NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who arrived back here from Laos at 11:30 am today by special flight after attending opening ceremony of the XXV SEA Games held in Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Together with Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at the airport were Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and Lt-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental heads.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who attended opening ceremony of XXV SEA Games in Laos, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads and officials, who accompanied Prime Minister General Thein Sein, arrived here on the same flight.

MNA

Dr Kyaw Sein voted for Life-time Achievement National Literary Award (2008)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—The National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee of the Ministry of Information today named writer Dr Kyaw Sein (Dr Kyaw Sein) winner of Life-time Achievement National Literary Award (2008) in recognition of his lifelong brilliant performances for improvement of Myanmar literature in the Union of Myanmar.

The award will be presented at the ceremony to present National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2008 to be held at the Office of the Ministry of Information here at 9 am on 31 December 2009.—MNA
**Perspectives**

**Friday, 11 December, 2009**

**Raise the momentum of anti-drug campaign and take part in regional development tasks**

Use of various kinds of narcotic drugs is becoming more widespread all over the world and it brings grave consequences not only to drug users themselves but also to their families and the social environment related with drug producers and traffickers. The danger of narcotic drugs being the concern of all countries and regions in the world, they are carrying out anti-drug campaigns seriously. To eliminate drug production and trafficking, they are trying through various ways and means, including exchange of information between themselves.

Myanmar regards her fight against narcotic drugs as a national duty and is trying to the best of her ability to eliminate their menace by implementing the 15-year plan for elimination of narcotic drugs. The plan period is from 1999 to 2014. It is now in the last year of its second five-year phase and much headway has been made.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control occasionally holds ceremonies to destroy narcotic drugs seized in various parts of the nation. Narcotic drugs were destroyed twenty times up to 2006 in Yangon and 47 times in other states and divisions.

A ceremony to destroy narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East) was held at the state sports ground in Kengtung on 8 December. Various kinds of narcotic drugs, stimulant tablets, chemicals and accessories destroyed were worth more than 93 billion kyats (over 93 million US dollars).

We would like to call on the entire national people to take an active part in the measures for regional peace and stability, the rule of law and regional development while the government is accelerating the momentum of its fight against narcotic drugs.

**IBTC Open Golf Championships continue**

YANGON, 9Dec.—The fifth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour (2009-2010) IBTC Open Golf Championships continued at Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) here on 3 December.

Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) led the professional golfers division with 208 strokes, Naing Naing Lin (Srixon) and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) followed with 212 strokes. Soe Moe Win led with 215 strokes, Aung Win (Myanmar Selection) followed with 217 strokes and Yan Myo Aye with 219 strokes in men’s amateur division.

The championship was mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd (IBTC) together with co-sponsors Air Bagan Ltd, KBZ Bank Ltd, Hotel Yangon, KM Golf Centre, HAN Golf Masters Pte Ltd, Myanmar Thirha Trading Co Ltd, Bay of Bengal Resort (BOB), (INAX-T-Home), CEPSA Lubricant, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Canon), Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, and Yangon Golf course (Danyingon).

**Tobacco kills**

**FM receives Sri Lankan counterpart**

YANGON, 9 Dec.—FM Minister U Nyan Win received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama here this evening.

They discussed matters related to enhance the bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

Also present on the occasion were Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Newton Gunaratna, officials from the Embassy of Sri Lanka and directors-general from the departments under the ministry. —MNA

**Commander attends World AIDS Day ceremony**

NAI PYI TAW, 10 Dec.—Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin attended the ceremony to mark World AIDS Day at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw District, here this morning.

It was also attended by district/township PDC chairmen, officials concerned from Ministry of Health, members of social organizations and guests.

The commander delivered an address on the occasion and presented awards to students who won prizes in the contests.

Afterwards, the commander and officials viewed HIV/AIDS paintings and documentary photos put on display in the hall.—MNA

**Five companies win Responsible Care Logo**

YANGON, 9 Dec.—Jointly organized by Myanmar Industrial Entrepreneurs Association, Chemical Industry Group, Myanmar Responsible Care Committee and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), a ceremony to award Responsible Care Logo was held at Traders Hotel here this morning.

Present on the occasion were officials from the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour, Union of Myanmar Economic and General Labour Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Engineering Society and industrial zones Administration Director Mr Eitaro Kojima of JETRO (Yangon Branch) and Responsible Care Expert Mr Konoshin Kukuma.

The copyright of RC Logo is presented to companies which act in accord with noble concept in environment, health and safety works in the production of chemical products.

The RC Logo programme was started in 2006. UPG group, United Pacific Co Ltd, BP Battery, Myanmar UR Chemical Co Ltd and Chemical Engineering Production Cooperative Ltd were awarded RC Logos at the ceremony. —MNA

**Tobacco kills**

The New Light of Myanmar Friday, 11 December, 2009
Iraq orders security shakeup after Baghdad blasts

Baghdad, 10 Dec — Iraq’s Western-backed government — facing intense pressure to address security lapses after suicide bombings killed 127 people in the capital — ordered a shake-up on Wednesday in the country’s military leadership.

The angry mood that led Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to replace Baghdad’s top military commander reveals a stark psychological shift among Iraqis who once accepted such violence as routine and are now demanding someone pay a political price.

Al-Maliki appealed for Iraqis to be patient as he signalled more changes might be ahead for security officials. The Prime Minister was expected to attend a special parliament session on Thursday, where lawmakers demanded his security ministers answer for lapses that allowed for the attacks.

“I call on the Iraqi people for more patience and steadfastness,” al-Maliki said in a televised address. —Internet

Air raid kills three militants in S Afghanistan

Kandahar, 10 Dec — Three militants were killed as an aircraft targeted them in Taleban former stronghold Kandahar in south Afghanistan, a statement released by the Kandahar governor office on Wednesday said.

“The three militants were busy in planting mines on a road in Dand District on Tuesday when the aircraft targeted them from the air killing them on the spot,” the statement added. There were no casualties on civilians, it said. The statement also added that four civilians were injured when their tractor ran over a mine in Shurabak road in Dand District on Tuesday when the aircraft targeted them in Taleban former stronghold, said security and intelligence sources.

Suspected US drone strike kills 10 in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, 10 Dec — Ten people were killed in a suspected US drone attack in the northwest Pakistan’s tribal region on Thursday morning, said said a statement released by the Kandahar governor office on Wednesday. —Xinhua

Egypt starts building steel wall on Gaza Strip border

Cairo, 10 Dec — Egypt has begun constructing a huge metal wall along its border with the Gaza Strip as it attempts to cut smuggling tunnels, the BBC has learned. When it is finished the wall will be 10-15km (6-7 miles) long and will extend 18 metres below the surface. The Egyptians are being helped by American army engineers, who the BBC understands have designed the wall.

The plan has been shrouded in secrecy, with no comment or confirmation from the Egyptian government. The wall will take 18 months to complete. For weeks local farmers have noticed more activity at the border where trees were being cut down, but very few of them were aware that a barrier was being built.

That is because the barrier, made of super-strength steel, has been hidden deep underground. The BBC has been told that it was manufactured in the US, that it fits together in similar fashion to a jig-saw, and that it has been tested to ensure it is bomb-proof. It cannot be cut or melted — in short it is impenetrable. —Internet

Googling Baidu: Guess what’s the most searched word?

Beijing, 10 Dec — The most searched for term among mainland Chinese users of Google is “Baidu” — Google’s largest rival in China, according to a report released recently by Google itself, the Beijing Times reported Wednesday.

Xie Wen, an Internet expert said the fact that Google released the report showed its generosity, and revealed both Baidu’s strong competitiveness and Google’s own flaws in China.

Google released the “Hottest Words by Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan 2009” on Wednesday. The report also lists search terms by subject. Among stocks, Yanke A share, China Unicom and Ping An were the most searched for.

French military satellite launch rescheduled

Paris, 10 Dec — The French Guiana-based Arianespace centre has finally decided to reschedule the launch time of a military satellite to early next week.

The lift-off of the Ariane 5 carrier rocket with French military observation satellite Helios 2B atop was originally scheduled at around 17:26 Paris Time (1626 GMT). However, several hours before the launch window, Arianespace, announced that a “pressure problem about the helmet container” was found. —Xinhua

Argentina, Venezuela sign 14 cooperation agreements

Buenos Aires, 10 Dec — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez and her visiting Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez signed on Wednesday 14 cooperation agreements.

The agreements involved the increase of commercial air transportation frequency, purchase of vehicles, industrial technical assistance, the promotion of integration of small- and medium-sized enterprises, as well as train and ship transportation agreements.

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There are thought to be hundreds of tunnels along the border. —Internet

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**Suzuki, Volkswagen ink alliance to create top auto group**

**Tokyo, 10 Dec** — Suzuki Motor Corp and Volkswagen AG signed a comprehensive alliance agreement on Wednesday which is expected to create one of the top automobile groups in the world. Under their agreement, Volkswagen will acquire a 19.9 percent stake in the Japanese carmaker.

Suzuki will sell its shares to Volkswagen for around 222.48 billion yen under a third-party allotment to be carried out from mid-January. The Japanese carmaker is also expected to buy shares in Volkswagen by spending up to half of the money received from the German automaker.

“We want to be the world’s No 1 automaker by 2018 and Suzuki’s cooperation will accelerate the achievement of our goal,” Volkswagen’s Chairman Martin Winterkorn said at a Press conference in Tokyo.

He said the auto industry is undergoing a key period of transition and he hoped the alliance can maximize their advantages.—Xinhua

**Mexico’s largest cement company makes commitment to tackling climate change**

**Mexico City, 10 Dec** — Mexico’s largest cement firm CEMEX, a leading cement producer in the world, pledged to cut carbon dioxide emissions per ton of product 25 percent of 1990 levels by 2015, a statement released on Wednesday said.

“We acknowledge the global challenges posed by climate change and are committed to applying our ideas, our skills, our technologies, and our determination to engage in developing a pathway to a low-carbon economy,” said Lorenzo Zambrano, CEMEX Chairman and CEO, quoted by the statement published on the company’s website.—Internet

**Giant oil spill in Alaska likely caused by ice**

**Anchorage, 10 Dec** — Officials believe that ice plugged up a pipeline and likely caused a rupture that sent 46,000 gallons of crude oil and water gushing onto snow-covered tundra on Alaska’s North Slope late last month.

The spill is one of the worst by volume since the March 2006 spill of 200,000 gallons of crude at Prudhoe Bay, the biggest spill ever on the North Slope, according to Department of Environmental Conservation figures.—Internet

**China’s auto stimulus retained for 2010**

**Beijing, 10 Dec** — China will extend stimulus measures in the automobile industry for one more year, with small adjustments, to further support the world’s biggest and fastest-growing auto market. The government announced the decision on Wednesday after an executive meeting of the State Council chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao.

The stimulus package, which was due to expire at the end of this month, includes a 50 percent cut in the 10 percent purchase tax for cars with an engine capacity of, or less than, 1.6 litres and subsidies for trade-in cars. It will now be extended to 31 Dec, 2010. However, the purchase tax for smaller cars will be lifted from the current 5 percent to 7.5 percent of the total vehicle price. Xinhu

**Malaysia bans 12 cosmetic creams for health danger**

**Kuala Lumpur, 10 Dec** — Malaysia’s National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCCB) has banned 12 cosmetic products as they contain toxic ingredients and are dangerous to health, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.


The bureau cancelled the registration of the products over the past 11 months because they contained the prohibited ingredients tretinoin (retinoic acid) and hydroquinone, the New Straits Times said.—Internet

**Brazilian government announces more incentives to boost economy**

**Rio de Janeiro, 10 Dec** — Brazil’s Finance Minister Guido Mantega announced on Wednesday a new package of fiscal incentives to boost the country’s economic activity, including an 80 billion reais (45.2 billion US dollars) credit line for the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES).

The money, which is to be released next year, will help BNDES increase its financing operations, especially in the areas of infrastructure and exports.

In 2009, the Brazilian government had already released 100 billion reais ($56.5 billion dollars) to the BNDES.

The government also decided to renew the lower interest rates in the BNDES financing operations for the purchase of machinery and equipment for industries until June 2010.

Additionally, Mantega announced the renewal of tax cuts for computers, a measure which will last until 2014 and cost the government 1.6 billion reais ($903 million dollars) alone in 2010.

He also announced extra tax cuts for computer and computer parts sold to public schools.

**Chinese farmers pack garlic at a wholesale market in Yichang, central China. The pungent bulb has outperformed stocks, property and even gold after low demand due to the financial crisis late last year led Chinese farmers— responsible for about three-quarters of world supply — to plant less, slashing supply.—Internet**

**In this on 7 Dec, 2009 picture provided by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, crews use steamer equipment to melt contaminated material for collection with a vacuum rig. —Internet**

**Chinese farmers pack garlic at a wholesale market in Yichang, central China. The pungent bulb has outperformed stocks, property and even gold after low demand due to the financial crisis late last year led Chinese farmers— responsible for about three-quarters of world supply — to plant less, slashing supply.—Internet**

**An assembly line worker is seen at a Proton auto assembly line in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian industrial output rose 0.7 percent year-on-year in October, in its first uptick since September 2008, official data has shown. Internet**

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The products are Felisa Gentle Peeling Solution, Krim Malam Rahsia Rimba, Biocosmet Whitening Essence Cream, H2O + Waterwhite Brightening Night Cream, Magixpress Lightening Plus, Avant Cream, Eriesya Spa Beauty Cream, Natasya Krim Herba, Temulawak Whitening Pearl Cream Papaya, Ratna Sari Whitening Night Cream, Atika Beauty Renewal Night Cream and Chantique Whitening Night Cream. The bureau cancelled the registration of the products over the past 11 months because they contained the prohibited ingredients tretinoin (retinoic acid) and hydroquinone, the New Straits Times said.—Internet

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Xinhua
Pregnant women targeted in new H1N1 plan

BEIJING, 10 Dec—China is preparing an inoculation plan for all pregnant women, who make up nearly 14 percent of the total number of reported deaths from the A/H1N1 flu on the Mainland. Nearly 8 percent of pregnant women have severe cases of H1N1, according to the Ministry of Health on Wednesday. Forty-six pregnant women have thus far died because of the flu. Other groups facing high risks of infection include the chronically ill, the obese, infants and seniors, the ministry said. No clear evidence has so far shown that the vaccine harms both the pregnant mother and her baby, according to international studies.

Health experts and officials with departments such as the Ministry of Health, the State Food and Drug Administration, and the Chinese Centre for Disease Prevention and Control are currently working closely to figure out an exact inoculation plan for pregnant women, said Zhao Kai, a vaccine expert and academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering, on Wednesday.

“Pregnant women are advised to consult obstetric doctors before deciding whether or not to get the jab,” he said. Of the total number of H1N1 deaths, approximately 47 percent suffered from chronic diseases and 18 percent were obese. Men accounted for 58 percent of the death toll.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

China issues initial ruling on US and Russia steel dumping cases

BEIJING, 10 Dec—China said on Thursday investigations showed the United States and Russia had dumped oriented electrical steel on the Chinese market, and the United States had subsidized the exports.

The dumping and subsidies have caused substantial damage to the domestic industry, and China will charge deposits on the imports from the two economies from Friday, according to an initial ruling issued by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

“The amount of the deposit paid at Customs would be decided by the dumping margins of different producers. The dumping margins ranged from 10.7 percent to 25 percent by the US companies, and 4.6 percent to 25 percent by the Russian companies.—Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 11 December, 2009

Singapore presents study on alternative energy

SINGAPORE, 10 Dec—Singapore presented a study to help identify the alternative energy potential of countries around the world, local media reported on Thursday. The findings of the study, believed to be the first of its kind, were presented to delegates at a side event at the Copenhagen climate meet, local English newspaper The Straits Times reported.

Energy Studies Institute research fellow Felicia Shaw told the delegates that huge variations of alternative energy potential were found across countries by the study, which focused on solar, wind and hydroelectric power, and geothermal resources.

However, physical constraints, such as land size also limit a country’s potential with Singapore being a case in point. Despite being located in the tropical sunbelt area, it is unable to harness solar energy on a large scale because of its size.—Xinhua

Singapore hospital launches study on HPV infections in women

SINGAPORE, 10 Dec—The Singapore General Hospital is calling for more women to come forward to take part in its first study on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infections in Singapore, local media reported on Wednesday.

HPV is a common virus linked to the development of cervical cancer, which is the sixth most common cancer among women here. The disease claims 200 lives every year in Singapore, according to local radio 938Live reports. The study aims to enroll 1,800 healthy Singaporean women between the ages of 15 and 55 over the next six months. It has attracted 550 participants since its launch in August.

Doctor at Anqing City Hospital in Anhui Province perform a last check on a patient who had been treated for the H1N1 virus before she was discharged from the hospital.—Xinhua

Early warning systems for droughts highlighted at UN-backed meeting

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Dec—With the frequency and severity of droughts likely to increase due to climate change, more than 60 scientists from all the world’s regions are meeting at a United Nations-backed conference in the United States this week to draw up guidelines for early warning systems that could save countless lives, UN officials said here on Wednesday.

“Early warning systems for drought allow individuals and communities to act in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of loss of life, personal injury, and damage to property and fragile environments,” said the director of the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch, Mannava K Sivakumar, stressing his agency’s key role.—Xinhua

Doctors at Anqing City Hospital in Anhui Province perform a last check on a patient who had been treated for the H1N1 virus before she was discharged from the hospital.—Xinhua

A white Bengal tiger named Betty plays with a Christmas tree inside a cage at Buenos Aires’ Zoo on 8 Dec, 2009. Xinhua
Winter storm hits much of US

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — A strong winter storm blasted much of the United States on Wednesday, leaving hundreds of flights delayed and many schools cancelled, authorities said. The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for several Midwestern states for Wednesday, saying places like North Dakota and Minnesota could get dangerous wind chill.

By Wednesday morning, Madison, Wis., had received 43 cm of snow, prompting the University of Wisconsin to cancel classes. Schools were closed across Iowa and parts of Minnesota, too. Passengers heading to cities in snowbound states were left waiting in airports.

Travellers at New Jersey's Newark International Airport and Teterboro Airport were experiencing delays of close to two hours while La Guardia Airport in New York was experiencing delays of more than two hours, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Snow and sleet fell on Chicago, Ill, cancelling more than 325 flights on Tuesday at O'Hare International Airport. New England also was expected to get dangerously low temperatures and heavy snow in some parts Wednesday. Heavy rain fell across the South, causing flash flooding in north-central Alabama and parts of Louisiana.

Woman found in motel with 45 cats and dogs

WARREN, 10 Dec — Police in a Detroit-area town say they found a woman living in a motel room with 45 cats and dogs.

Tim Herig, the animal control officer of Warren, Mich, told WDIV-TV. Detroit, police got a phone call about the woman. She told investigators on Tuesday she had been evicted from her home and had moved into the Motel 6 as a temporary residence.

"He was a friend, concerned for her welfare," Herig said of the tipster. "She knew she would be out of the motel soon so he offered to take her in but could not take all the animals. He didn't realize there were this many."

Animal control officers took 41 cats and four dogs to the Macomb County animal shelter. Herig said many of the cats were packed two to a carrier and all the animals were covered in urine and feces.

The woman is in a hospital where a psychological evaluation has been ordered. — Internet

First snowstorm hits Canada

OTTAWA, 10 Dec — The first snowstorm of this winter season is slamming eastern Canada, causing traffic chaos, flight delays and school closures in some regions. The storm began to hit parts of Ontario and Quebec provinces on Tuesday night and is expected to continue into Thursday, bringing as much as 30 cm of snow to some places.

Flights were delayed on Wednesday in the airports of Toronto and Montreal. Schools were closed in Ottawa where 15 centimeters of snow is expected.

Environment Canada reported that the western prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are undergoing an Arctic wind chill, with temperatures going down to as low as minus 38 degrees Celsius.

World’s smallest mom has third child

A Kentucky woman known as the world’s smallest mom says she has given birth to her third child, a healthy baby boy.

Stacey Herald, 35, said she defied her doctors’ orders for the third time in three years and gave birth 28 Nov to 2-pound, 10-ounce Malachi, The Sun reported on Tuesday.

Herald stands at only 2 feet, 4 inches tall due to Osteogenesis Imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease. She said doctors advised her that having children could kill her. However, she said she defied their orders to have children Kateri, 3, Makya, 18 months, and newborn Malachi.

Doctors said they induced labour at 32 weeks of pregnancy because they feared he was growing too large for the mother to carry, the British newspaper said. Herald said Malachi is healthy but remains under supervision at a hospital.

Hero pilot’s hat to benefit two schools

Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, the US Airways pilot whose forced landing in the Hudson River made him a hero, is selling a hat to benefit California schools.

The person who makes the winning bid on eBay will get the hat, autographed by Sullenberger, a plastic box to protect it and a handwritten note from the pilot and his wife, Lorrie, thanking the buyer for making a contribution to education, the Contracosta County Times reported. Proceeds from the sale are going to the San Ramon high school where Sullenberger’s daughters are students and to a sister school in East Oakland, across the Bay from San Francisco, Allie Herson of Barbary Coast Consulting said.

Herson said Sullenberg has owned the hat for a long time, although he was not wearing it, or any other, in January when he landed in the Hudson.

Sullenberger’s plane lost engine power after a bird strike during takeoff from LaGuardia Airport in New York. Without time to reach LaGuardia or another airport, he brought the plane down in the river, and all passengers and crew were able to evacuate before it sank.

He has since written “Highest Duty: My Search For What Really Matters.”

“Mini” stem cell transplant may reverse severe sickle cell disease

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — Results of a preliminary study by scientists at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Johns Hopkins University show that “mini” stem cell transplantation may safely reverse severe sickle cell disease in adults.

The phase I/II study to establish safety of the procedure, to be published on 10 Dec in the New England Journal of Medicine, describes 10 patients with severe sickle cell disease who received intravenous transplants of blood-forming stem cells.

The transplanted stem cells came from the peripheral blood of healthy related donors matched to the patients’ tissue types. Using this procedure, nine of 10 patients treated have normal red blood cells and reversal of organ damage caused by the disease. Jonathan Powell, associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Centre, says the intravenous transplant approach for sickle cell disease, caused by a single mutation in the hemoglobin gene, does not replace the defective gene, but transplants blood stem cells that carry the normal gene. Sickle cell disease, named for the “deflated” sickle-shaped appearance of red blood cells in those with the disease, hinders the cells’ ability to carry oxygen throughout the body. — Xinhua

Much ado about bamboo

Wang Guohong stands on an 8-m-long bamboo pole as it floats down the river.

He clutches another shorter pole, about 5-m-long, with both hands.

The 42-year-old lifts one foot and thrusts forward. For a moment, his body is parallel to the floating bamboo, and he looks like “a swallow slightly touching the water’s surface”, as the move is termed. Wang’s friends, who watch from an islet in the river, taunt him: “You’re too old. You can’t hold the position for three seconds.”

The middle-aged man may not have the agile body of a teenager. But he has the best balance of the bunch.

As coach of this unique sport called “single-bamboo-pole rafting”, he leads a ragtag team of fishermen, construction workers and teachers in preserving a tradition that’s almost 300 years old.
NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence received a delegation led by Lieutenant General Ai Husheng of Chengdu Military Region of the People’s Liberation Army of China, who arrived here at the invitation of Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, at Paunglaung Yeiktha, here, at 3 pm on 7 December.

Next, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing hosted a dinner to the delegation of Chengdu Military Region of PLA at Shwenandaw Hotel, here, at 7 pm.

On 5 December morning, the PLA delegation arrived in Yangon by air and visited place of interest downtown Yangon.

On 6 December, the Chinese delegation arrived in Kengtung by air and visited there. Next, they met Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo. In the evening, the commander hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests at Golden Triangle Yeiktha.

On 8 December, the Chinese delegation left Mandalay by car and visited Defence Services Technical Academy in PyinOolwin. They were welcomed by the Commandant and senior military officers of DSTA. Next, they left PyinOolwin for Lashio. While in Lashio, the Chinese military delegation called on Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut. In the evening, the commander hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests.

Yesterday, the Chinese delegation visited Lashio and went to Yangon by air. In the evening, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun hosted a dinner to the Chinese delegation. This afternoon, they left Yangon by air.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing meets Chairman of National Tourism Management Board and Minister at Laotian Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, who accompanied Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, received Chairman of National Tourism Management Board and Minister at Laotian Prime Minister’s Office Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kouily A. Souphakhet at the hall of Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane at 5 pm yesterday. At the meeting, they discussed matters on boosting bilateral cooperation in the tourism industry.—MNA

Myanmar FM receives Thai counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Kasit Piromya of Thailand and party, who arrived in Myanmar to attend 12th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting, at the Ministry here at 3:15 pm today. They discussed matters on boosting bilateral relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein, directors-general of respective departments under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from Thai embassy in Myanmar.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing holds discussion with Chairman of National Tourism Management Board and Minister at Laotian Prime Minister’s Office Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kouily A. Souphakhet.—MNA
Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Laotian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh at the latter’s office in Vientiane of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic at 2 pm yesterday. At the call, together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Nyunt Hlaing, and officials.

The Laotian Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Assistant Foreign Minister Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kouly A.Souphakhet and senior officials.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh.
MNA

Prime Minister arrives at Vientiane to attend opening of XXV SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental officials, left Kengtung Airport by special flight at 10 am yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the XXV SEA Games. They arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic at 11.50 am Laotian local time.

The Prime Minister was welcomed on board by Myanmar Ambassador to LPDR U Nyunt Hlaing and Deputy Director-General Mr Viroj Sundara of Asia-Pacific and Africa Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of LPDR.

Next, the Prime Minister was greeted by Minister at Laotian Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay, and Minister for Sports of Myanmar Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

A Laotian damsel presented a bouquet to the Prime Minister. The Laotian Deputy Director-General presented Laotian governmental high-ranking officials to the Myanmar Prime Minister.

Myanmar Ambassador U Nyunt Hlaing, Military Attaché Col Win Hlaing, and staff members of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office welcomed the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and entourage arrived at the Sports Village in a motorcade, and cordially greeted and spoke words of encouragement to Myanmar athletes to the XXV SEA Games.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrived at Lao Plaza Hotel where he would stay.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by Minister at Laotian Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.
MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Myanmar athletes.—MNA
Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets LPDR President

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein paid a courtesy call on Mr Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic at his office in Vientiane yesterday afternoon.

Present at the call together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao People’s Democratic Republic U Nyunt Hlaing and departmental officials and together with Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Minister at Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhovilay, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hiem Phommachanh, Laotian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Kouily A Souphakhet and high ranking officials.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets staff of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché’s Office in Vientiane

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met with staff and family members of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office at Plaza (1) Room in Lao Plaza Hotel at 3.15 pm yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. The Prime Minister briefed family members to Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office led by Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Nyunt Hlaing and wife, Military Attaché (Army, Navy, Air) Col Win Hlaing and wife on Myanmar-Laos friendship, prospects for boosting bilateral cooperation, and development of the motherland.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented gifts to families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office and spoke words of encouragement.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets staff of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office in Vientiane.—MNA
Prime Minister General
Thein Sein back from Laos

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein and party left Lao Plaza Hotel of Vientiane where they put up in a motorcade and then arrived at Wattay International Airport at 9:45 am today.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party were seen off at the airport by Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister for Sports of the Union of Myanmar Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Nyunt Hlaing, Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Col Win Hlaing, staff family members of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office.

Next, the Prime Minister and party left Wattay International Airport by flight and arrived back here in the afternoon.

The opening ceremony of XXV SEA Games in progress.

(News on Page 16)—MNA

Myanmar win one silver, one bronze in SEA Games

YANGON, 10 Dec—The XXV Southeast Asian Games continued in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Myanmar weightlifter Pyae Phyo won silver, Indonesia stood first and Malaysia third in men’s 56-kilo weight-lifting event.

At the men’s 74-kilo Taekwando event, Zarni Htun shared third place with Thai player, and Vietnam stood first and the Philippines second.

Minister U Nyan Win receives Deputy PM and Foreign Affairs Minister Ms Sujata Koirala of Nepal.

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Federal Democratic Republic Ms Sujata Koirala and members at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this afternoon. The meeting focused on matters relating to boosting relations and cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

Fire Station in Dagon Myothit (South) Township inspected

YANGON, 10 Dec—Director-General U Myint Hlaung of the Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement inspected fire engines, measures for efficient use of electric power, keeping Fire Station clean, enforcement of rules and regulations at the Fire Station in Dagon Myothit (South) Township today.

He called for stepping up fire preventive measures, building capacity, and trying to become reliable firefighters.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by LPDR Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh.

(News on Page 16) MNA

Renewable Energy, Efficiency Business Forum to be held

YANGON, 10 Dec—With a view to ensuring wider use of renewable energy in Myanmar, Renewable Energy, Efficiency Business Forum, organized by Kaung Kyaw Zay Company that wins Southeast Asia energy awards yearly through its papers, will be held for the first time at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here from 9 am to 5 pm on 14 December (Monday).

The forum covers paper reading sessions and display of booths. Those wishing to attend the forum may dial Tel: 571284 and Tel: 095183517.—MNA

Silver medal winner Pyae Phyo.

Bronze medal winner Zarni Htun.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by LPDR Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh.

(News on Page 16) MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by LPDR Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh.

(News on Page 16) MNA
Life-time Achievement National Literary Award (2008)

Writer Dr Kyaw Sein (Dr Kyaw Sein)

List of books and writers of national literary awards for 2008

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<td>General Knowledge (Applied Science) Award</td>
<td>Advanced Agricultural Farming</td>
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<td>Serpay Beikman</td>
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US allies to send 6,800 more troops to Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 10 Dec—A NATO spokesman said on Wednesday that 36 ISAF members had pledged some 6,800 more troops to Afghanistan at a force generation conference, which is seen as a move to bolster US President Barack Obama’s new Afghan strategy.

James Appathurai told a press briefing that the force generation conference, held in Mons of Belgium on Monday, was “a strong demonstration of commitments and solidarity by our allies and partners” and the non-US members of the ISAF pledged about 6,800 forces, excluding any forces deployed temporarily for the Afghan elections in August.—Xinhua

Antarctic nations consider new controls on ships

WELLINGTON, 10 Dec—Countries that manage Antarctica are considering new controls on ships visiting the frozen continent to reduce the growing threat of human and environmental disasters posed by expelling numbers of tourists, an official said on Wednesday.

A proposal for a code to ensure ships plying the world’s southernmost seas could withstand hitting an iceberg and other measures are being discussed at a meeting this week in New Zealand of more than 50 experts from signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, the international accord to oversee the region.

Antarctica’s pristine environment, unpredictable and extreme weather, mostly uncharted waters and vast distances from habitation pose major dangers for vessels and major problems for rescuers in any emergency.—Internet

Death toll caused by storms in Sao Paulo rises to eight

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Dec—The Sao Paulo authorities announced on Wednesday that they have found two more dead bodies after a storm hit the city on Tuesday, making the death toll rise to eight. The other six people, including four children from the same family, were killed by mudslides that occurred during the storm.

Sao Paulo Emergency Managing Center informed that Tuesday was the most rainy day in the city in the past 10 years. The storms have caused the most important rivers in the city, Tiete and Pinheiros, to overflow, blocking the main expressways and leading to over 100 kilometers of traffic jams.—Xinhua

Taliban warns ROK against sending troops to Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Dec—The Afghan Taliban said here on Wednesday that if the Republic of Korea (ROK) sends troops to Afghanistan, it will certainly face “consequences.” Taliban spokesman Taleb Mujahid said in a statement that the Taliban learned from media reports that the ROK has showed readiness to send 500 soldiers to Afghanistan and deploy them in the northern Parwan Province. The ROK decision is seen as an act against the independence of Afghanistan and the Afghan people, said the spokesman, adding that the ROK violates the commitment made in 2007 in exchange for the release of 19 ROK hostages.—Xinhua

UN crisis relief fund raises record $424m USD in pledges

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Dec—The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) raised a record $424 million USD at its annual pledging session on Wednesday as top officials warned of rising needs in 2010 for one of the world’s leading tools in disaster response, whether for sudden-onset crisis such as earthquakes or ongoing but neglected emergencies.

“That’s more than we’ve raised at any similar pledging meeting before, so that’s extremely encouraging particularly when you consider we’re doing that against the background of a major economic and financial crisis which has affected the budgets of many donor countries in a very significant way,” UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes told reporters here.—Xinhua
Claims Day Notice
MV An Tao Jhang VoY NO (470)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV An Tao Jhang VoY NO (470) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 11.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claim Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS Cosco Port Authority
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Claims Day Notice
MV Admirale Coral VoY NO (25)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV Admirale Coral VoY NO (25) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 11.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claim Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: Eastern-Car Liner Singapore Pte Ltd
Phone No: 256924/256914

Experiment to test killing one owl to help another

Grants Pass, 10 Dec—Federal biologists are designing an experiment to see if killing the aggressive barred owl that has invaded old growth forests of the Northwest would help the spotted owl, which is protected.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced on Wednesday it is doing a formal study to determine whether to do the experiment, and laying out the terms if they go ahead. The study will be available for public comment and is expected to be completed by fall 2010. This is to be done experimentally so we can nail down whether, in fact, removing barred owls could improve spotted owl demographics, and also to look into the feasibility of doing that,” said Fish and Wildlife biologist Robin Bown, who is overseeing the evaluation.

The spotted owl went from a seldom-seen denizen of old growth forests to the cover of Time magazine in the 1990s as environmentalists forced the federal government to cut back logging on Northwest national forests to protect its habitat. Despite the cutbacks, spotted owls continue to decline, most steeply where there are high populations of more aggressive barred owls that are native to eastern North America.

Though killing one species to protect another is not uncommon — on the West Coast, for instance, ravens are poisoned to protect threatened snowy plovers — a small-scale experiment with killing barred owls in northern California in 2005 created an uproar. — Internet

Moderate earthquake hits Indonesia
Hong Kong, 10 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale hit northern Sumatra, Indonesia, at 5:35 am (2135 GMT) on Thursday, according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicentre was initially determined to be at 2.7 degrees north Latitude and 96.0 east Longitude, about 320 kilometres west-southwest of Medan, Indonesia. — Xinhua

Moderate quake hits Indonesia’s Maluku
Jakarta, 10 Dec—A moderate earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale hit eastern Indonesia’s Maluku at 10.13 Jakarta Time (0313 GMT), the Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said here on Thursday.

The epicentre was at 233 kilometers of northwestern Saumlaki-Maluku and 429 kilometres of Timor Leste. The agency did not issue a tsunami warning. — Xinhua

Weather causes delays at Chicago airports
Chicago, 10 Dec—Snowy weather continues to cause delays and cancellations at Chicago Airports. Chicago’s Department of Aviation says delays at O’Hare International Airport were running more than 60 minutes late as of 8:30 pm on Tuesday, and more than 300 flights have been cancelled.

At Midway Airport, some flights are delayed more than an hour. And there have been more than 25 cancellations.

Heavier snow only began to fall in Chicago on Tuesday evening. So airport delays and cancellations could worsen throughout the night. The National Weather Service says the winter storm should roll out of Illinois on Wednesday. — Internet

Couple hides 90,000 yuan in dustbin, loses all of it
Beijing, 10 Dec—A man in Jinan, Shandong Province, threw away a rubbish bag that contained 90,000 yuan ($13,200) in cash recently.

Zhang Si and his wife Zhang Ying run a successful timber business in the city.

Late last month, Zhang Si brought home 90,000 yuan in cash after making a sale. Fearing the amount may get robbed, Zhang Ying put the cash in the dustbin.

The next day, before leaving for work, Zhang Si collected the rubbish bag and chucked it into a roadside bin.

The couple realized their blunder an hour later and rushed to the garbage dump, but failed to find the cash. — Xinhua

Brazilian bank releases first installment of Amazon Fund
Brasilia, 10 Dec—Five Amazon environmental projects on Wednesday were to get their first installment of the Amazon Fund for Development as the Brazilian Development Bank released 40 million US dollars.

The Fund, created in 2008, has already received 110 million dollars from Norway, which has promised to deliver up to 1 billion dollars by 2016, and has got a pledged input of 26 million dollars from Germany. The funded projects, picked by the Forum for Sustainable Amazonas, focus on reduction of deforestation and land regularization and reclamation.

Project managers will sign contracts with the development bank and the Fund money will be provided in installments in accordance with a scheme of plan and proof of expenses. The implementation of the five projects, to kick off next month, are expected to complete in three years on average. — Xinhua

Nissan workers check auto parts manufactured at the company’s Global Production Engineering Centre in Zama City, Japan.

Japan’s core machinery orders, a leading indicator of corporate capital spending, fell 4.5 percent in October from the previous month, official data showed on Thursday. — Internet
Scientists create instant nanobatteries

Stanford, 10 Dec — US scientists say they have combined ordinary paper dipped into ink infused with carbon nanotubes and silver nanowires to create an instant battery.

Stanford University post-doctoral students led by Assistant Professor Yi Cui said the paper batteries are ultra-lightweight and bendable.

"Society really needs a low-cost, high-performance energy storage device, such as batteries and simple supercapacitors," Cui said.

Capacitors are similar to batteries, holding an electric charge, but for a shorter period of time. However, capacitors can store and discharge electricity much more rapidly than a battery.

“These nanomaterials are special,” Cui said. “They’re a one-dimensional structure with very small diameters.” He said the small diameter helps the nanomaterial ink stick strongly to the fibrous paper, making the battery and supercapacitor very durable.

Cui said the paper supercapacitor may last through 40,000 charge-discharge cycles — at least an order of magnitude more than lithium batteries. The nanomaterials also make ideal conductors because they move electricity along much more efficiently than ordinary conductors, Cui said.

Researchers identify possible ovarian cancer treatment target

Washington, 10 Dec — A multi-institutional study has identified a potential personalized treatment target for the most common form of ovarian cancer. In the 8 Dec. issue of Cancer Cell, the research team describes finding that a gene called MAGP2 — not previously associated with any type of cancer — was overexpressed in papillary serous ovarian tumors of patients who died more quickly. They also found evidence suggesting possible mechanisms by which MAGP2 may promote tumor growth.

“Ovarian cancer is typically diagnosed at an advanced stage when it is incurable, and the same treatments have been used for virtually all patients,” says Michael Birrer, director of medical gynecologic oncology in the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Cancer Center, the study’s corresponding author.

“Previous research from my lab indicated that different types and grades of ovarian tumors should be treated differently, and this paper now shows that even papillary serous tumors have differences that impact patient prognosis.”

The fifth most common malignancy among U.S. women, ovarian cancer is expected to cause close to 15,000 deaths during 2009. Accounting for 60 percent of ovarian cancers, papillary serous tumors are typically diagnosed after spreading beyond the ovaries. The tumor typically returns after initial treatment with surgery and chemotherapy, but while some patients die a few months after diagnosis, others may survive five years or longer while receiving treatment.

Death toll of A/H1N1 flu reaches 35 in Egypt

Cairo, 10 Dec — Egypt reported on Wednesday two more death cases of A/H1N1 flu, bringing the country’s death toll to 35, said the Health Ministry in a statement.

A 14-year-old boy died of A/H1N1 virus in Beheira, 130 km north of Cairo, said the statement, adding that the boy suffered from dyspnea, fever and coma.

Another 21-year-old woman died of A/H1N1 virus in Qena, 450 km south of Cairo. She suffered from pneumonia and heart problems, according to the statement.

Egypt has so far reported more than 3,855 cases of the novel flu in the most populous Arab country. Egypt confirmed its first influenza A/H1N1 death case on 19 July. A 28-year-old Egyptian woman, who was back from Saudi Arabia after making Umrah (pilgrimage to Mecca at any time of the year), Egypt reported its first A/H1N1 flu case on 2 June, a 12-year-old Egyptian-American girl coming from the United States via the Netherlands.

Tamiiflu has limits curing A/H1N1 flu

Beijing, 10 Dec — Tamiiflu, the drug known widely in the world as the main medicine to cure the A/H1N1 flu, has limits in preventing people from getting the flu, said a study in the British Medical Journal as quoted by news reports on Thursday.

The new study found although Tamiiflu cuts the symptoms’ duration by about a day, however, there is no clear proof that it can prevent the unfavorable evolution of the diseases.

Researchers also questioned the validity of the previous studies from Roche, the pharmaceutical giant which produces Tamiiflu, by claiming that they were unable to unconditionally provide the information needed to prove how well Tamiiflu worked in preventing flu symptoms.

There are no signs that the H1N1 flu has run its course. The country has confirmed 1,436 cases of H1N1 flu, of which 64 are still hospitalized, according to the statement.
Dallas stadium likely out for Pacquiao-Mayweather

Promoters of the Manny Pacquiao-Mayweather Jr fight abruptly cancelled a trip to Dallas on Wednesday, dealing a possibly fatal blow to the chances of Jerry Jones landing the bout for Cowboys Stadium.

The trip was cancelled at the last minute because Mayweather’s promoter apparently decided he didn’t want the fight at the new stadium. The move leaves the MGM Grand hotel arena in Las Vegas as the favourite to host the 13 March fight. Co-promoter Bob Arum — who flies the news at his 78th birthday party on Tuesday night — was upset by the trip being cancelled because Jones had rearranged his schedule so he could give the promoters a tour of the $1.2 billion stadium and present a proposal to host the bout.

“I’m just embarrassed,” Arum told The Associated Press. “The man (Jones) changed his whole schedule for this and you certainly want to listen to the man.”

Arum said he was blindsided by Mayweather’s new promoter, Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer, who was to join him in Dallas along with HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg. He said Schaefer called him and told him he wasn’t going to go to Dallas because he didn’t want the fight there. — Internet

Chelsea’s Essien sidelined for up to a month

LONDON, 10 Dec — Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien will be out of action for up to four weeks after scans revealed a torn hamstring, the Premier League club said on their website on Wednesday.

Essien, 27, was injured in the first half of Tuesday’s 2-2 Champions League draw with Cypriot side APOEL. Nicotia a few minutes after scoring Chelsea’s first goal.

The Ghana international missed most of last season after rupturing knee ligaments but has been a key figure for the Blues this term — who got the news at his 78th birthday party on Saturday the elections of the club, just by six votes advantage over businessman Roderlo D’Onofrio.

“The club needs me, but I can’t be alone. I want the 17 million of fans we have in Argentina to help me. For River to be a family again,” Passarella said during the office taking ceremony in River Plate’s facilities in Buenos Aires.

Passarella, 56, thanked the partners who voted for the change and he added that he will try to fulfill everything he promised during his campaign. “We have a great responsibility and we do not want to let you down,” Passarella said. Passarella won his club elections with 5,298 votes against the 5,292 votes for D’Onofrio. — Xinhua

Gerrard targets quick return to Champions League

LIVERPOOL, 10 Dec — Steven Gerrard has urged his Liverpool team-mates to put their disastrous Champions League campaign behind them and concentrate on finishing fourth in the Premier League table. Rafa Benitez’s side bowed out of Europe’s top knockout competition on a low note on Wednesday as they lost 2-1 at home to Dynamo Kiev’s Arthur Petruna, hitting a stoppage time winner for the Ukrainians.

It left the five-time European champions conducting an inquest into their third defeat in Group E. Liverpool finished third in the four-team group, six points behind second-placed Lyon and eight adrift of group winners Fiorentina. While Fiorentina can look forward to the last 16 phase, Liverpool drop down to the Europa League.

Gerrard said it was important the team concentrated on climbing the Premier League table, in which Liverpool are seventh, 12 points adrift of leaders Chelsea, ahead of Sunday’s game with Arsenal at Anfield.

Spanish coach Vivente del Bosque.

Lyon stroll—but denied top spot

LYON, 10 Dec — Lyon turned on the style but were denied top spot in Champions League Group E on Wednesday with a 4-0 win over Hungary’s Debrecen at the Stade Gerland not enough after Fiorentina won 2-1 at Liverpool.

Wednesday’s win left the French, dethroned by Borussia last season after seven straight domestic titles, with 13 points from their group matches - but Fiorentina came from behind to win at Lyon.

Argentina club River Plate select new president

BUENOS AIRES, 10 Dec — Argentine former soccer player Daniel Passarella was named new president on Wednesday of the Argentina club River Plate, where he also played and worked as coach. Passarella won on Saturday the elections of the club, just by six votes advantage over businessman Roderlo D’Onofrio.

“The club needs me, but I can’t be alone. I want the 17 million of fans we have in Argentina to help me. For River to be a family again,” Passarella said during the office taking ceremony in River Plate’s facilities in Buenos Aires.

Passarella, 56, thanked the partners who voted for the change and he added that he will try to fulfill everything he promised during his campaign. “We have a great responsibility and we do not want to let you down,” Passarella said. Passarella won his club elections with 5,298 votes against the 5,292 votes for D’Onofrio. — Xinhua

France coach delivers World Cup warning

MADRID, 10 Dec — For- tune may have smiled on Spain in last week’s World Cup draw but coach Vicente del Bosque warned on Wednesday that “it will not be easy” for the European Champions to get beyond the first round. Spain, one of the favourites heading into the 2010 finals in South Africa between 11 June and 11 July, were drawn against Chile, Honduras and Switzerland in Group H.

“It’s not a group to complain about, neither is it one to be euphoric about. Switzerland and Chile are numbers 17 and 18 in the FIFA ratings and are not very far from the best,” the coach told reporters when asked about the draw. “Honduras, according to my sources, are also very strong. It will not be easy,” he added.

Spain climbed back to the top of the FIFA world rankings last month dis- placing Brazil who had led since July following exhibition wins over fel- low World Cup qualifiers Argentina and Austria. They booked their place in South Africa with two matches to spare and went onto win all 10 qualifiers. Spain have never won a World Cup before. They were favourites in 2006, but were eliminated by France in the second round. — Internet

Inter through after dominating debutants Rubin

MILAN, 10 Dec — International Milan eased into the Champions League knock-out rounds with a dominant 2-0 victory over Rubin Kazan in Group F at the San Siro on Wednesday to possibly save coach Jose Mourinho’s job. Rumours before the game suggested the Portuguese would be out at the end of the season if Inter failed to progress but in the end there was little to worry about as goals from Samuel Eto'o and Mario Balotelli ensured a comfortable night. — Internet

Barca, Inter go through to Champions League last 16

PARIS, 10 Dec — Hold- ers Barcelona and Inter Milan secured their places in the Champions League knock-out stages at the last throw of the dice on Wednesday.

Joining this pair on the final batch of group games were Stuttgart and Olympiakos to complete the 16-team cast-list for the second round starting in February. Barca had the luxury of travelling to Dynamo Kiev knowing that even a defeat would not necessarily spell a pre- mature end to their pursuit of a fourth European crown. — Internet

Young Gunners slip in Greece

PIRÆUS, 10 Dec — Ar- senal’s young guns failed to fire Wednesday as they slipped to a solitary goal defeat at Olympiakos in their final Champions League Group H pool en- counter to take the Greeks through.

Having already wrapped up the group in taking 13 points from their opening five mat- ches, Gunners’ coach Arsene Wenger sent out a clutch of 10 teenagers as well as fit-again Theo Walcott, a comparative veteran at 20.

The ‘Gunners babes’ included 18-year-old debutant Thomas Cruise, Jack Wilshere, Kyle Bartley, Jay Emmanuel-Thomas and Francis Coquelin as Wenger

Spanish coach Vicente del Bosque.

Olympiakos’ Enzo Maresca (L) fights for the ball with Arsenal’s Fran Merida during their UEFA Champions League football game at the Karaiskaki stadium in Athens. Arsenal and Olympiakos qualified to the next round. — Internet
Franck Ribery admits he’d have better chance of Champions League glory at Chelsea

LONDON, 10 Dec—Chelsea target Franck Ribery believes his Bayern Munich side are less equipped than the Blues when it comes to winning the Champions League.

The winger admits he is being kept in the dark about Chelsea’s interest, but Sportsmail understands that Stamford Bridge owner Roman Abramovich will sanction a £45million bid to sign him.

The 26-year-old, who has just 18 months left on his current contract, was the subject of interest from Manchester United, Real Madrid and Barcelona also among those making enquiries.

And Ribery admits that it is his suitors rather than Bayern who will walk away with the Champions League title next summer.

Bayern qualified for the knockout stage of the competition with an impressive 4-1 win at Juventus on Tuesday, but Ribery said: ‘It’s hard to say whether Bayern are strong enough.’

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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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends opening ceremony of XXV SEA Games in LPDR

Prime Minister General Thein Sein views Myanmar sports contingent marching into national stadium at the opening ceremony of XXV SEA Games.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Nyunt Hlaing, and officials, arrived at national stadium in Vientiane at 5:40 pm. Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bounphavanh, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Cambodian Prime Minister, Vietnamese Prime Minister,Thai nations, special guests and fans attended the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony of XXV SEA Games started at 6 pm LST and successfully ended at 8 pm LST. Prime Minister General Thein Sein viewed Myanmar sports contingent marching into national stadium from VIP stand. Sein attended the dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bounphavanh at Km (6) hall in Vientiane. MNA

Prime Minister, ministers from Southeast Asian the national stadium from
Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar attended the opening ceremony of XXV SEA Games held at national stadium in Vientiane of Lao People’s Democratic Republic yesterday evening.