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NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived back here by special aircraft at 3 pm today after paying a goodwill visit to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at the invitation of President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San; Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein; Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye; Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun; senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives; the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and wife; Minister for Transport Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrive back from Sri Lanka

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed back by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. MNA

Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads, and Charge d’Affaires ai of the Sri Lankan Embassy Mr Indika Premadesa.

Members of the delegation—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe and wife, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and departmental heads—arrived back here on the same flight. MNA

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 November, 2009

Rural libraries, part of the drive for human resource development

Today, the world has seen rapid changes in science and technology and unprecedented development. Nonetheless, millions of people in developing countries are still illiterate.

Myanmar’s literate rate has touched 94.89 per cent this year, standing as one of the countries in Asia and Pacific Region with high literate rates.

Under the continuing education system, the government has so far established 55,755 rural libraries to expedite the post-literary programme for sustainable development in conducting Three R’s courses.

Libraries make significant contribution to the literacy campaigns intended for producing reliable human resources needed for shaping the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

With the aim of bridging the development gap between rural and urban areas, the government is opening self-reliant village libraries to materialize the five rural development programmes it has laid down to expand the horizons of rural dwellers.

Across the nation there are now 58,329 community learning centres designed to help improve the socio-economic life of the people of wards and villages thanks to the participation of social organizations and well-wishers.

The people are, therefore, to take greater part in the plan the government is implementing for sustainable progress of the libraries and establishment of more and more libraries.

2nd U-18 Asia Youth Hockey Tournament continues

YANGON, 15 Nov — China (Taipei) beat Myanmar 4-0, Republic of Korea beat Singapore 3-0 and Pakistan beat India 4-3 in the 2nd U-18 Asia Youth Hockey Tournament at Theinbyu Artificial Turf in Yangon today. Myanmar will play against Singapore tomorrow. The 2nd U-18 Asia Youth Hockey Tournament is organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation.

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov — Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe on 11 November heard reports on matters related to the site for construction of rail-cum-road Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) presented by Superintending Engineer U Han Soe on Letpanche pay Bank of Ayeyawady River. The deputy minister inspected the site for construction of the bridge on Letpanche pay Bank. On Pakokku bank, the deputy minister looked into the conditions for construction of the bridge.

D-G of BED No. 2 inspects basic education schools in Waingmaw Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov — Director-General U Aye Lwin of the No. 2 Department of Basic Education inspected Kanpyakhte Basic Education Middle School and Waichon BEHS in Waingmaw Township of Kachin State on 11 November. The director-general also inspected SadonBEHS, Sadon BEPS, Waishang BEHS (Branch) of Waingmaw Township.

Talks on obesity on 15 Nov

YANGON, 15 Nov — Dr. Khin Maung Thwin of Fame Pharmaceuticals will give talks on “Obesity” at Myanmar Fishery Federation in Insein Township on 21 November. Any one may attend the talks Jointly organized by Myanmar Fishery Federation and Myanmar Shrimp Entrepreneurs Association with the assistance of Asia Royal Cardiac & Medical Care.
LONDON, 15 Nov — Iraqi civilians who were detained by British troops during the US-led war have leveled some 33 allegations of rape and abuse against male and female soldiers, Britain’s Ministry of Defence said on Saturday.

The allegations come in the wake of the British withdrawal from Iraq this year.

French arms export estimated at seven bln euros in 2009

PARIS, 15 Nov — French arms export will reach seven billion euros in 2009, the nation’s top defence procurement officer said on Saturday.

Laurent Collet-Billon, head of the General Delegation for Ordnance (DGA), the government procurement agency, told French daily newspaper Le Monde that France will remain the fourth biggest arms exporter worldwide in 2009.

Despite of the economic crisis, the 2009 global ordnance market will grow to 700 billion euros this year, the newspaper said in a report published on its website.

France’s arms export is expected to increase by more than 10 percent from a year earlier and is likely to keep growing in 2010, said Laurent.

French arms export totaled 6.3 billion euros in 2008, the best result since 2000, making it the fourth biggest exporter, after the United States, Britain and Russia.

Laurent attributed the growth in 2009 to the sale of Rafale combat jets, adding that France hopes to reach an agreement with Brazil on the Rafale jets deal at the beginning of 2010.

Two NATO soldiers killed, militants detained in Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Nov — Continued militancy claimed the lives of two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the war-torn Afghanistan while the troops have detained several militants, the military alliance said in a press release on Saturday.

“One ISAF service member from the United States died in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) strike in southern Afghanistan yesterday,” the Press release said. A similar incident in east Afghanistan left an ISAF service member and a civilian contractor both from the US dead, it added. However, ISAF in another press release stressed that the troops detained a handful of suspected insurgents on the same day Friday in the southern Zabul while pursuing a Taleban commander.

Six Taleban militants, three Afghan troopers killed in E Afghanistan

KHOST (Afghanistan), 15 Nov—A gun battle between Afghan-International forces and Taleban fighters left six insurgents dead in the eastern Afghan province of Nuristan, provincial police chief said on Sunday.

“Taleban attacked a military outpost of Afghan and the NATO-led peacekeeping troops in Nurghrahim district on Saturday night, and troops returned fire, killing six rebels including their commander Mullah Abdul Qadir on the spot,” Mohammad Qasim Payman told Xinhua.

Kenya harvest example on reversing food shortage

AHERO (Kenya), 15 Nov — Joram Ahero remembers it was not too long ago that his neighbors went to bed hungry.

Now they and thousands of others in the lowlands of western Kenya are able to get year-round work as farm laborers or earn money from their once-neglected rice paddies. The government’s investment in a rundown irrigation project has revived a rural economy that was in the dums for years.

The discernible change a season’s harvest of rice has brought to the western Kenyan town of Ahero also helps illustrate a message the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has trumpeted this year: governments need to invest more in agriculture to reduce the number of people who need food aid — currently one in six people on the globe. Heads of state and government from around the world gather in Rome on Monday at an FAO summit to explore new strategies. The summit’s top goal is to rally the world behind a change in aid policy, and to secure a pledge to spend more money to develop agriculture in poor countries.

Women and men trash rice grass to remove the grains in Ahero, Kenya on Friday, 2009. —INTERNET

Security force members guard a destroyed car after a blast in Peshawar, Pakistan, on 14 Nov, 2009. A suicide car bomb attacked a security check point on road to downtown Peshawar on Saturday and killed at least 5 people and wounded 25 others. —XINHUA

A faded sign advertises several retail spaces for lease in a shopping mall in Fontana, California. Even as some sectors of the US economy see a return to growth, woes in commercial real estate are deepening, raising fears that the fragile recovery could falter. —INTERNET

Children clean up the floor inside a building which is damaged in an explosion in Afghan capital Kabul, on 14 Nov, 2009. A suicide bomb hit a NATO military camp in eastern Kabul on Friday morning. —XINHUA

British investigating fresh Iraq abuse claims

London, 15 Nov — British soldiers have faced a series of claims that they mistreated Iraqi civilians in southern Iraq during six years of combat operations. Last year, Britain settled a legal case involving the death of one Iraqi civilian, and the abuse of nine others, paying out nearly 3 million pounds in compensation.

A public inquiry is still under way into the death of hotel worker Baha Mousa. He died in the custody of British soldiers following a raid on his hotel in the southern Iraqi city of Basra in 2003 and suffered 93 separate injuries. British Cpl Donald Payne pleaded guilty to inhumanely treating Iraqi civilians in Britain’s first war crimes conviction.

The procurement officer said on Saturday.

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Laurent attributed the growth in 2009 to the sale of Rafale combat jets, adding that France hopes to reach an agreement with Brazil on the Rafale jets deal at the beginning of 2010.
Slovenia signs up to Russia-Europe gas pipeline

Nove-Ogarevo, 15 Nov—Slovenia signed an agreement on Saturday for the massive South Stream gas pipeline from Russia to Europe to pass through the country. Prime Minister Borut Pahor and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin witnessed the accord signed by their respective energy ministers Matej Lahovnik and Sergei Shmatko at Putin’s residence at Nove-Ogarevo near Moscow. “We have now signed agreements with all the European partners which are vital for the South Stream project,” Putin said at a joint Press conference afterwards.

By signing the deal with Slovenia, Moscow dealt another blow to the rival Nabucco pipeline project, which is backed by the European Union.

Nabucco aims to reduce EU dependence on Russia for gas by taking supplies from Caspian Sea nations such as Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Asia-Pacific region to become world’s leading aviation market in 20 years

Tianjin, 15 Nov—The Asia-Pacific region will become a leader in the world’s aviation market in the next 20 years, forecast an executive officer of the Boeing company.

The Asia-Pacific region would lead the global aviation market with growing demand and become a new centre of the world aviation market in the next two decades, said Kenneth G Yata, Vice President of Business Development of Boeing (China) Co, Ltd. at an international forum on manufacturing industry management held on Saturday in Tianjin, a north China port city.

As demand in Europe and the United States slows, the Asia-Pacific region will be a growing market for commercial airplanes in the coming two decades to fit increasing demand for tourism, passenger and freight transport, said Yata. He said, passenger flow by air will increase by an average 6.5 percent annually in the region in the coming two decades, surpassing the North American and European markets, said Yata. Currently, Asia-Pacific region accounts for 32 percent of the world’s air passenger market. By 2028, the share is likely to rise to 41 percent, the company forecast.—Internet

Air Arabia profit drops amid swine flu concerns

Sharjah, 15 Nov—Net profit at Gulf low-cost carrier Air Arabia dropped nine percent in the third quarter from a year earlier amid concerns about swine flu and the credit crunch, it said. Internet

Pacific free trade deal worth billions of dollars

Wellington, 15 Nov—New Zealand Prime Minister JohnKey said in Singapore on Saturday that a Pacific free trade deal that includes the United States would be worth billions of dollars to New Zealand.

Key made the comment after US President Barack Obama re-committed his country to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Tokyo on Saturday, where he spoke en route to a meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) leaders in Singapore, Radio New Zealand reported.

The proposed eight-country free trade agreement, which includes New Zealand, has been stalled since March pending a review of US trade policy. Obama said in Tokyo the United States would re-engage in free trade agreements such as the TPP which began under the previous administration, to help boost US exports and create jobs.

Renault hopes to crack India market with cheap car

New Delhi, 15 Nov—Long stuck at a red light in India, French automaker Renault has fresh plans to conquer the country’s explosively growing car market with a revitalised local partnership deal and a low-cost vehicle.

Renault and its Japanese partner Nissan are set to join in 2012 the crowd of manufacturers producing low-cost cars for India in a bid to challenge head-on the Tata Nano, the world’s cheapest automobile.

“I don’t want Renault and Nissan to be makers of very pretty cars people dream about but can’t afford,” Carlos Ghosn, who runs the Franco-Japanese car-making alliance Renault Nissan, said in New Delhi last week.

Japan’s Hitachi to raise up to $4.5 billion

Tokyo, 15 Nov—Hitachi Ltd, Japan’s biggest electronics firm by revenues, plans to raise up to 400 billion yen ($4.5 billion) by issuing new shares and convertible bonds to shore up its battered capital base, two sources familiar with the matter said.

The sources, who asked not to be identified ahead of an official announcement anticipated as early as Monday, said Hitachi plans to sell about 300 billion yen worth of shares and another 100 billion yen in convertible bonds.

The public share offering would be its first in 27 years. No one could be immediately reached at Hitachi for comment.

Faced with its fourth straight year of losses, Hitachi’s shareholders’ equity ratio has slipped to just below 11 percent, roughly half that of rival NEC Corp, which earlier this month announced it would raise up to $1.5 billion.
Employees wait to answer questions during a preview of the new Apple store in the upper west side of New York on 12 Nov, 2009. Apple Inc said on Thursday it plans to open 40 to 50 retail stores next year as the consumer electronics giant expands its reach to customers.—XINHUA

Growing up in island country threatened by rising sea levels

UNITED NATIONS, 15 NOV — The future of the Maldives, the Indian Ocean islands facing the real prospect of disappearing into the sea, rests squarely in the hands of its younger generations.

As sea levels rise and threaten the very existence of the Maldives, children and adolescents increasingly face the prospect of moving to higher ground, either within their national boundaries or beyond.

Maldivian Vice-President Waheed Hassan told Xinhua that raising awareness about the effects of climate change was a top priority for his government and, while older generations still might cling to antiquated ideas, it was the country’s youth that appeared more flexible. “A lot of young people are educated and they are exposed to the debate on climate change,” he said at his home in the capital of Male. “Of course, there are also traditional people, who think, for example, when there is a natural disaster it’s the wheel of God and we do not have anything to do with it.”

On the international stage, the Maldivian government has taken the lead in sounding the alarm over climate change. Most of the country’s 200 inhabited islands are less than a meter above sea level, making them extremely vulnerable to rising sea levels.

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

World Cup trophy arrives in Uganda

KAMPALA, 15 NOV — The prestigious World Cup trophy on a world tour has finally arrived in the East African country of Uganda on Saturday night.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni commanded the sport of football as he received the World Cup trophy at a welcoming ceremony at Entebbe statehouse, about 40km south of the capital city of Kampala.

“Football in particular is a very good mechanism of imparting certain qualities in society, fitness, coordination, competition but also gentleman behavior,” he said. —Xinhua

Explosion rocks Quezon City, Metro Manila

MANILA, 15 NOV — An explosion near a church along Kamuning road rocked Quezon City, Metro Manila at noon on Sunday, hurting an undetermined number of people and destroyed cars parked around the area, local radio DZBB reported.

DZBB report quoted a witness as saying that a grenade went off near the United Methodist Church in Kamuning road, but it is not confirmed by police, who are still trying to find what explosive device was used in the incident.—Xinhua

China stages aerial demonstration to mark 60th founding anniversary of air force

BEIJING, 15 NOV — Warplanes streaks through the air, trailing lines of red, white and blue smoke across the skies over Beijing on Sunday as the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) puts on an aerial show to mark the 60th founding anniversary of its air force.

Four J-10 fighters and six J-7 fighters from the air force’s aerial demonstration team took part in the 21-minute show, staged in the Shahe airport in the northern suburbs of Beijing on Sunday morning.

The demonstration also included a skydiving of the air force’s paratroopers, who unfolded China’s national flag and the PLA flag while in the air.

The PLA air force had originally planned to stage the aerial demonstration on 11 Nov, exactly 60 years after the air force was founded in 1949.

But the demonstration was cancelled for bad weather conditions that day and was postponed until 13 Nov, when fog and snow again forced the show to reschedule.

Another round of the aerial demonstration would be held at 3 pm on Sunday at the Shahe airport, according to sources with the PLA air force.—Xinhua

Four die, three missing in collision of S Korean fishing boat with Hong Kong-registered cargo ship

SEOUL, 15 NOV — Four people died and three were missing after a South Korean fishing boat collided with a Hong Kong-registered cargo ship on Saturday night near waters off the island of Jeju, Chinese Consulate-General in Gwangju said on Sunday.

There were at least 9 sailors on the 29-ton South Korean fishing boat “Sambaejangyeung” when it collided with the 3,836-ton Hong Kong-registered cargo ship “Joshu Mara” at about 10:03 pm on Saturday local time (0103 GMT) on waters about 130 km southeast of South Korea’s Seogwipo city. Jeju Province, the Consulate-General said.

The fishing boat sunk after the collision. Two sailors of the fishing boat, both of them South Koreans, have been rescued by the cargo ship crew. South Korean maritime authorities launched rescue operation immediately after receiving report. Four bodies were found as of 9:50 am on Sunday (0050 GMT), and three others remain missing. There are two Indonesians among the dead and missing. The cause of the accident is yet to be determined.—Xinhua

The snowfall of winter brings the Summer Palace, an imperial garden of Beijing, the distinctive snow scene. The snow set off maple leaves, lotuses in their final stages of flowering, bridge and temple.—Xinhua

The new light of myanmar Monday, 16 November, 2009

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**Dubai Airshow may see sharp drop in orders**

**DUBAI, 15 Nov** — The Dubai Airshow opens on Sunday with some analysts doubting that Gulf carriers, big spenders in recent years, will be doing much big-ticket buying, but organizers are cautiously optimistic.

Rupinder Vig, an analyst at Morgan Stanley, said “this Dubai Airshow is going to be much more low key than the last few years.”

If you look at most of the airlines of that region have been saying for the last six months or so ... I wouldn’t expect massive orders to come through,” he told AFP. Another analyst, requesting anonymity, said “the small contracts that will be made public during the show will not have an impact on stock exchanges.

At the 2007 edition of the biennial show, European manufacturer Airbus received its largest-ever single order valued at 20 billion dollars from Dubai’s Emirates, which mainly included 70 units of the future long-haul A350.

This year, Airbus and its major rival Boeing are likely to take few if any orders.

However, Allison Weller, director of show organiser F and E Aerospace, has “expressed confidence that this event will spearhead the aerospace industry’s recovery, reflecting the ‘green shoots’ apparent elsewhere in the world economy,” the airshow’s website says. — Internet

**China-US trade war unlikely**

**BEIJING, 15 Nov** — There is little possibility China and the United States will become embroiled in a full-blown trade war despite trade friction between the two countries will likely rise in the months ahead, China Daily reported.

The newspaper said since US President Barack Obama announced special duties on tire imports from China in September, trade tensions between two of the world’s most important economies have tightened and spread to other areas, but few believe a trade war of any kind will break out.

“There is neither sign nor reason that China and the US will turn the conflicts into a war. It’s not good for either party,” He Weiwen, a senior expert on WTO and China-US trade relations was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

**Russian official foresees 3% economic growth next year**

**MOSCOW, 15 Nov** — Russia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) may see a 3-to-3.5-percent growth should the oil price be stabilized at 70 US dollars per barrel, said a Russian official on Friday.

Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Andrei Klepach was cited by local TV Vesti as making such predictions.

The latest report from the World Bank said Russian economy might be slightly animated after the second quarter of this year, given the influence from the international demand, the reinvigoration of the global financial system and the surge of oil prices.

The report also envisioned that Russia’s GDP may decline 8.7 percent this year as compared with last year, while gaining 3.2 percent next year.

**Ten people, including eight Japanese tourists, killed in Busan fire in S Korea**

**SEOUL, 15 Nov** — A total of 10 people, including eight Japanese tourists, were killed, and six others were injured on Saturday afternoon in a fire at an indoor shooting range in Busan, a southern port city of South Korea, local media quoted police as saying.

The fire broke out at about 02:26 pm local time at the second-floor indoor shooting range which was located in a five-story building in the second largest city of South Korea, and was quelled at around 03:04 pm, police said.

Preliminary investigation showed that the fire started in a lounge adjacent to the shooting range, where seven bodies have been found later, and eight bodies believed to be Japanese tourists who were visiting the shooting range as part of the tour program, with the two others South Koreans, the police said. — Xinhua

**Astronomers discover 22 more galaxies**

US and Japanese astronomers say they’ve discovered 22 galaxies, and confirmed one galaxy formed as early as 787 million years after the Big Bang.

Led by Masami Ouchi of the Carnegie Observatories, the team of astronomers said their finding pinpoints when an era called the reionization epoch likely began — the farthest back in time that astronomers can observe.

The scientists conducted a survey of a large area of the sky from 2006-2009 using a custom-made, wide-field camera on Japan’s 8.3-meter Subaru Telescope, located at the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii.

“What makes this study different is that we surveyed an area that is over 100 times larger than previous ones and, as a result, had a larger sample of early galaxies than past surveys,” said Ouchi.

The research is to appear in the December issue of the Astrophysical Journal.

**School sets sushi roll world record**

Officials at the University of California-Berkeley said volunteer students and staff rolled a record-setting 330-foot California sushi roll.

Organizers of the event said the giant sushi roll included 200 pounds of dry rice, 80 pounds each of cucumber and avocado, and 180 pounds of fish along with several pounds of tofu used to make a vegetarian section of the giant dish, the Oakland (Calif) Tribune reported on Monday.

University spokeswoman Kathleen MacKay said the roll beat the previous world record of 300 feet, set in 2001 in Hawaii.

Professor Duncan Williams said the event is part of the school’s festivities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the University of California-Berkeley’s Center for Japanese Studies.

“A lot of what we’re talking about is Japanese hybrids, where Japan meets the world,” said Williams.
The day of reinforcing the Tatmadaw in public interest

Tin Min Kyaw

The Tatmadaw government is now working hard to achieve Myanmar’s democratization process. In addition, it has improved infrastructures to a certain degree for peace and regional development, and that is supported by many tangible results.

One of them is a milestone that national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and are restoring peace in cooperation with the Tatmadaw. While building peace, the Tatmadaw devotes itself to varieties of projects for regional development. Now, the people have a greater sense of Union Spirit, enjoying the taste of peace and development. They have realized which role they will have to play in the drive for development of the nation.

It is most satisfactory to witness that national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are showing greater flexibility in the democratization process of Myanmar, like other community-based organizations and social organizations. The Tatmadaw government made arrangements for the national race peace groups to serve as Border Guard Forces legally holding arms.

On 8 November, ceremonies to transform NDAK of Special Region (1) in Kachin State into Border Guard Forces were held in Gangwin, Lupi, and Sinkyaing in Kachin State, and Ka-La-La-Ta troops of Special Region (2) in Kayah State, in Pantein and Sutpaing regions in Kayah State. It is learnt that other national race peace groups will be reconstituted into Border Guard Forces.

After taking up State duties, the Tatmadaw government laid down Our Three Main National Causes “Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty” as national duty. The national policy is to be put in the fore in the interest of the Union of Myanmar, home to over 100 national races who have been living through thick and thin since time immemorial.

Therefore, the national race armed groups, which had kept in armed revolt against successive governments due to various reasons, entered the legal fold one after another to throw themselves to peace restoration and regional development tasks in concert with the Tatmadaw in adhering to the national policy. Of them, U Khun Sa’s MTA, the strongest force, exchanged arms for peace and unconditionally surrendered arms on 5 January 1996.

However, certain elements stirred up disruptions to the process of getting rid of doubts and boosting understanding among national brethren, thus prompting arrangements for security of the national race armed groups that had returned to the legal fold. Considering this, the Tatmadaw government allowed them to continue to hold arms legally.

Throughout the period of formulating the State constitution that would be approved legally with the support of the people, the government repeatedly reminded that the national race armed groups surrender their arms. After over a couple of decades, dating back to 1989, the time was ripe to make some changes in line with the State constitution.

In Myanmar, the Tatmadaw is more knowledgeable about the historical background of the nation than any other organization. In the course of the nation’s history, the Tatmadaw has stood firmly by the people, and kept in touch with ethnic groups. It is the Tatmadaw that knows well the births of the national race armed groups. The Tatmadaw was convinced of the desires of the national race armed groups to play a role in the national politics, enjoy economic growth, and keep themselves safe from dangers.

So, the Tatmadaw government gave permissions to national race armed groups to attend as representatives the National Convention designed to enrich the political knowledge of national races. The purpose was to encourage the national race peace groups to cordially deal and compare notes about international and Myanmar affairs with representatives of other national races, political parties, and people from all walks of life, service personnel, and intellectuals and intelligentsia, at the National Convention.

The government rendered assistance to them to boost their businesses till they would be able to enjoy regional food surplus, and trade their goods at home and abroad. More than that, it generated opportunities for them to enjoy due rights in conformity with political affairs and objective conditions of Myanmar.

Therefore, it should be realized that identifying rights and opportunities for their better future is a means to see to Our Three Main National Causes. And in carrying out the appropriate changes according to the State constitution, the Tatmadaw government applied ways and means acceptable to all, instead of rigid ones.

In compliance with the agreements and the law, the time has been ripe for them to surrender their arms, which is a must. Taking into consideration the national race armed groups’ attachment to their societies, and honesty, the Tatmadaw government launched a plan to transform the groups wishing to protect their regions against dangers into Border Guard Forces as troops of the Tatmadaw.

It is noticed that that programme complies with the six principles of the State constitution. Transforming national race armed groups into Tatmadaw members does not mean terminating their duties. Indeed, for them, being entrusted trustfully with national defence duties is to be proud of.

They have also been vested with the rights to set up political parties in line with the laws to be prescribed soon, if they wish to carry out political activities among the groups. According to the multi-party democracy system, by forming political parties or for independent-representatives by seeking the support of local people, they can enjoy the rights to serve as people’s representatives at self-administered zone leading bodies, State/Region hluttaws (parliaments), the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The troops of the Border Guard Forces have been bestowed with the rights to take part in the national politics by following the military code of conduct, rules and regulations and preserving the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw. Therefore, I would say transforming NDAK of Special Region (1) in Kachin State and Ka-La-La-Ta of Special Region (2) in Kayah State into Border Guard Forces is not only bringing dignity to them, but also reinforcing the Tatmadaw in the interest of the nation and the people.

Translation: MS

Transforming NDAK of Special Region (1) in Kachin State and Ka-La-La-Ta of Special Region (2) in Kayah State into Border Guard Forces is not only bringing dignity to them, but also reinforcing the Tatmadaw in the interest of the nation and the people.
NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa and Madame Shiranthi Rajapaksa hosted a dinner in honour of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawing Kyaing at the President’s House in Kandy at 9 pm on 12 November.

Also present at the dinner were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Ohn Thwin and wife and departmental heads.

The Sri Lankan President and Madame were accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama and wife, Minister of Culture Hon. Mr. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and wife, Minister of Health Hon Mr. Nimal Sripala de Silva, Minister of Information Hon Mr. Tikira Kobbekaduwa Vejetarian and wife, Governor of Central Province Hon Mr. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa and wife, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Newton Gunaratna and senior officials.

Before the dinner, the Senior General and the Sri Lankan President exchanged gifts.

In front of the President’s House, they fed two elephants donated by the Union of Myanmar to the sacred tooth relics building of Sri Lanka.

Next, the Sri Lankan cultural troupe performed variety dances.

The Senior General and wife presented cash award to the artistes and cordially greeted them. Afterwards, the Senior General and wife had the dinner together with the Sri Lankan President and party.

During the dinner, the Sri Lankan music band presented songs. After the dinner, the Senior General and the Sri Lankan President cordially greeted those present.

Later, the Senior General and party arrived back at Earl’s Regency Hotel.—MNA
Sri Lankan President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa welcomes…

(from page 16)

Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe and wife Dr. Daw Khin Thida, the ministers and party, left Nay Pyi Taw of the Union of Myanmar to Colombo of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka by special aircraft on 12 November at the invitation of President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The special aircraft carrying the Myanmar good-will delegation led by the Senior General and wife arrived at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo at 12.30 pm. Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka U Ohn Thwin and Head of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Mr. Ratamapala welcomed Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang on board the aircraft.

Two Sri Lankan children presented the bouquet to the Senior General and wife who descended from the special aircraft.

The Senior General and wife were welcomed by the ministers, ambassadors and embassy officials of foreign embassies and Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Newton Gunaratna and high ranking officials led by Sri Lankan President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa and wife Madame Shiranthi Rajapaksa.

A gala ceremony to welcome Senior General Than Shwe was held at Bandaranaike International Airport. Flanked by Sri Lankan traditional cultural troupes, the Senior General ascended onto the dais on the occasion and took the salute of the Guard of Honour on the dais.

The State Military Band played the National Anthems of the two countries.

The Senior General was honoured with a 21-gun salute.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, the Senior General took position on the dais. Meanwhile, the State Military Band played the National Anthems of the two countries again.

The Sri Lankan President presented his entourage to Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party. The Senior General also presented his entourage to the Sri Lankan President and wife.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Ohn Thwin, wife Daw San San Nwe, embassy staff and family members.

The Senior General signed in the visitors’ book. Next, the Senior General and wife took a break at the lounge of the airport. At that time, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang cordially conversed with the Sri Lankan President and wife.

The Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang left Colombo in a motorcade and arrived at Earl’s Regency Hotel in Kandy at 3.20 pm local time.— MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe met President of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa at the President’s House in Kandy on 12 November evening. Senior General Than Shwe and party were warmly welcomed by Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa and wife Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa at 7 pm.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe met Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa at the hall of President’s House. Also present on the occasion were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-I of the SPDC General for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Ohn Thwin and departmental heads. Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Health Mr Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Export Development and International Trade Mr Rohilla Bogollagama.

Senior General Than Shwe meets Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa at the President’s House in Kandy.—MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Aung Kyi greet Sri Lankan cabinet members and senior military officers.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe presents members of Myanmar goodwill delegation to Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa and wife.—MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Aung Kyi greet Sri Lankan cabinet members and senior military officers.—MNA
Senior General Than Shwe meets Sri Lankan...

(from page 10)

Trade Mr G L Peiris, Minister of Trade, Marketing Development, Co-operatives and Consumer Services Mr Bandula Gunawardena, Minister of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services Mr Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Religious Affairs Mr Pandu Bandaranaike, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Newton Gunaratana and senior officers.

The leaders of the two nations extended greetings. Afterwards, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said the strengthened relation between the two countries is based on the identity in practising Buddhism. He continued to say that he believed that his visit to Sri Lanka would be a milestone in the history of the two countries.

Afterwards, the Sri Lankan President expressed his delight for the visit of the Myanmar goodwill delegation to Sri Lanka and thanked for the warm welcome during his visit to Myanmar. He continued to say that the visit of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council would become a new chapter of the relations between the two countries. He also expressed his delight for Myanmar’s participation in the Asia cooperation forum.

The two countries have established relations since over 1000 years ago, and the diplomatic relations between the two countries has turned 60 years. Two sects of the Buddhism in Sri Lanka come from Myanmar. He also thanked for the donation of an elephant from Myanmar which has already donated two elephants to Sri Lanka.

Senior General Than Shwe also asked the Sri Lanka president to see to the welfare of Myanmar Buddhist monks studying in Sri Lanka.

Efforts for the propagation of the Buddhism would not only strengthen the friendship between the countries and but also develop the economy of the two countries.

Asian countries had to import about 90 percent of industrial and household goods from western countries. Today, Asian countries have produced the goods at home, and the cooperation between Asian countries would boost the economy of the region, he added.

Myanmar is ranked as the second biggest beans and pulses producer. Therefore, instead of trading bean and pulses via third country, the direct trade between the two countries would bring more benefits to both countries. He said. Regarding the transition to democracy in Myanmar, the State Constitution has been approved while the seven-step Road Map is being implemented. The election will be held in 2010 and the remaining steps will be implemented.

In his speech, the Sri Lankan President spoke of thanks for detailed clarifications. He said that both countries will strive not only for promotion of trade but also for further cementing friendly relations. He continued to say that efforts are being made to extend the private sectors of the two countries. The Sri Lankan Minister of Trade held a discussion in Myanmar last two weeks, he added. The agreement on air transportation between the two countries was signed in 1950s, he added. He noted that if the agreement can be amended in accordance with the current situation, the people to people relations and religious affairs based tourism industry will improve between the two countries.

Heads of the State two countries exchanged views on promotion of relationship between the two countries, all-round development of economy and trade, promotion of Buddhism based industry, cooperation of the two countries in the framework of BIMSTEC, progress of internal affairs between the two countries, and regional and international affairs. The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

While the Senior General and the Sri Lankan President were holding the meeting, Daw Kyang Kyang and Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa cordially met at the separate hall.

Also present at the meeting together with Daw Kyang Kyang were Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Khin Thaw Hnin, wife of Secretary-1 General Thihla Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Dr Daw Khin Thida, wife of Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe and Daw San San Nwe, wife of Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Ohn Thwin.—MNA

Greenland ice loss accelerating

Oslo, 15 Nov—Greenland’s ice losses are accelerating and nudging up sea levels, according to a study showing that icebergs breaking away and meltwater runoff are equally to blame for the shrinking ice sheet. The report, using computer models to confirm satellite readings, indicated that ice losses quickened in 2006-08 to the equivalent of 0.75 mm (0.03 inch) of world sea level rise per year from an average 0.46 mm a year for 2000-08. “Mass loss has accelerated,” said Michel van den Broeke, of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, who led the study, in Friday’s edition of the journal Science.

“The years 2006-08, with their warm summers, have seen a huge melting,” he told Reuters of the study with colleagues in the United States, the Netherlands and Britain.

“The underlying causes suggest this trend is likely to continue in the near future,” Jonathan Bamber, a co-author at the University of Bristol, said in a statement. The computer models matched satellite data for ice losses — raising confidence in the findings — and showed that losses were due equally to meltwater, caused by rising temperatures, and icebergs breaking off from glaciers. Internet

Gas poisoning kills five in NW Turkey

Ankara, 15 Nov—Five people were found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning in northwestern Turkey’s Istanbul city on Sunday, Turkish media reported.

A woman, her daughter and three grandchildren were found dead on Sunday morning in their house in Umraniyeh district of Istanbul, the private NTV channel reported.—Internet
Electric Power No. 1 Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min received Executive Vice-Chairman Mr. Wang Yongxiang and party of Huaneng Lancang River Hydropower Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China at the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1, here, on 12 November evening.

They discussed cooperation in implementation of Shweli-2 hydropower project.

A ceremony to sign the MoU on Shweli-2 hydropower project jointly implemented by Hydropower Administration Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1, Huaneng Lancang River Hydropower Co Ltd of China and Asia World Co Ltd was held at the hall of the ministry.

Minister Col Zaw Min delivered an address. The Executive Vice-Chairman and Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing spoke words of thanks.

The Director-General of Hydropower Administration Department and Executive Vice-President Mr Huang Guangming signed the MoU and exchanged notes.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Attorney-General U Aye Manu, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, departmental heads and officials.—MNA

Commander views thriving summer paddy plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Min on 9 November viewed thriving summer paddy plantation in Aukso Village-tract in Thanatpin Township.

At the town hall in Bago, the commander attended a ceremony to honour the outstanding students in the matriculation examination.—MNA

Chinese journalist delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 15 Nov—The Chinese journalist delegation led by Director Mr Yu Qingchu of the People’s Daily of the People’s Republic of China this morning visited the Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township and the National Museum in Dagon Township, and they left here air this afternoon.

Yesterday evening, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and CEC members hosted a dinner to the Chinese journalist delegation at Karaweik Palace Hotel, here.

YANGON, 15 Nov—Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein yesterday attended the coordination meeting on Delta Region Road Network Development Project of Ayeyawady Division at Public Works (Yangon Division Office), here.

Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) extends greetings at dinner hosted to Chinese journalist delegation.

MNA

ISD U-16 Basketball Tournament continues

YANGON, 15 Nov—The semi-final matches of the First Basic Education Level Inter-State/Division U-16 Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament took place at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

Yangon Division beat Mandalay Division 86-54, while Shan State (North) thrashed Sagaing Division 63-42 in the men’s event.

Mandalay Division hammered Shan State (South) 56-25, Sagaing Division won over Yangon Division 36-32 in the women’s event.

Final matches of the tournament will be held at the same venue. Mandalay Division will play against Sagaing Division in the women’s event, and Yangon Division will compete with Shan State (North) in the men’s event tomorrow.—MNA
Few call Venice home, but it’s not history, either

VENICE, 15 Nov—A dozen gondolas snaked down the Grand Canal on Saturday in a mock funeral procession bemoaning Venice’s approach to the dreaded status of living museum, with a population now below 60,000.

While the largely symbolic symbolic threshold is considered by some to signal the end of the city’s viability, Venetian officials say reports of Venice’s demise are premature, and even Saturday’s somber funeral ended with a surprise, bright hope for rebirth.

In fact, while native Venetians have been fleeing the expensive lagoon city for cheaper and easier living, those who have stayed are marking their modern-day demise with a mock funeral procession on Saturday.—INTERNET

Disabled baby in court battle dies

A severely disabled baby boy at the centre of a court battle between his parents has died after his father dropped his objection to switching off his ventilator, a report said on Saturday.—INTERNET

There are separated, had cuddled him as they switched off his life support system on Friday and he died shortly afterwards.

She told the newspaper: “When they took his tube out, I was cuddling him. It was so amazing to see him without it — it’s the longest we had seen his face properly. The last thing I said to him was that I loved him and would always be there for him.”

The boy was thought to be fraction, he would have been slowed even by a ventilator's presence.

Gas storage tanks at the Arara refinery in the Urucu oilfield, Amazon rain forest, 650 km south-east of Manaus, Brazil, seen here in October 2009. Lower oil prices contributed to a 1.48-billion-dollar cut in third-quarter profits for Petrobras, the Brazilian state-controlled energy company said late Friday.—INTERNET

Pacquiao finishes fifth in 200m butterfly final

BERLIN, 15 Nov—Michael Phelps finished fifth in the 200-meter butterfly on Saturday at a short-course World Cup meet here where saw six world records broken.

Nikolay Skvortsov of Russia, who had the fastest qualifying time, won the final in 1:50.58. Phelps squeezed in as the eighth and last qualifier in the heats.

The American star, who won eight gold medals at last year’s Beijing Olympics, finished in 1 minute, 52.26 seconds in the final.

Phelps is competing in an old-style swimsuit that will become the standard on 1 Jan and still has yet to win a race on his European tour.

Phelps failed to make three finals at another World Cup meet in Stockholm earlier this week. He was second in the 200-meter medley in Sweden.

While Phelps continues to struggle,
Diniyar Bilyaletdinov (C) of Russia fights for the ball against Slovenia's players during their World Cup 2010 first leg play-off football match in Moscow. Russia clinched a hard-fought 2-1 home win against Slovenia in the first leg of their 2010 World Cup qualifying play-off clash here on Saturday.—INTERNET

Slovenia, Ukraine sense World Cup chance

PARIS, 15 Nov—Unheralded Slovenia and Ukraine took tentative steps closer to the 2010 World Cup finals in Saturday. Despite losing 2-1 to Russia in Moscow, Nejc Pecnik’s goal two minutes from time gave Slovenia hope that they can make sure of a second World Cup appearance in Wednesday’s return leg of their qualifying play-off.

Ukraine, who were quarter-finalists in 2006, will also be confident of achieving back-to-back World Cup spots, after holding 2004 European champions Greece to a 0-0 draw in Athens.

In Moscow, Everton midfielder Diniyar Bilyaletdinov scored twice for Guus Hiddink’s Russian side before Pecnik’s late lifeline.

“It’s always disappointing when you allow your rivals to score a goal at the very end but we can only blame only ourselves for it,” said Hiddink.—INTERNET

Portugal saved by Alves and woodwork

LISBON, 15 Nov—Portugal, playing without the injured Cristiano Ronaldo, were clinging to their World Cup dreams on Saturday after only managing a 1-0 win over Bosnia Herzegovina in their play-off first leg.

It could have been a black night for the star-studded Portuguese side who were saved by the woodwork on three occasions, including twice in the last minute.

Porto defender Bruno Alves, who gave Portugal a fortunate winner in a qualifying round win over Albania, was on target again on Saturday with a powerful backpost header after 31 minutes for the game’s only goal.—INTERNET

Nigeria beat Kenya to reach S Africa WC

NAIROBI, 15 Nov—Could the real Nigerians stand up? That was the questions thousands of Kenyan soccer supporters were asking and when Obafemi Martins emerged from the bench, he proved the king pin to secure Nigeria a 3-2 win at Kasarani.

The loss was Kenya’s tenth against Nigeria in their 12 encounters having drawn twice. It eventually buried Kenya’s hopes of making a return to the Africa Nations Cup in Angola in January. Kenya last featured in this tournament six years ago in Tunisia.

Nigeria emerged the top team in Group 2 with 12 points and qualified for the world’s top soccer event after Mozambique beat Tunisia 1-0 in the other Group 2 qualifier tie in Maputo on Saturday.

Tunisia took the second spot in the group standings with 11 points, while Mozambique finished third with seven. Kenya remains at the bottom with three points.

Xinhua

Wie grabs share of LPGA lead in Mexico

GUADALAJARA, 15 Nov—Michelle Wie, seeking her first LPGA tour title, seized a share of the lead in the 1.1 million-dollar Lorena Ochoa Invitational with a two-under par 70.

Wie shared the lead on 10-under 206 with fellow-American Cristie Kerr, who carded a 67.

Overnight leader Jiya Shin was a stroke back after a 74. She was joined on 207 by American Paula Creamer, who shot a 71, and first-round leader Song-Hee Kim of South Korea, who posted a 70.

Taiwan’s Yani Tseng posted a 69 for 209. Shin had a tough day, with three bogeys on the back nine at Guadalajara Country Club. She has already secured Rookie of the Year honors and is trying to become the first player since Nancy Lopez in 1978 to earn both rookie and player of the year honors.—INTERNET

Egypt beat Algeria to force playoff for World Cup

CAIRO, 15 Nov—Egypt grasped the last chance with a last minute goal to keep itself alive for a playoff with Algeria through a 2-0 victory in the Group C of African qualifiers for 2010 World Cup here on Saturday.

The 2-0 victory was just enough for Egypt to level Algeria on points and goal difference, forcing a playoff to happen in Sudan for the World Cup slot of World Cup.

The Egyptians, being the reigning African Champions, have a stronger desire than their rivals to make the knockout game.

Xinhua

Anelka strike hands France advantage

DUBLIN, 15 Nov—Nicolas Anelka gave France a crucial 1-0 win over the Republic of Ireland here on Saturday as the 1998 world champions and 2006 runners-up gained the upper-hand after the first leg of their World Cup play-off.

Chelsea striker Anelka struck the vital away goal with 18 minutes left at Croke Park with his shot taking a wicked deflection off Sean St Ledger and past Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given.

It was a goal which will make France favourites to progress to the finals when the second leg is played at the Stade de France in Paris on Wednesday.—INTERNET

France’s Nicolas Anelka (R) fights for the ball with the Republic of Ireland’s Sean St Ledger (L) during their 2010 World Cup play-off match at Croke Park in Dublin, Ireland. Anelka gave France a crucial 1-0 win over the Republic of Ireland here on Saturday as the 1998 world champions and 2006 runners-up gained the upper-hand after the first leg of their World Cup play-off.—INTERNET

Portugal’s Lisandro Munis (top) tries to head the ball with Bosnia’s Safet Nadarevic during their FIFA World Cup 2010 play-off football match at the Luz Stadium. Portugal, playing without the injured Cristiano Ronaldo, were clinging to their World Cup dreams on Saturday after only managing a 1-0 win over Bosnia Herzegovina in their play-off first leg.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

REIGN BEAUX
SMIRNA
COMFORT RAPID
OEWTAI
FATAL VEHICLE
FIREWIND
AR REEF
SPECIAL FANCY
K SneEIC
EVENT CYNC
WNETCHE
STERN WEBER

R E E N H A U S
Apple plans 40-50 store openings in 2010

NEW YORK, 15 Nov—Apple Inc said on Thursday it plans to open 40 to 50 retail stores next year as the consumer electronics giant expands its reach to customers. More than half of the new stores will be outside the United States, with new outlets planned in London, Paris and two in Shanghai.

Speaking ahead of a store opening in New York, Ron Johnson, Apple’s senior vice president of retail, said the company expects the holiday season to be a good one. Apple now operates 280 stores in 10 countries.

The stores, first launched in 2001, have proved to be hugely popular with consumers. Apple hosted 45.9 million store visitors during the September quarter, up 7 percent from a year earlier.

The stores posted revenue of $1.87 billion in the quarter, their highest level ever and up 9 percent from a year earlier. —Internet
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Sri Lankan President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa welcomes Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing

Senior General Than Shwe inspecting the Guard of Honour. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC (See page 9)

The day of reinforcing the Tatmadaw in public interest

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TIN MIN KYAW