Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2010, 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 Excellency Mr. Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of felicitations to Vice-President of Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2010, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Laotian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2010, U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.—MNA

Ceremonies to mark 90th Anniversary National Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw; Pyinmana and Lewe Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec — In accordance with the objectives of the 90th Anniversary National Day-2010, ceremonies to mark the 90th Anniversary National Day were observed in Nay Pyi Taw; Pyinmana and Lewe Townships this morning.

Present at the ceremonies were Chairman of Central Committee for Organizing the 90th Anniversary National Day Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Vice-Chairman of the central committee Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min, members Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Secretary Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department, departmental heads, officials, members of social organizations, teachers and students.

At the ceremony to mark the 90th Anniversary National Day at Yadana Mon Hall of Basic Education High School No (1) in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw District, a local authority of Pyinmana Township read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary National Day.

Next, Minister Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Ministers U Aung Myo Min and Dr Mya Oo and Director-General U Bo Win presented prizes to winners in basic education high school level poem and essay contests in commemoration of the 90th Anniversary National Day.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 December, 2010

Harmoniously march towards new nation

Prestige of the National Day that forged the nationalistic spirit of Myanmar people went down in the annals of the history of Myanmar independence struggles forever. This year is the 90th anniversary of the National Day.

The message of the 90th Anniversary National Day sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe mentioned that great success achieved in carrying out the formidable task of building a new nation by the government, the people and the Tatmadaw is a landmark in the history of the nation, and that is certainly something to be proud of for the nation and the people. Now, plans are underway to implement the two remaining steps to hand over the State power to the public.

Myanmar is home to national people. National brethren have been residing in the Union of Myanmar through thick and thin since time immemorial. The national races are by nature strongly patriotic and equipped with nationalistic spirit. They are also people well capable of standing on own feet.

Myanmar people have a fine tradition to regain independence and sovereignty through national solidarity with the Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit. They have been safeguarding the nation through their united strength.

According to the incidents that broke out in the wake of independence, Our Three Main National Causes namely, “Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty” is a bounden duty of the people. At present, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are building a discipline-flourishing new democratic nation in accord with the national policy.

Building a new nation is a national concern. All the citizens are to work in harmony to develop the Union with correct concept and genuine nationalistic spirit. All the national races have established a harmonized and equalized human society through the Union Spirit. All the people are to harmoniously march toward a new nation with fine tradition of unity and sound foundations of peace, stability and development.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw
Command awards winners in 1st Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw 390-mile Cycling Contest

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Meiktila-Nay Pyi Taw section event and the Tatkon-Nay Pyi Taw section event, consolation prize winners in the women’s event and those stood from 4th to 9th positions. Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Tin Ngwe gave medal, cash award and cycling suit to the first prize winner, medals and cash awards to the second and third prize winners in the women’s event.

The president of Myanmar Cycling Federation presented medals and cash awards to those who stood from 4th to 10th positions in the men’s event.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye presents prizes to winners in men’s event of 1st Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw 390-mile Cycling Contest.

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Meiktila-Nay Pyi Taw section as men’s final event and the Tatkon-Nay Pyi Taw section as women’s final event of the 1st Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw Taw 390-mile Cycling Contest were held in Meiktila and Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw District on 30 November.

Minister for Foreign Affairs
sends message of felicitations to Laotian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2010, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye watches final events of 1st Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw 390-mile Cycling Contest.

Golden Arrow photo & video service centre opens

Yangon, 1 Dec—The opening of the new shop of Golden Arrow photo studio & video service run by Photo

Opening ceremony of Golden Arrow Photo Studio & Video Service in progress at No. 57, Bldg A/G1 on Shan Street (Baho Road) in Sangyou Township. — MNA

(Baho Road) in Sangyoung Township here today. U Pe Myint Oo Hon-MPS, FMPS, ARPS, U Moe Min Hon-MPS, FMPS, ARPS, APSS and Golden Arrow Centre owner U Hin Lin formally opened the new shop.

Any interested persons may phone 01- 514084 and 09- 8030268.— MNA

Tobacco
Kills
Iraq foils plot to bomb French embassy in Baghdad

Baghdad, 1 Dec—Iraqi security forces foiled a plot to bomb the French embassy in Baghdad after arresting 12 suspected al Qaeda members in connection with an attack on a Christian church, security officials said on Tuesday.

The al Qaeda cell responsible for the 31 Oct church assault, which ended with 52 hostages and police killed, intended to prepare a car bomb for an attack on the embassy, which is located in Baghdad’s Karrada district, officials said.

In April, suicide bombers launched coordinated car bomb attacks on the Iranian, Egyptian and German embassies in the capital, killing up to 40 people and wounding more than 200.

Iraqi security forces said on Saturday they had arrested al Qaeda’s Baghdad leader and 11 other members of the extremist group for involvement in the attack on the Our Lady of Salvation cathedral. Militants took more than 100 Christian hostages during Sunday mass.

“The reason for targeting the embassy was because the French embassy is very active and there is investment activity among French companies in the whole country,” a senior Iraqi security official said.

INTERNET

Army men kidnap nine security guards near Afghan Capital

KABUL, 1 Dec—Unknown armed men attacked a road construction company in Surobi District, 60 km east of Afghan Capital Kabul and kidnapped nine security guards, Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

“A group of armed men on Monday attacked a convoy of 18 security guards of a road building firm in Tizin Village of Surobi district and abducted nine security guards,” a short statement released by the Interior Ministry here said.

One of the guards of the company sustained injuries in the firefight, it further said. Without giving more details, it said that an investigation has been initiated to probe the incident.

Taliban militants, who have often been blamed for attacking and kidnapping of aid workers and government service members have yet to make comments.—Xinhua

Serbia asks US to extradite Nazi genocide suspect

BELGRADE, 1 Dec—Serbian authorities have officially asked the United States to extradite a naturalized US citizen suspected of committing genocide as a Nazi officer in Belgrade during World War II, a prosecutor said on Tuesday.

Peter Egner, 88, is wanted on charges of killing 17,000 civilians, mainly Jews, Roma and political opponents between 1941 and 1943, during the Nazi German occupation of Serbia.

Serbia issued an international arrest warrant for Egner in April and filed an extradition motion last Friday.

“The extradition motion was delayed for some months due to technical reasons and because of the reform of the judiciary which slowed down things a bit,” said Bruno Vekaric, Serbia’s deputy war crimes prosecutor.

Egner, an ethnic German born in Yugoslavia, entered the United States in 1960 and became a citizen in 1966.

The US Justice Department this year asked a federal court to revoke his US citizenship based on evidence of his role in a Nazi mobile execution unit that participated in the mass murder of more than 17,000 Serb civilians.

INTERNET

Interpol posts wanted notice for WikiLeaks founder

LONDON, 1 Dec—Interpol issued a “red notice” on Tuesday to assist in the arrest of Julian Assange, founder of the whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks, who is wanted in Sweden on suspicion of sexual crimes.

Assange, a former computer hacker now at the centre of a global controversy after WikiLeaks released a trove of classified US diplomatic cables at the weekend, denies the Swedish allegations.

The website of Interpol, the international police agency, said anyone with information on the Australian-born Assange, 39, should contact their national or local police. Red notices allow arrest warrants issued by national police authorities to be circulated to other countries to facilitate arrests and help possible extradition.

Assange’s current whereabouts are not known and he is believed to move from country to country. A Swedish court on 18 November ordered the detention of Assange.

The prosecutor’s office had started an investigation into allegations of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion against Assange in September.

Assange has called the allegations baseless and criticized what he has called a legal circus in Sweden, where he had been seeking to build a base in order to benefit from its strict journalist protection laws. MNA/Reuters
CT scans best at seeing smugglers’ internal drugs

CHICAGO, 1 Dec — The best method for finding narcotics that smugglers, or drug “mules,” hide within their bodies is the same CT medical imaging more commonly used to spot cancer, a small study by Swiss researchers suggests.

CT scans were far more accurate at detecting smuggled drugs than X-rays. But CT scanning machines and the image processing are expensive, too costly to regularly use to catch smugglers, some experts say.

In the study, all 18 CT scans on smugglers correctly detected drugs they had swallowed or stuffed inside bodily cavities. There was only one mistake one nonsmuggler was wrongly identified as hiding drugs. By comparison, conventional digital X-rays accurately detected smuggled drugs in 21 cases, but missed nine. The X-rays also indicated drugs when there were none in six cases. A type of full-body X-ray was better than that, spotting six correctly and getting three cases wrong, but it wasn’t as good as CT scanning.

Safeguarding environment a priority

BEIJING, 1 Dec — China continues to face mounting pressure to curb environmental degradation, despite progress in reducing pollution over the last five years, the environmental protection minister warned.

“Currently in China, contamination is expanding, damage to the environment is worsening, the risk to human health is increasing and curbing pollution is becoming even more challenging,” said Zhou Shengxian, minister of environmental protection.

Although the country has already beaten its five-year target to slash emissions, especially of sulfur dioxide - a major air pollutant - the quality of the environment has not improved accordingly.

“This is because, on one hand, China has to pay back its environmental debt for rapid economic growth during the past three decades and on the other hand, the country is also facing new and emerging environmental problems,” Zhou explained.

Apple’s iPad goes on sale in S Korea

SEOUL, 1 Dec — Apple’s iPad went on sale Tuesday in South Korea, three weeks after the local giant Samsung Electronics launched its rival tablet computer the Galaxy Tab in its home market.

One hundred invited preorder customers, anxious to get their hands on the popular new gadget, lined up before dawn at a downtown Seoul branch of wireless operator KT, the sole Korean partner for iPhones and iPads.

First in line was Lee Jun-Young, 39, who slowly unwrapped the box with a wide grin on his face, then raised his iPad high above his head.

“I love it. I’ve waited for the iPad for such a long time,” Lee, who said he also has an iPhone 4, told the newspaper Money Today. “I plan to use the iPad on my way to work and at home to study English.”

KT said it had received 50,000 preorders for the iPad since 17 November.

“We’ve started distributing it nationwide. Customers are receiving their preordered iPads at the moment,” said KT spokesman Ham Young-Jin.

The company earlier announced the popular gadget would start selling at 218,000 won (192 dollars) with a two-year contract, rising to 865,000 won for models with additional features.

Samsung Electronics, the biggest rival of Apple, has already introduced its seven-inch screen Galaxy Tab in the United States and Italy and aims to sell over a million units globally by the end of this year.

Apple has sold over seven million iPads worldwide since its January debut.—Internet

Google nears deal to buy Groupon

BANGALORE, 1 Dec — Google Inc is inching toward buying e-commerce coupon website Groupon Inc for as much as $6 billion, the New York Times said on Tuesday. A deal, which could be in the range of $5 billion to $6 billion, could be struck as soon as this week but people with direct knowledge of the matter cautioned that the talks between Google and Groupon might still fall apart, the paper said.

Groupon, a privately held, Chicago-based company which was launched about two years ago, sends its members daily emails with about 200 deals and services. The deals are activated only when a minimum number of people agree to make a purchase, giving Groupon clout to negotiate steep group discounts on products and services.

Google and Groupon could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters outside regular US business hours.—Internet

Comcast, Netflix partner feud over ‘open Internet’

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec — A dispute between US cable giant Comcast and a networking company that streams online movies from Netflix is being cast as a potential battle for an open Internet.The tussle between Comcast and Level 3 Communications Inc, a Colorado-based firm, is being closely watched by proponents of “net neutrality,” the principle that Internet service providers should treat all Web traffic equally.

The disagreement became public Monday when Level 3 complained that Comcast for the first time was demanding a “recurring fee” from Level 3 to transmit online movies and other content to Comcast’s customers.

Level 3 said Comcast’s actions amounted to erecting a “toll booth” around its broadband network while Comcast said the matter was a simple commercial tiff in which Level 3 was seeking to gain an unfair advantage over its rivals.

China’s double-digit economic expansion has been largely achieved at the cost of the environment and a depletion of natural resources. And with an improved standard of living, the public is leaving a larger ecological footprint.

For instance, the air quality in big cities and urban areas is worsening, in part due to small particle pollutants, a consequence of more vehicles on the road. —Xinhua

FILE PHOTO SHOWS SRI LANKAN TROOPS NEAR ELEPHANT PASS IN MULLAITTIVU IN 2009. SRI LANKA IS TO TURN A VAST JUNGLE AREA INTO A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, THE GOVERNMENT SAID.

INTERNET
India gold hits record high; 21,000 rupees eyed

20,589 rupees, up 0.25 percent, after gaining 1.3 percent in the previous three sessions. The earlier record of 20,624 was hit on Tuesday. “Gold is expected to trade positive due to continuing debt problems in Europe, and may witness 21,000 rupees by end of the week,” said Pranav Mer, senior analyst with Mangal Keshav Commodities.

International gold held near its highest in more than two weeks as growing fears about Portugal’s debt undermined the euro, sending bullion priced in the single currency to record high. However, a strong rupe kept the upside in local prices limited, analysts said.—Internet

Asian shares pressured by Europe, Korea worries

BEIJING, 1 Dec—Most Asian stock markets fell Wednesday amid worries about Europe’s debt problems, Korean tensions and disappointing growth in Australia. Oil prices rose above $84 a barrel amid the release of surveys showing China’s manufacturing boom accelerated in November. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index was down less than 0.1 percent to 9,935.86. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index lost 0.4 percent to 22,927.99, and the Shanghai Composite index fell 0.3 percent to 2,812.31. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 was down 0.3 percent at 4,657.40.

“Trading is sluggish today. Investors are on the sidelines waiting to see what happens in Korea and the European debt situation,” said Limus Yip, a strategist in Hong Kong for First Shanghai Securities. In China, investors were watching for a possible rate hike to cool inflation, which might slow rapid growth and rekindle in liquidity that is helping to support share prices.—Internet

Surveys show China manufacturing up in November

SHANGHAI, 1 Dec—China’s manufacturing boom accelerated in November, supported by stable demand and rising purchasing prices, according to surveys released Wednesday. The state-affiliated China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said Wednesday that its purchasing managers index, or PMI, rose to 55.2 last month from 54.7 in October and 53.8 in September. Monthly readings have stayed above 50, the benchmark for expansion, for 21 straight months, despite a slight slowing in China’s economic growth in the three months ending in September to 9.6 percent from a post-crisis peak of 11.9 percent in the first quarter of this year.

A competing index, the HSBC China Manufacturing PMI — a seasonally adjusted index designed to measure the performance of the manufacturing economy — rose to an eight-month high of 55.3 percent in November, up from 54.8 percent in October.

Both surveys noted growth in terms of export orders and domestic demand. They both also cited rising prices for both products and inputs — parts and materials used in manufacturing — as a key factor.

GM Daewoo unit to repay Korean loan

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—General Motors’ South Korean unit Daewoo announced plans to fully repay its one-billion-dollar debt under a revolving credit facility from the Korean Development Bank. GM said in a statement from its US headquarters the move shows its improved financial condition, which was also illustrated by a huge initial public offering (IPO) this month. “Following our successful IPO, we will continue to take opportunities to strengthen our balance sheet,” GM chief financial officer Chris Liddell said in a statement about the outstanding debt of GM Daewoo Auto & Technology, Inc. “Our objective remains to have minimal debt and a fully funded pension plan.” The company’s chief executive Dan Akerson said the initial public offering (IPO) of GM stock was a great success as it raised more than 23.7 billion dollars for principal shareholders. GM’s return to public trading on 18 November marked a dramatic turnaround for the embattled company.

Amid skyrocketing debt and plummeting sales, GM had been forced into bankruptcy protection in June 2009, as it got a 50-billion-dollar government bailout.

Toyota sues former GM over plant closure

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—Toyota Motor said Wednesday it has filed a lawsuit with a US court for damages against General Motors’ bankruptcy estate over the closure of their joint manufacturing plant in California.

The Japanese firm claims GM’s Motors Liquidation Company (MLC) should pay 73 million dollars for breach of contract over the closure of the New United Motor Manufacturing Inc (NUMMI) plant this year, said Toyota spokesman Paul Nolasco.

GM pulled out of the venture last year as it restructured under government-backed bankruptcy protection. Toyota closed the plant earlier this year after reaching a deal with the plant’s 4,500 unionised workers.

“We’ve been discussing how to pay costs of winding down NUMMI for more than a year, but as the US court recommended us to file a lawsuit, we filed the suit on 24 November,” said Nolasco. Toyota sold the factory to Tesla Motors in May as the Japanese automaker bought a 50 million dollar stake in the US electric vehicle maker.

Separately, NUMMI has also filed a suit against MLC, seeking about 360 million dollars in damages stemming from the dissolution of the joint venture, Nolasco said.

MLC, responsible for the discarded assets of the former auto giant, chose “to end its active participation in NUMMI,” which “breached MLC’s commitments to NUMMI and sounded its death knell,” the statement said.

Toyota eclipsed the former GM as the world’s top automaker in 2008.—Internet
China urges US to resolve issues on leaked US cables

BEIJING, 1 Dec— China called on the United States on Tuesday to “appropriately resolve related issues” concerning reports on a series of leaked US State Department cables, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular news briefing that Beijing has noted the Wikileaks’ disclosure of a trove of State Department cables, but declined further comment.

Some Chinese officials do not regard North Korea as a useful ally and would not intervene if the reclusive state collapsed, according to the leaked documents that were published on Sunday.

The documents, the majority of which are from 2007 or later, disclosed an allegation that China’s Politburo directed an intrusion into Google’s computer systems, part of a broader coordinated campaign of computer sabotage carried out by Chinese Government operatives, private security experts and Internet outlaws, the New York Times reported.

US, Panama sign agreement to fight organized crime

PANAMA CITY, 1 Dec—The United States and Panama signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Monday to enhance cooperation in aeronautical security against the threat of organized crimes.

This MoU was inked by Panama’s President Ricardo Martinelli and United States Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, who was on an one-day visit in Panama City. Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Carlos Varela said in a statement that the agreement aimed to improve security in airports and at border patrols of both countries.

“This allows us, as a country, to prevent our airports and airlines from being used by organized crimes,” Varela said at the end of the ceremony. “All of the information agencies from both governments will put information into a database, not just about drug trafficking, but also about human trafficking, terrorism and all kinds of crimes,” he added.

Varela said that the MOU between the two countries would allow for greater access to information about organized crimes. The US side also expressed willingness to enhance cooperation with Panama in these fields. —MNA/Xinhua

Mossad insider succeeds embattled Israel spymaster

JERUSALEM, 1 Dec— A veteran Mossad spy was named to succeed director Meir Dagan on Monday, signalling the Israeli government’s confidence in the intelligence service despite fallout from the assassination of a Hamas commander in Dubai.

Nominating Tamir Pardo 57,for a job at the heart of Israel’s secret war against Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said he had “decades-worth of rich experience in the Mossad and is the right man to usher the organization through the coming years in the face of complicated challenges”. Pardo will next month replace Dagan, a hawkish ex-general who took over the Mossad in 2002 as part of an effort by then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to bone more aggressive espionage. Dagan was widely seen as responsible for a wave of covert actions including the sabotage of Iranian nuclear projects and assassination of Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla leaders.

Fingers were pointed anew on Monday after bomb attacks in Teheran killed an Iranian nuclear scientist and wounded another. Iran blamed Israel and the United States.

Some Israeli officials had chafed at Dagan’s unusually long tenure, and the criticism crested after Dubai accused the Mossad of killing Hamas commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh at a hotel in the Gulf emirate in late January. —MNA/Reuters

Iran says cyber foes caused centrifuge problems

TEHRAN, 1 Dec— Enemies of Iran used computer code to make “limited” problems for centrifuges involved in uranium enrichment at some of its nuclear sites, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday.

“They succeeded in creating problems for a limited number of our centrifuges with the software they had installed in electronic parts,” he told reporters at a media conference, the first time Iran has said a cyberbug affected its centrifuges.

“They did a bad thing. Fortunately our experts discovered that and today they are not able (to do that) anymore,” he said.

Iran temporarily halted most of its uranium enrichment work earlier this month, a UN nuclear watchdog report said last week, a few days after former IAEA chief Olli Heinonen said the Islamic Republic had had problems with the equipment used in the programme for years and computer virus Stuxnet may be a factor.

Stuxnet, a powerful example of the fastest-growing sort of computer bug— customised malware written specifically to attack a precise target, has attracted publicity through a presumed link to Iran. —INTERNET

Rice defends WikiLeaks spy charges

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Dec— The US ambassador to the United Nations on Monday dismissed the notion that US diplomats in New York were actively engaged in espionage work as suggested by leaked State Department cables.

“Let me be very clear — our diplomats are just that, they’re diplomats,” Ambassador Susan Rice told reporters when asked about confidential US documents released to media outlets by the whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks.

Rice declined to comment on the details of the cables, which were published on Sunday by The Guardian of Britain, The New York Times and other newspapers.

According to one cable, the State Department asked US envoys at UN headquarters and elsewhere to procure credit card and frequent flyer numbers, mobile phone numbers, email addresses, passwords and other confidential data from top UN officials and foreign diplomats. —MNA/Reuters

Plastic ducks on a stall at a funfair in St Germain-en-Laye in France. —INTERNET

Photo illustration shows a Chinese farmer walking with his cow past rural housing in the shadow of a wind farm north of Beijing. A Chinese dairy farm is installing the world’s largest system to turn steaming cow pats into enough electricity to power thousands of homes. —INTERNET
Chrysler to create 1,000 engineering and hi-tech jobs

New York, 1 Dec—Number three US automaker Chrysler plans to create 1,000 engineering and high technology jobs over the next four months, a spokesman said.

The spokesman told AFP the move aimed “to support our small and mid-size product plant.” A week ago, the company said it planned to invest $843 million dollars on modernizing its transmission system plant in Kokomo, Indiana to retain 2,250 jobs.

Earlier, Chrysler rival GM also announced it was creating 1,000 jobs in engineering and high-tech to work on future electric vehicle models.

iPad has real Xmas rival in Galaxy tablet

Hong Kong, 1 Dec—Last Christmas anybody asked if they wanted a “tablet” probably thought they were being offered a pill to ease indigestion caused by a little bit of festive over-indulgence.

But this year, millions of people around the world will be glued to their iPad or other tablet computer instead of watching yet another re-run of a movie on TV.

Samsung Electronics says it has sold over 700,000 of its Galaxy Tab device in the six weeks since its launch and believes at least a million will be in people’s hands by the end of the year.

But that’s still miles behind the iPad, which only went on sale in South Korea — Samsung’s home turf — for the first time on Tuesday.

Apple has sold more than eight million of the gadgets since it went on sale in April but could have sold more, experts say, were it not for problems making enough to meet demand.

Sony, BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM), Toshiba, Hewlett-Packard, Motorola, Dell, Asus, Acer — most of the big global brand names in the technology sector have a tablet computer on the market or in the pipeline.

Technology research firm Gartner last month said sales of tablet computers are expected to soar from nearly 20 million units this year to 55 million next year and over 208 million in 2014.

Bangladesh wants money, not more talks on climate change

Dhaka, 1 Dec—The terrible human cost of cyclones and flooding are plain to see in southwest Bangladesh, a low-lying, impoverished region on the frontline of the battle to adapt to climate change.

Cyclone Aila, which hit in May last year, killed 300 people, washed away the embankments which make coastal regions habitable, and left 150,000 survivors reliant on emergency relief supplies including free rice.

Aila was particularly destructive as a huge volume of water, swollen by spring tides, slammed into a densely populated, extremely poor area, said Saleemul Huq of the International Institute for Environment and Development.

“Bangladesh is often said to be on the ‘frontline’ of adverse climate change impacts due to this combination of a large, dense and poor population with potentially severe changes [in weather] as well as sea level rises,” Huq said.

“Such severe storms are likely to become more frequent in future,” he told AFP, adding that sea level rises mean cyclones and tidal surges will become more devastating.—Internet

Landslides, flooding kill 21 in Venezuela

Caracas, 1 Dec—Thousands of Venezuelans fled their homes on Tuesday after landslides and swollen rivers killed at least 21 people and threatened to cause more damage.

The stormy weather closed most of the OPEC member nation’s two largest oil refineries on Monday. A source at state oil company PDVSA said they were slowly restarting on Tuesday.

Millions of poor Venezuelans live in unplanned, hillside shantytowns in Caracas and along the Caribbean coast. Sustained rain conjures up memories of a devastating 1999 landslide that killed at least 10,000 people.

Small mudslides topped dozens of houses, and crushing cars and blocking roads this week. Most of the 21 died in landslides, while others were swept away by a river.

The government has declared an emergency in three states and Caracas, cancelling school and opening hundreds of storm shelters.

“The rains will carry on for the next three days at least,” Vice President Elias Jaua told state television. He said more than 5,600 people were forced to leave their homes because of the rains.

Most of the oil-producing state of Falcon was hit by flooding, which caused a small oil spill near the Cardon and Amuay refineries, which have a combined capacity of 955,000 barrels per day.—MNA/Reuters

BP hails milestone in Canadian oil sands plan

London, 1 Dec—British energy giant BP has welcomed key progress in its controversial plan to extract oil from Canadian sands, with a company spokesman on Tuesday describing the step as a “significant milestone”.

Canadian group Husky Energy, BP’s joint-venture partner, said on Monday that it was giving the go-ahead for the project’s first phase.

A BP spokesman said the move was “a significant milestone” for the British company.

“We will now move forward leading to first production in 2014,” he told AFP.

At an estimated 175 billion barrels, Alberta’s oil sands are the second largest oil reserve in the world behind Saudi Arabia, but they were neglected for years, except by local companies, because of high extraction costs.

Since 2000, skyrocketing crude oil prices and improved extraction methods have made exploitation more economical, and have lured several multinational oil companies to mine the sands.

Number three US automaker Chrysler plans to create 1,000 engineering and high technology jobs.
Ceremonies to mark 90th Anniversary National Day...
(from page 1)
A similar ceremony was held at BEHS No (6) in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw District. An official authority of Zabuthiri Township read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary National Day.

An official read the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe in Zabuthiri. In Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw District, BEHS No (1) observed the 90th Anniversary National Day. An official of Lewe Township read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary National Day.

A ceremony was held at BEHS No (10) in Zabuthiri. In Myoma Basic Education High School No (1) observed the 90th Anniversary National Day.

Similar ceremonies were observed in townships of states and regions across the nation on a grand scale.—MNA

90th Anniversary National Day observed in Gangaw, Magway Region

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—A ceremony to mark 90th Anniversary National Day was observed at Gangaw Basic Education High School in Magway Region today with a song “Pyi Myanmar” sung by the students from Myoma Basic Education Middle School.

An official read the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Next, Minister Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, MPP Chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi and Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise awarded winners in basic education high school level poem and essay contests in commemoration of the 90th Anniversary National Day.

A ceremony was held at BEHS No (10) in Zabuthiri. In Myoma Basic Education High School No (1) observed the 90th Anniversary National Day.

Similar ceremonies were observed in townships of states and regions across the nation on a grand scale.—MNA

Rewards and certificates of honour presented for handing over of artifacts

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—A ceremony to honour U San Thu of Kaingdawgyi Village in Minbu Township who handed over 13 silver coins of Pyu era and U Win Naing of Ngama Village in Sedoktara Township, who also handed over one bronze tray, one bronze circular tray with flower-shape decoration, one bronze bowl with pictures, one plain bronze bowl, one bronze bell, one small bronze bell and one chain of Konbaung period to the State, was held at the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department in Magway.

Deputy Director Daw Sein Sein Myint of ANMLD (Magway Branch) explained the purpose of honouring ceremony and presented K 138,000 and certificate of honour to U San Thu and K 82,650 and certificate of honour to U Win Naing.

Minister U Htay Oo making speech at 2nd paper reading session on Water Resources Development and Management.—MNA

Paper Reading Session on Water Resources Development and Management held

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—Second Paper Reading Session on Water Resources Development and Management organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened at the meeting hall of irrigation knowledge development training school branch in Bago on 29 November.

It was attended by Chairman of Bago Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Soe Htut, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint, departmental officials, members of Myanmar Engineering Society, entrepreneurs, directors from Irrigation Department, engineers, resource personnel and guests.

The commander, the minister and the deputy minister made speeches and posed for photo with the resource personnel and guests.

The commander, the minister and the deputy minister viewed booths displayed by private companies. Ten papers on water resources development and management were read out at the first day session. A total of 13 papers were read out on second day of the paper reading session.

MNA

Silver coins of Pyu era.—MNA

Deputy Director of ANMLD (Magway Branch) rewards a duty conscious person for handing over of artifacts.—MNA
National Day commemorative ceremonies held in Yangon

YANGON, 1 Dec—Yangon Region saw ceremonies to mark the 90th anniversary National Day (2010) at its basic education high schools this morning.

Directors-general of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), No (3) Basic Education Department and No (1) Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education, patrons and members of school boards of trustees, principals, teachers, parents, and students.

No (2) Basic Education High School (Myoma) in Dagon Township held a National Day commemorative ceremony at its assembly hall at 8 am. Students performed a dance with a song “Pyi Myanmar” to open the ceremony. Chairman of Dagon Township PDC U Khin Maung Oo read the 90th Anniversary National Day message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding students from Nos (2) and (3) BEHSs in Dagon Township, and cash donations to the schools.

No (1) BEHS in Latha Township organized a similar ceremony at its Bahou Sanpya Hall at 9 am. Chairman of Latha Township PDC U Soe Win read the National Day commemorative message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe. The director-general of No (3) Basic Education Department and officials awarded outstanding students. Similar ceremonies were held and outstanding students were awarded at No (1) BEHS in Pabedan Township, No (1) BEHS in Lammadaw Township, No (6) No (1) BEHS in Botataung Township, and No (1) BEHS in Kamayut Township at 9 am respectively.

MNA

Chairman of Kamayut Township PDC U Aung Tin reads message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of 90th Anniversary National Day.—MNA

Shwegyin Hydropower...

(from page 16) We the news crew of Kyemon Daily have planned to visit Shwegyin Hydropower Project on 23 November. In a 15 minutes drive, I together with officials arrived at Kyauknaga Village, six miles north-east of Shwegyin. I saw the main embankment, hydropower plant and flow of water from the spillway.

On arrival at the yard of hydropower plant, we went to the plant on the bank of Shwegyin Creek through the underpass. Shwegyin Creek flowed over the underpass. Shwegyin area has over 120 inches of rainfall annually, and Shwegyin Creek has 2,010,000 acre-feet of water annually. In monsoon period, Shwegyin Creek overflows its environs. The dam of the project will control the overflow of the creek.

After an earthen embankment, which is 185 feet high and 3610 feet long, has been constructed by damming 343 square miles watershed area of Shwegyin Creek, a vast water surface emerged. The dam can store 1,685,000 acre-feet of water at full brim and 510,800 acre-feet of still water. Whenever hydropower is being generated, water will flow in Shwegyin Creek. With the use of water resources of the creek, the project will generate 262 million kilowatt-hour yearly through four 18.75-megawatt turbines.

We the news crew of Kyemon Daily observed that the project has completed by 96.72 per cent and installation of Unit-4 of generator 98 per cent. The concrete works of the power station has completed cent per cent. At present, generation No. 1, 2 and 3 are in operation. We visited the main embankment like a small ridge. We witnessed the power intake structure, the power plant and other buildings.

We proceeded to Shwegyin. At the exit of the project area, we saw 230 KV steel pylons at rubber plantation.

In the near future, Shwegyin Hydropower Plant will be ready to supply electricity to the Union. The power plant will satisfy the electricity demand of the local people in its bid.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 1-12-2010

Chairman of Kamayut Township PDC U Aung Tin reads message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of 90th Anniversary National Day.—MNA
Somali pirates seize Malaysian cargo vessel

MOGADISHU, 1 Dec—Somali pirates have hijacked a Malaysian-owned cargo vessel and its 23-strong crew 900 miles off Somalia, the European Union’s anti-piracy task force said on Monday.

EU Navfor said the MV Albedo was seized in the early hours of 26 November as it headed for the Kenyan port city of Mombasa from Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates.

The crew are from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Iran, the task force said in an online statement.

Somali pirates are making tens of millions of dollars in ransoms from seizing ships, including tankers and dry bulkers, in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, despite the efforts of foreign navies to clamp down on such attacks.

Kyrgyzstan, an impoverished former Soviet republic hosting US and Russian military air bases, suffered its worst violence in modern history in June when more than 400 people were killed in clashes between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in and around Osh.

After elections last month, the country is attempting to form the first parliamentary democracy in Central Asia, a region otherwise governed by authoritarian presidents. Critics of the new government say it lacks authority in the volatile south.—MNA/Reuters

Peru buys 12 “Twin Otter” planes from Canada

LIMA, 1 Dec—Peru has bought 12 Twin Otter DHC 600 aircraft from Canada to beef up the air force, Defence Minister Jaime Thorne told state news agency Andina on Monday.

The Peruvian Air Force will use the planes for transport and surveillance in Peru’s Amazonian Region, he said. One of the key tasks will be offering cheap flights between population centres and isolated villages by the jungle.

Other media reports said that a key task for the new planes would be patrolling Peru’s border with Colombia for possible incursions from the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). They will also watch over boats on the Amazon River.

Andina said that the planes are the latest DHC 600s, and were bought via an air force contract with Canadian manufacturer Viking Air, under the supervision of state agency the Canadian Trade Corporation (CTC).

The first aircraft is expected to be delivered in July 2011 and the last ones will arrive in 2014. —MNA/Reuters

Fiji Water reopens after agreeing to tax

SUVA, 1 Dec—The US-owned bottled water firm Fiji Water on Wednesday reopened its operations in Fiji, saying it would comply with a new tax law it had previously branded “untenable.”

Fiji Water shut down operations in the Pacific nation on Monday, saying the country was “increasingly unstable” and a risky place to do business.

But in a statement released from the US it said it had restarted production of the brand, which has soared in popularity since celebrities such as Justin Timberlake and Mary J Blige have been seen holding its palm-adorned bottles.

“Following discussions today with Fijian officials, Fiji Water will re-open its bottling plant, effective Wednesday morning,” the statement read.

“Through our discussions, we have also agreed to comply with Fiji’s new water tax law.”

The company added it was “committed to working with the Fijian government, and remained dedicated to helping the country’s economy and its people”. —MNA/Xinhua

Bomb in Thai S Songkhla wounds five policemen

BANGKOK, 1 Dec—Five patrol police were seriously injured as an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded on Tuesday morning in southern Songkhla’s Sabayoi District.

The bomb was hidden underneath a bench in a weekly market and detonated by mobile phone while the patrol officers were taking a rest.

Some locals who were shopping in the market were also wounded. Bomb squad unit has already reached the scene and blocked the cell phone signal by jammer.

More than 4,300 people have been killed in the southern insurgencies which revived in 2004 in the Muslim predominating provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. Although Songkhla is not part of the once an independent sultanate of Pattani which was annexed by predominantly Buddhist Thailand in 1909, the province had frequently found itself a target of insurgent attacks. —MNA/Xinhua

Cut-off of jobless aid would lower economic growth

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—If Congress lets unemployment benefits expire this week for the long-term unemployed, they won’t be the only ones to feel the pain. The overall economy would suffer, too.

Unemployment benefits help drive the economy because the jobless tend to spend every dollar they get, pumping cash into businesses.

A cut-off of aid for millions of people unemployed for more than six months could squeeze a fragile economy, analysts say.

Among the consequences they envision over the next year:

• Annual economic growth could fall by one half to nearly 1 percentage point.

• Up to 1 million more people could lose their jobs.

• Hundreds of thousands would fall into poverty.

“Look for homelessness to rise and food lines to get longer as we approach Christmas if the situation can’t be resolved,” says Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial.

Kyrgyz govt says four insurgents killed in raid

OSHI, 1 Dec—Kyrgyz special forces killed four militants rebels during a raid on Monday, a security official said, as the Central Asian State grapples with the threat of militancy while trying to form a new government.

Marat Imankulov, head of Kyrgyzstan’s Security Council, said special forces shot three members of a banned militants group and a fourth was killed after detonating a grenade in the city of Osh, where hundreds were killed during ethnic violence in June.

“The operation has been concluded and a sweep of the area is under way,” Imankulov told reporters in the capital, Bishkek. He said two policemen were wounded in a gun battle during the raid.

A Reuters witness in Osh, Kyrgyzstan’s second city, had earlier heard three explosions. —MNA/Reuters

A bottle with a message seen in Cancun, Quintana Roo State, Mexico, on 28 November. A new round of UN climate talks is underway to appeals for action and compromise after the squabbles that drove last year’s global summit in Copenhagen close to disaster. —INTERNET
Dwolla a new player in electronic money transfers

Dwolla Corp. founder and CEO Ben Milne, right, talks with client Zach Anderson in his screen printing. Internet

Des Moines, 1 Dec—Just as plastic rendered paper checks nearly obsolete, gadgets may soon do the same to credit and debit cards. Smart phones and other mobile devices are staples for many holiday shoppers. That’s because retailers are taking advantage of their low-cost ability to offer deals on websites like Facebook and Twitter (Think: no paper or mailing costs). Technology is also making mobile payments easier and helping to provide what can be a less expensive option for businesses. It’s an important development because companies like PayPal and the major credit card issuers charge 2 percent or more per transaction. But more informal money transfers are another key factor and their number is growing. This may include purchases from smaller businesses or just sending money to friends and family without writing a check. Already such direct electronic money transfers between individuals are estimated to total some $3 trillion a year, and that’s only expected to increase.

That means there’s a clear profit potential, making the business ripe for additional players with new ideas to emerge.—Internet

Classic Bob Dylan lyrics up for auction in New York

New York, 1 Dec—Lyrics written by Bob Dylan for his iconic song “The Times They Are A-Changin’” will go on auction later this month and are expected to fetch up to 300,000 dollars, auction house Sotheby’s said Tuesday.

One of the most celebrated songs of the 1960s, Dylan’s manuscript features four verses of lyrics, without musical notation, scrawled in pencil on a scrap of notebook paper according to Sotheby’s, which said the auction will be held on 10 December.

The 1964 song was a beacon for a folk-inspired protest movement that challenged prevailing attitudes towards race, poverty and the Vietnam War.

Dylan, who turns 70 years old next year, continues to record and perform. “The Times They Are A-Changin” first debuted on the January 1964 album of the same name.

Disney icon Mickey Mouse becomes videogame hero

San Francisco, 1 Dec—Mickey Mouse makes his US debut as a videogame hero Tuesday in “Wasteland,” featuring an alternate world that includes Walt Disney Company’s long-forgotten characters and attractions.

“Disney Epic Mickey” for Wii consoles puts players into the large yellow shoes of the famous cartoon mouse and challenges them to use wits, paint, and paint thinner to defeat enemies, save old friends and restore a ruined land.

Mickey has the power to erase characters or restore them to glory, with his actions influencing the course of the game, according to Warren Spector of Junction Point Studio, which crafted the software.

“Mickey hasn’t been the videogame hero he was meant to be,” Spector said of the character introduced in 1928 while providing a glimpse of the title at a conference in Los Angeles earlier this year.

“That’s about to change.” Mickey’s foes in the game include “Oswald the Lucky Rabbit,” a pioneering Disney cartoon figure turned bitter because the mouse soared to stardom while he sank into obscurity.

Internet

Veteran French rockers Noir Desir split: drummer

Paris, 1 Dec—The veteran French rock band Noir Desir, whose singer Bertrand Cantat was jailed for the manslaughter of his actress girlfriend, has split up, its drummer said Tuesday.

“ Noir Desir is finished,” Denis Barthe told AFP, adding that he was speaking on behalf of Cantat and the group’s bassist.

The split comes after guitarist Serge Teyssot-Gay said Monday he was pulling out of the Bordeaux-based group that was formed in the 1980s and went on to become France’s top rock band.

Cantat was convicted of beating his actress girlfriend Marie Trintignant to death in a hotel in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius in 2003. A Lithuanian court jailed him for eight years, but he was released on parole in 2007.

His ex-wife Krisztina Rady, with whom he had two children, hanged herself at her Bordeaux home in January this year.—Internet

FCC proposes wireless use of broadcast airwaves

Washington, 1 Dec—US telecommunications regulators proposed freeing up more airwaves for wireless services to meet the expanding use of handheld devices.

The Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously on Tuesday to seek public comment on proposals that include the use of some broadcast television airwaves for wireless devices.

“The explosive growth of mobile communications threatens to outpace the infrastructure on which it relies,” FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski told an FCC open meeting.

The FCC is looking to entice broadcasters to give up some of their airwaves so that consumers can better download data on smart phones like Research in Motion Ltd’s BlackBerry and Apple Inc’s iPhone and other wireless devices.

There was still no word late Tuesday on whether the FCC plans to act on contentious Internet traffic rules this year, another key part of shaping future broad-band access.

The agenda for the agency’s 21 December meeting had been widely expected to be expected, but could slip until later in the week.

Internet

A man looks at his phone in Times Square as a rain storm hits New York. Internet
Greenpeace calls for South African leadership at Cancun

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Dec—South Africa should put on its global leadership hat at the UN climate talks in Mexico as it prepares to host the next round of talks in 2011, environmental defence group Greenpeace said on Tuesday.

“The South African government must seize the opportunity of being the hosting country of the climate talks next year and take a leadership role now,” Greenpeace said in a statement the day after the latest round of talks under the 194-party UN Framework Convention on Climate Change kicked off in Cancun.

South Africa will host the next round of talks in the eastern port city of Durban next year.

“South Africa must not only push for a deal in the international negotiations, but must also choose a sustainable pathway to a clean energy future domestically,” Greenpeace said.

Vendors rejoice at British royal wedding

LONDON, 1 Dec—A William and Catherine monogram mug? A pair of hand-crafted swan paperweights? A dainty wedding bell, perhaps?

With the array of romantic memorabilia flooding the market, royal fans worldwide don’t have to wait till next year to celebrate Prince William’s wedding.

Almost as soon as the prince announced his engagement to long-term girlfriend Kate Middleton, souvenir shops and chinaware producers have been inundated with order requests for special edition mugs, plates and assorted collectibles. In a generally bleak retail landscape, British businesses have high hopes the wedding can bring in some badly needed cash.—Internet

Heavy rain and floods kill 30 in Morocco

RABAT, 1 Dec—At least 30 people have been killed in Morocco after heavy rain and floods, official sources said on Tuesday.

The official MAP news agency said 24 people died when a bus carrying them was swept away by a flooding river in the Atlantic coastal town of Bouznika, south of the capital Rabat. Four people, including three from the same family, died when heavy rain brought down their homes near the central city of Khenifra and in Sale, near Rabat, MAP said.

A young girl drowned on Tuesday in Tiflet, east of Rabat, when she was swept away while trying to cross a bridge. In the north, one man drowned and rescue services were looking for seven other people swept away by a river in flood.

In Casablanca, schools were ordered to shut on Thursday.—MNA/Reuters

EU’s Ashton to hold talks with Iran next week

BRUSSELS, 1 Dec—European Union foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton will hold two days of talks with Iran’s nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili next week, the first high-level discussions with Teheran on nuclear issues in 14 months. The talks will take place in Geneva on 6 to 7 December, a spokesman for Ashton said.

“We have now received a formal response from the Iranian authorities confirming that Dr Jalili has agreed to Catherine Ashton’s proposal to meet in Geneva,” the spokesman said.

“Talks between Ashton, on behalf of the E3+3, and Jalili will now take place Monday and Tuesday of next week.” Ashton has the backing of the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — often referred to as the E3+3 — to hold talks with Iran. They will be the first high-level discussions with Iran since October 2009.

Russia’s Medvedev warns of new arms race

MOSCOW, 1 Dec—President Dmitry Medvedev warned on Tuesday that a new arms race would be sparked within the next decade unless Russia and the West forged an agreement to cooperate on building a missile defence system.

In his annual State of the Nation address, Medvedev called for closer cooperation with the United States and the European Union, holding out the prospect of closer ties two decades after the Soviet Union’s collapse ended the Cold War.

But he said tension would ratchet up fast, forcing Russia to bolster its military arsenal, if Western offers of cooperation on a system to defend against missile threats failed to produce a concrete agreement.

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**Teen idol Justin Bieber says he plans to go to university**

**Madrid, 1 Dec—**

Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber said Monday he plans to go to university, even after selling millions of albums by the age of just 16 after being discovered on YouTube.

“I always travel with a private tutor who I have five-three-hour sessions a week with,” he told a news conference in downtown Madrid on Monday despite the rain and cold, the online edition of daily newspaper El Mundo reported.

The singer, who will perform for the first time in Spain in April 2011, won all four awards he was nominated for at the American Music Awards last week, including favourite artist, making him the youngest ever winner of the trophy.

The turning point for Bieber came in 2007 when his mother posted home-made videos of him performing cover songs from Usher, Justin Timberlake and Stevie Wonder on YouTube for friends and family to see. The videos ended up attracting a wider audience and Usher ultimately signed Bieber to RBMG/Island Def Jam.— **Internet**

**Lady Gaga, Justin Timberlake quit networking sites**

**Los Angeles, 1 Dec—**

Singers Lady Gaga and Justin Timberlake are among the celebrities who have decided to temporarily exit social networking websites to help raise money for needy children, local media reported. The celebrities said they will stay off Twitter and Facebook until one million dollars has been raised for a charity called “Keep A Child Alive,” the local media reported. The event is organized by R&B singer Alicia Keys and her husband Swizz Beatz. — **Internet**

**Anne Rice weaves intoxicating new novel**

**New York, 1 Dec—**

Of Love and Evil (Alfred A. Knopf, $24.95), by Anne Rice: More than 30 years after penning the now-classic “Interview With a Vampire,” best-selling author Anne Rice retains her knack for spinning an intoxicating yarn.

Her latest, “Of Love and Evil,” the second book in her “Songs of the Seraphim” series, begins with the poetic: “I dreamed a dream of angels. I saw them and I heard them in a great and endless galactic night.” From the opening lines and throughout the book, it’s classic and elegant Rice — who seemingly remains at the height of her talent.

The story follows the saga of former government assassin Toby O’Dare and the angel Malchiah as they travel back to 15th-century Rome to unravel the mystery of a poisoning and to save a family from itself.

As always, Rice is remarkable in her ability to breathe life into another place, another time. We see the beauty of her “immense and seemingly endless city, a city of domes and rooftop gardens, and rising towers and crosse.”

In recent years, the once-atheist Rice has revealed a deep Christian faith that was abandoned in order to write her earlier novels. A former Catholic, Rice has since returned to Catholicism. — **Internet**

**Youth rules at the American Music Awards**

**Los Angeles, 1 Dec—**

Miley Cyrus celebrated her 18th birthday two days early by hitting the stage at the American Music Awards barefoot and belting out “Forgiveness and Love,” but it was a true teenager who swept the fan count on Sunday, 21 Nov, at the Nokia Theater in downtown Los Angeles.

Sixteen-year-old Justin Bieber trounced the competition at the 37th annual popularity contest, that is voted on by the general public and sponsored by ABC-TV, becoming the youngest person ever to win Artist of the Year. And as the show aired live, screams echoed for him from the upper tiers all night long. As one teen fan shrieked in a quiet moment, “Justin, I love you!”

**Hollywood screenwriters seek muse in Paris**

**Paris, 1 Dec—**

Take four US scriptwriters, each with a story in mind, whisk them from Los Angeles to a Cistercian abbey near Paris, allow for their characters to step out on the big screen. That is the gamble taken by a residency scheme housed in France this autumn and attended by a quartet of Hollywood writers: Rusty Lemorande, John Brian King, Danielle Wolff and Cynthia Riddle. By nurturing inspiration in its guest writers — who all come to the project with the rough draft of a French-led story in mind — the French-US project aims to promote film shoots in France.

Chosen by the Writers Guild of America, the four were to flown to the country for a five-week residency at the Royaumont Abbey north of Paris before heading to the Sorbonne university for a final get-together. “Working in an abbey,” said Wolff, is a reminder that “film is an art, even if there is a lot of money involved.” The writer, whose two grandfathers took part in the Normandy landings in 1944, is rewatching the life of the French resistance fighter Danielle Casanova, who died in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. — **Internet**
West Ham knock out United in League Cup shock
LONDON, 1 Dec—Holders Manchester United were knocked out of the English League Cup after the Premier League leaders suffered a shock 4-0 defeat, losing behind before half-time after Jonathan Spector, of the English League Cup after the Premier League leaders suffered a shock 4-0 defeat, losing behind before half-time after Jonathan Spector, United's Irish defender John O'Shea (R) during their quarter final League Cup football match at Upton Park, London.—INTERNET

Loew toughens up Germans’ Euro 2012 plans
BERLIN, 1 Dec—Germany coach Joachim Loew said Tuesday he wants a tough warm-up programme for his team in the build-up to Euro 2012 with plans in the pipeline to face World Cup finalists Holland.

With Germany five-points clear at the top of Euro 2012 qualifier Group A, the Euro 2008 finalists look set to qualify as group winners for the European Championships to be held in the Ukraine and Poland in 18 months. If Germany qualify directly, they are set to play Holland in November 2011 followed by a match against the Ukraine.

Then in February 2012, they are set to face France, but no dates or venues have been set yet for any of those games. “We want to test our sides against the strongest possible sides,” Loew told German daily Bild.

Germany’s next game is a friendly against Italy in Dortmund on 9 Feburary and they play South American giants Brazil in Stuttgart in August 2011, as well as six more Euro 2012 qualifiers next year.

Hayatou denies corruption claims
PAIS, 1 Dec—African Football Confederation (CAF) chairman Issa Hayatou on Tuesday rejected claims made in a British television documentary that he received secret payments from bankrupt marketing firm ISL.

Hayatou is one of three members of World body FIA’s executive committee members, and the others being Ricardo Teixeira of Brazil and South America’s Nicolas Leoz — accused by BBC’s Panorama of receiving money from ISL over a decade ago. Panorama alleges that Hayatou received 100,000 French francs (20,000 dollars) from ISL before the firm went under.

International Sports Leisure collapsed in 2001 in a controversy over alleged kickbacks for TV rights contracts.—INTERNET

England turn on charm for 2018 World Cup bid
ZURICH, 1 Dec—British Prime Minister David Cameron arrived in Zurich Tuesday to lobby top Fifa officials as England launched a heavy-weight charm offensive to secure votes for their 2018 World Cup bid.

Cameron was due to meet Fifa chief Sepp Blatter and Jack Warner, head of the North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) region whose support is seen as crucial to England’s chances.

As president of CONCACAF, Warner could conceivably deliver three vital votes in Thurs-

Armstrong banned, players fined over red cards
PARIS, 1 Dec—Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho was on Tuesday banned for one game with one game suspended by UEFA after two of his players received suspensions over red cards in a Champions League game against Ajax. “The Spanish club’s coach Jose Mourinho has been suspended from coaching activities for two UEFA club competition matches, of which the second is deferred for a probationary period of three years. He was also fined 40,000 euros,” read a statement on the UEFA website.

UEFA specified that the punishments were for “improper conduct.” Midfielder Xabi Alonso and right-back Sergio Ramos were both sent off at the end of Real’s 4-0 win in Amsterdam last week after receiving their second yellow cards for blatant acts of time-wasting.—INTERNET

Agbonlahor set for derby return
BIRMINGHAM, 1 Dec—Aston Villa’s Gabriel Agbonlahor is set to return for his side’s English League Cup quarter-final away to city rivals Birmingham City at St Andrew’s on Wednesday.

The striker missed the 4-2 Premier League loss to Arsenal on Saturday because of illness but is now in contention for the last-eight clash.
Gas and oil continue to leak at the Deepwater Horizon oil spill site in the Gulf of Mexico.INTERNET

That’s because Google fields billions more search requests than Yahoo, Microsoft Corp’s Bing and AOL Inc combined. — Internet

**WEATHER**

**Wednesday, 1st December, 2010**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kayin State and Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kayin, Eastern Shan and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C) and Pinlaung (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.27) inch.

**Yangon (Kaba-Aye)**

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2010 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-12-2010 was 66°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-12-2010 was (83%). Rainfall on 1-12-2010 was (Nil).

**Nay Pyi Taw**

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2010 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-12-2010 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-12-2010 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 30-11-2010 was (9.1) hours.

Rainfall on 1-12-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (82.76) inches at Mingaladon, (96.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (108.62) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon(Kaba-Aye) was (33) mph from North at (18:30) hours MST on 30-11-2010.

**Bay Influence:** Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 2nd December 2010:

- Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kayin, Eastern Shan States, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Strong Easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, Off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Slight increase of night temperature in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-12-2010: 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 killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Shwegyin Hydropower Project, image of peace and tranquility

In mid-November 2010, I had an opportunity to visit Shwegyin, over 100 miles north of Yangon, on the east bank of Sittoung River. Shwegyin is famous for over 200-year festival of setting oil lamps adrift in the Myanmar month Thadingyut in addition to its rich sources of rubber, bamboo, forest products and lemon.

Up to 1967 when I was a primary student, I lived in Shwegyin as a native town. During over four decades, Shwegyin was not much change in natural environment. However, I saw noticeable progress on density of population and enlargement of urbanization in Shwegyin.

Shwegyin was designated as a brown colour up to last two decades due to armed insurgency. Now, the local people are enjoying fruits of peace and stability.

(See page 9)

Timetable for 2011 matriculation examination announced

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Dec—The Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education today announced the timetable for matriculation examination to be held in March 2011.

From 9 am to 12 noon daily, the matriculation examination will be held: Myanmar on 7 March 2011 (Monday), English on 8 March (Tuesday), Mathematics on 9 March (Wednesday), Optional Myanmar on 10 March (Thursday), Chemistry on 11 March (Friday), Physics on 14 March (Monday), Biology/History on 15 March (Tuesday), Geography on 16 March (Wednesday), and Economics on 17 March (Thursday).

MNA