National unity is the most essential requirement for perpetuation of sovereignty of the State

True patriotism means not to harbour narrow-minded nationalism

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The following is the full text of the speech delivered by Senior General Than Shwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, at the Graduation Parade of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy today.

Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at the Graduation parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy.—MNA

Comrades,

Today is the graduation day of the 11th Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy. As you will soon have to discharge the duties of national defence and the duty of the Defence Services Medical Corps, I would like to give necessary guidance solemnly to all of you.

Comrades,

As you have successfully completed the military and medical studies at the Academy, you will have to provide health care services to the Tatmadawmen and their families, apart from providing medical treatment, it is necessary for you to undertake extensive educational activities to promote public awareness so that they could live with health knowledge and consciousness. If each and every Tatmadawman will become smart enough to live with health knowledge and consciousness in line with the motto “Prevention is better than cure”, losses caused by diseases could be prevented. It is an honour for a Tatmadawman to sacrifice his life for the country in the fight against an enemy. However, it is an undesirable loss for the country and the Tatmadaw if a Tatmadawman lost his life due to diseases. (See page 7)
PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 December, 2009

Upgrade rural gravel roads to all-weather ones

The government has been improving infrastructures for development of rural areas, home to the majority of the people. As part of the drive, it is seeking sources for adequate supply of irrigation water because agricultural farming is the main business of rural regions. Thanks to the dams, sluice gates, and clusters of dams and lakes, farmers are enjoying economic development, growing monsoon and summer paddy along with many other crops through double-cropping and multiple-cropping patterns.

In addition, the government has been constructing a large number of bridges over rivers and creeks for ensuring smooth transport for the convenience of the regions concerned. Now, rural people are benefiting from inter-village roads, and roads linking urban and rural areas, and enjoying swift flow of local goods to other regions. Aung Mingalar-Thayetsein gravel road in Kyaukda Township was put into commission on 21 December, as a result of the efforts jointly made by Kyaukda Township and Pyu Township Development Affairs Committees in Bago Division.

So, local people in 51 villages of nine village-tracts in Tawkywe-in and Kanyutkwin regions in the townships have easy access to smooth transport.

In the meantime, local people and well-wishers are making generous donations to help achieve ongoing projects for rural development. Now, many villages have got affiliated basic education high schools, new school buildings, and self-reliant village libraries, thus providing better learning opportunities for the youth and broadening the horizons of the people in rural areas.

Due to new station hospitals, health centres and rural dispensaries, better health care is provided to respective villages and surrounding villages. In some regions there are a large number of model villages that reflect regional development in the economic, education, health and transport sectors.

The socio-economic life of rural people is now improving increasingly owing to the projects the government, local administrative bodies, social organizations and well-wishers have been implementing with goodwill and in collaboration for rural development.

Talks on Organizational Architecture for Tomorrows’ Challenges on 26 Dec

YANGON, 24 Dec—For those who are studying the ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (AFTA), Dr Daw Thet Thet Khin of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association will give talks on Organizational Architecture for Tomorrows’ Challenges at Room: 1009 on the 10th floor of Yuzuna Tower at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Shwegon dine Road in Bahan Township from 1 pm to 3 pm on 26 December.

Those wishing to attend the talks may dial 556183 or 095157032.

Energy Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Administrator Mr Zhang Guobao of National Energy Administration, Vice-Chairman of China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) Mr Liao Yong Yuan and party from the People’s Republic of China at the ministry here on 20 December. They discussed matters to enhance bilateral cooperation in energy sector.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Administrator Mr Zhang Guobao of National Energy Administration and Vice-Chairman of China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) Mr Liao Yong Yuan of PRC.—MNA

MPMEEA holds annual general meeting

Secretary U Zaw Moe Khaing of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs’ Association reads out the annual report and financial statement for 2008-2009.—MNA

Two-year government treasury bonds to be in circulation

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Apart from three-year and five-year government treasury bonds in circulation, the Central Bank of Myanmar, on behalf of the government, will publish two-year government treasury bonds on 1 January 2010. Bonds can be freely bought in groups or individually.

The interest rate for two-year government treasury bonds is 10.3 percent; three-year government treasury bonds, 11.00 percent; and five-year government treasury bonds, 11.5 percent.

Interests are issued biannually: on 15 March, and 15 September. Government treasury bonds are available at Myanmar Economic Bank Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw) in Bunks Zone on Myat Pan Thazin Street in Nay Pyi Taw; Myanmar Loan Certificates Trading Co Ltd at 21/25 on Sule Pagoda Road; and Myanmar Economic Bank Saving Bank (Branch) Nos (1), (2), (3) and (4) in Yangon; and Myanmar Economic Bank Branch Nos (1), (2) and (3) in Mandalay.—MNA

Hnissi Hnitthit Concert on 8-10 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Directed by Director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twn Phyit) and performed by film and music stars, Hnissi Hnitthit Concert will be staged at National Theatre on Myanmar Yangon Road in Dagon Township, Yangon, from 8 to 10 January 2010 in order to raise fund of Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association (Central).—MNA
Suicide bomber kills four in Pakistan’s Peshawar

PESHAWAR, 24 Dec — A suicide bomber struck near an army and police checkpoint in Pakistan’s northwestern Peshawar city on Thursday, killing at least four people and wounding about 10 more, officials said. The blast struck Peshawar’s busy Mall Road, home to government offices, banks and private companies, in an army cantonment area.

“Four people were killed and more than 10 injured. Apparently it was a suicide attack,” Sahibzada Mohammad Anis, the top administrative official for Peshawar, told AFP. Bashir Ahmad Bilour, a senior minister in the provincial government, confirmed the death toll and said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber, although it was not clear if the attacker was on foot or in a car.

“I can see smoke and injured people lying on the ground,” witness Shahid Khan, who works for a local advertising agency, told AFP by telephone. The attack came two days after a teenage suicide bomber attacked a Pakistan journalists’ club in Peshawar, killing three people in an unprecedented assault on the media. — Internet

Bicycle bomb kills three Afghan civilians

KABUL, 24 Dec — An explosive device planted on a bicycle was detonated in Helmand Province south of Afghanistan, killing three civilians and wounding five others on Wednesday, a local official said.

“The gruesome incident occurred in a bazaar in Nadali District this morning,” spokesman for provincial administration Daud Ahmad said. “As a result, three innocent civilians were killed and five others, including four civilians and one Afghan soldier, sustained injuries.”

He put the attack on enemies of peace, a term used against Taliban militants. But the outfit has yet to make comment. — Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills two civilians, wounds three in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Dec — Two civilians were killed and three others injured as their car ran over a roadside bomb planted by Taliban militants in Kandahar Province’s southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, said a statement of Interior Ministry. “The terrorist incident occurred today in Takhta Pul District,” the statement added.

“As a result, two civilians were killed and three others got wounded.” The statement blamed the enemies of Afghanistan, a term used against Taliban militants, for carrying out the blast.

It is the second bombing in the restive southern region on Wednesday. A previous attack which rocked Nadali District in Helmand Province claimed the lives of three civilians and wounded five others including an Afghan soldier.

Taliban militants, who fight Afghan, NATO and US troops, often plant mines on roads and highways to target security forces. But such attacks often claim the lives of innocent Afghans. — Xinhua

Five killed, would-be suicide bomber captured in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Four policemen and a civilian was killed and three people wounded in separate attacks, while Iraqi security forces arrested a would-be suicide bomber in Baghdad, Iraqi security forces said on Wednesday.

Four policemen were shot when gunmen attacked their checkpoint in Abu Ghraib area, west of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In Baghdad, a bomb attacked to a minibus carrying passengers detonated in the neighbourhood of Kadhimiya in northern the capital, killing a passenger and wounding three others, a police source told Xinhua.

In separate incident, Iraqi security forces searched a suspected house in Baghdad’s western district of Jami’a and arrested a would-be suicide bomber, seizing three explosive-belts and 24 bags of chemical substances which can be used in homemade bombs, Qassim Atta, spokesman of Baghdad operations command, said in a statement.

Intelligence reports said that the suspect was preparing to carry out suicide attack on civilians and Iraqi security forces in the neighbourhood, Atta added. — Xinhua

At least two killed in explosion in northern Iraq

MOSSUL, 24 Dec — At least two people were killed and five injured on Wednesday in a powerful explosion near a church in central Mosul, the capital of northern Iraq’s Nineveh Province, a police source said.

The blast took place in the morning near a church in the al-Sa’ah neighbourhood in central the city, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The police could not immediately say whether the powerful blast was caused by a car bomb or a roadside bomb, the source said. Eight day ago, Mosul was the scene for a twin bombing, carried out by a booby-trapped cart and followed by a roadside bomb explosions near another church in the city, killing five people and wounding 40 others. — Xinhua
Ford close to selling Volvo unit to China's Geely

STOCKHOLM, 24 Dec — Ford is close to selling its Volvo unit to China’s Geely Group and expects a final deal early next year, the US auto giant said in a statement. “Ford Motor Company confirmed today that all substantive commercial terms relating to the potential sale of Volvo Car Corporation have been settled between Ford and Zhejiang Geely Holding Group,” the statement said.

Ford said that work on financing and government approvals remains to be completed, adding that it expects the deal to close “in the second quarter 2010.” “The perspective sale would ensure Volvo has the resources, including the capital investment, necessary to further strengthen the business and build its global franchise,” Ford said. Ford’s statement did not reveal the amount of Geely’s offer.—Xinhua

Indonesia’s cocoa export predicted flat

JAKARTA, 24 Dec — The exports of cocoa from Indonesia is predicted to keep steady this year and next year, compared to that of last year which stood at 350,000 tons, Indonesian Cocoa Association said on Thursday. Chairman of Indonesian Cocoa Association Halim Razak said that Indonesia has attempted to boost the quality of the commodity to raise its added value.

By conducting fermentation programme, the chairman said that it could give added value as much as 150 to 200 US dollars per ton. He said that currently, the Indonesia’s cocoa quality is still lower than the products from Ghana.—Internet

Spain’s Telefonica buys Internet phone provider Jajah

MADRID, 24 Dec — Spain’s Telefonica said on Wednesday its 02 unit had bought Jajah, a provider of Internet-based phone service with headquarters in the US and Israel, for 145 million euros (207 million dollars).

The all cash deal is subject to approval by Spain’s antitrust authorities, the former state monopoly said in a statement. Like Skype, Jajah allows its users to make free calls among its users over the Internet or very cheap calls to a fixed-line or mobile number.

“The acquisition of Jajah broadens the scope of our communications offering and opens up new capabilities in the voice communication space,” the chief executive of Telefonica Europe, Matthew Key, said in the statement. — Internet

IT industry hits bottom in 2009 but upward route still unclear

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Dec — It seems that some of the worst-case scenarios, predicted earlier in 2009 for the information technology (IT) industry, might have unexpected happy endings as the year draws to a close. Research firm Gartner painted a gloomy picture in March, forecasting global personal computer (PC) shipments will plunge 11.9 percent in the year from 2008, a drop it said would be the sharpest for the industry in history and would dwarf the previous record decline reached in 2001 during the dot-com bust.

In the following months, Gartner made several adjustments to the predictions with optimism increasing each time. In most recent updates issued in November, the firm said it now expect worldwide PC shipments to climb 2.8 percent year-on-year in 2009 and will achieve double-digit growth in the coming year.

The increasing demand for PCs is seen as a key indicator that the overall IT market has bottomed out and may be embarking on the road to recovery.—Xinhua

Britain outnumbers France with cheese

BEIJING, 24 Dec — Britain has overtaken France and Italy in the number of cheeses it manufactures. According to Juliet Harbutt, a global authority on cheese who organizes the British Cheese Awards, about 700 varieties now boast a “Made in Britain” label. This is 100 more varieties than France produces, and twice as many as Italy.

Britain’s cheese-making renaissance began 20 years ago when many of the nation’s 200 specialist cheese companies started operations.

The big reduction, 15 years ago, in the powers of the Milk Marketing Board, which had bought up most milk from producers, and the introduction of European Union milk quotas in the 1980s, both proved the spur for dairy farmers to look for other ways of using their core product.
Chile gives priority to trade with ASEAN countries

SANTIAGO, 24 Dec—Chile held a business seminar on Wednesday to strengthen its trade ties with the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Organized by the state-run trade promotion organization, ProChile, and the Chamber of Commerce for Asia Pacific, the seminar aimed to provide updated information about ASEAN countries and discuss trade benefits, challenges, and opportunities for Chilean exporters and importers. Rodrigo Contreras, representative of the Economic International Affairs Direction, said that Chile has set its target on ASEAN countries, mainly Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia.

“We have entered the vast Asian markets and we have had trade agreements with China, South Korea, Japan and India, so currently our priority is given to trade negotiations with ASEAN countries,” Contreras said. He added that the “ASEAN countries represent big trade potential for Chile.” Currently the trade exchange between Chile and ASEAN countries has surpassed 2 billion US dollars, Contreras added.

Diplomats of Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam attended the seminar.—Xinhua

Poland to increase troops in Afghanistan

KARSIJ, 24 Dec—Poland would boost its military presence in Afghanistan within the framework of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a statement issued by Afghanistan’s Presidential Palace said on Wednesday.

The statement was released at the conclusion of the meeting between the visiting Polish Defence Minister Bogdan Klich and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

“Defence Minister Bogdan Klich called on President Karzai at his palace on Wednesday and said that Poland would increase its troops within NATO framework to up to 2,600 by April 2010,” the statement said.

Some 2,000 Polish troops are currently stationed in Afghanistan under NATO command to help stabilize security in the war-ravaged country.

Kriz, according to the statement, called for Kich to facilitate Afghan youth study in Poland in both military and civilian fields. The Polish defence minister arrived in Afghanistan Tuesday to pay a visit to Polish troops, which were stationed in the central Ghazni Province.

Russia likely to buy foreign helicopter carrier

MOSCOW, 24 Dec—Russia’s purchase of a foreign helicopter carrier is highly likely, Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov told the daily Rossiiskaya Gazeta in an interview. “We are now analyzing the terms on which it may be delivered to us. But I think the chances are very high,” Serdyukov said in the interview to be published on Thursday.

Negotiations on the purchase of the French helicopter carrier Mistral are progressing “well enough,” he said, adding that talks on the acquisition of a similar vessel are underway with other countries. Serdyukov also said Russia may buy some elements of the French military hardware.

“We are interested only in certain specific elements. For instance, communication and control systems,” he said.

The Defence Minister said Russia’s military reform will continue over the next few years. “According to the presidential decree, the troops will be reduced to 1 million by 2016,” said Serdyukov.

He added another major task is the rearmament of the armed forces. “We expect the share of modern hardware and weapons to reach one third by 2012 and then rise to 70-100 percent by 2020,” he said.—Xinhua

Climate change puts ecosystems on run

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—Global warming is causing climate belts to shift toward the poles and to higher elevations, to keep pace with which, the average ecosystem will need to shift about a quarter mile each year, said a new study led by scientists at the Carnegie Institution.

For some habitats, such as low-lying areas, climate belts are moving even faster, putting many species in jeopardy, especially where human development has blocked migration paths, said the report in the 24 Dec issue of journal Nature.

“Expressed as velocities, climate-change projections connect directly to survival prospects for plants and animals. These are the conditions that will set the stage, whether species move or cope in place,” said study co-author Chris Field, director of the Carnegie Institution’s Department of Global Ecology.

The research team, which included researchers from the Carnegie Institution, Stanford University, the California Academy of Sciences, and the University of California, Berkeley, combined data on current climate and temperature gradients worldwide with climate model projections for the next century to calculate “temperature velocity” for different regions of the world.—Xinhua

Syria, Turkey move towards closer cooperation

DAMASCUS, 24 Dec—Syria and Turkey on Wednesday signed 50 agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoU) and a work programme for joint cooperation, as leaders of the two countries met and vowed to further enhance bilateral relations.

“The Syrian-Turkish relations have developed over the past few years; however we still have a long way to go,” Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said at a joint press conference with visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

“The fruits of our deep relations could be seen in all fields, which became a reality that anyone couldn’t ignore,” said Assad.

Xinhua

New study shows rise in drug resistance of dangerous infection in US hospitals

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—A new study in the journal Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology reports a surge in drug resistant strains of Acinetobacter, a dangerous type of bacteria that is becoming increasingly common in US hospitals. This study is being posted online on Wednesday and will appear in the journal’s February print edition.

Acinetobacter infections attack patients in hospital intensive care units and others and have recently plagued soldiers returning home from the war in Iraq. These infections often appear as severe pneumonias or bloodstream infections, and require strong drugs to be treated, when they can be stopped at all.—Xinhua
Three dead, dozens missing in Philippine ferry collision

MANILA, 24 Dec—A ferry collided with a fishing boat off the Philippines on Thursday killing three people and leaving about two dozen missing, an official said.

Rescue boats picked up nearly 50 people from the ferry as it began to sink following the collision, Coast Guard spokesman Commander Armand Balilo said.

“Our search teams have found three bodies, but we continue to search for two dozen still missing,” he told reporters.

The weather was clear at the time of the accident and officials said they would investigate what caused the collision.

Ferries are an important mode of transport in the Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,100 islands. But, accidents are common because of overcrowding, poor maintenance and tropical storms.

Australian mother charged for locking baby in 60-degree Celsius car

SYDNEY, 24 Dec—An Australian mother was charged on Wednesday with leaving her little boy locked inside her vehicle in extremely hot conditions while she went shopping. The woman, who had admitted making a “stupid mistake”, was charged with leaving a child unsupervised in a motor vehicle.

The 18-month-old was rescued by shopkeepers who used a hammer to smash their way into a four-wheel drive in the car park of a shopping centre at McGraths Hill in northwest Sydney. The temperature inside the vehicle was estimated to be more than 60 degrees Celsius. The boy’s 34-year-old mother, who has five children, had been contacted by caseworkers investigating the matter; authorities said.—Xinhua

Continued militancy makes future bleak for Afghans

KABUL, 24 Dec—“I have little hope to return home safe and sound in the evening,” the nine-year-old Rahmat Khan said. Selling shopping bags in a dusty bazaar along Kabul river to support his five-member family, Khan said that he and his elder brother both earned between 150 Afghans (US $3 dollars) to 250 Afghans (US $5 dollars) daily. His elder brother washes cars in the afternoon and attends school in the morning.

Revealing his ordeal, the child said that his father was a shopkeeper and one day last year when he was going to his shop, suddenly a suicide bomber targeted foreign troops in Hodkhir area killing several persons including his father. “My father was martyred in the suicide attack and since then I cannot attend school regularly,” the minor Khan, a student of grade three lamented.—Internet

Daylong Va post office standoff ends peacefully

WYTHEVILLE, 24 Dec — A daylong standoff at a small-town Virginia post office ended peacefully with three hostages being released and a suspect who came out of the building in a wheelchair in custody, police said late Wednesday. Warren Taylor of Sullivan County, Tenn., is being questioned and authorities do not yet have a motive, state police Sgt Michael Conroy said.

The hostages and suspect left the building in Wytheville after authorities ordered the man to surrender.

The standoff began at about 2:30 pm when shots were fired at the one-storey brick post office in the mountain town in western Virginia. No one was injured, and relatives of two of the hostages said they were able to talk to their loved ones by phone. It ended about 8 1/2 hours later without the dozens of SWAT members armed with automatic weapons having to fire a shot. “We’re just grateful it ended peacefully,” Conroy said. “This is just the best outcome we could hope for.”—Internet

Giants Pyramid UFO ‘Hovers Over Moscow’

A mysterious ‘UFO’ seen in the sky over Moscow has sparked speculation that the city has been visited by an alien spacecraft.

The fuzzy grey shape was apparently captured on film in at least two separate videos - one filmed during the daytime and another at night - which became an online sensation.

But sceptics suggested there would be thousands of videos, rather than just two, if the object really had remained in the skies for hours.

Russian police have not commented on the alleged sightings.

The reports of the pyramid come just days after a Russian missile launch set off a spate of UFO sightings in Norway.

The dramatic light spiral seen over the north of the country prompted theories that it was caused by a meteor, the Northern Lights or even aliens. However, HYPERLINK “http://uk.news.yahoo.com/ic/russia.html” Russia later revealed that its test-firing of a new intercontinental missile had ended in failure - at the same time as observers witnessed the early morning light show.

“Superman” lifts car off 6-year-old girl to save her

A US man is hailed as “Superman” after lifting a car off a 6-year-old girl, according to media reports on Monday.

The girl escaped with minor injuries after lifting a car off a 6-year-old girl, according to media reports on Monday.

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“Dead” woman, 73, revived after 30 minutes

A 73-year-old woman was revived half an hour after her heart stopped beating during an electrocardiogram test in Changsha, Hunan Province.

A coronary heart patient, the woman’s heart stopped beating unexpectedly during a physical examination, according to doctors.

Doctors said it was rare for a person not to be revived within six minutes, they die,” a doctor said.

Cat saved after being superglued to highway

A cat has escaped with all nine of its lives after being superglued to a highway.

Motorists passing by the stricken cat, named Timothy, did not bother to stop, thinking it had been injured.

But one couple driving along the busy road in Minnesota decided to investigate and pulled over.

It was only then they realized its paws had been cruelly glued to the tarmac.

Rosey Quinn, from Second Chance Rescue, told KSFY.com: “It’s a mouth dropper because you are just like are you kidding me? But they did it.”

She added the rescued service had never seen anything like it before.

Timothy is now recovering from injuries he suffered when he was removed from the road.

Cat saved after being superglued to highway
National unity is the most essential...

(from page 1)

life due to diseases. Therefore, you must render health care serv-
ices to Tatmadawmen who are performing national defence duties in accordance with the aim of the Defence Services Medical Corps “Sound Health and Fitness for Combat Capability” so that all the Tatmadawmen could fulfill their duties in good health without any trouble of diseases. Beside, our family mem-
bers must also take part in rendering necessary support together with the Tatmadawmen in the re-

mote regions where com-
munication and trans-
portation are difficult. I would like to urge you to treat such family members as your own close relatives and pro-

provide health care services to them.

Comrades,

You are medical pro-

fessional as well as mem-

bers of the Tatmadawmen shouldering the duties of national defence. Our Tatmadaw has always paid respect to its loyalty to the State and the peo-

ple, as it is steadfastly upholding the “Four Oaths” of its commit-

ments.

The Tatmadawmen are those who do not hesi-
tate to sacrifice their lives for the country and the Tatmadaw if necessary.

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The Tatmadawmen are those who do not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for the country and the Tatmadaw if necessary.

Comrades, There have been advancements in medical science and military related science with the changes of eras and systems. Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons have been produced by combination of medical and military sciences. There were times when those weapons were used carrying out the supply-
ing duties in the base. In whatever region or situa-
tion you are posted, you need to render your serv-
ices with goodwill and kindness according to the motto: “Goodwill and Kindness take harm away”. The services of the members of the Medical Corps like you play an important role for the Tatmadaw, as the combating warriors will be able to fully perform their national defence duties only when they are in good health and fitness and high morale.

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National unity is the most essential...

(from page 7)

in some regions although the international community is making efforts to control and restrict those weapons, as the attacks with such kinds of dangerous weapons could have serious consequences causing social sufferings for consecutive generations of mankind. As you are members of Tatmadaw and medical professions, you are required to seek ways and means in advance to prevent the dangerous consequences of these nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Only then will you be able to protect the members of the Armed Forces effectively in the face of such dangers. Therefore, apart from your studies at the Academy, you have to pursue further studies on a sustainable basis not only of the ever progressing medical science but also other related military science and tactics. I wish to urge you to apply your profession with innovative and creative efforts in the interest of the country and the Tatmadaw through exchange of knowledge and experiences gained in your practical life among yourselves.

Comrades,

Being Tatmadawmen and medical doctors, you need to be not only military leaders with full of physical prowess and combat capability but also medical doctors with mental prowess and kind heart to help others. I wish to urge you to train and build up yourselves in order to become good leaders imbued with both physical and mental prowess.

Comrades,

As the Tatmadaw was born out of the peoples, we could arise in the areas struck by natural disasters. In that regard, contributions of the Members of the Medical Corps deserve commendation and have been put on record with high esteem and honour. As all of you are to be assigned at different regions of the country, you have to look after the health and wellbeing of the local people to the best of your ability. Since majority of the people of our country live in the rural areas, the Government has laid down five programmes for Rural Areas Development with a view to emergence of the new, modern developed nation and is striving to achieve the objective of making every one free from curable diseases fully enjoy a long life. Therefore, you keep on practicing your medical knowledge learnt from the Academy, will you be able to carry out health care activities effectively.

Distinguished guests seen at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA

You are required to equip yourselves with the leadership qualities. Whatever tasks assigned to you must be fulfilled together with the members under your charge by exerting correct leadership. Good leadership means having firm belief in yourselves, capabilities, and possessing the objective of making every one free from curable diseases fully enjoy a long life. Therefore, 

Distinguished guests seen at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA.—MNA
National unity is the most essential...

As you are to be assigned at different regions of the country, you have to build up the national unity while performing your duties to look after the health and wellbeing of the national brethren. National unity is the most essential requirement for the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State which is resided by over one hundred national races. Although we have different faiths and traditions, all the nationalities are the citizens of the Union of Myanmar with the same characteristics such as kindness, helpfulness, patience, bravery, and patriotism. True patriotism means not to harbour narrow-minded nationalism, but to have the true patriotic spirit desirous of working together for the perpetuation, progress and prosperity of the Union. While extending help in the health and welfare activities of the national brethren, you must organize the people so that such a true patriotism or union spirit be flourished among the national races.

Comrades,

I would like to conclude by urging you:
- To exert efforts to become reliable physicians of the Tatmadaw in line with the motto of the Defence Services Medical Academy “Conquering Warriors”.
- To try to become good leaders equipped with three designated capacities while upholding the “Our Three Main National Causes”, and to undergo training and get yourselves ever ready for the national defence.
- To build national unity by serving the interests of the local people at any regions of your assignment.

True patriotism means not to harbour narrow-minded nationalism, but to have the true patriotic spirit desirous of working together for the perpetuation, progress and prosperity of the Union.

Serious General Than Shwe addresses...
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 11th Intake of DSMA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The graduation dinner in honour of the graduate officers of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy was held at the assembly hall of the convocation hall of DSMA in Yangon at 6 pm today, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 Quartermaster-General General Ththa Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, departmental heads, senior military officers from Mingaladon Station, the commandant of the DSMA and advisers, professors/heads of department, deans, faculty members, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, artistes from Myawady Music Troupe and the Myanmar Music Association presented dances and songs to the accompaniment of the Myawady Band; and Myawady Anyeint troupe, non-dramatic performances at the convocation hall.—MNA

EP No.1 Minister receives President of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI)

YANGON, 24 Dec—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address at the opening of General Banking Services Course No. 15, conducted by the Banks Supervisory Committee, at the hall of Myanmar Banks Association, here, this afternoon.

Next, the minister cordially greeted the trainees and instructors of the course.

Also present on the occasion were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

A total of 43 trainees from State-owned and private-run banks are attending the 10-week course. They will have the opportunity to study economic subjects concerning banking services, laws, rules and regulations on banking services and monetary affairs and general knowledge on international banking services.—MNA

Yazarlin medical university scholarship winners announced

YANGON, 24 Dec—The “Yazarlin medical university scholarship” organized by U Aye Kyaw-Daw Aye Aye Myint (Yazarlin family) granted eight medical students attending the University of Medicine for 2009-2010 academic year.

Those winning scholarship are Maung Soe Htet Oo (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Maung Sithu Myo Aung (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Maung Yein Tun (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Ma Ma Khant Mon Tin (first year, University of Medicine, Mandalay), Ma Cho Mar Wai (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), Ma Ma Myat Thet Hla Khin (first year, University of Medicine, Magway) and Ma Thet Hnin Htet (first year, University of Medicine, Magway), each of them will get K50,000 starting from 2009-2010 academic year and plan is arranged to annually provide scholarship until their graduations for those who abide by Yazarlin family’s rules.

Scholarship winning students with their related documents may contact Yazarlin family, No. 50, Kanyiktha-3 Street, Finger Lake, FMI City, Hlinethaya Township. (Ph: 682632, 687617 and 09-5131260).—MNA
Four arrested for murdering marine’s family in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 24 Dec — Authorities in the eastern province of Tabasco have arrested four suspects on charges of killing four relatives of a marine who died in a high profile drug bust last week, the state’s attorney Rafael Gonzalez Lastra told media on Wednesday.

Lastra said that soldiers arrested two gunmen late on Tuesday following searches of a hotel in Tabasco’s capital Villahermosa. The gunmen killed four members of Melquisidec Angulo Cordova’s family and injured two more on Monday night, apparently in revenge for the marine’s participation in a raid last Wednesday that killed Mexico’s third most wanted man, Arturo Beltran Leyva, he said.

He told media that the Zetas, the armed wing of drug trafficking organization the Gulf Cartel, had been responsible for killing the family, describing it as a “bloody event.” Lastra also said there could be more arrests soon. — Xinhua

Over 10 suspected Taleban militants killed, wounded in N Afghanistan

BAGHLAN, 24 Dec — In a joint operation carried out by Afghan National Army (ANA) and police in northern Baghlân province, over 10 Taleban militants were killed and wounded, Provincial governor Mohammad Akbar Barizkai said on Wednesday.

“ANA and Afghan National Police killed and wounded more than 10 suspected Taleban militants in a cleanup operation conducted in Baghlân-e-Markazi District on Tuesday,” Barizkai told reporters at a Press conference. A local Taleban commander Mullah Zulmai was among the injured militants, he added.

He did not give the exact figure of Taleban causalities, but admittedly four police officers were also killed in the firefight.Moreover, at the same Press briefing, Mohammad Kabir Andarabi, police chief of Baghlân, confirmed that some civilians were also hurt in the operation, but did not give more details. Baghlân, a relatively peaceful province until early this year, has been the scene of Taleban-led insurgency for some months. — Xinhua

Filipino troops try to keep volcano evacuees safe

LEGAZPI, 24 Dec — Police and soldiers donned Santa hats and red clown noses and belted out songs in crammed evacuation centers in hopes of keeping 47,000 displaced residents from sneaking back to their homes on the slopes of a lava-spilling volcano.

Despite the risk of an imminent explosive eruption of the 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) Mayon, which has been oozing lava and blasting ash for a week, some residents weary of temporary shelters are contemplating to go back to their abandoned villages for traditional Christmas Eve family gatherings. Others want to retrieve their livestock or harvest crops.

“We are not used to spending Christmas in the evacuation center,” said Ramon Ayala, 48, whose home lies within a five-mile (eight-kilometer) zone around Mayon that authorities emptied last week when the volcano started rumbling.

“We and many others plan to spend Christmas Eve in our homes,” Ayala said. Authorities are determined to make sure it does not happen.

BlackBerry users beset by second outage in a week

TORONTO, 24 Dec — When Corey Marshall’s BlackBerry mysteriously stopped sending and receiving messages, he realized all too clearly just how much he depends on the device: He had no way of contacting his friends because he never bothers to exchange phone numbers with anyone anymore.

“A lot of the times if I meet someone and I see they have a BlackBerry, I don’t even want their number or care. I just want their BBM,” or their BlackBerry instant-messaging ID, said the 23-year-old tanning-salon manager and student. “I didn’t even have my boss’ number. I only contact him through BB.” He added: “I go to sleep with it in my hands. It’s the first thing I do when I wake up in the middle of the night. It’s the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning.”

VENICE flooded as Italy’s bad weather continues

ROME, 24 Dec — An unusually high tide flooded most of Venice early Wednesday, forcing tourists and residents to wade through knee-high waters or take to improvised, elevated boardwalks set up in St Mark’s Square and other landmarks.

The waters came in before dawn and reached a peak of 56.6 inches (144 centimetres) above average sea level. City authorities said that put around 60 percent of Venice’s streets and piazzas under water. Wednesday’s level was still far from last year’s record 63 inches (160 centimeters), Venice’s worst flooding in more than two decades.

The tide receded during the day but the city said that more flooding is expected in coming days. Northern Italy has been hit by snowstorms and cold temperatures over the past several months. — Xinhua

Iran to unveil new satellite in February

TEHERAN, 24 Dec — Iran’s Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic will unveil its new national satellite early February, the Press TV reported.

“The new generation of Iran’s national satellite called Toloo (Dawn) will be unveiled in the Ten-Day Dawn (celebrations),” Vahidi was quoted as saying.

The Ten-Day Dawn, which extends from 1 Feb to 11 Feb, marks the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in February 1979.

The satellite has been designed and built by Iranian scientists and experts at Iran’s Electronics Industries Co (Sa-Iran), Vahidi added. — Xinhua

Research in Motion (RIM) has apologized to users of its popular BlackBerry smartphone in the Americas after they were hit by an outage in email service overnight, the second in less than a week for some customers. — Internet

Iran’s national satellite

INTERNET

VENICE flooded as Italy’s bad weather continues

INTERNET
Three tigers escape from circus in southwestern Mexico

MORELIA, 24 Dec—Authorities say three tigers escaped from a circus caravane in southwestern Mexico. The Civil Protection agency says one of the tigers was quickly caught. But the other two escaped into a mountainous area about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Morelia, capital of the Pacific coast state of Michoacan.

The tigers escaped on Wednesday when their cage burst open while the caravan of the Circo Aquilar Hermanos drove along a highway. Police and circus employees are searching for the two missing tigers.

Mexico has a problem with dangerous animals escaping from their care-takers. Tigers, an elephant, a lion, buffalo and camels have escaped around the country over the past year, with some people before being attacked.

Man jailed for eating rare tiger

BEIJING, 24 Dec—A man who killed and ate what may have been the last wild Indochinese tiger in China was sentenced to 12 years in jail, local media reported on Tuesday. Kang Wannian, a villager from Mengla, Yunnan Province, met the tiger in February while gathering freshwater clams in a nature reserve near China’s border with Laos. He claimed to have killed it in self-defence.

The only known wild Indochinese tiger in China, photographed in 2007 at the Sanqing Mountain, the Diaolou (watchtower house) age List, which is Mount Wutai, the unique residential architecture of Fujian Province calling Tulou, is held in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Dec, 2009. Representatives of the five sites in China that have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which is Mount Wutai, the unique residential architecture of Fujian Province calling Tulou, Sanqing Mountain, the Diaolou (watchtower house) of Kaiping and South China Karst, are conferred World Heritage Status.

Venezuela, Belarus set up commission to evaluate cooperation

CARACAS, 24 Dec—Venezuela and Belarus on Wednesday set up an extraordinary commission to evaluate the development of their strategic alliance and cooperation agreements in various areas. The commission, among other issues, would evaluate the cooperation between the two nations in the fields of energy, industry, food, science, technology, house building and military technology.

Venezuelan Vice President Ramon Carrizalez said the commission would help develop the strategic alliance and boost their cooperation, adding that the two countries have attached great importance to their ties. In September, Venezuela and Belarus signed 14 cooperation agreements and reviewed 70 others on defence, agriculture and environment preservation.

S Korea to voluntarily register 20% emissions cut by end of January

SEOUL, 24 Dec—South Korea said on Thursday it plans to register its goal of voluntarily reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from the projected emission level in 2020 compared to 2005 by the end of January.

The announcement by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy in a meeting with financial and research institutions came after the United Nations climate talks held in Copenhagen, Denmark last week, where the country showed its commitment to voluntary emission cuts.

The ministry said South Korea is likely to retain its status as a country with no obligation of compulsory emission under the Copenhagen Accord, according to local media.

Bolivian president in emergency plane landing

LA PAZ, 24 Dec—A plane carrying Bolivian President Evo Morales had to make an emergency landing on Wednesday because of a failure in its hydraulic system, but no one was harmed, a spokesman said. Presidential spokesman Ivan Canelas said Morales was flying from La Paz to the southern city of Sucre, but had to stop in Cochabamba in central Bolivia. "It was only a small scare. The President was not worried or alarmed because it is not the first time it has happened," Canelas said.

He said the presidential jet has had to make two other emergency landings because of what he called small faults. The plane is a little more than 30 years old, and Bolivian officials have negotiated the purchase a new jet from the Russian airplane maker Antonov for $30 million as part of a loan from Russia’s government.

US court orders treasure returned to Spain

MADRID, 24 Dec—A Florida court has ruled that US treasure hunting firm, Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., must return a priceless trove recovered from a 19th century ship to Spain, Spain’s Culture Ministry said on Wednesday.

“Judge Steven Meryday of the US district court of Tampa reaffirmed Spain’s rights over the shipwreck of the Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes and all the objects which were illegally taken from it by Odyssey,” it said in a statement. In May 2007 the Tampa-based Odyssey announced it had found half a million silver coins and hundreds of gold objects from a ship they code-named the “Black Swan,” which went down in 1804, in the Atlantic Ocean off the Strait of Gibraltar.

The Odyssey Explorer, a ship belonging to US deep-sea explorer firm Odyssey is led into the port of Algeciras in 2007. A Florida court has ruled that US treasure hunting firm, Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., must return a priceless trove recovered from a 19th century ship to Spain, Spain’s Culture Ministry said on Wednesday.

INTERNET

Man jailed for eating rare tiger

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The only known wild Indochinese tiger in China, photographed in 2007 at the same reserve, has not been seen since Kang’s meal, the Yunnan-based newspaper Life News reported earlier this month. The paper quoted the provincial Forestry Bureau as saying there was no evidence the tiger was the last one in China.

A local court sentenced Kang to 10 years for killing a rare animal plus two years for illegal possession of firearms, the local web portal Yunnan.cn reported. Prosecutors said Kang did not need a gun to gather clams.

The World Heritage certificates conferring ceremony is held in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Dec, 2009. Representatives of the five sites in China that have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which is Mount Wutai, the unique residential architecture of Fujian Province calling Tulou, Sanqing Mountain, the Diaolou (watchtower house) of Kaiping and South China Karst, are conferred with certificates by UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee here on Wednesday.

INTERNET

Stranded passengers of Spanish airline Air Comet lounge around in Madrid’s Barajas Airport after the airline’s flights were cancelled and its licence was suspended on 23 Dec, 2009.
sniffer dog for the Jeju police, having performed well in 181 missions,” a spokesman for Sooam was quoted as saying by local news agency Yonhap. A breed of a German Shepherd dog, Quinn is credited for finding the body of a missing elementary school student in Jeju island after 20 minutes of being dispatched, quickly ending a search that involved 30,000 police officers.

The police said the dog received only three days of rudimentary training before the search, far-exceeding the pace of normal dogs who require four to five months to grow new cognitive abilities. The foundation created the first cloned dog, Snuppy, in 2005, and has been considered as the leader in the cloning field. — Xinhua

**S Korean scientists cloning explosive-sniffing police dog**

**WASHINGTON, 24 Dec** — A group of South Korean veterinarians said on Thursday they are in the process of cloning an explosive-sniffing dog, “Quinn,” who is best known for finding the body of a missing child on Jeju Island in 2007. The Sooam Biotech Research Foundation, led by the disgraced stem cell research scientist Hwang Woo-suk, said they were successful in extracting a somatic cell from Quinn in October and an impregnated surrogate dog is scheduled to give birth in the first half of next year.

The research institute said the Jeju Provincial Police Agency made an official request for the cloning of the sniffing dog, and all procedure will be free of charge. “Quinn is the most outstanding sniffer dog for the Jeju police, having performed well in 181 missions,” a spokesman for Sooam was quoted as saying by local news agency Yonhap. A breed of a German Shepherd dog, Quinn is credited for finding the body of a missing elementary school student in Jeju island after 20 minutes of being dispatched, quickly ending a search that involved 30,000 police officers.

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**Scientists create world’s first molecular transistor**

**WASHINGTON, 24 Dec** — A group of scientists have succeeded in creating the first transistor made from a single molecule. The team, which includes researchers from Yale University and the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea, will publish their findings in the 24 Dec issue of the journal Nature.

The team, including Mark Reed, professor of engineering and applied science at Yale, showed that a benzene molecule attached to gold contacts could behave just like a silicon transistor. The researchers were able to manipulate the molecule’s different energy states depending on the voltage they applied to it through the contacts. By manipulating the energy states, they were able to control the current passing through the molecule. “It’s like rolling a ball up and over a hill, where the ball represents electrical current and the height of the hill represents the molecule’s different energy states,” Reed said. — Xinhua

**Swine flu poses a threat to new moms**

**LOS ANGELES, 24 Dec** — Swine flu is not only dangerous to pregnant women, but it’s a threat to new mothers too, the first study to document this risk shows. An analysis of pregnant women and newborn mothers who were hospitalized with swine flu in California found that those who had a baby in the previous two weeks were at higher risk of severe flu complications.

The swine flu threat to pregnant women has been well-documented, and public health officials urged them to get vaccinated. Previous research showed expectant mothers infected with the virus are more likely to be hospitalized and face a greater risk of death than the general population. The new report, released Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine, is the first to look at the risk to women who recently gave birth and highlights “the continued high risk immediately after pregnancy,” the researchers wrote. — Internet

**Study shows key protein helps control blood pressure**

**WASHINGTON, 24 Dec** — University of Iowa researchers have shown that a protein channel helps nerve sensors in blood vessels keep blood pressure in check. Without the protein channel, known as ASIC2, the sensors are unable to send the brain the signals it needs to properly control blood pressure.

The finding, which was based on animal models, is important because it could be used to create new treatments to prevent high blood pressure (hypertension).

The study results will appear in the Dec. 24 issue of the journal Neuron. “Sensors in your body’s blood vessels sense when your blood pressure goes up, for instance, when you get mad at someone,” said the study’s principal investigator Frank Abboud, director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at the University of Iowa. — Xinhua

**Anti-inflammatory drugs interfere with aspirin’s clotting ability**

**WASHINGTON, 24 Dec** — A new study conducted at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in Israel reveals that Celebrex and other anti-inflammatory coxib medications may counter the positive effects of aspirin in preventing blood clots.

The research, published this week in the U.S. journal of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), indicates that people who are taking aspirin and coxibs together may be inhibiting the aspirin’s effectiveness in preventing heart attacks and strokes.

“This finding strongly suggests that humans who are consuming coxibs and a low dose of aspirin simultaneously are exposed to a greater risk of cardiovascular events,” said Professor Gilad Rimonof BGU. In the past decade, a new group of anti-inflammatory drugs, coxibs, which include Celebrex and Arcoxia was developed to treat arthritis as well as other pain. — Xinhua

**Scientists discover how brain encodes memories at cellular level**

**WASHINGTON, 24 Dec** — A team of US scientists have made a major discovery in how the brain encodes memories, thus becoming the first to uncover a central process in encoding memories that occurs at the level of the synapse, where neurons connect with each other.

The report, made by scientists at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and published in the 24 Dec issue of the journal Neuron, could eventually lead to the development of new drugs to aid memory.

“When we learn new things, when we store memories, there are a number of things that have to happen,” said senior author Kenneth S Kosik at UCSB’s Neuroscience Research Institute, who is a leading researcher in the area of Alzheimer’s disease. — Xinhua

**A worker shapes a snow sculpture prior to the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province on 18 Dec, 2009. The 26th Ice and Snow Festival will kick off on January 5, 2010, local media reported.** — Internet

**An image of swan is projected on a screen created by a water fountain during a press preview of “Odalith water illumination” show in Tokyo 18 December 2009. The 15 minutes show, which projects images on a 15 meters (49 feet) tall and 40 meters (131 wide) water screen, will be held from December 21 to January 11, 2010.** — Internet
No festive cheer for Lyon, Marseille as Bordeaux win

PARIS, 24 Dec — Lyon and Marseille went into the Christmas recess nursing severe headaches after collapsing to home defeats by Almendro Auxeire respectively on Wednesday. Multiple champions Lyon slipped to sixth place after a 2-1 loss to one of the season’s surprise packages Montpellier, while Marseille fell 2-0 to Auxeire. Lille, who enjoyed a 4-0 goal spree at Nancy, jumped into second, on 34 points, nine behind Bordeaux who extended their lead with a 2-1 win over Toulouse in Wednesday’s late kick-off. Montpellier go into third on 33 points, one point clear of Marseille and Auxeire with struggling Lyon 13 points off the top.

The dominant force of the last decade, Lyon have now won just once in their last eight league matches and their title challenge and morale appear to be fading by the week. Lyon, who are at least into the knockout stages of the Champions League, slipped up due to second half goals from Colombian striker Victor Montano and Marveaux with Bafetimbi Gomis getting their only contribution.—Internet

Senegal striker Diouf eligible to play for Man United

LONDON, 24 Dec — Senegal striker Mame Biram Diouf will be able to play for English Premier League giants Manchester United after he got the work permit. United signed Diouf from Molde in July before loaning him back to the Norwegian club.

Diouf ‘will be free to play in the Premier League as Senegal failed to qualify for next month’s African Cup of Nations. He scored 16 goals in 29 games for Molde this season.—Xinhua

FA charge Arsenal and Hull over brawl

LONDON, 24 Dec — Arsenal and Hull City have been charged with failing to control their players by the Football Association (FA) here on Wednesday following their Premier League match on 19 December.

A fiery match at the Emirates Stadium was inflamed further shortly before half-time when Arsenal’s Samir Nasri appeared to tread on the ankle of Hull’s Richard Gardner.

Stephen Hunt then clashed with Nasri and a mass confrontation ensued, with Gunners keeper Manuel Almunia running the length of the field to get involved.

Love intends to leave Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec — Vagner Love’s agent, Evandro Ferreira, announced on Wednesday that his client no longer wishes to play for Brazilian club Palmeiras. Ferreira cited a lack of security as the main reason for his client’s desire to leave. Love’s lack of sense of security came after he was attacked by three Palmeiras fans while inside of a Sao Paulo bank in November. Additionally, the team’s bus was attacked by an estimated crew of 25 rrate fans while returning to the city of Sao Paulo in that same month.

“Ferreira called Saverio (the team’s director of soccer) and officially declared Love’s intention of leaving Palmeiras in 2010. Saverio responded by saying that the club demands his permanence. This is the first time that we have heard anything regarding the matter,” described Palmeiras’s vice-president of soccer, Gilberto Cipullo.

Upon hearing the news, the club immediately responded that they demand that Love fulfills his contract with Palmeiras that extends through May of 2010.

Love is currently at Palmeiras by way of a loan from the Russian team, CSKA. Earlier on Wednesday, the team expressed their own concern for the player’s security and demonstrated their desire to bring him back to Russia.—Xinhua

Asia set for mixed martial arts “revolution”

LONDON, 24 Dec — It has been branded “human cockfighting” by Senator John McCain and bloodlust unabashed by critics, but mixed martial arts has evolved from ‘no holds barred’ brawls to become one of the world’s fastest growing sports. Popularized by the Ultimate Fighting Championship in the United States, MMA is a fusion of fight styles that melds the stunning strikes of boxing and muay thai, the sleek sub-missions of Brazilian jiujitsu and the devastating power of wrestling.

It has fought hard to gain credibility, regularly collapsing to home losses to one of the season’s champions Lyon slipped up due to second half goals from Colombian striker Victor Montano and Marveaux with Bafetimbi Gomis getting their only contribution.—Internet

Djokovic to act as ‘Yugoslav king’ in TV series

BELGRADE, 24 Dec — Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic will act as a king in a new TV series about the life of Yugoslav King Aleksandar Karadjordjevic (1888-1934), according to an announcement in Belgrade on Wednesday. Aleksandar Karadjordjevic was the first king of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia as well as the last king of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The series, comprising 10 episodes, will have a budget of 2,779,000 euros, while the role of King Aleksandar will be played by Novak Djokovic and the filming schedule begins in March 2010 and will be adapted in line with Djokovic’s.

Novak Djokovic’s youngest brother, Djordje, will be playing young Aleksandar Karadjordjevic. The director Stojan Stoicij noted that the work on the series dated back to 2005, adding that it was an important project that would help promote Serbia in the world and that it would probably be aired in 2011.—Xinhua

Sylvinho already over Hughes exit

MADRID, 24 Dec — Manchester City defender Sylvinho has said players at Eastlands will have to forget about Mark Hughes’ departure as manager. Hughes was sacked on Saturday after a 4-3 home win over Sunderland, even though the victory left City sixth in the table, and at the same time the club announced Roberto Mancini as their new boss.

Many observers felt Hughes had been harshly treated but Sylvinho said everyone at the club should now get behind the new manager.—Xinhua

Two more years with Spain for Del Bosque

MADRID, 24 Dec — Spanish football authorities have agreed a two-year contract extension with coach Vicente del Bosque taking him through till 2012.

“That’s the rule with us - a two year extension for those who secure us qualification,” said Spanish Football Federation president Angel Maria Villar referring to Spain’s comfortable qualification for the World Cup in South Africa next year.—Internet

Spain to play three friendlies before World Cup

MADRID, 24 Dec — Spain will play three international friendlies in the weeks before the World Cup in South Africa next year and will be based near Johannesburg during the tournament, the nation’s football federation said on Tuesday.

The European champions will play two friendlies at home, on 29 May and 8 June, and one away on 5 June.

The squad’s opponents for the matches have not yet been determined.

The Spanish national team will be based in Potchefstroom, a university town about 120 kilometres (75 miles) south-west of Johannesburg during the 11 June-11 July World Cup. They will arrive in South Africa on 10 June.—Internet

Hughes exit

Manchester City defender Sylvinho.

Hughes exit

Manchester City defender Sylvinho.
S Korea approve plan to build LCD plants in China

SEOUL, 24 Dec — The South Korean government on Thursday approved a plan to build liquid crystal display (LCD) panel manufacturing lines in China, which was submitted by two of the country’s largest electronics brands.

The application by Samsung Electronics and LG Display to export LCD panel technology to China was passed by Prime Minister Chung Un-chan at the 2nd Industrial Technology Safety Commission.

Under the agreement, the two manufacturers will each build a 7th-generation and 8th-generation LCD panel plants in China, further boosting their presence in the rapidly emerging Chinese market.

“We recognize the need for a local plant in order to meet growing demands in the Chinese flat-screen TV industry, and we anticipate this move to also strengthen the overall economic cooperation between the two countries,” a government official quoted as saying by local media Yonhap.

The government also said pre-cautionary measures were added to prevent the illegal leak of information and to protect what they labelled as “national key technology.” — Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 24th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagain, Bago, Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above December average temperatures in Rakhine and Mon States, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Shan State, lower Sagain and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagain Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-1°C), Loilim (0°C), Namsam (2°C), Katha (4°C), Lashio and Pilaung, Mindat and Mogok (5°C) each, Heho and Pyin Oo Lwin (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2009 was 57°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours on 23-12-2009 was (78%) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 23-12-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25th December 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in the Northern Shan, Rakhine States and Mandalay Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (49%).

Stage of the sea: Strong Easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely attune Deltaic, and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in the strony wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain in the extreme northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-12-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-12-2009: Partly cloudy.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

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

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

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of 11th Intake of DSMA

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the graduation parade of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy at the parade ground of the DSMA in Yangon at 7:30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General General Tha Maung Maung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tin, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Lt-Gen Thein Htaw, Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Lt-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Hla Hay Win, Chief of Defence Services Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Maung Shein, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Hla Min, Ministers Maj-Gen Htaw Oo, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Theyin, U Thaung, U Nyun Win, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Theyin Zaw, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Theyin, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsant, Dr. Kyaw Myint, Dr. Chan Nyein, Maj-Gen Aung Min, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and U Aung Kyi, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Maj-Gen Thein Htaw, Maj-Gen Thein Htaw of the Ministry of Defence, Directors Maj-Gen Mya Win, Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt.

Senior General Than Shwe inspects cadet company at Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSMA. — MNA (See page 9)