Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador-Head of Delegation of CEC

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Mr David Lipman, newly-accredited Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities 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. Also 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 Finnish Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Ms Sirpa Maenpaa, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Union of Myanmar, presented her 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. Also 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

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
Fight AIDS collectively and treat AIDS patients kindly

AIDS is the disease that is spreading all over the world today. It has claimed millions of lives and affected the social and economic life of the people. Therefore, the world nations are raising the momentum of their fight against the disease.

Although anti-HIV/AIDS campaigns are being carried out carefully and systematically all over the world, the lives of women and children are in grave danger posed by the pandemic. AIDS is the main cause for the death of women of child-bearing age.

Myanmar regards AIDS as a disease that is very likely to endanger public health and is fighting it as a national movement. In 1989, Anti-AIDS Central Committee was formed and its work programmes were implemented. Beginning 2000, prevention of HIV virus transmission from mother to child was initiated.

As a project for fighting AIDS and venereal disease, educative talks and accurate diagnosis and effective treatment are being given on a wider scale. Moreover, systematic measures are being taken in 325 townships to ensure safe blood transfusion.

Myanmar is accelerating the momentum of its fight against AIDS in cooperation with WHO and other UN organizations. It is learnt that HIV virus transmission rate in the nation has been reduced to 0.61 per cent in 2009 from 0.94 per cent in 2000.

AIDS affects not only the health of people but also their social and economic development. Therefore, it is necessary for the entire people to take an active part in anti-AIDS measures and, at the same time, to treat the AIDS patients kindly without any discrimination and stigma.

Information Minister Inspects Pyinnya Dazaung Library in Mwetone Village, Pale Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Dec—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that officials of Information and Public Relations Departments have to make a thorough study of the State’s seven-step Road Map the government is implementing hand in hand with the people, progress, and objective conditions of the nation, and to inform the public these achievements; and that they are to establish more self-reliant village libraries meeting the five standards in order to inculcate the people with a good habit of reading that is a fundamental requirement for improving the socio-economic life of the entire people. He underpinned the need for officials concerned to keep in touch with the improvement and welfare of the staff in order that they will become skilled media persons reliable for the national interest.

The Minister was speaking to heads of state/division, district and township Information and Public Relations Departments in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and Shan State (North) in Zeebingyi, PymOoLwin Township this afternoon.

On 30 November morning, the minister went on his tour to inspect the tasks to make sure that every village in Myanmar has a library and all the libraries enjoy sustainable progress. Upon arrival at Pyinnya Dazaung Library in Mwetone Village, Pale Township, Myitkyina District, Sagaing Division, the minister inspected condition of the library, furniture, the book keeping system, arrangements for purchase of new periodicals and sustainable development of the library, and cordially greeted rural dwellers reading inside the building.

The Minister urged rural people to stick to the good habit of reading to be able to keep in touch with the advancements in education, technology and other sectors worldwide. He said local authorities, well-wishers, IPRD staff and local residents are to work together for the library to last long with sustainable progress. Next, he cordially conversed with locals.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets IPRD staff of Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and Shan State (North).—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets locals reading at Pyinnya Dazaung Library. —MNA

Minister of Maternal and Child Health Department discussed matters on review of current development and follow-up processes and Dr Swe Swe Win of District Health Department, on treatment for miscarriage. And round table discussions about miscarriage treat-ments followed.

A total 60 health staff attended the two-day course.—MNA

Educative talks on treatment of miscarriage held

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Dec—Township-level educative talks on treatment of miscarriage and the opening ceremony of multiplier course for primary health staff were held at the meeting hall of Thaton District People’s Hospital, Thaton Township, Thaton District on 28 November.

Afterwards, District PDC Chairman U Soe Naing made an opening speech. Dr Myint Myint Naing made an opening speech. Dr Myint Myint
Rocket attack in E Afghanistan wounds one civilian

KABUL, 2 Dec—A rocket fired by militants hit a residential area in Gurbaz district of Khost Province in east Afghanistan, police said on Monday.

“The rocket fired by rebels hit a residential area on Sunday night injuring one civilian,” Bismillah Hashimi the police chief of Gurbaz district told Xinhua.

He also added that a mosque was damaged in the attack.

Taleban militants have stepped up their attacks mostly in the shape of suicide, roadside bombing and firing rockets to destabilize security and defame government.

Xinhua

File photo shows Iraqis walking past destroyed cars after a massive bomb attack in front of the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad, Iraq.—INTERNET

US troops kill gunman in fighting in Diyala

BAQUBA, 2 Dec—US troops killed a gunman and wounded three others in clashes early on Wednesday in a predominantly Kurdish town in the volatile Diyala Province northeast of Baghdad, a provincial police source said.

The predawn incident took place in the town of Sadliyah, some 130 km northeast of Baghdad, when US soldiers who were carrying out a security operation clashed with gunmen guarding their own homes in the eastern part of the town, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The clashes apparently erupted mistakenly when several gunmen opened fire on US soldiers in the dark, the source said.

“The gunmen thought the soldiers approaching their homes were milita- tants,” he said.

The US soldiers traded fire with the gunmen before they called in a helicopter gunship which bombed a house and totally destroyed it, the source added.

The incident also re- sulted in the wounding of a US soldier, he said, without telling whether there were casualties among civilians.

The source did not give further details about the incident as the US troops sealed off the scene.

Xinhua

One insurgent killed, two police injured in clash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 Dec—One Taleban militant was killed and another injured as they came in contact with police in Baghlani Province north of Afghanistan, police spokesman Ahmad Jawed Basharat said on Wednesday.

“Taleban rebels attacked a police patrol in Dushi District on Tuesday night and police returned fire killing an insurgent and injuring another,” Basharat told Xinhua.

Two police constables sustained injuries in the firefight, he added.

Taleban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar in a message last Wednesday called on his loyalists to speed up attacks against government interests and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Invasion of US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 2 Dec—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

Casualties of Iraqi people

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 2 December reached 699475 and the total number of serious injured people reached 1262193, according to the news on the Internet.

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<td>2.</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
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INTERNET

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

According to the Internet news, a total of 32369 Afghan people were killed and 38064 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 2 December.

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Seriously injured Afghan people</td>
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INTERNET

Roadside bomb wounds Afghan soldier

KABUL, 2 Dec—A roadside bomb targeted a military vehicle in Khaw Khost Province east of Afghanistan on Monday injuring a soldier, acting police chief of the province Yaqub Khan said.

“Taleban attackers hit a drinking water tanker, the driver of the tanker ran away, and Taleban attacked his vehicle,” Khan told Xinhua.

He blamed the enemies of peace, a reference used against Taleban militants for the attack, saying the enemies by carrying out such subversive activities want to disrupt peace in the province.—Xinhua
More talk, not sanctions, needed on Iran

BRUSSELS, 2 Dec—China said on Tuesday that more dialogue, not sanctions, is needed to resolve the issue of Iran’s nuclear program.

Iran announced on Sunday that it plans to build 10 more uranium enrichment facilities. That brought quick condemnation from officials in Europe and the US, which has been pressing China to take a stronger stand on the issue. A China Foreign Ministry spokesman told a regular news conference on Tuesday that sanctions “are not the goal” of new UN pressure on Iran.

“We should properly resolve this issue through dialogue,” spokesman Qin Gang said. “All parties should step up diplomatic efforts.”

The UN’s nuclear agency on Friday passed a resolution demanding that Iran halt all enrichment activities — a demand from the US, Russia, China and three other powers.

The support of China and Russia was key, as Moscow and Beijing have traditionally either prevented new UN Security Council sanctions on Iran for its nuclear activities or watered down their potency.

Sea too large to stop all pirate attacks

NAIROBI, 2 Dec—International naval forces will never be able to completely secure the vast area of ocean where Somali pirates are hijacking ships off East Africa, the commander of the EU Naval Force’s counter-piracy efforts said on Tuesday.

In the latest attack, pirates captured the Greek-flagged tanker Maran Centaurus on Sunday while it was carrying 275,000 metric tons of crude oil, the ship’s owners said. That is equivalent to about 2 million barrels of oil worth roughly $150 million, said Ben Cahill, head of the Petroleum Risk Manager service at PFC Energy.

The naval commander said the Maran Centaurus was travelling east of an area that the EU Naval Force advises tankers to steer clear of, so that it wouldn’t necessarily have expected to have been attacked. Piracy rates now hold 11 ships and 264 crew members off the coast of Somalia, said Rear Adm Peter Hudson.

Over 500 passengers rescued after ships collide in Philippines

MANILA, 2 Dec—Coast Guard rescued 519 people on board a passenger ship at dawn of Wednesday as it ran a ground after being hit by a passing cargo vessel in central Philippines.

“MV Wonderful Star was hit on her port side at around 10 pm on Tuesday local time (1400 GMT). It missed the course and ran aground at the shallow portion of Cebu channel near a major oil depot,” the country’s Coast Guard authorities said in a report.—Xinhua

Obama asks up to 10,000 European troops

BRUSSELS, 2 Dec—President Barack Obama is asking European members of NATO to contribute up to 10,000 additional troops to the international force in Afghanistan, officials with the military alliance said on Tuesday.

A diplomat from a European nation said the troop figure was included in an official NATO document compiled on the basis of information received from Washington before Obama’s planned announcement later on Tuesday of new US troop deployments.

Paris was being asked to provide 1,500 troops, said the official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter. Apart from 30,000 additional troops Obama is expected to send to Afghanistan, the French total would be the single largest new contribution to the expanded NATO-led force, the official said.

El Nino likely to last until May

GENEVA, 2 Dec—The weak to moderate El Nino weather system in the tropical Pacific Ocean has strengthened considerably and could create droughts and floods around the world until May, a UN agency said on Wednesday.

The phenomenon of warmer surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean can affect monsoons and hurricanes, causing droughts in some places and floods in others, said Rupa Kumar Kolli of the World Meteorological Organization.

He said it was difficult to predict specific impacts in different regions, because El Nino is not the only factor that determines weather even if it is one of the most dominant factors.

More accurate regional forecasts are provided by national weather services that take El Nino into account, Kolli said, but he noted that El Nino has been associated with weaker monsoons in Asia.

The current El Nino started in June and became moderate by September, with sea surface temperatures about 1 degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) above normal in the eastern and central Pacific, he said.

“During October, almost all indicators of El Nino became noticeably stronger,” Kolli said.
China, Japan should team up on tackling global financial crisis

BEIJING, 2 Dec — Vice President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that China and Japan should make concerted efforts to cope with the global financial crisis.

“As major economies in Asia and the world, China and Japan should work closely together and properly deal with the international financial crisis so as to contribute to world economic and financial stability,” Xi told a delegation of Japan’s Association for the Promotion of International Trade (JAPIT).

Yohei Kono, who served as speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives from November 2003 to August this year, is leading a delegation of about 70 on a four-day visit in China.

Calling JAPIT Japan’s major economic organization with regard to China, Xi said the Japanese business community had contributed to boosting the sound and steady growth of bilateral trade ties.

Japan ranked as the third biggest partner of China, after the European Union and the United States, with bilateral trade volume from October to November this year standing at $162.22 billion US dollars.

Xi called for both countries to work to lay a solid foundation for China-Japan strategic mutually-beneficial relations.

Singapare, S Korea sign MoU on defence co-op

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec — Singapore and South Korea on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU on defence cooperation.

According to a statement by Singapore’s Ministry of Defence, the MoU is the first bilateral defence agreement to be signed at the ministerial level. It seeks to strengthen bilateral defence relations between Singapore and South Korea by formalizing existing defence interactions such as policy dialogues, exchanges of visits by defence officials and cross-attendance of courses and seminars between the defence establishments of both countries.—Xinhua

Satellite debris misses Int’l Space Station

BEIJING, 2 Dec — A tiny piece of a defunct Russian satellite zipped by the International Space Station on Tuesday, but was far enough away that outpost’s two-man crew did not have to strap into their lifeboat to wait out the close shave, according to media reports on Wednesday.

The debris — a small piece of a Cosmos satellite less than four inches (10 cm) wide — zoomed by the station at 1:19 pm EST (1819 GMT) and came less than a mile (1 km) of the outpost at its closest point.

“Updates showed that it would not come close enough to the space station to require any change in the processes onboard or require precautionary measures,” said NASA spokesperson Kylie Clem.

NASA detected the object too late to move the space station clear of the incoming space trash by firing its thrusters. The space station is currently staffed by two astronauts, American commander Jeff Williams and Russian flight engineer Maxim Surayev.

The rest of the current ISS crew, known as Expedition 21, returned to Earth early on Tuesday. The crew landed their Soyuz TMA-15 spacecraft on the steppes of Kazakhstan at 2:15 am EST. NASA said all three returning crew members were in good condition.—Xinhua

Large number of newborns infected with HIV in Dominican Republic

HAWANA, 2 Dec — A total of 1,200 children are born to HIV positive mothers every year in the Dominican Republic, 11 percent of whom are born with HIV/AIDS, according to official figures released on Tuesday in Santo Domingo.

Gustavo Rojas Lara, director of the Presidential Council on AIDS (COPRESIDA), said every child born with HIV represented a failure for the Dominican medical system, doctors and the society.

According to the official figures, 1,300 Dominican children are now living with HIV, due to the lack of follow-up care to mothers and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission during delivery.

Twelve care units and nine counselling centres for people infected with the deadly virus were opened on Tuesday to mark the World AIDS Day that falls on 1 Dec annually.—Xinhua

Some 90 world leaders to attend Copenhagen climate change summit, UN chief says

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Dec — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said here on Tuesday that at least 90 presidents and prime ministers will be coming to Copenhagen for the UN conference on climate change beginning on 7 Dec.

“Such high-level attendance is a game-changer,” Ban said in an address to the Women’s International Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York, adding he is optimistic about the upcoming crucial UN conference in the Danish capital.

He said in recent weeks, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Russia, the European Union and the Republic of Korea have all stepped forward with new, specific proposals for cutting carbon emissions, Ban said.

The United States and China have agreed to work together and have announced their emission reduction targets, he added.—Xinhua

A zookeeper cleans the ambience for Niuniu, an oryx gazella born at the veterinary hospital in the Zoo of Jinan, east China’s Shandong Province, on 1 Dec, 2009. The cub oryx gazella suffered an injury of broken front legs upon its birth on 29 July, 2009 and has received intensive caretaking by local veterinarians. It has come to convalescence now and get on a normal life.—Xinhua

Jinan International Airport is seen in the fog in Jinan, capital of north China’s Shandong Province, on 2 Dec, 2009. Heavy fog enveloped the city on Wednesday morning.—Xinhua

He Guoqiang (front), a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau and also secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of CPC, inspects the Dongfeng Motor Company in Shiyan city of central China’s Hubei Province on 30 Nov, 2009. —Xinhua

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**Suspected US troop remains sent home from Vietnam**

HANOI, 2 Dec—Remains believed to be those of four American servicemen killed during the Vietnam War were loaded on a plane on Tuesday and flown back to the United States for identification. The remains were headed to a lab in Hawaii for forensic testing.

One set of remains was recovered by joint examination teams in the northern province of Ninh Binh over the past month. The other three — one from northern Lang Son Province and the others from the Central Highlands, were handed over by Vietnamese citizens, said Ron Ward, spokesman for the US Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command detachment in Hanoi.

Ward said all four sets of remains are believed to belong to American servicemen who died in plane crashes.

**Global warming threatens food supply**

HANOI, 2 Dec—Vietnam, the world’s second-biggest rice exporter, said on Wednesday it needs help to safeguard the world’s food supply from the consequences of global warming.

“The rice bowl of Vietnam will be severely affected” without action, Nguyen Khac Hieu, deputy director general of the government’s climate change agency, told reporters before key global climate talks next week in Copenhagen.

“It’s not only for Vietnam’s sake but also for the world’s food safety,” said Hieu, calling for help to enable the country to adapt. He will be part of Vietnam’s delegation at the 17-18 December conference tasked with framing a new deal for tackling global warming and its impact beyond 2012, when existing commitments under the Kyoto Protocol expire.

Vietnam is planning for a one-metre (3.3 feet) rise in sea levels by 2100, which would inundate about 31,000 square kilometres (12,400 square miles) of land — an area about the size of Belgium — unless dykes and drainage systems are strengthened, says a United Nations discussion paper on climate change in Vietnam, presented at a meeting on Wednesday.

“The inundation threat is greatest in the Mekong Delta,” the country’s main rice production and export area, the paper said.

**Suspected US troop remains sent home from Vietnam**

HANOI, 2 Dec—Remains believed to be those of four American servicemen killed during the Vietnam War were loaded on a plane on Tuesday and flown back to the United States for identification.

US honour guards carried the four American flag-draped aluminum cases holding the remains onto the US military transport plane at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. The remains were headed to a lab in Hawaii for forensic testing.

**Antiwar activists in Los Angeles oppose Afghanistan troop increase**

LOS ANGELES, 2 Dec—Hours before President Barack Obama announced his decision on Tuesday to send more troops to Afghanistan, activists from labour and antiwar organizations gathered in front of the Federal Building in Los Angeles to oppose his war strategy.

“Money for jobs, not war,” many protestors chanted.

John Parker, coordinator of the International Action Centre, said that by sending 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, the US would pay an additional $40 billion dollars a year, which should instead be spent to create more jobs for Americans. —Xinhua

**US soldier arrested after making threats**

HOUSTON, 2 Dec—A soldier at the US Fort Hood Army base, accused of going absent without leave after making threatening comments, was detained on Tuesday, Dallas police said.

Police officers arrested the 21-year-old private in Dallas, Texas, at the direction of military authorities and are holding him for military police. After a friend of the soldier reported the soldier’s alleged comments to authorities, Fort Hood officials contacted Dallas police, police spokesman Andy Harvey said.

“They were very concerned about it, and from what I understand, they were, might have been, very threatening in nature, and so I’m sure with what happened there recently, they were very sensitive to that,” Harvey said. An unloaded shotgun was found in the soldier’s vehicle, according to police.

The matter is under investigation by Army personnel, said Chad Carroll, a spokesperson for the 1st Calvary Division headquarters at Fort Hood. —Xinhua

**When you eat as important as what you eat**

US researchers say they’ve determined when people eat might be just as vital to their health as what they eat.

Scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies say experiments with mice revealed the daily waxing and waning of genes in the liver is mostly controlled by food intake and not by the body’s circadian clock, as conventional wisdom had it.

“If feeding time determines the activity of a large number of genes completely independent of the circadian clock, when you eat and fast each day will have a huge impact on your metabolism,” said Assistant Professor Satchidananda Panda, who led the research.

“Our study represents a seminal shift in how we think about circadian cycles,” Panda added.

“The circadian clock is no longer the sole driver of rhythms in gene function, instead the phase and amplitude of rhythmic gene function in the liver is determined by feeding and fasting periods — the more defined they are, the more robust the oscillations become.”

**23,600 cultural sites “disappeared” in three years**

Historians have sounded the alarm after 23,600 registered cultural sites apparently “disappeared” in three years.

The sites were largely erased because of development - swept aside by construction work and infrastructure projects controlled by food intake and not by the body's circadian clock, as conventional wisdom had it.

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The sites were largely erased because of development - swept aside by construction work and infrastructure projects including reservoir and road projects — says a national survey carried out by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), the country’s top relics protection authority.

SACH has been working on the inventory since 2007 and hopes to have a full list of China’s historical sites - including ancient tombs, temples and architecture - by 2011.

As of the end of October, 776,200 historical sites had been surveyed and added to the list, said Shan Xiang, director of SACH. The number of surveyed sites bettered the total in 2007 by 550,300.

**Easterly princess buried in Cairo**

Princess Ferial, the daughter of Egypt’s last King, was buried in a Cairo mosque after a low-key funeral attended by her relatives.

The princess died in a Geneva hospital on Sunday after a long battle with stomach cancer.

Born in 1938 in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, Princess Ferial was the daughter of King Farouk who ruled Egypt from 1936 until the 1952 revolution.

Her half-brother Ahmed Fouad, King Farouk’s only surviving child, attended the funeral in the Rifai mosque, where members of the royal family are buried.

The princess was the King’s eldest child from his first wife Fanda. She lived in Switzerland until her death.

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Born in 1938 in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, Princess Ferial was the daughter of King Farouk who ruled Egypt from 1936 until the 1952 revolution.

Her half-brother Ahmed Fouad, King Farouk’s only surviving child, attended the funeral in the Rifai mosque, where members of the royal family are buried.

The princess was the King’s eldest child from his first wife Fanda. She lived in Switzerland until her death.
The 62nd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in the year 2010

It is known that the Union of Myanmar has been a predominantly Theravada Buddhist nation in the world for nearly one thousand years, and over (90) per cent of nation’s population has taken faith in Theravada Buddhism since then. Furthermore, the Union of Myanmar has been recognized as a permanent higher learning centre of genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in the Buddhist world but also throughout the world. According to historical records of Buddhism, the Fifth and Sixth Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were successfully convened in the Union of Myanmar with a view to purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the Buddha’s teachings) all over the world. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council, which was attended and participated by Maha Theras from Five Theravada Buddhist Nations, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, was successfully held in the Union of Myanmar in 1954.

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, a great number of Buddhist Monastic Institutions and Learning Centres of Buddhist Scriptures have been established in the Union of Myanmar for years. For the time being, the two Pariyatti Sasana Universities, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay have been so far established to promote and propagate the Theravada Buddhism throughout the world. At present, Buddhist monk students are attending these two universities, and if they have got through the prescribed examinations held by these Universities, they will be conferred Takkasila Dhammacariya Degree (Bachelor of Arts) in Buddhism and Takkasila Maha Dhammacariya Degree (Master of Arts) in Buddhism respectively. And now, the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the very first one in the Buddhist world has been also already established in the Union of Myanmar in order to propagate, promote and flourish genuine Theravada Buddhism throughout the world, and to share the knowledge of Buddhism both in theory and practice with the peoples of the world to promote their happiness and moral well-being.

According to the Pariyatti (learning canonical Texts) Education System of the Union of Myanmar, there are seven kinds of religious examinations including the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination yearly held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar. The seven kinds of religious examinations are as follows:—

1. Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination
2. Dhammacariya Examination
3. Pathamagyi Examination
4. Pathamalat Examination
5. Pathamange Examination
6. Abhidhamma/Visudhimaggava Examination (only for Laymen and Nuns)
7. Five Nikaya Examination

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar since fifty-nine years ago. Buddhist monk candidates who wish to appear for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi Examination. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates have to take (33) days to sit for this examination. They have to take both oral examination consists of Pali Texts of 8026 pages of Tipitaka canons and the written examination consists of Pali Texts, Athakatha (Commentaries) and Tika (Sub-Commentaries) of 9934 pages of Tipitaka canons respectively. Only the candidates who have got through both oral and written examinations will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (the Title of Religious Heroes). Up to now, only nine outstanding members of Sangha (Bhikkhus) have been presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within over 59 years’ duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

It is learnt that many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years. It is learnt that such examination cannot be held in other Theravada Buddhist nations.

Members of Sangha, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are striving to propagate and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in homeland but also abroad. We all Buddhists know that the Sasana is of the three kinds, viz (1) Pariyatti Sasana (Learning the Buddha’s teaching), (2) Patipatti Sasana (Practical application of the Buddha’s teaching) and (3) Pativedha Sasana (Realization of the Buddha’s teaching). Out of them, the Pariyatti Sasana is the most important one which mainly leads to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the noble teachings of the Buddha).

The aims and objectives of holding the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination are to preserve, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism all over the world.

The 62nd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in the year 2010

We all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and honoured to learn that the 62nd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be held at Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) in the precinct of the Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar, and it will take (33) days starting from 13 December 2009. Altogether 220 entitled candidates of members of sangha who have been enrolled throughout the Union of Myanmar will sit for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of year 2010. Lodging and messing (four kinds of requisites) for candidates will be provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, other donors and well-wishers throughout (33) days. It is further learnt that devotees, well-wishers and other people are cordially invited to visit the Mahapasana Cave (examination centre) for paying profound respect to the members of Sangha who are sitting for the 62nd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of year 2010.

Many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examinations is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years.
Coord meeting of Sports Ministry held

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—The work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Sports was held at the ministry here yesterday. It was attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. It was also attended by Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, directors, heads of departments and others.

In his address, the minister called for selecting the athletes, nurturing the new generation youths, holding sports competitions constantly to turn out qualified athletes, striving to secure victory in XXV SEA Games to be held in Vientiane of Laos, putting attempts to recruit outstanding athletes by collecting at ground level and having disciplines so as to be good athletes.

Next, the director-general called on sports officers to hold competitions, to select new youths and to maintain sports ground and gymnasiums.

The deputy director-general (Minister Office) and directors discussed on submission presented by the principals of Sports and Physical Education Institutes (Yangon and Mandalay) and sports officers.—MNA

Basic English Speaking Course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism opened the No. 3/2009 Basic English Speaking Course at the ministry here this morning and the opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing. A total of 31 trainees who — 25 from Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and 6 from Hotel Zone are attending the 8-week course.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses coord meeting.—MNA

EP-2 Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Minister for Electric Power No. (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Chairman of Northern International (Holding) Co Ltd Mr Sun Jian Rong and party of the People’s Republic of China at the hall of the ministry here yesterday morning.

They discussed matters on enhancing cooperation in future grid and power plant projects to be implemented by the ministry.—MNA
**M-CCM members meet to fight three major diseases**

**NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec**—The 6th Myanmar Country Coordination Mechanism (M-CCM) Meeting for combating three major diseases (AIDS, TB and Malaria) was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health here yesterday noon.

Chairman of M-CCM Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an opening speech at the meeting.

It was also attended by Deputy Ministers for Health Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, directors-general, deputy directors-general, M-CCM members, project managers of three diseases control projects, officials, resident representatives of UN Agencies, social organizations at home and abroad and responsible persons.

Deputy Director-General Dr Saw Lwin read out the decisions of the 5th M-CCM Meeting and sought the approval. The attendees discussed the reports on the decision of Global Fund related to the assisting fund to Myanmar.

Next, the project managers explained the projects for combating AIDS, TB and Malaria and responded the queries raised by M-CCM members.

Responsible Persons from Save the Children and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) who may take part as Fund Administration Representatives in assisting fund by Global Fund explained the related matters and the attendees discussed them.

The meeting came to an end with the closing remarks by Chairman of M-CCM Minister Dr Kyaw Myint.—MNA

**PBANRDA Ministry holds coord meeting**

**NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec**—The Ministry for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme Mr Bishow B Parajuli at the Irrigation Department in Yankin Township, Yangon this morning. They discussed matters on boosting production in the agricultural sector.

The meeting was also attended by officials of the ministry.

MNA

**A&I Minister receives resident representative of UNDP**

**NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec**—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme Mr Bishow B Parajuli.—MNA

**Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme Mr Bishow B Parajuli.**—MNA

**PBANRDA Ministry holds coord meeting**

**NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec**—The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe also gave a speech.

Heads of department under the ministry presented reports.

Deputy directors-general of the Development Affairs Department assessed the reports.

The minister gave concluding remarks.

Between 1998 and the end of November 2009, the total length of urban and rural roads leaped from 5,936 miles and two furlongs to 41,031 miles and seven furlongs.

And up to 30 November 2009, three arid zones got 8,042 rural water supply facilities, and other states and divisions, 14,979, totaling 23,012.

Up to the end of 2008-2009 financial year, the Development Affairs Department built 323 miles and five furlongs of gravel roads, 184 miles and one furlong of tarred roads, and 783 bridges, conduits and culverts in Inter-District Road (1); 160 miles and six furlongs of gravel roads and 738 bridges, conduits and culverts in Inter-District Road (2); and it is now building 28 miles of earth roads and 50 miles of gravel roads in Inter-District Road (3).—MNA

**Minister Col Thein Nyunt addresses coordination meeting.**—MNA

**Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses 6th M-CCM meeting.**—MNA

**Prize presenting ceremony of Parkroyal Youth Art Award 2009 held**

**YANGON, 2 Dec**—The prize presentation of Parkroyal Youth Art Award 2009 titled “Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights” painting contest was held at Parkroyal Hotel, here, on 27 November. The judges, responsible persons of Parkroyal Yangon, NAPA and RV Centre Yangon, guests and journalists attended the ceremony.

General Manager Mr Teddy Chia of Parkroyal Yangon made an opening speech, and responsible persons presented first, second, third and honorary prizes to the winners. Mr S Chandrasekaran of Nanyan Academy of Fine Art of Singapore acted as chief judge together with judges Myanmar artists U Sonny Nyein, U Tin Win, U Sein Myo Myint and U Kyaw Thaung. This year’s painting contest was sponsored by the Academy and RV Centre International.—MNA

**General Manager Mr Teddy Chia of Parkroyal Yangon extends greetings at prize presentation ceremony.**—MNA
Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Vietnamese Vice-Minister of National Defence

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, met Vice-Minister of National Defence Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Government Office here this morning. Present at the call together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw and departmental heads. The visiting vice-minister was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Nguyen Van Vui and officials.—MNA

Construction Dy Minister inspects Pyay-Paukkhaung-Toungoo Road

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected upgrading of the Pyay-Paukkhaung-Toungoo Road on 28 November, extending the hilly road and shoulder, and tarring by Pyay District Special Group (Road)-7 and Special Group (Building)-3 on 29 November and construction of new roads between mile post No. 105/6 and No. 107/3, and between mile post No. 102/0 and No. 102/5 on 30 November. Pyay-Paukkhaung-Toungoo road section is being undertaken by nine District Special Groups for smooth transportation.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Vietnamese Vice-Minister of National Defence Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Vietnamese Vice-Minister of National Defence Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh.—MNA
GM sales fall 2.2 percent in November

DETROIT, 2 Dec—General Motors Co (GM.U.L.) posted a 2.2 percent drop in US sales in November from a year earlier, weighed down by brands it plans to divest or close, and said it would raise production in North America by about 75 percent in the first quarter. Sales totalled 151,427 vehicles in November, down from 154,877 a year earlier, GM said.

In the Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC and Buick brands that GM is retaining rose 5.6 percent to 139,672, while sales in its other brands fell 47.9 percent to 11,755, it said. Sales in the four core brands accounted for 94 percent of retail sales.

The results were not adjusted for two fewer selling days in November compared with the year ago period. GM said it planned to build 650,000 cars and trucks in the first quarter of 2010 in North America, up 75 percent from the same period in 2009 when the automaker was in a financial crisis and slipping toward a reorganization in bankruptcy.

The automaker, which emerged from a government-funded bankruptcy in July, said the US auto industry’s annualized sales for the month of November were expected to be about 11.1 million vehicles including medium and heavy duty trucks.—INTERNET

Italian unemployment reaches its highest peak since 2004

ROME, 2 Dec—Italian unemployment rate rose to 8 percent in October, reaching its highest peak since November 2004, according to data released on Tuesday by national statistics office Istat. According to Istat, the total number of jobless people in the country is over 2 million.

In one year, since October 2008, more than 284,000 jobs were lost. Youth unemployment has reached 26.9 percent. Recent economic data issued by Italy’s center-right government has showed that the country is rapidly recovering from the global downturn. Productivity levels have risen but unemployment remains one of those long-standing negative indicators.

In order to tackle the situation, the government has extended unemployment benefit and social incentives to many families. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in recent weeks has repeatedly expressed optimism on the economy’s state.

“This is much better than the European average,” said Italian Economic Development Minister Claudio Scajola commenting Istat’s report.

Geely taps China banks to back $1.8 billion Volvo deal

HONG KONG, 2 Dec — Geely, the Chinese carmaker picked as the preferred bidder for Ford Motor’s (F.N) Volvo unit, is seeking at least $1 billion in loans from Chinese banks to finance its $1.8 billion bid, sources said on Tuesday. Home-grown Geely, which means “lucky” in Chinese, is hungry for modern and innovative technologies from the Swedish brand to upgrade its car lineup and tap the auto market in China, the world’s biggest.

At least three major Chinese banks including Bank of China (3988.HK) (801988.SS), China Construction Bank (0939.HK) (601939.SS) and Export-Import Bank of China had agreed to extend loans to Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, said the banking sources briefed on the plan.

“Money is not a problem for Geely,” said a source. “They definitely have strong support from Chinese banks and there are a number of private equity funds queuing up to invest in Geely.” The sources asked not to be identified as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Export-Import Bank of China is a policy lender wholly owned by the Chinese government and directly led by the cabinet. Bank of China is China’s top foreign exchange lender. China Construction Bank is the country’s No1 property lender.—INTERNET

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

Italian police say they broke up major mob clan
Rome, 2 Dec— Italian police have broken up a major Mafia clan, arresting 74 people and seizing businesses, land, race horses and a London-based online betting company, officials said on Tuesday. Local politicians and businessmen in the southern Italian city of Bari were among those implicated as part of a three-year operation, called “Domino,” for collaborating with the Parisi clan, police said.—Internet

One dead, two wounded in Mexico City
Starbucks shootout
MEXICO CITY, 2 Dec— Three gunmen inside a Starbucks in Mexico City on Tuesday shot and killed a man identified in local news reports as a former police chief, and wounded two other people, authorities said.

“At around 11:30 am (1730 GMT) there was a shootout in a Starbucks... resulting in one man killed, another man wounded and a woman also wounded,” an official with the city’s Attorney General’s Office said. The dead man was identified simply as Edgar Bayardo del Villar, with ties said.

One dead, two wounded in Mexico City
Starbucks shootout

Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health
Department of Medical Science
Inviting application for Refresher Courses

1. Refresher courses leading to obtaining SAMA for medical graduates and THAKHA for dental graduates (1/2010) will be conducted at the Universities of Medicine and Universities of Dental Medicine in January, 2010.

2. Those who have completed the internship before December, 2008 and have not had SAMA or THAKHA are eligible to apply. Note: Those in government service at present need not apply.


4. Place for application - University one has graduated.

5. Enquiries can be directed to Department of Medical Science, Nay Pyi Taw and respective Universities.

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“Medical services providing medical information, medical counseling.” (International Class 44)

MOVETIL

Used in respect of:-
“Pharmaceutical preparations, namely preparations for the treatment of immunological diseases and disorders, inflammatory diseases and disorders, oncological disease and disorders, neurological diseases and disorders, cardiovascular diseases and disorders, gastrointestinal diseases and disorders, metabolic diseases and disorders. ” “Pharmaceutical preparations.” (International Class 05)

“Medical services providing medical information, medical counseling.” (International Class 44)

LOBREVO

PRONIVIS

MOTAXIV

Used in respect of:-
“Pharmaceutical preparations, namely preparations for the treatment of immunological diseases and disorders, inflammatory, immunological, neurological, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, oncological, metabolic, genetic and pulmonary diseases and disorders.” (International Class 05)

ZEMRIK

KLIARCT

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Department of Medical Science

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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for supply of the following in Euro;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
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<td>In Service Rail Buses (RBE)</td>
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<td>31-12-2009</td>
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<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>with Roof Mounted Air Condition</td>
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<td>(Engine Parts, Bogie Parts, Transmission, Electrical Parts &amp; Generator Parts (Fuel Filter &amp; Oil Filter))</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 7-12-2009 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291895.

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Department of Medical Science
Small faults may reduce large quake risks

Granada, 2 Dec — Spanish scientists say they’ve found smaller tectonic faults close to larger faults in the Baetic mountain range can reduce the risk of major earthquakes. The researchers studying recent, active deformations in the Baetic mountains, located in southern and eastern Spain, say they have shown the activity of smaller tectonic structures close to larger faults in the Iberian Peninsula partially offsets the risk of earthquakes.

“These are large faults in the eastern part of the Baetic mountain range, which are active and occasionally cause moderate, low magnitude earthquakes,” said Antonio Pedreira, lead author of the study and a researcher at the University of Granada. “Although we can’t exclude the possibility that these direction faults could cause earthquakes of greater magnitude, we have shown that the formation of small tectonic structures helps to partially relax the energy associated with the convergence of plates, and reduces seismic activity in these larger faults,” Pedreira said.

The research was published recently in the Journal of Quaternary Science.

South Africa expands AIDS treatment for babies, mothers

Pretoria, 2 Dec — South African President Jacob Zuma on Tuesday unveiled a dramatic expansion in treatment for pregnant women and babies with HIV, sealing a turnaround in the AIDS light in the world’s worst-affected country.

Zuma said that all babies with HIV will receive treatment at public facilities from next April, while women will receive care earlier in their pregnancies in a bid to prevent transmission to newborns.

He also announced that he was preparing to take a HIV test himself, and urged the public to do the same.

His speech cemented a sharp break with past policies, when the previous government of Thabo Mbeki questioned the link between HIV and AIDS and promoted garlic and beetroot instead of medication.

“This decision will contribute significantly towards the reduction of infant mortality over time,” Zuma said in a nationally televised speech to mark World AIDS Day. An estimated 5.7 million of South Africa’s 48 million people have HIV, including 280,000 children, according to the UN AIDS agency.

Climate change may be dire for Nigeria

Abuja, 2 Dec — The impacts of climate change on Nigeria could be dire for the economy and ecology, and this could lead to civil unrest, Environment Minister John Odey warned on Tuesday in Abuja.

Although climate change is a global issue, “Nigeria is one of the countries that would be most impacted... because of its size, population, rain-fed agriculture and variable climatic zones,” Odey told a public forum.

“The impacts on our society and the economy will be huge and cross-cutting,” Odey said at the forum to brief journalists on the reports of a government panel on climate change.

Droughts, desert encroachment, floods, erosion and storms are likely to increase in frequency and intensity, he said.

Other possible effects of climate change in Nigeria are changes in rainfall patterns that could impact on food production, aggradation of soils and coastal erosion, said Odey.

“The consequences of these impacts can be dire and will invariably result in population movements, climate change refugees, with resultant civil unrest and attendant security implications,” he stated.

Nigeria has a population of about 150 million, the highest in Africa.

Lung cancer proteins may be drug targets

Boston, 2 Dec — US scientists say they’ve identified proteins that allow them to distinguish between cancer and normal cells with 97 percent accuracy.

Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine and the Boston University Biomedical Engineering Department said in addition they’ve developed a computational strategy to identify key biological pathways that are active in cancer and “dormant” in normal cells.

The scientists said their findings will ultimately lead to the development of drugs specifically aimed to inhibit such cancer proteins.

Much of the cellular machinery involved with such biological processes is controlled by a command control system called signal transduction, which is mainly controlled by a process called phosphorylation. When a protein is phosphorylated it either becomes active or repressed depending on its special function.

Harper’s first visit to China to thaw ties

Beijing, 2 Dec — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper begins a four-day visit to China on Wednesday for what Chinese analysts are describing as a fence-mending trip to repair ties damaged by Ottawa.

China-Canada relations have soured over a series of disagreements, especially since Harper’s Conservative government took office nearly four years ago with a harder line on China’s human rights record.

The trip, Harper’s first to China, appears aimed at overcoming negative sentiment on both sides. Harper is to meet with both President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao for discussions on strengthening trade and overall ties.

Chinese commentators have portrayed the trip as an act of contrition by Harper, who angered Beijing in 2006 when Canada granted the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama honourary citizenship.

The picture taken on 1 Dec, 2009 shows a damaged van at the traffic accident site in Mulan County, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province. At least six people have been confirmed dead after a mini-bus collided with the van in the province, local officials said Tuesday. The accident happened on Hazhao Road in Liushu Township, Mulan County, at about 7:40 am.

INTERNET

People walk struggling for space between public transport buses and trucks at the bustling Oshodi bus stop in Lagos in 2006. The impacts of climate change on Nigeria could be dire for the economy and ecology, Environment Minister John Odey has warned in Abuja.
**SPORTS**

Ireland World Cup hopes finally snuffed out

CAPE TOWN, 2 Dec.—Any slim hopes Ireland still harboured of competing in the 2010 World Cup were finally snuffed out on Tuesday with FIFA saying there was no way they would take part as a 33rd team.

In a desperate last ditch bid to salvage a place in this week’s draw, the Irish FA approached FIFA several days ago and asked to be admitted as a 33rd team with another side, possibly Costa Rica, being added as a 34th.

The Irish FA president Sepp Blatter revealed this week that it would be put to an extraordinary meeting of world football’s governing body here on Wednesday.

But FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke made clear there was no way that Ireland would be playing.

“We have to be clear that Ireland will not be invited to play at the 2010 World Cup,” he said at a press conference here ahead of the draw on Friday.

“There was a request made by the Irish FA when we met them in Zurich a few days ago,” he said.

“They asked the question but the FIFA president was very clear in saying it was impossible because if we did so then we might not go to South Africa and others.”

“We told them that because they were making a special request that we would bring it to the attention of the FIFA executive committee members and it is what we will do tomorrow.”

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Cagliari fined over racist chants

ROME, 2 Dec.—Serie A side Cagliari became the latest Italian side to be fined for racist chants by their fans on Tuesday when they were ordered to pay 10,000 euros.

The club were punished after a court here on Tuesday affirmed a disciplinary body’s previous decision to fine the club 10,000 euros for racist chants by their fans on Tuesday.

Irish national football team players shout to Swedish referee Martin Hansson (centre) during the World Cup 2010 qualifying football match France vs Republic of Ireland in November in Saint-Denis, northern Paris. Any slim hopes Ireland still harboured of competing at the 2010 World Cup have been finally snuffed out with FIFA saying there is no way they will take part as a 33rd team. —INTERNET

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Aussie Open chief backs Serena to keep it clean

MELBOURNE, 2 Dec.—Australiab Open chief Craig Tiley Wednesday backed Serena Williams not to repeat the foul-mouthed tirade that landed her with a record fine when she defends her title in January.

tily described Williams as a “great champion”, despite the notorious incident which cost her a place in September’s US Open final, her most recent Grand Slam tournament.

“We’re confident there will be no repeat and we’ve had no problems with Serena,” Tiley said.

“She’s been a great champion, she’s supportive of what happens with the Australian Open, she loves the Australian Open (and) she has said this is one of her favourite places to play.”

Williams was hit with a 175,000 dollar fine and two years’ probation by the International Tennis Federation, meaning she could be suspended from the US Open if she commits another major violation during a Grand Slam.

Williams was two points from defeat against Kim Clijsters when she was called for a foot-fault, prompting the volley of abuse against a line-judge. She was docked another point for the tirade, forfeiting the match. —INTERNET

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Man United, Aston Villa into League Cup semifinals

LONDON, 2 Dec.—Defending champion Manchester United advanced to the League Cup semifinals Tuesday by beating Tottenham 2-0, while Aston Villa won 6-2 over Portsmouth.

Man United midfielder Darron Gibson struck twice in the first half in a rematch of last season’s final that was won by United in a penalty shootout.

Anderson was the creator of the 17th-minute opening goal, surging forward before cutting inside to lay the ball into the path of Gibson, whose low shot crept into the corner of the goal. The second came at the end of a flowing move started by Park Ji-sung and continued by Dimitar Berbatov, who picked out Welbeck and played a one-two with Gibson. The Northern Ireland midfielder struck high into the corner from the edge of the area. —INTERNET

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Panathinaikos goalie says he was hit by air gun pellets in derby

ATHENS, 2 Dec.—Panathinaikos Athens goalie Alexandros Tzorvas Tuesday told a Piraeus prosecutor that he was the target of air gun pellets during Sunday’s derby match against Olympiakos Piraeus.

Tzorvas, who is also the Greek national team goalkeeper, told the prosecutor that he was hit several times and showed marks on his body and presented medical reports.

He said he had informed referee Anastasios Kakos about the attacks but that the official did not record the incidents in his match report.

The prosecutor has requested Olympiakos to provide security camera footage in order to find the culprits.

Panathinaikos on Tuesday sent a detailed letter of protest to the Greek league about the incident which also included a penknife being thrown on the pitch as well as numerous flares. —INTERNET

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Villa prove too much for Pompey

PORTSMOUTH, 2 Dec.—Aston Villa booked their place in the semi-finals of this season’s English League Cup with a 4-2 win away to Premier League strugglers Portsmouth at Fratton Park here on Tuesday.

Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov put through his own net in the first minute to give Pompey, the top flight’s bottom club, the lead.

But minutes later any joy fans might have been feeling was curtailed when England striker Emile Heskey equalised for Villa.

And before the half-hour mark Pompey’s Premier League rivals were in front through James Milner. —INTERNET

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Schweinsteiger escapes million euro lawsuit

MUNICH, 2 Dec.—Germany's midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger has had a claim against him for damages worth nearly a million euros thrown out by a court here on Tuesday.

The lawyer, who is also the manager of a player advisory firm, claimed that in November 2005 a German court had awarded damages worth nearly a million euros to his client for “aggravated slander”.

Swiss lawyer Rudolf Despot of the firm DVG at the Munich court. —INTERNET
Chinese engineering academy announces 48 new academicians

BEIJING, 2 Dec—The Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) announced here Wednesday that 48 prominent scientists have been elected academicians, bringing the number of CAE academicians to 756.

CAE vice president Xu Rigan said, “The average age of the newly elected is 56.2, the youngest in CAE’s academician election history.” About 66.7 percent of the new academicians were under 60, up from 45.5 percent in 2007. The oldest was 75, and the youngest 41, he said. The new academicians were elected from 449 candidates. Twenty of the newly elected are from higher learning institutions, 18 from research institutes, six from factories and companies, and four from administrative departments. A CAE academician is the highest national academic title in engineering science and technology and is a lifelong honor. New numbers are added every two years, with a quota of no more than 60 for each election. In addition, six scientists were elected foreign CAE academicians, among whom five were from the United States and one from the United Kingdom.

Thai school children visit a museum exhibiting preserved bodies of AIDS victims at a Buddhist temple Wat Prabat Nampu, in Lopburi, on the World AIDS day, on 1 December 2009.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 2nd December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Divisions, rain has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilen (1°C), Haka (2°C), Namsan (5°C), Mindat (6°C). Maximum temperature on 1-12-2009 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 2-12-2009 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-12-2009 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 1-12-2009 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-12-2009 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 (4) mph from Southeast at (09:30) hours MST on 2-11-2009. Total sun shine hours on 1-12-2009 was (9.2) hours approx.

Forecast valid until evening of 3rd December 2009: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin and Chin States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan State, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions Degree of certainty is (40%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-12-2009: Partly cloudy.
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

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Austrian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—H.E Dr Johannes Peterlik, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Austria 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 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, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, receives newly-accredited Austrian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Dr Johannes Peterlik at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA