Tatmadaw puts good foundations in place for national development with good will so that new government elected by people can build new nation

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—The following is the full text of the address delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the Passing out of Parade of the No. 53 Intake of the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin today.

Comrades,

At this Passing out of Parade of the No. 53 Intake of the Defence Services Academy, I have words of note for you to which you should pay particular attention. Comrades,

Our Tatmadaw was formed with patriotic youth during the period of independence struggle and was able to lead the people to gain back independence. After the gaining of independence, major armed insurgencies broke out, with only the immediate surroundings of Yangon under government control. The Tatmadaw was up against large numbers of armed insurgents. Similarly, between 1953 and 1956, the Tatmadaw fought courageously and repelled the Kuomintang invaders. By 1958, rivalries and conflicts within political parties had grown to such a degree that conditions within the country were deteriorating. Thus at the request of the then government, the Tatmadaw assumed responsibilities as the caretaker government and safeguarded the stability of the State.

In 1962, the actions of some individuals with strong racial and regional bias had put the Union at the risk of disintegration, and the Tatmadaw once again had to safeguard the nation. A look back through history shows that in successive periods, no matter what contingencies arose, the Tatmadaw was on the people’s side and led the way through all difficulties.

Comrades,

In 1988, a country-wide crisis appeared across the country. The entire administrative mechanism of the State became dysfunctional. As the nation was descending into chaos, the Tatmadaw had no choice but to assume the responsibilities of the State.

At the time the Tatmadaw assumed the responsibilities of the State, there were only ashes and debris across the country. With the duty of building a new nation on its shoulders, the Tatmadaw upheld Our Three Main National Causes and laid down the Four Political Objectives, Four Economic Objectives and Four Social Objectives. (See page 8)

Comrade-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at Passing out of Parade of No. 53 Intake of DSA, MNA

Milestones in two decades of nation-building history where no sector remains without development are proof that demonstrates depth of goodwill of Tatmadaw that has discharged its duties for the people.

Four political objectives
1. Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
2. National reconsolidation
3. Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
4. Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

Four social objectives
1. Uplift of the moral and morality of the entire nation
2. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
3. Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
4. Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
**Walking is good exercise**

Good health is a blessing. To be able to live a healthy life, it is necessary for everyone not only to eat nutritious food for body energy but also to take exercise.

Health and physical exercise are interdependent. So, people taking regular physical exercise have less tiredness and more stamina than others. Besides, regular exercise can improve blood circulation and remove extra fat in the body.

Walking is a cost-effective sport for everybody. By doing walking exercise, one can have such benefits as decreased hypertension, clear mind, firm joints, relaxed muscles, regular body weight, good digestion, being active and sound sleep.

Less physical exercise can cause obesity, heart attack, hypertension, diabetes, joint pains and joint inflammation. Particularly, diabetics can be relieved by doing daily walking exercise.

Prevention is better than cure. By walking everyday for about a half hour, everyone can enjoy a healthy family life.

**International Laws Training concludes**

The International Laws Training, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) based in Geneva concluded at Chatrium Hotel, here, this evening.

**YANGON, 10 Dec—** The International Laws Training, conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made a speech.

General Manager Mr. Nicolas Terraz of Total E&P Myanmar and Representative of UNITAR Ms. Anastasia Ekman and Team Leaders of Phase 2 Design Mission of the Three Diseases Fund Ms. Birte Sorenson, Mr. Amnesty Le Fevre and Mr. John Janes at the Ministry of Health here this evening.

Both sides focused on the fact that as the five-year plan for taking measures against AIDS, TB and Malaria starting from 2007 will be completed in 2011, ongoing maternal and child healthcare programmes will also be implemented.

**AUX Air conditioners at Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2010**

**YANGON, 10 Dec—** AUX Air conditioners with four-year warranty are being available at Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2010 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisa Road here.

The AUX air conditioner is environmentally friendly one thanks to Dual Rotor Compressor, Auto Restart System, Digital Display, 4 way System Air-Flow, Japanese Branded Compressors, and Japanese Branded Circuit.

Buyers have a chance to get 5% discounts and the safeguard during the trade and till 31st, December, 2010.

Those interested may contact United Asia Co Ltd, No 225, 11th Street between Anawrahta and Hledan Streets, Lanmadaw Township in Yangon, (Tel: 01-210834, 218021) or Fax 0095-1-228384.
Gunmen kidnap 18 Afghan deminers in southeast

GARDEZ, 10 Dec—Unidentified gunmen kidnapped 18 Afghan deminers on Thursday in southeastern Khost Province, the Provincial police chief said, the second abduction of a mine clearing team this month. The group from the Kabul-based Mine Detection Centre were travelling in Musa Khel District when they were stopped by a group of gunmen and then seized, said Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai. “They had gone to the area on the request of the elders to clear mines from their village,” Ishaqzai told Reuters. He did not have further details about the abductions. The Province lies along the border with Pakistan and Taleban-led militants are active there, but a spokesman for the Taleban said he was not aware of the incident.—MNA/Reuters

Turkey, Iran battle for clout, deals in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec — Turkish clothing and beer are hot sellers in the streets of Arbil, the capital of Iraq’s Kurdish north. Far to the south, Iranian cars roam the streets of Basra and Iranian pilgrims flock to Iraq’s holy sites. Sunnis Ankara and Shi’ite Tehran, old rivals turned friends, are vying for post-war economic clout in neighboring Iraq to capitalize on an expected oil boom, and have been flexing their muscles in Baghdad’s government formation talks, diplomats and politicians said.

Already one of Iraq’s main trade partners, Turkey wants a bigger foothold in its southern neighbour through increased investment to counter Iran’s growing influence and to boost its stature as a regional economic and political power. Turkish companies are top investors in hotels, real estate, industry and energy in Iraq’s semi-autonomous northern Kurdish Region, and increasingly in the Shi’ite south where Iranian influence had been almost unchallenged.

Iran is Iraq’s main trading partner and has been one of the largest investors in its construction and industrial sectors since the fall of Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

Blair to reappear at public hearing on Iraq war

LONDON, 10 Dec—Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to reappear at a public hearing on the Iraq war in late January 2011, local media reported on Wednesday. It will be the second time for Blair to give evidence to the inquiry panel. During the last hearing on 29 Jan, the former prime minister defended his decision to invade Iraq in March 2003, saying that the Iraqi regime posed a danger to international security and he had no regrets about it.

The inquiry panel said it wanted “more detail” in some key areas and was concerned about gaps and possible inconsistencies in his evidence. John Chilcot, chairman of the inquiry commission said, “As we draft our report it is clear that there are some areas where we need further detail I am committed to taking the majority of this evidence in public.” Former Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Cabinet Secretary Gus O’Donnell were also among the people recalled to the new hearing.—Xinhua

It’s a hit: Afghan police nab bombers — but on TV

KABUL, 10 Dec — It’s the night shift at a Kabul checkpoint, and police officer Mohammed Saleem will soon be searching suspicious vehicles for hidden bombs, checking ID papers — and watching his favorite TV show.

A new TV series called “Eagle Four” has gained a devoted following in Afghanistan, chronicling life in an imaginary, elite unit of Kabul police that operates free of the corruption, brutality and drug addiction that infect the real cops. Detective dramas are popular around the world. But the portrayal of honest, competent police officers has a special resonance in Afghanistan, where the men in blue are more likely to ask for bribes than run to the rescue.

“It is really a great inspiration for all Afghan police,” said Saleem, 27, who keeps a small television in a shelter near the checkpoint he mans in this often-violent capital city. “They are using very good, new techniques.”

The programme, which airs weekly on Tolo TV, the biggest private TV network in Afghanistan, is loosely inspired by American series such as “24.” It gets some funding — nobody will give even a ballpark figure — from the US Embassy in Kabul.

Although the American backers and Afghan producers won’t say much about the aim of the show besides its entertainment value, the series coincides with a US-led programme to train enough police and army recruits so that NATO can turn over the lead for security to Afghan forces by 2014.

Creating an efficient and reliable security force is crucial to undercutting the Taliban — both on the battlefield and in the eyes of the Afghan people, who do not trust the justice system. The Taliban have long used Afghanistan’s corruption and lawlessness as a recruiting tool, prompting stability and the rule of law through strict Islamic justice.

NATO service member killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Dec—NATO says one of its service members has been killed in an militant attack in southern Afghanistan.

The international military coalition did not provide details on Thursday’s incident or give the nationality of the dead. A surge of US troops in the south has been battling to regain control of traditional Taleban strongholds in southern Helmand and Kandahar Provinces in recent months, sparking increased fighting. A total of 13 NATO service members have died in Afghanistan so far this month, including the latest casualty. More than 670 NATO troops have been killed in Afghanistan so far in 2010. In 2009, 502 NATO troops were killed.

People transfer a man injured in a suicide blast in northwest Pakistan’s Kohat on 8 Dec, 2010.

XINHUA

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Medicaid patients’ Rx drugs go to dealers

BUFFALO, 10 Dec—Ethel Johnson couldn’t get her prescription for pain medication filled fast enough. The 60-year-old Buffalo woman was hurting—but investigators say that wasn’t the reason for the rush.

According to secretly recorded telephone conversations, the sooner Johnson could pick up her pills, the more quickly she could sell them to her dealer. Her pain pills were destined for the street.

Johnson is among 33 people charged so far in a large-scale investigation that has opened a window into an emerging class of suppliers in the illicit drug trade: medical patients, including many who rely on the publicly funded Medicaid programme to pay for their appointments and prescriptions. She has pleaded not guilty.

For the first time, the Buffalo investigators devoted the kinds of resources normally aimed at street drugs like heroin or crack—wiretaps, buys, surveillance and cross-agency cooperation to trace the drugs from pharmacy to street. Even when they were taken aback by the burgeoning market for the kinds of pills found in medicine cabinets in typical American homes.

“I have to admit we were sort of surprised at how big this had become,” said Charles Tomaszewski, former supervisor of the DEA office. “The suburbs, the city, there was no area that wasn’t touched by this.”

UK tourist pays for bride’s murder in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 10 Dec—Shrien Dewani, the UK tourist accused of plotting his wife Anni’s murder in South Africa, paid 15,000 rand (2,143 US dollars) for the deed, the Cape High Court was told on Tuesday.

South African taxi driver Zola Tongo, 31, who made the allegation, was on Tuesday sentenced to an effective 18 years in jail.

The South African Press Association (SAPA) reported on a plea agreement made between Western Cape Director of Public Prosecutions, Rodney de Kock, and Tongo. “The deceased was murdered at the instance of her husband,” de Kock told Western Cape Judge President John Hlophe. The prosecutor told the court the alleged hijacking on the couple’s vehicle in Gugulethu near Cape Town 13 Nov was in fact not a hijacking.

He said it was part of a plan of subterfuge which Shrien Dewani, the husband of the deceased, and the accused had designed to conceal the true facts. The court heard that Tongo took the couple from Cape Town International Airport to the Cape Grace hotel on the city’s Waterfront on 12 Nov.

At the hotel, Shrien asked Tongo to procure a hitman to have “a woman” killed for 15,000 rand. Tongo said in a formal admission, handed in to court as part of the agreement, that Shrien Dewani approached him alone and asked me he knew anyone that could have a client of his taken off the scene.—XINHUA

Fuel cell doubles UAV flight time

SINGAPORE, 10 Dec—Horizon Energy’s AEROPAK fuel power cell system has been successfully tested in an Israeli-made, man-portable unmanned aerial vehicle.

Horizon, which has its headquarters in Singapore, said the system has been proved to be a ready drop-in replacement for UAV battery backs currently used. A test flight was carried out by Elbit Systems in Israel. The test involved takeoff and recovery with an operational payload integrate onboard in simulated battlefield conditions.

The UAV was also flown in turbulent weather to gauge AEROPAK’s capability to sustain continuous high power drain from the aircraft’s motor.

Equipped with the AEROPAK fuel cell system, which deliver 900Wh net usable energy per quart of fuel, the Skylark 1-LLE vehicle will offer the vehicle’s users enhanced flight duration, doubling the current endurance of the UAS, Horizon said.

Elbit’s Skylark 1-LLE is a tactical man-portable unmanned aerial system used in close range, beyond-the-next-hill surveillance and reconnaissance missions by several nations.—Internet

Study shows child brain tumour is really two cancers

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—The most common type of malignant childhood brain tumour is actually two different types of cancer, researchers said on Wednesday in a study they said also suggested the youngest patients could receive less toxic treatments. The cancer, called medulloblastoma, is usually curable but children can suffer lifetime effects from treatment, which can include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

Tests in mice show there are two distinct forms of the cancer and one might require less treatment, Dr Richard Gilbertson of St Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and an international team of colleagues found. “Ten years ago, medulloblastoma was regarded as a single disease, and all children with this brain tumour got the same treatment. This study shows clearly that there are distinct subtypes of this cancer that come from uniquely susceptible cell types in the brain that acquire specific mutations,” Gilbertson said in a statement.

The findings “have profound implications for future research and treatment of this important childhood cancer,” they wrote in their report in the journal Nature. The study adds to a growing body of research demonstrating that cancer is far more complicated than doctors thought. Cancer was once diagnosed and treated based on the organ of origin to diagnose and treat cancer only works sometimes and it may be more important to genetically “type” a tumour.—Reuters

Australian astronomers find new star that glitters with zirconium

CANBERRA, 10 Dec—Australian astronomers on Wednesday said they have discovered a star that glitters with zirconium, a material often used to make fake diamonds. According to Australian Astronomical Observatory’s Dr Simon O’Toole, this was the first star of its kind, which has been discovered so far. “It’s a very unusual star. We’re not completely clear how it formed” he told Australia Associated Press on Wednesday. “This is the first one we’ve seen with this much zirconium.”

The astronomers estimated the star contains four billion tonnes of zirconium, located in its outer layers. Dr O’Toole said it is the reason why they call it bling, as it is basically a kind of decoration. The star has 10,000 times more zirconium than the sun, and astronomers are now trying to find out why.

“We’re trying to get more data on stars like this until we find more and more interesting stuff,” Dr O’Toole said. The star was discovered by an Irish research team in New South Wales of Australia, headed by graduate student Naslim Neelanamkodan and her supervisor Dr Simon Jeffrey.

Xinhua

A handout image, released on November 10, 2010 depicts a mother blowing cigarette smoke in a child’s face in one of the Federal Drug Administration’s proposed new “graphic health warnings.” Diseased lungs, dead bodies, a man on a ventilator and mothers blowing smoke in their children’s faces are among the images US health officials are considering in their effort to revamped tobacco warning labels.—Internet
Intel says tablets and phones on the way in 2011

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Dec.—Intel Corp said it is making headway getting its chips into tablet computers and that smartphone manufacturers have agreed to use Intel chips in 35 tablet models, including a few already on the market. On a slide, Otellini listed brands including Dell, Asus, Lenovo and Toshiba.

Intel’s Atom chips dominate netbooks but smartphone and tablet manufacturers have mostly rejected them in favour of more-power-efficient chips based on ARM architecture that are made by companies like Qualcomm and Marvell. Investors have been waiting to see to what extent major manufacturers choose Intel’s chips for high-profile consumer tablets due out next year.

Hawaii asteroid-hunting telescope launch delayed

HONOLULU, 10 Dec.—The University of Hawaii expects to delay by about two years the launch of a new asteroid-hunting telescope it plans to build at Mauna Kea’s summit. The school’s Institute for Astronomy plans to build the Pan-STARRS telescope on the site of the university’s existing 2.2 metre telescope after demolishing the older facility.

Pan-STARRS is shorthand for Panoramic Survey Telescope & Rapid Response System. The telescope will scan the sky for asteroids as well as phenomena like supernova, or exploding stars.

University of Hawaii astronomer and Pan-STARRS principal investigator Nick Kaiser said Wednesday the project was delayed after mechanical problems pushed back completion of a prototype built at Haleakala on Maui.

Panama Canal traffic halted due to heavy rain

PANAMA CITY, 10 Dec.—Traffic in the Panama Canal was halted on Wednesday due to heavy rain, the first time the waterway has been closed in more than 20 years.

At least five ships were visible idling in the canal, a major shipping route that connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, from Miraflores Locks, on the Pacific side of the waterway, about 6 hours after the suspension.

“We are taking steps to normalize traffic operations in the coming hours,” canal authority vice president Manuel Benitez said in a statement. If the shutdown lasts less than a day it should have a minimal impact on trade.

S Africa appeals Briton’s bail over honeymoon murder

LONDON, 10 Dec.—A millionaire Briton accused of murdering his bride while the couple were on honeymoon in South Africa must remain in custody after South African authorities appealed against a London court granting him bail on Wednesday.

Businessman Shrien Dewani, 30, was held by extradition officers on behalf of South African authorities after handing himself in to a police station near his home in Bristol, western England, late on Tuesday.

He is accused of conspiring to murder his 28-year-old wife Anni, a former model and Swedish national, who was shot dead last month in Cape Town. Dewani denies any involvement in her murder.

Cyber group says WikiLeaks attacks to grow

LONDON, 10 Dec.—More cyber attacks in retaliation for attempts to block the WikiLeaks website are likely in a “data war” to protect Internet freedom, a representative of one of the groups involved said on Thursday.

“Anonymous has targeted many companies which have decided for whatever reason not to deal with WikiLeaks. Some of the main targets involve Amazon, MasterCard, Visa and PayPal,” a spokesman calling himself “ColdBlood” told BBC Radio 4.

“The campaign is not over from what I’ve seen, it’s still going strong. More and more people are downloading the voluntary botnet tool which allows people to command dos (distributed denial of service) attacks,” he added. The speaker, who had an English accent, said he was aged 22 and was a software engineer.

Credit card giants MasterCard and Visa came under intense cyber attack on Wednesday as supporters of WikiLeaks retaliated for moves against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange after the release of US diplomatic cables that angered and embarrassed the Obama administration.
Ross Ice Shelf, 1,209 airstrip Nov. 25 and the Union Glacier BBC reported Thursday. previous records, the crossing in less than Expedition completed team of the Moon Regan officials said. covered continent, crossing of the ice-penetrating radar to equipment. The team, composed of explorers, mechanics and scientists, traveled in convoy led by a propeller-driven scout vehicle. Two large trucks followed, carrying most of the crew and equipment. The expedition used ice-penetrating radar to avoid crevasses. The scientists conducted several tests en route, including collecting samples of snow to test for trace metals to track the passage of pollutants within the Southern Hemisphere, the BBC said.—INTERNET

Japan man loses appeal over death of UK hostess

Tokyo, 10 Dec—Japan's top court has rejected an appeal by a man who faces life in jail for raping and dismembering a British bar hostess, paving the way for Blackman was later found dead. He did not face murder charges because of insufficient evidence. Obara launched a Supreme Court appeal, but a court official there said Thursday that the court had rejected it two days earlier. The sentence will now be finalised unless Obara submits an objection to the court within three days.

Blackman vanished while she was working in bars in Tokyo's Roppongi red-light district while trying to save money for a holiday in Australia. Her dismembered body was found seven months later in a seaside cave on the city's outskirts. The high court has ruled that Obara raped her and then dismembered and abandoned her body in 2000. Internet

US company recalls walnut over salmonella risk

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—A California-based food distributor announced on Wednesday it is recalling its El Guapo brand shelled walnuts which might be contaminated with salmonella bacteria. The recall involved one-ounce packages of El Guapo shelled walnuts with the date code 5527 being embossed on the front of the package under the El Guapo banner. Mojave Foods Corp said. The nuts may be contaminated with salmonella and were sold only in Southern California, the company said in a statement. Consumers should not eat the recalled product and should destroy it, the statement said. So far there have been no reports of illness resulting from consumption of the product, the statement said. The product was supplied by Atlas Walnuts in Visalia, Southern California, according to the statement. Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. The most common symptoms are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product.—Xinhua

Record set for crossing Antarctica

London, 10 Dec—A United Kingdom expedition to the Antarctic has claimed the record for the fastest land crossing of the ice-covered continent, officials said. The 10-member team of the Moon Regan Transantarctic Expedition completed the crossing in less than 13 days, smashing previous records, the BBC reported Thursday. The team set off from the Union Glacier airstrip Nov. 25 and arrived Thursday on the Ross Ice Shelf, 1,209 miles away. In this April 2006 file photo provided by Earthjustice, a false killer whale is seen leaping while chasing prey in waters off Hawaii. Internet

4,000 homes in S Australia still without power after storms

Canberra, 10 Dec—About 4,000 homes across South Australia are still without power on Thursday, after the severe storms wreak havoc across states of Australia, the ABC News. According to Paul Roberts from power firm ETSA, lighting has caused extensive damage to the Electranet transmission network on Tuesday. The State Emergency Service (SES) has started organizing public meetings about recovery efforts and how people can get assistance if they have suffered flood damage. South Australia Families and Communities Minister Jennifer Rankine said money was available to help people affected by flooding. Meanwhile, Rescue crews in another state Queensland, Victoria and South Australia are also on high alert amid more rainfalls. In Wagga Wagga of News South Wales, the SES had received more than 265 requests for assistance by midnight on Wednesday as high winds caused trees to fall, with damage to roofs.

Japan's national blind cricket team set up a new world record in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates by making 498 runs on Thursday in South Africa against the host team, local media reported. Pakistani team broke its own world record which it had established against England's blind cricket team in 2006. In the match Pakistani batsman Masood Jan made century with his 104 runs while other main scorers Hanif Javed and Muhammad Jamil scored 78 and 84 runs respectively. Both teams are of world class and have won cricket world cup titles. Out of the total three world cups Pakistan won the title twice in 2002 and 2006 while South Africa had won the cup once in 1998. MNA/Xinhua

Seven arrests after Auckland, Napier raids in New Zealand

Wellington, 10 Dec—Seven people have been arrested following raids at New Zealand North Island cities of Auckland and Napier, police said on Thursday. The operation is the result of two-month investigation in which police allege the gang has been selling large quantities of methamphetamine to drug dealers in Hawkes Bay.

In Auckland, police officers, including members of the Armed Offenders Squad arrived at the Mt Eden gang address just after 8 am on Thursday. Six people were due in the Napier District Court and one in the Auckland District Court.—INTERNET

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It is known that the Union of Myanmar has been a predominantly Theravada Buddhist nation in the world for nearly one thousand years, and over 90 per cent of nation’s population has taken faith in Theravada Buddhism since then. Furthermore, the Union of Myanmar has been recognized as a permanent higher learning centre of genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in the Buddhist world but also throughout the world. According to historical records of Buddhism, the Fifth and Sixth Great Buddhist Councils (Synos) were successfully convened in the Union of Myanmar with a view to purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the Buddha’s teaching) all over the world. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council, which was attended and participated by Maha Theras from Theravada Buddhist Nations, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, was successfully held in the Union of Myanmar in 1954. In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, a great number of Buddhist Monastic Institutions and Learning Centres of Buddhist Scriptures have been established in the Union of Myanmar for years. For the time being, the two Pariyatti Sasana Universities, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay have been so far established to promote and propagate the Theravada Buddhism throughout the world. At present, Buddhist monk students are attending these two universities, and if they have got through the prescribed examinations held by these universities, they will be conferred Takasasila Dhammacarinya Degree (Bachelor of Arts) in Buddhism and Tekkasila Maha Dhammacarinya Degree (Master of Arts) in Buddhism respectively. And now, the international Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the very first one in the Buddhist world has been also already established in the Union of Myanmar in order to propagate, promote and flourish genuine Theravada Buddhism throughout the world, and to share the knowledge of Buddhism both in theory and practice with the peoples of the world to promote their happiness and moral well-being.

According to the Pariyatti (learning canonical texts) Education System of the Union of Myanmar, there are seven kinds of religious examinations including the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination yearly held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar. The seven kinds of religious examinations are as follows:-

1. Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination
2. Dhammacarinya Examination
3. Pathamagyi Examination
4. Pathamalat Examination
5. Pathamanage Examination
6. A. B. d. h. a m. a / V. is u d h i m a g g a Examination (only for Laymen and Nuns)
7. Five Nikaya Examination

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar since sixty years ago. Buddhist monk candidates who wish to appear for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi examination. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations, because the candidates have to take 33 days to sit for this examination. They have to take both oral examination consisting of Pali Texts of 8026 pages of Tipitaka canons and the written examination consisting of Pali Texts, Athakatha (Commentaries) and Tika (Sub-Commentaries) of 9934 pages of Tipitaka canons respectively. Only the candidates who have got through both oral and written examinations will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (the Title of Religious Heroes). Up to now, only twelve outstanding members of Sangha (Bhikkhus) were presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within over 60 years’ duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination. It is learnt that many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Each Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for members of Sangha, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are striving to propagate, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism at home and abroad.

We all Buddhists know that the Sasana is of the three kinds, viz (1) Pariyatti Sasana (Learning the Buddha’s teaching), (2) Patipatti Sasana (Practical application of the Buddha’s teaching) and (3) Pativedha Sasana (Realization of the Buddha’s teaching). Out of them, the Pariyatti Sasana is the most important one which mainly leads to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the noble teachings of the Buddha). The aims and objectives of holding the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination are to preserve, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism all over the world.

The 63rd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in the year of 2011

We all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and honoured to learn that the 63rd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be held at Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) in the precinct of the Sire Mangala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar and it will take 33 days starting from 12 December 2010. It is learnt that over 120 entitled candidates of members of Sangha who have been enrolled throughout the Union of Myanmar, will sit for the 63rd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of year 2011. Lodging and messing (four kinds of requisites) for candidates will be provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, other donors and well-wishers throughout 33 days. It is further learnt that devotees, well-wishers and other people are cordially invited to visit the Mahapasana Cave (examination centre) for paying profound respect to the members of Sangha who are sitting for the 63rd Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of year 2011.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd Family holds 6th blood donation

YANGON, 10 Dec—Tomark Myanmar Blood Donors’ Day. Sixth blood donation ceremony of Myanmar Brewery Limited Family this morning was held at the National Blood Centre of the Yangon General Hospital, with address of Managing Director Mr Peter Ong.

Medical Superintendent of Yangon General Hospital Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha spoke word of thanks.

Medical staff of Yangon General Hospital, In-charge of National Blood Centre Dr Thida Aung, Mr Peter Ong observed blood donation practice performed by Myanmar Brewery Ltd Family’s members, who had donated a total of 3197 bottles of blood in Yangon and Mandalay since May of 2006, and who will partake in collective blood donation process in Mandalay on 13 and 17 December.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd Family provided medical operation treatment for altogether 106 patients with cleft lip and palate in Sittway, Taunggyi, Magway and Townships of four Districts in Yangon Region at the Yangon General Hospital with support of the Ministry of Health in October, 2010.—MNA
Tatmadaw puts good foundations in place ...

(from page 1)

Comrades,

In accordance with the Four Political Objectives, the Tatmadaw worked strenuously for community peace and tranquility and the rule of law. For the peace and tranquility of the State, all illegal armed groups in the country were invited to return to the legal fold and join hands to work for local development activities. At present, numerous organizations that have returned to the legal fold have reorganized as Border Guard Forces under the command of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, in accordance with the Constitution, and have received protection from the State.

Comrades,

In order to establish a political system that is appropriate to the times, a new Constitution setting out how the 3 powers of the State will be exercised in the national groups, and enable step-by-step industrialization of our country with the rule of law. For the Tatmadaw worked for national development for national development within the time available with the goodwill with a view to the emergence of a new economy of the State, our Tatmadaw worked for agricultural development as the basis and then for all-round development of other sectors of the economy, as our country has been an agricultural country through generations.

Comrades,

In uplifting the economy of the State, our Tatmadaw worked for agricultural development as the basis and then for all-round development of other sectors of the economy, as our country has been an agricultural country through generations.

Comrades,

During our time, additional 233 dams, reservoirs and flood gates have been built, raising the irrigated land area from slightly more than 1.3 million acres to over 2.8 million acres. Moreover, in areas where the construction of dams and reservoirs had proved difficult, 327 river-water pumping projects were carried out and 8,162 wells were dug to access underground water. Thus the cultivated land area has risen from over 23.8 million acres to more than 57 million. In addition, 11.7 million acres, out of over 26 million acres of uncultivated land in the country, has been developed into cultivated land. So currently the paddy acreage has risen from 11.8 million to over 16 million acres for monsoon, over 3 million acres for summer paddy, with the rice production up from over 630 million baskets a year in the past to over 1566 million baskets at present.

In the Myanmar agricultural sector, till 1988, there were 138 dams and reservoirs, over 11 million acres of paddy fields and 26 million acres of cultivable but uncultivated land.

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Dignitaries at the Graduation Parade of No. 53 Intake of DSA.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Aung Naing Oo.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe presents Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Aung Pyae.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe presents Excellence in Studies (Science) Award to Cadet Lwin Htoo.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe presents Excellence in Computer Studies Award to Cadet Naing Lin Aung.—MNA

Tatmadaw puts good foundations...

(From page 8)

For this reason, the Tatmadaw constructed a network of roads across the country. While there were 13,635 miles of roads, including 5,543.5 miles of asphalt roads in 1988, at present there are 21,361.2 miles of roads, including 10,343.5 miles of asphalt roads. Throughout the country, 36 major north-south roads and 45 major east-west roads have been designated as Union Highways and are being upgraded constantly. Moreover, there are major bridges now under construction across the Ayeyawady River: the Nyaungdon Bridge, the Malun Bridge, the Yadanaheinga Bridge, the Pakokku Bridge and the Sinkhan Bridge. Similarly, 250 bridges with longer than 180 feet spans have been completed in all Regions and States, with 34 bridges having less than 180 feet spans that have been constructed. A network of roadways covering the entire country has been built with rail lines reaching Bhamo in Kachin State, Kengtung in Shan State, Myeik in Taninthayi Region, and Sittway in Rakhine State through M nibu and An.

(See page 10)
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe converses with four outstanding cadets and their parents.—MNA

Tatmadaw puts good foundations in place...

As for air travel, the Tatmadaw government constructed 7 new airports across the country, upgraded 21 and renovated and maintained 62. For the development of civil aviation, domestic and foreign flights have been greatly expanded through state-owned enterprises and public-private joint ventures.

Comrades,

The upgraded health care provision with national coverage, carried out with the aim of bringing good health and longevity to nearly 60 million citizens in our country, has achieved such results as increased life expectancy, prevention of epidemics and reductions in maternal and child mortality.

In the upgrading of the health sector, 4 Universities of Medicine, 2 Universities of Dental Medicine, 1 University of Public Health, 7 other health-related universities and 46 nursing and midwifery training schools have been opened to produce well-qualified professionals. Various programmes of international standard postgraduate medical training are also being offered.

Furthermore, new hospitals have been opened and existing ones have been upgraded, with up to 898 hospitals now in service up from 631. Similarly, there are now 505 sub-township hospitals up from 305; 1508 rural health centres up from 1337; and 86 local health centres up from 64.

To provide public health care not only through Western medicine but also through traditional medicine, the University of Traditional Medicine was set up in 2001. Currently, 14 Traditional Medicine Hospitals and 237 Traditional Medicine Clinics are in service.

Under the projects implemented to provide health care to national people living in border areas, 100 border area hospitals, 97 clinics, 94 rural health centres, and 202 rural health branches have been opened.

Comrades,

In the education sector, as the attainment of higher education standards by the students depends on the teachers, 20 education colleges have been set up. Our country now has 40,876 Basic Education Schools, 97 clinics, 94 rural health centres, and 202 rural health branches have been opened.

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Comrades,

Over 70% of our population are the rural people. For national development, rural areas need to be developed extensively and thoroughly. For better transportation from the rural to urban areas, 3 inter-district roads have been built. The No.1 Inter-District Road runs from Mandalay to Yangon and is 400 miles long. The No. 2 Inter-District Road runs from Mandalay to Moitama in Mon State and is 462 miles long. The No. 3 Inter-District Road runs from Myitkyina in Kachin State to Sagaing and is 339 miles long. So, a total of 1200 miles of roads have been built through remote and less developed villages that were previously difficult to access. In addition, 36,314 miles of rural roads and 11,232 rural bridges have been built.

Comrades,

To provide rural people with access to clean water, 36,163 projects were carried out in 23,828 villages. In the same way, activities for the upgrading of rural health care, rural education standards and rural economy have been carried out energetically.

Comrades,

For national development, State-owned factories have been built under the Ministries of Industry No. 1 and No. 2, and their number has risen from 624 in the past to 60,869, up from 26,829 private enterprises in 1988. In addition, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited now has 55 major factories.

Comrades,

The State has built factories and put in place economic and social infrastructure for the country to address the issue of unemployment. Full employment will also reduce the gap between the rich and the poor while contributing to the fight against poverty.

Similarly, the steady growth of population has led to housing requirements. Thus, in Yangon, Mandalay and other major cities, housing developments containing both houses and apartments, and the development of new towns and villages have been carried out to provide housing for the people. Addressing the issue of unemployment and providing for the housing needs of the people are the priorities that successive governments have to focus on.

Comrades,

In conclusion, the milestones in the two decades of nation-building history where no sector remains without development are the proof that demonstrates the depth of the goodwill (cetana) of the Tatmadaw that has discharged its duties for the people. You comrades must, as members of the people’s Tatmadaw, observe these traditions of the Tatmadaw and provide assistance and support to a new government that comes to power in order to achieve national development. At the same time, you are to serve your principal duty, the strengthening of national defence, and continue standing as the patriotic Armed Forces.

Religious Affairs Ministry concludes

English Proficiency Course No. 2

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 December—Ministry of Religious Affairs held concluding ceremony of other rank-level English proficiency course No. 2 at the ministry here this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Aung Ko.

Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General U Khaing Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasa, head of the department U Myint Oo and officials concerned.

The deputy minister delivered concluding address and presented awards to the outstanding staff and completion certificates to the trainees through one. And the ceremony came to an end.

Altogether 38 trainees took the four-week course.—MNA

International Bakery & Pastry Course at Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy

Yangon, 10 December—Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy has arranged to open a new International Bakery & Pastry Course in the last week of December for those interested in working in hotels, restaurants and cruise liners at home and abroad, and running in private.

The course covers making various foods, planning Menu, calculating Menu costing, food safety and quality management of kitchen operation, which are conducted by international experienced trainers.

IELTS Foundation Course and Intensive Course will be launched in the last week of December at Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy, Room No. 302 in 267 Building on Pyay Road, Myaynigone, Sanyang Township, Tel: 01-523623, 923200, 4412256, or 095020302.—MNA

Myanmar-Malaysia entrepreneurs meeting to be held

Yangon, 10 December—General Secretary Dr. Maung Maung Lay of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met First Secretary Mr. Sammang Subramani of the Malaysian Embassy at the federation office on 4 December.

They discussed enhancing of investment and trade affairs, the meeting between Malaysian entrepreneurs led by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and Myanmar entrepreneurs to be held at UMFCCI office tower on 14 December, and individual discussion.

Those wishing to attend the meeting may contact UMFCCI (Ph: 214344-9).—MNA

Special weather news

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 December—Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced that according to the observation at 12.30 hrs MST today, due to the movement of Western Disturbance from East Central Bay of Bengal and Rakhine Coast towards upper Myanmar areas, continuation of rain or thunder-showers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhae states, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions with likelihood of isolated heavy rainfalls in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions within next 48 hrs commencing noon today. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhae Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mph.—MNA

Objectives of 63rd Anniversary Independence Day

(a) All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State

(b) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity

(c) All the national people to work to build a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic new nation as the multiparty democracy general elections have been held successfully

(d) All the national people to make collaborative efforts with the Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit for further strengthening the already achieved stability and peace, security, prevalence of law and order, unity, development and democratization process with momentum

(e) All the national people to have greater awareness in warding off all destructive acts to disintegrate the Union and the national unity as the perpetuity of the Union plays a crucial role in building the Union of Myanmar

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Xiang Da VOY NO (1048)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Xiang Da VOY NO (1048) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2010 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.

**MV Kota Rahmat VOY NO (138)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Kota Rahmat VOY NO (138) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2010 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.

**MV Island Green VOY NO (017/4)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Island Green VOY NO (017/4) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**MV Bantagesmuang VOY NO (94)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Bantagesmuang VOY NO (94) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**New amusement park with Monkey King-themed elements opens in east China City**

**Hefei, 10 Dec** — Fantawild Dream Kingdom, a theme park in Hefei City at east China’s Anhui Province featuring amusement facilities with Chinese elements like the legendary Monkey King, opened on a trial basis on Wednesday. The theme park comes after Fantawild Adventure Theme Park opened three years ago in Wuhu. Shenzhen-based Huajiang Group Co-developed both theme parks.

A company spokesman said Fantawild Dream Kingdom covers an area of 500,000 square metres and was built with an investment of 1.8 billion yuan (270 million US dollars). It boasts a dozen independently developed amusement facilities that showcase popular Chinese elements like the terra-cotta warriors and the Chinese Zodiac.

Visitors ride at an attraction at Fantawild Dreamland in Wuhan, east China’s Hubei Province, on 8 Dec, 2010. The amusement park, designed by Chinese investors, started the commercial trial on Wednesday. The theme park at a cost of 1.8 billion yuan (270 million US dollars) has an area of 500,000 square metres with more than 200 attractions and shows.

Chinese research ship Dayang Yihao, or Ocean One, sets sail in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 8 Dec, 2010. Dayang Yihao set out here on Wednesday, starting a 376-day global trip that across the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans, with its research mission on hot liquid sulfides and deep-sea biological diversity. This was China’s 22nd deep-sea scientific research mission and the third global voyage of Dayang Yihao. A total of 431 scientists joint the research in different phases of the voyage.

**Chinese research ship embarks on year-long global voyage**

GUANGZHOU, 10 Dec — The Chinese scientific research ship Dayang Yihao, or Ocean One, set sail here Wednesday, starting a 376-day global trip that will take it across the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. The vessel will conduct research on hot liquid sulfides and deep-sea biological diversity, said Tao Chunhui, the chief scientist of the ship’s research team, during a media function held before the ship departed in Guangzhou, provincial capital of Guangdong in China’s south.

Hot liquid sulfides, commonly known as “black chimneys” by researchers, can provide clues about the origins of life. This will be China’s 22nd deep-sea scientific research mission and the third global voyage of Dayang Yihao, an important oceanic science research vessel for China. A total of 431 scientists will join the voyage in different phases of the voyage. Dayang Yihao carries advanced scientific instruments including the “Sea Dragon 2,” a remotely-operated underwater vehicle (ROV), as well as a powerful newly developed deep sea drilling machine.
New Michael Jackson song airs, from beyond-grave album

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—A second song from a new posthumous album by late pop legend Michael Jackson, released on Thursday, days before the beyond-the-grave record hits music shops around the world.

“Hold My Hand,” a duet with US singer Akon, went online complete with video ahead of the 14 December release of “Michael,” an album of songs the King of Pop wrote before his death, according to producers.

A first song from the album, “Breaking News,” was released last month and triggered an online storm of debate over whether the vocals were indeed sung by Jackson himself.

The video for “Hold My Hand” “tells the story of the song through a collage of images of both Michael and Akon as well as people representing Michael’s legacy, shining a light on the aura left behind by King of Pop. The video is a tribute to all that Michael stands for — life, in all its permutations love, and its power. A video of memory, healing and joy,” said the video’s producer Mark Pellington, cited on Jackson’s website.

Woman attacked over baby toy

Port St, 10 Dec—Police in Florida said a woman attacked a fellow Walmart shopper because her baby was “squeezing a child’s toy that was making a lot of noise.”

Port St Lucie police said Jeanette Ramirez, 33, of Lauderhill, instigated a “verbal altercation” with the mother due to the noise made by the toy and the incident escalated when three witnesses saw Ramirez “physically assaulting/hitting” the other woman, TCPalm.com reported Thursday. Police arrested Ramirez on a charge of misdemeanor simple battery.

Injury forces Van Dyke to cancel LA production

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—An injury has forced Dick Van Dyke to cancel his new musical show in Los Angeles.

Geffen Playhouse publicist Allison Rawlings released a statement Thursday that says Van Dyke is unable to perform because of an injury to his Achilles tendon, which began bothering him last week. As a result, the theater was forced to cancel the upcoming run of “Dick Van Dyke - Step in Time: A Musical Memoir.”

Actor Wesley Snipes begins serving sentence at Pa prison

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—Actor Wesley Snipes begins serving a three-year sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania on Thursday for failure to file income tax returns.

Snipes, 48, arrived shortly before noon at the Federal Correctional Institution McKean in the tiny northwestern Pennsylvania town of Lewis Run, federal prisons spokesman Ed Ross said. He had been ordered to surrender by noon.

The minimum security prison camp is worlds away from the harsh prison fortresses depicted in the Snipes’ films “Undisputed” and “Brooklyn’s Finest.” The minimum-security camp doesn’t have fences around its perimeter.

The 300 nonviolent inmates live in barracks that feature two-man rooms, daily showers and double-feature movie showings Friday through Sunday. Alas, no NC-17, R or X ratings allowed, which knocks out much of Snipes’ action-heavy repertoire.

The most jarring aspect of the celebrity’s stay might be the five daily head counts, three during the overnight hours. And Snipes, who earned a reported $13 million for the “Blade Trinity” sequel, will have to adjust to earning just pennies an hour handling kitchen, laundry or campus chores. He can spend just $290 a month at the prison commissary.

Egyptian movie wins top prize at Cairo film festival

Cairo, 10 Dec—“Al-Shawq,” a movie by Egyptian director Khaled al-Hagar, won the Golden Pyramid at the 34th Cairo International Film Festival which ended on Thursday.

“Microphone” by Egypt’s Ahmed Abdullah won the award for best Arabic-language film. France’s Isabelle Huppert, in “Copacabana,” shared the best actress award with Al-Shawq’s Sawas Badr, from Egypt.

Egypt’s Amr Waked and Italy’s Alessandro Gassman shared the best actor awards for their performances in Italian Ricky Tognazzi’s “Il Padre E Lo Straniero.”

Greeting card maker pole dances in store

New York, 10 Dec.—A New York greeting card designer said she has found success with her business model, which includes in-store pole dances.

Jill-Anne, owner of Jill-Anne’s on the Lower East Side, said she has been performing in the store for the past two months and any customers who spend at least $50 on her hand-made greeting cards get a personal pole dance, the New York Daily News reported on Thursday.

“I always swore to myself I would always have fun at work. I have a wonderful time with my company, but I also need mini breaks and since I don’t have a water cooler or the Starbucks around the corner, I have my pole,” she said.

“Seventy-five percent of the people, when I’m poling, in my store who walk by are women who smile and clap, so it’s not a male lust thing. It’s empowering women thing as well,” Jill-Anne said.

“Narnia” film to trump “Tourist” at box office

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—Two costly movies open in theaters across North America on Friday, although neither is expected to deck the halls extravagantly during a relatively quiet pre-Christmas period. “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader” looks likely to lead the field with three-day sales of $35 million-$45 million. “The Tourist” is expected to earn a modest $20 million, vying for second or third place with current champ “Tangled” for the weekend.

Directed by versatile British filmmaker Michael Apted (“The World Is Not Enough”), “Dawn Treader” cost about $145 million to make. That’s down significantly from the $225 million tab for its immediate franchise predecessor, 2008’s “The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian.” This time around, producer Walden Media and distributor Fox (taking over from Disney) cut costs by using more soundstages, reducing visual effects and obtaining hefty Australian tax credits.

Actor Snipes begins serving sentence at Pa prison

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—Actor Wesley Snipes begins serving a three-year sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania on Thursday for failure to file income tax returns.

Snipes, 48, arrived shortly before noon at the Federal Correctional Institution McKean in the tiny northwestern Pennsylvania town of Lewis Run, federal prisons spokesman Ed Ross said. He had been ordered to surrender by noon.

The minimum security prison camp is worlds away from the harsh prison fortresses depicted in the Snipes’ films “Undisputed” and “Brooklyn’s Finest.” The minimum-security camp doesn’t have fences around its perimeter.

The 300 nonviolent inmates live in barracks that feature two-man rooms, daily showers and double-feature movie showings Friday through Sunday. Alas, no NC-17, R or X ratings allowed, which knocks out much of Snipes’ action-heavy repertoire.

The most jarring aspect of the celebrity’s stay might be the five daily head counts, three during the overnight hours. And Snipes, who earned a reported $13 million for the “Blade Trinity” sequel, will have to adjust to earning just pennies an hour handling kitchen, laundry or campus chores. He can spend just $290 a month at the prison commissary.

Egyptian movie wins top prize at Cairo film festival

Cairo, 10 Dec—“Al-Shawq,” a movie by Egyptian director Khaled al-Hagar, won the Golden Pyramid at the 34th Cairo International Film Festival which ended on Thursday. “Microphone” by Egypt’s Ahmed Abdullah won the award for best Arabic-language film.

France’s Isabelle Huppert, in “Copacabana,” shared the best actress award with Al-Shawq’s Sawas Badr, from Egypt.

Egypt’s Amr Waked and Italy’s Alessandro Gassman shared the best actor awards for their performances in Italian Ricky Tognazzi’s “Il Padre E Lo Straniero.”

Greeting card maker pole dances in store

New York, 10 Dec.—A New York greeting card designer said she has found success with her business model, which includes in-store pole dances.

Jill-Anne, owner of Jill-Anne’s on the Lower East Side, said she has been performing in the store for the past two months and any customers who spend at least $50 on her hand-made greeting cards get a personal pole dance, the New York Daily News reported on Thursday.

“I always swore to myself I would always have fun at work. I have a wonderful time with my company, but I also need mini breaks and since I don’t have a water cooler or the Starbucks around the corner, I have my pole,” she said.

“Seventy-five percent of the people, when I’m poling, in my store who walk by are women who smile and clap, so it’s not a male lust thing. It’s empowering women thing as well,” Jill-Anne said.

“Narnia” film to trump “Tourist” at box office

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—Two costly movies open in theaters across North America on Friday, although neither is expected to deck the halls extravagantly during a relatively quiet pre-Christmas period. “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader” looks likely to lead the field with three-day sales of $35 million-$45 million. “The Tourist” is expected to earn a modest $20 million, vying for second or third place with current champ “Tangled” for the weekend.

Directed by versatile British filmmaker Michael Apted (“The World Is Not Enough”), “Dawn Treader” cost about $145 million to make. That’s down significantly from the $225 million tab for its immediate franchise predecessor, 2008’s “The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian.” This time around, producer Walden Media and distributor Fox (taking over from Disney) cut costs by using more soundstages, reducing visual effects and obtaining hefty Australian tax credits.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 11 December, 2010

Benitez, Inter narrow focus on Club World Cup

ROME, 10 Dec — Inter Milan coach Rafael Benitez has set his sights on the Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi to give his faltering side a much-needed boost. An injury-ravaged and under-strength Inter crashed to a 3-0 defeat at Werder Bremen in the Champions League on Tuesday night to slump to a second-place finish in Group A behind Tottenham.

It means they face the possibility of a last 16 clash against one of Europe’s heavyweights, such as Manchester United, Barcelona, Chelsea or Real Madrid, guided by former Inter boss Jose Mourinho.

That defeat was also Inter’s seventh of the season in all competitions, matching the number of defeats the club suffered during the whole of last campaign under Mourinho, when they went on to lift the treble. In Serie A they are in fifth place and 10 points behind leaders AC Milan, but Benitez believes the Club World Cup can provide a welcome tonic to their league and European woes.

Vladimir Klitschko working on alternative date for title fight

BERLIN, 10 Dec — World heavyweight champion Vladimir Klitschko, recovering from injury, is looking to arrange an alternative date for his WBO, IBF, IBO title fight but it remains unclear if Briton Dereck Chisora will be his opponent.

The 34-year-old Ukrainian was scheduled to take on the 28-year-old Zimbabwe-born British and Commonwealth heavyweight champion Chisora un Mannheim on Saturday but Klitschko was ruled out after sustaining a stomach muscle injury in training on Wednesday. Doctors in Mannheim, where the fight was to be held, said Klitschko would need to rest for four to six weeks.

“Klitschko Management Group are working on finding an alternative date with the SAP Arena (in Mannheim),” the fighter’s team said in a statement on Thursday. “Tickets are still valid and once talks with the arena have been completed we will make the decision known,” they said, refusing to say who he would be fighting against.

Entire Italian cycling family faces doping ban

ROME, 10 Dec — Italian Olympic Committee (Coni) prosecutors have asked for an entire family to be banned for doping offences related to a case involving Alessandro Petacchi, seen here in September 2010.

Italian Olympic Committee (Coni) prosecutors have asked for an entire family to be banned for doping offences related to a case involving Alessandro Petacchi, seen here in September 2010.

Chelsea fail to find solace at Marseille

Marseille, 10 Dec — Chelsea travelled to Marseille here Wednesday seeking an upturn in their fortunes but it wasn’t to be as their French hosts came away with a deserved 1-0 win in this concluding ‘dead’ Champions League Group F encounter. Aside from seeing two recent penalty appeals turned down Chelsea will find it hard to quibble with a result that saw their inferiorto perfect first round record blemished by defeat.

Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti had called for a spirited end to their Champions League group games after watching his side win only one of their last six Premier League outings. And with Tottenham looming in London on Sunday Ancelotti told Sky Sports: “We weren’t playing at 100 percent, perhaps 50 percent, we will have to improve especially with Totten ham and Arsenal coming up. Really, we have lost confidence.”

Newcastle appoint Pardew as manager

NEWCASTLE, 10 Dec — Former West Ham coach Alan Pardew was on Thursday appointed the new manager of Newcastle United, the Premier League club announced. Pardew succeeds Chris Hughton, who was dismissed on Monday in the wake of last weekend’s 3-1 loss to West Bromwich Albion, which left the Magpies four points above the relegation zone.

Newcastle owner Mike Ashley gave Pardew a five-and-a-half-year contract, an indication he wanted the sixth manager at St James’ Park since he took charge in 2007 to stay for the long haul. It also appears to signal that Ashley, who tried and failed to sell Newcastle, was preparing to remain in control of the north-east club.

Pardew’s first match in charge is a home fixture against Liverpool on Saturday. The 49-year-old was the bookmakers’ — if not the fans’ — favourite to take over from the St James’ Park hotseat from Hughton, 51, who was axed by Ashley despite having led Newcastle to promotion from the second-tier Championship last season.

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Champions League draw

Ajax Amster dam’s Belgian defender Toby Alderweireld (C) celebrates after scoring with forward from Uruguay Luis Suarez (R) — Internet

Ajax beat Milan to book Europa League spot

MILAN, 10 Dec — Ajax beat AC Milan 2-0 at the San Siro here on Wednesday to ensure they take their place in the Europa League knockout stages. With Milan already guaranteed second place in Group G and Real Madrid assured of top spot, Ajax and Auxerre were left to battle for third place and the European consolation.

And goals from Denny De Zeuwe and Toby Alderweireld ensured the Dutch side — who were rocked by the resignation of coach Martin Jol on Monday — continue their continental adventure this season. Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri passed off the defeat as a dour match was brought to life late in the game when Romanian international defender Adrian Popa opened the scoring with the hosts nailing their place in the last 16 and top spot in Group H shortly after wards through Luiz Adriano.

Defeat ended the visitors hopes of progressing — though Arsenal’s win at home to Partizan Belgrade would have made even a Braga win in Ukraine fruitless. Braga were already up against it as Shakhtar went into the match beaten in 10 games in all competitions since being hammered 5-1 by Arsenal and unbeaten in 52 successive home clashes since a defeat in 22 Oct, 2008.

Shakhtar Donetsk reach knockout round

DONETSK, 10 Dec — Ukraine’s 2009 UEFA Cup champions Shakhtar Donetsk reached the knockout stages of the Champions League for the first time here on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory over Portuguese side Sporting Braga.

A draw match was brought to life late in the game when Romanian international defender Adrian Popa opened the scoring with the hosts nailing their place in the last 16 and top spot in Group H shortly after wards through Luiz Adriano.

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Blast kills at least 11 in northwest Pakistan

HANGU, 10 Dec—A suicide car bomber rammed his vehicle into a hospital in a town in northwest Pakistan on Friday, killing at least 11 people, officials said, in what appeared to be a sectarian attack.

On Wednesday, a suicide bomber blew himself up beside a minibus in the nearby town of Kahat, killing at least 16 people, officials said.

MNA/Reuters
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
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

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at Graduation Parade of No. 53 Intake of Defence Services Academy

Nav Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—The Graduation Parade of No. 53 Intake of the Defence Services Academy was held at the convocation hall of the DSA in PyinOoLwin at 9 am today, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.


Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at Graduation Parade of No. 53 Intake of Defence Services Academy

Ministers U Khin Maung Myint, U Thaung, U Ohn Myint, U Zaw Min, U Thein Zaw, U Lun Thu, Dr Kyaw Myint, Dr Chan Nyein, U Hla Tun and U Thein Aung, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Directors Maj-Gen Mya Win, Maj-Gen Hla Myint, (See page 11)