Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Laotian President

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 34th Anniversary of the Founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—H.E Mr Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here at 10.00 am today. Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador Mr Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout of the Netherlands.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador Mr Rudi Veestraeten of Belgium.

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—H.E Mr Rudi Veestraeten, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here at 10.30 am today. Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepting credentials of Ambassador Mr Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout of the Netherlands.—MNA

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
PEERSPECTIVES

Preserve and promote national cultural heritage

The Ministry of Culture revives and preserves Myanmar cultural heritage in line with one of the social objectives. Ancient artefacts go to rack and ruin as time passes if they are not discovered. So, the ministry is doing archaeological surveys to achieve the aim.

The drive covers excavation of ancient cities, collection and retaining historical objects such as stone plaques, palm-leaf manuscripts and parchments, renovation of religious edifices, and excavation of palaces and city walls of Myanmar monarchs.

A combined team of members from Archaeology, National Museum and Libraries Department and Historical Research Department is excavating for the second time at Pingle Myoahung in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division. Of the 30 mounds, they unearthed Nos 16 and 17 mounds.

It discovered earthen urns, coins and beads of Pyu Period. The layout and brick foundations of the 16th and 17th mounds are the same as that of those discovered in such other Pyu city states as Vishnu and Hanlin.

Moreover, the tradition of burying urns was also found in religious buildings in Pyu city states inclusive of Vishnu, Hanlin, and Srkestra, thus suggesting that the mounds are likely to be religious buildings of Pyu Period.

Myanamar civilization dates back thousands of years. And many ancient objects found in the nation date back to prehistory. The ancient edifices and excavated artefacts indicate how high the Myanmar cultural status is.

Myanmar cultural heritage will last long if archaeological sites are excavated region-wise and cultural edifices and artefacts are preserved well.

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Annual general meetings of associations under MFF held

NAVPyi Taw, 30 Nov—The annual general meetings of the Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association, the Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association, Yangon Division Fishery Federation and the Eel Entrepreneurs Association under the Myanmar Fisheries Federation of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries took place at Thiri Annawwa Hall of the MFF on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township yesterday.

Patron of the MFF Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered an introductory speech.

MFF President U Hay Myint extended greetings. At the third annual general meeting of the Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association, Chairman U Hla Maung Shwe made an opening speech. Secretary U Than Win Aung read the annual report and the financial statement for approval.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Myanmar

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Laotian counterpart

NAVPyi Taw, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 34th Anniversary of the Founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

MWEA members leave for India

YANGON, 30 Nov—Executive officer Daw Arkar Chaw of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association and member of MWEA Daw Nant Su Davwei left here by air to attend Women and Enterprise Development Course to be held at National Institute of Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development in New Delhi of the Republic of India. They were seen off by Advisor retired Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint, Secretary Daw Hla Wadi and officials at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

UMFCCI to hold talk on 5 Dec

YANGON, 30 Nov—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has been organizing educative talks every month and with the sponsorship of Shwe Nagarmin Co Ltd. Educatve talk of December will be held at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minyekyawswar Street, Lanmadaw Township, here on 5 December (Saturday).

The topic of the talk is Rise of China and its implications for neighbouring countries. Economist U Myint will give talks on the subject. The talk is free for all.

MNA

E-Commerce and Intellectual Property on 5 Dec

YANGON, 30 Nov—Myanmar Computer Professionals’ Association, under the direction of Myanmar Computer Federation, will organize a talk on “E-Commerce and Intellectual Property” at Conference Hall of Myanmar Infotech in Hlme Township here on 5 December.

Mr Jose Luis Herce Vigil of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will give talks on the subject. Those interested may contact MCPA office, Ph: 652238.

MNA
UN report highlights struggle young children face combating AIDS

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Dec — Efforts in the fight against AIDS are being made, but the young children affected by HIV and AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where their basic needs are not being met, the struggle remains very much there, according to report released here on Monday by UN agencies.

On the eve of World AIDS day, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with UNAIDS, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), released the Children and AIDS Fourth Stock-taking Report 2009 which examined data on interventions that protect women and children from HIV and AIDS, particularly in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, in addition to what is lacking, and a guide for accelerated action.

“We really need to ensure that all efforts are sustained, scaled up and also in a time of economic crisis, it is really critical that financing is secure,” UNAIDS Director for New York Bertil Linblad said at a Press conference to launch the report at the UN headquarters in New York.—Xinhua

Brown confirms Britain to deploy extra 500 troops to Afghanistan

LONDON, 1 Dec—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced on Monday that Britain will deploy extra 500 troops to Afghanistan in a statement to the House of Commons.

Last month, Brown agreed “in principle” to increase British troops in Afghanistan to 9,500 so long as troops are fully equipped for their tasks; the Afghan government is in place, ready to provide more troops for training and all coalition partners bear their fair share of burden.

Brown told the Commons that the soldiers will be sent to Afghanistan in early December and he is confident that NATO and other allies will come up with 5,000 more troops.

The Prime Minister also use the statement to renew calls on Pakistan to renew calls on Pakistan to increase British troops in Afghanistan.

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The Prime Minister also use the statement to renew calls on Pakistan to increase British troops in Afghanistan.

Five killed, over 200 injured in criminal activities in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 Dec — Criminal activities have claimed the lives of five people and injured 212 others, over the past five days in Afghanistan, the country’s Public Health Ministry said on Monday.

Sixty seven people have been injured in criminal activities in the western city of Herat while the 49 people have been injured in the capital city Kabul.

Thirty eight people have been injured in the criminal activities in the north-east Takhar Province over the past five days, the report further said.

The remaining 58 others, according to the report have been injured in crime-related activities in other parts of the country over the past five days.

Afghan Interior ministry says that the rate of criminal activities has dropped down in comparison to last year.—Xinhua

Five Britons held in Iran after yacht seized in Gulf

LONDON, 1 Dec — Five British sailors are being detained in Iran after Tehran’s navy seized their yacht when it apparently strayed into Iranian waters, deepening tensions on Tuesday between the two nations.

The five were sailing to the start of a race in Dubai when their yacht was stopped on 25 November in the Gulf, Britain’s Foreign Office said.

“The yacht was on its way from Bahrain to Dubai and may have strayed inadvertently into Iranian waters,” the Foreign Office said.

“The five crew members are still in Iran. All are understood to be safe and well and their families have been informed,” it said in a statement.

The seizure echoed memories of the capture of 15 British sailors by Iran in 2007. They were released after around two weeks, but only after a tense diplomatic standoff between London and Tehran.

The yacht may have been drifted into

Map of the Gulf showing Bahrain and Dubai where five British sailors were seized by the Iranian navy after apparently straying into Iranian waters.—INTERNET

In this undated photo released by the Maran Tankers company, the Greece-flagged tanker Maran Centaurus is seen at an unknown location.—INTERNET

Body of second missing US paratrooper found

KABUL, 1 Dec — Rescuers found the body of a second US paratrooper missing after being swept away by a fast-moving current while on an airdrop resupply mission earlier this month in western Afghanistan, NATO said on Monday.

Sgt Brandon Islip, 24, was recovered on Sunday from the Bala Murgahab River in Badghis Province after a local Afghan citizen provided information on his whereabouts. British divers searching the river on 10 Nov found the body of 21-year-old Specialist Benjamin Sherman, who was promoted to sergeant posthumously.

A memorial service for the two paratroopers will be held in Afghanistan in the coming days.

The two, both from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, disappeared on 4 Nov in the Bala Barghab area of Badghis. Local police said they were swept away by the river as they tried to recover aerial-dropped supplies that had accidentally fallen into the water.

During the first days of the search, intense fighting broke out with militants in the area. Eight Afghans — four soldiers, three policemen and an interpreter — were killed, while 17 Afghan troops and five American soldiers were wounded.—INTERNET

Somali pirates hijack $20M of oil going to US

NAIROBI, 1 Dec — Crews on oil tankers aren't allowed to smoke above deck, much less carry guns, for fear of igniting the ship’s payload. That’s one of the main reasons Somali pirates met little resistance when they hijacked a US-bound supertanker carrying $20 million in crude.

The Greek-flagged tanker — travelling from Saudi Arabia to New Orleans — had no escort when it was hijacked on Sunday because naval warships are stretched too thin.

The problem has been further exacerbated because pirates have expanded their operations to hundreds of miles out at sea.

The hijacking, one year after seizure of a Saudi supertanker led to heightened international efforts to fight piracy off the Horn of Africa, has highlighted the difficulty of keeping ships safe in the region — particularly oil tankers.—INTERNET
Sharp shows plant making tenth generation panels

SAKAI, 1 Dec—Huge sheets of glass are guided by robotic arms, sliding and turning in a towering germ-free plant, the world’s first making giant “10th generation” panels for flat screen TVs. Japanese electronics maker Sharp Corp’s futuristic-looking plant doesn’t have a single worker on the floor. Each sheet, measuring about 3 metres (3.3 yards) by 3 metres, is being made and tested by computerized machines. Reporters were allowed a tour on Monday of the liquid crystal display plant, which began running last month, in this city near Osaka, west of Tokyo. No photography was allowed, and visitors had to pass a temperature-check at the gate and could look inside only through selected windows.

Vauxhall to cut 354 jobs at Luton plant

LONDON, 1 Dec—Vauxhall, the British division of troubled US carmaker General Motors, announced on Monday that it planned to cut more than 350 jobs at one of its two British factories.

“At part of the consultation process commenced last week, the GM manufacturing facility in Luton has now begun its own period of consultation between unions and local management,” the company said in a statement.

“One element of the current plan is a proposal to reduce GM Luton’s headcount by 354 employees to right-size the business in line with the 2010 forecast production volume.”

The affected factory is based in the town of Luton. It currently employs almost 1,500 workers and makes the Vivaro commercial van in a joint venture with French carmaker Renault.

China lifts import ban on US, Canada, Mexico pork

BEIJING, 1 Dec—China has lifted its bans on imports of pork products from the United States, Canada and Mexico, its quarantine bureau said on Tuesday, but analysts said the move would not likely lead to a surge of new imports.

Earlier in the year, China banned imports from the three countries on worries of outbreaks of H1N1 flu. After assessment of risks, the bans were lifted, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a notice on its website (www.aqsiq.gov.cn). The lifting of the ban had been expected earlier by officials in United States, the largest pork exporter, which exported $560 million to China in 2008.

Global growth to resume in 2010

NEW YORK, 1 Dec—World economy will resume growth and put on a 3.5-per-cent increase in 2010, driven largely by emerging economies, a latest research report reveals on Monday. “Global growth will resume in 2010, with global output per head returning to pre-crisis levels,” said Bart van Ark, chief economist of the New York-base private research group Conference Board.

According to the organization’s Global Economic Outlook 2010, advanced economies’ share of world gross domestic product (GDP) has fallen from two-thirds in 2000 to below 50 percent today and will hit one-third by 2016.

Used computers for sale at a Lagos market. Despite huge natural resources and vast tracts of arable land, Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa’s second largest economy and the continent’s most populous nation, largely relies on imports.

KANO, 1 Dec—Despite huge natural resources and vast tracts of arable land, Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa’s second largest economy and the continent’s most populous nation, largely relies on imports.

“We import almost everything, from the important items such as food and medicines to the frivolous ones such as toothpack and razor blade,” said Ibrahim Ayagi, economic advisor to former president Olusegun Obasanjo.

“We have become a classical importer nation,” lamented Ayagi, ex-chairman of a government think tank, the National Economic Intelligence Committee (NEIC).

In 2007, Nigeria spent about 39 billion dollars (26 billion euros) on imports according to the World Bank, while the CIA factbook puts the value of imports for 2008 at 46 billion dollars.

Agriculture Minister Abba Sayyadi Ruma recently said a billion dollars is spent on fruit juice imports yearly. In a bid to encourage local production, the government in October banned the consumption of foreign alcohol at official events as it launched an ambitious ‘Made-in-Nigeria’ campaign.
Peru to publicize benefits of FTA signed with China

LIMA, 1 Dec—Peru’s Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism will launch a nationwide campaign in January 2010 to publicize the benefits of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China, a Peruvian expert on bilateral ties said on Monday.

“We will employ the dissemination strategy at all levels in order to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the enormous opportunities available in the business market of China,” said Carlos Posada, Peruvian director-general of the ministry’s Asia-Oceania Bilateral Affairs, stressing that media will be an important propaganda platform.

He said that regional governments, local chambers of commerce, unions, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), universities and civil society as a whole will take part in the campaign.

Peru is one of China’s major trading partners in Latin America.

A series of presentations nationwide over the agreement which includes conversations with producers and exporters of Peru is also scheduled, said Posada.

This was also done in the case of the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States in order to clear doubts about the trade agreement, he explained.

Ugandan President visits Cuba

HAVANA, 1 Dec—In view of Cuban Leader Raul Castro, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni arrived in Cuba on Monday for an official visit.

Museveni was received at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Rigoberto Sierra Diaz, along with other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his stay in the Greater Antilles, which will last three days, the Ugandan President will hold official talks with his Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro and pay tribute to Cuban national hero Jose Marti.

Iran, Latin American states cooperate on refueling

TEHERAN, 1 Dec—Iran’s Minister of Industries and Mines said on Monday the expansion of cooperation between Iran and the Latin American states, Brazil in particular, is strategic, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Ali-Akbar Mehrabian, also the head of Iran-Brazil Joint Economic Commission, said the expansion of cooperation between Teheran and Brasilia in various fields will form a “significant power” in the world that can join Iran with the important Latin American countries.

Referring to the recent trip of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Brazil as a new beginning in bilateral relations, Mehrabian told IRNA that the visit would increase the level of cooperation between the two nations.

The talks between the Iranian and Brazilian presidents were positive and focused on the economic, trade, technological, energy, agricultural and industrial issues, Mehrabian said. The Iranian and Brazilian officials signed a number of economic, trade, cultural, sport, scientific and political cooperation agreements during the last-week visit to Brasilia by Ahmadinejad.

Mysterious explosion kills Gaza militant

Gaza, 1 Dec—A Palestinian militant was killed and three wounded in a mysterious explosion in west of Gaza City on Monday night, medics and eyewitnesses reported.

The witnesses said a minibus that was driving in Shati refugee camp west of Gaza City exploded, injuring four militants on board, and that one of them died of his wounds.

Russia launches US communications satellite

MOSCOW, 1 Dec—Russia launched a Zenit carrier rocket carrying a US telecommunications satellite from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan early on Tuesday.

The Zenit-3SLB carrier rocket with the Intelsat-15 spacecraft atop blasted off at around 00:00 Moscow Time (2100 GMT Monday), Russia’s Federal Space Agency reported.

Approximately six hours and 28 minutes later, the satellite will take the position at 85 degrees East in the geostationary orbit.

The 2.55-ton satellite, developed by Orbital Sciences Corporation, will replace the Intelsat-709 satellite and provide telecommunications services for customers in the Middle East and Russia. Equipped with 22 Ku-band transponders, the satellite has a designed service life for 15 years.

Canada, India reach major nuclear trade deal

OTTAWA, 1 Dec—Canada and India have reached a major nuclear trade deal that will allow Canadian firms to sell nuclear materials, equipment and technology to the South Asian emerging market, Canadian media reported on Monday.

The deal, expected to be signed and implemented soon, has been controversial because Canada cut nuclear trade in 1974 after India used Canadian materials to manufacture its first nuclear weapon.

But the Harper government has been keen to re-establish the relationship because they estimate the energy market in India will be worth as much as 50 billion Canadian dollars (47 billion US dollars) during the next 20 years.
Nearly two tons of ivory seized in eastern Africa

NAIROBI, 1 Dec—African authorities raided shops, intercepted vehicles at checkpoints and used sniffer dogs to detect and seize over 3,800 pounds (1,768 kilograms) of illegal elephant ivory in a six-nation operation, Interpol and the Kenya Wildlife Service said on Monday. During the three-month-long operation, authorities also seized leopard, crocodile and snake skins, among other illegal animal products, said Awad Dahia, Interpol’s eastern Africa chief. Dahia told journalists that the operation was co-ordinated by the international police organization and involved the wildlife authorities, police and Customs departments of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Kenya Wildlife Service said it had arrested 65 people — three Chinese, three Tanzanians and 59 Kenyans — during the operation.

Winds drive icebergs away from New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 1 Dec—Strong westerly winds in the southern Pacific Ocean have driven scores of icebergs originally headed toward New Zealand to the east, away from the country, an oceanographer said on Tuesday.

A shipping alert was sent out last week and maritime authorities have been monitoring the iceberg flotilla as it drifted north from Antarctica toward New Zealand’s South Island.

“It looks like they’ve all disappeared east of New Zealand,” oceanographer Mike Williams, with New Zealand’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, told The Associated Press. He said it would be unlikely they would be seen anywhere near the coastline.

Hizbollah to continue arming to fight Israel

BEIRUT, 1 Dec—Hizbollah’s leader said on Monday that the Lebanese militant group will improve its weapons capabilities to face off any Israeli threat and that armed struggle was the only way to regain Arab lands captured by the Jewish state.

Hassan Nasrallah’s remarks signaled the group has no intention of meeting a United Nations resolution requiring it to give up its weapons.

That position that has generated division among the country’s fractious political groups as well as concern in Israel, which says it is preparing to deploy a defence system to shoot down rockets from Lebanon.

Nasrallah gave no details on the weapons plan, but Hizbollah has said it has tens of thousands of rockets.

Flying injures 1,000 a year in US

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—About 1,000 people are hospitalized with aviation-related injuries in the United States each year and about 750 are killed, according to a report released on Tuesday.

About a third are injured in private aircraft and another 29 percent are hurt or killed while parachuting, according to the report from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

This compares to 2.35 million motor vehicle injuries and 37,000 deaths in 2008, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“Our findings provide valuable information, not previously available, on the number and kinds of injuries sustained in aviation-related events,” Susan Baker, a professor at the school’s Injury Research Center, said in a statement.

Woman amazed by bottle’s 300-mile journey

The woman who released a message in a bottle from the New Jersey coast as part of a contest 24 years ago has come forward to claim her prize.

Heidi Mozza, 30, of Claymont, Del, dropped the green soda bottle into the Atlantic Ocean in summer 1985 as part of a “Message in a Bottle Contest” in Ocean City, NJ, and the bottle was discovered recently in Duck, NC, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Ocean City spokesman Mark Soufer said officials sought the owner of the bottle by sending social networking websites to several people with Mozza’s maiden name, Heidi Westerl.

A message that was put into an empty bottle in 1985 and tossed into the Atlantic at Ocean City, NJ, turned up at a North Carolina resort on the Outer Banks in November 2009.

Ex-Miss Argentina dies after cosmetic surgery

A 38-year-old former Miss Argentina has died from complications after undergoing cosmetic surgery on her buttocks. Solange Magnano, a mother of twins who won the crown in 1994, died of a pulmonary embolism on Sunday after three days in critical condition following a gluteoplasty in Buenos Aires.

Close friend Roberto Piazza said the procedure involved injections and the liquid “went to her lungs and brain.”

“A woman who had everything lost her life to have a slightly fatter behind,” he said.

Magnano’s burial was shown on Argentine television.

Dr Gonzalo Cortes y Travín said she arrived at his hospital with an acute respiratory deficiency.

Her condition deteriorated until she suffered the embolism.

$5,000 worth of bras stolen from mall shop

Police in Nebraska said more than 100 bras, collectively worth more than $5,000, were stolen from a Victoria’s Secret store.

Omaha police said employees reported the bras missing and investigators believe two people stole the items from the store inside the Westroads Mall during business hours, KETV, Omaha, reported. Surveillance camera footage depicts two people walking into the store empty-handed and leaving with bags full of bras they did not pay for at the store, police said.

Lucian Cruta plays with his lion Richie as it is relocated to South Africa from his courtyard near Uriceni, 55 km (34 miles) northeast of Bucharest. Cruta said he has been raising Richie since it was a cub and, he passed Richie to Vier Pfoten, an international animal rights foundation, which has been raising Richie since it was a cub and, he passed Richie to Vier Pfoten, an international animal rights foundation, which will relocate Richie, and three other lions from Romania, to Lionsrock, a big cat sanctuary in South Africa.

Japanese engineer Tomotaka Takahashi introduces the new robot “Ropid” at the International Robot Centre, in a state-
Health Minister addresses World AIDS Day Commemorative Ceremony 2009

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the World AIDS Day Commemorative Ceremony 2009.—MNA

NAV PYS TAW, 1 Dec.—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addressed World AIDS Day Commemorative Ceremony 2009, jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and UN Agencies, at the meeting hall of the ministry here this evening.

It was also attended by Deputy Ministers for Health Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors of the departments under the Ministry of Health, resident representatives of UN Agencies, chairpersons and representatives from social organizations, prize winning students, parents and guests.

In his speech, the minister said appropriate slogans are selected for implementing World AIDS Day Commemorative Activities every year. This year’s slogan is “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise: Avoid stigma and discrimination: Access to services for everyone”. The objective of this year’s slogan is to strengthen the coordinated efforts of implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities by related departments, NGOs, the media, local businesses, community members, including people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in countries all over the world under the guidance of respective leadership. This year’s slogan also urges to have empathy towards people living with HIV and AIDS and their families and to give psychosocial support without stigma and discriminations so as to make them accessible to available services. Following the diagnosis of first AIDS case in 1981, HIV has spread to all countries throughout the world. According to 2009 AIDS epidemic Update, about 33 million individuals have been living with HIV and AIDS globally and 2 million died in 2009. About half of those infected are women. Highest mortality of individuals between age group of 15-49 years is due to HIV/AIDS. In some countries, life expectancy is now declining because of AIDS. Stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV (people living with HIV) and their families can cause serious consequences beyond health sector and will gradually affect the socioeconomic status and development of the nations.

Coordinated and collaborative efforts of the world for effectively implementing the HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities have also become essential to achieve the target of Millennium Development Goal 6: “have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Thus “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise” is reselected so as to remind the national and international organizations who are implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities for achieving the goal.

In order to get effective and coordinated response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Myanmar, Ministry of Health and related ministries, UN Agencies, National and International NGOs are implementing prevention and treatment activities for three diseases in collaboration.

With the multisectoral collaborative approach, National AIDS Programme, Department of Health with coordinated efforts of related ministries, UN Agencies, NGOs and other implementing partners has developed and is implementing National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS (2006-2010) which comprises of 13 Strategic Directions. Financial assistance for implementing the job is supported by the Government, UN Agencies, NGOs and Three Diseases Fund.

Through multisectoral coordination, National AIDS Programme under Department of Health, Ministry of Health is implementing the 13 Strategic Directions through major HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities such as:

1. Advocacy Meetings at various levels, awareness raising on HIV/AIDS among communities, provision of STI services to prevent sexual transmission of HIV and wide screening of HIV for safe blood supply in 325 townships, 100% targeted condom promotion programme in 170 townships, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in 170 townships and 38 general hospitals, provision of ART treatment in 23 hospitals, Community home based care for persons infected with HIV and AIDS patients and prevention of transmission of HIV among intravenous drug users. Promotion of multisectoral collaboration and cooperation are being carried out to achieve success in combating HIV/AIDS. Monitoring and evaluation activities are also being conducted to strengthen the effective implementation.

As partnership development and multisectoral response plays important role in the effective response to HIV, local NGOs, 22 international NGOs, 7 United Nations organizations and Organizers are actively collaborating with the Ministry of Health in responding to HIV and AIDS in the country. Moreover, being a member nation of ASEAN, we are also actively participating in the ASEAN work programme on HIV and AIDS of ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATF/AS) and Greater Mekong Subregional HIV and AIDS projects. In addition, Myanmar has been actively participating in the global and regional activities initiated by various UN organizations. Cross border HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support activities are also carried out as special intervention activities with the neighbouring countries.

Globally, HIV transmission now seen more in low risk population groups such as housewives and Myanmar is no exception. Prevention of HIV transmission among women and care and support for women infected with HIV are being carried out through coordinated efforts of National AIDS Programme and related programmes under Department of Health, National NGOs and relate ministries such as Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Moreover, life skill trainings and income generation activities were provided to improve the education, health and social status of women, to prevent women from human trafficking, and also to provide a wide range of care and support activities for the trafficked victims. Such activities also have impacts on HIV prevention, care and support among women.

It can also be said that HIV/AIDS response in Myanmar is Comprehensive one as HIV/AIDS prevention education with the aim to change behaviour of general population as well as vulnerable population, treatment of TB and other opportunistic infections in addition to the Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and community home based care for AIDS patients and their families are inclusively carried out.

HIV prevalence gradually declined since 2000 and according to Workshop on Estimation and Projection of HIV and AIDS in Myanmar held in coordination with WHO in October 2009, it has been observed that adult HIV prevalence among 15 to 49 years age group was reduced to 0.61% in 2009 from 0.94% in 2000.

In such up HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities to promote availability and accessibility of services, so as to reach the targeted population, stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV and their families must be avoided through coordinated efforts of various stakeholders as mentioned in this year’s slogan. In Myanmar, HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities are being implemented as a national concern and most important issue is to be coordinated efforts of all community multicultutral collaboration including media personnel and meaningful involvement of people infected and affected with HIV. Thus all implementing partners should collectively conduct activities which can lessen stigma and discrimination to gain better achievements.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere thanks to related departments, UN organizations, local and international NGOs for their coordinated efforts towards the commemoration of the 2009 World AIDS Day activities all over the country. I would also like to urge all implementing partners to scale up collective and concerted efforts on our national response to HIV and AIDS in the coming years for further reducing HIV transmission in the country, for scaling up effectively treatment for AIDS patients, for empathy towards people living with HIV/AIDS and their family members for more access to prevention, treatment and services and for reducing socioeconomic impacts of HIV and AIDS.

Next, Resident Representative Mr Mohamed Abdel-Ahmad of UNFPA read out the message sent by the United Nations Secretary-General.

Resident Representative Dr Sun Gang of UNAIDS read out the message of UNAIDS.—MNA

Later, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presented prizes to students who won first, second, third and consolation prizes in Basic Education High School Level Essay Contest to mark World AIDS Day 2009. Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe awarded students who won first and second awards in Basic Education Middle School Level Painting Contest and Basic Education Primary School Level Cartoon Contest.

Resident Representative Mr Mohamed Abdel-Ahmad of UNFPA and Resident Representative Dr Sun Gang of UNAIDS presented prizes to students who won third and consolation prizes in Basic Education Middle School Level Painting Contest and Basic Education Primary School Level Cartoon Contest.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, the deputy ministers and guests viewed the booths opened at the World AIDS Day 2009 Exhibition in the hall.

MNA

Mr Mohamed Abdel-Ahmad, Resident Representative of UNFPA reads out the message sent by UNSG.—MNA

Dr Sun Gang, Resident Representative of UNAIDS reads out the message of UNAIDS.—MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 2 December, 2009 7
NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The eighth conference of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries will be held here on 8 and 9 December. In the conference, 19 research papers on agricultural sector will be read out at University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Yein, 17 research papers on forestry sector at Forestry Department in the same place. The Academy invited those interested to attend the conference.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, receives Mr Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, Nay Pyi Taw. (News on Page 1) MNA

CPT Minister visits Yadanabon Myothit

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw together with Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun inspected construction of dwellings, roads, and communication station in residential area of Yadanabon Myothit near PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division on 29 November. The minister then inspected factory equipment of Yadanabon Fibre Co Ltd for production of fibre cables, installation of machines in Elite Company for production of mobile devices, construction sites of FISCA Company and Fortune Company and manufacturing plant of Tanmoenye Chanthar Tun Wai Thar Company, producer of telephone exchanges and accessories in the compound of Soft Base Factories. The minister also inspected work in Incubation Centre and construction of Cyber Hall. In meeting with personnel of Yadanabon Teleport Co Ltd, departments, and investors, the minister coordinated essentials.—MNA

Timetable of 2010 matriculation examination announced

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Myanmar Board of Examinations today announced the timetable of the matriculation examination to be held in March of 2010. The candidates are to sit for Myanmar subject on 10-3-2010 (Wednesday), English on 11-3-2010 (Thursday), Mathematics on 12-3-2010 (Friday), Chemistry on 13-3-2010 (Saturday), Physics on 15-3-2010 (Monday), Biology and History on 16-3-2010 (Tuesday), Geography on 17-3-2010 (Wednesday), Economics on 18-3-2010 (Thursday) and Optional Myanmar on 19-3-2010 (Friday). The time is from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. —MNA
Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Laotian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 34th Anniversary of the Founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

Central Committee for Organizing 62nd Anniversary Independence Day (2010) meets

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Central Committee for Organizing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day (2010) held a coordination meeting at the Government Office here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Central Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, and heads of department. In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the meeting is aimed at celebrating the 62nd Independence Day commemorative ceremony on a grand scale, and that the 46-member central committee led by him has been formed to mark the Independence Day in accordance with the Independence Day objectives:

- All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State.
- All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity.
- All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts to build up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the new State Constitution, which has been approved with the great majority of national people.
- All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State’s seven-step Road Map with a strong sense of Union Spirit and patriotism.

He said that it is down to the members of the central committee and subcommittees to seek ways and means through discussions at the meeting for successful completion of all the ceremonies related to the Independence Day.

Like in 2009, respective departments and social organizations have to organize commemorative ceremonies on a grand scale on their own along with festivities and contests at state/division, district and township levels including in Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon and Mandalay municipal areas, he said stressing the need of collaborative work for holding the commemorative ceremonies on a significant scale. Chairman of the Subcommittee for State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Independence Day Reception and Dinner Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Chairman of Security Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Chairman of Information Subcommittee Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Compiling Independence Day Message Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Chairman of the Health Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, and Chairman of the Subcommittee for Commemorative Sports Activities Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik reported on respective schedules for the national level ceremony.

The participants presented general matters on the celebration. The Central Committee chairman responded to the reports and gave concluding remarks.—MNA

True patriotism

It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit. Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.
Secretary-1 General
Thih Thura Tin
Aung Myint Oo
receives Vietnamese
Vice Minister of
National Defence
Lieutenant General
Nguyen Chi Vinh.

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thih Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received a Vietnamese delegation led by Vice Minister of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh at the SPDC Office here this afternoon. Also present at the call together with the Secretary-1 were Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw and departmental heads. The Vietnamese Vice Minister was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phuong and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Nguyen Van Vui.—MNA

Commander attends Yangon Division World AIDS Day Commemorative Ceremony

YANGON, 1 Dec—Organized by Yangon Division Health Committee, Yangon Division World AIDS Day Commemorative Ceremony 2009 was held at the meeting hall of the University of Nursing (Yangon) here this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint delivered an opening speech. The commander and officials presented prizes to the winners in division level contests held in commemoration of World AIDS Day 2009. Head of Yangon Division Health Department reported on the preventive measures against HIV/AIDS. The commander and officials viewed documentary photos of World AIDS Day activities at the exhibition in the hall.—MNA

Youth leaders of 36th SSEAYP arrive Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—Headed by Ship Administrator Mr Aichiro Tanaka of Cabinet office of Japan, managers and youth leaders of Japan and 10 ASEAN nations from 36th Ship for South-East Asia Youth Programme arrived here by air this morning.

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—A moderate earthquake of intensity 5.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar (Andaman island, India) about 300 miles southwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 18 hrs 13 min 02 sec MST on 1 December, 2009.—MNA

Construction Deputy Minister inspects roadwork

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe on 29 November inspected upgrading Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi Road (Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi Road section) and roadwork using with BOT system at the hilly region construction company’s project site between mile post No 61/2 and No. 61/3.—MNA

Paper reading session held

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—With the aim of boosting the agricultural sector of the nation, the paper reading session on biological technology research was held at the convention hall of Mandaly University yesterday morning. Altogether 108 experts from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Industry-I took part in the activity. A total of 33 papers are read out till 30 November. —MNA

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Tatmadaw Football Tourney (2009) continues

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The first round robin matches of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament 2009 continued at designated sports grounds this evening. In Group (A) matches held in Eastern Command Zone (Taunggyi), Central Command team crippled South-West Command team 3-0 and the match between team (B) of North-East Command and team (C) of North-East Command ended in a 2-2 draw. In Group (B) matches in South-West Command Zone (Pathein), Eastern Command teambattered No.55 LID team 3-0 while Defence Services (Navy) beat team (A) of Triangle Region Command 8-0. In Group (C) matches in North-West Command Zone (Monywa), No.44 LID team narrowly won over team (B) of Western Command 1-0, while Camp Commandant team routed team (A) of Coastal Region Command 4-0. In Group (D) matches in Southern Command Zone (Toungoo), Northern Command team narrowly won over No 66 LID team 2-1, and No.88 LID team trounced No 33 LID team 9-0.

MNA
Energy Minister visits Ayadaw oilfield

NAW PAY TAW, 1 Dec—Minister for Energy Birg-Gen Lun Tha, on 29 November, inspected digging of test-wells with drilling machine in Ayadaw oilfield of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Pakokku Township, Magway Division.

At the briefing hall, Director (Drilling) and Chief Geophysicist reported to the minister on digging of No.1 test-well in Ayadaw oilfield and prospects of oil and natural gas deposits in Mt.Pontaung, Chief Engineers of Thaygtaung and Kyaukkwatt oilfields on digging of two test-wells with drilling machines in the respective oilfields. Managing Director of Myanma Oil and Gas enterprise made a supplementary report. The minister then called staff for their up-most efforts in work.

The minister later inspected digging of test-wells with ZJ 50 D SR II drilling machine in Ayadaw oilfield and encouraged foreign technicians and staff working at the site.

It is learnt that Ministry of Energy, in order to increase in production of oil and natural gas, has been digging out test-wells in Thaygtaung, Kyaukkwatt, and Ayadaw oilfields which have high prospects of oil and natural gas deposits, targeting 1500 feet each and the targeted depth will be reached soon.—MNA

Korea’s trade surplus tops $4 b in Nov

SEOUL, 1 Dec—South Korea posted a trade surplus for the 10th straight month in November, with exports posting positive growth for the first time in a year, thanks to growing demand for semiconductors, displays and petrochemicals, a government report showed on Tuesday.

According to the report by the Ministry of Knowledge and Economy, South Korea’s trade surplus grew from last month’s 3.63 billion US dollars to 4.05 billion US dollars.

The report said the country’s outbound shipments made an upturn for the first time in 2009, rising 18.8 percent year-on-year to 34.27 billion US dollars, with imports also advancing 4.7 percent to 30.22 billion US dollars.

The recovery in exports came as outbound shipments of semiconductors, displays, and petrochemicals soared 80.7 percent, 66.8 percent, and 47.8 percent, respectively, during the cited period, the report said.

Imports were also boosted in November, thanks to an increase in demand for capital goods and consumer products, it added.—Xinhua

Indian officials dismiss Danish climate proposal

NEW DELHI, 1 Dec—Top Indian officials dismissed a draft climate change proposal by Denmark that expects developing economies to peak their greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, newspaper reports said on Monday.

The draft document was circulated to a few countries ahead of the 7-18 Dec summit in Copenhagen, which is supposed to draw up an agreement for controlling emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases causing global warming.

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said the Danish draft was “totally unacceptable,” The Economic Times reported.

“We are never going to take on a peaking year for absolute emissions. This is not on the horizon,” Ramesh told the Dunes, according to the newspaper.

Ramesh declined to comment later Monday.

HK insurance industry receipts slump 40% in 2008 on year

HONG KONG, 1 Dec—Total receipts of Hong Kong’s insurance industry in 2008 decreased significantly by 40 percent year-on-year, mainly due to the decline in life insurance business, statistical authorities said on Monday.

The latest surveys of Hong Kong SAR’s Census and Statistic Department (CSD) found total receipts of the storage, communications, financing, business services, insurance and banking industries fell to 975.6 billion HK dollars in 2008, down 12 percent on 2007.

The banking and financing industries recorded a decrease in total receipts by 8 percent and 6 percent respectively.

Belfast, 1 Dec—An unexploded bomb was found on Monday near a police station in Northern Ireland, officers said, in the latest threat to the troubled province’s fragile peace.—INTERNET

A Police forensic team remove a car in front of the Policling Board headquarters in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 23 Nov. An unexploded bomb was found on Monday near a police station in Northern Ireland, officers said, in the latest threat to the troubled province’s fragile peace.—INTERNET

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A vehicle crosses a dry bed of the river in India, on 30 Nov, 2009. Leaders of the Commonwealth countries called on Saturday for a legally binding international agreement on climate change and a global fund with billions of dollars to help poor countries meet its mandates.—INTERNET

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Kindle hits sales record in November

Amazon.com founder and CEO Jeff Bezos holds the new Kindle 2 electronic reader at a news conference in New York where the device was introduced, on 9 Feb, 2009. The Kindle 2, the latest incarnation of the digital book reader is a slimmer version with more storage and a feature that reads text aloud to users. —Xinhua

Beijing, 1 Dec—Amazon.com said on Monday that its Kindle electronic book reader posted its best sales yet in November, as rivals struggled with their customer orders, but the online retailer did not release figures to support the claim. 

Amazon said the electronic-book reader remains the best-selling product across all product categories on Amazon, boasting that it’s “flying off the shelves faster than any other product Amazon sells.”

The online retailer said shoppers were buying several Kindles at once as holiday gifts, while businesses and organizations were buying the device “in large quantities” for employees or clients.

Amazon’s statement on Kindle’s success followed notices by Barnes & Noble and Sony Corp to their customers that they had sold out of their e-readers before the start of the holiday shopping season due to high demand.

While the higher-than-expected demand proves consumer interest in the device, Barnes & Noble and Sony also appear to have lost an opportunity to gain share against Amazon’s market-leading Kindle device.—Xinhua

Swine flu still down in US but 198 children dead

Washington, 1 Dec—Swine flu continues to wane across the United States, but it has killed more than 30 children since the last count, US health officials said on Monday. The latest update on the H1N1 virus, posted at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/, shows the infection is still at epidemic levels but below its October peak, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

Since March, 198 children in the United States have been reported killed by H1N1, although the true number is likely far higher because many people with the flu don’t go to the doctor and only a few are tested for the swine flu. The CDC said just over 20 percent of specimens sent for testing from patients with flu-like illness were positive for H1N1 swine flu, meaning that 80 percent of patients had something else. At the worst, this proportion was over 30 percent.

Swine flu continues to dominate, with 99 percent of flu cases being due to the H1N1 strain. “The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness was over 20 percent; up from 14 percent in the previous week,” the report reads.

The CDC got reports in the week ending on 21 November of 35 children who died, although one died from seasonal influenza in March—bringing to 128 the confirmed pediatric death toll from seasonal flu in 2008-2009. “A total of 198 deaths in children associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been reported to CDC,” the report reads. Many of the children who died had bacterial infections known to worsen a flu infection. Thirty-one percent of the children died and who were tested for bacterial infections had one, and nearly a third of these had Staphylococcus aureus.
New energy, clean energy, renewable energy

BEIJING, 1 Dec — Many countries have been developing new energy to curb greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change, while buzzwords such as clean energy, green energy and renewable energy receive much publicity. New energy is a concept that is contrary to traditional fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal. In addition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass power, new energy sources also include nuclear power.

As a non-renewable energy source, nuclear energy almost produces no pollution. But it consumes uranium fuel and produces nuclear waste. The development of nuclear energy also requires big investment. Yet it is a good alternative to fossil fuels as the world is striving to curb carbon dioxide emissions.

Clean energy, or green energy, refers to those energy sources that cause no pollution. As nuclear energy almost produces no pollution, some experts also classify it as a kind of clean energy source.

A similar concept is renewable energy, which is generated from renewable natural resources such as water, sunlight, wind, methane gas, geothermal heat and tidal waves.

As renewable energy is naturally replenished, many countries prioritize the development of this category.—Xinhua

World at watershed in low-carbon development

BEIJING, 1 Dec — Global investments in developing power generating capacity from green energy reached 140 billion US dollars in 2008, overtaking those in carbon-based fuels for the first time in history, a UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report showed.

The figures indicate, with the advance in green energy, such as from solar, wind and biomass sources, the world is now at a watershed in the development of low-carbon economy.

New types of energy and the low-carbon economy are casting more and more influence on the structure of each economy across the globe, the patterns of investing and manufacturing, and the way of live.

The changes are amazing given the fact that just a few years ago, high-cost, immature technology, as well as people’s habitual and ever increasing dependence on oil prevented people from anticipating a promising prospect for the low-carbon economy.—Xinhua

Finland confirms human-to-pig transmission of A/H1N1 flu

HELSINKI, 1 Dec — Finland has confirmed the country’s first human-to-pig transmission of A/H1N1 influenza, said Finnish Food Safety Authority and Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare in a statement on Monday.

According to the agencies, samples taken from some pigs of a pig farm in Southern Pohjannmaa region, west in the country tested positive for the A/H1N1 flu virus.

Finland has confirmed a total of 7,038 cases of A/H1N1 flu by Monday, reporting 16 fatalities related to the disease. The epidemic of A/H1N1 flu has peaked in all parts of the Finland, with signs to subside in northern part of the country. A massive vaccination plan against A/H1N1 flu covering the entire population is under way in the country.—Xinhua

A/H1N1 hospitalizations, deaths still high in US

HOUSTON, 1 Dec — Hospitalizations and deaths of the A/H1N1 virus in the United States continue to be higher than expected for this time of year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Monday.

“During week 46 (15-21 Nov), 8.2 percent of all A/H1N1 hospitalizations, 4.5 percent of all related deaths and 6.2 percent of all related intensive care unit stays were reported,” the CDC said in its latest report on its website.

“This percentage was above the epidemic threshold of 7.0 percent for week 46,” the CDC explained, adding that, “including week 46, P&I mortality has been above threshold for eight consecutive weeks.”—Xinhua

Canada reports first case of A/H1N1 mutation

OTTAWA, 1 Dec — Canadian scientists make a breakthrough in the research of stem cell transplants by making possible the transplant of a mismatched donor, local media reported on Monday.

The ensuing response can kill the patient, or lead to infections or relapses of the original disease but the technique pioneered in a Montreal lab by Dr Denis-Claude Roy of the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital could change that, the Canadian Television reported. Roy explained that his research team developed a new approach that preserves the cells that fight infection and leukemia while eliminating the cells that reject donor cells.

The technique involves introducing donor cells to the patient cells in a lab, he said.

“Those cells that recognize foreign patient cells become activated. The cells that are there to fight infections or viruses or even leukemia aren’t activated, they don’t see their target, so they’re actually sleeping. So we then kill those cells that are activated,” he explained.

A man cleans outside a house next to a pile of cars in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah on 29 November.

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Internet
Messi awarded Ballon d’Or

PARIS, 1 Dec—Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Argentina on Tuesday was awarded the Ballon d’Or accolade as Europe-based footballer of the year. Messi, whom Cristiano Ronaldo beat into second place last season, easily saw off the Portuguese striker, who moved to Real Madrid from Manchester United, by 473 points to 233. Messi got the vote for a tremendous year in which his mercurial talents stood out for Barcelona as the Catalan club marched to an unprecedented treble of Champions League - he scored against United in the final - Spanish league title and Spanish Cup.

Barca teammates were also hailed with midfielder Xavi taking third place with 170 points while Iniesta was fourth on 149.

In fifth place was Cameroon striker Samuel Eto’o, who left Barca to join Inter Milan in the summer after winning his second Champions League. He was the club’s other scorer in the 2-0 final win over United as Barcelona won their third crown.

Marquez extends Barca contract until 2012

MADRID, 1 Dec—Mexican international defender Rafa Marquez on Monday extended his contract with Barcelona until 2012, becoming the eighth player to renew with the European champions so far this season.

“I’m very happy to renew with a club where I’ve felt very wanted, where I’ve enjoyed myself and where I’ve suffered. I have to enjoy these moments, they pass very quickly,” he said after signing his new contract.

“Now I need to recover full match fitness to try and win back a place in the starting eleven, enough competition is tough. I think still have a good chance of being in the starting line-up.”

Marquez, whose contract was due to expire in January 2010, joined Barcelona in 2003 from French side Monaco.

Serena fined 175,000 dollars for US Open outburst

LONDON, 1 Dec—World No 1 Serena Williams has been fined 175,000 dollars and put on probation for two years for her outburst upon the judge at the US Open, the Grand Slam Committee said on Monday.

The committee said a further major offense at a grand slam in the next two years would see her suspended from the US Open in 2010, 2011 or 2012.

The fine will be reduced to 82,500 dollars if she commits no further major offense through 2011.

Williams’ outburst was prompted by an incident in her semi-final against eventual champion Kim Clijsters at Flushing Meadow in September.

Trailing 4-6, 5-15-30, Williams hit a second serve but the line judge called her for a foot-fault, meaning the American had served a double-fault to go match point down.

Astounded by the verdict, Williams launched into an expletive rant at the official. She waved her racket in the lineswoman’s direction and then shook a ball in her clenched fist as she threatened to “shove it down” her throat.

“On 9 November 2009, the Grand Slam Committee administrator determined Serena Williams had committed the grand slam major offense of aggressive behavior for her misconduct at the 2009 US Open,” the committee said in a statement.—Xinhua

Woods no play until 2010

NEW YORK, 1 Dec—Tiger Woods said on Monday that he will not play this year following a one-car accident last Friday outside his home.

Woods, minorly injured according to his statement, was scheduled to participate in his own tournament this week in Thousand Oaks, California, and hold a press conference on Tuesday.

He has cancelled his appearance at the 2009 Chevron World Challenge at the aftermath of the “much rumoured” car accident, which involved a suspected drive chase by his wife Elin Nordegren Woods for an extramarital affair.

“I am extremely disappointed that I will not be at my tournament this week,” Woods said in a statement on his website.—Internet

FIFA ‘may put more officials on field’ at W Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Dec—FIFA could put more assistant referees on the fields during the World Cup, the football governing body’s president Sepp Blatter said on Monday.

The question will be discussed at the FIFA executive committee meeting on Wednesday in Cape Town, ahead of the final draw for the World Cup, he said at the opening of the Soccerex football business conference.

“We’ll make a decision to have additional officials for the World Cup or not. This is open,” he said.

The committee will consider placing additional assistant referees behind each goal, a system being experimented with in Europe, he said.

The committee will also consider ways of re-organising the system of qualifiers, he said, after controversy erupted following France’s controversial win over Ireland.—Internet

Drogba claims psychological edge over Chelsea rivals

CHICAGO, 1 Dec—Didier Drogba celebrates after scoring against Arsenal during their Premiership match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 29 November.—INTERNET

LONDON, 1 Dec—Didier Drogba believes Chelsea have claimed a precious psychological edge over their Premier League title rivals by completing a full set of wins over Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal already this season. Sunday’s 3-0 win over Arsenal at the Emirates left Carlo Ancelotti’s side five points clear of United in what most pundits now expect to be a two-horse title race.

Arsenal are now 11 points off the place, albeit with a game in hand over the leaders, and Drogba, who scored twice on Sunday, was quick to underline the significance of the latest win over one of Chelsea’s direct title rivals.

“Arsenal played their game, but we were stronger than them,” the Ivory Coast striker said. “Every time we had the chance to score we did. We took our chances.—Internet

Ireland asks to become team 33 at World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Dec—Ireland have been asked to be allowed to compete as a 33rd team in the World Cup, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Monday.

Irish players launched furious protests when they were eliminated in a play-off with France, after a controversial handball by French captain Thierry Henry led to the decisive French goal.

“The delegation of the Football Association of Ireland, they came to FIFA and naturally they are absolutely unhappy with what happened. They agree the match cannot be replayed,” Blatter said at the opening of the Soccerex football business conference here.

“They have not asked for any sanctions. Very humbly, they have asked ‘Can we be team number 33 in the World Cup?’, he said, drawing laughter from the crowd.

“Finally they asked for that. I will bring it to the attention of the executive committee,” he said.

Lippi says group unity will underpin Italian campaign

ROMA, 1 Dec—Italian coach Marcello Lippi said Monday that his country’s strong group identity would play a bigger role than individual talent as the Azzurri attempt to retain their world title in South Africa next summer.

“We are going to try (to win) even if we know that it will be difficult to pull it off,” Lippi said during a meeting with students in the northern city of Vicenza.

“Italy is a team comprising great players across the board, from the world’s best keeper (Gianluigi) Buffon onwards. We hope to arrive (for the World Cup finals) in good condition with all the players at their physical peak.—Internet

Ireland launch on their World Cup campaign

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Internet
Microsoft investigates Windows-7 ‘screen of death’

LONDON, 1 Dec—Microsoft has confirmed that it is investigating a problem described as the “black screen of death”, which affects its latest operating system. The error means that users of Windows 7 see a totally black screen after logging onto the system. The firm said it was looking into reports that suggest its latest security update, released on Tuesday 25 November, cause the problem.

Reports suggest the problem also affects Vista, XP and other systems. Software firm Prevx, which has issued a fix for the problem, says “millions” of people may be affected. “Users have resorted to running Windows as a last ditch effort to fix the problem,” the firm’s David Kennerley wrote in a blog post.

“We hope we can help a good many of you avoid the need to reload.”Unknown problem. The firm said its fix did not work in all cases.

“There can be many causes,” said Mr Kennerley. “But if your black screen woes began in the last two weeks after a Windows update or after running any security program (including Prevx) to remove malware during this time then this fix will have a high probability of working.” Mr Kennerley said the firm had identified “at least 10 different scenarios which will trigger the same black screen condition.”

**MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (2-12-2009) (Wednesday)**

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<tr>
<th>Transmissions</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>- (09:00am – 10:00am) MST</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>- (15:30pm – 23:30pm) MST</th>
<th>North America</th>
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<td>Local Transmission</td>
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<td>Signature Tune</td>
<td>* Song of Myanma Beauty &amp; Scenic Sights</td>
<td>* Second Largest Reclining Buddha Image in Myanmar</td>
<td>* Bronze Casting of Kyar Ton Village</td>
<td>* Myanmar Movies Impact “Don’t think much! Do love!”</td>
<td>* Global Warming &amp; World Climate Change (Part-2)</td>
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**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 1st December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. MST. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin, Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Kayin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Loilem (3°C), Machanbaw (5°C), Namsan, Pilaung and Mindat (7°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-12-2009 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-12-2009 was 72%. Total sun shine hours on 30-11-2009 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from East at (09:30) hours MST on 30-11-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2nd December 2009:

Weather will be partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-12-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-12-2009: Generally fair weather.
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

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Switzerland

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—H.E Mr Christoph Burgener, newly-accredited Ambassador of Switzerland to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here at 11:00 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Laotian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 34th Anniversary of the Founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2009, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bounnhang Vorachit, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA