Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win looks into progress of Bokpyin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Ministry of Defence met servicemen and family members at the hall in Bokpyin Station on 5 December. It was also attended by Chairman of Taninthayi Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Maung Htay, commandants of regiments and units and servicemen of the station.

After delivering an address, Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win presented sports gear to officials and cordially greeted servicemen and family members. He comforted patients and gave cash assistance to them at Military Hospital (100-bed) in Bokpyin after inspecting local battalions in Bokpyin Station. At Pearl Island in Bokpyin Township, Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win looked into tasks of Myanma Pearls Enterprise and cordially conversed with staff.

At a local battalion, he met servicemen and family members. Later, he inspected production of pearls in Domei Island.

Bodhi Tahtaung Kyaukkar Shwe Myin Tin becomes an oasis in arid zone

Byline & photos: Yan Gyi Aung

The lake full of lotus flowers in Bodhi Tahtaung Kyaukkar Shwe Myin Tin seen with Shwe Myin Tin Mountain in the background.

Beyond Yadanabon Bridge is the border of Sagaing Region. Shwe Min Wun Mountain, also known as Sagaing Mountain, east of Monywa-Mandalay Road close to the river Ayeyawady, is thoroughly covered with vegetation.

The areas on both sides of the recently-built five-mile tarred road from Monyway Village to Bodhi Tahtaung religious region in Monywa were also found lush and green with plantations of teak, neem trees, plum, Eastern gooseberry, rain-trees, and other shade trees.

Shwe Myin Tin Mountain near Bansi Village is serene. The water surface of the lake at the foot of the mountain has met its full tank level due to rains. On arrival at the religious region, we saw Laygyun Sakka Standing Buddha Image in the distance. In the south of the image is Shwe Myin Tin Mountain; and in the north of the image, Kyaukkar Mountain. Long ago, many parts of the region were barren areas. But, now the areas around the image are greening with trees and landscaping plants, like a garden.

Regarding the nursery in the religious region, Assistant Director U Kyaw Win of Monywa District Arid Zone Greening Department said that they had planted 47,000 trees for this monsoon around the image.

The government has designated Bodhi Tahtaung Kyaukkar Shwe Myin Tin as Bodhi Tahtaung forest reserve to green the areas around Bodhi Tahtaung Standing Buddha Image, 424 feet high, the highest of its kind in the world. The forest reserve has an area of 17,920 acres. It stretches seven miles between north and south, and three miles between east and west. The highest mountain in it is Kyaukkar, 1262 feet high.

In the dim and distant past, the region used (See page 7)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Thursday, 9 December, 2010**

**Maintain best literary works**

In Myanmar tradition, the value of literature is expressed with some sayings: “Books are our friends”, and “Higher standard of literature can uplift people’s status”. Literature represents the culture of a race and also acts as a mirror reflecting its history. Myanmar language has enjoyed higher standard since monarchial period.

Literati are a national force that is striving for ensuring perpetuity of national culture which is like the soul of the nation and the people and enabling Myanmar to stand tall among the global countries with glory and dignity.

Intellectuals and intelligentsia have been creating literary works for many years with good ambition, goodwill and beliefs for serving the interest of the nation and the people. New generations are to discharge duties handed down by past generations for maintaining valuable literary works.

There is a saying: “the pen is mightier than the sword”. Pens cannot be used like swords but they have the capacity to influence people’s minds. Literature makes mental power sharpened. As best works of literature have come out, all the people are to study literature and also act as a mirror reflecting its history.

Literary Award for 2009 were announced on 6 December. Outstanding literati yearly for their outstanding contributions have been awarded. There is a saying: “the pen is mightier than the sword”. As best works of literature have come out, all the people are to study literature and also act as a mirror reflecting its history.

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The State has been awarding the outstanding literati yearly for their outstanding works. Winners in the National Literary Award and the Life-time Achievement for National Literary Award for 2009 were announced on 6 December.

As doyen literati have created valuable literary works for the sake of the nation and the people with good ambition, goodwill and beliefs, new generation youths are to continuously maintain these works with nationalistic spirit.

**EP-1 Minister U Zaw Min views progress of Kunchaung Hydropower Project.—MNA**

**EP-1 Minister inspects Kunchaung Hydropower Project**

NAI PY TAW, 8 Dec—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min arrived at Kunchaung Hydropower Project, nine miles southwest of Pyu, on 6 December.

Construction Director U Nay Win Thein reported to the minister on progress of embankment and hydropower station.

The minister viewed flow of water into the dam and construction of main embankment.

He looked into installation of steel pipelines and construction of spillway, installation of stator at No. 1 turbine and pit liners at No. 2 and No. 3 turbines.

Kunchaung Hydropower Project to be installed with three 20-megawatt generators will produce 60 megawatts or 190 million kwh yearly. So far, the project has completed by 92 percent.—MNA

**MWF President’s Cup on 3-4 Jan**

**Yangon, 7 Dec—**Myanmar Weightlifting Federation President’s Cup (Inter Club), conducted by Nay Pyi Taw District Sports and Physical Education Committee and organized by Myanmar Weightlifting Federation, will be held at Paunglaung gymnasmium in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw District on 3 and 4 January, 2011.

There will be men’s and women’s events (U-20) and (U-17) with four weigh categories. Weightlifting camps from Pyinmana, Myaungmya and Pathein and weightlifting teams from Sports and Physical Education Institutes and also acts as a mirror reflecting its history.

**Ready-made floors displayed at Yangon International Trade Exhibition**

**Yangon, 8 Dec—**Home Distribution Group displays ready-made floors at Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2010 that will last till tomorrow.

Home Distribution Group also displays A, B, C and D grades of wall leathers, and custom made kitchen & furniture.

As new year promotion, wall covering are being given to customers.

Quality ready-made floors and furniture are available at Home Distribution Group, No. F-2-6, 1st floor, northern stand of Aung San Stadium, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, Tel: 73084840, 73084841 and 73084842 and No. 472 on 82nd street between 34th and 35th streets in Mandalay, Tel: 02-36826.—MNA

**MNA**

**KNU mine injures one villager in Kayin State**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Dec—**A landmine explosion occurred in Kayin State on 6 December. U Kyo Kayal who lives in Phataung Village, Hpa-an Township of Kayin State together with a companion went looking for vegetables near Meezazing Mountain northwest of the village at about 3:30 pm. There, he stepped on a mine planted by KNU insurgents. Due to the explosion, the victim lost his right ankle. He was admitted to Kamamoung Clinic to whom officials concerned provided necessary assistance.—MNA

**Redlink Communications secures ISO certificate for first time**

**Director U Thein Than Toe of Redlink Communications Co Ltd addresses in the ceremony.—MNA**

**Yangon, 8 Dec—**A ceremony to present ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System) certificate to Redlink Communications Co Ltd conferred by UKAS of England was held at Park Royal Hotel here yesterday. Company Director U Thein Than Toe extended greetings. Myanmar Computer Federation President U Thein Oo spoke an honourable speech.

**Managing Director of SGS Myanmar Co Ltd U Kyaw Tin presented ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System) certificate to General Manager U Moe Aung of Redlink Communications Co Ltd.**

It was the first time for Myanmar in ICT & telecommunication industry to get ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System) certificate by Redlink Communications. MNA

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Civilian killed, 17 wounded in central Iraq car bombing

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec—A civilian was killed and 17 others were wounded in a car bomb explosion targeted an Iraqi army patrol in north of Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said. The blast occurred at the entrance of a village in Taji area, just north of Baghdad, when a booby-trapped car explosion apparently missed a passing army patrol, hitting civilians at the scene instead, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene, as ambulances and civilian vehicles evacuated the victims to nearby hospitals, the source said.

Earlier in the day, the source said that seven Iranian Shiaite pilgrims and an Iraqi citizen were wounded in two roadside bomb attacks in Baghdad.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks continue in the Iraqi cities despite the approved a agreement that aimed at bringing Iraq’s feuding political blocs into a new government led by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.—Xinhua

Seven Iranian pilgrims, one Iraqi citizen wounded in Baghdad bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec—Seven Iranian Shiites pilgrims and an Iraqi citizen were wounded in two bomb attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said. A roadside bomb struck a bus carrying Iranian Shiites pilgrims on a highway that passes through Baghdad’s southern District of Doura, wounding seven Iranians aboard, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The pilgrims were heading to the Shiites holy city of Karbala, some 110 km south of Baghdad to observe the 10-day annual Ashura mourning rite, the holiest of the Shiites religious calendar, which marks the death in 680 AD of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

Militants frequently attacked Iranian pilgrims who flock in large numbers to Iraq to visit holy Shiites shrines since the US-led invasion in 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein’s Sunni regime and set up Shiites-led government.

In a separate incident, a sticky bomb attached to a civilian car detonated in the Sabi al-Bour area in northwestern Baghdad, wounding the driver, the source said.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks continue in the Iraqi cities despite the country’s lawmakers approved an agreement that aimed at bringing Iraq’s feuding political blocs into a new government led by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.—Xinhua

Two ISAF soldiers killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 Dec—Two soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed Wednesday in a Taleban attack in Afghanistan’s restive southern region, the military alliance said.


However, the Press release did not reveal the nationalities of the victims, saying it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.

Troops from the US, Britain, Canada and Australia have been stationed in the southern region within the framework of ISAF to fight Taleban militants.

Over 670 NATO soldiers, most of them Americans, have been killed in Afghanistan since beginning this year.—Xinhua

Suicide attack kills 15 in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 8 Dec—At least 15 people were killed on Wednesday as a suicide bomber blew himself up in a market place in northwestern Pakistan, police said.

Over 20 others were injured in the crowded Tirah bazaar in Kohat, a main city some 60 kilometres south of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Province.

District Police Officer Dilawar Khan Bangash said the suicide bomber detonated his bomb at a bus station in front of a barber shop, where many people were to board buses for the tribal region of Orakzai and Kurrum.

More than 30 shops were damaged and seven vehicles at the bus station were also destroyed by the huge explosion, witnesses said.

Rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted several injured people to the main hospital in Kohat. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. It was the third suicide bombing in Pakistan this week.

On Tuesday, the chief minister of southwestern Balochistan Province narrowly escaped a suicide bomb attack in the provincial capital Quetta, in which two people were killed and eight others injured.

Xinhua
Legal woes mount for a foreclosure kingpin

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec.—After being fingered as a key cause of the rising rate of US childhood obesity, video games got a reprieve Tuesday as a new study showed they can be used to encourage kids to eat healthier foods.

The study, conducted in the United States, where nearly one in five six- to 19-year-olds is obese, found that children who played certain “serious” video games — not the blockbuster blood-and-guts ones like “Black Ops” — increased the amount of fruit and vegetables they ate per day by around one serving.

That is a useful step towards fighting childhood flab because “increased fruit and vegetable intakes have been associated with decreased risk of obesity,” says the study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Alliance heralds era of smartphone wallets

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec.—The mobile phone may soon be someone’s ticket to board any transit system in the world. An alliance unveiled Tuesday by Inside Secure and other European technology firms is aimed at making that vision real with chips that can turn smartphones into wallets.

“Fintech is the birthright,” said Charles Walton, chief operating officer of the French-based tier.

Walton said these chips that can send financial transaction data short distances to readers at fare gates, check-out stands and elsewhere.

“The power of these sorts of transactions is very fundamental to our next wave of mobile device use. The business potential is an Apple, Google, Yahoo or AT&T is pretty significant.”

A second-generation Nexus S smartphone being released in the United States this month by Google has a chip that makes it a virtual wallet so people can “tap and pay.”

“Will be able to take these mobile devices that will be able to do commerce,” Google chief executive Eric Schmidt said while providing a peek at the Nexus S last month at a Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco.

Essentially, bumpy for everything and eventually replace credit cards.”

Washington Post watching online pay experiments

NEW YORK, 8 Dec.—The Washington Post is monitoring efforts by The New York Times and other newspapers to charge readers online but has no plans to do the same for now, the Post Co. chairman said Monday.

“One pay model, obviously what The New York Times is doing is of interest to us,” Donald Graham told financial analysts at the UBS 16th Annual Global Media and Communications Conference here.

“We’ll be watching it and we wish them well,” Graham said, adding that his newspaper was also monitoring pay wall efforts by Rupert Murdoch’s The Times. Acknowledging that the Post would not be a pioneer in fee-based services, Graham said the company would be watching how others implement those approaches.

“There are experiments galore going on in pay models at newspapers all around the country,” he added. “We’re quite willing to be followers on this front.”

News Corp’s The Times and The Sunday Times recently began charging readers for full access to their websites and The New York Times has announced plans to begin charging next year for full online access to NYTimes.com.

Internet body meets on domain names, IP addresses

CARTAGENA, 8 Dec—ICANN, the international regulatory body for Web architecture, met here Monday to discuss expanding the list of top level domain names and a new generation of Internet protocol addresses.

“We are a thousand individuals from all over the world convening in Cartagena to adopt fundamental decisions on the biggest issues facing the Internet industry on a global scale,” said ICAAN chairman Peter Thrush.

A California-based non-profit corporation, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers manages the Domain Name System and Internet Protocol addresses that form the technical backbone of the Web.

Every device connecting to the Internet needs an IP address and Thrush said ICANN’s board meeting was to help prepare the transition from IPv4 (Internet Protocol version 4) to IPv6, which already exists but is rarely used.

Less than 150 million IPv4 addresses are still available, and “will come to an end by mid-2011, which necessitates an urgent adoption of a new generation of the respective protocols,” he said.

During its meeting here, ICANN is also expected to discuss expanding the list of what are known as generic top level domains such as com, net and org.

Chinese fishermen missing off Peruvian coast

LIMA, 8 Dec — A Chinese fishing boat capsized on Tuesday evening in waters off the Callao port in western Peru, with four crew members still missing, the Chinese embassy in Peru said. All 19 other crew members had been rescued, with one of them injured, said the embassy’s consular section.

The “Fuyuan 3” vessel, which belongs to the Yantai marine fishery company of east China’s Shandong Province, capsized just 6 km from the Callao port after a failed balance adjustment before entering the port, said the embassy.

The injured fisherman had been sent to a local hospital for treatment, while the 18 others had been accommodated on other fishing boats of the company.

Xinhua

Video games get kids to eat more veg, fruit

After being fingered as a key cause of the rising rate of US childhood obesity, video games got a reprieve Tuesday.—INTERNET

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Xinhua

East Asia heading for economic slowdown, warns ADB

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Tuesday that East Asia's emerging economies will grow 8.8 percent. — Internet

HONG KONG, 8 Dec—East Asia will post slower growth next year due to a wobbly US recovery, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned Tuesday, adding that greater exchange rate cooperation could help safeguard the region.

The fragile US economy and phasing out of economic stimulus has weakened the outlook for East Asia, with growth expected to shrink to 7.3 percent in 2011, down from 8.8 percent this year, the Manila-based bank said in its twice-annual Asia Economic Monitor.

Despite bouncing back from the global financial crisis, East Asia’s economic picture remains “highly uncertain”, the ADB said, warning that “severe economic damage caused by the Great Recession will take a long time to heal.”

“High unemployment could become entrenched and last for many years,” it added. “Growth in productivity could also suffer as capital investment plummeted during the crisis and has not returned to pre-crisis trend growth.”

Emerging East Asia may need to erect “temporary” capital controls to battle a surge of hot money flowing into the region that risks increasing “economic distortions and lowering long-term growth prospects,” the report said.

Australia leaves interest rates on hold at 4.75 pct

SYDNEY, 8 Dec—Australia left interest rates on hold at 4.75 percent Tuesday, saying conditions were uncertain in Europe and the strong local dollar would help keep a lid on inflation.

“Australia left interest rates unchanged today with European concerns weighing on global sentiment,” said a rate cut commentator.

The Australian dollar spiked above parity with the greenback in October for the first time since it was floated in 1983, and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) said the nation’s terms of trade were “at their highest level since the early 1950s.”

“National income is growing strongly as a result,” it said. There had been “very strong” jobs growth in the past 12 months — with unemployment at 4.4 percent and record levels of participation — with wages growth accelerating and inflation likely to be little changed in coming quarters, it said.

“Following the Board’s decision last month to lift the cash rate, and the subsequent increases by financial institutions, lending rates in the economy are now a little above average,” Stevens said. — Internet

Asia stock markets tick up, euro holds steady

SINGAPORE, 8 Dec—Asian stocks got a tentative boost on Tuesday from US President Barack Obama’s compromise deal to extend all Bush-era tax cuts, while the euro ticked up but remained vulnerable to debt-related pressure.

Leading European shares (.FTSEU) rose 0.2 percent in early trade, though investors were wary of the possibility of an imminent Chinese interest rate rise, possibly as early as this weekend.

Stock markets in Hong Kong (.HSI), Shanghai (.SSEC) and South Korea (.KSI) closed higher, and MSCI’s gauge of Asian stocks excluding Japan (.MIAPJ0000PUS) rose 0.5 percent, taking its gains for the year to more than 12 percent versus 7.5 percent for the MSCI world index.

“Today’s market is driven largely by expectations of more quantitative easing measures by the United States,” said Shinhan Investment Corp analyst Lee Sun-yeh in Seoul.

Bank of England to sit tight on rates until 2011

LONDON, 8 Dec—The Bank of England is tipped to keep British interest rates at a record low 0.50 percent on Thursday at its final monetary policy meeting of 2010 and before an expected slowdown in economic growth.

As Britons spend heavily ahead of Christmas, and before planned tax hikes and cuts to government spending in 2011, analysts said the BoE was also unlikely to pump up the economy with fresh stimulus under Quantitative Easing.

“The Bank of England is poised to end 2010 without giving any presents to the economy in the form of more quantitative easing (QE) but also not a sting like Scrooge by putting interest rates up,” said HIS Global Insight analyst Howard Archer.

“While the December Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting is likely to see lively discussion among the committee members over the state of the economy and the outlook, it seems inconceivable that it will result in anything other than unchanged monetary policy,” he added.

The BoE launched a QE programme in March 2009 in an attempt to drag Britain out of a deep recession sparked by the global financial crisis.

The same month, it slashed interest rates to 0.50 percent, where they have stood ever since.

ECB economist rejects mooted eurozone bonds

FRANKFURT, 8 Dec—The European Central Bank’s chief economist Juergen Stark rejected Tuesday the idea of a common euro bond for the 16-nation region, saying each member was responsible for their budget.

“Each country must be responsible for its own debt,” Stark said in reference to the issue of the eurozone should issue a common bond to obtain lower rates for members with weaker credit ratings.

The head of the eurogroup of finance ministers, Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg, has called for such a bond, as has Italian Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has rejected the idea however, saying it would weaken the incentive for states with troubled finances to get their house in order, and the Netherlands is opposed to the idea as well.

Such a development would raise the cost of borrowing for Germany, which obtains the lowest rates among eurozone countries on government bond markets as a result of its fiscal discipline. Stark stressed that the euro crisis was “not a monetary crisis, but a public finance crisis,” and said European political leaders must take bolder steps to reinforce the discredited EU Stability and Growth Pact that is supposed to enforce fiscal discipline in the eurozone. — Internet

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 2 December, 2010. — Internet
Singapore consortium produces bacteria-free plastic “skins”

SINGAPORE, 8 Dec—A Singapore consortium led by Institute of Materials Research and Engineering (IMRE) is mimicking nature to produce a new chemical-free, anti-bacteria plastic “skins,” local media reported on Monday.

It uses a technology called nanoimprint developed by the institute to make complex nanometer-sized or very tiny patterns on surfaces, local TV broadcaster Channel News Asia said.

They mimic the texture of natural surfaces such as the skins of dolphins and pilot whales that are known to have anti-fouling skins.

IMRE said this gives the engineered material “natural” properties such as luminescence, adhesiveness, water-proofing and anti-reflectivity.

It said the surfaces can reduce infections caused by the E Coli bacteria, for example, and can be used on common plastics, medical devices, lenses and even ship hulls.

Conventional methods for preventing bacterial surface attachment may use potentially harmful metal ions, nanoparticles, chemicals or UV-radiation.

Photo taken on 6 Dec, 2010 shows the first train Changchun Railway Vehicles Company manufactured for MTR Corporation’s West Island Line (WIL) project in Changchun, northeast China’s Jilin Province. Changchun Railway Vehicles celebrated its manufacture of the 1,000th railway vehicle in 2010 and the release of the first train for MTR Corporation’s WIL project on Monday.— XINHUA

Residential building collapses, leaving five killed, eight injured in east China

NANCHANG, 8 Dec—Five people were killed and eight others injured when a residential building under construction in east China’s Jiangxi Province collapsed Sunday.

The accident happened at around 3:30 pm as workers were adding a fourth floor to a three-storey home in Chongxian Village, Xingguo County, said local fire fighters who participated in the rescue operation.

Around 3:30 am Monday, the rescuers saved a three-year-old boy and a five-year-old girl trapped beneath the rubble. And the rescue efforts were soon ended.

The owner of the home is identified as Zeng Zhaofu. The injured were hospitalized. —Xinhua

Venezuela moves flood-hit families into resort hotels

CARACAS, 8 Dec — Venezuelan security forces have started housing families displaced by floods in tourist hotel rooms following an order by President Hugo Chavez to make use of vacant accommodation, local media said on Monday.

Heavy rains have killed at least 32 people and forced more than 100,000 from their homes in recent days. Emergencies have been declared in various states, and the country’s Caribbean coast has been particularly hard hit by mudslides.

The El Universal newspaper quoted the head of the National Guard as saying flood-stricken people had been moved overnight into a hotel in the coastal resort of Higuerote. Mayor General Luis Mota Dominguez told the newspaper the owners of the hotel had put the facility at their disposal.

The government said 101,684 people were being cared for at 710 shelters across the South American nation, and that 300 tons of humanitarian aid had been distributed in the western state of Falcon, the country’s hardest-hit region. More than 2,700 doctors had been deployed to guard against any outbreak of disease at the shelters, it added. —MNA/Reuters

A villager dries handmade longevity noodles at a courtyard in Zhuji of Shaoxing City, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 5 Dec, 2010. The longevity noodles are so called for their length of several metres, which is a metaphor for people’s longevity according to Chinese tradition. —Xinhua

Colombia landslide kills 19, more than 100 missing

BELLO, 8 Dec — Rescuers pulled 19 bodies on Monday from a mudslide in northwestern Colombia where more than 100 people are still missing after weeks of heavy rain across the Andean nation.

Relatives sobbed as rescue workers and neighbours used earthmovers, picks and shovels to dig through the mud after a sudden hillside collapsed on Sunday and buried 50 homes in Bello Town, near Antioquia Province’s Capital Medellin. “In total we have recovered 19 bodies and we are still searching,” said Jorge Ivan Nova, sub-director of rescue operations at the Red Cross. “We are still working because there is hope we could find people alive.”

Rescuers also used dogs to search for survivors. Bello’s government secretary, Diego Munoz, said 124 people were missing while other officials have said there were up to 145 people. Rain and flooding have forced 1.5 million people from their homes this year in what the government calls one of the worst natural disasters in Colombia’s history. The bad weather has also hindered the coffee, coal and agriculture sectors.

A villager dries handmade longevity noodles at a courtyard in Zhuji of Shaoxing City, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 5 Dec, 2010. The longevity noodles are so called for their length of several metres, which is a metaphor for people’s longevity according to Chinese tradition. —Xinhua

Indonesian terrorists target foreign oil executives

JAKARTA, 8 Dec—Terrorists planned to attack executives of an international oil company in Riau Province as well as tourists visiting Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait, local media reported here on Monday.

An Indonesian police source who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that police learned of the plan while questioning a 27-year-old terrorist suspect Fadli Sadama, who was arrested in October in possession of firearms in Malaysia. A team of seven investigators went to Malaysia to question him last week. Fadli was brought back to be detained in Jakarta on Saturday.

In the questioning, the source said, police learned Fadli was planning to “ambush, kidnap and kill expatriates or whoever is seen as an infidel” at oil company Chevron Pacific Indonesia in Riau.

A resident and a dog walk in the snow in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 Dec, 2010. Weather turned fine in Geneva on Thursday after the continuous snowfall.— XINHUA
Commander, Transport Minister inspect construction sites in An Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Soe Thein together with Transport Minister U Thein Swe and officials attended stake-driving ceremony for construction of Sangha Hospital in the compound of Township People’s Hospital in An on 29 November. They looked round the hospital and comforted the patients. On arrival at No. 1 Basic Education High School, the commander and the minister gave necessary instructions after hearing reports on academic affairs. They viewed the place chosen to construct the hall.

The commander then met officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of the command headquarters. On 2 December, the commander inspected construction of station gymnasium. He then inspected progress of implementation of An Creek Hydropower Project.—MNA

AUX Air-Conditioner with long time quality on market

YANGON, 8 Dec—United Asia Co Ltd, sole agent for Myanmar, is distributing AUX branded air conditioner with four-year warranty at No 225, 11th Street between Anawrahta Street and Hledan Street in Lanmadaw Township, here. The AUX air-conditioner is made in China and installed with Dual-Rotor Compressor.

It will be available in Yangon International Trade Exhibition to be held in Tatmadaw Convention Centre. Any buyer may dial 01-210834, 01-218021, or Fax 0095-1-228384. MNA

Hole-in-One at Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Course

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—U Phyo Zaw Nyem of Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 scored an ace at hole No. 8 with the use of Honma MG-700 (10) club at City Golf Course of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee on 1 December while playing together with U Tin Ko Ko, U Zaw Min Oo, U Zaw Win Tun and U Htin Aung Latt.—MNA

Four kids drown in Mudon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Four children drowned after going for swimming to look for duck eggs in Beyan Lake near duck breeding farm, south of Beyan Village, Mudon Township of Mon State at around 10 am on 3 December, according to an official of Mudon Police Station. The four victims were two boys and two girls at the age of 10, 9, 8 and 7. Taking the above-mentioned lesson, parents are to take care of their kids in order not to face similar case, he continued. MNA

Passenger bus accident leaves seven dead, four injured

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—A Yangon-Taikkyi Hilux passenger bus driven by Than Htut Oo of Shansu Ward, Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region, on its way of Yangon-Pyay Road, ran into a roadside tree and turned upside down at milepost No. 42/7 due to loss of control. As a result of the accident, two men and four women were dead on the spot, one man and three women were seriously injured, and 15 others suffered cuts and bruises. The injured were admitted to Taikkyi Township Hospital, an official told the news agency.

Taikkyi Police Station is keeping on the track to take action against driver Than Htut Oo who ran away from the scene after the tragic accident. An official of Ministry of Home Affairs said that an investigative squad led by a Police Major has been formed to investigate the situation. All drivers of passenger buses and lorries running on highway roads are still in need of paying more attention to traffic rules.—MNA

Bodhi Tahtaung Kyaukkar Shwe Myin Tin...

(from page 1) to be a sanctuary in the time of King Bagyidaw in Konbaung Period. He ascended the throne in Inwa on the 8th Waxing of 1188 Myanmar Era. That day, Venerable Moneway Monk Ariyavamsa Adicaramsi, a native of Kyemon Village, and Shwehtaik Interior Minister Maha Thetdawshei of Moneway Nwahtein Village asked the king to designate Shwe Myin Tin forest as a sanctuary. Up to 19th century, the sanctuary was a natural habitat for many species of animals.

Many years later, the sanctuary was deforested due to increasing population, establishment of housing estates and agricultural farms, and cutting down trees indiscriminately. So, the population of the animals was on the decrease. After all, the region became a barren area, which affected the region’s climate patterns. In 1970, the government formed the area of 17,920 acres into Bodhi Tahtaung Kyaukkar Shwe Myin Tin protected public forest. Up to 1998, the Forest Department formed plantations with a total area of 5040 acres.

In March 2008, it was reconstituted as Bodhi Tahtaung natural forest reserve. Owing to the special project for greening the region, Bodhi Tahtaung Kyaukkar Shwe Myin Tin has become an oasis of the arid zone.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 5-12-2010

Some young teak trees on Monyway-Bodhi Tahtaung Road.
Don’t trivialize the national cause

Banyar Aung

Talking about Myanmar’s political affairs, national consolidation cannot be left behind. Reviewing Myanmar’s political landscape, struggles for building national consolidation, incitements to disintegration of national consolidation, conflicts caused by the breakup of national unity, and instability and delay of progress caused by the conflicts have taken a lot of pages in history.

Since the time of independence struggles, the patriotic leaders had understood the importance of national unity. The moment Myanmar came under servitude, national leaders of various national races such as Bamar, Shan, Kayin, Chin and Kayah launched anti-colonialist movements in order to drive the British colonialists out of the country. Yet, with the lack of good leadership, those anti-colonialist forces were easily defeated by the British imperialists. Then, the British adopted their administrative machinery systematically in Myanmar so that a major armed resistance could not emerge.

When the Upper Myanmar was put under the British rule in the aftermath of the third Anglo-Burma war, the British administrative system in the Lower Myanmar was in place already. Therefore, it was only needed to spread the administrative system of the Lower Myanmar to the Upper Myanmar. However, the colonialists, who had decided to stop the emergence of more resistance forces, designated the regions of Upper Myanmar, excluding Shan State, as scheduled districts on 4 May 1886. Later on, they ruled the Kachin people and the Chin people separately by promulgating the hilly Kachin nationality law in 1895 and the hilly Chin nationality law in 1896. As the divided rule had reigned up to the time of WWII, the regions of Shan, Kachin, and Chin were separated from the Myanmar administrative area, designated as Region-1 and Region-2 and directly ruled by the governor when the diarchy was adopted in 1923 and the 91-department administrative rule in 1935. The administrative systems among the national races were different from each other. Even the hilly regions had different administrative systems.

With the hilly regions divided ruled in terms of race and politics, they gained no access to political developments and independence struggles of the mainland Myanmar. What’s more, the British colonialists gave their follower rich men power to take charge of administrative and political affairs in the mainland. In the hilly regions, the colonialists entrusted Sawbwas, Sawphyas and Duwas with the arbitrary powers to rule on their behalf. Their aim was to provoke class differences among the national races and to prevent the possible emergence of united political forces.

The British colonialists adopted the following divide-and-rule policy in three categories in order to break up the national unity in Myanmar. (a) The divided rule of the regions of national races can cause geographical-divide. (b) Adoption of different administrative systems among the national races and giving of different rights can lead to racial discord. (c) Use of lackeys for ensuring smooth administrative machinery can lead to different classes.

In consequence, the hilly regions did not participate in political movements of the mainland until before 1945. In addition, politicians from the mainland were not allowed to go to the hilly regions. At the same time, political organizations operated for own rule and independence such as GCBA and Doh Bamar Assayon were split into two or four groups because of the colonialists’ instigation and incentives. Independent struggles surfaced after the Second World War, patriotic politicians led by Bogoyoke Aung San and military leaders formed AFPFL in order that political forces in Myanmar became politically united.

However, when Bogoyoke Aung San-led AFPFL demanded Myanmar’s independence from the British, the issue of the hilly regions came to a head. When the Myanmar delegation led by Bogoyoke Aung San went to Britain in February 1947 for independence, the British claimed that the Myanmar side should first enquire whether the hilly regions wanted to cooperate with the mainland in achieving independence as they had received a telegraph sent by Shan Sawbwas saying the delegation did not represent them. In signing Aung San-Atlee agreement, the Myanmar side had to agree to the point that Myanmar was to inquire about the stance of the hilly regions in the effort for achieving independence by forming an inquiry commission. That was why Bogoyoke Aung San met with the national leaders from the hilly regions, built national consolidation and held Panglong Conference in February 1947 in order to regain independence. But, only the Kachin, Chin and Shan representatives from the hilly regions took part in the conference, and Kayin representatives from Thanlwin District, another hilly region, attended the conference only as observers. It was found that Rakhine, Mon and Kayah nationals living outside the hilly regions and the remaining nationalities such as Pa-O, Palaung, Danu, Wa, Kokant and Lahu whose regions were ruled by feudalist Shan Sawbwas did not attend the conference. Anyhow, the Panglong Conference was able to forge national unity so that the whole country, including the hilly regions, could achieve independence. It, therefore, can be said that Myanmar was able to build national consolidation to a certain extent during the period of independence struggles.

Again in the post-independence period, national consolidation was disintegrated quickly due to different ideologies, ism and racism. The ruling AFPFL, government at that time tried to rebuild national consolidation, but in vain as there were personal conflicts among the party. U Nu’s Pa-Hta-Sa government that won the 1960 elections held a national convention on 24 February 1962 so as to discuss the establishment of Rakhine, Mon and Chin States and the problems of rights of Shan State. The convention was attended by political leaders and national race representatives. Since the Shan Sawbwas threatened to secede from the Union of Myanmar if their demands were not met at the convention, the Revolutionary Council had to take over State duties on 2 March 1962. The Revolutionary Council continued to try to build national consolidation. Issuing the stances of the Revolutionary Council and holding internal peace talks to solve the problem of internal insurgencies were the measures the Revolutionary Council had taken for ensuring national reconsolidation. Besides, the goal of socialism ism in the new independent state was a long way away in the parliamentary democracy age due to the different political parties with different ideologies. So, the nation decided to adopt a single party system in order for political parties and national people to work together under the leadership of a single party. Yet, national consolidation could not be achieved as Pa-Hta-Sa and AFPFL leaders that favoured the parliamentary democracy system, leftist communists and racial extremists were in constant opposition to the State.

In the 1988 unrest, the situation of national unity in Myanmar was the worst. The Tatmadaw government that had to take over State responsibilities in such a dire situation tried its best to achieve national consolidation. It can be found that the Tatmadaw government used different approaches as it had found that all the previous governments failed to forge national unity.

The Tatmadaw government held a national convention with the participation of eight delegates from the national races and delegates of representatives-elect of 1990 election, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and scientists, delegates of service personnel and delegates of national race armed groups who exchanged arms for peace and other invited persons. Basic principles and detailed basic principles were laid down. Among more than 1000 delegates to the convention were over 600 delegates of national races. So, it can be said that at least one national race delegate from one township out of 325 in Myanmar could participate in the convention. Thanks to the discussions those delegates made about shaping the future nation with a view to seeking the national interest without sectarianism and ism, national reconsolidation could be built among the Myanmar political forces at the national convention.

In order to thwart the hardships and difficulties of the people living in border areas which lacked stability and the rule of law due to armed clashes, the government took measures to reach ceasefire agreement with national race armed groups. As a result, many of those armed groups who returned to the legal fold and were working side by side with the government for regional development. Even some of them competed in the 2010 elections after they had given up the armed struggle line and made eternal peace with the State. The national consolidation that broke up due to armed clashes could be rebuilt through peace negotiations.

In order to repair the damage to national unity caused by inequitable infrastructural development in the country, the Tatmadaw government formed the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and started implementing development tasks in 21 border regions. Likewise, the project of 24 development regions was launched to ensure balanced development of all (See page 9)
Don’t trivialize the national cause

Banyar Aung

(from page 8)

parts of the nation. To ward off the geographical barrier to the regions of the Union, networks of roads, bridges and railroads have been and are being built as national level projects. This means national reconsolidation was built by carrying out national development tasks.

While building infrastructures that can facilitate national reconsolidation and national unity, the government had to prevent the destructive acts of internal and external elements who attempted to harm the national unity. Measures had to be taken to be able to activate the State administrative machinery and form a strong government.

The government’s work programmes for national reconsolidation and national unity were not carried out only with political and military outlooks. They were a strategic plan carried out in consideration of all sectors such as politics, economy, military, social affairs, development and administration. As a result, many parts of the nation have achieved greater peace and stability, rule of law and progress than ever before.

However, it cannot be said that the endeavours for national reconsolidation have met with complete success. There are many tasks ahead for the State structure. The relations between the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and State/Region Hluttaws and the relations between the Pyidaungsu government and State/Region governments will be totally different from the State structure of the past. In addition, there will be separate executive, legislative and judicial sectors, and the executive structure with checks and balances will be formed for the first time. So, there will be many challenges to be addressed in the future. Again, there are still tasks to build eternal peace in the areas of some national races where peace was made temporarily and to prevent the danger of internal and external elements who are still attempting to disrupt the seven-step Road Map of the State. Only if those challenges are addressed successfully, can it be said that national reconsolidation has been built.

Ignoring the achievements in national reconsolidation to this date, there are calls for holding a conference like the one organized in Panglong in 1947 to build national unity. Some are even giving suggestions to convene it online.

Seemingly, those people think that the process of national reconsolidation can be materialized through a meeting between four or five groups led by a certain person. Just try to reach an agreement to select representatives for each of the ethnic race groups and the political forces left alone trying to convene the conference. That’s my advice for those people.

Today is not the time to hold a conference like the Panglong conference in which AFPFL and leaders of Shan, Kachin and Chin met. They should understand this. National race groups who did not get the opportunity to participate in Panglong conference are seeing greater political and economic development at present. Some of the national races groups now have armed troops existing under a provisional peace agreement. Armed members of some have transformed themselves into border guard forces. In addition, they have officially set up political parties. On the other hand there are armed insurgent groups and exile groups claiming themselves as representatives of certain ethnic races. There are also party representatives and independent representatives elected in the 2010 elections for the respective legislative hluttaws.

In 1947, the nation had to face only the British who colonized her. British agents had created a lot of difficulties before and during the Panglong conference. Even Bogyoke Aung San was so disappointed that he had to arrange a flight back home to Yangon. These facts can be found in the books compiled by the persons who took part in the conference.

Geopolitics has changed a lot during the past over 60 years. There are new powerful players taking the place of the British in Asia. Apart from those powers, many neighbouring countries and regional countries are getting involved in or are trying to get involved in Myanmar affairs for their own interest. Some with good intention and some with bad motives.

A conference held under different voices and views which is open to every individual or organization assuming himself or itself as the representative of his or its own ethnic race will bring no results.

Conceiving an idea to convene a conference based on hero-worshipping without having any firm and strong background organization and precise representative selection system will be just a fantasy extremely opposed to reality. Or maybe it is an arrogant act. One important thing to note is that Bogyoke Aung San and AFPFL were included in the cabinet of the British governor when they held the Panglong conference; that they were entrusted with the power to run the administration affairs except from defence and political matters; that the British government had accepted AFPFL as the only organization to deal with matters concerning Myanmar’s independence. So, AFPFL was able to sponsor the conference successfully.

Understandably, the idea to hold a Panglong-conference-like meeting without giving any role to the Tatmadaw that is leading the national transition process and the parties that won seats in the 2010 elections will not be better than a cheap political stunt. The Tatmadaw has already achieved success to a certain extent in restoring national consolidation in all aspects to ensure a peaceful transition process.

Hluttaw at all levels are the venues where dialogues among the political parties, national races representatives and the Tatmadaw, a current popular issue, can be held practically. They will be able to build mutual trust and understanding while carrying out legislative affairs hand in hand. The rights of the national races, the hluttaws, the local governments and the legislative power to preserve and promote their languages and cultures, are already enshrined in the Constitution. Basically, they will have to make effective use of the advantages and amend the faults in cooperation at the hluttaws.

What about the unselected persons and organizations? They will have the right to discuss and present their views externally in accord with the rights of citizens stipulated in the Constitution, and to give suggestions to the representative-elect of their constituency concerned. And if they believe that their opinions and views win public support, they can take part in the next elections to do politics in the hluttaws.

What I have presented in this article will be the best means for political forces to strengthen national reconsolidation within and outside hluttaws and the best opportunities for all-inclusiveness in the national reconsolidation process. All should be aware of the fact that there will be more harm than benefits, if those people try to realize their fantasies instead of applying the best means of the time.

Translation: ST+TMT

Kyemon, Myanma Alinn: 8-12 2010
US exits Citigroup stake and earns $12 billion profit

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec—The US government sold off its remaining shares in Citigroup Inc on Monday for $4.35 each, marking an exit from ownership in the bailed-out banking giant with a $12 billion gross profit for taxpayers.

The US Treasury said it will take in $10.5 billion in sale proceeds from a public offering of 2.4 billion Citigroup shares, announced just hours earlier. The price is 10 cents below the $4.45 closing price on the New York Stock Exchange.

“By selling all the remaining Citigroup shares today, we had an opportunity to lock in substantial profits for the taxpayer and avoid future risk,” said Tim Massad, Treasury acting assistant secretary for financial stability.

“With this transaction, we have advanced our goals of recovering TARP funds, protecting the business of owning stakes in private companies,” Massad added in a statement.

The Treasury invested a total of $45 billion to bail out Citigroup in 2008 and 2009 during the financial crisis. The company paid back $20 billion in preferred stock, while another $25 billion was converted to 7.7 billion common shares held by the Treasury.—Internet

China interest rate hike may be imminent

SHANGHAI, 8 Dec—China may raise interest rates as early as the end of this week after Beijing pledged to tighten its monetary policy in 2011 to fight inflation, state media reported Tuesday.

There is a “sensitive policy window” for a rate hike this weekend, before the release on Monday of key economic indicators for November, including the consumer inflation reading, the official China securities journal said.

The nation’s consumer price index (CPI) rose 4.4 percent year-on-year in October, well above the government’s full-year target of three percent, with the prices of 18 types of vegetable increasing more than 60 percent.

“With reference to the central bank’s practice of raising interest rates right before the release of CPI, there is a sensitive policy window around this weekend,” the newspaper quoted a report as saying, without citing any source.

A rate hike would support China’s recent pledge to tighten up its monetary policy next year, the report added.

The ruling Communist party’s politburo decided to shift its stance from “relatively loose” to “prudent” at a meeting chaired by President Hu Jintao on Friday, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The central bank raised interest rates in October for the first time in nearly three years.—Internet

Facebook’s new facelift plays up photos, friends

NEW YORK, 8 Dec—Facebook is redesigning the profile pages of its 500 million-plus users to make it more of a reflection of their real lives and emphasize one of the site’s most popular features, photos.

Facebook said in a blog post Sunday the changes are meant to make it easier for users to tell their story — who they are, where they work, their life philosophy and the most important people in their lives. The changes place a bigger emphasis on visuals, from photos to images of users’ interests.

A new biography section includes not just who you are and where you live but a set of the most recent photos that your friends have “tagged” you in. Previously users had to click on a tab to see the latest photos on a profile.

Users can also feature important friends in their profile, while previously only random selection appeared. And in addition to listing their job, users can now add the projects they worked on. It’s all a move toward curating a more complete picture of a person, something that will likely appeal to Facebook’s advertisers. The company did not make any changes to its privacy policy as part of the redesign.—Internet

NH firm defends decision to cut off WikiLeaks

MANCHESTER, 8 Dec—The 29-year-old chief executive of a New Hampshire company that shut down the WikiLeaks website defended the decision Monday, saying he consulted with customers, industry experts and each one of his 55 employees before pulling the plug.

EveryDNS, acquired by Manchester-based Dyn Inc in January, directed traffic to the website wikileaks.org until Thursday, when it severed ties with the group that has been under intense international scrutiny over its disclosure of classified US diplomatic cables.

Though the unprecedented dis-closures prompted US officials to pressure WikiLeaks and its facilitators, Dyn Inc CEO Jeremy Hitchcock and his company colleagues declined to say in an exclusive interview whether they had heard from government or law enforcement officers.

“It was really driven by the user base, and what was going to be good for them,” said Hitchcock, whose company’s corporate clients include Twitter, CNBC, Netflix and Photobucket. “Our hope was that this was going to blow over as quickly as possible for us. We’re not in the business of trolling for attention.”

LG Display, Chi Mei, others face EU fines

BRUSSELS, 8 Dec—EU regulators are set to fine LG Display, Chi Mei Optoelectronics Corp and three other firms up to 700 million euros ($928 million) in total for fixing prices of display panels used in consumer devices, a source close to the case said on Monday.

The European Commission, the EU antitrust watchdog, charged the companies in July last year with breaching EU laws on restrictive business practices, while other regulators around the world have also investigated the sector.

“The total fine will be between 600 and 700 million euros,” the source told Reuters.

The EU executive will levy the biggest fine on Taiwan’s Chi Mei, the source said, declining to provide details of the individual fines. Chi Mei paid $220 million in fines last year after pleading guilty to US charges of price-fixing.—Reuters

A visitor looks at a liquid crystal display (LCD) television made with LG Display flat screens.—Internet

Jeremy Hitchcock, CEO of Dyn Inc., right, sits in the conference room with fellow workers on Monday.—Internet
Death toll rises to 26 in central China coal mine gas blast

MIANCHI, 8 Dec.—The death toll from a gas explosion in a coal mine in central China’s Henan Province Tuesday has risen to 26, local rescue headquarters said Wednesday. Forty-six miners were working underground when the blast occurred at 5:40 pm at the Juyuan Coal Mine, in Mianchi County, Sanmenxia City, about 300 km from the provincial capital of Zhengzhou, said Li Guoji, deputy chief engineer of Yi Ma Coal Industry Group, the mine’s prospective parent company. At a news conference held by the rescue headquarters, Li said 20 of the miners were lifted to safety after the accident, and all the dead had been removed from the shaft. Rescuers had to vent toxic gases from the shaft.

The mine, capable of producing 150,000 tonnes of coal a year, had been closed for technical upgrading. Safety hazards were supposed to have been dealt with before it resumed operation, Li said.

However, the mine owner, Suo Yonggang, had ordered miners to work down the mine, Li said.

Previously known as the Suzhuang Coal Mine, the mine is being merged into Yi Ma Coal Industry Group, a state-owned conglomerate, which has renamed it “Juyuan Coal Mine.”

But as the mine’s assets have not been transferred, its ownership has not changed.

A supervisor sent to the mine by Yi Ma Coal Industry Group left for a safety training course 200 km away in Jiaozuo City on the day of the accident.

An accurate death toll was not immediately known because Suo appeared to have fled after the accident and the management of the mine was chaotic, Li said.

Xinhua

In this video still provided by Microsoft Corp, a scene from ‘Halo: Reach’ is shown. —INTERNET

Winners for every kind of gamer

NEW YORK, 8 Dec.—Nearly three-quarters of American households own a device that’s used specifically for video games, whether it’s a console, a handheld device or a dedicated computer, according to Nielsen Co. Add to that all the people who play games on their smart phones or their home or work PCs, and no one’s immune.

But games, like gamers, come in all shapes and sizes. The kind who’s addicted to “FarmVille” probably won’t be thrilled with “Call of Duty: Black Ops,” and vice versa. If you’re planning on giving games to your loved ones this year, try to get some idea of how they like to play.

Here are some suggestions for all types of gamers.

The adventurer: Some gamers just want to live in an alternate world for 100 or so hours. “Mass Effect 2” (Electronic Arts Inc, $19.99, for the Xbox 360, Windows PC) offers that kind of experience, immersing the player in an intergalactic conspiracy involving a lively assortment of human and alien characters. A little closer to home, there’s “Red Dead Redemption” (Rockstar Games, $59 99, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3), a stirring Western drama that’s stuffed with shootouts, chases and, of course, poker games.—Internet

Iran, six big powers to resume talks on Tuesday

GENEVA, 8 Dec.—Talks between Iran and six major powers — the first in over a year — will resume on Tuesday after each power raised the issue of Teheran’s disputed nuclear programme in a first round on Monday, a Western official said.

The six states — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany, coordinated by the European Union — sought the talks to address Iran’s uranium-enrichment drive, while Teheran sought to broaden the agenda to global security issues.—MNA/Reuters

Google opens e-book store in challenge to Amazon

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec.—Google Inc is making the leap from digital librarian to merchant in a challenge to Amazon.com Inc and its Kindle electronic reader.

The long-awaited Internet book store, which opened Monday in the US, draws upon a portion of the 15 million printed books that Google has scanned into its computers during the past six years.

About 4,000 publishers, including CBS Corp’s Simon & Schuster Inc, Random House Inc and Pearson PLC’s Penguin Group, are also allowing Google to carry many of their recently released books in the new store.

Those publishing deals will ensure that most of the current best sellers are among the 3 million e-books initially available in Google’s store, said Amanda Edmonds, who oversaw the company’s partnerships.

INTERNET

In this screen shot the Google books website is shown. The long-awaited Internet book store opening on Monday.—INTERNET

NGO says Egypt killed wrong sharks after diver attacks

CAIRO, 8 Dec.—Conservation workers in Egypt caught and killed the wrong sharks after attacks on four foreign divers at a Red Sea resort, and the shark responsible for the attacks is still at large, a marine NGO said.

The Hurgarda Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) said in a statement on Friday that photographs of the dead sharks and pictures of the attack shark taken shortly before one of the attacks showed they were not the same fish.

The environment ministry had said on Thursday that the dead sharks matched descriptions given by divers who rescued three wounded Russians and a Ukrainian after the attacks near Sharm El Sheikh on Tuesday and Wednesday. “Comparing the photographs of the oceanic whitetip shark responsible for the 2nd attack with the images of the captured oceanic whitetip shark, it is clear that they don’t show the same individual,” HEPCA said in a statement.

The NGO said shark attacks were “extremely rare” and warned against “randomly catching and killing” large oceanic sharks in the area. The recent attacks were probably carried out by a single shark behaving abnormally, it said.

A 12-member conservation crew caught the first shark near Sharm El Sheikh, the ministry said, and the second was hunted later by local state environmental officers.

An oceanic whitetip shark bit off one diver’s hand and caused severe leg and back injuries to the others, officials said.

The victims were transferred to the Nasser Institute Hospital in Cairo and a swimming ban is in force on part of the coast.

MNA/Reuters

Crash hurts Russia satellite challenge to US’ GPS

MOSCOW, 8 Dec.—The botched launch of three of its satellites will delay Russia’s bid to challenge US dominance of the market for satellite navigation technology by at least six months, analysts said on Monday.

The loss of the three satellites, which crashed into the Pacific Ocean about 1,500 kilometres (900 miles) north-west of Hawaii on Sunday, scrapes the Kremlin’s much-touted plans to complete the GLONASS system this year.

The state has spent over 2 billion US dollars in the last decade on achieving what Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has called “satellite navigation sovereignty” and has high hopes it will lead a domestic revolution in consumer devices like smartphones and vehicle sat-navs. But experts estimated the crash cost 5 billion rubles ($160 million US dollars) and set Russia back six months in realizing the navigation system, which has its roots in the Cold War technology that was used to guide strategic missiles.

The satellites that crashed were the last of a batch of 24 needed to complete GLONASS, or Global Navigation System, Moscow’s answer to the US-built Global Positioning System (GPS).—MNA/Reuters

iranian nuclear deal
ENGAGEMENT

Lae Yin Win (Htwe Htwe) daughter of U Than Aye- Daw Khan Than Myint of 158, Maha Bandoolla St., Pazundaung to

Myo Min Win (Myo Myo) son of B.B.S. U Win Tin, UNICEF (Retd), MOPTA - Daw Hla Hla Myint of 666-B Mya Kan Thar (2) Lane, Kamaryut, nephew of U Nyan Lin (YKKO)-Daw Yu Yu Lwin (YKKO) on Sunday, 5 December 2010@ PARKROYAL Yangon in the presence of parents and elders of both sides.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (549)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (549) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (135)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (135) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

MV RATHA BHUM VOY NO (538)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATHA BHUM VOY NO (538) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

A good life makes for happy cows at Hare Krishna farm

ALDENHAM, 8 Dec—Milked by hand, allowed to breed naturally and free from the threat of slaughter, the cows at Gokul farm near London could be possibly the happiest in Britain. The 44 animals are owned by a community of Hare Krishnas, who live on the site at Aldenham bequeathed by Beatles guitarist George Harrison.

As believers of a branch of Hinduism, the Hare Krishnas view cows as sacred and treat them with respect, milking them by hand for the animals' comfort and allowing them to calve less intensively than in industrial farms. Crucially, the community members are also vegetarians, guaranteeing that the cows are at no risk of slaughter.

"They are very sensitive animals. It's like if you have a dog — how you feel, the dog senses that," said Shymamandurara Das, the head of the farm at Aldenham. "Here, because we have an atmosphere of cow care, the animals themselves are a lot more peaceful and tranquil, and maybe it's also because there is no sense that they are going to be killed by us." — Internet
Chinese, US musicians delight Washington music lovers

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec—Chinese musicians, together with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, presented a medley of Eastern and Western classics Tuesday night, marking the start of the “Image China” performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The performance was a fusion of classical Western music and Chinese folk songs with a symphonic twist. Soprano Wang Li, who delighted the audience with the “Doll’s Aria” (“Les Oiseaux dans la Charmille”), was then offered much applause for her performance of the Uygur folk song “A Glass of Wine.”

After Ms Wang, tenor Chi Liming, known for his passionate and graceful voice, delighted the audience with “O Sole Mio,” the world famous Neapolitan song. The audience was also impressed by Chai Liang, the famous Chinese violinist, who played a graceful and romantic Tchaikovsky number. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Carolyn Kuan.

Fan Tao, the concert’s artistic director, said many in the audience were interested in the performance’s Chinese flair. He expects to bring something different to the music scene of the US Capital. The concert given by the Chinese musicians and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra was the opening number of the “Image China” series of performances at the Kennedy Centre.

Following the concert, the Chinese folk dance drama “Forbidden Fruit under the Great Wall” will bring more traditional Chinese culture to Washington theater goers.

Bollywood goes retro to boost box office sales

MUMBAI, 8 Dec—Bollywood is harking back to the 1970s and the days of stylised movie dialogues, cliched plots and elaborate dance sequences in an attempt to boost box office takings after a disappointing 2010.

Despite its prodigious output, the Hindi-language movie industry has had a torrid time this year, with only a dozen out of more than 200 films made finding favour with fans.

“The 1970s and 80s were amongst the golden eras of the Indian film industry,” said Bollywood director Sajid Khan, whose successes include “Heyy Babyy” (eds:correct) and the recent comedy “Housefull.”

“We need to give a taste of old music to the new generation,” he said.


Most of Bollywood’s popular hit songs of the 1970s and 80s when Bachchan — known as the “Big B” — ruled the movie scene have been remixed and are played in many of Mumbai’s best-known nightclubs.

“Bollywood is in search of its roots. Looking to the past is a way of looking to the future but not when it is used as an easy way out,” said film critic Shubhrupa Gupta in the Indian Express newspaper.

AIDS charity raises $1 million, reviving “dead” celebs

LOS ANGELES, 8 Dec—It took longer than many thought and comedians had a laugh at their expense but singer Alicia Keys and her celebrity friends raised $1 million for an AIDS charity, and, with it, lived to tweet again.

Keys and her Keep A Child Alive charity co-founder Leigh Blake on Monday said their widely-followed “digital death” campaign reached its $1 million goal after pharmaceutical entrepreneur Stewart Rahr pitched in $500,000. At stake, along with raising funds to help millions of children and families living with AIDS in Africa and India, were the digital lives of celebrities who vowed to stay off social networking websites.

Seacrest, Lady Gaga, Kim Kar-dashian and Usher. Their campaign launched on World AIDS Day, 1 December, amid great fanfare with the expectation it would quickly reach its goal. After all, the celebrities all have millions of fans. Lady Gaga boasts 7.3 million followers on Twitter, alone. Justin Timberlake has 3.6 million, and Searcethas 3.7 million.

Problem was, it took longer than many celebrity watchers thought, and as donations reached only $1,000,000 then $200,000, the stars became the butt of jokes on the Web, TV and radio.

Scottish artist’s sound installation wins Turner Prize

LONDON, 8 Dec—Artist Susan Philipsz on Monday won the Turner Prize for her sound installation featuring a 16th century Scottish lament by a sailor lost at sea.

In a move that fitted with the Turner’s reputation for honouring unusual works, the judges of the contemporary art award handed Philipsz the £25,000-pound (39,000-dollar, 30,000-euro) prize.

“It has been overwhelming the wonderful responses I’ve been getting for the work and I just didn’t expect that,” she said while receiving the award at the Tate Britain museum in London.

The Glasgow-born artist’s work, entitled “Lowlands”, is a sound installation of the lament “Lowlands Away.”
Berlin bid farewell to Champions League by hammering Inter

BREMEN, 8 Dec—Werder Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf said he was pleased his side bowed out of Europe with an impressive, but alas meaning-less, 3-0 win over Champions League holders Inter Milan.

Goals either side of half-time by Austrian defender Sebastian Proedl and compatriot Marko Arnautovic sealed the win against Rafael Benitez’s lack-jistre Italians before sub Claudio Pizarro added the third near the end on Tuesday.

With Tottenham Hotspur drawing 3-3 at FC Twente to win Group A, Inter go through as runners-up, but despite being drawn in a tough group which also included Germany’s Werder Bremen, they will be in the team for a group stage with Inter Milan.

Redknapp salutes Spurs after Champions League top spot sealed

ENGELHEIDE, 8 Dec—Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp saluted his free-scoring Spurs side after they sealed top spot in their Champions League group with a 3-3 draw against Dutch side FC Twente.

Tottenham wrapped up a superb start to their maiden Champions League campaign to claim a share of the points against Twente which saw them finish top of Group A ahead of Italian holders Inter Milan.

Redknapp said he believed Tottenham had prevailed despite being drawn in a tough group which also included Germany’s Werder Bremen.

New injury scare for Ferdinand

MANCHESTER, 8 Dec—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson played down fears that England defender Rio Ferdinand limped out of United’s 1-1 Champions League draw with Valencia on Tuesday with a hamstring problem which has cast doubt over his availability for next Monday’s Old Trafford clash with Arsenal.

England defender Ferdinand has had a serious knee injury, which has cast doubt over his availability for next Monday’s Old Trafford clash with Arsenal, although he is confident of being fit for the game.

Copenhagen make Champions League history

COPENHAGEN, 8 Dec—FC Copenhagen became the first Danish club to reach the Champions League knockout stage on Tuesday after they outclassed Greek side Panathinaikos 3-1.

Goals by Martin Vingard, a penalty by 33-year-old veteran Jesper Gronkjaer and an own goal by former Liverpool misfit Djibril Cisse eased the Danish side into the last 16. Cedric Kante grabbed a consolation goal in time added on.

Defeat saw the Greeks finish rock bottom of Group D with a paltry return of two goals and two points from their six matches.

Sadly the hosts never gave their Norwegian manager Stale Solbakken much cause for concern — the 42-year-old former international midfielder has had a pacemaker for the past decade after suffering a heart attack.

Terry travels as Anelka and Cole stay home

International fixture

LONDON, 8 Dec—Chelsea captain John Terry was included in a 20-man squad that headed to France on Tuesday for the Champions League match away to Marseille on Wednesday.

But Chelsea have left French striker Nicolas Anelka and England full-back Ashley Cole back in London.

Rare goal from Anderson gives United top spot

MANCHESTER, 8 Dec—Anderson’s second-half equaliser ensured Manchester United will aim their main rivals in the last 16 of the Champions League after a hard-fought 1-1 draw with Valencia at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

United needed to avoid defeat to seal top spot in Group C but were left shocked when Pablo Hernandez fired the visitors from La Liga into a 32nd minute lead robbing the hosts of a record six successive Champions League clean sheets.

Sir Alex Ferguson’s side were guilty of wasting a string of opportunities and it looked like the evening would finish in frustration before.

Anderson was well placed to level in the 62nd minute, only the Brazilian’s second goal in three-and-a-half years at United.
China’s Bright Food close to GNC deal

PHILADELPHIA, Dec — China’s Bright Food Group Co is near a deal to buy US vitamin retailer GNC Holdings Inc, giving the well-known foreign brand a potential entry to China to cater to the country’s growing middle class. Under the deal being discussed, Bright Food would purchase GNC for $2.5 billion to $3 billion, a source familiar with the situation said late on Monday in the United States.

The potential acquisition of Pittsburgh-based GNC, which is owned by Ares Management and the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan Board, could be announced in the next few days, said the source who declined to be identified because the talks were not public. A spokesman for Shanghai-based BrightFoodGroup had no comment.

China has aggressively snapping up overseas assets in the resources sector to feed its fast-growing economy, but a purchase of GNC marks a less common instance of a major acquisition in the US consumer space by a Chinese company — Internet.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 8th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, weather has been partly cloudy over the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Eastern Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin, Southern Shan, Rakhine, Mon States, Ayeyawady Region, (7°C) above December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and about December average temperature in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Hakka (5°C), Macauhawb and Katha (8°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfalls recorded were Cungyuan (0.20) inch and Kawkhaung (0.16) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 7-12-2010 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 8-12-2010 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-12-2010 was (76%). Rainfall on 8-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 7-12-2010 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 8-12-2010 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-12-2010 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 7-12-2010 was (8.1) hours. Rainfall on 8-12-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (82.70) inches at Mingaladon, (96.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (108.62) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (13:30) hours MST on 7-12-2010.

Bay Inference: According to the observations at 12:30hrs MST today, the depression over Southwest Bay has crossed southern part of Andhra Pradesh coast (India). Weather is partly cloudy to overcast over the North and East Central Bay and partly cloudy over Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 9th December 2010: Rain are likely to be isolated scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and weather will be partly cloudy over 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 Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (15) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-12-2010: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Pedestrians walk past a “Now Hiring” sign in the window of a GNC shop in Boston, Massachusetts.

INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule
(9-12-2010)(Thursday)

Transmissions Times
Local Transmission
* Opening
* News
* Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
* News
* Myanmar Handicrafts
* News
* Record Album
* News
* Brilliant Youngsters (Happy at ES4E)

Oversea Transmission
* Opening
* News
* Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
* News
* Myanmar Handicrafts
* News
* Record Album
* News
* Brilliant Youngsters (Happy at ES4E)
* News
* Journey to the Golden Rock
* News
* “Myanmar Movie Impact”’ Parental Love
* Music Gallery
* News
* Surprising Myanmar (Thanakha)
* News
* Travelogue in Popa
* Myanmar Movie “Life is struggling”
**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**

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**Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of Ministry of Defence visits Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Special Zone in Hmawby Township**

YANGON, 8 Dec—Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than and officials inspected Nyaunghnapin Agri-culture and Livestock Breeding Special Zone in Hmawby Township this afternoon. At Green Land Farm of No. 3 special zone, they looked into raising of layers at the farm of Myanma Green Light. They heard reports on nurting of perennial trees and construction of roads presented by responsible persons of National Networks and Company Ltd at No. 2 special zone. Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe and the commander viewed growing of perennial trees. While at No. 2 special zone, they inspected progress of Basic Education Primary School and met students. At No. 1 special zone, they viewed layers farm and vegetable plantations. **MNA**

**Talks on Sarsodaw Day held in Pyay**

YANGON, 8 Dec—Pyay Township Writers and Journalists Association organized the literary talks on Sarsodaw Day at the hall of Bago Region (West) Information and Public Relations Department in Pyay yesterday morning. Retired Rector of Pyay University U Mya Win (Mya Win-Philosophy) gave talks on history of Sarsodaw Day and gratitude of literati. Secretary of Township WJA U Aung Hsan Min (Minyunt- Khittaya) read the message sent by the chairman of MWJA. Later, Chairman of Pyay District Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Kyaw Tun and family donated K 30,000 to the funds of Township WJA.—**MNA**

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**Storm news**

**Don’t trivialize the national cause**

The government’s work programmes for national reconsolidation and national unity were not carried out only with political and military outlooks. They were a strategic plan carried out in consideration of all sectors such as politics, economy, military, social affairs, development and administration. As a result, many parts of the nation have achieved greater peace and stability, rule of law and progress ever than before. **BANYAR AUNG**