

#### 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

## Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects maintenance of Mawlamyine-Ye road section

*Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence views Panga salt farm of Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise.*

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of South-East Com-

mand Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and departmental officials met with departmental personnel and local people at the meeting hall of complex office in Khawza in Ye Township on 22 De-

cember and gave instructions on regional development works. Next, he proceeded to Khawza Station Hospital and made cash donations and inspected the hospital. (See page 8)

### Premature babies have altered sensory responses in later life

LONDON, 24 Dec—Premature infants who need intensive care or surgery are less sensitive to thermal (hot and cold) sensations later in life, according to research conducted at UCL (Univer-

sity College London). The study, published in the journal Pain, suggests that pain and injury related to major medical interventions in early development may alter how children respond to painful stimuli



*Premature infant in a neonatal intensive care unit.*

much later in life.

In the study, 43 eleven-year-old children born at less than 26 weeks of gestation (14 weeks premature) who are being followed up by the EPICure study group, were tested for their responses to different sensations—temperature and light touch—using quantitative sensory testing. Compared to a group of children who had been born at full term, the premature children were less sensitive to temperature (cool, cold, warm and hot) but not to light touch, and this was most marked in those who had also undergone a surgical operation as a baby.—Internet

INSIDE

### Practice integrated farming for higher income (2)

Fish has a simple digestion system of only few stages. So, waste of other species of animals is suitable to fish. The high level bacteria in the stomach of a fish helps the fish digest what it has eaten.

PAGES 6+7

KYAW YE MIN

### Arsenal have Inler option

ARSENAL, 25 Dec—Udinese's Gokhan Inler is again being linked with Arsenal as the London club come to terms with the loss of Cesc Fabregas.

The Spanish Euro 2008 winner has been sidelined for four months due to a knee ligament problem and the Premiership side are looking for replacements.

Villarreal's Marcos Senna and Yaya Toure of Barcelona have been paired, but Inler is also an intriguing option for Arsene Wenger.

The French tactician is a known admirer of the Swiss international and enquiries have been made in the past.

Now reports in England claim that the Gunners have money to spend in January and £10m of that could be offered to Udinese.

The Friuli outfit are known as a selling club, but most of their high profile sales occur during the summer. Inler has also been associated with Italian sides Inter and Juventus in recent months.—Internet





## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 26 December, 2008

### Generate better living conditions of storm victims

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe during his tour inspected rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in some cyclone-hit areas: Kyaiklat and Dedaye in Ayeyawady Division and Kungyangon Township in Yangon South District the other day.

During the inspection tour, the Head of State met local authorities and people, and gave guidance on the tasks.

Local people have to work hard to be able to restore businesses such as agricultural farming at earliest in the process of regenerating those storm-ravaged townships.

With that aim in view, it is required to achieve the targets of per acre yields of crops designated for respective townships, and spotlight is on boosting agricultural production and minimizing wastage.

The Head of State in his guidance said, "In the process of rehabilitating the storm-hit areas, it is needed to revive the economic sector, the most fundamental one, till it has returned to normal, and to generate better living conditions of the victims than it was in the pre-storm period."

In the drive for improving the transport sector in the storm-torn areas, township development affairs committees concerned and local people are to work together in building inter-village roads and village-to-town roads until they form transport networks in each township.

Improvement in the transport sector is, in fact, a sign of development in the economic, social, education and health sectors of a township.

Storm-stricken areas will soon be able to enjoy better conditions than that in the past if local people continue to join hands with the government in the tasks for development of the education, health and transport sectors, putting the economic sector in the centre.



*Workers of fuel shops in Mandalay get practical training in firefighting skills and learn the use of firefighting equipment disseminated by staff of Fire Services Department on 13 December. The FSD staff also visit a number of shops and filling stations and explain fire prevention measures.—NLM*

## 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

### A&I Minister receives Daewoo Chairman



*Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Daewoo International Corporation Chairman Mr Jae Yong Kim and party.—A&I*

YANGON, 25 Dec—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received new Chairman and CEO of Daewoo International Cooperation Mr Jae Yong Kim and party at the meeting hall of Irrigation

Department in Yankin Township here yesterday.

They discussed matters relating to boosting agriculture production.

MNA

### Supervisors for Matric exam meet

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — Supervisors for the matriculation examinations for the 2009 Academic Year held a meeting at No. 9 Basic

Education High School in Mandalay on 23 December to discuss matters related to supervision of the matriculation examinations.

At the meeting, Chairman of Myanmar Board of Examinations U Ohn Myint explained facts about supervising the matriculation examinations. Next, Director-General of the No. 2 Basic Education Department U Aye Lwin gave instructions on preparations for holding the examinations and holding multiplier courses on supervision of the examinations.

A total of 152 officials including district and township education officers and headmasters and headmistresses of BEHSs and BEMSs attended in the two-day meeting.—MNA

### Enrollment for ITE from 2 to 30 Jan

YANGON, 25 Dec — Shine Universal Services has provided services for the enrollment for Institute of Technical Education (ITE) based in Singapore.

Those wishing to attend the courses at the institute may enroll through SHINE Universal Services Ltd at No. 38/40, Bo Yarnyunt Road, Dagon Township, Ph 393041, from 2 to 30 January, 2009. The courses begin in April, 2009.

Singapore-based ITE was established in 1992 and has conducted courses on Engineering, Business IT, Accounting, Service Skills, Digital Media, Beauty Therapy, Aerospace, Lighting & Sound Technology, Hospitality, Logistics Management, Event and Sport Management, Early-Childhood Education. ITE won Inaugural Global Harvard-IBM Innovations Award in Transforming Government in 2007.

NITEC (National Institute of Technical Education Certificate) and Higher NITEC will be conferred on students by ITE, and outstanding students can join polytechnic institutes.

MNA

### All this needs to be known

- \* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- \* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- \* Do not be softened whenever appeased



# Iraq bomb kills woman and three children

FALLUJAH, 25 Dec—A woman and three children were killed on Wednesday when a bomb exploded near the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, the US military and a medical official said.

“An improvised explosive device killed one civilian female and three civilian children approximately 10 kilometres (six miles) southeast of Fallujah,” a US military

spokesman told *AFP*.

Another child was injured in the blast, he added.

The deputy head of the hospital in Fallujah, Hamed Abdallah al-Hamadi, confirmed the number of people killed in the blast but said two children had been injured.

A US military statement said that all the victims were inside their home when the bomb went off outside the building. “A second bomb had

been discovered,” it added. Fallujah, in Anbar Province, was the epicentre of a Sunni-led rebellion against US forces in the months following the March 2003 invasion.

The city was virtually razed in 2004 in one of the biggest assaults launched by US forces, but on 1 September this year Iraqi forces took over control of Anbar after dramatic improvements in security.

*Internet*



*A woman sits with her two wounded children at a hospital in Fallujah, 50 kms west of Baghdad. A woman (not pictured) and three children were killed on Wednesday when a bomb exploded near the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, the US military and a medical official said.—INTERNET*



*US Army soldiers detain an Iraqi teenager after a rocket propelled grenade attack on US troops in Mosul, 360 kilometres (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq.—INTERNET*

## Iraqi ex-speaker praises shoe-thrower as ‘brave’

BAGHDAD, 25 Dec—The newly resigned Iraqi parliament speaker on Wednesday praised the journalist who threw shoes at President George W Bush and said the legislature should have supported him.

Mahmoud al-Mashhadani’s comments came a day after he resigned un-

der heavy pressure from Shiite and Kurdish lawmakers, breaking an impasse that would allow foreign troops, including British forces, to stay in Iraq past 31 Dec.

“He was a zealous, brave journalist and even his enemy Bush said he is brave — only the parliament did not say that

he is brave,” said al-Mashhadani, who is Sunni. “This is a clear fault. It shouldn’t be like that.”

The abrasive speaker had frequently quarreled with lawmakers, but tensions came to a head last week during a shouting match over the detention of journalist Muntadhar al-Zeidi.—*Internet*

## Three US soldiers killed in accident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Dec—Three US soldiers were killed in a vehicle accident in central Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement.

The statement did not provide further details about the incident, but said that names of the victims are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. About 4,216 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.—*Internet*

## NATO soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Dec—Militant fire killed a NATO soldier Wednesday in eastern Afghanistan where US troops operate. NATO’s International Security Assistance Force said in a statement that the soldier was killed by “enemy fire.” It released no other details.

Most of the troops that operate in eastern Afghanistan are American, but NATO refuses to release the nationalities of soldiers killed in Afghanistan or any other details surrounding their deaths. This year has been the deadliest for US troops in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion. Violence has spiked sharply over the last two years, and the US is poised to deploy up to 30,000 additional troops into the country on top of the 32,000 it already has here.—*Internet*

## Coalition forces slammed for ‘abusive’ raids, air strikes in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 25 Dec—A scathing report by a human rights commission in Afghanistan says lethal air strikes and “abusive” nighttime raids by coalition forces threaten to turn Afghans against foreign troops.

The report, released Tuesday in Kabul, warns that US and NATO air bombings, along with incursions into civilian houses after dark, could undermine seven years of trying to win the hearts and minds of ordinary Afghans.

“Afghan families experienced their family members killed or injured, their houses or other property destroyed, or homes invaded at night without any perceived justification or legal authorization,” the report says.—*Internet*

## UK sued over airman killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 25 Dec—The families of two British airmen killed when their Nimrod aircraft exploded in Afghanistan have served legal proceedings on the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in London, it was reported Wednesday.

The parents of Sergeant Benjamin Knight and Flight Lieutenant Steven Swarbrick are suing Defence Secretary John Hutton for negligence, failure to minimise risk and breach of the right to life, according to the Daily Telegraph. The two airmen were killed along with 12 other British service personnel, when their 40 years old plane exploded into a fireball moments after a mid-air-refuelling near Kandahar airport in September 2006.—*Internet*

*An Iraqi family reacts as US Army soldiers from K Troop, Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment detain their relative after a rocket propelled grenade attack on US troops in Mosul, 360 kilometres (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq.*

*INTERNET*





# UN chief calls on Hamas to immediately end rocket attacks on Israel

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Dec — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Wednesday called on Hamas to ensure an immediate end to rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and urged all parties to work urgently to ease humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, including the continuous flow of needed supplies.

“The secretary-general is gravely concerned about the situation in Gaza and southern Israel and the potential for further violence and civilian

suffering if calm is not restored,” a statement issued by his spokesperson said. “He condemns today’s rocket attacks on southern Israel.”

Israel kept the crossings into Gaza closed for the eighth consecutive day on Wednesday, cutting off humanitarian supplies, the second longest period they have remained shut since Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip from the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority in June 2007, the UN Office for the Coordination of Hu-

manitarian Assistance (OCHA) reported. Israel cites the rocket attacks for its closures.

“The ongoing closures have significantly reduced the capacity of UN humanitarian agencies to provide assistance in the event of an escalation in violence,” OCHA said. “UN humanitarian assistance programs have run out of stock for several essential supplies and are facing severe difficulties in implementing their regular programs.”

Internet



Soldiers guard outside the emergency room where the injured Chinese engineer is getting medical treatment in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 24 Dec, 2008. A Chinese engineer was attacked on Wednesday in Malakand, southwest of Pakistan, by unknown militants and got badly injured. —XINHUA

## Hamas fires military-grade rockets into Israel

GAZA, 25 Dec— Gaza ruler Hamas fired longer-range rockets into Israel on Wednesday amid continuous makeshift rockets attacks, escalating violence around the besieged Gaza Strip.

Hamas confirmed that its militants have fired Grads (military-grade rockets) from northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday morning in response to the killing of five of its militants.

The two Soviet-made Grads landed near a factory and a parking lot in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon respectively, causing damage to several cars, according to Israeli sources.

In the meantime, tens of rockets launched by armed Palestinian groups, mainly Hamas and the less influential Islamic Jihad, have been landing in Israeli border towns.

Late on Tuesday, Israel killed three Hamas militants after spotting them planting explosives near the security fence that separates Israel and northern Gaza Strip. Israeli radio reported that 60 rockets and mortar shells have hit Israel since Wednesday morning, adding that two residents were treated for shock.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian civilian was seriously injured when an Israeli missile hit the front of his house in northern Gaza city, witnesses and medical sources.

Internet



Israelis stand outside a damaged house following a Palestinian rocket attack in the southern Kibbutz of Tequma, neighboring the Gaza Strip.

INTERNET

## Kennedy’s pursuit of Senate snared in NY politics



Caroline Kennedy, daughter of former President John F. Kennedy.—INTERNET

ALBANY, 25 Dec— Caroline Kennedy’s bid to get appointed to the Senate

and extend the Camelot dynasty has run into the bare-knuckle world of New York politics, where a backlash appears to be building against her. Some politics-watchers have accused the 51-year-old daughter of President John F. Kennedy of a series of missteps last week doing an upstate tour, when she evaded questions and in one case was hustled away by an aide after meeting with reporters for all of 30 seconds.

At the same time,

some New York politicians, privately and publicly, have complained that Kennedy is jumping the line ahead of political figures with far more experience and that she has become the presumed front-runner by virtue of her name alone.

As the process has dragged on, political adversaries have had all the more opportunities to undercut her candidacy through various attacks, sniping and newspaper leaks.—Internet

## Suicide bombing hatcher captured in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Dec — Afghan National Army (ANA) supported by the US-led Coalition forces have captured Mullah Dahoud, the machinator behind suicide bombing in 2007, killing over 50 civilians in northern Afghan province of Baghlan, said a Coalition statement released here on Wednesday.

The combined forces early on Tuesday morning conducted a raid on a suspected IED (Improvised Explosive Device) cell where reportedly is Dahoud’s home and a transit point for insurgent fighters in Pol-e-Kohmri district of Baglan Province, the statement said.

Internet

## Iraq’s main Sunni parliamentary alliance splits after speaker quits

BAGHDAD, 25 Dec— Iraq’s main Sunni parliamentary alliance, the Iraqi Accord Front (IAF), split on Wednesday, a day after the resignation of the parliamentary speaker Mahmoud Mashhadani.

Iraqi National Dialogue Council (INDC), to which al-Mashhadani belongs, withdrew from the IAF because the alliance had “failed to fulfill its duty,” INDC chief Khalaf al-Alyan said. Al-Mashhadani announced his resignation after lawmakers engaged in a quarrel over an Iraqi reporter who threw his shoes at US President George W. Bush at a press conference on 14 December. Al-Mashhadani became locked in a dispute with lawmakers, some of whom accused him of insulting them in parliament.

Internet

## Bleak economic picture emerges from new data

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec — A series of gloomy economic reports Wednesday showed consumers holding tight to their wallets with job losses expected to mount in the months ahead.

There was one glimmer of good news, however. Lower gas prices and widespread holiday discounts are giving consumers greater buying power. Consumer spending, when

adjusted for those price drops, rose last month after five months of declines, the Commerce Department said.

Late Wednesday, the Federal Reserve granted a request by the financing arm of General Motors to tap the government’s \$700 billion rescue fund, bolstering GM’s ability to survive.

The Fed said it had approved GMAC Financial Services’ request to become a bank holding company. That designation makes GMAC eligible to receive a portion of the bailout fund and get emergency loans directly from the Fed.

Analysts had speculated that without financial help, GMAC would have had to file for bankruptcy protection or shut down.—Internet



## Russia's Medvedev wants "reliable ties" with Obama

Moscow, 25 Dec—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Wednesday that he expected to establish a "more effective and more reliable" relations with the new United States administration of Barack Obama than before. "I would like to have partner-like relations, not anything else," he said in an interview with Russian television channels broadcasted on the Christmas Eve, as an

apparently strive to warm up the frozen Russia-US relations. The Russian head of state said he agreed on Obama's remarks that Russia should be one of the top priorities in the US foreign policy, despite the fact that the relations between Washington and Moscow has dropped to a new low this year. Among those arrays of disputes, the most significant ones include a proposed US

missile shield in Central Europe, the eastern expansion of the US-led NATO and Russia's five-day war with Georgia that is seeking NATO membership along with Ukraine.

Talking about the global financial crisis, Medvedev asked Russians to stay calm, pledging that his country will not repeat the misery experienced in previous financial crisis.

Xinhua



A bulldozer runs in a newly completed tunnel under the Yangtze river in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 24 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

## Vietnamese Govt reveals details of 6-blm-dollar economic stimulus plan

HANOI, 25 Dec—Vietnamese government on Wednesday announced some details of the recently-announced six-billion-US dollar economic stimulus plan, including measures to help small and medium-sized companies and create employment, local newspaper *The Youth* reported on Thursday.

The plan would provide fund for interest rate subsidies for small and medium businesses, said Vu Hong Phuc, Minister of Planning and Investment, at a press conference held in Ho Chi Minh City.

The subsidy would represent a four percent discount on the current commercial bank loan interest rates, he said.

The stimulus package will include funding for unemployment reduction programs and support for housing development.

The fund will also be directed to tax exemptions and credit guarantees for offshore loans.

The ministry said previously that the money would be used for some state investment, especially in infrastructure sector, to boost economic growth. Phuc said 1.2 billion US dollars of the

package would be raised by the sale of government bonds. He did not specify what other resources the rest would come from.

Xinhua

All items  
from  
Xinhua  
News  
Agency

## Minister hails Bolivia joining gas exporting countries

LA PAZ, 25 Dec—Minister of Hydrocarbons Saul Avalos hailed Wednesday Bolivia's joining of the 15-member Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

Bolivia "must feel proud and happy for being in the list of the gas exporter countries in the world. We are talking of an organization potentially economic," Avalos said in a telephone interview with Bolivia's Red Patria Nueva radio.

World gas producers Tuesday approved in Moscow a charter for the GECF, which will be headquartered in Doha, Qatar. The main goal of the new group is to monitor the gas market and conduct joint research. GECF countries have agreed to exchange information concerning investment programs, and cooperate in the fields such as marketing, technology and liquefied natural gas.

The countries did not rule out possible coordination on price and discussed the pricing mechanism of the gas market at the meeting.

Avalos, who is attending the forum in Moscow, said that Russia showed its interest in increasing investments in Bolivia's gas and oil fields.—Xinhua



Heavy snow fall hits across Turkey, forcing road closings for more than two thousand villages.

XINHUA

## Crude oil tumbles to 35 dollars on economic woes

NEW YORK, 25 Dec—Crude oil shed 9 percent to the level of 35 US dollars a barrel Wednesday as a buildup in US gasoline stockpiles and more worrying economic data added to the demand concern. Light, sweet crude for February delivery fell 3.63 dollars to settle at 35.35 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Price dropped to as low as 35.13 dollars a barrel during the trading.

Oil prices went lower in morning trading after the US Energy Department reported that crude supply dropped by 3.1 million barrels last week, but gasoline stockpiles

jumped by 3.3 million barrels, far more than the market had predicted.

But it is the jobless data that sent the oil price nose diving. The US Labor Department said the initial claims for unemployment benefits increased to a 26-year high of 586,000 last week, much more than the expected 560,000. To make it worse, the US Commerce Department report showed that consumers spending declined for the fifth consecutive month in November.

With economic slowdown worsening, a record production cut of OPEC last week seems

unable to catch up the deteriorating demand. OPEC President Chakib Khelil told press on Tuesday that the organization may call an emergency meeting before March if the oil price continue sliding.—Xinhua

Workers work on the construction site of the second phase of the Qinghai-Tibet railway from Xining to Golmud in northwest China's Qinghai Province on 24 Dec, 2008. The 290-km-long section of the railway is scheduled to be completed by 2012.

XINHUA

## China's Hainan Airlines announces new route to Ukraine

KIEV, 25 Dec—China's Hainan Airlines announced here Wednesday that it would launch a new route from Beijing to Ukraine's capital of Kiev at the beginning of next year.

Zhang Ning, the company's representative in Kiev, told a news briefing that passengers would be able to take a flight between the two cities on Tuesday and Saturday since 10 Feb, 2009.

"Flight frequency would be increased later," he said.

Xinhua





# Practice integrated farming for higher income (2)

Kyaw Ye Min

**Kyaw:** Okay, let's go on if you have studied the blueprint. Here, each house has a cowshed, you see? Chicken and duck runs are near the cowshed. And you can find the vegetable patch. There is a ditch between the house and the vegetable patch. The used water from the house is drained to the vegetable patch through the ditch so that even used water is not wasted. These two long brick tanks by the cowshed are earthworm tanks. They keep earthworm for feedstuff for chicken and ducks. On both sides of the house are a patch and two paddy fields. The grass in the patch is for feedstuff of the cows.

**Tha:** It becomes interesting.

**Aye:** Yes, I have got it fairly.

**Kyaw:** That's it. **It is said the cowshed has a concrete floor and is roofed with corrugated zinc sheets. Needless to say the grass in the manger in the cowshed is from the patch. The cows eat the grass and produce milk and dung. Here, I would like to tell you a point about the cows. A cow spends about eight hours a day ruminating. Due to the rumination process, they cannot absorb 75 to 90 percent of the nutriment from their food, and it comes out together with their waste. So, most of the nutriment from the food comes out in the end of rumination process. Cow dung is a mixture of wasted liquid and paste and is rich in a variety of nutriment. So, it makes the soil fertile. Dung of dairy cows is more fertile than that of normal ones, so they say.**

**Toe:** What about the droppings of other animals, then?

**Kyaw:** Hmmmm... wastes of any farm animals are beneficial to the soil. Droppings of any animal such as cow, goat, rabbit, chicken, pig and fish have their own kinds of nutrients.

**Aye:** All right, some more about cow dung, please.

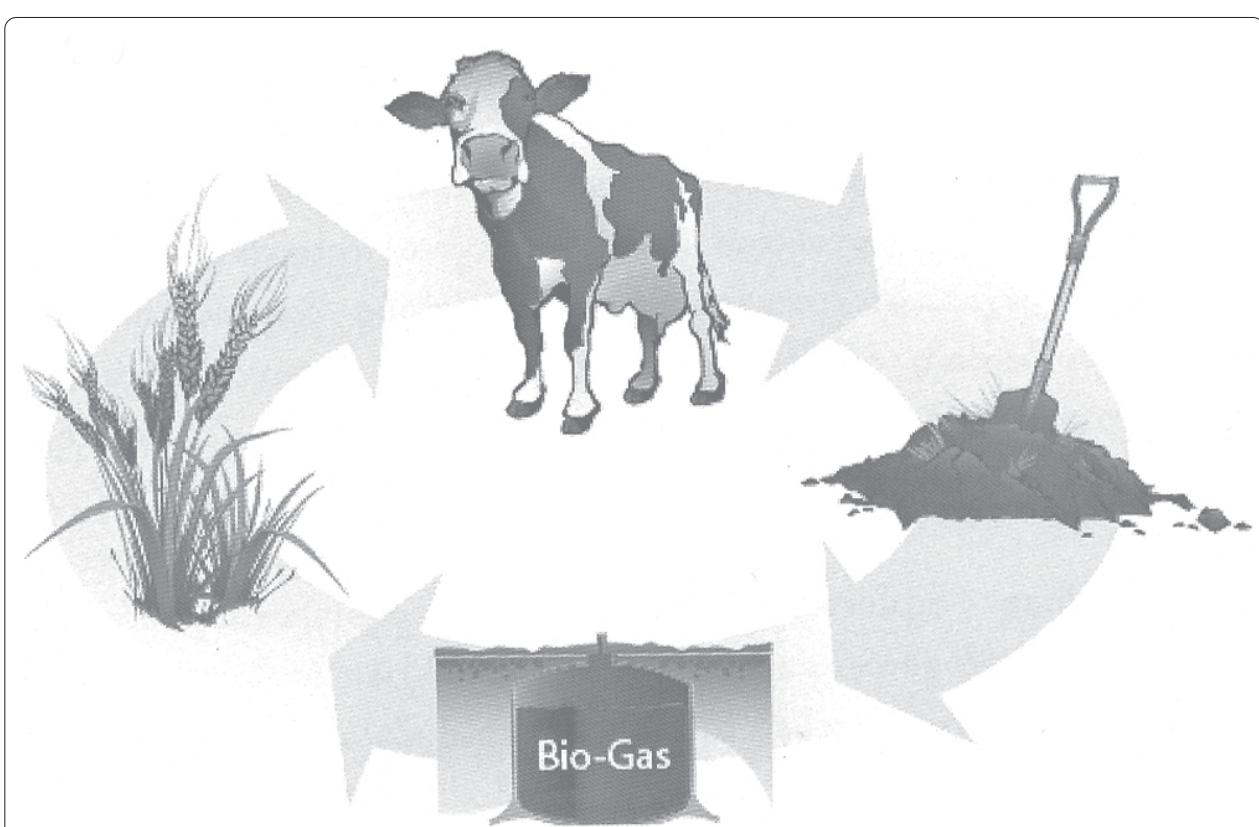
**Kyaw:** In a day, a cow produces about 50 lbs of dung, and a goat produces 10 lbs. Cow dung can be used not only as natural fertilizer but also as some other substances. To my knowledge, cow dung can be used as fuel for the cooking. As you know, dried cow dung is used as fuel.

**Aye:** Of course!

**Kyaw:** It is used as humus to produce warmth for greenhouses. It is also used as fertilizer to grow mushroom. We can use methane from cow dung as biogas for the cooking and generation of electricity. Cow dung is warm when it is fresh, so if we heap some fresh cow dung at the foot of a plant, it keeps the humus around it warm.

**Toe:** So that is the multipurpose use of cow dung. Our family has been using cow dung, but I must admit I did not know about it that much.

**Kyaw:** Vietnamese farmers use biogas of cow dung



Circle of agriculture, cattle farming and biogas production.

**We can use methane from cow dung as biogas for the cooking and generation of electricity. Cow dung is warm when it is fresh, so if we heap fresh cow dung at the foot of a plant it keeps the humus around it warm.**

**for the cooking. Have a look at the blueprint again. This is the biogas unit to keep the methane that is emitted from the cow dung. They make small grooves on the concrete floor of the cowshed, you see? When they clean the floor, they put all the cow dung into the grooves. Then, they pour some water to wash the cow dung into the biogas unit. So, they build biogas unit underground near the cow shed. The cow dung in the grooves is washed away into the biogas unit through some pipelines. Soon after that, biogas unit starts to produce methane gradually. That methane is drifted to the stove and they use that biogas for the cooking. Then, they use the byproduct of the cow dung as fertilizer. That is a well-organized system.**

**Tha:** Vietnamese farmers use cow dung just for biogas, then.

**Kyaw:** No, they also use cow dung to breed earthworm. Here are two brick tanks. They cover the brick tanks with plywood sheets. If the

tanks are uncovered, you can see black soil. If you pierce the upper layer of it, you can see earthworms. Indeed, there is nothing better than cow dung to breed earthworm.

**Kyaw:** How resourceful they are! Earthworm is naturally abundant in their country. They just need to dig the soil to get earthworms. I don't think they need to keep earthworm to produce on that scale.

**Kyaw:** I don't think you're right. As a matter of fact, earthworm can be used as feedstuff of chicken and ducks, and that makes the soil fertile. For your knowledge, earthworms are categorized into three kinds: those that live in the upper lawyer of the soil, those that live underground, and those that live in humus and layers of decayed leaves. Do you get it? The earthworm Vietnamese farmers keep is of the third type, and it is also known as a species of beetle. An earthworm of that kind can eat food that is half the weight of its body. They eat humus and digest it. Then, they produce cast, which is good for fertilizing the soil. Like organics, it benefits the soil. Earthworms are said to be rich in protein because they eat cow dung. So, we can feed those earthworms to chickens and ducks and we get eggs and meat from the fowls. That is a benefit that we can get without making any expenses on the process.

(See page 7)

**Earthworms are said to be rich in protein because they eat cow dung. So, we can feed those earthworms to chickens and ducks and we get eggs and meat from the fowls.**



# Practice integrated farming for higher income (2)

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 6)

**Aye:** Yes, that is a point I haven't known before.  
**Kyaw:** That's not all. Chickens and ducks eat insects in addition to earthworms, and that controls proliferation of insects. Droppings of chicken and duck contain a lot of nitrogen, and it can be used as fertilizer. So, nothing is wasted in the process, isn't it?  
**Toe:** That is also a point. We should keep earthworm to feed chickens and ducks instead of just collecting earthworm to fish.  
**Tha:** By the way, the blueprint also features a fish pond and a goat farm. What about them?  
**Kyaw:** That is a process of integrating fish breeding with goat breeding. There is a goat house over a fish pond, and a patch is near the goat house. So, the spilled food and goat dung fall into the fish pond. There are spaces among the planks of the floor of the goat house. A goat produces about 10 lbs of droppings a day. A piece of goat dung is

## Chickens and ducks eat insects in addition to earthworms, and that controls proliferation of insects.

**dry, hard and small. Goat dung can be put directly on the soil as fertilizer and it can also be given to fish. Goat dung contains protein, fat and carbohydrate, so it is suitable for fish especially Tilapia.**  
**Aye:** What a notable point! I notice in our village there is a pig pen over a fish pond. That is similar to what you have explained to us. But I didn't realize that before. If so, *Tilapia* should be bred on a large scale in the places where goat farming is thriving. Some think that goat dung is not fit for fish, and if it is fed to fish, there will be negative effects on fish production.  
**Kyaw:** I don't think that is logical. Indeed, there is no danger to fish if it is fed animal waste. Likes of

pig, rat and ape eat animal waste, don't they? If too busy to do the cleaning, recycling of animal waste is the best way.  
Tilapia fish eats tiny pieces of grass and leaves from goat droppings that have fallen into the fish pond. Fish has a simple digestion system of only few stages. So, waste of other species of animals is suitable to fish. The high level bacteria in the stomach of a fish helps the fish digest what it has eaten. Goats do not have a good digestion system. So, goat dung is said the best among different types of animal waste.  
**Tha:** I see. What should we do with fish?  
**Toe:** That's a small matter; just to harvest it and eat it.  
**Aye:** Hey, even a child knows that.  
**Kyaw:** Yes, everyone knows that, but there are so many points many do not know. Harvesting fish to eat is not all.

(To be continued)  
(Translation: MS)

As a matter of fact, earthworm can be used as feedstuff of chickens and ducks, and that makes the soil fertile.

## New tarred roads opened in Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North)

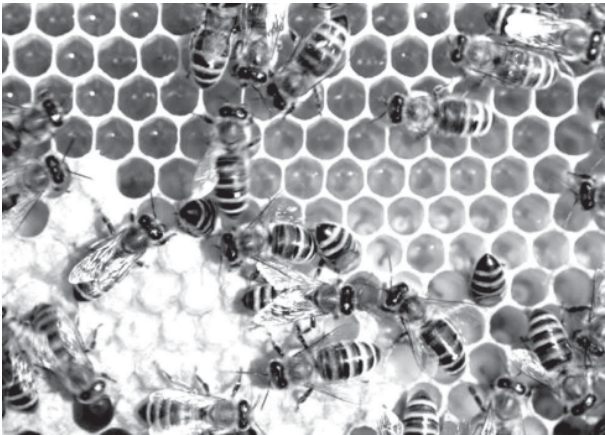
YANGON, 25 Dec—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the opening ceremony of Nawaday tarred road in No.70 ward of Dagon Myothit (South) this afternoon. The mayor and responsible persons opened the road by cutting the ribbon and inspected the road. Afterwards, the mayor inspected the tube well in No.49 ward of Dagon Myothit (North). The newly-opened Nawaday road is 2280 feet long and 12 feet wide and Bayintnaung road, 3,000 feet long and 18 feet wide. MNA

## Regional development in Taikkyi, Hmawby Townships inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe on 11 December inspected nursery of Taikkyi Township Development Affairs Committee and left instructions on more nursing of saplings which are suitable to the regions. The deputy minister looked into construction of wooden bridge on district-to-district road section built in Taikkyi Township and gave instructions on growing of shade trees, dredging of ditches and setting up of traffic signposts near the bridge. Next, the deputy minister inspected Hngetpyawdaw tarred road built by Taikkyi Township DAC and 265-foot long and 10-foot wide Kangalay village gravel road and 500-foot long and 12-foot wide Yadana tarred road built by Hmawby Township DAC. MNA

## Honey Bees on cocaine dance more, changing ideas about insect brain

SCIENCE DAILY, 25 Dec—In a study that challenges current ideas about the insect brain, researchers have found that honey bees on cocaine tend to exaggerate. Normally, foraging honey bees alert their comrades to potential food sources only when they've found high quality nectar or pollen, and only when the hive is in need. They do this by performing a dance, called a "round" or "waggle" dance, on a specialized "dance floor" in the hive. The dance gives specific instructions that help the other bees find the food. Foraging honey bees on cocaine are more



In a study that challenges current ideas about the insect brain, researchers have found that honey bees on cocaine tend to exaggerate.

likely to dance, regardless of the quality of the food they've found or the status of the hive, the authors of the study report. The findings, detailed this month in the Journal of Experimental Biology, shed new light on the famous honey bee dance language, said University of Illinois entomology and neuroscience professor Gene Robinson, who led the study. The research also supports the idea that in certain circumstances, honey bees, like humans, are motivated by feelings of reward. "The honey bee dance is this incredibly complex set of activities," Robinson said. "It's a very integrated communication system, very elaborate and very elegant, one of the seven wonders of the animal behavior world." Internet



## Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects...

(from page 1)

At Ye Township People Hospital, Lt-Gen Tha Aye, the commander and party comforted the patients and presented cash assistance.

Next, they looked into Mawlamyine-Ye road sec-

tion in a motorcade and inspected maintenance of road section between Mile Post Nos 91/2 and 91/3.

At Kayokepi village in Thanbyuzayat Township, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party oversaw construction of 300-foot long and 18-foot

wide reinforced concrete bridge across Kayokepi creek.

Next, they went to Panga salt farm of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise and inspected process of making salt.

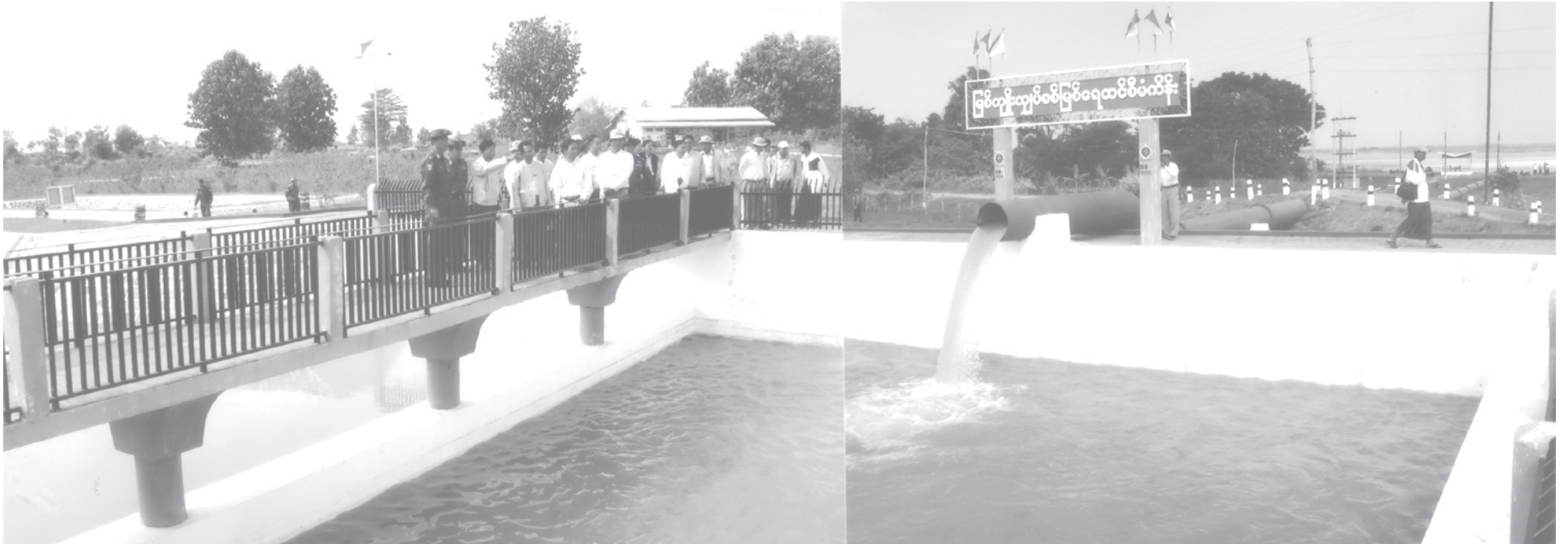
At the office of Panga salt industry, the manager of State Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise reported on production capacity of state-owned and private-owned salt enterprises in Mon State in 2008-09 and plans to be made for boosting production of salt in 2008-

09 to them. Lt-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party looked into maintenance of road section between Mile Post Nos 24 and 25. Lt-Gen Tha Aye left necessary instructions and inspected road

works and thriving rubber plantations on both sides of the road.

At Golden Garden Rubber Nursery at Kwaewun village in Mudon Township, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party met with rubber growers and viewed growing of hybrid rubber saplings.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay look into Myitkyoe River Water Pumping project in Myanaung Township.—MNA

## S-W Command Commander & Energy Dy Minister attend school-aids donation ceremony

YANGON, 25 Dec—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay attended power generator, computer and printer donation ceremony which was held at Thakhtukwin Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Myanaung Township in Hinthada District on 20 December morning.

At the ceremony, Daw Tha Zin Nyunt of Smart Technical Services Co Ltd presented K 5.2 million worth solar-power generator and related documentaries to Headmaster U Myint Thein. Director U Kyaw Myo Khine of Pacific

High Technology International Co Ltd also presented a set of computer and printer for Inpin Basic Education High School and Daw Tha Zin Nyunt handed over a set of computer for Letpankwin Basic Education High School. Next, the commander and the deputy minister viewed generating of electricity by using solar power and use of the computer.

After that, they also inspected pumping of water to main canal at Myitkyoe river water pumping project under Water Resources Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Myanaung Township.

The project situated near Shartaw village in

Myanaung Township and it pumped the water from Ayeyawady River to main canal and installed six of 40-inch Cusec pumps by using 410 KW motors.

On 21 December morning, the commander and the deputy minister arrived at Inpin Basic Education High School in the township and presented computers for Inpin BEHS and Letpankwin BEHS (Branch).

Afterwards, they viewed Kanyin creek water pumping project at plot No. 628 in Mezalikon village in Ingapu Township, ploughing and planting of paddy at plot No. 235 and planting of sunflower on paddy dyke.

MNA

## First Yangon Division Inter-School Karate-do Contest concludes

YANGON, 25 Dec—The prize presentation ceremony of the First Yangon Division Inter-School Karate-do Contest 2008-09, jointly organized by No. 3 Basic Education Department and Myanmar Karate-do Federation was held at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township on 23 December.

It was attended by President of Myanmar Karate-do Federation Dr Win Zaw and executives, Director of No. 3 Basic

Education Department U Saw Tun (Education) and officials concerned and guests.

After the final matches, officials concerned of the departments presented prizes to the winners.

Mg Wai Yan Aung (No. 8 BEPS Tamway) has got the best player prize in U-9, Ma July Moe Aung (No. 3 BEHS Ahlone) the best player prize in U-12, Mg Hla Maung Oo (No. 7 BEMS Thakata) the best player prize in U-15, Mg Ye

Man Oo (No. 1 BEHS North Okkalapa), Paing Pyayt Phyto (No. 5 BEHS Batahtaung) and Kaung Khant (No. 3 BEPS Mingla Taungnyunt) got the prizes respectively.

Director of No. 3 Basic Education Department U Saw Tun (Education) presented championship shield to the first prize winner Yangon East District team which has got nine gold medals in the contest and Yangon West District team has got the second prize in the contest.—MNA



Director U Htay Lwin delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Myanmar domestic production course of Cottage Industries Department in Mandalay on 8 December.—NLM

# Tobacco Kills



# Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin Mountain Range getting lush and green

Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon), Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

(from page 16)

He added that Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin protected forest, a tropical one, had an area of 17,920 acres: 14,020 acres in Monywa Township, and 3900 acres in ChaungU Township; and that Monywa District was arid with an average annual rainfall of 27.5 inches.

When it was viewed, Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin Mountain Range, about two furlongs from the nursery, was like a patch of a natural forest and



**U Kyaw Min Thein**  
(Assistant Director, Monywa District Arid Zone Greening Department).

tree plantations.

According to the

documentary records, the Forest Department and the

Arid Zone Greening Department co-established 5750 acres of tree plantations and are protecting 6750 acres of forest reserves in Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin protected forest. And 4235 acres are covered with villages, farmlands and religious precincts, and 1185 acres with steep mountains and rocky lands.

However, now it has turned green a lot thanks to a three-year plan being undertaken by the Arid Zone Greening Department and the Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry with con-

tribution of many departments in Monywa Township.

Staff Officer U Aung Naing Win of Monywa Township Forest Department said that Bodhitahtaung region was located in Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin



**U Aung Naing Win**  
(Staff Officer, Monywa Township Forest Department).

people; to ensure temperate climate; to conserve forest resources and preserve cultural heritage; to improve tourism industry to raise the living standard of local people; to manage forest resources, establishing more forest reserves; and to mobilize public participation in environmental conservation work.

He continued to say that the two departments were growing flowering plants, shade trees and fast-growing trees; that water was the most important source for the trees to survive; that water from Bodhi Dam was pumped onto the mountain range to water the plants.

So far, 48,630 plants have been grown in the 1000-acre land.

We noticed that the plan for greening Bodhitahtaung region has yielded achievement to some degree. We believe the region will become one of the oasis of the arid zone soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Translation: MS**  
*Kyemon*  
24-12-2008



*A part of the 1000-acre project for greening Bodhitahtaung region.*

## CAT scan reveals inner workings of Volcano Island



*Soufriere Hills Volcano erupting.*

MONTserrat, 25 Dec — On the ground and in the water, an international team of researchers has been collecting imaging data on the Soufriere Hills Volcano in Montserrat to understand the internal structure of the volcano and how and when it erupts.

“Using land-based measurement, we can see that over the time periods when the magma is erupting, the ground surface deflates into a bowl of subsidence and when the magma is sealed underground, the ground surface inflates like a balloon,” says Barry Voight, professor emeritus of geosciences, Penn State.

“The interesting thing is that much more magma is erupting than appears represented by the subsiding bowl.” Voight suggests a simple model to explain this discrepancy seen through the various eruptive phases and pauses of the volcano.

In 1995, Soufriere Hills volcano began the current series of eruptions and pauses, with each episode lasting from one to three years. The November 1995 event lasted until March 1998, during which time a thick dome of sticky andesite lava -- a volcanic rock -- grew continuously within the crater, punctuated by occasional and lethal explosions. From March 1998 until November 1999, there was a pause in above-ground volcanic activity and the lava dome collapsed from its own weight and inactivity.—Internet

## Muse sub-power station, Shweli-Namhkam-Muse power line inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint looked into progress of installation of 66 KV Shweli-Namhkam-Muse power line and construction of sub-power station on 21 December.

At Muse District Electrical Engineer’s Office, the deputy minister met with service personnel of Muse District Electrical Engineer’s Office, Muse Township Electrical Engineer’s Office and Namhkam Township Electrical Engineer’s Office.

On 22 December, the deputy minister met with staff of State Electrical Engineer’s Office in Lashio and Lashio District and Township Electrical Engineer’s Office and gave instructions on distribution of electricity, and visited No 1 sub-power station in Lashio. —MNA



# China to allow freer yuan trades

BEIJING, 25 Dec—China has said it is to allow some trade with its neighbours to be settled with its currency, the yuan.

The pilot scheme was announced in a package of measures designed to help exporters hit by the global downturn.

It means if the two parties to a trade have yuan available, they need not enter world exchange markets to pay.

Most of China's foreign trade is settled in

US dollars or the euro, leaving exporters vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations.

Officials did not say when the trial scheme would start.

When it does, the yuan could be used to settle trade between parts of eastern China

(Guangdong and the Yangtze River delta) and the territories of Hong Kong and Macau, and between south-west China (Guangxi and Yunnan) and the Asean group of

countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Analysts told Chinese media that the yuan was already being used in some South East Asian countries and that China was happy to see such use extended.

Central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan was quoted by the South China Morning Post as saying: "The US dollar is unlikely to be stable next year and later."

"And the likelihood of the United States issuing more money in the near future adds to the depreciation risk in US-dollar-denominated assets and trade settlements."

He also reportedly said that Guangxi, a province in southern China, had already been settling trade with Vietnam in yuan for some time.

Internet



China has said it is to allow some trade with its neighbours to be settled with its currency, the yuan.—INTERNET

# US embassy in Turkmenistan gets white powder mail following Cyprus

HAZRAT UTHMAN, 25 Dec—The US embassy in Turkmenistan was on high alert on Thursday after receiving a package containing suspicious white powder. US embassies in up to 20 countries have received envelopes containing suspicious white powder since 8 December. In most

missions the packages were found to be harmless.

The US embassy in Turkmenistan, a former Soviet republic in central Asia, said it closed its chancery on 23 Dec after receiving a suspect package. "Turkmen authorities were notified and they are investigating the powder for biological

and chemical toxins," its press-service said in a statement, adding it hoped to reopen soon. "There are no reported casualties or injuries."

In the latest reported case, the US embassy in Cyprus received a similar package on Monday and police were called in US authorities have been on alert for such letters since 2001, when envelopes laced with the anthrax toxin were sent to media outlets and to US politicians, killing five people.

Internet

# Thailand to host delayed ASEAN summit next Feb

BANGKOK, 25 Dec—Thailand announced formally on Wednesday that it will host a delayed summit of Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN) in Bangkok in mid-February.

Thailand news agency quoted Thai Prime Minister's Office Minister Sathit Wongnongtoey as he was making the announcement to host the summit. The 14th summit of ASEAN was postponed from mid-December because of political turmoil including the closure of Bangkok's two airports by anti-government protesters.

ASEAN countries comprises of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Representatives from Japan, South Korea, China, India and the UN Secretary General are also due to attend the event. —Internet



Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, the two giant pandas from China, are seen in the quarantine area in Taipei zoo in Muzha, on 23 December, 2008.—INTERNET

# World gas producers approve charter for Doha-based forum

MOSCOW, 25 Dec—World gas producers on Tuesday approved a charter for the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), which will be headquartered in Doha, Qatar, Russian media reported.

Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said at a closing news conference that the ministers of gas producing countries have agreed on the charter that makes GECF, previously an informal group, a more formal organization.

The charter approves the establishment of an executive office and a Doha-based secretariat, with a secretary general to be elected during the next forum, the Russian Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Gas producers, who said the main goal of the new group is to monitor the gas market and conduct joint research, have agreed to exchange information concerning investment programmes, and cooperate in the fields

such as marketing, technology and liquefied natural gas, Itar-Tass reported.

They did not rule out possible coordination on price, however, and discussed the pricing mechanism of the gas market at the meeting as well.

Alexander Medvedev, deputy chairman of Gazprom, which supplies 25 per cent of the European Union's gas, promised that GECF won't become a monopolistic cartel. The GECF includes Algeria, Bolivia, Brunei, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Libya, Malaysia, Nigeria,

Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela, plus Equatorial Guinea, which was granted full membership at the current forum. Kazakhstan and Norway were granted observer status. Shmatko said the GECF is open to all countries, but full membership is only granted by the approval of at least three quarters of all members.

Russia, Iran and Qatar are believed to account for nearly one third of the world's natural gas exports.

MNA/Xinhua



Meredith L. Patterson, a computer programmer by day, conducts an experiment in the dining room of her San Francisco apartment on Thursday, 18 Dec, 2008. Patterson is among a new breed of techno rebels who want to put genetic engineering tools in the hands of anyone with a smart idea. Using homemade lab equipment and the wealth of scientific knowledge available online, these hobbyists are trying to create new life forms through genetic engineering - a field long dominated by Ph.D.s toiling in university and corporate laboratories.—INTERNET



## Man accused of smuggling mummies

CAIRO, 25 Dec— An Australian man has been arrested at Cairo airport after security staff found ancient Egyptian animal mummies in his luggage, reports say.

An airport official said the mummies of a cat and

an ibis, a long-beaked bird, dated back to 300 BC. He said another 19 figurines of ancient Egyptian gods were also found in the passenger's bags.

The man has been charged with smuggling antiquities, which can

carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

According to the *Associated Press*, an antiquity official at the airport described the seizure as rare because of the number of items involved and their age. The figurines found in the passenger's luggage were of the Egyptian gods Horus and Thoth.

Horus is a falcon-headed deity, who represented the greatest cosmic powers for ancient Egyptians. Thoth is believed to have given the Egyptians the gift of hieroglyphic writing.

*Internet*

*A photo shows a curator holding up a mummified cat in Sydney in preparation of an exhibition of ancient Egyptian artefacts. An Australian man has been arrested in Egypt after allegedly attempting to leave the country with a 2,000-year-old preserved cat and other antiquities in his suitcase.—INTERNET*



## S Korea to spend \$4.1 billion to stabilize job market

SEOUL, 25 Dec — South Korea plans to spend 5.4 trillion won (\$4.1 billion) next year to stabilize its job market as job creation slowed to its lowest level in five years and firms'

halt expansion plans amid a weakening economy.

The country's labor ministry said in a statement that it would offer job training programmes, create new jobs and expand state financial support for the unemployed.

The ministry sees its programme benefiting 1.74 million people and plans to offer additional

measures if market conditions deteriorate further and the number of jobless reaches 1 million.

South Korea's unemployment rate rose to a 16-month high of 3.3 percent in November from October's 3.1 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, with the number of jobless rising to 750,000.

*Internet*

## Iran, Iraq sign minefield clean-up accord

TEHERAN, 25 Dec— Iran and Iraq on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding to clear minefields left over from the 1980s war between the countries, officials say. The agreement, signed in Teheran, came at the first joint meeting of the two countries on the subject of de-mining, *KUNA*, the Kuwait news agency reported.

The agreement came after the Iraqi defence minister had discussions with his Iranian counterpart, *KUNA* said.

*Interet*

## Two snowmobilers die in Utah avalanche

PROVIDENCE, 25 Dec— An avalanche in Utah Wednesday overtook two experienced mountain snowmobilers, killing the longtime friends, authorities said.

The deadly snow slide occurred near Logan Peak in northern Utah's Cache County, reported the Salt Lake Tribune, which identified the victims as Jesse Johnson, 23, of Hyrum and Erik Jorgensen, 22, of Paradise. The avalanche occurred in a popular open, snowy bowl called the Rodeo Grounds.

The Utah Avalanche Center said it advises against back country travel in central to northern Utah, noting there is considerable to high danger of avalanches statewide.

*Internet*

## Diamond in the rough: museum finds vacuumed gem

The American Museum of Natural History's latest discovery is a diamond in the rough: a visitor's \$15,000 gem in a vacuum-cleaner bag.

The one-carat stone fell out of Catherine Hart's ring during a "Night at the Museum" sleepover event at the storied New York institution. Custodial supervisor Herbert Andujar says staffers in gloves and masks combed through the dust in four vacuum bags, scrutinizing everything that glittered, before finding the gem.

Hart says she's thrilled to have recovered the diamond, which her husband gave her in 2000. The 59-year-old intends to give it to her granddaughter someday.



*Toyota Motor Corp Partner Robot Division Project General Manager Yoshihiro Kawaharazaki demonstrates the company's Winglet "M" personal transport assistance robot in Tokyo. The robots, which are under development and have a top speed of 6 km/h (3.7 mph), are designed to allow people to travel in an upright standing position with regular pedestrians.*

## NEWS ALBUM

## Fast food + nearby schools = fat kids

Youth who study just a short walk from a fast-food outlet eat fewer fruit and vegetables, drink more soda and are more likely to be obese than students at other schools, according to research published on Tuesday.

The study, which involved more than 500,000 adolescents at middle schools and high schools in California, lends new fuel to a growing backlash against the fast-food industry as studies suggest they contribute to the rising obesity epidemic in the United States.

"We've basically discovered that kids who are going to a school that is near a fast-food restaurant have a higher chance of being overweight and obese than kids who are at a school that is not near a fast-food restaurant," said Brennan Davis of Azusa Pacific University in California, whose study appears in the *American Journal of Public Health*. US youth obesity rates have tripled since 1980, although they leveled off this decade. The government says 32 percent of U.S. children are overweight and 16 percent are obese.

*This file photo shows one of the larger-than-life sculptures of Alaska wildlife on display at Fairbanks.*



*A Canada goose flies over an area of open water near the south shore of Lake Winnebago at Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac, Wis.*

## Chicago sheriff baits fugitives with holiday ruse

The sheriff's office in Chicago has arrested more than 60 fugitives with a net of holiday cheer.

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said on Sunday that the suspects were invited to take a retailers' survey for holiday shoppers at a hotel earlier this month.

Participants who brought along a scratch-off card that was included with the survey were promised at least \$500.

Those who showed up were taken into custody.

One man who arrived with marijuana in his pocket was charged with possession on top of his previous charges.

The fugitives had warrants for crimes including forgery and aggravated battery.



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Thailand)  
Dated. 26 December, 2008.

*The Schwinn Tailwind  
is powered by  
Toshiba's SCiB.*  
**INTERNET**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV XIANG DA VOYNO (8015)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA  
VOYNO (8015) are hereby notified that the vessel will  
be arriving on 26.12.2008 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.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING  
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY ADN BHD**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## Eight killed, 35 missing in Ukraine explosion

SIMFEROPOL, 25 Dec—  
An explosion ripped through an apartment  
building in southern  
Ukraine overnight, killing  
at least eight people and  
up to 35 were missing,  
officials said on Thursday.  
The Emergencies  
Ministry said 20 residents  
had been pulled out alive  
from the shattered five-  
storey block in Yevpatoria  
in the Crimea peninsula.  
The cause of the

explosion on Wednesday  
night had not been  
established yet but it was  
“quite possible that there  
had been containers with  
oxygen or acetylene  
stored in the building,”  
said a ministry spokes-  
man.  
He said rescuers were  
still searching for up to 35  
people thought to be in the  
building at the time of the  
blast. Officials said the  
blast sent concrete

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## O'Hare has three jetliner incidents

CHICAGO, 25 Dec—Chicago's O'Hare International  
Airport had three minor jetliner incidents Christmas Eve,  
including one aircraft that slid off a taxiway officials said.  
The Chicago Tribune reported American Airlines Flight  
1544 hit some ice and slid off the taxiway after leaving  
the gate at 6:42 pm. None of the 54 passengers or crew  
of five aboard were hurt, American Airlines  
spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan said. Alternate flight  
arrangements were being made for the passengers.  
In a separate incident, officials said that shortly after  
6:30 pm another American Airlines jetliner that had just  
taken off with 76 passengers and a crew of five en route  
to St Louis was forced to return because of an engine  
problem.  
Meanwhile, the Tribune reported a fire department  
official said United Flight 766 from Orange County, Calif,  
landed safely after the crew requested that emergency  
crews stand by because of a suspected mechanical issue.  
That incident occurred about 9:30 pm.—Internet



*A gas explosion in Dnipropetrovsk last year caused  
many casualties.—INTERNET*



## Toshiba plans bike battery plant

TOKYO, 25 Dec—Toshiba has announced plans to build a new factory to make  
its new super charge ion battery (SCiB), which can be used in electric vehicles.  
Toshiba said it had selected a site in northwest Japan for the plant. Local media  
reports say it will cost up to 30bn yen (\$332m; £224m).  
SCiBs charge more quickly than lithium ion and are supposed to retain their  
charge for longer. They were first sold in April and are being used on electric  
bicycles. Toshiba is in talks with other companies that might use the batteries,  
including a major carmaker, according to a company spokesperson. Schwinn,  
which makes the SCiB-powered Tailwind bicycle, says that it will fully recharge  
in 30 minutes, compared with a normal charging time of four hours for electric  
bicycles.—Internet

## British retailers order Colgate recall

LONDON, 25 Dec—  
Two British retail groups  
announced the recall of  
thousands of counterfeit  
Colgate toothpaste  
products. The Boots  
Group and Sainsbury's  
said while the fake  
Colgate products do not  
represent a public health  
risk, thousands of tubes  
will be recalled for not  
being a “genuine

Colgate product,” *The  
Daily Telegraph* said on  
Wednesday. “We believe  
there are no health risks  
associated with using the  
counterfeit toothpaste  
but, as it is not a genuine  
Colgate product, we  
removed the affected  
tubes from our stores  
immediately,” a Sain-  
sbury's spokesman said.  
“We take the health

and well-being of our  
customers extremely  
seriously,” a Boots  
spokeswoman said. “As  
soon as we were made  
aware of a possible issue  
with this product, it was  
immediately withdrawn  
from sale.”  
The *Daily Mail* said  
both retail chains posted  
signs regarding the  
counterfeit Colgate  
Cavity Protection items  
and Sainsbury's was  
investigating how the  
products made it to store  
shelves.

Internet



*Japanese sailors during an international fleet review near the coast of South  
Korea. Japan has said it is considering dispatching a destroyer to waters off  
Somalia to guard against pirates who are inflicting a costly toll on the  
shipping industry.*

INTERNET

*The best time to plant a tree  
was 20 years ago. The  
second best time is now.*



## Treating diabetic gum disease saves costs

PANN ARBOR, 25 Dec —Providing diabetics with gum disease treatments such as cleanings and periodontal scaling lowers medical costs by up to 12 percent, US researchers say.

Study leader George Taylor of the University of Michigan says that in periodontal disease, the body reacts to the bacteria causing the gum infection by producing proteins or chemicals called inflammatory mediators.

Ulcers and open sores in the gums become passageways for these proteins and for the bacteria themselves to enter the body's blood circulation.

These inflammatory mediators, as well as some parts of the bacteria, prevent the body from effectively removing glucose, or sugar, from the blood.

The higher level of blood sugar is known as poor diabetes control.

Poor diabetes control leads to serious diabetes

complications such as vision disorders, cardiovascular and kidney disease and amputations, among others, Taylor says.

"Cleanings and other nonsurgical periodontal treatment remove the harmful bacteria," Taylor says in a statement. "We believe this helps prevent the body from producing those harmful chemicals that can enter the systemic circulation and contribute to poorer diabetes control."

Internet



*Snow covered Air Canada planes sit at their gates at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada on 24 Dec, 2008. Air Canada has canceled all of its regional, short and medium-haul flights to and from Vancouver due to the severe winter storm on Wednesday and Thursday.—INTERNET*

## Pain is all in the mind

BEIJING, 25 Dec — How come some people need pain killers even just to sit in a dentist's chair? And how is it possible for rugby players to stay in the game even with a broken arm?

Sydney University lecturer Lorimer Moseley has spent a lot of time studying these questions - and come up with some not-so-surprising answers. In a recent research project, published in the latest edition of the journal *Current Biology*, Moseley and his collaborators found the size of an aching limb can affect the perception of pain.

Ten people with aching arms looked at their damaged limbs either through glass that magnified or minimized. If the limb was made to look large, the patient's perception of pain was amplified. When the swelling was artificially reduced, the real swelling reduced and the patient felt less pain.

Internet



*Visitors to the 'Bird's Nest' National Stadium that was built for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in Beijing walk around on 25 Dec, 2008. Visitors to the iconic stadium were welcomed by decorations to mark holiday.—INTERNET*

## Antidepressant enhances chemotherapy drug

TEL AVIV, 25 Dec — Researchers in Israel say a popular antidepressant enhances the effect of an anticancer drug used with colon cancer. The Tel Aviv University study validates that the antidepressant with the chemical name fluoxetine and the trade name of

Prozac regularly prescribed to ease the emotional pain of those with cancer also helps enhance the effect of the colon cancer drug doxorubicin by more than 1,000 percent. Prozac worked to block the cancer drug from leaving the interior of the cancer cell

and poisoning the healthy non-cancerous cells that surrounded it. "The good news is that the medical community won't have to wait—Prozac can be used for this purpose right away," Dr Dan Peer, the study leader, said in a statement. "Working with a major drug developer, we have validated Prozac's potential, and now Tel Aviv University can lead a humanitarian effort to save lives around the globe."—Internet

*An Alzheimers patient at a psychiatric hospital. A gradual loss of blood flow to the brain over years or decades could be a major trigger for Alzheimer's disease, according to a study to be published on Friday.—INTERNET*



## Scientists study 'molecular motors'

WEST LAFAYETTE, 25 Dec —Discovering how "molecular motors" drive DNA potentially could help slow or repel some viruses, says a study from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Researchers have discovered the atomic structure of a "molecular motor" that ultimately aids viruses in multiplying and infecting new host organisms, Purdue and The Catholic University of America announced Wednesday.

"Molecular motors in double-stranded DNA viruses have never been shown in such detail before," said Siyang Sun, a postdoctoral research associate who worked on the study.—Internet

## Oysters and foie gras hazardous to hands

PM PARIS, 25 Dec — French doctors say wrestling oysters and tins of foie gras can be hazardous to your health. Emergency rooms in France report a surge this time of year from hundreds of people who badly cut themselves opening oysters and foie gras, the Telegraph (Britain) reported on Wednesday.

The wounds often require surgery, said the French Health Surveillance Institute, noting an estimated 2,000 people annually hurt themselves opening oysters, with 40 percent of the injuries occurring in December and January.

"It's quite easy for the oyster knife to slip and to end up in your hand," said Patrick Houvet, a French hand surgeon who regularly sees patients with severed tendons, nerves and arteries. —Internet

## Cancer enzymes found in zebrafish study

SALT LAKE CITY, 25 Dec — A study of zebrafish has revealed ways to potentially slow or prevent the onset of cancerous tumors, the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Utah says.

Using zebrafish that share genetics similar to humans, researchers discovered two enzymes that, when combined, could be involved in the earliest stages of cancer, the Salt Lake City-based Institute announced Wednesday. Genetically manipulating the enzymes could lead to therapies that target tumors in their earliest stage, said David Jones, a senior director at Huntsman.

Internet



# SPORTS

## Benitez and Torres close to Liverpool returns

LIVERPOOL, 25 Dec—Rafael Benitez is close to a return to the Liverpool dugout for Friday's clash against Bolton, while star striker Fernando Torres should also be back in action soon.

Liverpool manager Benitez missed on Sunday's 1-1 draw at Arsenal while he recovered from a kidney stones operation, but he is expected to be back on the bench for Bolton's Boxing Day visit to Anfield.

Benitez's assistant Sammy Lee hopes his imminent return can provide the perfect boost for Liverpool to finish the year on a high.

"Rafa is a lot better, he's on the mend. He has been in a lot of pain but he is improving," Lee said.

Liverpool go into the first of their Christmas fixtures on top of the Premier League and protecting an unbeaten home league record in 2008.—INTERNET



*Spain's Fernando Torres celebrates his goal during their friendly football match at Madrigal Stadium in Villarreal. Rafael Benitez is close to a return to the Liverpool dugout for Friday's clash against Bolton, while Torres should also be back in action soon.—INTERNET*

## Former Argentina manager claims Man City interest

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Dec—Former Argentina manager Alfio Basile said Wednesday that Manchester City are among several clubs trying to secure his services.

"I've had offers from Manchester City, from England, and from the United Arab Emirates, all of which I'm looking at," Basile told the TyC Sports television channel.

City's takeover by the Abu Dhabi United consortium earlier this season left them as one of the world's wealthiest clubs - a point they proved with the British record 32 million pounds (40 million euros) capture of Brazil star Robinho on the 1 September transfer deadline day.

But Sunday's 2-1 defeat away to basement club West Bromwich Albion dropped City into the relegation zone after a run which had seen them take just five points from their last nine matches.

Under-pressure Manchester City manager Mark



*Former Argentina manager Alfio Basile.*

Hughes insists he will still be at the helm come the January transfer window to take advantage of the club's financial might.

However Hughes stressed he'd be given assurances by chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak and owner Sheikh Mansour that he would still be in charge at Eastlands next month.

INTERNET

## Man Utd boss expects title boost from Japan success



*Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson.*

MANCHESTER, 25 Dec—Sir Alex Ferguson believes Manchester United's success in winning the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan can propel the team towards retaining the English Premier League title.

The European champions added the global crown to their honours list by defeating Ecuador's Liga de Quito in Yokohama last Sunday, with Wayne Rooney netting the winning goal for Ferguson's side.

Having now returned to Old Trafford, however, United face a testing trip to Stoke City on Friday as they bid to close the seven-point gap on current league leaders Liverpool.

But having become world champions in Japan, United manager Ferguson expects the confidence generated by that achievement to boost the club's prospects of winning more trophies in the second half of the season.

"I hope that happens," he told reporters at United's training ground here Wednesday.

"There is no question that winning in Japan has given the club and the players a great boost. It was a great achievement.

"The most important thing is that the team played well, which was surprising really because a lot of the players found that their sleep patterns weren't quite so good over there," the Scot added.

During their nine-day stay in Japan, United watched as Liverpool, Chelsea and Arsenal all failed to collect maximum points from their two Premier League games during that period.—INTERNET

## Eligibility error threatens to end FA Cup saga

LONDON, 25 Dec—Just when non-league Droylsden thought they had won their FA Cup tie against Chesterfield at the fourth time of asking, the victory was put in jeopardy by their fielding of an ineligible player.

Defender Sean Newton scored twice on Tuesday as the Manchester side beat League Two Chesterfield 2-1 and secured, or so they thought, a third round tie against Ipswich Town, who play in the second-tier Championship.

But it emerged that Newton had collected his fifth booking of the season on 9 December.

According to Football Association (FA) regulations, that meant he was suspended for one match, a ban which should have ruled him out on Tuesday.

An FA statement issued here Wednesday said: "Droylsden were informed of the suspension on December 10, which was then confirmed by the club four days later.

"Clubs are aware that they are responsible for checking that their players are eligible to play in any given match."—INTERNET



*The FA Cup trophy. Just when non-league Droylsden thought they had won their FA Cup tie against Chesterfield at the fourth time of asking, the victory was put in jeopardy by their fielding of an ineligible player.—INTERNET*

## Spain coach says door still open for Raul

MADRID, 25 Dec—Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has assured out of favour striker Raul that his international exile could end "at any time."

The Real Madrid star has not played for the European champions since 2006 after being controversially overlooked by former coach Luis Aragones.

But in an interview with Marca on Wednesday Aragones' successor said: "Raul's in the starting line-up for his club, he's playing well and can return, if I reckon that's the right thing to do, at any time."

Del Bosque, who coached Raul when he was manager of Real Madrid between 1999 and 2003, added: "I've said several times that the doors to the national team



*Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has assured out of favour striker Raul.—INTERNET*

were never closed for Raul.

"What's more he's the footballer who has scored the most goals for the national team."

Raul, with 44 goals from 102 caps, has not played for La Furia Roja since 6 September, 2006, the 3-2 loss to Northern Ireland in a Euro 2008 qualifier.

INTERNET

## Indian owner set to offload CSKA Sofia

SOFIA, 25 Dec—Indian businessman Pramod Mittal is on the verge of selling top Bulgarian football club CSKA Sofia, the club announced on its website Wednesday.

Mittal, the brother of steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal, is reported to have agreed terms of the sale with Bulgarian company Titan.

No financial details of the deal, which is set to be finalised in the next two months, were made available.

Pramod Mittal bought the club two years ago but



*Indian businessman Pramod Mittal is on the verge of selling top Bulgarian football club CSKA Sofia, the club announced on its website on Wednesday.—INTERNET*

his spell as club owner was marked principally by a series of financial problems.—INTERNET

## Smith wants Old Firm in new Euro league



*Rangers' coach Walter Smith.*

GLASGOW, 25 Dec—Rangers manager Walter Smith believes his side and Glasgow rivals Celtic should be competing in a

new European league while their reserve teams still appear in the Scottish Premier League.

Smith is irked by the huge financial chasm that exists between Europe's leading clubs and the Glasgow giants, which is arguably almost as large as that which exists between the Old Firm, who've monopolised the Scottish title between them for over 20 years, and the rest of the SPL.

INTERNET



## Chocolate, Wine and Tea improve brain performance



Chocolate, wine and tea enhance cognitive performance.—INTERNET

OSLO, 25 Dec—The team from Oxford's Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics and Norway examined the relation

between cognitive performance and the intake of three common foodstuffs that contain flavonoids (chocolate, wine, and tea) in 2,031

older people (aged between 70 and 74).

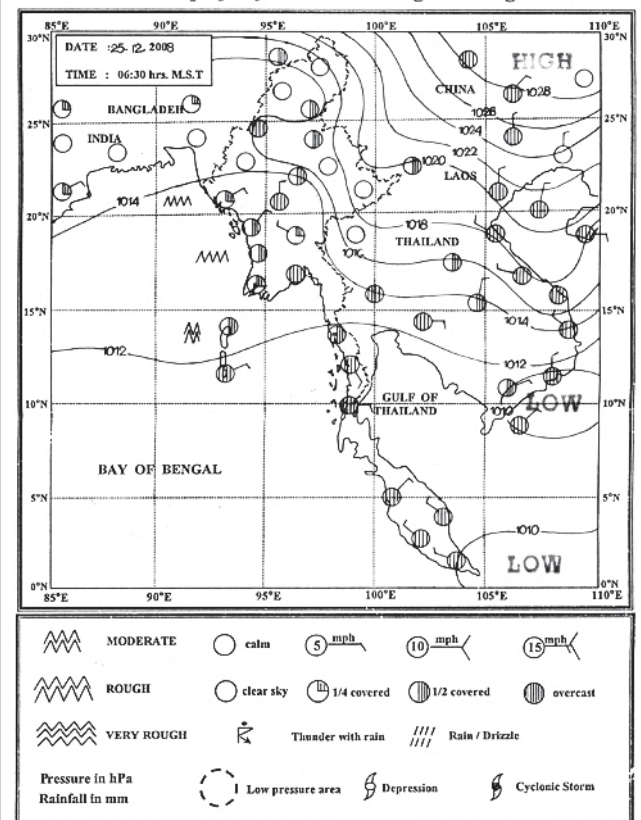
Participants filled in information about their habitual food intake and underwent a battery of cognitive tests.

Those who consumed chocolate, wine, or tea had significantly better mean test scores and lower prevalence of poor cognitive performance than those who did not. The team reported their findings in the Journal of Nutrition.

The latest findings seem to support the theory, although the researchers caution that

more research would be needed to prove that it was flavonoids, rather than some other aspect of the foods studied, that made the difference. The effect was most pronounced for wine. However, say the researchers, those overdoing it at Christmas should note that while moderate alcohol consumption is associated with better cognitive function and reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, heavy alcohol intake could be one of many causes of dementia—as well as a host of other health problems.—Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Thursday, 25 December, 2008

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr**

**MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Shan State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Hakha (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 25-12-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-12-2008 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 24-12-2008 was (8.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 25-12-2008 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 (4) mph from East at (12:30) hours MST on 24-12-2008.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> December 2008:** Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-12-2008:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-12-2008:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-12-2008:** Partly cloudy.

## New way of viewing cells could lead to easier routes for drug manufacture

SCIENCE DAILY, 25 Dec—Research by a Michigan State University chemist could eventually lead to a quicker and easier way of developing protein-based drugs which are key to treating a number of diseases, including cancer, diabetes and hepatitis. Proteins used in drug manufacture and research often are made within genetically modified Escherichia coli, a one-cell bacteria. That protein tends to collect into what

scientists call inclusion bodies. Those hard-to-separate clumps render up to 95 percent of the protein unusable, according to associate chemistry professor David P. Weliky. Weliky and colleagues took a closer look at the structure of the proteins that make up these inclusion bodies. Learning what makes them stick together might yield some clues as to how to separate them, he said, and that could make the manufacturing process more efficient.

Instead of employing more commonly used infrared spectroscopy to look at dehydrated samples, the researchers used nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy using whole cells.

That technology analyzes the magnetic properties of an atom's nucleus. "This study highlights our ability to probe the molecular structure of a single protein in whole cells and to apply advanced analytical and biochemical methods to

a problem of general significance in biotechnology," Weliky said.

Proteins have been called the workhorses of biological macromolecules, forming enzymes critical for metabolism, giving cells structural support and comprising key parts of cell signaling, immune response and other life activities. In other words, whatever happens within a living organism, proteins probably make it happen or regulate it.

Internet



Friday, 26 December  
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

7:50 am

5. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:15 am

7. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Musical programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Songs of national races

4:20 pm

3. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

4:35 pm

4. Songs of yesteryears

4:45 pm

5. အကမြိုင်ပွဲ

5:00 pm

6. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

7. Songs to uphold national spirits

5:25 pm

8. Musical programme

5:40 pm

9. "ဆီးချိုသွေးချိုကာကွယ်ပါ" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မိုးဒီ၊ ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ မျိုးစန္ဒီကျော်၊ ကောင်းခန့်၊ ရတနာခိုင်၊ ဝင်းနန္ဒာဖြိုး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)]

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေဉာဏ်ရှင်

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကုန်သွယ်မုန်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၃၈)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား" (အပိုင်း-၅၈)

18. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး

ဦးပိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်



# Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin Mountain Range getting lush and green

Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon), Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

When our car turned left on Monywa-Mandalay Road after passing MaU Village, we saw a signboard saying "Five miles to Bodhitahtaung".

It was pleasant to view Bodhitahtaung. At the

nursery of Monywa District Arid Zone Greening Department at the foot of Bodhitahtaung-Kyaukka-Shwemyintin Mountain Range in Sagaing Division, Assistant Director U Kyaw Min Thein briefed us on the mountain range that

it stretched seven miles from south to north and three miles from east to west, standing at an altitude of 1262 feet; and that along the mountain range were many ravines and streams. (See page 9)



*Bodhi Dam, the main water source for greening Bodhitahtaung region.*

## Beware of Fire

### Blues eye top spot as they face bottom-place Baggies

STAMFORD BRIDGE, 25 Dec — Luiz Felipe Scolari's Chelsea will take on Tony Mowbray's West Bromwich Albion in the Boxing Day Premiership game at Stamford Bridge on Friday.

The Blues missed a chance to go up to the top spot in the table when on Monday night they could only manage a goalless draw at Everton. However if they win or even draw against the bottom-placed Baggies in the lunch-time clash tomorrow, Scolari's side will be top for at least a few hours before current leaders Liverpool are in action against Bolton Wanderers. Chelsea form has dipped of late and the Blues have failed to win four of their last five league games. At home,

the west-Londoners have not won since the 5-0 thrashing of Sunderland at the start of last month.

Blues boss Scolari will not have the services of captain John Terry, who was sent off against the Toffees, and starts his three-game ban. Portuguese star Ricardo Carvalho could return from injury layoff and take his place in central defence.—*Internet*



## Indulge in green tourism



### Hiking in the Ayalon Park

TEL AVIV, 25 Dec—Israel has transformed a massive garbage on the outskirts of Tel Aviv into a tourist playground and area of natural beauty, in "one of the world's most dramatic 'eco-friendly' initiatives."

The Ayalon Park initiative describes itself as "Israel's most ambitious environmental project to date. The 2,000-acre park is named after the Ayalon River which runs through it, and will feature a recycling plant and environmental education centers as well as hiking and cycling routes, a water feature, zoo and picnic areas.

The park was born out of what was not so long ago a 230-foot pile of refuse. From its peak, visitors will be able to enjoy fantastic panoramic views over the greater Tel Aviv area.

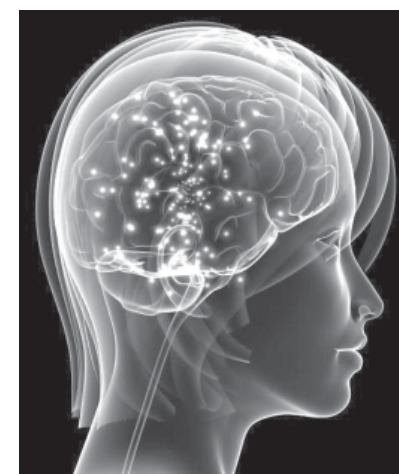
This "symbol of renewal in Israeli society," says the Ministry of Tourism, will include a center where visitors can watch the entire recycling process and learn about its importance for the future of the environment.

The project is a "true indicator of Israel's efforts to put itself on a par with some of the most environmentally conscious countries in the world," said Arie Sommer of the Ministry of Tourism. According to Sommer, the park will be a "front door to Tel Aviv's amazing natural landscape."—*Internet*

## Spotless mind? Unwanted memories might be erasable without harming other brain functions

SCIENCE DAILY, 25 Dec — The brain acts as a computer to both store information and process that information. In a computer, separate devices perform these roles; while a hard disk stores information, the central processing unit (CPU) does the processing. But the brain is thought to perform both these functions in the same cells — neurons — leading researchers to ask if distinct molecules within the brain cells serve these different functions.

In a discovery that may one day lead to the ability to erase debilitating painful memories and addictions from the brain, researchers at SUNY Downstate Medical Center have found that a molecule known to preserve memories — PKMzeta — specifically stores complex, high-quality memories that provide detailed information about an animal's location, fears, and actions, but does not control the ability to process or express this information. This finding suggests that PKMzeta erasure that is designed to target specific debilitating memories could be effective against the offending memory while sparing the computational function of brain.—*Internet*



*Researchers have found a molecule that stores complex, high-quality memories, in a discovery that may one day lead to the ability to erase debilitating painful memories and addictions from the brain.*