Innate ability of the people can be put on record someway by completing the longest bridge with best quality in a short time

Senior General Than Shwe inspects Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Project

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects alignment for Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 General Thuya Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers and officials, left PyinOoLwin by helicopter and arrived at Pakokku in Magway Division at 10 am yesterday.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe, Commanding Officer of local division Col Myat Tun Oo and officials.

On the way to Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Project, the Senior General in a motorcade inspected thriving crop plantations along the route in the irrigated area of Kokkohla River Pumping Station Project.

He also inspected the alignment for Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) that will link Pakokku and Letpanchepaw Village on the eastern bank of the Ayeyawady River through Bomma Ward near Kokkohla Village in Pakokku Township.

On the way to Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Project, the Senior General in a motorcade inspected thriving crop plantations along the route in the irrigated area of Kokkohla River Pumping Station Project.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint submitted a report, saying that pre-engineering (See page 8)

On completion, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will link Letpanchepaw Village in NyaungU Township on the eastern bank, and Pakokku on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River, and the main bridge will be 11,431 feet (2.16 miles) long.

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 political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four 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
Pay serious attention to construction work for regional development

Nowadays, motor roads and railroads are being built in northernmost regions characterized by poor transport. As a result, those regions will soon make progress. And it is sure that the socio-economic status of national races such as Kachin, Shan, Bamar, etc residing in those regions will improve.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on 12 December inspected the construction site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) Project near Sinkhan Village of Bhamo Township, Kachin State and gave guidance. In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that it was of great importance for personnel concerned to pay serious attention to construction work they were responsible for and to carry out assigned duties with Union Spirit and goodwill, holding the firm spirit that the gaps between the national brethren must be narrowed as much as possible, regions across the country must see swift, equitable growth and national solidarity must be further strengthened.

The two-lane motor-cum-railroad bridge is on upper reaches of the second defile of Ayeyawady River near Sinkhan Village of Bhamo Township. It is of RC steel type and can withstand 75 tons of load. On completion, commodities from various regions can speedily flow to Bhamo by car or train through the bridge. The bridge will also contribute to the bilateral trade between Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China through the border trade.

Now, the 98 mile-long Katha-Bhamo railroad is under construction. There are 66 miles from Katha to Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan), and 32 miles from the bridge to Bhamo. Completed railway stations along the railroad section are Katha, Pawmamyine, Minle and Moetagyi stations.

Out of over 200 bridges to be constructed on Katha-Bhamo railroad section, 64 have now been constructed.

The government has built a large number of motor roads and railroads in regions where the national brethren reside. With secure and better transport, the whole Union will see equitable development. And only then, will the socio-economic status of local people improve all the more.

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Keen Cie Health Care Service launched

YANGON, 14 Dec—The launch of Keen Cie Health Care Service and educative talks on health were held at Chatrium Hotel here yesterday morning. It was attended by physicians, journalists and guests.

Project Manager Professor Dr Tin Swe Latt of Diabetes Control Project of World Health Organization gave talk on preventing non-infectious diseases by living a healthy life. Managing Director Dr Kyaw Min of Keen Cie Health Care Service explained the purpose of launching the services and arrangements made for providing services and replied to the queries raised by the attendees.

Keen Cie Health Care Service will provide family-type health care programme, KC clinic, door-to-door nursing services, services for those who want to receive treatment, medical tourism advisor and dietary advisor services with reasonable prices.

The service centre is opened at No. (57/B), Dhammayon Road, Myaynigon (North), Sanyong Township.

KC will supply services for preventing and curing diseases, and consultancy services to those who contact the service centre.

For further information, dial (ph:01-502761), (fax:951-502761), visit www.keecie.com and mail to contact@keecie.com.

Managing Director Dr Kyaw Min of Keen Cie Health Care Service explains the purpose of launching health care services and arrangements made for providing services.—MNA
Gunmen storm Afghan police post, kill eight

KUNDUZ, 14 Dec—Gunmen stormed an Afghan police post set up to protect NATO convoys in the north of the country overnight, killing eight policemen, a senior local official said on Monday.

The group of gunmen ambushed the post at 2:00 am on the main highway running northeast from the Afghan capital Kabul through Baghlan Province, which lies on a route supplying NATO troops fighting a Taleban-led insurgency.

The attack underscores the vulnerability of Afghan police, whose training along with that of the local military is a cornerstone of a new US strategy to turn around the war and start withdrawing American troops in July 2011.

“Eight police were killed in an attack on their post. Their post was in Baghlan Markazi district,” Mohammad Akbar Barakzai, Baghlan provincial governor, told AFP.

He blamed Hezb-e-Islami, an militant group particularly strong in northeastern regions of Afghanistan, such as Baghlan and neighbouring Kunduz Province, where violence has steadily increased over the last two years.

Iraqis inspect a destroyed police car after a car bomb attack in Fallujah, about 40 miles (65 kilometres) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 13 Dec, 2009. A car packed with explosives blew up near a passing police patrol. Internet

Taleban blow up school in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 14 Dec—Taleban militants blew up a girls’ school in Pakistan’s Khyber District on Monday, officials said, as two soldiers and seven civilians were killed in clashes in the northwest tribal belt.

The pre-dawn school attack took place in Saddokhel town in north-west Khyber tribal district, where militiamen detonated explosives planted around the building, destroying all five school rooms but causing no injuries.

“They are Taleban. They are the same people who do not want children to get an education,” senior administration official Rahim Gul Khattak told AFP.

Pakistani troops launched an offensive in Khyber District in September to try and flush out both the Taleban and home-grown militant group Lashkar-e-Islam (Army of Islam), led by feared warlord Mangal Bagh.

The fabled Khyber tribal region is the main land bridge to neighbouring Afghanistan and is also close to the northwest provincial capital Peshawar, which has been hit by a series of suicide bombings in recent months.

Troops detain several militants in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 Dec—Afghan and NATO-led troops arrested several militants in Khost Province east of Afghanistan on Monday, a Press release of the NATO-led ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) said.

These militants, according to the Press release, were arrested in Parukhil village of Sabari district this morning during a joint operation of Afghan and international forces.

However, it did not mention the exact number of those arrested but added among those arrested there is a weapon facilitator loyal to Taleban top commander Mawlavi Jalaluddin Haqani.

“The Haqani facilitator confirmed his identity and surrendered,” the Press release stressed.

It also contended that there were no casualties on the troops during the operation. Taleban militants have yet to make comment.—Xinhua

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1,400 killed in east Congo over nine months

JOHANNESBURG, 14 Dec—A human rights group says more than 1,400 civilians have been killed in eastern Congo during army operations to oust militiamen from the region since March.

A man drives a Toyota Motor Corp’s ‘Prius Plug-in Hybrid’ during a test drive event at a Toyota facility in Tokyo, Japan, on 14 Dec, 2009. Toyota showed its new plug-in hybrid, packed with a more powerful battery called lithium-ion that’s different from the batteries used in Prius hybrids on roads today, available for leasing this month in Japan, the US and Europe, and promised the green vehicle for sale to regular consumers by 2011 at an ‘affordable’ price.—INTERNET

Two UNAMID staff freed in Darfur after kidnap ordeal

KHARTOUM, 14 Dec—Two civilian employees of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan’s Darfur region of western Sudan for nearly two years.—INTERNET

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A UNAMID spokesman said.

“A short while ago, Sudanese security handed the two UNAMID staff to the deputy chief of the UNAMID, Mohammed Yunus. They are both in good health,” Nuredine Mezni told AFP.

“They had spent 107 days in captivity,” said the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur.

The two, a Nigerian man and a Zimbabwean woman, were kidnapped at gunpoint in Darfur on 29 August, in the first abduction targeting the joint force operating in the Darfur region of western Sudan for nearly two years.—INTERNET
Hu attends inauguration of China-Central Asia gas pipeline

Turkmenabad, 14 Dec—Chinese President Hu Jintao, together with leaders of Turkmenistan, attended an inauguration ceremony for the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline on Monday in a gas plant near the Turkmen-Uzbek border.

At the ceremony on the right bank of the Amu Darya River, Hu, together with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, spoke highly of the pipeline project, describing it as a successful example of cooperation among countries in the region.

Iran eyes $85 billion investment to up gas exports

Teheran, 14 Dec—Iran, which has the world’s second largest natural gas reserves after Russia, seeks to invest $85 billion dollars within a decade to bolster gas exports, Kayhan International newspaper reported on Sunday.

Reza Kasaizadeh, managing director of the National Iranian Gas Exports Company, told the paper that the oil ministry plans to attract the money from both foreign and private sector investors.

“For the expansion of gas exports... around $85 billion dollars will be invested within the next decade,” Kasaizadeh was quoted as saying.

Japan’s business confidence grows

Tokyo, 14 Dec—Japan’s business confidence has improved for a third straight quarter but firms plan to slash investment to cope with the fallout of the worst recession in decades, the central bank said on Monday.

Sentiment among major manufacturers rose to a better-than-expected reading of minus 24 in December — the best level in a year — from minus 33 in September, according to the bank’s Tankan survey of more than 10,000 firms.

The index, which measures the percentage of firms that think business conditions are good minus those that believe they are bad, hit a record low of minus 58 in March.

Sentiment among big non-manufacturers improved to minus 22 in December from minus 24 in September.

“Companies don’t expect any double dip recession into next year,” said Susumu Kato, chief economist at Calyon Credit Agricole CIB.

Large manufacturing companies appear to be coping relatively well, despite the recent strength of the yen, he noted.

But while the mood is slightly less gloomy, companies are stepping up their planned cutbacks in spending on plants and equipment, which is likely to hobble an economy struggling to return to sustainable growth.

Oil falls below $69 as OPEC signals no output cut

Singapore, 14 Dec—Oil prices fell below $69 a barrel on Monday in Asia amid signs OPEC won’t cut crude output when it meets next week.

Benchmark crude for January delivery was down 55 cents to $69.32 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange after falling as low as $68.59. On Friday, the contract gave up 67 cents to settle at $69.87.

Kuwait’s oil minister Sheikh Ahmed al-Abdallah al-Sabah told state news agency KUNA on Sunday that the 12-member Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries probably won’t change its production levels at its next meeting in Angola on 22 Dec.

Oil prices have slid from $82 in October on investor concern crude demand in the US isn’t rebounding despite an overall economic recovery.

Recent strength in the dollar is also helping to push crude prices down.

Investors often buy crude as a hedge against inflation if the dollar weakens, and sell when the dollar is stronger.

Indonesian power firm gets 506 mln USD loan to finance transmission projects

Jakarta, 14 Dec—Indonesian government-run power firm, PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), received syndicated loan worth 4.8 trillion rupiah (about 506 million US dollars) provided by four large-scale banks in the country, a bank statement said on Monday.

The funds, that provided by four major banks in term of assets comprised of Bank Mandiri, BNI, BRI and BCA, would be used to finance the power transmission of power plants part of the PLN’s fast track power plant projects with a total capacity of 10,000 MW.

According to the statement released by Bank Mandiri, the largest state-run bank in the country contributed 1.13 trillion rupiah in the syndicated loan (about 119.8 million US dollars).

Meanwhile the other state bank BNI contributed 1.35 trillion rupiah and BRI contributed 1.31 trillion rupiah. The only private bank joined the loan syndication, BCA, contributed some 800 billion rupiah.

The 1.93 trillion rupiah (about 204.6 million US dollars) of the loan would be used to finance power transmission projects outside Java.

The remaining funds of 327.19 billion rupiah (about 34.6 million US dollars) were allocated to finance power transmission in PLN’s sub-stations.

File photo shows a Woodside Petroleum gas production platform off the coast of Australia. The energy firm has said it would raise 2.5 billion dollars (2.3 billion US) by selling new shares to private sector investors.

This undated photo shows a sealer loads up a sled with harp seal pelts on an ice floe in the Gulf of St Lawrence near Iles-de-la-Madeleine, PQ. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans set this year’s total allowable catch to 280,000 seals.

The giant new Tokyo Tower seen under construction in the Japanese capital on 9 December. Business confidence in the country has improved for a third straight quarter but firms plan to slash investment to cope with the fallout of the worst recession in decades, the central bank said on Monday.
China, Ghana explore new opportunities for faster development, says ambassador

Accra, 14 Dec—The Chinese ambassador to Ghana said on Sunday that both countries are exploring opportunities for faster development as the world undergoes unprecedented changes and adjustment.

At a ceremony marking the 10th Anniversary of the Ghana-China Friendship Association (GHACIFA) in the Ghanaian capital Accra, Yu Wenzhe said both countries are making efforts to boost their common interests through strengthened coordination, enhanced economic cooperation and more frequent cultural exchanges. The GHACIFA seeks to foster friendly relations between the governments of both countries and nongovernmental cooperation between the peoples of the two countries and to promote people-to-people exchanges, cultural exchanges and educational exchange programmes among others.

Yu reiterated China’s eight-point development agenda for Ghana and Africa, which was announced at the just-ended Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Egypt. The development agenda is also called the “Sharm El Sheikh Declaration.” Together with the three-year “Action Plan for Sharm El Sheikh (2010-2012),” it defines new measures for pushing forward China-Africa cooperation. The Chinese official said the agenda highlights China’s endeavor to increase aid to Africa, reduce debt owed by African countries, maximize investment in Africa, open more markets to Africa and promote scientific cooperation with Africa.

Cuba’s Castro hails encouraging advances in Bolivarian alliance

Havana, 14 Dec—Cuban leader Raul Castro said on Sunday that the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA) had brought many achievements to the member countries.

During the inauguration of the 8th ALBA Summit in Cuba’s capital Havana, Castro saluted the victory of the Bolivian people for reelecting President Evo Morales for another presidential term.

“There have been five years of hard work, of common search, where we have achieved encouraging results at the social order, and which we have to mention and celebrate, “ said the Cuban leader.

Meanwhile, he noted that the illiteracy eradication in Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua is of great significance and a step of the fight against the social problem. Additionally, Castro also praised the achievements of the Miracle Operation, through which at least 1 million people in many countries of the region recovered the eyesight.—Xinhua

Indonesian plane skids off runway

Jakarta, 14 Dec—A Boeing 737-400 plane operated by Indonesian budget airline, Lion Air, skidded off the runway when it landed in Pekanbaru airport, Sumatra, on Sunday, local media reported.

The report said that the plane’s gear passed off the runway and ended up at the tip of the airport’s runway at around 15:00 local time. It made passengers panic and disrupted flights in and out the Pekanbaru airport for hours.

Many planes delayed their flight schedules. It took one hour to evacuate 165 passengers from the plane, the report said.

“We ban the pilot, M. Novan, from continuing his flight duty on Sunday and order Lion Air to undertake internal audit on the plane, aborted all of the plane’s flights schedule until we have received the report on the audit result,” Transportation Ministry Spokesperson Bam-bang Ervan was quoted by the Detik.com as saying. —Xinhua

Palestinian women working with the Recycle and Rescue of House Wastes Project transform waste material into art pieces in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, on 13 Dec, 2009.—Xinhua

Gaza militants fire rockets at Israel

Gaza, 14 Dec—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) fired several rockets into Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

The PFLP, the largest faction in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) after Fatah, said in a statement that its militants fired “tens of rockets” at Israel. But Israeli army radio reported that two missiles landed at western Negev on Sunday, causing no damage or casualties.—Xinhua

Indonesia, Malaysia establish brotherhood alliance

Jakarta, 14 Dec—Indonesian and Malaysian senior officials at ministerial level witnessed the signing of a brotherhood alliance which aims at preserving peace between the two neighbouring countries, the Bintis Indonesia reported here on Monday.

The alliance, called Persaudaraan Serumpun Indonesia Malaysia (PSIM), was initiated by Indonesian and Malaysian alumni forum of ESQ Leadership Centre.

Ary Ginanjar Agustian, Chairman of ESQ International alumni communication forum, said the establishment of PSIM is aimed at cultivating the spiritual relationship between peoples of the two neighbouring countries.

“Spiritual relationship is eternal and invulnerable. It could not sway if a problem occurs in the relationship of the two countries. The alliance establishment is genuinely initiated by both the peoples in Malaysia and Indonesia,” Ary said on the sidelines of the pact signing here.

Indonesian Manpower Minister Muhamin Iskandar said the establishment of the PSIM alliance marks a new history in the milestone of Indonesia-Malaysia relationship. —Xinhua

A huge flower statue for New Year celebration is seen in Shanghai municipality in east China, on 13 Dec, 2009. —Xinhua

China to launch “Yaogan VIII” remote-sensing satellite

Taiyuan, 14 Dec—China will launch a remote-sensing satellite, “Yaogan VIII” in the coming days from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi Province, the centre said on Sunday. The satellite would be sent into the space aboard a Long March 4C carrier rocket, the centre said.

Also on board is China’s first public-welfare mini satellite, “Hope I,” which will be used for the country’s young people to experience aerospace science and technology.—Xinhua

Some 200 local volunteers take part in a rubbish collection campaign along the Beijiang River in Qingyuan, south China’s Guangdong Province, on 13 Dec, 2009. —Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

XINHUA
Ten killed, 24 injured in bus accident in W Nepal

KATHMANDU, 14 Dec—At least 10 people have been killed and other 24 injured in a passenger bus accident in Kaski District in western Nepal on Monday.

According to the local police, among the injured five have sustained critical injuries.

The bus heading for Pokhara from Kaskikot, some 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu, skidded down some 50 metres down the road at around 10:30 (0445 GMT) on Monday morning.

Seven passengers died on the spot and three died on the way to hospitals, police informed.

The police have found that the bus might have met with an accident at the graveled road due to the over-loaded passengers.

Gas explosion at mall kills one, injures seven in Malacca

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Dec—A gas explosion at the food court of the Aron Jusco Mall in Bachang, Malacca State, claimed one life, leaving seven others injured.

The Star, a local daily, reported here on Monday that the incident took place at 1 pm on Monday, killing Tan Kwan Hai, a 25-year-old local.

According to the daily, the incident took place when workers and tenants were rushing to make final preparations for the shopping mall’s grand opening on 17 Dec.

The blast was said to have taken place at the mall’s food court and tore a two-metre hole in the wall, shattering glass and debris over a 25-metre radius.

While three injured workers were in critical condition, the rest suffered only blast wounds, all being treated at the Malacca Hospital.

Three German tourists killed in Egypt car crash

CAIRO, 14 Dec—Three German tourists were killed and four others injured in a car crash near the Egyptian Red Sea Port of Safaga, 53 kilometres south of Hurghada, Egypt’s MENA news agency reported on Sunday.

The car collided with a freight train on the way to Marsa Alam on the West coast of the Red Sea, said the report.

The German fatalities included two women, while the injured are three Germans and an Egyptian driver.

The bodies of the victims have been taken to Safaga central hospital while the wounded were rushed to Hurghada general hospital, the report added.

The accident is under investigation, the report said.—MENA/Xinhua

Kitten apparently rides 120 miles in wheel well

An Oregon man says a 3-month-old kitten apparently hitched a cold, 120-mile ride in the wheel well of his SUV.

Marc Lichty left Olympia, Wash., after finishing a day of work on Wednesday. He heard meowing when he stopped at a rest stop along the way home but couldn’t see a cat.

When he reached his home in Tualatin, Ore., he heard the meowing again and grabbed a flashlight. Sure enough, he says, “the cat was up underneath in the spare tire spot.”

Daughter Jenna helped coax the passenger out with a bit of salmon.

Lichty says he can’t imagine making that trip at 70 mph in this week’s subfreezing temperatures.

The family called Olympia businesses in the area where he was working on Wednesday but didn’t find the kitten’s owner. The animal had no collar or microchip; the Lichtys say they’ll keep the kitten.

Hundreds of Indian languages struggle to survive

Classrooms at the Advadvi Academy in western India echo to the speech patterns of languages that may soon become no more than a meaningless jumble of noises.

Kukna, Panchmahali and Rathivi are just three of dozens of tribal Indian tongues taught at the academy, which was set up in 1996 in an attempt to preserve the country’s indigenous cultures.

India’s 1.16-billion people speak more than 6,500 languages and dialects, according to the 2001 census.

But almost 200 of them are seriously endangered, says the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO, as Hindi and English strengthen their grip in an increasing polyglot nature.

“If younger generations don’t learn these languages, they will be forgotten,” said academy teacher Jentendra Vasava, 29. “Without education in the next 30 years the current speakers will get old.”

New Zealand glider pilots break world distance record

Two New Zealanders have smashed a world distance gliding record, beating temperatures as low as minus 35 deg C to fly 2,500 km over nearly 15 hours. Christchurch pilot Terry Delore and John Kokshoorn, originally from Christchurch but now living in Australia, touched down in Omarama in 120 miles in wheel well

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Kukna, Panchmahali and Rathivi are just three of dozens of tribal Indian tongues taught at the academy, which was set up in 1996 in an attempt to preserve the country’s indigenous cultures.

India’s 1.16-billion people speak more than 6,500 languages and dialects, according to the 2001 census.

But almost 200 of them are seriously endangered, says the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO, as Hindi and English strengthen their grip in an increasingly mobile and interconnected world.

“If younger generations don’t learn these languages, they will be forgotten,” said academy teacher Jentendra Vasava, 29. “Without education in the next 30 years the current speakers will get old.”

New Zealand glider pilots break world distance record

Two New Zealanders have smashed a world distance gliding record, beating temperatures as low as minus 35 deg C to fly 2,500 km over nearly 15 hours. Christchurch pilot Terry Delore and John Kokshoorn, originally from Christchurch but now living in Australia, touched down in Omarama in
Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Myogyi dam project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected Myogyi Dam project on 9 December visited Myogyi Dam being built on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village, Ywangan Township, Shan State (South), by Construction Group-7 of Irrigation Department.

At the briefing hall of the dam, director of Construction Group-7 reported to the minister on completed tasks such as concrete wall, spillway and diversion weir, and laying tasks such as construction of spillway, and hydropower tunnel. Director-General U Tin Maung Ohn gave supplementary report. The minister said that the government had been building irrigation facilities by spending a large sum of money with the aim of supplying adequate irrigation water to boost agricultural production. Staff members are to make efforts for completion of the dam ahead of schedule, give priority over minimizing wastage and spoilager, increasing water supply and water supply system.

Next, the minister viewed construction site of the dam from the top. He then inspected construction of lower part of the main dam, condition of the flow of Zawgyi River and earthwork.

The Myogyi multipurpose dam is located on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village, Ywangan Township of Shan State (South).

The embankment of the dam is of earth type and is 2461 feet long and 258 feet high with 359,500 acres of catchment area. The dam can supply irrigation water to 700,000 acres in Zawgyi irrigation system of Kyaukse District and 445,605 acres for greening Meiktila Plain by controlling water from ongoing Kengkham Dam project and completed Zawgyi Dam.—MNA

Rail Transportation Minister inspects construction of Katha-Moetagyi railroad section

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Minister for Rail Transportation My-Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, visited Naba railway station and Katha railway station on 10 December. The minister inspected the cleanliness of Naba railway station yard and Katha railway station yard.

The minister also inspected the progress in construction of new Katha railway station of Katha-Bhamo railroad construction project and site chosen for construction of entrance road to the station.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Katha-Bhamo railroad construction project, the minister heard reports on progress in construction of Katha-Moetagyi railroad section presented by the project director. Deputy Minister U Pe Than made the supplementary report. The minister called for completing work on schedule and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister viewed the construction of 60-ft Gonnin Bridge and Maehin Bridge near Maehin Village and Minlai Bridge near Minlai village.

Later, the minister inspected the site chosen for construction of railroad between Minlai and Moetagyi villages, construction of Maehin railway station, site chosen for construction of Mansi railway station and Bhamo railway station and left necessary instructions.

Deputy Energy Minister inspects main gas station (Ywama)

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspected main gas station (Ywama) construction site, part of offshore gas pipeline project, being undertaken by Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise yesterday. Afterwards, the deputy minister inspected zooming of 24-inch pipeline to be connected to main gas station from Hline River.

The deputy minister inspected preparation of HDD drilling machine to be used in digging river floor at Hline river bank near Shweimban industrial zone in Hlaingthaya township and called officials for timely completion of the project.

Fisheries Department presents prizes to students and recount experiences

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries this morning presented prizes to outstanding students and recounted experiences on a foreign trip for study of fishing industry development at the department in Sinmin Street, Ailton Township, with a speech by Director-General U Khin Ko Lay of Fisheries Department. Next, the director-general, the deputy director-general and directors presented awards to the outstanding students who passed 2008-2009 academic year matriculation examination with flying colours.

On the occasion, the leader of the study group Director-General U Khin Ko Lay made an address, and members of the group U Tun Win Myint and Dr. Aung Naing Oo recounted experiences study tour.

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced that according to the observations at 5:30 pm today, the cyclonic storm “Ward” over the Southwest of the bay of Bengal has moved westwards and at 5.30 pm today, the cyclonic storm “Ward” over the South of the bay of Bengal has moved westwards and has crossed the Sri Lankan coast near Trincomalee.—MNA

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

The second best time is now.
Innate ability of the people

Tasks were carried out such as seeking preliminary alignments of the bridge, measuring the speed of the river’s current, and stockpiling of construction materials, machinery and vehicles for construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).

After a thorough feasibility study, No.5 alignment was chosen among the alignments; and according to the alignment, the bridge will be the longest of its kind in Myanmar, he said explaining facts about the transport facility and the speeds of the current of the river.

On completion, the bridge will link Letpanchepaw Village in NyaungU Township on the eastern bank, and Pakokku on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River, and the main bridge will be 11,431 feet (2.16 miles) long. And the bridge will have a 28-foot-wide motorway and 14-foot-wide railroad in parallel and two three feet and three inches wide pedestrian walkways with a 52 feet high clearance area.

The minister also reported on the bridge’s potential to have a link with Asian highways, ASEAN highways and the highways in Mekong River Basin to be built in Myanmar in cooperation with neighbouring countries, and regional organizations.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min in his report explained that as soon as the project is completed, the railroad section passing through Pakokku, Myingyi, Letpanchepaw, Thit-htaunt, NyaungU will be serviceable; and groundwork is now in progress.

With the use of the charts of the alignments, the minister continued to report that in addition, arrangements are being made to complete Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) railroad section that on completion wide railroad network will be formed with some of its sections circling the respective regions.

In response to the report, the Senior General called for parallel working of building the bridge and the railroad, saying that the bridge will be the longest of its kind in the nation, so it must meet the standards, stressed, calling for thoroughly and effectively implementing the project in order that it can be referred as the exemplary project in the nation.

He inspected the map showing the preliminary alignments, and the map showing the chosen alignment for the bridge, hearing the reports presented by ministers. From the view desk of the briefing hall, the Senior General inspected the project site, and cordially greeted local residents.

The Senior General and entourage in a motorcade inspected infrastructural buildings of Pakokku, the capital on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River such as development, regional greening, universities, schools, departmental buildings and government buildings internal roads.

The Head of State and party left Pakokku by helicopter.
UN Under Secretary General arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 14 Dec—A delegation led by Under Secretary General of the United Nations and UN Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Dr Noeleen Heyzer and party arrived here by air yesterday evening to attend the 2nd seminar on development cooperation, jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and UNESCAP.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by departmental heads and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, UN Resident Coordinator Mr Bishow B. Parajuli and responsible persons.

UN Under Secretary General and UN Executive Secretary of UNESCAP Dr Noeleen Heyzer seen at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein shaking hands with UN Under Secretary General and UN Executive Secretary of UNESCAP Dr Noeleen Heyzer.

(News on Page-16)

MNA

Dy Transport Minister meets Vietnamese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung received Vice-President Mr Duong Tri Thanh and party of Vietnam Airlines of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the ministry here this afternoon.

The two sides discussed matters relating to aviation between Myanmar and Vietnam. Also present at the call were Director-General U Tin Naing Tun of Department for Civil Aviation, Head of Office U Win Khant and personnel.—MNA

Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung receives Vice-President Mr Duong Tri Thanh of Vietnam Airlines.

MNA

Dy Foreign Affairs Minister attends 2nd Bali Democracy Forum

YANGON, 14 Dec—Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint attended 2nd Bali Democracy Forum in Bali, Republic of Indonesia, on 10 and 11 December.

The opening session of the forum was held at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Bali at 10 am on 10 December. It was attended by Heads of State and Government including the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister of Japan, the Prime Minister of Brunei, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials from 36 countries of Asia region and representatives from 13 countries outside Asia.

The leaders of delegations gave speeches on prompting synergy between democracy and development: prospects of regional cooperation.

Next, the leaders of delegations posed for documentary photo together with the President of the Republic of Indonesia. The Indonesian President hosted a luncheon at Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Dy Transport Minister U Maung Myint attending 2nd Bali Democracy Forum.—MNA

The deputy minister briefed that there is interlink between democracy and development; democracy can be established only in the environment of prevalence of peace and stability; in order to build a democracy, the prevalence of peace and stability, economic development and human resources development are needed; the implementation of the Seven-step road map.

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Marty Natalegawa hosted a dinner at Grand Hyatt Hotel in the evening the same day.

On 11 December, the deputy minister participated in the interactive sessions on democracy and the rule of law, and democracy and development in the information age. The deputy minister presented that the prevalence of law is fundamental for the development of democracy: democracy can only be established in environment of the prevalence of peace and stability; there are numerous examples of chaos and suffering arising from hasty transition to democracy.

The forum was successfully completed at 5 pm.

The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister U Maung Myint left Bali for Bangkok on 12 December. The members of delegation arrived back here on 13 December.

In the evening of 12 December, the deputy minister proceeded from Bangkok to Tokyo to attend Myanmar Investment Seminar, organized by ASEAN-Japan Centre to be held in Tokyo.—MNA
Commander attends opening of chairman’s cup inter-Township Men’s (open) Football Tournament

NAI PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The opening ceremony of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Cup inter-Township Men’s (open) Football Tournament was held at sports ground in Kengtung, Shan State on 10 December.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo, senior military officers, commandants of regiments and units, state-level departmental heads, students, football teams and local people. The commander made an opening speech and formally opened the tournament.

Afterwards, the commander enjoyed the first day’s matches. MNA

Land Cover Workshop cum Training Programme opens

NAI PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Jointly conducted by Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry and ICIMOD, the opening ceremony of Land Cover Workshop cum Training Programme was held at convocation hall of Forest Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin today. On behalf of Minister for Forestry, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tun of Planning and Statistics Department made an opening speech on the occasion. Officials and guests from departments under the Ministry of Forestry and ICIMOD and 21 trainees attended the workshop.

MENA

Xinhua vice president says to enhance cooperation with Kenyan media groups

NAIROBI, 14 Dec—Xinhua, China’s state news agency, will continue to strengthen cooperation with the media groups in Kenya to enhance mutual understanding between the Chinese and Kenyan peoples, a top official of Xinhua News Agency said here on Monday.

Speaking at a meeting with Kenyan Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka in Nairobi, Lu Wei, the vice president of Xinhua, said the state news agency of China has established good relationship with local media, including its counterpart in the East African country, Kenya News Agency (KNA).

He hoped that the two agencies could bring their cooperation to a new level with continuing efforts from both sides, saying Xinhua would like to provide help and assistance within its capacity to KNA.

Lu also briefed the Kenyan vice president on the operation of Xinhua in the Sub-Saharan African region. “We not only introduce Africa to China, but also introduce China to Africa,” he said.

Musyoka commended Xinhua for its cooperation with KNA, hoping that the relationship can be strengthened in the future.

He also expressed hope that with the help of Xinhua, more Chinese tourist and investors will come to Kenya, the country blessed with abundant tourist resources and positioned in the East African market.

Earlier on Monday, Lu, who heads a six-member delegation from Xinhua on the African tour, also visited Kenya News Agency and had a meeting with Ezekiel Mutua, the director of the Information and Public Communications.

Xinhua

Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Examination enters 62nd time

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs held the 62nd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Examination at Vijaya Mangala Dhamma Thabin Hall.

Chairman of Tipitaka Selection Ovadacariya Sayadaws, prompter Sayadaws and candidate Sayadaws were ushered from Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall into Vijaya Mangala Dhamma Thabin Hall.

Chairman of Tipitaka Selection Ovadacariya Satthoubbhavamsivin invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Members of the Sangha recited parittas. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint supported on religious affairs.

Well-wishers donated cash for alms food and examination. Nyauandong Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and merits were shared. After the ceremony, well-wishers offered alms to the monks.—MNA

Myanmar win more silver in SEA Games

YANGON, 14 Dec—In XXV SEA Games, Naing Naing Win secured silver in 5000 metres women’s event and so did Yin Yin Khaing, Aye Aye Than, Kay Khai Lwin and Lè Lè Win in 400 metres relay event.—MNA

Xinhua Division MIA holds AGM

YANGON, 12 Dec—The 16th annual general meeting of the Yangon Division Merchants and Industrialists Association was held at the meeting hall of the association this morning.

Secretary of the association U Myo Than made a speech on the occasion. Next, the report of central executive committee for 2008 and budget were read out and approval was sought.

MNA

Medal Standing in XXV SEA Games

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US jobless rate ‘could rise further’

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—President Barack Obama’s top economic aide Christina Romer said on Sunday the US jobless rate could rise further and that the improving US economy is not yet out of recession.

Asked if the 10 percent unemployment rate could go higher, Romer, who heads up the White House Council of Economic Advisers, told NBC’s “Today” show: “It could well.”

“These things certainly do bounce around. I would anticipate some bumps in the road as we go ahead,” she told the network’s “Meet the Press” programme, noting that jobs were a key element of the economic recovery.

“The President has always said, and what I firmly believe, is you’re not recovered until all of those people that want to work are back to work,” said Romer.

“For the people on Main Street and throughout this country, they are still suffering, the unemployment rate is still 10 percent.

“I’m not going to say the recession is over until the unemployment rate is down to normal levels... where we were before the recession — certainly in the five percent” range, Romer said.

Her comments came with the US Congress poised late this week to take up a new jobs bill to confront the soaring US unemployment rate.

Obama and his Democratic allies, facing deep US public worry over unemployment running at a quarter-century high, have redoubled their efforts to tackle the problem ahead of the November 2010 midterm elections.

Abu Dhabi gives Dubai $10 billion to cover debt

DUBAI, 14 Dec—Dubai’s government says it has received 10 billion in emergency funds from oil-rich neighbour Abu Dhabi that will go toward paying debts owed by its struggling Dubai World conglomerate.

Some 4.1 billion of the money will be used to pay off a pile of debt from Dubai World’s Nakheel property division that comes due Monday.

Dubai’s ability to repay those funds had been seen as a key test of the debt-laden emirate’s creditworthiness.

The UAE central bank, based in the federation’s capital Abu Dhabi, also says it is prepared to provide support to local banks.

ArcelorMittal could cut 10,000 jobs

PARIS, 14 Dec—ArcelorMittal (ISP.AS), the world’s biggest steelmaker, could cut 10,000 jobs worldwide next year to boost productivity and reduce general expenses by around 500 million, French newspaper Les Echos said on Monday.

The company, which currently employs 285,300 people, wants to regain lost market share and has a goal for general expenses to account for less than 3.5 percent of revenue, the paper said, citing trade union representatives who attended a European workers committee meeting on 9-10 Dec.

Moderate earthquake jolts Xinjiang

BEIJING, 14 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale hit Hami city in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region at 00:03 am on Monday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicenter was at 41.9 degrees north latitude and 94.5 degrees east longitude.

Moderate quake jolts Indonesia’s E Nusatenggara Province

JAKARTA, 14 Dec—A 5.5-magnitude earthquake rocked East Nusatenggara Province, Indonesia’s neighbouring territory to Timor Leste on Monday at 12:05 local time (05:05 GMT), Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMG) agency said here on Monday.

The quake that lasted 15 seconds was centered 19 km Southeast of East Nusatenggara Province’s capital city of Kupang, 278 km Southwest of Timor Leste’s capital city of Dili.

According to BMG, the quake that occurred at 10 km below the sea surface did not have tsunami potential.

Indonesia sits on quake-vulnerable zone called the “Pacific Ring of Fire.”

Arctic climate model could miss key warming

BERLIN, 14 Dec—German rail operator Deutsche Bahn plans to cut 14,000 jobs over the next five years, the Tagesspiegel newspaper has said in a report.

Deutsche Bahn said in a report to be published on Monday. Deutsche Bahn currently employs 240,000 people. It has 182,000 in Germany.

The newspaper, quoting an unnamed member of the group’s supervisory board, said the economic crisis made the job cuts necessary.

The same source told the daily there would be no forced redundancies before the end of next year.

A Deutsche Bahn spokesman declined to comment when contacted by the Tagesspiegel.

A construction site is seen here in Dubai in November. Gulf leaders meeting on 14 Dec will give the green light to a number of multi-billion-dollar economic projects, but it remains unclear whether they will also step in to ease the woes of debt-ridden Dubai.

Nemo, the world’s first canal boat powered by hydrogen fuel cell, arrives in Amsterdam recently.

A high-speed Inter-City Express train of the Deutsche Bahn makes its way on Berlin’s so-called ring way in October.

Deutsche Bahn set to cut 14,000 jobs

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“Cigarettes kill,” but don’t tell smokers

BEIJING, 14 Dec—Study shows that warnings related to self-esteem were more effective than those indicating “cigarettes kill” in reducing smoking, according to media reports quoting the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology on Monday.

Psychologists from the US, Switzerland and Germany conducted a small study and drew the conclusion that warnings such as “smoking makes you unattractive” or “smoking brings you and the people around you severe damage” did a better job in talking people out of their habit.

This worked especially well when people smoked to boost their self-esteem, such as young people who learned to smoke to become popular or fit in with their peers, the psychologists figured out.

“To succeed with anti-smoking messages on cigarettes packs one has to take into account that considering their death may make people smoke,” the study said.

A total of 39 psychology students, smokers aged between 17 and 41, participated in the study.

Iraqi rescue workers search the rubble at the scene of a bomb blast near the Finance Ministry in Baghdad on 8 Dec.—INTERNET

Indonesia’s economic growth brings small contribution to tax income

JAKARTA, 14 Dec—Indonesia’s Minister for People’s Housing Suharso Monoarfa said on Monday that the economic growth could not generate significant change in tax ratio to contribute more for the country’s income.

“In the last 20 years, we only have been seeing tax ratio of 12 percent to 13 percent. In 2009, we only achieve tax ratio of a little bit more than 12 percent. We must work extra hard to achieve 20 percent in the next five years. In 2010, at least we could achieve 14 percent,” said the minister, adding that compared to Malaysia and Singapore, Indonesian tax ratio is relatively lower.

According to the minister at a real estate panel discussion here, economic growth should generate economic activities which in turn provide benefit for the country of increasing income to fund infrastructure construction.

“It’s meaningless that we could achieve extra ordinary growth if it brings no significant contribution in tax,” said Suharso.

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Tenn mom of three delivers fourth in back of van

LEBANON, 14 Dec—A 42-year-old Tennessee mother of three children delivered her own baby in the family’s minivan on the way to the hospital, the baby’s parents said.

Nathan Phillip Adkisson was born after his mother, Kelli Adkisson, pushed only twice in the back of the family’s minivan on the way to the hospital, the baby’s parents said.

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“thought, cool, I get to deliver my own kid. I get out, fling open the door and she is sitting there holding him and yells at me for letting the cold air in,” said Bill Adkisson, 45.—INTERNET

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Nanomaterial used in cancer tests, medicine delivery

A technique developed at Yale University in the United States allows scientists to “detect tiny amounts of cancer biomarkers in a small volume of whole blood in just 20 minutes,” the journal *Nature Nanotechnology* reported. Yale added in a statement that the findings could “dramatically simplify the way physicians test for biomarkers of cancer and other diseases.”

Researchers developed a device that acts as a filter and catches cancer biomarkers, in this case for prostate and breast cancers, on a chip while washing away the rest of the blood. This allows for detection of extremely small concentrations on the order of picograms (a trillionth of a gram) per millilitre of blood, Yale said.

“This is the equivalent of being able to detect the concentration of a single grain of salt dissolved in a large swimming pool,” it said.

Current cancer tests take several days but the new device is able to read out biomarker concentrations in a just a few minutes.— Internet

Beer drinking may slow prostate cancer, but no remedy

BEIJING, 14 Dec — A compound in beer may slow down growth of cells that cause enlarged prostates, according to a study conducted by Emily Ho and colleagues from Linus Pauling Institute of Oregon State University.

The researchers found xanthohumol in a cell culture blocks the signaling of NF-KappaB protein slowing the growth of benign prostatic hyperplasia and malignant prostate cancer cells. However, the amount of xanthohumol used in cell cultures to have an effect is equivalent to the amount present in 17 beers, and drinking too much alcoholic beverage has been associated with a number of cancers. Moreover, the alcohol or whatever else other than xanthohumol in beer may offset the protective effect from the beer ingredient.

Meanwhile, a study conducted by researchers at Curtin University in Australia reviewed 45 studies on drinking and risk of prostate cancer and found heavy drinkers (drinking 14 or more alcoholic drinks per week) were at 20 percent increased risk.— Internet

Influenza A/H1N1 vaccine to be introduced in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 14 Dec— The A/H1N1 flu vaccine is coming to Nepal soon, *The Rising Nepal* reported on Monday.

The country will receive the vaccine latest by the second week of January, 2010 said Dr Shyam Sundar Mishra, director of the Avian Influenza Control Project at the Department of Health Services.

The World Health Organization had already requested to the Ministry of Health and Population to identify the priority groups of the country, said the newspaper.

Front line medical health workers and lab technicians have been included in the top priority list. Similarly, people having low immunity power, pregnant women and children under five years of age are also taken as a priority group.

According to the report, Nepal is already selected as priority country for the vaccination. Over 90 least developed countries in the world are receiving the vaccine free of cost, said the daily.

Death toll from A/H1N1 influenza rise to 47 in Vietnam

HANOI, 14 Dec— Vietnam confirmed that a 57-year-old man in the capital city of Hanoi died of the A/H1N1 influenza, bringing the country’s flu death toll to 47, said a report on the Ministry of Health’s website on Monday. The man had a history of malaria, said the ministry. He started showing flu-like symptoms with high fever and headache on 22 Nov. He was treated with tablets for common flu but his health conditions did not improve. The patient was taken to the Hanoi-based Vietnam-France Hospital on 29 Nov with fever, headache, coughing and difficulty in breathing, said the ministry. He died on 31 Nov due to respiratory failure. His sample was tested positive to the A/H1N1 influenza. So far, Vietnam has reported 11,040 cases of A/H1N1 flu, according to the ministry.

Brazilian soccer player infected with influenza A/H1N1

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Dec— Toulouse midfielder Luan has been confirmed to have contracted A/H1N1 virus on Sunday. The Brazilian player was unable to help his team in their last defeat to Montpellier in the French first division soccer league and is not expected to return any time soon.

“Luan is at home receiving adequate care,” said the team’s headcoach Alain Casanova. As of Sunday, another case from the team was reported.
**S P O R T S**

**Brazil beats Mexico 3-2 to lead four-nation women’s soccer tournament**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Dec**—Brazil beat Mexico 3-2 on Sunday in the four-nation women’s soccer tournament in Sao Paulo to lead the standings on six points. Elsewhere, China lost to Chile 1-0 but shared the second place with Chile on three points while Mexico remained at bottom after suffering two straight defeats.

Chile, scoring the sole goal by striker Daniela Mancilla, will play Mexico in the third and last group match on 16 Dec. Brazil started strongly by scoring their first goal in the 3rd minute of play when Marta found the back of the net and only two minutes later, the team doubled the lead when Cristiane sent a ball through two defenders for Erika who tapped it into the lower right corner.

**Dortmund upset Wolfsburg 3-1 at German Bundesliga**

**BERLIN, 14 Dec**—Lucas Barrios scored two early goals as Borussia Dortmund eased past defending champions Wolfsburg at the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Dortmund went three goals up in the first half before winning 3-1 at Wolfsburg to extend its undefeated run to nine games.

Jürgen Klopp’s team jumped to sixth place in the standings with 27 points from 16 matches with its sixth victory in the nine-game stretch.

Barrios was twice set up by Mohamed Zidan in the 3rd minute of play when Marta found the back of the net and only two minutes later, the team doubled the lead when Cristiane sent a ball through two defenders for Erika who tapped it into the lower right corner.

**MADRID, 14 Dec**—Real Madrid have confirmed Sunday the extent of the knee injury suffered by central defender Pepe, who will be out of action for a minimum of six months.

The 26-year-old damaged his right knee after falling badly in the first half of his side’s 3-2 win in Valencia and had to be carried off the pitch on a stretcher.

Initial diagnosis pointed to knee ligament damage and tests carried out on Sunday have confirmed the worst.

Pepe has ruptured his cruciate ligament and will need an operation. He will not play for Real Madrid again this season. He also can be considered a doubt for the Portugal side in the World Cup finals.

Real Madrid director of sport Jorge Valdano highlighted the players importance to the squad and refused to rule out the club signing a replacement in January.

“Pepe is irreplaceable. There is no other Pepe, but we will have to look into the possibility of balancing out the squad. We will look into the transfer market, but there is nobody in the world like him,” he said on the club website.

**Real confirm Pepe out the season**

Flores’ side was outplayed by Villarreal that had previously only taken one point away from home.

Villarreal missed several chances before Simao put Atletico ahead against the run of play.

David Fuster leveled the score four minutes into the second half following some poor defending from Atletico and Joseba Llorente scored the winning in injury time following more woeful work by the Atletico back line.

**Inter draw, AC Milan lose at Serie A**

For struggling Atalanta nine minutes from time after Lucio failed to stop a through ball.

Second-placed Milan meekly ended a run of five straight league wins and slipped five points behind Inter when Fabrizio Miccoli scored one goal and helped set up Mark Bresciano for the second in Palermo’s victory.

Forward Miccoli cut inside and arrowed in an unstoppable drive early in the second half before producing great skill on the flank to allow Australian Bresciano to slam the ball into the net.

Nicola Amoruso missed a penalty but redeemed himself with an 86th-minute winner as fourth-placed Parma came back to win 2-1 at home to Bologna and move two points behind third-placed Juventus, who lost 3-1 at Bar on Saturday.

Inter were the only Serie A side who played in the Champions League in mid-week to pick up a point with Fiorentina going down 2-1 at Chievo to slip four goals behind Parma.

**Real Madrid’s Pepe smiles as he runs with the ball during a training session at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 2 Nov, 2009. Real Madrid have confirmed Sunday the extent of the knee injury suffered by central defender Pepe, who will be out of action for a minimum of six months.—Xinhua**

**Boca cross into the net and only two minutes later, the team doubled the lead when Cristiane sent a ball through two defenders for Erika who tapped it into the lower right corner.**

**Xinhua**

**Stuttgart drawn from Mainz’s late penalty**

**BERLIN, 14 Dec**—VfB Stuttgart were held to a 1-1 at Mainz from a late penalty and squandered the chance to leap away from Bundesliga troubles on Sunday.

Former Germany keeper Jens Lehmann was sent off three minutes from time after blocking the ball and pushing Mainz striker Aristide Bance for no apparent reason.

The referee awarded Mainz a penalty which was converted by Eugen Polanski.

Stuttgart’s Pavel Pogrebnyak had used his knee to direct an Arthur Boka cross into the net from five yards on 11 minutes to give Stuttgart the lead.

Stuttgart, who have qualified for the Champions League knockout stage, slumped this season in Bundesliga ranking in 15th place on 13 points.

**Inter Milan’s Diego Milito (R) celebrates with his team mate Samuel Eto’o after scoring against Atalanta during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Atleti Azzurri d’Italia stadium in Bergamo on 13 Dec, 2009.—Xinhua**

**Messi doubtful for Barca’s Club World Cup semi**

**ABU DHABI, 13 Dec**—Lionel Messi could miss Barcelona’s Club World Cup semi-final again against CONCACAF champions Atlante on Wednesday because of an ankle injury.

Messi, who twisted his right ankle during Barca’s Champions League match away to Dynamo Kiev last week, missed their first training session in Abu Dhabi on Monday, staying in the hotel for treatment, the team said.

“He’s fed up, but keen to recover,” Puyol told reporters after the session.

“Pepe is irreplaceable. There is no other Pepe, but we will have to look into the possibility of balancing out the squad. We will look into the transfer market, but there is nobody in the world like him,” Puyol said as Barcelona prepared for a third match in eight days in three different competitions.
Beijing reports 49 deaths of A/H1N1 flu

BEIJING, 14 Dec—Beijing has registered 49 deaths among the 10,127 people infected by the A/H1N1 flu so far, the municipal health bureau said on Monday.

Among the infected, 3,493 were still hospitalized by Sunday, the bureau said. In the week from 7 Dec to 13 Dec the city witnessed five new deaths of the disease and 419 newly infected people, it said.

The total number of confirmed cases of A/H1N1 flu in the Chinese mainland had topped 100,000 and fatalities totaled 326 by Wednesday.

The next two months would be “very critical” for A/H1N1 flu control, as the country is expecting a huge number of travelers nationwide during the upcoming New Year and Spring Festival, which will further increase pressure to control the epidemic, Deng Haihua, spokesman of the Ministry of Health, has said.—Xinhua

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**Weather Report**

**Forecast valid until evening of 15th December 2009:**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr M.S.T.**

- **Partly cloudy.**
- **Minimum temperature** on 13-12-2009 was 93°F.
- **Maximum temperature** on 14-12-2009 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-12-2009 was 66%. Total sun shine hours on 13-12-2009 was (7.1) hours approx.

**Forecast**

- **For Mandalay and Neighbouring areas:**
  - Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin States and upper Sagaing Divisions.
  - Light rain are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.
  - Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelyhood of isolated light rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

**Bay influence:** According to the observations at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, cyclonic storm “Ward” over Southweast Bay is centered at about (60) miles East of Trincomalee (Srilanka). It is continuation to move Westward and forecast to cross the Coast of Srilanka within next (12) hours. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 15th December 2009:**

Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin States and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and Neighbouring area for 15-12-2009:**
-Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and Neighbouring area for 15-12-2009:**
-Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and Neighbouring area for 15-12-2009:**
-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

Prime Minister receives UN Under Secretary General

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Under Secretary General of the United Nations and UN Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Dr Noeleen Heyzer and party at the Government Office here this evening.

Present on the occasion together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and departmental officials.

True patriotism

- It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Hlawga Park opens on Kayin New Year Day and Christmas

Yangon, 14 Dec—Hlawga Park of Department of Forestry opens daily from 8 am to 4 pm. The park will be kept open on 16 December (Kayin New Year Day) and 25 December (Christmas) from 8 am to 5 pm for public recreation.—MNA

Significant night temperatures

(14-12-2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>0°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loilem</td>
<td>1°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namsam, Pinlaung</td>
<td>4°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heho and Mogok</td>
<td>5°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lashio and PyinOoLwin</td>
<td>6°C</td>
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