities in New Hampshire said it would likely be Thursday or Friday — a week after the storm — before all power is restored in the region, partly because of the sheer number of outages and partly because of the devastation.
“What is facing us is the apparent need to rebuild the entire infrastructure of some sections of the electrical delivery system,” said Martin Murray, spokesman for Public Service Company of New Hampshire.—Internet



A man clears ice-covered branches of trees from a closed road after a storm in Derry, NH, on 13 Dec, 2008. Hundreds of thousands of residents in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont were without power after an ice storm dropped trees and power lines all over the region.—INTERNET

Sri Lankan Air Force bombs rebels in north

COLOMBO, 14 Dec—Sri Lankan air force on Saturday bombed ethnic Tamil separatists near their de facto capital in the north, the government said, while a pro-rebel report said artillery shells fired by government troops killed an infant and two others.
Fighter jets bombed nine times to the west and northwest of the Tamil Tiger rebel headquarters in Kilinochchi, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.
He said pilots confirmed some rebel bunkers were successfully hit but casualty details were not available.
Meanwhile rebel-affiliated TamilNet Web site reported that government soldiers fired artillery into two rebel-held villages, killing three civilians displaced by the war.
Internet

Man comes home, finds drunk man asleep on floor

Police said a man came home to find a drunk burglar asleep on the living room floor. The arrest report said a 36-year-old man broke into the apartment on Wednesday and rummaged through the bedroom and cabinets before passing out.
Police said when he woke up, the man was apparently so intoxicated he thought he was in his own apartment.
Police charged him with burglary and criminal mischief.



Photo shows a solar glass curtain wall in Diangujinjiang International Hotel of Baoding in north China's Hebei Province. The five-star hotel with solar power generators, the first of its kind in China, was put into operation on Saturday, which has a total installed solar power capacity of 0.3 megawatts.



A Humpback whale dives in the waters of Antarctica.

Man accused of stabbing himself to frame ex-friend

A young man who told San Clemente police he was jumped and stabbed apparently made up the story in an effort to get an ex-friend in trouble Lt Ted Boyne said a 19-year man was arrested on Thursday afternoon and booked for investigation of filing a false police report.
Police got an anonymous stabbing call early on Thursday and investigators followed a trail of blood to the man, who was bleeding from his hands and arms. The man told investigators he was stabbed by a former friend.
The lieutenant said it was later determined the man used a shard of glass to inflict the wounds on himself.
The nature of the disagreement with his friend wasn’t disclosed.

Woman, mom convicted of smuggling monkey into US

A Spokane woman and her mother have been convicted in federal court on charges of sneaking a rhesus monkey into the United States from Thailand. Gypsy Lawson, 29, hid the sedated young rhesus macaque under her blouse, pretending to be pregnant when she successfully passed through U Customs in Los Angeles after a trip to Bangkok, Thailand.
Her mother, Fran Ogren, 55, of Northport, Wash., also went on the trip in November 2007.
The two women were found guilty on Monday by a 12-

NEWS ALBUM



A 1914 Fritchle electric car, which was built in Denver, is part of an exhibit to mark the 150th anniversary of the city of Denver at the Colorado History Museum in Denver.

Low-carb diets may cause memory loss

A US psychologist says a low carbohydrate diet can reduce memory skills.
Holly A Taylor of Tufts University said dieters who eliminated carbohydrates from their meals performed more poorly on memory-based tasks than when they reduce calories, but maintain carbohydrates, the university said on Wednesday in a release. She said reduced carbohydrate intake reduces the brain’s source of energy.
“The data suggest that after a week of severe carbohydrate restriction, memory performance, particularly on difficult tasks, is impaired,” Taylor said. Cognition skills returned to normal when carbohydrates were reintroduced.
The report was published earlier this year in the journal Appetite.

Beautiful scene and wonderful lakes on Kachin mountain range

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Myanma Alin

Since yore, the wonderful lakes have been on Kachin mountain range. The lakes are less known because people hardly get to the lakes located on the over 10,000 feet high mountain ranges naturally.

Madwel Lake and Htawtagaw Lake in Machanbaw Township of Putao District in Kachin State are two of the wonderful lakes in the region.

Madwel Lake located at an altitude of 12,700 feet stores water at the full brim all the year round. The water is so clean and transparent that pebbles and stones under water can be seen.

Madwel Lake is situated amidst the walls of mountains. According to the surveys, the area of the lake is 0.95 square miles. The one who would walk around it would take about two hours. It is because the route around the lake beside the walls of mountains is difficult.

The lake is the habitat of the tadpoles and the strange species of fish. In the absence of those wishing to catch and disturb, some species of fish



Beautiful and misty Madwel Lake seen on Kachin mountain range at an altitude of about 12,700 feet.



Photo shows a rare species of fish with unusual head at Madwel Lake.

of Madwel Lake although surrounding areas are covered with ice. The environs of Htawtagaw Lake are the habitat of the flocks of mountain quail, squirrels, gorals and musk deer.

Around the lake and the slopes of mountains are fertile areas for rare species of herbal plants. Therefore, some herbal plant hunters have visited there. However, the area is not frequented by the people because the water there is frozen in eight months out of the 12.

The water flows from both lakes into Madwel Creek at an altitude of 2,000 feet through the slopes and waterfalls between the mountains. After that, the water flows into Maliwam Creek from Madwel Creek. Maliwam Creek empties into Malikha River. Significant and wonderful scenes can be seen at the lakes on the mountains at an altitude of over 10,000 feet on Kachin mountain range.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 7-12-2008

get bigger and bigger.

Although the fact that all the mountains on Kachin mountain range are capped with mist, snow and ice, the water does not freeze at Madwel Lake. It is a natural drinking water lake for mountaineers, local hunters and those who search herbal plants.

Furthermore, Htawtagaw Lake is naturally located at the area, 1,000 feet higher than the location of Madwel Lake. Htawtagaw Lake is near Htawtagaw snow-capped mountain and it is at an altitude of over 13,500 feet.

In fact, Htawtagaw Lake is one of the largest lakes located on mountains at an altitude of over 10,000 feet in Putao District. The area of the lake is about 2 square miles and the length from south to north is longer than the width. The water in Htawtagaw Lake is cleaner than that of Madwel Lake. Due to inflow of water melted from ice-capped mountains, the cold and clean water is stored at the full brim of the lake.

Htawtagaw Lake is also unfrozen similar to that



A panoramic view of Htawtagaw Lake seen on Kachin mountain range at an altitude of over 13,500 feet.



Senior General Than Shwe views blooming flowers at flower festival.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects ...

(from page 1)
Next, Chairman of Myanmar Electronic National Taskforce Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Building Yatanarpon Myothit Minister for CPT Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented reports to Senior General Than Shwe and party on progress in building Yatanarpon Myothit.
He reported that Yatanarpon Myothit Project will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase the project area is 2,200 acres where a teleport and seven structures for incubation centre have been built. Altogether 13 local and foreign companies have proposed to invest in IT industry including designs of factories, items to be manufactured and arrangements for

producing human resources.
He also reported on allotment of land, construction of roads, installation of communication equipment, supply of water and power and efforts for establishment of a modern town full of IT industries.
Next, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han reported on implementation of housing project in the north of Yatanarpon Myothit in cooperation with private companies, rules and regulations issued for residents to buy plots of land and 194 plots of land allotted.
Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung also reported on matters related to IT industries.
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and member of SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye reported on development of IT industry.
Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on coordination for establishment of IT factories of the companies that have invested in this field as soon as possible, land allotment for investors and residential housing units.
Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected charts of Yatanarpon Myothit Construction Project and observed modern computers and accessories and IT equipment.
Senior General Than Shwe and party went to National Kandawgyi Gardens and visited



Flowers seen at flower festival.—MNA



Orchids are seen at flower festival.—MNA

Computers and accessories and IT equipment at Myanmar ICT Week.—MNA



flower plantations at the third flower festival. They were conducted round the festival by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials of Myanmar Floriculturists Association.
At the flower festival, altogether over 7 million flowers of 16 local species and over 70 foreign species were on show with 15 flower displays depicting the map of Myanmar and harbour for the royalty in the palace garden, two lions, flower hills, Nan Myint

Tower, aircraft, ship, snow flower, etc.
The aim of the flower festival is to enable flower-lovers to observe a wide array of flowers at a place at the same time and to attract local and foreign tourists by holding such a grand flower festival yearly.
Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party looked into the development of the National Kandawgyi Gardens and recreation of the people.
Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and

party proceeded to the modern orchid garden in the National Kandawgyi Gardens where they were conducted round by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials.
The modern orchid was established with the aim of flourishing foreign and local orchids and preserving orchids of Myanmar species.
Altogether over 300 local orchid species from states and divisions and hybrid orchids are grown in the orchid garden.
MNA



The National Kandawgyi Gardens has a place for children to have fun and joy.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe looks into sluice gates, cultivation of summer paddy in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa townships



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of Kadappana Sluice Gate.—MNA

YANGON, 14 Dec—Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this morning inspected maintenance of Kayan Sluice Gate built on Kayan Creek near Chaungwa Village of Thanlyin Township.

In Bayet Village of the township, they viewed the water tapping demonstration for saving of fuel and summer paddy cultivation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into tarmacking of approach road to Dagon Bridge near Bayet Village. Road Construction Project Special Group-16 of Public Works is constructing the road linking Dagon Bridge to Thilawa Industrial Zone.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party also inspected progress in construction of Kadappana Sluice Gate being undertaken by Construction-6 of Irrigation Department near Kadappana Village of Kyauktan Township.

With 54.6 square miles of watershed area Kadappana Sluice Gate is of RC type. The sluice gate will have one 1,000 feet long main outlet channel and one 2,000 feet long water intake channel. The sluice gate will have 27 valves each measuring 16 feet long and six feet wide. On completion, the sluice gate will benefit 15,000 acres of land.

They also looked into maintenance of Takaw Sluice Gate on Takaw Creek near Takaw Village of Thongwa Township.—MNA

Deputy FM arrives back from Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back in Yangon yesterday after attending the Bali Democracy Forum held in Indonesia on 10 and 11 December 2008.

President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, His Majesty Sultan Hassan al-Bolkiah of Brunei, Prime Minister of Australia Mr Kevin Rudd,

Prime Minister of Timor Leste Mr Xanana Gusmao, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, and foreign ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials from 32 countries attended the forum.

The held discussions about Building and Consolidating Democracy in Asia as a Strategic Agenda.

While in Jakarta, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu paid a call on Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Surin Pitsuwan and briefed on ongoing process being carried out by the Myanmar government for post-Nargis reconstruction and rehabilitation, and attended a working lunch hosted by Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu attends Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia.—MNA

Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein speaks at the ceremony to honour blood donors.

MNA

Blood donors honoured at University of Nursing (Yangon)

YANGON, 14 Dec—In commemoration of Blood Donors Day, the National Blood Centre of Yangon

General Hospital held the 32nd ceremony to honour blood donors at the meeting hall of University

of Nursing (Yangon) in Lanmadaw Township here this morning.

Deputy Director-

General of Health Department Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein attended the ceremony and made a speech on the occasion.

Next, well-wishers donated blood at the National Blood Centre, and officials accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the former.

Afterwards, officials presented gifts to 638 blood donors who have donated blood for 50 times and above.—MNA



Teachers to train students to become not only outstanding ones in their classes but also ones who serve the interest of their own regions

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Special Refresher Course No. 33 for basic education teachers concluded at Yadana Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, on behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, delivered an address on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, departmental heads, the Rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar), pro-rectors, heads of department, course instructors and trainee teachers.

In his address, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, on behalf of Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, said it is his belief that all the trainees who have been fully equipped with national outlooks and nationalistic fervour in the

current training course will have the capability to strive for realizing the goal of the national education promotion programme.

While discharging the State responsibilities in accord with the demand of history, the State Peace and Development Council is making all-out efforts for warding off evil legacy and for development of the nation in all aspects.

With the aim of narrowing the development gap among the States and Divisions, infrastructures such as roads, railroads and bridges have been built as the network, and efforts were made for equitable development and harmonious development in different regions in education and health sectors.

Moreover, education institutions from the basic education to the university levels were built with the teaching aid and multimedia facilities to be able to turn out the educated human resources.

The students being nurtured by the teachers will be new generation who will discharge the duties in all sectors of the State in the future. National education promotion programmes are being implemented in cooperation with the people, local authorities and social organizations.

While working for the well-being of their regions based on the tasks of the basic education sector, the teachers are to train their students to become not only outstanding ones in their classes but also ones who serve the interest of their own regions.

With various challenges facing the world in the 21st century, the teachers are to constantly learn changing educational concepts, good management and leadership, information and technology and international languages. Only then, will they be able to train their students to have the ability to such challenges of the 21st century.

The teachers responsible for the education sector should be honoured as good children of the human society as

their goodwill, perseverance, industriousness and capability go beyond other professions.

All in all, the teachers are urged to nurture the new generation youths to become qualified good citizens, to try for themselves to become good education staff working for the wellbeing of their own regions based on the education sector, to try to inculcate the youths with spirit of upholding Our Three Main National Causes and Union Spirit.

Next, Minister Dr Chan Nyein presented awards to the outstanding trainees and certificates to the trainees through their leaders.

The course was attended by 1,305 trainees from basic education schools in Upper Myanmar.—MNA

Ruby oil mill holds fourth anniversary and press conference on soy bean oil

YANGON, 14 Dec—Ruby Lion Manufacturing Co Ltd held its fourth anniversary in conjunction with press conference on soy bean oil at block No 10/64 in Shwe Pyi Tha Industrial Zone-3, here, on 8 December.

Vice-Chairman U Myo Win of Ruby Lion

Manufacturing Co Ltd explained the purpose of manufacturing edible oil not because of focusing on profit but because of emphasizing on quality standard.

Next, Adviser U Than Htaik and technical adviser U Kyaw Win made clarification on production of soy bean edible oil.

Polyunsaturated fatty acid and monounsaturated fatty acid can effectively lessen level of cholesterol, low density lipoprotein (LDL). Hundred grams of oil can offer 3700 kilojoules of energy.

The oil is available at No 26/28, Thirimon Plaza, Thirimon Road, Bayintnaung Brokerage (Tel-682941, 682017 and 682461), e-mail.rubyoil@ruby-lion.myanmar.com, WWW.Ruby-lion-myanmar.com.

MNA

Shwewutyi ordination hall of Kainggon Pali Tekkatho Monastery opened

YANGON, 14 Dec—A ceremony to open Shwewutyi ordination hall of Kainggon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Kayan Township was held at the monastery today.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony and opened the ordination hall. Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobhita of the monastery.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, officials concerned and wellwishers donated provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.—MNA



Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein presents prize to a trainee teacher.—MNA

Golf Masters Magazine Readers Tournament 2008 on 24 Dec

YANGON, 14 Dec — Golf Masters Magazine Readers Tournament 2008 will be held at Myanmar Golf Club 9th mile, here on 24 December.

The readers of the Golf Masters Magazine may take part in the tourney and the golfers must contact Myanmar Golf Club, Tel; 099972554 and 099041798 not later than

20 December. Gifts and handsome prizes will be awarded.

Main sponsor is Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd and co-sponsors are Srixon, Cleveland, Cross Creek, XXIO, Pahtama Group Ltd, C Care, Dagon Brewery Co Ltd, GP watch, Royal Modern Furniture. Han Event Management will organize the tourney.—MNA

Fire breaks out on ground floor of Yuzana Plaza

YANGON, 14 Dec—A fire broke out on the ground floor of Yuzana Plaza in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township here at 6.25 p.m. today. The fire was brought under control at 6.45 p.m. Clothing of four shops (F-19, F-20, E-19 and E-20) on the ground floor was lost to the fire. The fire started from the electric short circuit of the water cooler at Shop No. F-19.

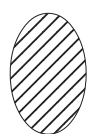
MNA

Good for Health, High in Quality.

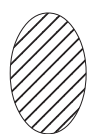


ပတ္တမြား

မြေပဲဆီသန့်
ပဲပိစပ်ဆီသန့်



High
quality
Ruby
brand
edible
oil.



Iran says has proof US, UK back police killer group

TEHERAN, 14 Dec— Iran has documents to prove the United States and Britain, the Islamic Republic's two Western arch foes, back a group that killed 16 abducted Iranian police officers, state radio reported on Saturday.

Shi'ite-dominated Iran said this month the Sunni group Jundollah (God's Soldiers) had killed 16 police hostages

who were abducted from a checkpoint in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province in June.

Teheran, which often accuses Britain and the United States of trying to destabilise the Islamic Republic, has said Jundollah's head, Abdolmalek Rigi, is part of the Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda network.

"There are documents

that show that Britain and America are supporting Rigi's terrorist group with arms and information," the radio quoted Ebrahim Raisi, first deputy to Iran's judiciary chief, as saying.

"The Iranian nation will avenge the blood of the border post soldiers powerfully," it added, without providing further details on the documents.

MNA/Reuters



Firemen try to put out a fire at a massage parlor in Yuncheng, Shanxi Province on 12 Dec, 2008. A fire in a massage parlor killed seven people on Friday in the city and further investigation is underway, Xinhua News Agency reported.—INTERNET

Somali gunmen kill local aid worker, kidnap two

MOGADISHU, 14 Dec— Somali gunmen killed a local employee of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Saturday and kidnapped two of his colleagues, witnesses said. Residents said unidentified gunmen opened fire on the aid worker's car in the Madina district of the capital Mogadishu, which has been the focus of a two-year Islamist insurgency against Somalia's Western-backed interim government.

"He died on the spot," witness Rahma Farah told Reuters. "The gunmen loaded his dead body into the boot of his vehicle and then they took off with his two colleagues."

ICRC officials in the city declined to comment.

Attacks on aid workers are common in

Somalia and are normally blamed on the Islamist rebels. But the Islamists say government hardliners are behind the killings, and accuse them of trying to spur the UN Security Council into sending a peacekeeping mission to support the administration.

MNA/Reuters



A delegate at the UN climate change conference walks by human-shaped ice sculptures in Poznan on 11 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Heavy fog delays flights in Central China, stranding 2,000 passengers

CHANGSHA, 14 Dec— More than 2,000 passengers were stranded at the airport in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, on Saturday due to heavy fog.

According to an unnamed official with the Huanghua International Airport, visibility was between 1,000 and 1,200 metres, lower than the required 1,400 metres for safe flights.

As a result, 21 flights into the airport and 18

outbound flights were delayed starting at 10 am.

One flight from Urumqi of northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to Shenzhen of southern Guangdong Province that transferred in Changsha was cancelled.

Flights resumed at 1:22 pm. Special sections were set up for passengers to change or return their tickets.

MNA/Xinhua

Historic Taj hotel to reopen after Mumbai attacks

NEW DELHI, 14 Dec— The 105-year-old Taj Mahal hotel, one of two luxury hotels hit by Islamist militants in the Mumbai attacks, is set to reopen its doors on 21 December, its owner said on Saturday.

Gunmen took scores of guests hostage and battled commandos inside the flagship hotel of Indian conglomerate

Tata Group, as the militants killed 179 people on a three-day rampage in the financial hub last month.

"To reopen the Taj with such speed but with no loss of attention to details, shows our resolve to commemorate all the innocent and brave people who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks," said Raymond Bickson, managing director and chief

executive of The Indian Hotels Company, part of Tata.

MNA/Reuters



Pilgrims visit the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City on 12 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

US lacks intelligence to fight Somalia pirates

MANAMA, 14 Dec— The United States lacks the intelligence needed to pursue the fight against pirates on Somali soil, Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Saturday.

His comments came days after the US delegation at the United

Nations circulated a draft resolution that would give countries the right to pursue pirates on land as well as at sea. Analysts say that pursuing pirates on land is crucial to any military response to attacks that have targeted dozens of ships in the Gulf

of Aden and Indian Ocean in recent months.

"With the level of information we have at the moment, we're not in a position to do that kind of land-based operation," Gates told a regional security conference in Bahrain.—MNA/Reuters



French frigate Nivose (centre at left) escorts commercial ships in the Gulf of Aden. Somali pirates have released a Greek chemical tanker seized in October but three crew members are feared dead, a Kenyan maritime official has said recently.—INTERNET

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Petrobras gets \$750m loan from Japanese banks

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Dec—Brazil's state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras announced on Friday that it has reached a financing agreement of 75 billion Yen (about 750 million US dollars) with a syndicate of Japanese banks. Petrobras said that the loan will finance the upgrade of Henrique Lage Refinery (REFAP), in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo state. The expansion, which is already underway, will increase the refinery's heavy oil processing capacity, improve the quality of its diesel fuel and gasoline and optimize its product mix.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Children of a day-care centre in Stuttgart wearing Santa Claus caps make a round on a miniature railway on the christmas market in Stuttgart, Germany, on 12 Dec, 2008, as driver Marcel Tamas glances at his passengers.

INTERNET

Immigrant dies after racist beating

NEW YORK, 14 Dec — An immigrant from Ecuador has died, days after he was attacked in what appeared to be a racist hate crime in New York, relatives said on Saturday. Jose O Sucuzhanay had been declared brain-dead on Tuesday, The *New York Times* reported. A spokesman for his family, Francisco Moya, said his mother was traveling from Ecuador to see her son when Sucuzhanay died on Friday night a Elmhurst General Hospital in Queens.

Sucuzhanay and his brother, Romel, were attacked on 6 Dec near his real estate business in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. Romel told police they were walking home from a bar when three men wielding baseball bats jumped out of a sport utility vehicle.

The men yelled slurs against Hispanics and gays, Romel, who escaped without serious injury, said.

Internet



A woman plays hula hoop while sending messages with a mobile phone at a community organized sports event in Shanghai on 13 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

One dead as storms hit Dorset

LONDON, 14 Dec—One motorist died as high winds, torrential rain and flash floods lashed southwest England on Saturday as nearly 100 flood warnings were imposed across the region.

A 22-year-old woman died in the county of Dorset when her car crashed off the road in heavy rain. It is thought her car may have aquaplaned.

Some roads in the counties of Devon and Somerset were submerged under 46 centimetres (18 inches) of water. Thirty people were rescued from their vehicles and homes.

A reduced train service was operating between London and the southwest, with some services between the capital and the region's main cities suspended. The Environment Agency authority has 247 flood warnings in place, with 99 in the southwest, 46 in the English Midlands and 30 in Wales.—*Internet*

Russian student wins Miss World title

JOHANNESBURG, 14 Dec—Miss Russia Ksenia Sukhinova was crowned this year's Miss World on Saturday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The 21-year old student from Siberia also won the contest's top model award and was third in the swimsuit competition of the 58th annual pageant, *RIA Novosti* reported.

Miss India Parvathy Omankuttan was picked the first runner-up and Miss Trinidad and Tobago Gabrielle Walcott won third place.

Organizers claimed 1 billion people from 187 countries watched the broadcast of the event.

The first Russian winner of the international beauty pageant was Yulia Kurochkina in 1992.

Internet



Miss Russia Ksenia Sukhinova (C) is crowned the 58th Miss World along with First runner up Miss India Parvathy Omanakuttan (L) and Second runner up Miss Trinidad and Tobago Gabriel Walcott at the 2008 Miss world pageant held in Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa on 13 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



In this photograph released by the Indian Navy, Indian Marine Commandos board a suspected pirate ship as its surrendering crew (L) hold their hands above their heads in the Gulf of Aden. The Indian Navy said it has captured 23 Somali and Yemeni pirates who attacked a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Aden on Saturday.—INTERNET

Nearly frozen sea turtle heading to rehab

BOSTON, 14 Dec — His name is Herb, and he was very, very cold when he was found on a Cape Cod beach.

The 75-pound loggerhead sea turtle was discovered by volunteers from the Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary at Wellfleet Bay and was taken to the New England Aquarium in Boston for a slow but steady warmup.

The aquarium said Herb's body temperature

was in the 40s when he was found on the beach in Truro on 3 Dec. Veterinarians and rescue biologists slowly warmed him about five degrees each day, and his body temperature is now in the low 70's.

Now Herb is ready to be moved to the Riverhead Foundation on New York's Long Island, which rehabilitates and releases seals, whales, dolphins, and sea turtles.

Herb, who was also suffering from an eye infection, is not the only sea turtle rescued from Cape Cod in a state of hypothermia this season, but the loggerhead turtle does have one distinction.

So far this year, a total of 62 stranded sea turtles have been taken to the aquarium. Herb is likely between 4 and 7 years old. As an adult, he will weigh 200 to 250 pounds.

Internet

New study firmly ties hormone use to breast cancer

SAN ANTONIO, 14 Dec — Taking menopause hormones for five years doubles the risk for breast cancer, according to a new analysis of a big federal study that reveals the most dramatic evidence yet of the dangers of these still-popular pills.

Even women who took estrogen and progestin pills for as little as a couple of years had a greater chance of getting cancer. And when they stopped taking them, their odds quickly improved, returning to a normal risk level roughly two years after quitting.

Collectively, these new findings are likely to end any doubt that the risks outweigh the benefits for most women.

It is clear that breast cancer rates plunged in recent years mainly because millions of women quit hormone therapy and fewer newly menopausal women started on it, said the study's leader, Dr Rowan Chlebowski of Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre in Los Angeles.

Internet



Italian tourists take a picture at the Sant'Angelo bridge of the Tiber river in downtown Rome on 13 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Police search for Irish tourist in Tiber river

ROME, 14 Dec — Police divers in Rome searched the swollen Tiber river on Saturday for an Irish tourist who fell in while watching the waters rise from days of heavy rains that have thrashed much of Italy.

The rains stopped for a few hours on Saturday but started again in the afternoon, and more rain was expected on Sunday. Nevertheless, civil pro-

tection officials said the threat that the Tiber might burst its banks appeared to have receded.

The storms have claimed at least four lives and prompted the capital to declare a state of emergency.

Mayor Gianni Alemanno said on Saturday the situation appeared under control, but he said the city had to be prepared for Sunday's expected

Australia climber dies on NZ peak

WELLINGTON, 14 Dec — An Australian climber has been rescued from New Zealand's highest mountain, Mt Cook, but his brother is presumed dead after falling more than 500m (1,600ft).

Miles Vinar, 42, was rescued after two nights alone on a ridge without a tent or cooker, after Mark Vinar, 43, lost his footing while descending.

It is the second death

on the 3,750m (12,300 ft) mountain in eight days.

According to police, the brothers, from Perth, were descending from Zurbruggen Ridge with Miles Vinar leading the way.

"Miles had to climb down using an ice pick and crampons. He instructed Mark about it, but

for some reason Mark lost his footing and fell backwards and started rolling," Mr Andrew told the Herald on Sunday newspaper.

"He went behind some rocks, then appeared again rolling down the hill. He went down about 500m and then disappeared." —*Internet*

Internet



File image of visitors playing with lego blocks at a Lego land in Germany. A multi-million dollar Legoland theme park will open in Malaysia's southern Johor state neighbouring Singapore in 2013, officials said over the weekend.—INTERNET

Two Volkswagen plants to suspend production in China

BEIJING, 14 Dec — Two Chinese auto plants run by German automaker Volkswagen AG through joint ventures are planning to partly suspend production lines to conduct maintenance work, state television reported on Sunday.

The news comes amid a huge slump in sales of vehicles in China, the world's second-largest vehicle market after the United States.

China's CCTV said in its midday bulletin that FAW-Volkswagen Automobile Co plans to suspend part of its production at a plant in Changchun, the capital of Jilin province in northeastern China, at the end of the year to carry out maintenance.

Internet



Children skate around the track during the official opening of the Richmond Olympic Oval in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, on 12 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Mexico's Pachuca learn lesson in Club World Cup

TOKYO, 14 Dec—Pachuca's painful defeat in last year's Club World Cup inspired the Mexican team to secure a semi-final place against South American champions Liga de Quito in this year's tournament.

Pachuca's Club World Cup debut last year saw them dominate possession but squander chances to lose 1-0 to Tunisia's Etoile Sahel in the quarter final.

This time, the Mexican team stormed back from two goals down to beat six-time African champions Al Ahly of Egypt 4-2 on Saturday. "Last year, I wept, because we had thought we were destined to win that game. We were thinking about our next game," said Pachuca goalkeeper and skipper Miguel Calero. "It's natural that I wept after beating Al Ahly.—Internet

Mexico's club Pachuca defender Leobardo Lopez (front) fights for the ball with Egypt's Al Ahly midfielder Hossam Ashour during the FIFA Club World Cup 2008 at the national stadium in Tokyo, on 13 December. Pachuca won 4-2.—INTERNET



Hewitt training six hours a day to crack tennis top 10



Australia's former world number one Lleyton Hewitt

SYDNEY, 14 Dec—Australia's former world number one Lleyton Hewitt is training six hours a day as he bids to recover from hip surgery and make a surprise return to the top 10, according to reports.

The Wimbledon and US Open champion has slumped to 67 in the ATP rankings after an injury-ravaged year and faces a make-or-break 2009 season, starting with next month's Australian Open in Melbourne. The 27-year-old had surgery for a long-standing hip complaint in August after being knocked out of the Beijing Olympics by Rafael Nadal in straight sets.—Internet

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1 U 2 I 3 V 4 S 5 A 6 A

7 S I M P E R 8 T H I G H S

9 E P N M O E H

10 L U L L A B Y 11 R A N G E

12 S U R E 13 S T E E R

14 S E D I N D W

15 D E L F T 16 B E T A

17 S W S I R F S

18 T R A M P 19 E Y E W A S H

20 A V I D P M I

21 T R E A T Y 22 T A V E R N

23 E R E Y D G



Tottenham Hotspur's captain Jermain Jenus (R) and Michael Dawson (L) challenge Manchester United's Carlos Tevez (C) during their Premiership match at White Hart Lane football stadium.—INTERNET

Ferguson rues United's setback at Spurs

LONDON, 14 Dec—Sir Alex Ferguson admitted Manchester United had wasted a golden opportunity to reinvigorate their English Premier League title challenge after they were held to a goalless draw by Tottenham Hotspur.

United could have moved to within four points of leaders Liverpool following their surprise draw at home to Hull City, but Ferguson's team suffered their own frustrations here on Saturday.

This stalemate means United remain six points adrift of top spot, but that gap could stretch if Chelsea defeat West Ham on Sunday and will almost certainly be significantly extended by the time the English and European champions return from the Club World Cup in Japan.

United fly to Japan on Sunday and so will miss next weekend's round of Premier League matches as they attempt to become the first British side to win the FIFA tournament in its revised format.—Internet

Wenger issues rallying cry after Boro draw

MIDDLESBROUGH, 14 Dec—Throughout his career as renowned nurturer of emerging talent, the Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, has readily switched emphasis from football coach to father figure in a bid to get the best out of natural talents with fragile personalities.

That ability to marry lessons in life with teaching the beautiful game has brought the best out of three generations of the North London club's brightest stars and now,

more than ever, a team in transition requires comforting words as much as carefully chosen tactics.

Arsenal's youngsters appeared crestfallen as they trooped away from Teesside on Saturday having surrendered a lead in a 1-1 draw with Middlesbrough and failed to make up meaningful ground on the Premier League's top three.—Internet



Middlesbrough's Chris Riggott (L) and Arsenal forward Emmanuel Adebayor jump for the ball. Middlesbrough fought back to draw 1-1 with Arsenal and so further dent the Gunners' chances of taking the Premier League title.—INTERNET

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(14.12.2008)

Chelsea	1 - 1	West Ham Utd
Portsmouth	0 - 3	Newcastle



The opening goal arrives soon after the interval when Michael Owen clips home just in time to evade some last-ditch tackles.—INTERNET

Pompey footballing spirit a tonic for Adams

PORTSMOUTH, 14 Dec—Portsmouth manager Tony Adams is backing the south coast club's team spirit to help them extend their unbeaten run in the Premier League to six games this weekend.

Pompey are at home to Newcastle after wins over Sunderland and Blackburn, plus draws with West Ham, Hull and West Brom have helped leave them seventh in the table.

"At the moment their attitude and professionalism is first class and I couldn't wish to manage a better group of players," former Arsenal and England captain Adams said ahead of Sunday's match at Pompey's Fratton Park ground.—Internet



Portsmouth manager Tony Adams

Sorenstam shoots 75, drops to 6th place in Dubai

DUBAI, 14 Dec—Annika Sorenstam shot a 3-over 75 on Saturday, hurting her chances of ending a stellar career by winning the Dubai Ladies Masters golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 13 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



Sweden's Annika Sorenstam lines up a putt on the 18th hole during the third round of the Dubai Ladies Masters golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 13 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Sorenstam held a one-shot lead going into the third round but had four bogeys and one birdie to fall four shots behind leader Anja Monke of Germany. Monke shot 68 for a 9-under 207 total, two shots ahead of Iben Tinning of Denmark (70) and Veronica Zorzi of Italy (71).

Sorenstam, a winner of 72 LPGA titles and 10 major championships, plans to retire after this tournament. "I am not giving up," Sorenstam said. "I just walked off the course disappointed, but I will be ready for tomorrow. I really don't know what emotions I will have tomorrow. It's nothing that I have practiced before.—Internet

Couple guilty of killing 5-year-old girl

WINNIPEG (Manitoba), 14 Dec—A Canadian woman and her boyfriend were convicted on Friday of subjecting her daughter to years of abuse that finally killed her when she was 5.

Samantha Kematch and Karl McKay face life sentences with no parole for 25 years, the Winnipeg Free Press reported.

The jury rejected a manslaughter verdict, instead finding the defendants guilty of the murder of Star Phoenix.

“I’m sad for Phoenix, but happy they’re getting what they deserve,” McKay’s sister, Hilda, said after the verdict. “Justice is never going to be done for this little girl. Too much happened to her.

It shouldn’t have

happened to her, we all know that. It shouldn’t happen to any little child.”

Star died in 2005. Investigators found her body in 2006 at the Fisher River First Nation 160 miles north of Winnipeg after McKay’s two sons by a previous relationship went to police.

One son, now 18, testified for the prosecution. He described trying to smuggle food to Star.

Internet



A resident looks at the food left on a table inside a restaurant that was hit by a suicide bomber near Kirkuk, about 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 12 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Zoledronic acid may shrink breast tumors

SAN ANANTONIO, 13 Dec— Zoledronic acid may shrink breast tumors when used in addition to chemotherapy, scientists meeting in San Antonio said.

“Zoledronic acid is primarily targeted to bone and metastasis within the

bone marrow micro-environment, but it may also be enhancing the response in the primary breast tumor,” Dr Robert Coleman, professor of medical oncology at the University of Sheffield in Britain, said in a statement.

Coleman presented the findings at the CTRC-AACR San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

He is the lead researcher in the Adjuvant

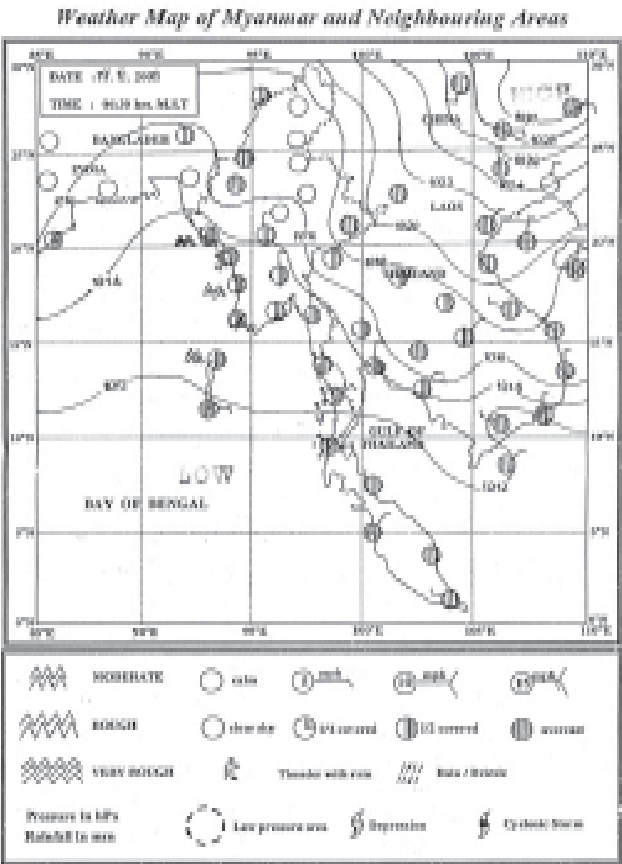
Zoledronic Acid to Reduce Recurrence trial that includes 3,360 women with stage II/III breast cancer to determine whether treatment with zoledronic acid in addition to adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapy would improve disease outcomes.

Zoledronic acid, marketed as Zometa, is currently approved for the treatment of bone metastasis and osteoporosis.

Internet



A visitor looks at a dress designed by Christian Dior, an influential French fashion designer, during an exhibition held at the Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art at the 798 Art Zone in Beijing, China, on 10 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA



WEATHER

Sunday, 14 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, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Mon State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (8°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and Mandalay Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature were Hakha (-4°C), Namsam and Pinlaung (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 13-12-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 14-12-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-12-2008 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 13-12-2008 was (9.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 14-12-2008 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 (5) mph from North at (12:30) hours MST on 13-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 15th December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Monday, 15 December

View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

2. ကျန်းမာဖို့အတွက်စားဖို့

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:55 am

5. တံတားအလှပန်းလောင်

8:05 am

6. “ရှင်သန်ခြင်း” (မင်းဟိန်း၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

8:15 am

7. ချစ်စရာအရွယ်ကကြီးသွယ်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:40 am

9. Musical programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာ အကများ

4:20 pm

3. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

7:55 am

5. တံတားအလှပန်းလောင်

8:05 am

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4:20 pm

3. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

4:30 pm

4. အကပဒေသာ

4:45 pm

5. “စက်မှုကုန်ကြမ်းသီးနှံရာဘာ”

4:55 pm

6. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ခေတ်ဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ခေတ်ဗေဒ)

5:10 pm

7. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:20 pm

8. Musical programme (The radio Myanmar modern music troupe)

5:30 pm

9. “မနိုင်သောအရုံး” (ဟက်ကက်၊ ဇင်ရဲထက်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-

အေဝမ်းမောင်လှမျိုး)

5:45 pm

10. Musical programme

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. ဆိုကြမယ်၊ပျော်ကြမယ်

7:10 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “စူပါမင်းနှင့်မာနရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၉)

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



Showroom for private company and E-Telegram showroom of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications at Incubation Centre No. 7. (News on page 1) —MNA



Colourful orchids displayed at flower festival. (News on page 1) —MNA



Visitors at National Kandawgyi Gardens. (News on page 1) —MNA

Local and foreign species flowers everywhere at flower festival. (News on page 1) —MNA

Ecological impact of African cities

NAIROBI, 14 Dec — African cities are growing faster than anywhere else in the world. This is having a major impact, but

few ecologists are studying the urban environment and effect of cities on rural areas. One of the most important ecological

changes in Africa's history is being over-looked.

Joy Clancy from the University of Twente has reviewed the problem in the current issue of the African Journal of Ecology. She says, "A hundred years ago 95% of the African population was rural, today 38% live in cities with about half the population expected to be urban by 2010." This rapid growth is resulting in huge changes in natural resource use, but the effects are highly controversial.

Internet



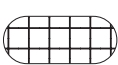
A typical street view in downtown Nairobi, capital of Kenya.

Van Bommel offered new deal

MUNICH, 14 Dec — Bayern Munich have made captain Mark van Bommel an offer to extend his contract beyond the end of the season.

The Dutch midfielder is out of contract in the summer and has been strongly linked with a move away after Bayern recently held talks with Zenit St Petersburg midfielder Anatoli Tymaschuk.

But Bayern have now offered the new 31-year-old a new deal, although



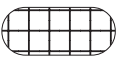
Van

Bommel -

free to talk

to suitors in

January.



details of the contract have not been disclosed.

In a statement on their official website, the club added they are hoping

Van Bommel will have made a decision on his future by the end of the winter break.

Internet