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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to King of Bhutan

NAV PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe visits Hsinmyarshin Pagoda, Lawkamanaung Shwegugyi Pagoda

NAV PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe together with Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, accompanied by SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and party, paid homage to Hsinmyarshin Pagoda in Bagan at 10 am yesterday. The Senior General and party offered soon, fruits, flowers and water to the Buddha image at Hsinmyarshin Pagoda.
(See page 6)

Yeywa Hydropower Project to generate 3550 million kwh yearly

NAV PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe yesterday afternoon went on an inspection tour of Yeywa Hydropower Project on Myitnge river, 31 miles southeast of Mandalay, Mandalay Division, being implemented by No 2 Construction Group of the Hydropower Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No 1.
(See page 7)

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.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 17 December, 2009

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 17 December, 2009

Grow more trees in Mt Popa region to keep it always lush and green

It is important to conserve forests as climate and existence of living things as well as streams depend a lot on them and wooded mountains. Mount Popa region in central Myanmar is an invaluable natural resource for hot and dry upcountry. It is also a major watershed area of the upcountry because most of rivers, streams and creeks flowing through the region originate in the Mount Popa region.

The Head of State toured Mount Popa area in Kyaukpadawng Township on 14 December and inspected the greening of the region, afforestation work and pilot tea plantations there. Then, in his guidance, the Head of State said that it was necessary to realize the value of Mount Popa, to constantly keep it lush and green and to extend the cultivation of perennial, including tea, for generating more income for local people.

Dams already constructed around the Mount Popa region are related to forests in the watershed area of the Mount Popa region. Therefore, it is important to conserve forests. For this purpose, more than 1.3 million of trees, including teak, ironwood, Gmelina arborea, kapok eucalyptus and belleric myrobalan have been grown there up to now. Moreover, perennials such as cashew, tamarind, sweet sop and jack fruit have also been cultivated.

The task of greening the Mount Popa region is systematically carried out as it can contribute to favourable climate of the upcountry. Now, perennial fruit trees, tea plants on pilot plots and mixed-crop groundnut plantations are thriving well on the eastern side of Mount Popa.

Forests are important for national economy. Moreover, they can conserve soil and improve the climatic and ecological patterns. Therefore, we would like to call on all those concerned and local people, realizing the value of Mount Popa, to constantly keep its environs lush and green by growing all kinds of trees, including perennial fruit trees.

MCPA to give talks on Global Data Center

YANGON, 16 Dec—Organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, Senior System Engineer U Khin Maung Zaw of Microsoft will give talks on Global Data Center for enabling ICT professionals to know better experience of Software Development of Microsoft Corporation at room No 205 of Myanmar Info Tech in Hlaing township, here, from 1 pm to 4 pm on 23 December.

Members of MCPA software developers and IT enthusiasts may attend the talks free of charge. For further information, contact Tel-652276.

Culture Minister inspects maintenance of ancient pagodas in Pyawbwe Tsp

NAV PI TAW, 16 Dec—Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint inspected maintenance of ancient pagodas and stupas being undertaken by the ministry in Pyawbwe Township on 12 December.

In Ywathit Village of Pyawbwe Township, the minister heard reports presented by Deputy Director-General U Sein Win of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (North) on maintenance of seven ancient pagodas in the village monastery compound. After that, the minister called for annually taking systematic measures on maintenance of ancient pagodas in line with ancient architecture.

Next, the minister looked into completion of repairing tasks for 54-foot-high pagoda in Linsinkon Village.

U Ohn Thwin concurrently appointed as ambassador to Maldives

NAV PI TAW, 17 Dec—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ohn Thwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Maldives.—MNA

Blood donation of Myanmar Brewery Ltd

YANGON, 16 Dec—To mark Myanmar Blood Donors Day, the 5th collective blood donation ceremony conducted by the staff families of Myanmar Brewery Ltd took place at Yangon General Hospital yesterday.

First, Managing Director Mr Peter Ong extended greetings. In charge Dr Daw Thida Aung of National Blood Centre spoke words of thanks.

Next, responsible persons of YGNB and Myanmar Brewery Ltd viewed the donation activities by staff families of Myanmar Brewery Ltd.

Since May 2006, blood donations took place in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions enterprises under the ministry, coaches, staff and family members watched the sports events. The athletes competed in the final matches of badminton men's and women's singles and doubles events.

After the competitions, the minister cordially greeted the athletes and staff members.

The Ministry of Finance and Revenue plans to organize the men's Sepak Takraw and women's volleyball tournaments of the staff in December.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint inspects maintenance of ancient pagodas in Ywathit Village, Pyawbwe Township.

F&R Ministry organizes table-tennis and badminton contests

NAV PI TAW, 16 Dec—The Inter-Department Table-Tennis and Badminton Contests of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue commenced as the national sports activities at the assembly hall of the ministry and staff quarters of the Internal Revenue Department, here, on 2 December.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Thun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and Mandalay and now it is second time.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd will organize blood donation ceremony twice a year.—MNA

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US soldier killed, Taleban commander nabbed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Dec — Continued insurgency in Afghanistan claimed the life of one American soldier in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, a Press release of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

“An ISAF service member from the United States was killed today in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) strike in southern Afghanistan,” the Press release added.

However, it did not say the exact place of the incident. A joint US and Afghan operation has been going on against Taleban militants in Nawzad District and surrounding areas of Helmand Province over the past two weeks.

The Press release also added that Afghan and the NATO-led troops detained a Taleban commander in the southern Zabul’s provincial capital Qalat on Tuesday; but did not give his name.

Furthermore, the Press release added that the troops killed four militants in Taleban birthplace Kandahar a day earlier on Monday. Taleban militants who have intensified their activities have not made comment. Foreign forces’ casualties are on the rise in the war-torn Afghanistan as so far this year more than 360 soldiers with majority of them Americans and Britons have been killed since beginning of this year.

An injured man is carried away from the Heetal Hotel following a suicide bomb blast in Kabul, Afghanistan on 15 Dec, 2009. —INTERNET

Five killed in suicide bombing

KABUL, 16 Dec — The Afghan Public Health Ministry says five people were killed and 31 others wounded in a suicide car bombing in a heavily guarded neighbourhood in the Afghan capital.

The blast on Tuesday occurred near a hotel favored by Westerners, but it was unclear if the hotel was the target. Afghan President Hamid Karzai said the explosion occurred near the home of his former first vice president, Ahmed Zia Massoud. During a speech at a conference on corruption, Karzai said two of Massoud’s guards were among those killed in the explosion. —Internet

Top US officer: Taleban harder to defeat

KABUL, 16 Dec — The top US military officer said the Taleban-led insurgency in Afghanistan is harder to defeat now than it was a year ago, and said he will take up concerns about strengthening ties to al-Qaeda with government leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Adm Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, was touring US bases in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday. He will also be in Pakistan this week.

“I remain deeply concerned by the growing level of collusion between the Afghan Taleban and al-Qaeda and other extremist groups taking refuge across the border in Pakistan,” Mullen said at the start of his visit on Monday. “Getting at this network, which is now more entrenched, will be a far more difficult task than it was just one year ago,” Mullen said in the Afghan capital. “As part of this trip, I intend to discuss with Afghan and Pakistani leaders the extent to which we all can better cooperate and coordinate our activities to eliminate the safe havens from which these groups plan and operate.” —Internet

Invasion of US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 16 Dec — There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 16 December reached 699723 and the total number of serious injured people reached 1263077, according to the news on the Internet.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Death toll of Iraqi people</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
<td>1263077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

KABUL, 16 Dec — The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

According to the Internet news, a total of 32392 Afghan people were killed and 38098 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 16 December.

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seriously injured Afghan people</td>
<td>38098</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People stand outside of the Heetal Hotel, not in photo, after an apparent suicide bomb was detonated in Kabul, Afghanistan on 15 Dec, 2009. —INTERNET
US, Russia close to agree on new deal on nuclear weapons reduction

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — The United States and Russia are very close to hammer out a final deal on the reduction of their nuclear weapon stockpiles, the State Department said on Tuesday.

“I think we are getting very close to an agreement,” State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told reporters at the daily Press briefing.

The United States and Russia are trying to reach a new nuclear arms control treaty to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expired on 5 Dec.

US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev have agreed on an ambitious and aggressive reduction to their nuclear arsenals by reaching a new treaty, under which the nuclear warheads each side holds will be reduced to 1,500 to 1,675, while the launchers will be limited to 500 to 1,000.

The two Presidents vowed to work together in the spirit of the START treaty following its expiration, in order to ensure that a new treaty on strategic arms enter into force at the earliest possible date. — Internet

Russian nightclub fire death toll hits 148

MOSCOW, 16 Dec — The death toll from a nightclub blaze in Russia’s Ural city of Perm 10 days ago has risen to 148, authorities said on Tuesday.

The toll was revised up after one woman died at a hospital in Chelyabinsk while another woman passed away in a Moscow hospital, with 81 still remain hospitalized, the regional branch of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said in a report.

Flames sparked by indoor fireworks swept through the Lame Horse nightclub in the early hours of 5 December. Some 230 party-goers stampeded and choked on smoke as they rushed to flee through the club’s single exit. — MNA/Xinhua

S Korea, Japan to hold free trade negotiations next week

SEOUL, 16 Dec — South Korea and Japan will hold the fourth round of their bilateral free trade talks on next week here in Seoul, Seoul’s Trade ministry said on Wednesday.

The South Korean side will be composed of some 20 officials from related ministries, including foreign ministry, knowledge economy ministry, Agriculture Ministry, and Welfare Ministry, the Foreign Ministry said in a press release.

As a result of a summit agreement on resuming working-level free trade talks between the leaders of South Korea and Japan in April 2008, three rounds of negotiations have been held, with the latest one coming in July 2009.

Originally launched in December 2003, bilateral free trade talks have been continued to November 2004 in six rounds, but the discussions have been stalled for over four years on disputes over opening agriculture and fisheries markets. — Xinhua

Three killed after tropical cyclone hits Fiji

SUVA, 16 Dec — Thousands of Fiji villagers fled to shelters as a tropical cyclone battered the South Pacific nation, causing flooding, damaging homes and power lines, and killing three people, officials said on Tuesday. Cyclone Mick, Fiji’s first this summer season, ripped through the most populated island of Viti Levu on Monday night and is headed toward Tonga, which has been placed on alert.

Fiji’s National Disaster Management Office said the death and injury toll was reduced by people heeding the cyclone warning and flocking to emergency shelters ahead of the storm. “People took evasive action ... took the warning seriously and moved to shelters because their homes were not strong enough and also because they feared the flood waters,” the agency’s principal officer, Patiala Dobi, told The Associated Press. — Internet

Waterfalls claim three students’ lives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Dec — Three students of Sultan Ahmad Shah Polytechnic in Malaysia drowned at the Sungai Pandan waterfalls in Panching, a small town near Kuantan, State Capital of Pahang State, Malaysia.

The Star, a local daily, reported here on Wednesday that the incident took place at 4.30 pm on Tuesday.

According to the daily, the three victims were holding hands and approaching the pool at the waterfalls when they disappeared into the water suddenly.

Mohd Yusoff, a 41-year-old witness, said that he heard them screaming but he thought that the boys were just enjoying their swim. — Xinhua

Japan enters high-speed train sales race

NAGOYA, 16 Dec — On a desolate stretch of track just before midnight, when all passenger lines have been put to bed, a juiced-up Japanese bullet train goes online and accelerates to over 200 miles per hour. The 700-ton train, about a quarter of a mile long, whooshes by rice paddies in under five seconds.

There are no locals around to witness the train glide to a stop at a deserted Kyoto Station, but that’s not the point. This is an accelerated sales pitch aimed squarely at the US, where Japan is competing with European train makers for a new high-speed train network that could deliver contracts worth hundreds of billions. — Internet
OPEC forecasts world oil demand increase for coming year

VIENNA, 16 Dec—The world oil demand in 2010 would reach 85.13 million barrels per day (mb/d), increasing by 0.82 mb/d, or 0.98 percent compared to this year, according to the forecast made by OPEC in its latest monthly oil market report on Tuesday in Vienna.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has increased the world oil demand by 60,000 barrels a day in the new monthly report in comparison with the monthly report of last month. While the forecast of world oil demand in 2009 from OPEC remained the same as the previous monthly report, or 84.31 mb/d, which fell by 1.62 percent, or 1.39 mb/d compared to 2008.

The latest report stated that the demand for crude oil next year in China, which would be firstly out of economy recession, would grow obviously. It would be expected to increase by 4.5 percent. Besides, the growth rate of oil demand in the Middle East and North America would also reach 3.34 percent and 0.99 percent.

Russia, Vietnam ink deals on nuclear energy, weapons

MOSCOW, 16 Dec—Russia on Tuesday signed a document to build Vietnam’s first nuclear power plant, and another deal to deliver Russian-made weaponry to the Southeast Asian country, Russian news agencies reported.

The nuclear energy agreement was endorsed by Sergei Kiriyenko, the head of Russia’s state-run nuclear agency Rosatom, and Pham LeThanh, the head of Vietnam’s electricity company EVN.

“We are ready to render comprehensive support to the fulfillment of the Vietnamese atomic energy programme for the period until 2020,” Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said after talks with his visiting Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Tan Dung.

Meanwhile, Russia’s state-owned arms exporter Rosoboronexport and the Vietnamese Defence Ministry’s General Export-Import Company clinched a major arms deal.

“Vietnam has signed with Russia a contract on the delivery of aircraft and related military hardware,” Dung said after meeting with Putin, without giving further details.

Dung arrived here on Monday for a two-day visit. He also met with President Dmitry Medvedev earlier in the day.

New goat flu outbreaks in Netherlands, six killed

BEIJING, 16 Dec—A new epidemic goat flu (or called Q-fever) has struck the Netherlands since last week.

An estimated 2,300 people have succumbed to Q-fever this year in the country and six have died.

According to Dutch experts, Q-fever is caused by bacteria released when pregnant goats or sheep have spontaneous abortions.

A relative study shows that many animals can carry this kind of bacteria, but contact with infected goats is believed to be the main source of human infections.

The Dutch government said on Thursday it planned to slaughter all pregnant infected goats, which carry the bacteria in high concentrations. It was not immediately clear how many goats will be killed.

“There’s nowhere external to turn to for expert advice, because it’s a unique situation,” said the government spokesman Thijs van Son. Q-fever infections usually occur in a cluster in one year and then peter out the next. But the Dutch outbreak has been growing and spreading out over agricultural areas for three years despite increasingly strong measures to contain it. “That hasn’t happened before,” Van Son said, “not in Europe or anywhere else.”—Xinhua

Health experts investigate outbreak of strange disease in N Uganda

KAMPALA, 16 Dec—Health experts are investigating an outbreak of a strange disease in northern Uganda which makes children nod their heads, a senior health official said here on Tuesday.

Issa Makumbi, the head of disease surveillance in the Health Ministry told Xinhua in an interview that the health teams that were sent to the northern districts of Kitgum and Pader are expected to conclude their investigations this week and release the results next week on the possible cause of the disease.

“We have now tried to do extended investigations where we have called in more experts to go and look at that disease in more detail,” he said.—Xinhua

Air France’s Airbus 380 stuck in New York with “technical problem”

PARIS, 16 Dec—An Air France superjumbo Airbus 380 linking New York and Paris had delayed its return to France due to a “technical problem” with a fuel tank, the company said on Tuesday.

Flight AF007 New York-Paris, with 511 passengers on board, was trapped at New York’s JFK airport at 19:10 on Monday local time (0010 GMT Tuesday), French radio RTL said.

The company later confirmed that the plane “was delayed by a technical problem,” saying it was a problem with a circuit system which “transfers fuel in one tank to another.”

Russia ink nuclear deal with Vietnam

Dong Dung, Vietnam’s defence minister, and Sergey Kiriyenko, the head of Russia’s state-run nuclear agency Rosatom, signed two nuclear energy agreements in Moscow this week.

KAZAN, 16 Dec—A scientific and technical cooperation agreement has been signed between the Russian Academy of Sciences and Vietnam’s academy.

International archaeologists are studying the remains of various civilizations, such as the ancient city of Rayyan in the United Arab Emirates, which flourished between the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.

They are also examining the historic site of the ancient city of Abra in the United Arab Emirates, which flourished between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

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Senior General Than Shwe visits...

(From page 1)

After donating cash to the funds of the pagoda, the Senior General went round the pagoda. The Senior General and party left Bagan by helicopter and arrived at Lawkamanaung Shwegugyi Pagoda near Inyaung Village of Inyaung Village-tract in Kyaukse Township at 11:30 am.

The Head of State and party offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the Buddha Image at Lawkamanaung Shwegugyi Pagoda.—MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on manufacturing of disposable syringes, injection and ampoules at Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) under the Ministry of Industry-1, and production of kitchen use medicines produced by Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) and production manufacturing sections and packaging section.—MNA

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Buddha Image in Hsinmyarsin Pagoda in Bagan.—MNA

Buddha Image at Lawkamanaung Shwegugyi Pagoda.—MNA

Enamel and steel products seen at exhibition hall of Enamel and Steel Ware Factory (Minsu).—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects Enamel and Steel Ware Factory (Minsu).—MNA

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Buddha Image in Hsinmyarsin Pagoda in Bagan.—MNA

Enamel and steel products seen at exhibition hall of Enamel and Steel Ware Factory (Minsu).—MNA
Senior General Than Shwe inspecting Yeywa Hydropower Project.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)
Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and members of the entourage helicoptered from Minsu village of Kyaukse township at 1:15 pm and landed at Yeywa Hydropower Project at 1:45 pm.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min presented reports to Senior General Than Shwe and entourage that Yeywa Hydropower Project on Myitnge River, being a RCC concrete dam with the length of 2,264 feet and the height of 433 feet was being built; that it was also the major hydropower project of the State; the four 197.5 megawatt turbines have been installed; that No 1 turbine would start generating power in near future; that construction tasks were being expedited for the remaining three turbines to generate power; that the construction of main dam, water intake structure, spillway and diversion tunnel Nos (1) and (2) have completed; that water is being stored at the dam; that tasks for installation of machines to be used in generating power and construction of drainage and switch yard are in their final stages; and that emphasis is being placed on this project to meet set standards as it is one of the world’s largest dams of RCC type.

Thanks to encouragement of the government and concerted efforts of the project workers, the project will complete two years earlier than the scheduled. As it is a project being implemented through the modern technology, the modern machinery are being installed at the dam to detect the strength, movement of water, water pressure and temperature of the main embankment.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance that as the project is in its final stage of installing turbines, it is necessary to place emphasis on timely completion of the construction tasks, the meeting set standards, and he stressed the need to maintain the dams of the completed hydropower plants for their durability.

The Senior General presented fruit baskets to technicians from abroad and at home.

The Senior General and party viewed scale model of Yeywa Hydropower Project. At the main concrete embankment, the Head of State and party looked into storage of water at the dam, removal of the rock layer from the drain of the plant, construction of the power plant and sub-power stations, intake structure, installation of sluice gate and all other tasks of the project. At the power plant, the Senior General and party inspected final installation of the parts at No. 1 generator and installation of parts at No. 2 generator.

Among four generators of Yeywa Hydropower Project, each is over 1500 tons in weight, and over 100,000 parts are systematically installed at each generator.

The 790 megawatt Yeywa Hydropower Plant will produce 3550 million kwh annually. The generating capacity of Yeywa Hydropower Plant will be 70 per cent of about 5000 million kwh being generated by 15 power plants under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1.

Yeywa RCC Dam is one of the largest RCC dams in the world.
Build new motor roads and railroads to realize lofty aims of the State

Kyaw Ye Min

Regarding recent inspection tours of the Head of State at construction of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) and the Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), I have presented facts in brief about the Ayeyawady River crossing bridges that will guarantee the development of the State and the people in the future. As far as I know, I would like to write progress of motor road and railroad projects concerning the news on inspection tours of the Head of State. It was because facts about the Ayeyawady River crossing bridges are related to the railroad and motor road projects to be presented.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) Project is part of the Katha-Bhamo railroad construction project. The Katha-Bhamo railroad is a new construction project being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, and it commenced in May 2007. The land survey and earthworks were being undertaken at the same time. The 26 miles long section of Katha-Bhamo railroad will be in Sagaing Division and the 72 miles long section in Kachin State, and it will be 98 miles in total length. Upon completion, passengers and commodities will be directly transported from Mandalay to Bhamo through the Katha-Bhamo railroad. For the first phase, we saw concerted efforts of the people living in other regions. Indeed, the Katha-Bhamo railroad is a new construction project being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State at construction of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan). The Head of State gave guidance on building the Union railway network linking the states and divisions in the eastern, western, northern and southern parts of the country in order that products and resources of various regions can be speedily transported to the respective markets. In accordance with the guidance, new railroads are being constructed on one hand and the old ones upgraded on the other. In 1988, there were only 2793.86 miles of railways. But now there is a total of 4338.9 miles. The Pathin-Hinthada-Kyangin railway is being extended up to Pakokku. Moreover, preparations are being made to build the Pathin-Einme-Nyaungdon-Hlaingthaya railway together with the new Nyaungdon bridge across the Ayeyawady river. Measures are also being taken to construct Pyay-Toungoo railway across the Bago Yoma, Malun-Pahtanago-Thityakauk railway to link Nay Pyi Taw with Pathin-Pakokku railway, Sittway-An-Minbu railway, Katha-Bhamo railway, Mongno-Kengtung railway, Phayangasu-Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway railway and Dawei-Myeik railway, totalling over 1200 miles.

When the strategic railways have been built as planned, the Union railway network will emerge, connecting all states and divisions. At present, more than 400 trains of Myanma Railways are transporting over 220,000 passengers daily along the railways all over the country. Both having a motorway and a railroad each on them, Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) and Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) are linked with the railroad network and the motorway network. Of various transport means, transporting by car plays a great part in the transport sector in Myanmar. So, building roads on a large scale nationwide is on the list of priorities in the nation. With the concept that the future of the respective regions.

As far as I know, I would like to write progress of motor road and railroad projects concerning the news on inspection tours of the Head of State. It was because facts about the Ayeyawady River crossing bridges are related to the railroad and motor road projects to be presented.

The land survey and earthworks were being undertaken at the same time. The 26 miles long section of Katha-Bhamo railroad will be in Sagaing Division and the 72 miles long section in Kachin State, and it will be 98 miles in total length. Upon completion, passengers and commodities will be directly transported from Mandalay to Bhamo through the Katha-Bhamo railroad. For the first phase, we saw concerted efforts of the people living in other regions. Indeed, the Katha-Bhamo railroad is a new construction project being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State at construction of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan). The Head of State gave guidance on building the Union railway network linking the states and divisions in the eastern, western, northern and southern parts of the country in order that products and resources of various regions can be speedily transported to the respective markets. In accordance with the guidance, new railroads are being constructed on one hand and the old ones upgraded on the other. In 1988, there were only 2793.86 miles of railways. But now there is a total of 4338.9 miles. The Pathin-Hinthada-Kyangin railway is being extended up to Pakokku. Moreover, preparations are being made to build the Pathin-Einme-Nyaungdon-Hlaingthaya railway together with the new Nyaungdon bridge across the Ayeyawady river. Measures are also being taken to construct Pyay-Toungoo railway across the Bago Yoma, Malun-Pahtanago-Thityakauk railway to link Nay Pyi Taw with Pathin-Pakokku railway, Sittway-An-Minbu railway, Katha-Bhamo railway, Mongno-Kengtung railway, Phayangasu-Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway railway and Dawei-Myeik railway, totalling over 1200 miles.

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Photo shows Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).
Build new motor roads and railroads to realize lofty aims of the State

Kyaw Ye Min

Build new motor roads and railroads to realize lofty aims of the State

Kyaw Ye Min

secure and smooth transport effectively helps improve the socio-economic life and friendship among the people, the government had built inter-village roads, rural-urban roads, inter-district roads, and inter-state division roads, and expressways till they formed a transport network. It also pays serious attention to the upgrading of roads. As a result, the total length of all the roads in the nation is now over 41,700 miles, compared with only over 21,000 miles in 1988. Moreover, it has built more than 39,400 miles of rural roads designed for rural development. To complete those roads and railroads, the government had to build 232 over-180-foot motorway bridges, and 55, railbridges. In addition, it is implementing highway projects in collaboration with regional countries—Asian highways to be linked with Thailand, Laos, China, India, and Bangladesh; ASEAN highways with ASEAN countries; Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Corridors; BIMSTEC highways; India-Myanmar-Thai Tripartite Highway to be jointly implemented by the three countries; GMS, East-West Economic Corridor Highway; GMS, North-South Economic Corridor Highway; and the highway to be built jointly by India and Myanmar; the highway to pass through the border area near Paletwa; and the project to improve the waterway of Kaladan River.

There are four Asian highways — Nos 1, 2, 3 and 14; and six ASEAN highways. The ASEAN Highway Network includes Yangon-Phayagyi-Mandalay-Tamu Highway, Phayagyi-Hpa-an-Myawady Highway, Mandalay-Hsipaw-Lashio-Muse Highway, Mandalay-Meiktila-Loilem-Kengtung-Tachilek Highway, Kengtung-Mongla Highway, Thaton-Mawlamyine Highway, Meyik-Dawei-Kawthoung Highway, and Dawei-Hsinbyudang-Kanchanaburi Highway. Asian/ASEAN highways that are linked with Thailand, China and India such as Myawady-Tamu, Tachilek-Meiktila, Kengtung-Mongla, and Mandalay-Muse highways combine with many sites of Union highways in Myanmar.

Furthermore, those international highways meet and part each other in many sites, like a huge network of highways. According to their usefulness, highways are categorized into strategic highway, primary highway, and expressway. Highways linked with foreign countries including Asian/ASEAN highways linked with regional countries will definitely make long-term contribution to Myanmar’s trade, transport and relations with regional countries.

In retrospect, British colonialists annexed Myanmar for more than 100 years, but they built only a few infrastructural buildings just for their economic and administration benefits with the ill intention of making national races distance from one another in terms of relations. In consequence, the transport then was very poor. In that regard, a tangible consequence is that the regions with poor transport lagged far behind other regions in development. That is why the government has been making huge investments in road and bridge projects in a strategic way in order to accelerate the development momentum of the regions, which once lagged behind in development, and to complete a transport network that covers the whole country including hilly regions and border areas.

Here, the government’s purpose of building transport facilities is to improve the socio-economic life and the living standard of the people, and to enable the people to travel and transport goods with convenience. From the point of national interest view, the government intends to narrow the development gap between one region and another in all parts, to ensure equitable development of all parts of the Union, and to generate harmony among the people in etiquette, morale and concept.

In conclusion, the government, in compliance with the guidance given by the Head of State with farsightedness, perseverance, genuine goodwill, loving-kindness, and intention for long-term interest, has been boosting cooperation with neighbouring and and regional countries, and international friendly countries in various sectors, while working hard to restore stability and peace and ensure the rule of law, and all-round development of the nation, and to improve the education, health, social and economic sectors of the people. Therefore, the hard work the government is exerting to improve the transport sector is an important part of its drive for achieving the lofty aims of the nation.

Translation: NN+TTA+MS
Myanmar win two more gold, four silver and eight bronze in SEA Games

YANGON, 16 Dec—The XXV SEA Games continued for the eighth day in Vientiane of Lao People’s Democratic Republic today. Myanmar team won gold in women’s compound bow (team) and event, Aung Me bronze in 73-81 kilos judo event, Kha. Cim. Cau bronze in 58-55 kilos judo event, Soe Kyaw bronze in men’s recurve bow (team) and women’s recurve bow (team).

Sandi Oo scored silver in women’s Wushu (Nanquans) event, Kyaw Oo silver in men’s billiard (Nanquans) event, Kyaw silver in women’s Wushu (team). Hein Latt Zaw of team won gold in Republic today. Myanmar People’s Democratic day in Vientiane of Lao continued for the eighth period.

The XXV SEA Games

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India’s Bharti to buy Bangladesh mobile operator

DHAKA, 16 Dec—Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel is set to buy a 70 percent stake in Bangladesh’s fourth largest mobile phone operator Warid from its Abu Dhabi-based owners, regulators said on Wednesday.

"The Dhabi Group, which owns Warid, has sought approval from the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission for the sale," said managing director Zia Ahmed told AFP. The move makes Bharti the latest foreign firm to make inroads into the Bangladeshi mobile phone market, which is one of the country’s fastest-growing and potentially lucrative sectors.

Adventures in buying Warid Telecom shares to Bharti Airtel Ltd. We have sought more papers and the copy of the memorandum of understanding between the two companies," he said. Ahmed said the company did not mention how much the stake was valued at but added that Bharti had "initially intended to invest 300 million dollars."

"I am sure the new investment will inject new momentum into our telecommunications sector," he said. A spokesman for Warid declined comment on the deal, but an unnamed official from the company told local English language newspaper The Daily Star that the deal was worth 900 million dollars.

Workshop on development of brokerage organized

YANGON, 16 Dec—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized the workshop on development of brokerage at its tower in Lanmadaw Township on December. Vice-President U Win Aung of UMCCI and Managing Director U Kyaw Htoo of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading made speeches.

The resource persons submitted their papers. Next, the resource persons and members of the panel of chairmen U Toe Aung M Kyint, U Aung Than Oo and U Tun Win replied to queries raised by responsible persons from State and DivisionCCI and brokerages.

CEC member U Sai Ba Nyan explained the accomplishment of the minutes in previous workshop. Officials discussed opening of brokerages, scheming of rules and regulations and plans for opening more brokerages.

"Managing Director U Kyaw Htoo of MAPT, Vice-President U Win Aung and CEC member U Sai Ba Nyan reviewed the discussions. The workshop ended with remarks by the vice-president."

Adobe Systems posts 4Q loss but says demand rising

NEW YORK, 16 Dec—Adobe Systems Inc said on Tuesday that although booking a loss in the fiscal fourth quarter, consumer demand improved for the software to post an optimistic outlook for the current period.

The recession has dampened demand for Creative Suite 4, the latest version of the software package targeting professional designers and developers that brings in the bulk of Adobe’s revenue. It happened to launch in the fall of 2008, right as the financial meltdown hit. But the company said on Tuesday it saw demand pick up in the fourth quarter, especially in its final month. Chief Financial Officer Mark Garrett said this November—across many of the company’s product lines, mainly in North America and Europe—was more than what the company had expected. Even so, CS4 will likely end up with sales about 20 percent below its predecessor.

Adobe on Tuesday reported a loss of $32 million, or 6 cents per share, for the three months that ended 27 Nov, compared with a profit of $245.9 million, or 46 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier.

Russia’s industrial output rises 1.5 percent in November

MOOSW, 16 Dec—Russia’s industrial output in November increased for the first time since October 2008 at an annual rate of 1.5 percent, the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) said on Tuesday.

Industrial output also rose compared to October, by 2 percent, Rosstat said. The November result beat analysts’ prediction that industrial production would fall 2.5 percent from the same month last year, the Interfax news agency reported. Rosstat said agriculture, which gained year-on-year 4.9 percent in November, drove the growth. But the sector slipped 1.8 percent in the first 11 months of this year.

An Indian man talks on his mobile phone next to a Bharti Airtel sign in New Delhi in September 2009. Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel is set to buy a 70 percent stake in Bangladesh’s fourth largest mobile phone operator Warid from its Abu Dhabi-based owners, regulators said on Wednesday.—INTERNET
Four bodies found in Mexican border city
Tijuana, 16 Dec—Authorities found the decapitated bodies of four men on Tuesday in the border city of Tijuana, while a grenade attack on a police station in western Mexico wounded a pregnant woman and her 3-year-old daughter.

Three of the decapitated bodies in Tijuana were inside a house, the Baja California state prosecutor’s office said in a statement. An hour later, police found a fourth decapitated body inside a pickup truck.

The office said the heads were left near the bodies along with messages. It didn’t say what the notes said. Tijuana, which is across the border from San Diego, California, has been wracked by an upsurge in drug cartel violence in recent years.

Prosecutors say 583 people have been killed so far this year in the city.—Internet

Ancient wall paintings return to Egypt from France
CAIRO, 16 Dec—An Egyptian airport official says the wall paintings that caused a feud between Egypt and the Louvre Museum have returned home.

Ahmed al-Rawi of the Customs authority said that the ancient artwork arrived to Cairo on a flight from Paris on Tuesday evening and were handed over to Egyptian antiquities authorities.

Egypt’s antiquities chief Zahi Hawass cut ties with the Louvre in October, saying the museum had refused to return the fragments, which he said had been illegally chipped from a 3,200-year-old tomb’s walls.

French officials quickly agreed to hand over the fragments following a recommendation by scientific experts.

During a visit to his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy this week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inspected the pieces before they were handed back.—Internet

Quake shakes central Italy; no injuries reported
ROME, 16 Dec—Authorities say a magnitude 4.2 earthquake has shaken the Italian region of Umbria but caused no injuries.

Townsville in the Province of Perugia reported buildings lightly damaged by the tremor, monitored by Italy’s national institute of geophysics.

Italy’s Agriculture Minister said on Tuesday 600 people were evacuated until their homes can be inspected. Mayors of several hamlets ordered schools closed on Wednesday for inspections.

Video of the city of Perugia showed bricks in the street and some damages to walls. The American student Amanda Knox, convicted this month of murdering her British roommate, is in Capanne prison outside Perugia. In April, a quake hit the Abruzzo region in central Italy, killing about 30 and leaving tens of thousands of homeless.—Internet

Stolen Seattle totem pole found near Salem, Ore
Police say an 18-foot-tall totem pole stolen from a West Seattle park has been found about 200 miles away in Oregon.

The Seattle Times reports a 69-year-old West Seattle man led investigators to the pole. Police say he apparently had a crew with a crane help move the totem, but it’s unclear if the crew knew the man didn’t have permission to take the landmark.

The totem pole was noticed missing last week. The Rotary Club of West Seattle donated the pole to the city in 1976 and estimates it would have cost about $75,000 to replace.

At the request of Seattle investigators, authorities in Oregon went to an address provided by the 69-year-old man and found the pole on a boat trailer in a Salem-area parking lot.

Seattle police spokesman Mark Brown was arrested Wednesday and charged with abuse of office for allegedly injuring a man who came home from work on 7 Nov, got into an argument with Brown, told her that he was breaking up with her, then went to bed.

The Times-Picayune on reported Brown was arrested Wednesday and booked into the Nelson Coleman Correctional Facility.

It wasn’t immediately clear if Brown has an attorney.

Four family members found dead in upscale Calif home
SAN CLEMENTE, 16 Dec—A Houston-area attorney involved in a bitter custody dispute was found fatally shot along with her two young daughters and an apparent murder-suicide after she was ordered to bring the children to a court hearing, authorities said on Tuesday.

Investigators found 38-year-old Elizabeth Fontaine’s body next to those of her mother, 67-year-old Bonnie Houlé, and two children on Monday at an upscale Orange County home. Forensic tests will be needed to determine who pulled the trigger because a handgun was found between the two women, sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino said. He said investigators spoke to the father, Jason Fontaine, and do not consider him a suspect. The father, who divorced the children’s mother, was not at the home, authorities said.

A message from The Associated Press was left with his attorney.—Internet

A jazz musician playing the saxophone. US jazz saxophonist and composer Lary Ochs says he “has seen it all” after a spectator disrupted a concert in Spain by accusing him of not playing jazz — and was backed by a policeman on duty.

US jazz musician hits wrong note in Spain
US jazz saxophonist and composer Lary Ochs says he “has seen it all” after a spectator disrupted a concert in Spain by accusing him of not playing jazz — and was backed by a policeman on duty.

The 60-year-old was performing with his band “Larry Ochs & Drimming Core” in the central town of Siguenza on Monday when the spectator got up and said they were performing “contemporary music” and not jazz, daily newspaper El Pais reported.

A policeman at the scene joined in the ensuing debate and concluded Ochs’s performance “was not jazz,” it added.

This image provided by the Seattle Police Department shows the stolen West Seattle totem pole after being recovered. Police say the 18-foot-tall totem pole stolen from a West Seattle park was found about 200 miles away in Oregon. The totem pole was noticed missing last week. The Rotary Club of West Seattle donated the pole to the city in 1976 and estimates it would have cost about $75,000 to replace.

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A message from The Associated Press was left with his attorney.—Internet

Woman allegedly pours grits on sleeping boyfriend
A 44-year-old woman was booked with second-degree battery after allegedly pouring a pot of boiling grits onto her sleeping boyfriend. St. Charles Parish sheriff’s deputies said Carolyn Brown caused second-degree burns on the man’s face and arms. The man told deputies that he came home from work on 7 Nov, got into an argument with Brown, told her that he was breaking up with her, then went to bed.

The Times-Picayune on reported Brown was arrested Wednesday and booked into the Nelson Coleman Correctional Facility.

It wasn’t immediately clear if Brown has an attorney.

Models made of ice of the Brandenburg Gate and dinosaurs, are displayed at an ice sculpture exhibition by Chinese artisans in Berlin. The ice sculpture exhibition will be open to the public from 27 November, 2009 to 22 February, 2010.
Boeing’s Dreamliner makes maiden flight

Everett, 16 Dec—Boeing’s new 787 Dreamliner jet took to the skies for the first time on Tuesday, a relief to the US aerospace giant that pins high hope on the new model in its competition with European rival Airbus.

The Dreamliner took off at around 10:30 am local time (1830 GMT) at Paine Field near Boeing’s plant in the western state of Washington, witnessed by some 25,000 people, including Boeing employees, executives of airlines, journalists and members of the public.

The test flight will last about four hours and see the aircraft landing at Seattle’s Boeing Field. It is the beginning of a series of necessary tests for the new passenger jet to obtain certification from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Boeing plans to deliver the first Dreamliner, which features wide use of lightweight new materials and hence more energy efficient, to Japan’s All Nippon Airways in late 2010, more than two years behind the schedule.

Containers are seen at a port of Fuzhou, capital of southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 15 Dec, 2009. The throughput of containers in ports of Fujian Province reached 280 million tons from Jan to Nov 2009, with a year-to-year growth of 13%.—Xinhua

Death toll from A/H1N1 flu reaches 64 in Egypt

Cairo, 16 Dec—Egypt on Tuesday reported three more death cases of A/H1N1 flu, bringing the nationwide death toll to 64, said the Health Ministry in a statement.

A 28-year-old woman died of A/H1N1 virus in Cairo, said Health Ministry spokesman Abdel Rahman Shalhine, adding that the woman suffered from severe dyspnea.

Shalhine said that another two-year-old child died of A/H1N1 virus in Assuit, 330 km south of Cairo, adding that he suffered from asthma, pneumonia and dyspnea.

The third case was a 14-year-old handicapped boy in Cairo, said the spokesman, adding that he suffered from fever, pneumonia. Up till now, Egypt has reported more than 4,792 cases of the novel flu in the most populous Arab country, according to the Health Ministry.

One killed, four injured in pharmaceutical plant blast

Heifei, 16 Dec—At least one person was killed and four were injured after a blast hit a pharmaceutical plant in Anhui Province on Tuesday, the local government said. An oven in a workshop of the Renji Pharmaceutical Plant Co Ltd in Taihe County of Fuyang City exploded at about 5 pm, smashing window glasses.

One worker died in hospital after emergency treatment and four suffered injuries, including one serious, said the county government.

The company is based in an economic development zone adjacent to the No 105 national highway. Police have cordoned off part of the factory area.

The state-owned company, established in 1991, has 180 million yuan (26.4 million US dollars) in registered total assets and more than 600 employees, according to information on the websites.—Xinhua

EU, Latin American countries end long-running dispute on bananas

Geneva, 16 Dec—The European Union and Latin American countries on Tuesday reached an agreement to end a 16-year dispute over EU banana imports, which is seen as a boost for the long-stalled Doha Round of global trade negotiations.

Under the deal, which was struck by EU and Latin American ambassadors at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, the EU will cut its import tariff on bananas from Latin America from 176 euros per tonne to 114 euros by 2017, according to a EU statement.

In return, Latin American countries will not demand further tariff cuts, and they will also drop several legal cases pending against the EU at the WTO, some of which date back as far as 1993. In a related development, the United States, which had joined Latin American countries in opposing the EU banana import regime, also agreed on Tuesday to settle its related WTO dispute with the EU.

Gazprom, PGNiG discuss gas through 2037

Moscow, 16 Dec—Russian gas giant Gazprom discussed with its partners at Polish energy company PGNiG increased gas supplies through 2037, executives said in Moscow. Alexander Medvedev, deputy chief at the Russian gas monopoly, welcomed Polish ministers and executives from Poland’s state-run oil and gas company PGNiG to discuss natural gas agreements.

Both parties discussed further coordination on a series of protocols on Russian gas supply and transit to Poland signed in 1993. “The said documents outline the framework provisions for entering into contracts on the corporate level,” said Medvedev. “We expect them to be endorsed by the governments of both countries any time now.” Poland is able to meet 30 percent of its annual gas consumption through domestic reserves. Gazprom in 2008 agreed to deliver nearly 290 billion cubic feet of gas per year.—Internet

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H1N1 infants vaccine recalled

ATLANTA, 16 Dec — About 800,000 doses of H1N1 flu vaccine for infants made by Sanofi-Aventis are being recalled, US health officials said on Tuesday.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the shots from the French drug maker may have been slightly under-strength. Most of them are presumed to have been administered already and parents are not being urged to contact their doctors, The New York Times reported.

“We think children who got the vaccine are fully protected, assuming they got the two shots we recommend for that age,” said Dr Anne Schuchat, director of the National Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the thimerosal-free vaccine, meant for children 6-to-36 months old, was fully potent when released but had dropped 12 percent during follow-up testing, the Times reported.

The recall of the prefilled syringes, which were released a month ago, is voluntary. Doctors are being told to return any supplies they have left.—Internet

Neuron grafts help rats regain lost memory

BANGLADESH, 16 Dec — Scientists in India say an injection of nerve cells into damaged areas of the brains of rats restores the animals’ spatial memory and their ability to learn.

Scientists at India’s National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences and the National Centre for Biological Sciences injected a chemical into 48 adult rats that destroyed neurons in the hippocampus, a structure in the brain characterized by the scientists as the seat of learning and memory.

The researchers said they then transplanted hippocampal cells from newborn mice into the hippocampi of half the brain-damaged rats. After two months, the scientists measured the learning and memory of the rats by their performance in two common maze tests. Results showed rats given the transplanted cells fully recovered their capacity to learn and remember. In contrast, the brain-damaged rats not given the transplanted cells failed to recover, and had many problems learning how to navigate the maze.

The scientists said the transplanted cells led to the secretion of growth factors that promoted development of neurons and other cells that give rise to neurons.

“The findings appear in the journal Behavioural Neuroscience.—Internet

Statins tested to treat H1N1 lung distress

SAN ANTONIO, 16 Dec — Researchers at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio are studying treating H1N1 caused acute respiratory distress syndrome with statins.

“We are studying patients with H1N1 who are in their 20s and 30s and become severely sick, even to the point of having lungs that are white with inflammation,” lead investigator Dr Antonio Anzueto, a pulmonologist and professor in the Health Science Centre School of Medicine, said in a statement. “Susceptible individuals include women in the last trimester of pregnancy, and men and women with underlying conditions such as asthma, obesity, diabetes and heart disease.”

Statin drugs are approved for lowering cholesterol for heart disease but are not currently used for acute respiratory distress syndrome.—Internet

Residents save their belongings as fire razes through food stalls and houses at a slum in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16 Dec, 2009. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. There were no reports of casualties.—XINHUA

Hormone leptin tied to lower Alzheimer’s

BOSTON, 16 Dec — High levels of the hormone leptin have been linked to lower rates of Alzheimer’s disease, researchers in Boston have discovered.

The researchers at Boston University say—if confirmed, their findings, which appear in The Journal of the American Medical Association, could prove important in the hunt for effective prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s, WebMD reported on Tuesday.

Leptin, which is produced by fat cells, is considered critical for regulating hunger and weight. The body of evidence is growing that it also plays a role in brain development and memory.

Research shows leptin reduces concentrations of B-amyloid, the major component of the deposits, or plaques, that occur in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s.

The latest study of 785 elderly people found that after 12 years of follow-up, those with the lowest leptin levels were roughly four times more likely than those with the highest levels to develop Alzheimer’s disease.

A group of swans swim in the Yellow River Marsh near Pinglu county of north China’s Shanxi Province on 14 Dec, 2009. Numerous birds of passage overwinter here as the marsh environment has been greatly improved in recent years.—XINHUA

Americans have more access to cancer drugs

BALTIMORE, 16 Dec — US cancer patients with insurance have access to more drugs than do British patients, but pay out-of-pocket for some that Brits get free, researcher say.

Study leader Ruth R. Faden, director of The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute for Bioethics in Baltimore, and colleagues compared the costs of 11 high-priced cancer drugs in Britain and America. Seven of the medications are free to all British patients, who pay no out-of-pocket costs.

The other four are not covered in the British National Health Service system but are approved for lowering cholesterol for heart disease but are not currently used for acute respiratory distress syndrome. The other four are not covered in the British National Health Service system but are approved for lowering cholesterol for heart disease but are not currently used for acute respiratory distress syndrome. The other four are not covered in the British National Health Service system but are approved for lowering cholesterol for heart disease but are not currently used for acute respiratory distress syndrome.

Statins tested to treat H1N1 lung distress

SAN ANTONIO, 16 Dec — Researchers at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio are studying treating H1N1 caused acute respiratory distress syndrome with statins.

“We are studying patients with H1N1 who are in their 20s and 30s and become severely sick, even to the point of having lungs that are white with inflammation,” lead investigator Dr Antonio Anzueto, a pulmonologist and professor in the Health Science Centre School of Medicine, said in a statement. “Susceptible individuals include women in the last trimester of pregnancy, and men and women with underlying conditions such as asthma, obesity, diabetes and heart disease.”

Statin drugs are approved for lowering cholesterol for heart disease but are not currently used for acute respiratory distress syndrome.—Internet

Residents save their belongings as fire razes through food stalls and houses at a slum in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16 Dec, 2009. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. There were no reports of casualties.—XINHUA

Hormone leptin tied to lower Alzheimer’s

BOSTON, 16 Dec — High levels of the hormone leptin have been linked to lower rates of Alzheimer’s disease, researchers in Boston have discovered.

The researchers at Boston University say—if confirmed, their findings, which appear in The Journal of the American Medical Association, could prove important in the hunt for effective prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s, WebMD reported on Tuesday.

Leptin, which is produced by fat cells, is considered critical for regulating hunger and weight. The body of evidence is growing that it also plays a role in brain development and memory.

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**SPORTS**

Hargreaves still has World Cup shot - Capello

LONDON, 16 Dec—England manager Fabio Capello is adamant there is still enough time for Manchester United midfielder Owen Hargreaves to earn a place in next year's squad for the World Cup in South Africa.

The 28-year-old Hargreaves, who unusually for an England player is at home with the role of a defensive midfielder, has been out of action for nearly 16 months after undergoing surgery on both knees to cure a tendinitis problem. But the former Bayern Munich player is on the brink of returning to full training and Capello, asked about Hargreaves's possible inclusion in his 23-man World Cup squad, said Tuesday: “Why not? He can because he has time to recover everything. He has to play. Players who do not play will not be with me.”

The Italian, speaking at the unveiling of north London club Barnet's new training facilities, added: “I spoke to him two months ago, I met him in Manchester and he was just ready to start training. But now he is fit—Internet.

Manchester United's Michael Owen (2nd L) shields the ball from Wolverhampton Wanderers' Michael Mancienne (2nd R) during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 15 Dec, 2009. Manchester won 3-0.—Xinhua

McCarthy defiant as weakened Wolves lose to United

MANCHESTER, 16 Dec—Wolves manager Mick McCarthy insisted he had no regrets about changing his entire outfield line-up for the 3-0 Premier League loss away to Manchester United here at Old Trafford.

Wolves supporters vented their fury at their manager who changed every player, with the exception of American goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann, from the side that won impressively at Tottenhams at the weekend.

They chanted: “What a waste of money. Where is our first team?” and “Forty quid to watch the reserves.” As Wolves were easily beaten on Tuesday.

But McCarthy, whose relegation-threatened team has a far more “winnable” game against Burnley on Saturday, insisted he was obliged to make changes.

“I played the best team available to me tonight; the fittest, best and strongest team I could pick, that hadn’t played on Saturday,” he said. “That was my best team available because they were all fresh legs.

“I can understand the fans but that is my first team. I’ve got 21 players to pick from and they are all first team players, they are my first team squad.

“I would hope they understand that because my decisions will be judged on whether we stay in the Premier League.”

**Five-star Birmingham keep on climbing**

BIRMINGHAM, 16 Dec—A Cameron Jerome double gave Birmingham a 2-1 win over Blackburn as Alec McLeish’s side claimed a fifth consecutive win in the Premier League for the first time in the club’s history on Tuesday.

Ryan Nelsen ensured Blackburn won when he scored nine minutes from the end of the game, but Jerome had backed off the run that they’ve been doing for some time. He has scored nine goals in 17 league appearances this season.

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**Corinthians begin to sell Roberto Carlos jersey**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Dec—The Corinthians soccer club began to sell Roberto Carlos’ jersey on Tuesday when the left back has signed a two year contract with the Brazilian club.

The star defender, who will be wearing number six, is not fit.—Internet.

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**Klitschko reaches agreement to fight Haye**

KIEV, 16 Dec—WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko has reached a preliminary agreement to fight Britain’s WBA champion David Haye, the Ukrainian said as saying on Tuesday.

Klitschko easily retained his WBC world heavyweight title on Saturday, winning a unanimous points decision against American challenger Kevin Johnson. Haye won the WBA belt from Russian Nikolai Valuev in November and must next fight the WBA’s mandatory challenger John Ruiz before any fight with Klitschko. Media reports said the Ruiz fight could be in March or April.

“In the near future I plan to fight Haye and take the title,” Ukrainian daily Faktys quoted Klitschko as saying.

“The preliminary agreement has already been reached.”

Haye said last month he was hoping for a “mega-showdown” with the Ukrainian.

Former WBA champion Valuev said he was also looking to fight Klitschko. —Internet.

**Hefford leads Canada to exhibition win over US**

CALGARY, 16 Dec—Jayna Hefford had two goals to help the Canadian women’s team beat the United States 6-2 in an exhibition game on Tuesday night.

Caroline Ouellette had a goal and three assists and Meghan Agosta finished with two assists for Canada. Shannon Szabados had 20 saves.

The series concludes with games 30 Dec in St. Paul, Minn., and 1 Jan in Ottawa. Lamoureux’s power-play tally at 4:41 in the second gave the US a 2-1 lead but that was it for the Americans.

Hefford scored both of her goals to give Canada the lead and Marie-Poulin converted a power-play opportunity late in the second to make it 4-2. Gina Kingsbury and Cherie Piper tucked on goals in the third. —Internet.

**Miller at the double as Rangers go top**

DUNDEE, 16 Dec—Kenny Miller struck twice as Rangers returned to the top of the Scottish Premier League with a 3-0 win over Dundee United in a rearranged game at Tannadice on Tuesday.

A sublime strike from DaMarcus Beasley was enough to separate the sides at half-time before Miller scored a second-half double to send Rangers one point clear of rivals Celtic in the race for the championship.

The Old Firm side will feel justice has been served after the original fixture between the pair 1 Nov was abandoned at half-time due to a water-logged pitch with Rangers leading 1-0.

“It was one of those days with too many players underperforming and not getting a foothold in the game,” Dundee United manager Craig Levein said.

“In my eyes we just didn’t perform anywhere the level we can do and this was a wake-up call.”

Walter Smith was de- lighted with the win at a venue Rangers have struggled at in recent years.

“It has been a difficult place for us over the last few seasons and tonight I felt we played extremely well and thoroughly deserved the win,” the Rangers manager said.

“Dundee United were taking a lot of confidence from the run that they’ve had and I felt we needed a performance like that tonight.”

After a cagey opening ten minutes the first chance of the game fell to Rangers with Nicky Weaver producing a super one-handed save to keep out Beasley’s snap shot from 25 yards. —Internet.
Microsoft browser pledge ends EU dispute

BRUSSELS, 16 Dec—EU regulators accepted a pledge by Microsoft to allow rival Internet browsers on its systems, ending a long antitrust dispute with the US software maker.

Commissioner Neelie Kroes said millions of European consumers would benefit by being able to choose their browser and the decision would encourage web companies to innovate.

Microsoft will allow users to select from among 12 browsers including its own Internet Explorer, Mozilla’s Firefox, Apple’s Safari and Google’s Chrome on more than 100 million PCs from mid-March.

The decision averted another penalty for Microsoft which has been fined 1.68 billion euros ($2.44 billion) by the European Commission for previous infringements of anti-competition rules.

The European Union’s executive said Microsoft’s legally binding pledge addressed its concerns that the company may have breached EU antitrust rules by bundling its Internet Explorer web browser with its dominant Windows operating system.

Microsoft will also give computer makers the option to turn off Internet Explorer or install a rival browser, the Commission said.—Internet

Workers paint the exterior of an unfinished supermarket building in Nanjing, Jiangsu province on 14 December 2009.

INTERNET
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

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

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

Scientists decode memory-forming brain cell conversations

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

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays respects to elderly NLD leaders

Storm News

Build new motor roads and railroads to realize lofty aims of the State

Significant night temperatures (16-12-2009)

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