Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—On the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2010, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Amir of the State of Qatar.—MNA

You can confront anything and win if you avoid your opponents’ strong points, exploit their shortcomings and strike at their weaknesses

Engineering professionals, part of human resources necessary for the building of a modern Tatmadaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 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 No. 13 Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy.

Comrades,

Today is the graduation day of the No. 13 Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy, a day on which our Tatmadaw gains new strength in engineering. You comrades have completed your military and technological studies and will soon be assigned duties as junior leaders in military engineering in the Tatmadaw.

Comrades,

The aim of the Tatmadaw is the building of a strong and capable modern patriotic Tatmadaw. Our principal duties are the protection of the nation and the people, constant training to ensure high levels of attainment in the 3 capabilities and the performance of activities beneficial to the people utilizing the time available.

Comrades,

In the world today, every country is building modernized Armed Forces, taking great precautions to ensure national defence capabilities. So, during our time, we have made endeavours to ensure that the Tatmadaw is strong, capable and patriotic, as it has been since its inception. As the economic strength of the nation grew, the modernization of the Tatmadaw was implemented appropriately.

Comrades,

In the period immediately after independence, domestic insurgencies were strong and had enormous momentum, while our Tatmadaw was weak in every aspect, in terms of manpower and weapons. The Tatmadaw was able to save the country from the kind of horrible situation where only a small area around Yangon remained outside insurgent control only because we had the patriotism, (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Saturday, 18 December, 2010

Implement more hydropower projects for socio-economic progress

Electric power plays an important part in the development of economic, productive and social sectors of the nation. It is also essential for the socio-economy of the people as well as for building an industrial country.

According to the geographical conditions, the nation is blessed with water resources for generating electricity. So, hydropower projects are being implemented one after another. The already built hydropower plants have been opened to generate electricity.

No.4 Generator of Yeywa Hydropower Plant in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region, started operation on 15 December. It is the 15th such facility of the nation.

Yeywa Hydropower project commenced in 2001-2002. The plant is installed with 790 megawatts generating capacity with four 197.5 megawatt generators. No.1 Generator started operation in February 2010, No.2 Generator in July, No.3 Generator in October and No.4 Generator this month.

Now is the time when the State is striving earnestly for national development. But, continued efforts have to be made for transforming the nation into an industrialized one. The nation has natural resources. Human resources are being nurtured. With the establishment of industrial regions and zones, heavy industries and import-substitute items are mushrooming.

With higher living standard of the people and a large number of industries, electricity consumption has increased year by year. Now, 3,045 megawatts of electricity can be generated. Therefore, timely completion of the existing hydropower projects and increased distribution of electricity will contribute to the progress of the socio-economy of the State and the people.

Lucky Bird distributes Optoma projector

**Optoma**

YANGON, 17 Dec—Lucky Bird Group of Companies sells Optoma brand projectors at reasonable price. Optoma ES 526 projector is made of DLP (Digital Light Processing) technology. The customers who bought one Optoma projector can get projector screen as gift.

Optoma projector can be used as multipurpose in entertainment programmes, at offices, private businesses and schools.

The interested persons may contact Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd at room-103, building-355, Thimbyyu Street, Yangon, Tel: 248167, 379875 and 399011, at No. 5 on 26th street between 78th and 79th streets, Tel: 02-21572, and Nay Pyi Taw Thabyegon Market, Tel: 067-414113.—MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein sends congratulatory message to Qatari counterpart

NAW PIYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jibril Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2010.

Sports Ministry holds Coord Meeting-2010

NAW PIYI TAW, 17 Dec—Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint addresses Work Coordination Meeting-2010 of the Sports Ministry held at the meeting hall of the ministry here today.

Director-General U Thaung Htaik presented assessment of the tasks carried out by those in charge of states and regions. Those in charge of states and regions presented works carried out. This was followed by supplementary reports presented by the director-general and deputy directors-general.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Thura U Aye Myint.

Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint addresses Work Coordination Meeting-2010 of the ministry.

Internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabir Al-Thani, message of congratulations to His Excellency Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message to Qatari counterpart.

* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

Prime Minister addresses Work Coordination Meeting-2010 of the ministry.

**People’s Desire**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**Second round matches of Tatmadaw Football Tournament go on**

NAW PIYI TAW, 17 Dec—The second round matches of the 49th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at Paunglaung Sports Ground, here, this morning and No. 88 LID beat No. 55 LID 3-2 in the morning.

At Eastern Command (A) team won over Western Command (B) 2-1 at No. 1 Sports Ground, while Central Command routed Nay Pyi Taw Command (A) team 4-1.—MNA
Drone strikes kill 24 in Pakistan, fourth in two days

A Predator surveillance drone equipped with Hellfire missiles. The Foreign Office said it was looking into media reports that two British nationals, possibly Muslim converts, were killed in a US drone strike in northwest Pakistan last week. —INTERNET

Landikotal, (Pakistan), 17 Dec—Three suspected US drone missile strikes killed 24 militants on Friday in Pakistan’s northwestern Khyber region, a known sanctuary for al-Qaeda and Taleban militants.

The United States has widened drone attacks in Pakistan this year, but almost all of them have been in the North Waziristan tribal region, a known sanctuary for al-Qaeda and Taleban militants.

Attacks in Khyber are not very frequent. Khyber agency is home to Lashkar-e-Islami, a militant organization sometimes allied with the Pakistani Taleban, but which has often clashed with other groups.

The attacks on Friday in Tirah valley occurred within hours of each other. “We have initial reports of some 24 suspected militants killed in three attacks today,” one intelligence official in the region said.

Another intelligence official confirmed the figure, saying four suspected militants were killed in the third attack. It could not be immediately verified from independent sources if all the dead were militants, who often dismiss official death tolls in such attacks.

A similar strike the day before killed seven suspected militants in the same region.

Pilot-less US drones have been attacking al-Qaeda and Taleban militants for the past few years in Pakistan’s lawless tribal areas on the Afghan border, but there have been a surge in these strikes this year.

Snow, sleet wreak havoc in Mid-Atlantic, South

Raleigh, 17 Dec—Snow, and freezing rain wreaked havoc across Mid-Atlantic and Southern States on Thursday, causing hundreds of accidents, four fatal. The nasty prewinter mix also forced schools to start late, close early or cancel classes altogether.

Three people died in separate weather-related crashes in North Carolina. In southcentral Kentucky, state police said an 80-year-old man died when his sport-utility vehicle hit a patch of ice, ran off the road and overtopped.

Thousands of people in North Carolina and in Virginia lost power, and West Virginia’s acting governor was forced to cancel a Christmas party scheduled for Thursday night at the Governor’s Mansion.

In metro Atlanta and north Georgia, icy conditions Thursday morning prompted road closures a day after slick surfaces caused hundreds of accidents. Temperatures had warmed and the ice had melted by midday. Ice also covered roads early Thursday in Louisville, Ky, and parts of Tennessee. Those who ventured out had to allow time to clear ice that coated nearly everything, from cars to walkways to the sides of buildings.

“I’m just chipping away,” said Tim Olson of Louisville, who was getting the ice off his truck Thursday morning. “It looks slick. I hope it isn’t too bad.”

In Missouri, the freezing rain began Wednesday night and continued into Thursday morning, with the Missouri State Highway Patrol reporting numerous accidents. In Ohio, plows were out in counties near the Ohio River.

Bomb hits Afghan minibus, killing 14

Kabul, 17 Dec—A roadside bomb destroyed a crowded minibus Thursday in western Afghanistan, killing 14 passengers who were all members of an extended family, a provincial official said.

Violence has been on the rise across much of Afghanistan, even as the White House released a generally positive review of its military strategy here.

Rafi Behrozan, the spokesman for the Herat governor, said four others were wounded in the powerful morning blast in the Kushb Kuhna District of Herat Province.
Arianespace to launch Sentinel-1A observation satellite

PARIS, 17 Dec—The Arianespace launching centre will lift off Sentinel-1A satellite, an observation satellite of the European global monitoring programme in December 2012, it said Thursday in a statement.

The France-based world’s leading launch service provider signed a launch contract with the European Space Agency (ESA). The satellite is part of the European Global Monitoring for Environment and Security Programme.

Sentinel-1A is an earth observation satellite with a C-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) type sensor and will be placed in a sun-synchronous circular orbit at an altitude of approximately 600 kilometres to carry out potential environmental management mission.

Being developed and to be integrated by Thales Alenia Space Italy, the satellite is designed to weigh approximately 2,300 kilograms at launch by a Soyuz rocket from the Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana.

China to step up efforts to control Mother Nature

BEIJING, 17 Dec — China plans to step up a weather-manipulation programme, that has stirred debate about tinkering with Mother Nature, state media said on Friday.—Internet

Famous deep-sea submersible to get upgrade

WOODS HOLE, 17 Dec—Alvin, one of the world’s best-known submersible research craft, is about to get an upgrade that will transform its capabilities, US scientists say.

The 56-year-old vessel discovered the hot volcanic vents on the ocean floor that transformed ideas about where and how life could exist, famously located an H-bomb lost at sea and made one of the first surveys of the Titanic, the BBC reported Thursday.

The undersized veteran was withdrawn from service this week to prepare it for a two-phase, $40 million upgrade that will allow it to stay submerged longer and go much deeper than its current 14,800-foot limit.

“Going to 4,500 metres (14,800 feet) means we can dive in about 68 percent of the ocean,” said Susan Humphris of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, which operates the submersible. “When we go to 6,500 metres (21,000 feet), we will have access to 98 percent of the ocean. That will make a huge difference, there is so much more to see down there,” she said.—Internet

Microsoft really won’t have an iPad killer for CES

NEW YORK, 17 Dec—There’s some buzz out there that Microsoft will have some giant iPad killing tablet at January’s Consumer Electronics Show. Don’t believe the hype. The New York Times posted a story this week playing up the fact that Microsoft will have new tablets to show at CES.

That’s true, but remember, the exact same thing could be said last year. In fact it was. The New York Times did some similar hyping last year and I similarly warned folks not to get their hopes up.

As was the case last year, Microsoft will show some new tablets as part of Steve Ballmer’s annual overview of all the new hardware coming for PCs, according to sources familiar with Redmond’s plans. Acer, for example, plans to show off its Iconia dual-screen tablet as well as a Windows 7 slate.

Ballmer may even talk a bit about what is coming on the hardware and software fronts, but don’t expect too much, particularly on the Windows 8 front. The real issue for Microsoft remains the fact that Microsoft, while it has been talking about tablets for years, Windows-based tablets still don’t present a real challenge to the iPad. And that’s not likely to change after CES.—Internet

Gingerbread makes Nexus S a smart cookie

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Dec—For some people, the holidays go hand in hand with gingerbread, in the form of houses or cookie-cutter men. This year, you can add smart phones — specifically, the Nexus S, the first device running the freshest version of Google’s Android operating software, Gingerbread.

Developed by Google Inc and Samsung Electronics Co, the phone has a cool curved glass screen, back- and front-facing cameras and the ability to read special tags on such things as stickers embossed with Near Field Communication chips.

Combined with a fairly good price, it’s likely to be on a number of holiday wish lists.

Best Buy stores will sell it for $200 with a contract from T-Mobile, or for a more wallet-stretching $530 if you want it to work on either T-Mobile’s or AT&T’s network. The Nexus S is the follow-up to the Nexus One, an HTC Corp phone that Google trotted out early this year but stopped selling months later after plenty of similar Android-running devices became available.—Internet

Silicon Valley company launches product to run PC as easy as copy-and-paste

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Dec — VMLite, a Silicon Valley virtualization start-up company, on Thursday released a software product that enables users to run personal computer (PC) operating systems as easy as copy and paste files.

The new product, named VBoot, could help people get rid of the unhappy experiences to re-install and re-configure their computers when the system crash or are infected by virus, a process usually painful and time consuming.

"VBoot turns the whole system, Linux or Windows, on your PC into a single file, you just copy and paste the file to any external or internal storage, even a USB thumb drive, once you boot the file from the storage, you get the exact same system with all your original setup running on any PC with x86 CPU architecture," Dr Huihong Luo, VMLite’s founder, told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Science
Rheumatoid arthritis linked to smoking

STOCKHOLM, 17 Dec—More than one-third of cases of the most severe and common form of rheumatoid arthritis are linked to smoking, researchers in Sweden say.

Study author Henrik Kallberg of the Institute of Environmental Medicine at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, says smoking accounts for more than half of cases of people who are genetically susceptible to development of the disease.

The study involved more than 1,200 people with rheumatoid arthritis and 971 people—ages 18-70—matched for age and sex, but free of the disease, Kallberg says.

Blood samples found 61 percent of those with rheumatoid arthritis had the most severe form of the disease, which is also the most common form, as judged by testing positive for anticitrullinated protein/peptide antibody.

The study, published in the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, found those who were the heaviest smokers—20 cigarettes a day for at least 20 years—were more than 2.5 times as likely as others to test positive for anticitrullinated protein/peptide antibody.—Internet

Gene scan shows childhood brain cancer is different

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—A study of the genetic map of brain tumours in children shows they have many fewer mutations than similar tumours in adults—meaning it may someday be easier to treat them, researchers reported on Thursday.

The study of medulloblastoma, the most common type of brain cancer in children, also turned up some new mutations, the researchers reported in the journal Science.

“These analyses clearly show that genetic changes in pediatric cancers are remarkably different from adult tumours,” said Victor Velculescu of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, whose team led the study, said in a statement.

“With fewer alterations, the hope is that it may be easier to use the information to develop new therapies for them.”—Reuters

Cuba introduces lung cancer vaccine

Havana, 17 Dec—Cuban health authorities introduced the first vaccine to treat advanced lung cancer in all of the country’s clinics, a health official said Thursday.

Pedro Pablo Guerra, researcher from the National Coordination Centre for Clinical Trials, confirmed that the vaccine, known as CIMAVAX-EGF, is for people with advanced lung cancer.

“To bring important drugs to patients who need them is one of the main objectives for the Cuban Ministry of Public Health,” he said.

This immunogenic drug, developed by the Molecular Immunology Centre (CMI), is in phase four of clinical trials. It has proven effective and improves the quality of life of patients with lung cancer, the expert said.

He said this is the only vaccine registered in the world to treat advanced lung cancer.

Guerra said the vaccine is undergoing another phase of clinical trials at hospitals. This research will bring about the definitive registration of the product, which is already recognized in several countries.

Budget carrier Jetstar flies into Singapore’s long-haul market

SINGAPORE, 17 Dec—Budget airline Jetstar made its first foray into Singapore’s long-haul market, dominated by full-service carriers such as Singapore Airlines.

Its first flight from Melbourne landed at Changi Airport Thursday evening, carrying 279 passengers in two classes, eight hours after take-off.

Jetstar already flies long-haul out of Australia to destinations in India, Thailand, Japan and the United States, AirAsia, via franchise AirAsia X, also offers long flights out of its hub in Kuala Lumpur.

As budget airlines that traditionally operate within a maximum five-hour flying radius venture further, they are giving full-service carriers a run for their money in the long-haul sector.

On regional routes where carriers such as Tiger Airways, Jetstar and AirAsia compete fiercely, full-service airlines like Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airlines have seen yields drop as much as 20 percent as a result of more competition.—Xinhua

German economist says US economy won’t recover fully until 2015

BERLIN, 17 Dec—The US economy will not completely get back on track until 2015, and the world economy’s recovery will be bumpy, a German economist said.

“Between now and 2015, there will be a lot of dissatisfactions, a lot of disappointments about the United States and in the United States,” Norbert Walter, Deutsche Bank’s former chief economist, told Xinhua in a recent interview in his office in Bad Soden, a town near Frankfurt.

Walter toned down previous forecasts of a 4-percent growth of the US economy. “The trend growth of the US economy is 2 percent, not 4 percent,” he said.

However, US politicians and scholars seemed unwilling to accept a lower growth rate for a while to consolidate their economy and achieve financial balance, Walter said. “They fear that a weak dollar would hurt voters’ confidence,” he said.—Xinhua

China, India PMs agree to double trade by 2015

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec—China and India’s premiers agreed Thursday to double bilateral trade to 100 billion dollars by 2015.

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh also agreed in a joint communique to push Indian exports to China in an effort to bridge a trade surplus of around 20 billion dollars a year in China’s favour.

The talks came on the second day of Wen’s visit — his first to India in five years — for which he led a delegation of 400 Chinese business leaders.

Trade between the world’s two fastest-growing major economies totalled 42 billion dollars last year and is expected to reach 60 billion dollars in the current fiscal year to March.

Since arriving in India, Wen’s delegation has struck deals worth 16 billion dollars.

The joint communiqué made no mention of any breakthrough on a host of sensitive issues that have prevented India-China relations from casting off years of suspicion and mutual distrust.

One constant thorn has been a bitter and seemingly intractable dispute over areas of their common Himalayan border, which triggered a brief but bloody war in 1962.—Internet


Internet
Japan knife man wounds 13, mostly schoolchildren

TOYKO, 17 Dec—A Japanese man armed with a knife stormed aboard two buses and wounded 13 people, mostly schoolchildren, outside a train station northeast of Tokyo on Friday, police and media reports said.

Police said they had arrested a 27-year-old unemployed man identified as Yuta Saito after the attacks in Toride City, Ibaraki prefecture.

“The suspect got onto the buses and wielded a knife and slashed passengers in there,” said a police spokesman at Toride.

“The incident occurred on a school bus and then on another bus for ordinary citizens that were both parked in front of the station.”

“We can say at this moment that at least 13 people were wounded.” Witnesses to the morning rush-hour attacks subdued the knife man, who also sustained some injuries. A fire department official said: “Thirteen people were wounded. No one is dead.”

Policemen inspect buses after a Japanese man with a knife stormed aboard and wounded 13 people, mostly schoolchildren, outside Toride train station in Toride City, northeast of Tokyo, on 17 Dec, 2010.—INTERNET

IRAQ arrests nine suspects in deadly bombing

TEHERAN, 17 Dec—Iranian security forces have arrested nine suspects in connection with a double bombing near a mosque in the country’s southeast this week that killed 39 people, state television said Thursday.

An armed Sunni militant group, Jundallah, or Workers of God, has claimed responsibility for Wednesday’s bombing outside the Imam Hussein Mosque in the port city of Chabahar. The group, which has carried out attacks on military and civilians in southeastern Iran in the past, said the bombing was an act of revenge for the June execution of its leader, Abdulmalik Rigi.

Iran’s interior minister, Mostafa Mohammad Najjar, told state television Thursday that authorities arrested one suspect at a border crossing. He did not specify which border.

Washington subway police to begin random bag checks

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—Officers will start random bag inspections on the sprawling Washington subway system, the Washington Metro Transit Police said on Thursday, a week after a man was arrested for making bomb threats to the rail system.

Metrorail police officers plan to randomly select bags before passengers enter subway stations and they will swab them or have an explosives-sniffing dog check the bags, according to the Metro police.

There is “no specific or credible threat to the system at this time,” Metro said in a statement. Passengers who refuse to have their bags inspected will be denied entry into the subway system.

“The programme will increase visible methods of protecting our passengers and employees, while minimizing inconvenience to riders,” Metro Transit Police Chief Michael Taborn said in a statement announcing the new checks.

The decision to launch the new security checks, similar to programmes in New York and Boston, comes after two people were arrested in recent months, accused separately of threatening to explode bombs in the Washington subway system.

30,000 killed in Mexico’s drug violence since 2006

MEXICO CITY, 17 Dec—Mexico says more than 30,000 people have been killed in drug violence since President Felipe Calderon launched a crackdown against cartels in 2006.

Attorney General Arturo Chavez Chavez says that about 12,500 people were killed between January and November compared to 9,600 for all of 2009.

He spoke to reporters on Thursday.

The most recent official toll of the drug war dead came in August, when the intelligence agency director said 28,000 had died.

UN reports drug trafficking menace to West Africa, threat to Int’l community

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Dec—Drug trafficking and organized crime remain a menace in West Africa, posing a threat to international peace and security, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said here on Thursday.

Yury Fedotov, UNODC executive director, drew attention to the issue at the launch of the Office’s Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other UN agencies.

The programme covers 16 countries, focusing on peace building security reform, and national and regional institution and capacity-building and aims to curb the spread of drug-trafficking in the region.

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UNODC launched a crackdown against cartels in 2006.

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Namhkyan Dam supplies water for local consumption and agricultural purpose

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Nowadays, the government is implementing small- and medium-scale dam projects for boosting production of paddy and various crops, supplying sufficient potable water, greening the region, generating hydropower, taking fire preventive measures, securing food sufficiency and undertaking all-round development tasks.

By exploring water and land resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has built four dams and six diversion weirs in Shan State (North). Namhkyan Dam was built on Namhkyan Creek, three miles south of Lashio, and it was inaugurated on 22 August 2010 for supplying sufficient potable water to the national people of Lashio Township, growing monsoon and summer paddy on 200 acres of farmlands and taking preventive measures against floods in Lashio in rainy season.

We the news crew of Myanma Alin Daily left Mandalay and arrived at the office of the Deputy Director of Irrigation Department in Lashio. Accompanied by Staff Officer U Than Tun and Deputy Staff Officer U Ko Ko Naing, we went to Namhkyan Dam in Lashio.

The current of Namhkyan Creek is speedy and water is clean and cold. The farmlands in the area are put under paddy, niger, maize, beans and pulses and tea. Palaung national races residing there peacefully are engaged in farming works. Namhkyan and Hlaung villages are located near Namhkyan Dam.

Staff Officer U Than Tun and Head of Department U Nyunt Maung explained facts about the dam. The dam is built near Namhkyan Village, three miles south of Lashio. It is of earthen embankment. The dam has three square miles of watershed area and 3900 acre-feet of annual inflow water. The embankment is 55 feet high and 478 feet long. The dam can store 316 acre-feet of water at the full brim and three acre-feet of still water surface and 135 acre-feet of water and 18 acres of water surface.

We witnessed the 12 inches diameter reinforced concrete conduit installed with 160 feet long steel pipeline. It has 35 cubic-feet/sec of designed current rate. The RC type spillway is 25 feet wide and 230 feet long. It has 1792 cubic-feet/sec of designed current rate.

The dam can supply 92 million gallons of potable water to the precinct of Yantaing-aung Pagoda and Ward 1. In supplying drinking water, a total of 20 water tanks supply water to the urban area through pipelines.

Up to October 2010, a total of 51.74 acres of farmlands are being irrigated. The area has 50 inches of rainfall annually.

Thanks to Namhkyan Dam in Lashio Township, the local people are enjoying fruits of drinking water supply, greening task and flood prevention. As such, all the local people are to work in concert for maintenance of the dam for its durability.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 15-12-2010
the daring to take risks and make sacrifices and the support of the people. It was thanks to such spirit that we were able to repel the Koumintang invasion.

Thus, the strength of the Tatmadaw was gradually built up and hand in hand with the people, the Tatmadaw was able to wipe out the insurgents that maintained strongholds in the delta region, the Bago Mountain Range and the regions to the west of the Ayeyawady River, turning those areas into regions of peace and tranquillity.

History teaches us that our Tatmadaw needs not only to be capable of maintaining peace and stability within the country but also to be able to repel threats such as unforeseen foreign invasions.

So I’d like to urge you to build the Tatmadaw into a modern and capable Tatmadaw as a duty that has been passed on to you.

Comrades,

Our principal duty is the protection of the nation and the people. To be able to provide protection, we need training, military awareness and combat readiness forever.

To be effective, military training by its very nature can never stop. It is necessary to have constant training in conventional warfare, guerilla warfare, people’s warfare strategy and the changing strategies and tactics that arise out of evolving military science and technology.

In today’s world, efforts are being made to utilize new and powerful weapons of mass destruction to achieve land, sea and air supremacy as well as dominance in space and to exploit it in warfare. However, as in all mattes, strong points are always accompanied by weaknesses and shortcomings. You can confront anything and win if you avoid your opponents’ strong points, exploit their shortcomings and strike at their weaknesses. So I’d like to urge you comrades, who are military engineers, to engage in constant study and creative thinking.

Comrades,

Military affairs require constant awareness. Awareness is the principal determinant of security. You can be combat-ready forever only if you have awareness forever. Those who lack constant (See page 9)
You can confront anything...

(from page 8)

awareness and are not combat-ready at all times may be taken by surprise. Being taken by surprise is the principal cause of defeat. When the Tatmadaw engages in warfare, overall victory must be won, even though parts of the battle may be lost as it is in the nature of warfare. So, you comrades who have joined the Tatmadaw must instill in yourselves the unyielding spirit of victory.

Comrades,

You have become members of the Tatmadaw and pledged allegiance to the nation and the people. In the Four Oaths that we have taken, the word “We” includes everyone from the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to the newest recruit. We must bear allegiance to the nation and the people. We must bear allegiance to the members of the Tatmadaw who have fallen. We must discharge the order given and the duty assigned to us by our superiors. We must pledge our readiness to sacrifice our own lives for our nation, our people and our Tatmadaw.

So you comrades have to dare to take risks and make sacrifices. You have to be courageous and have fortitude. You have to have the Five Fundamental Qualifications that every unit and every soldier must possess: mental fortitude, good discipline, loyalty, unity, and the three capabilities—military, organizing and administrative capabilities. You must have the strength of mind to be willing to safeguard the traditions of the Tatmadaw even at the risk of your own life. You must have the capability to provide absolute protection to Our Three Main National Causes.

Comrades,

As you will soon be assigned duties as junior leaders, you need not only to have the above-mentioned qualifications yourselves but also be able to help those under your command to acquire them. A military leader must be able to build a good unit, overcome any hardship or obstacle and organize his own unit so that it can act cohesively and effectively.

In order to achieve this, you have to lead by example in every aspect. You have to be able to go through hardship and deprivation. You have to show perseverance, industry, hard work and effort. You have to provide good command and control. In every way, you must be able to put others before you. Only in this way, will you, comrades, become the junior leaders who have earned the trust and confidence of your subordinates.

(See page 10)
You can confront anything…

(from page 9)

Comrades,

As engineering professionals, you are part of the human resources necessary for the building of a modern Tatmadaw. You must be able to give illustrious service to the Tatmadaw using your expertise. In the same way, you must be able to help and protect the rural people in areas where you serve.

Comrades,

The engineering officers who have graduated since the establishment of the Defence Services Technological Academy on 4 February 1994 have contributed their services with energy and enthusiasm to activities that serve the interests of the country during the time the Tatmadaw has assumed the responsibilities of the State. I’d like to state that their services are placed on record and honoured.

Comrades,

In conclusion, I would like to urge you to—

— discharge the duty of building a strong and capable modern patriotic Tatmadaw as a duty that has been passed on to you;
— discharge the three main duties of the Tatmadaw;
— detain the three Forevers and provide absolute protection to the nation and the people;
— cultivate yourselves to become good leaders; and
— uphold Our Three Main National Causes and carry on the Twelve Noble Traditions of the Tatmadaw.

With this I conclude.—MNA

Central Advocacy and TOT on IPPF’s A4 Strategy “Access to Birth Spacing and SRH Services” opens

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — Co-organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Department of Health and IPPF, a ceremony to open Central Advocacy and TOT on IPPF’s A4 Strategy “Access to Birth Spacing and SRH Services” was held at the meeting hall of MMCWA here.

It was attended by MMCWA Chairperson Daw Nilar Thaw, Vice-Chairperson Dr. Daw Wai Wai Tha, CEC members, officials of the Health Department, the chairperson and secretaries of Shan State (North) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and trainees.

After making an opening speech, Daw Nilar Thaw presented medical equipment for delivery rooms of the association in Shan State (North) and cash assistance provided by the project for Hsipaw and Hsenwi Township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations.

The course which lasts from 13 to 17 December is being attended by 30 trainees from the two townships. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe ...

(from page 16)

Brig-Gen Nay Lin, Maj-Gen Than Aung, Maj-Gen Nyan Tun, Maj-Gen Than Htay, Maj-Gen Hlaing Myint and senior military officers, Commander of PyinOoLwin Station Brig-Gen Mya Tun Oo, Mandalay Mayor U Phone Zaw Han, Commandant of Defence Services Technological Academy Brig-Gen Nyo Saw and officials, guests and parents and relatives of cadets. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe took the salute of the cadet companies. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the cadet companies. The cadet companies marched past the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe presented Best Cadet Award to Cadet Kyaw Thi Han, Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Min Lwin Oo and Excellence in Studies Award to Cadet Kyaw Thi Han. Next, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address. After taking salute of the cadet companies, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe left the parade ground.

After the ceremony, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe met three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the main building at the DSTA and gave words of encouragement to them.—MNA

FM U Nyan Win congratulates Qatari counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabir Al-Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2010. —MNA
**China caps boom year for auto market with car show**

**HONG KONG,** 17 Dec—China’s second major auto show for 2010 kicks off next week in the southern city of Guangzhou, capping a year of record sales for the country’s booming auto market, though analysts warn the strong growth will likely ease.

Unlike its more glitzy cousins in Beijing and Shanghai, which are held in alternating years and are aimed more at establishing China’s presence globally with product launches, the Guangzhou show has always been aimed at local buyers.

But car makers will still put on a show for the tens of thousands of potential buyers expected to pour into the eighth annual Guangzhou International Automobile Exhibition, in bustling Guangdong, one of China’s most prosperous Provinces. The show, known as Auto Guangzhou, runs from Monday — its media day — through to 27 Dec.

China overtook the United States in 2009 as the world’s biggest car market, with sales surging 45 percent to 13.6 million vehicles. Monthly sales this year have seen double-digit percentage growth and analysts are forecasting that for the year as a whole, sales may climb roughly 30 percent to about 17 million vehicles.

Such explosive growth may not continue in 2011 because tax cuts and other government incentives look set to end, although analysts say sales will still expand at a brisk clip.

“The growth rate will slow down but it still will have healthy momentum. We think there will be 8 to 10 percent for growth for passenger car sales next year,” said Lin Haoxin, a Shanghai-based analyst at IHS Automotive.

**Swans enjoy their time at the snowy lakeside of Rongcheng Swan Lake in Weihai, east China’s Shandong Province, on 15 Dec, 2010.—XINHUA**

**Severe ice, crew errors cause Cuban plane crash**

**HAVANA,** 17 Dec—Severe ice conditions and errors by the crew caused the crash of a Cuban aircraft on 4 Nov, the Civil Aeronautics Institute of Cuba (IACC) said Thursday.

The crashing of the ATR 72-212 airliner killed all 50 passengers and seven crew members on board. The accident was caused by severe ice build-up at 20,000 feet (6,096 metres) together with errors made by the crew, a report by the State Inquiry Commission, the Bureau of Investigation and Analysis on the Safety of Civil Aviation which is representatives of the aircraft manufacturer ATR said after analyzing data collected on the data recorders (black boxes).

The plane reported an emergency at 5:42pm local time (22:42 GMT) and then lost contact with air traffic control, crashing shortly thereafter in the central Province of Sancti Spiritus.

The accident is considered one of the major air tragedies on the island over the past twenty years.

The **ATR 72** is a French-Italian made aircraft powered by two turboprop engines, primarily used for regional flights and short trips. The aircraft has a maximum capacity of 72 passengers and a range of up to 1,650 km.

**Xinhua**

**Oil price falls on concern about Euro zone debt issue**

**NEW YORK,** 17 Dec—Crude prices fell on Thursday as concerns about the euro zone economy helping to weigh on oil prices, despite some upbeat economic data.

Investors viewed the euro was vulnerable due to Euro zone debt problem, and the dollar traded higher against the euro, help pushing down the oil price.

The US Labour Department said on Thursday fewer people applied for jobless benefits and housing starts rose slightly in November. That followed earlier reports that factory production and retail sales posted gains in November. However, positive economic news did not do much help to bolster the oil price.—Xinhua
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV HUGE SW VOY NO (22)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUGE SW VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD**  
Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV KOTA MACHAN VOYNO (MC 273)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOYNO (MC 273) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2010 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. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV DUCKY SAPPHIRE VOY NO (64)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUCKY SAPPHIRE VOY NO (64) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2010 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. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO, LTD**  
Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (09/10)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (09/10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2010 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. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV RATHA BHUM VOY NO (539)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATHA BHUM VOY NO (539) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2010 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. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Brazil architect Niemeyer turns 103, opens museum**  
**RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Dec**—Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer is celebrating his 103rd birthday with the launch of a museum dedicated to his life and work.  
The Oscar Niemeyer Foundation outside Rio de Janeiro will house exhibits about the legendary architect’s 70 years of work. Niemeyer is responsible for more than 600 modernist projects around the world. They include the sweeping concrete structures that house Brazil’s government in the capital, Brasilia, and UN headquarters in New York. Niemeyer is still working and has won numerous awards, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1988.  
**Internet**

**Rabbits are dressed in traditional Hanbok during a photo call at an amusement park in Yangin, south of Seoul on 16 Dec, 2010. The year of 2011 is the year of the Rabbit, according to the Chinese Zodiac. — Internet**

**Rio police charge 4 rappers with glorifying crime**  
**RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Dec**—Police in Rio de Janeiro have arrested four Brazilian rappers on charges that include glorifying drug traffic in their music. Three of the men — Wallace Ferrari da Mota, Fabiano Batista Ramos and his brother Frank Batista Ramos — are from the Alemao complex of slums recently taken over by police. The fourth, Max Muller da Paixao Pessoa, lives in Vila Cruzeiro, another of Rio’s most dangerous slums now under control of law enforcement. Helen Sardenberg, head of the police’s computer crimes unit, said on Wednesday that the four were indicted on charges of inciting crime, glorifying drug traffic and associating with drug gangs. Investigators say the four have refused to comment until they are before a judge.  
**Internet**

**Canada girl, 6, mauled by dogs**  
**MONTREAL, 17 Dec**—A 6-year-old Canadian girl is fighting for her life after being mauled by four husky dogs, hospital officials in Montreal said on Wednesday. The girl, whose name has not been released, was attacked by the dogs while walking home from school on Monday in the remote Inuit village of Kangirsuk, Quebec, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported.  
The girl remained on a ventilator in intensive care in Montreal Children’s Hospital, and her life was still at risk, though she has shown improvement, hospital officials told the CBC. The dogs that attacked her have been destroyed.  
**Internet**
‘Big Chill’ drew 85,451
The University of Michigan hockey game against Michigan State set a world record for attendance with an 85,451-strong crowd, Guinness World Records said.

The recordkeeping organization said the number of people at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor was enough to beat the previous record of 77,803 attendees, which was set in Germany during the International Ice Hockey Federation world championships opening game against the United States in May, the Detroit Free Press reported.

The Guinness count for Saturday’s “Big Chill at the Big House” game was far less than the 113,411 reported by the University of Michigan.

“We will continue to work with Guinness to identify the exact number of people that went through the scanners and those who had their tickets torn,” said Matt Trevor, assistant media relations director for the university’s hockey team. “We knew we would end up with two different numbers because of different standards used.”

Trevor said the differences in the standards include the school’s including media, staff and concession workers in the count, while Guinness does not.

Egyptian cinema boosted by new directors

DUBAI, 17 Dec—Under the leadership of new directors, Egyptian cinema seems to have started to bounce back after two decades marred by low production and quality, films screening at a Dubai festival and elsewhere show.

Egyptian film production fell from about 85 movies a year in the 1980s to 16 by the end of the 1990s, due to funding difficulties and lack of state support.

But “it seems that the 2010 production will succeed in reaching 25 films,” Egyptian critic Ali Abu Shadi said. These new Egyptian films “speak boldly about taboo subjects,” said Maoud Amralla al-Ali, the artistic director of the Dubai International Film Festival, which runs from 12 to 19 December this year. —Internet

Baby born in car during snowstorm

A Michigan couple stranded at the side of the road by a snow storm said their son was born in the back seat of their car with the help of a police officer.

Greg and Jessica Porter said they were traveling from their East Jordan home to Munson Medical Centre in Traverse City when the Sunday morning snowstorm stranded them along a road in Elk Rapids, The Record-Eagle in Traverse City reported.

The Porters said they called authorities and baby Bradley Porter was born in the back seat of their vehicle with the assistance of village police officer Michael Coursey. They said an ambulance soon arrived to take mother and baby to the hospital, where Bradley weighed in at 8 pounds.

“That was our only option,” Greg Porter said of the roadside birth. “The little one decided that he couldn’t wait any longer. He’s got a heck of a story to tell.”

Record set at pie eating contest

A British man participating in the World Pie Eating Championship set a world record by downing a saucer-sized meat pie in only 23.91 seconds.

Organizers of the competition said Neil Collier, 42, bested the previous record of 35.86 seconds, set by former champion Barry Rigby, 37, at Tuesday’s contest at Harry’s Bar in Wigan, England, The Guardian reported Wednesday.

“He just seemed to open his throat and down it went,” organizer Tony Callaghan said. “He’s from Bolton, mind, which is crying shame for a Wiganer to have to say, but he’s certainly learned how to eat pies somewhere. Probably in Wigan.”

In this 22 Nov, 2005 file photo released by CNN, Larry King interviews comedian Jerry Seinfeld during a live broadcast of ‘Larry King Live’ in New York. —Reuters

Egyptian director Mohammad Dia (2nd L) poses with the cast of his film “678” on 13 December on the sidelines of the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF). —INTERNET

Big Bird stars in Chinese ‘Sesame Street’ spin-off

SHANGHAI, 17 Dec—Sesame Street’s Big Bird is returning to Chinese television after a nine-year absence as the star of his own Mandarin-language spin-off series set to premiere in Shanghai next week.

The eight-foot-tall yellow bird is the host of “Sesame Street’s Big Bird: Looks at the World”, a daily 11-minute programme set to debut on Shanghai Media Group’s Ha Ha Children’s Channel on 22 December, the producers said.

“Sesame Workshop has had a proud history of serving the needs of children globally since 1969 and in China since 1983 when Big Bird first visited,” Gary E Knell, president and CEO of the non-profit Sesame Workshop, said in a statement.

Big Bird first came to China to film sequences for “Sesame Street” 27 years ago and again from 1998 to 2001. Sesame Workshop at that time partnered with Shanghai television to produce Zhima Jie, a Chinese version of the legendary educational children’s programme. —Internet

CNN’s Larry King exits after 25 years

NEW YORK, 17 Dec—Two presidents, four television news anchors and a 10-year-old son who looked ready to take dad’s place behind the microphone turned out to bid Larry King farewell as he pulled the curtain down on his CNN talk show Thursday after 25 years.

King, 77, was serenaded by Tony Bennett singing “The Best is Yet to Come” via remote from Louisiana.

King had announced this summer he would leave, ushered out by a struggling network. Once the dominant voice in cable television news, King has faded in a sea of sharp talkers. British talk-show host and “America’s Got Talent” judge Piers Morgan takes over the 9 pm Eastern time slot in January.

“You’re not going to see me go away, but you’re not going to see me on this set anymore,” King said.

“I don’t know what to say except to you, my audience, thank you, and instead of goodbye, how about so long?”

This photo taken and released by the Shanghai Media Group shows Big Bird in Shanghai. Sesame Street’s Big Bird is returning to Chinese television after a nine-year absence as the star of his own Mandarin-language spin-off series set to premiere in Shanghai next week. —INTERNET

“A British man participating in the World Pie Eating Championship set a world record by downing a saucer-sized meat pie in only 23.91 seconds.” —The Guardian

“A British man participating in the World Pie Eating Championship set a world record by downing a saucer-sized meat pie in only 23.91 seconds.” —The Guardian
A year in English football: Wayne’s world unravels

LONDON, 17 Dec — The fluctuating fortunes of Wayne Rooney this year once again highlighted English football’s age-old tendency of flattering to deceive as the Premier League lost some of its sparkle. Rooney was the toast of England in May after a barnstorming domestic campaign which saw him finish with 34 goals for Manchester United while scooping the Players’ Player of the Year and Footballer of the Year awards.

While Rooney’s heroics were not enough to prevent Chelsea winning a Premier League and FA Cup double, the striker’s form left England in buoyant mood as they headed to South Africa for the World Cup. Rooney, in the form of his life and benefiting from a maturity conferred on him by fatherhood, was finally ready to end England’s long wait for international glory, or so the most optimistic forecasts predicted.

The fluctuating fortunes of Wayne Rooney this year once again highlighted English football’s age-old tendency of flattering to deceive as the Premier League lost some of its sparkle. — Internet

Bayern set to swoop for Everton’s Baines

MUNICH, 17 Dec — Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich look set to swoop for Everton’s England left-back Leighton Baines.

Baines, who has won two caps for the Three Lions, is a Bayern target and the German giants want to try and bring him to Bavaria in January’s winter break. Having made his England debut this year, Baines was left out of Fabio Capello’s World Cup squad, but he would be a good option to solve Bayern’s problems down the left flank with German star Philipp Lahm at right-back. The deal could be worth 7 million euros to the Liverpool-based club where Baines is under contract until 2015.

Bologna set for takeover, bankruptcy threat fades

ROSM, 17 Dec — Massimo Zanetti, boss of coffee brand Segafredo, is poised to save Bologna from bankruptcy by purchasing a 100 percent stake in the Italian club, chief executive Silvino Marras announced on Thursday. The board of directors will meet to approve the deal on Friday. The fee has not been disclosed. Bologna were on the brink of bankruptcy and had not paid their players for four months, potentially leaving them free to sign for other clubs.

Bologna’s supporters cheer their team prior to their Serie A football match against Milan in Bologna’s Renato Dall’Ara Stadium on 12 December. — Internet

Qatar could share 2022 World Cup matches

ABU DHABI, 17 Dec — It will be up to Qatar to decide if they want to share 2022 World Cup matches with neighbouring countries, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke announced on Thursday.

“It’s a question which must express their wish and it will be Qatar who will make the decision in the first instance. Qatar must decide and then seek the authorisation of the (FIFA) executive committee,” said Valcke, who is in Abu Dhabi ahead of this weekend’s Club World Cup final.

“We have bids like those of Spain and Portugal (for the 2018 World Cup), with a well-defined distribution of matches, and others where it is less so.” — Internet

Tiger Woods saga voted AP sports story of year

NEW YORK, 17 Dec — Tiger Woods’ humbling return to the public eye, from his televised confession to a wireless season on the golf course, was voted the sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press. The fallout from Woods’ admission of infidelity edged a very different sort of story: The New Orleans Saints winning their first Super Bowl championship, giving an emotional boost to their hurricane-ravaged city.

It was late 2009 when Woods’ pristine image unraveled after he crashed his SUV into a tree outside his home, unleashing salacious revelations of extra-marital affairs. — Internet

Esente's World in a tough three—comeback queen Justine

PARIS, 17 Dec — Atletico Madrid’s dreams of defending their Europa League title died on a snowy pitch in western Germany on Thursday, as they crashed out of the competition following a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen. Atletico, who defeated Fulham in last season’s final, had to better Aris Salonika’s result at home to Rosenborg to progress from Group B and their hopes were ultimately dashed by a 2-0 win for the hosts.

Nevertheless, Atletico took to the pitch at the BayArena knowing that only victory would give them any chance of reaching the last 32. A snow-splattered playing surface, necessitating a bright pink ball, made for a sloppy game but it was the hosts who went ahead when Patrick Helmke drove home after racing onto a flick-on in the 69th minute. — Internet

Bologna’s supporters cheer their team prior to their Serie A football match against Milan in Bologna’s Renato Dall’Ara Stadium on 12 December. — Internet

Bayern welcome back flying Dutchman Robben

MUNICH, 17 Dec — Bayern Munich welcomed playmaker Arjen Robben back to training on Thursday for the first time since the flying Dutchman returned from South Africa’s World Cup with a torn hamstring. In driving snow at Bayern’s training ground, the 26-year-old joined the squad for full training for the first time this season and hopes to play his first game back against Wolfsburg on 15 January.

“Th was great!” he beamed after the 75-minute session which saw Robben and forward
Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Friday, 17th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayin and Mon States. Fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Upper Sagarang Region. (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, (6°C) above December average temperature in Taninthayi Region and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C) and Machanbaw (-2.0°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myek (1.02) inches, Long Lone (0.98) inch, Chaung none (0.28) and Dawel (0.24) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw
Maximum temperature on 16-12-2010 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2010 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-12-2010 was (73%). Rainfall on 17-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)
Maximum temperature on 16-12-2010 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2010 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-12-2010 was (60%). Total sunshine hours on 16-12-2010 was (9.9) hours.

Rainfall on 17-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-12-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mingaladon, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 16-12-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 18th December 2010: Rain are likely to be isolated in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago Region and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-12-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-12-2010: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-12-2010: Fair weather.

Winter Outlook: For Third Weekend Of December 2010: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region, likelihood of isolated rain in Yangon Region.

Weather Outlook For Third Weekend Of December 2010:

Present weather conditions (17-12-2010): Rainfall on 17-12-2010 was (Nil) at freshwater. Total rainfall since 1-12-2010 was (83.19) inches at freshwater, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 16-12-2010.

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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

Senior General Than Shwe addresses Graduation Parade of No. 13 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The Graduation Parade of the No. 13 Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 8.30 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 takes salute of cadet companies.

MNA