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

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

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four economic objectives

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of DSTA 13

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the graduation dinner of No. 13 Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy that was held at the parade ground of the DSTA in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, at 5.30 pm yesterday.

Also present at the graduation dinner together with Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Commander of PyinOoLwin Station and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, the commandant of DSTA, the chief instructor officer, commanding officers of the cadet battalions, faculty members, graduating officers and their parents and relatives.—MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of No. 13 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy.—MNA
**Perspectives**

**Sunday, 19 December, 2010**

**Continue to build a strong and capable Tatmadaw**

“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.”

Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said so at the passing out parade of No.13 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin on 17 December.

In the world today, every country is building modernized armed forces. 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.

At such a time, a strong Tatmadaw is being built to be able to fully protect the State. So, for the protection of the State and the people, continued efforts are to be made to build a modern and capable Tatmadaw.

Junior military engineers on their part are to serve the best interest of the Tatmadaw as they have completed their military and technological studies. Besides, they need to help and protect the rural people of the region they are posted in while shouldering national defence duties.

Defence Services Technological Academy plays a part in producing human resources for building a modern Tatmadaw. It is necessary for junior military officers to have constant training in the changing strategies and tactics that arise out of evolving military science and technology.

All in all, in accord with the noble traditions of the disciplined Tatmadaw, junior military engineers are to safeguard the nation while striving to build a strong, capable and patriotic Tatmadaw.

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**Labour officers and staff trained in English and Computer Courses**

**Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi addresses concluding of Advanced English Course and the e-Government Applied Computer Course.**


Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi delivered an address and awarded outstanding trainees. The deputy minister presented certificates to 34 trainees.

The Ministry of Labour conducted the English proficiency course for enabling the staff to smoothly carry out international labour affairs and e-Government tasks. From January to December 2010, a total of 55 officers and 80 staff, totalling 135 were provided with four-time computer courses.

Likewise, a total of 39 officers were nurtured in advanced English courses for two times and 41 staff in two-time basic English courses as on-job training.

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**Religious Affairs Minister attends X’mas Service and dinner**

**Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung delivers an address at X’mas Service and dinner.**

YANGON, 18 Dec—Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung yesterday evening attended the X’mas Service and dinner organized by Yangon Young Men’s Christians Association at M3 Food Centre in Bahan Township. General Secretary of Yangon YMCA U Tha Nyan read the Bible and Treasurer Col Maung Maung Aye (Retd) said prayers.

Chairman of YMCA Dr Tin Hla extended greetings.

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung delivered an address.

After saying special prayer by Vice-Chairman Rev. Saya U David Soe Tint, X’mas Songs were presented. Next, financial and health matters were reported.

Next, all the participants chonsored the YMCA song. Vice-Chairman of Myanmar YMCA member of Yangon YMCA Board Dr Tha Tun Oo read the Bible.

Later, those present were served with dinner.

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**1C graduates to pay respects to faculty members**

YANGON, 17 Dec—Graduates of Industrial Chemistry major in 1973-1977 academic year will hold the respect-paying ceremony and the get-together.

Old students from section (1), (2), (3) and (4) are to contact Ko Kyaw Tint, Tel: 0173017186, Ko Kyaw Aung, Tel: 095105158, Ko Toe Win, Tel: 01-667172, Ma Molly, Tel: 098655011, Ma Nwe Nwe Aung, Tel: -0905047330 and Ma Hla Kyin, Tel: 095135046.

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**Let’s take part in “Bye Bye 2010 Promotion”**

YANGON, 18 Dec—AA Electronics Ltd is launching “Bye Bye 2010 Promotion” programme for electronic items of Samsung, Star and Fuji up to 50% discount from 15 to 31 December.

Moreover, customers can have opportunities to get cash and gift.

The sales centres open at No. 408/410 between Maha Bandoola Road and 35th Street and at No. 146/152, Pansodan Street (middle block), Yargon.
CIA chief pulled from Pakistan; drones kill 54

Map showing Taliban presence in Afghanistan.

The Afghan war faces wanting public support in the US: 60 percent of Americans surveyed in an ABC News/Washington Post poll believe that the war is not worth fighting, up seven points since July.

INTERNET

Taleban attack leaves NATO soldier dead in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Dec—Taleban-linked activities claimed the life of another NATO soldier in Afghanistan on Saturday, bringing the alliance’s casualties to four over the past two days, a Press release of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

“An International Security Assistance Force service member died as a result of an militant attack in eastern Afghanistan today,” the Press release said. The alliance in a separate Press release on Saturday also confirmed losing another soldier in the northern region of the country.

“AnInternational Security Assistance Force service member died as a result of a non-battle related injury in northern Afghanistan yesterday,” the Press release emphasized. Two more soldiers with NATO-led troops, according to statements of the alliance had been killed in the eastern and southern parts of Afghanistan on Friday.

Over 690 NATO soldiers, most of them Americans, have been killed since beginning this year in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Two killed, ten injured in Egypt’s building collapse

CAIRO, 18 Dec—Two people were killed and 10 others injured after a partial collapse of a building in Egypt’s northern port city of Alexandria, official MENA news agency said.

Civil defence forces rushed to the scene and cordoned off the collapsed building to prevent further harm to passersby. The public prosecution ordered the burial of the two victims.

Preventive measures were being taken to ensure that adjacent buildings will not be affected, Egypt’s Ahram Online said.

It is not rare that buildings out of repair collapse in Egypt. On Monday, a six-storey building of a textile factory in Alexandria collapsed due to two days of torrential rain and strong winds that hit the city, killing 26 people and injuring 10 others. On the same day, six people died after a three-story residential building fell down in southern Sohag governorate.

Building collapses and road accidents caused by heavy rain, winds and sandstorms killed and injured dozens across Egypt this week, the state media reported.

Xinhua

Troops capture Taleban local leader, kill two militants in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Dec—Afghan and NATO-led forces have captured a Taleban local leader and killed two militants in Afghanistan’s eastern Nangarhar Province, the military alliance said in a statement released here Saturday.

“Afghan and coalition forces captured a Taleban leader for Khugyani District and killed two armed individuals during an operation in Beshud district of Nangarhar Province yesterday,” the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in the statement.

Afghan coalition forces also killed Taleban attacks on district centers. Afghan national security forces check points and coalition force bases.

There were no casualties on civilians, nor on troops during the operation, the statement added. Taleban militants who speed up their attacks against Afghan and NATO-led troops have yet to make comments.

Xinhua

Two injured in car bomb attack at N Mexico police station

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec—Two people were injured on Friday afternoon when a car bomb exploded in General Zuazua, a town in northern Mexico state Nuevo Leon, official sources said.

Residents report that a few meters from the blast site an SUV exploded around 13:00 local time (1800 GMT) a few minutes after an International Security Assistance Force service member died as a result of a Taleban missile attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Spokesperson Jorge Domene Zambrano said in a statement that the explosion took place at the Ministry of Public Security’s parking lot in Zuazua, 46 km away from Monterrey, Mexico, on 17 Dec, 2010.

Authorities informed an SUV exploded around midday leaving two civilians injured Friday.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua
China launches seventh orbiter for indigenous global satellite navigation system

XICHANG, 18 Dec—China successfully launched an orbiter into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwestern Sichuan Province at 4:20 am Beijing Time Saturday. It was the seventh orbiter that China has launched for its independent satellite navigation and positioning network, also known as Beidou, or Compass system.

The new satellite, launched on a Long March-3A carrier rocket, joins six other satellites already in orbit to form a network, which will eventually consist of more than 30 satellites.

China started building its own satellite navigation system to end its dependence upon the US GPS system in 2000, when it sent two orbiters as a double-satellite experimental positioning system.

NASA fuels shuttle Discovery in test for cracks

CAPE CANAVERAL, 18 Dec—NASA's space shuttle Discovery at the pad Friday, not for a flight but for tests to help understand mysterious cracks that appeared in the fuel tank during a launch attempt last month.

Discovery is grounded until at least the beginning of February because, while the cracks have been fixed, engineers still do not know what caused them.

In a countdown test that began at sunrise and lasted well into the afternoon, the launch team pumped more than 500,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen and oxygen into Discovery's external fuel tank. The tank was rigged with sensors and other equipment.

"We’re not committing to flying anytime soon. We’ve got to wait until we know we have a good answer to go fly," launch manager Mike Moses said as Discovery’s 15-story tank filled up.

"We want to make sure we know the risk we have in front of us."

The concern is that cracks could cause chunks of foam to pop off and, in the worst case, slam into the Discovery at liftoff. A large slab of foam doomed space shuttle Columbia in 2003.

Russian manned spaceship docks with ISS

MOSCOW, 18 Dec—A Russian Soyuz spaceship with three astronauts on board has docked with the International Space Station (ISS) successfully Friday night, the Mission Control center said.

The Soyuz TMA-20 manned spacecraft was launched from the Kazakh Baikonur space center Wednesday night, sending to the ISS Russian cosmonaut Dmitry Kondratyev, NASA female astronaut Catherine Coleman and European Space Agency astronaut Paolo Nespoli.

After two days of flight, the spacecraft docked with the “Dawn” module in automatic mode at 11:12 pm Moscow time (2012 GMT), the Mission Control said.

After the pressure tests to the docking module, the astronauts will open the hatches and go into the ISS.

The three astronauts were expected to stay at the space outpost for nearly six months, joining the existing crew of American Scott Kelly and two Russians, Alexander Kaleri and Oleg Skripotchka, who have been working at the ISS since October.

PlayStation app coming to iPhone, Android handsets

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—Coming soon: a mobile app that'll let you show off all your glittering PlayStation trophies, wherever you go.

Just announced on the official European PlayStation blog, the aptly named Official PlayStation App will make its way to the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands, among other countries, with the ability to share your achievements with friends, view live announcements, and even browse games on Facebook and Twitter.

The PlayStation App will also deliver the scoop on new PlayStation games and releases, as well as any incoming announcements (such as PS3 or PSP Firmware updates or PSN service bulletins) from the official PlayStation blog.

The new PlayStation App will work on any iPhone or iPod Touch with iOS 4 or better, while the Android version requires Android 1.6 or higher. The European wing of Sony’s PlayStation division adds that it’s "already working" on a new version of the app that will add support for more countries and languages, and that it can expect "tons more features" in the months ahead.
**Health Tip: Urinary tract infections are common in children**

By the time they're 5, about 8 percent of girls and up to 2 percent of boys will have had a urinary tract infection (UTI), the Nemours Foundation says.

The foundation says these factors can increase a youngster’s risk of developing a UTI:
- Being female, especially a young girl who is toilet-trained.
- Being an uncircumcised boy, younger than age 1.
- Having a urinary tract abnormality.
- Having an abnormal backward flow of urine from the bladder.
- Having poor toilet or hygiene habits.
- Using soaps or bubble baths that irritate the urethra.
- Having a family history of UTI.

**Lung cancer screen: a license to smoke?**

New York, 18 Dec—Dutch researchers have found that men whose screen negative for lung cancer are a bit less likely to try to quit smoking than men whose scan is inconclusive and requires follow up.

The findings in the European Respiratory Journal add to the debate over whether patients will perceive negative results in a lung cancer screen as a license to smoke or a chance to quit.

A US study out last month suggested imaging the lungs of heavy smokers with a special type of CT scanner could catch cancers early and reduce individuals’ risk of dying from the disease by 20 percent compared to ordinary X-rays.

Caught early, lung cancer can be cured surgically, but it causes vague symptoms and usually is not diagnosed until it has spread.

Globally, lung cancer kills 1.2 million people annually, and it will kill 157,000 people in the United States this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

Still, 300 smokers would have to be screened to save just one based on the US study, and it is unclear if the scans, at about $300 each, will be cost-effective.

The screens also come with a high rate of false alarms, raising questions about the risk to people who undergo unnecessary medical procedures as a result.

For the new study, Carlijn M van der Aalst of Erasmus MC, University Medical Centre Rotterdam, and colleagues tapped into data from an earlier trial on lung cancer screening.—Reuters

**Obesity may interfere with Vitamin D absorption**

New York, 18 Dec—The more obese a person is, the poorer his or her vitamin D status, a new study by a team of Norwegian researchers suggests.

The study found an inverse relationship between excess pounds and an insufficient amount of vitamin D, which is critical to cell health, calcium absorption and proper immune function. Vitamin D deficiency can raise the risk for bone deterioration and certain types of cancer.

The researchers also suggest that overweight and obese people may have problems processing the vitamin properly.

The team noted that after the so-called “sunshine vitamin” is initially absorbed (through either sun exposure or the consumption of such foods as oily fish and fortified milk), the body must then convert it into a usable form, called 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D. This conversion process, however, seems to be short-circuited among obese people, complicating efforts to gauge their true vitamin D health.

The findings are published in the January issue of the Journal of Nutrition.—Internet

**Intel’s $7.68 billion McAfee bid raises EU concern**

New York, 18 Dec—Intel Corp (INTC.O)’s $7.68 billion deal to buy security-software specialist McAfee (MFE.N) Inc is running into close scrutiny from European officials that could delay the transaction, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

Citing people familiar with the matter, the newspaper said the European Union’s anti-trust regulator had privately expressed concerns during its preliminary review of the deal, which could prompt the regulator to submit the deal to a lengthy examination.

A key focus of the European review, the report said, is Intel’s stated desire to incorporate security features into its widely used microprocessor chips. The EU appears concerned that if McAfee, by virtue of being owned by Intel, had privileged access to those features, it could be difficult for McAfee’s rivals to compete, they added.—Reuters

**Dubai ruler’s firm reaches deal on $2.5B in loans**

Dubai, 18 Dec—An investment firm owned by Dubai’s ruler says it has reached a deal with leading creditors to extend the terms on $2.5 billion worth of debt.

Dubai International Capital said Friday the deal will give it six more years to pay back $2 billion of the debt and four more years for another $500 million.

The deal was reached “in principle” with lenders representing the bulk of the debt and must still be approved by smaller creditors.

DIC is also naming its 41-year-old CEO, replacing Anand Krishnan.

The firm is part of conglomerate Dubai Holding and owns stakes in several companies, including medical imaging firm Alliance Medical and British hotel chain Travelodge Group.

**Investors placing bets on 2011**

New York, 18 Dec—Investors will be taking advantage next week of the some of the last remaining trading days of the year to place their bets on what will be the winners of 2011.

One of the defining characteristics of 2010 has been the strong correlation across asset classes. Movements in the dollar or in bonds had just as much impact on equities as more fundamental factors, such as corporate outlooks.

The tight relationships came as investors focused on the same factors — further stimulus from the Federal Reserve, sovereign debt worries in the euro zone and the strength of the economic recovery.

The macro focus has meant investors made the same trades rather than differentiating individual sectors and industries.

“No matter how much work you put in trying to pick winners and losers, the profit available from doing so was way below normal,” said Charlie Blood, director of financial markets strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman in New York.—Reuters
Death toll from central China fireworks blast rises to nine

NINGXIANG, 18 Dec—The death toll from a fireworks explosion in central China’s Hunan Province Friday has risen to nine after another body was found Saturday. The total number of injured has also risen from four to nine as the search of ruined and damaged buildings near the blast site continued, said an official of the Changsha city government. All the injured were being treated in hospital.

The blast occurred in Ningxiang County, in Changsha, the provincial capital, at about 9:30 p.m. Friday when a truck loaded with fireworks fuses hit a power pole and sparked from fallen cables ignited the fuses.

The blast destroyed the truck and nearby houses, and shattered windows and cracked walls hundreds of meters away.

Residents said the blast sounded like thunder as a column of smoke high into the air. Rubble was blasted into nearby fields.

Rescue workers are seen at the site of a firecracker blast in Ningxiang County, central China’s Hunan Province, 18 Dec, 2010.—Xinhua

Paris Vogue editor to leave after 10-year tenure

PARIS, 18 Dec—Paris Vogue says its editor-in-chief, Carine Roitfeld, has decided to leave after a 10-year tenure in which the French fashion monthly became “a worldwide reference and indispensible magazine.”

The magazine says on its Web site that Roitfeld’s years as the top editor were marked by “constant growth” both in terms of circulation and advertising.

Xavier Romatet, the head of Condé Nast France, the French arm of the US publishing house, said he “of course” regrets Roitfeld’s decision to leave “even if I understand it.”

141 escape in Mexican jailbreak, warden likely involved

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec—About 141 prisoners escaped a jail in Nuevo Laredo, a town in northern Mexican state of Tamaulipas, probably with the help of the chief warden, officials said on Friday.

Police sources earlier told Xinhua over the phone that 148 had escaped in the incident that took place Thursday night, but the state’s public security chief Antonio Garza Garcia later disclosed the new number to local radio.

The number of escapees could increase since the situation on the ground has made it difficult to make a final count, he added.

Fifty-eight of the escapees were convicted felons including drug traffickers and multiple murderers. The remaining were convicts of lesser crimes, said Garza.

The prison’s chief warden is missing and authorities believe he could be involved in the jailbreak, he said. Other officers at the prison had also asked the state’s governor has been asking for federal help. Both national and state attorney general’s offices are investigating the incident while security forces are combing the city to hunt down the escapees.

Status update: Facebook founder “friends” new image

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Dec—At a conference six months ago, Facebook’s 26-year-old chief executive was literally dripping in sweat as he fielded tough questions about his company’s privacy practices and a forthcoming movie portraying him as manipulative and arrogant.

On Wednesday, a poised, perspiration-free portrait of Mark Zuckerberg graced the cover of Time magazine, which crowned him Person of the Year, capturing what may be one of corporate America’s most remarkable transformations.

The make-over of Zuckerberg’s public image has been hard to miss, with a high-profile donation to New Jersey public schools in September and appearances on television programs like “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and “60 Minutes.” It has occurred as Facebook, the world’s No. 1 Internet social network, sees its audience of “friends” and its influence swell.

Facebook may not need a smiling Zuckerberg to thrive, but it certainly doesn’t hurt.

“He is the face of the company,” said Paul Argenti, a professor of corporate communication at Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business, who said “The Social Network,” the fictionalized film about Facebook’s controversial creation in a Harvard dorm room in 2004, “put (Zuckerberg’s) reputation up for grabs.”

“He’s been on a tear to repair that,” Argenti said.

Chemical tank catches fire in east China

HANGZHOU, 18 Dec—A 10,000-cubic-metre propylene tank caught fire Saturday morning in east China’s Zhejiang Province.

The fire occurred in Huachen Energy Depot in Qiantang Town in Pinghu City.

Firefighters are heading to the scene from cities including nearby Hangzhou, Ningbo, Jiaxing in Zhejiang, as well as Shanghai.
**Mass walk activities organized for third week of December**

Chairman of MOC Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint takes part in mass walk activities in the third week of December. —MNA

**New Thiri Mingala Market to be inaugurated soon**

*Article & Photos: Zaythegyi (Shwetaing)*

New Thiri Mingala Market being built at Padaukchaung of Hline Township, Yangon Region will be inaugurated soon. It is a centre for sales of vegetables that flow from various areas across the nation, for providing local people with fresh and green foods.

On 14 December morning, officials of the Markets Department under Yangon City Development Committee allotted shop owners from old Thiri Mingala Market of Kyimyindine Township to the new market.

U Win Maung, In-charge of New Thiri Mingala Market, said, “The new Thiri Mingala Market will be opened soon. The market is constituted with nine market complexes comprising nearly 2000 shops. In allotting the shops at the new market, shop owners need not to pay any charge.”

The new market is of concrete floor. It will have a spacious car parking to be able to accommodate many trucks.

Translation: TTA

Myanmar Alin: 15-12-2010

Allocation of shops at new Thiri Mingala Market through lucky draw system.

**Equestrian contest 2-4 Jan 2010**

YANGON, 18 Dec—The Myanmar Equestrian Federation will organize the equestrian contest to hail the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day 2010 at Yangon Equestrian Club on Pyidaungsu Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township from 2 to 4 January 2011.

The contest will be categorized as galloping senior event, galloping junior event, show jumping (team) event, individual event, cross-country event, and bare back event.

Those wishing to take part in the contest are to enlist at Manager of Yangon Equestrian Club U San Yu Win, Tel: 584962 and 0951 20625.

MNA

**Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Dec—**Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint this morning participated in the mass walk activities in the third week of December 2010 here.

It was also participated by MOC member Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aye Myint Kyu, departmental heads of the Ministry of Sports and other ministries, staff and family members in addition to the people totaling over 10,500.

The mass walk activities started in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and finished in front of the Gems Museum.

In front of the museum, they took physical exercises volume-3 and volume-4.

Next, the minister attended the 14th anniversary of the Ministry of Sports at the hall of the ministry. After delivering speech, he presented gifts and cash awards to outstanding officers and staff in training courses and sports contests. The minister also presented cash assistance to staff in Rakhine State who fell victims of Cyclone Giri.

Yesterday evening, Shwe Myanmar Anyeint troupe performed entertainment in honour of the anniversary celebration to the staff of the Ministry of Sports.

MNA
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of No. 13 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. (News on page 1) — MNA

With smooth transport,...

(from page 16)

He said that the unit undertook building one-way road section for 32 miles and six furlongs from Lonkham to Legyi; that it is now building 160 feet long Legyi Bridge (Nampan Creek Bridge) designed to withstand 60 tons of load; and that PyinOoLwin District Road Special Group-1 and 10 companies are building PyinOoLwin-Mogok Road section-wise.

He also gave accounts of ground work, gravelling and paving of a 34-foot wide road, building culverts and bridges, and progress in setting up guard rails and traffic signboards, along with progress in building roads by Public Works including Pathein-Monywa Road (450/5 miles), Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myaht-t-Kaunya-Magway Road (107 miles), Taikkyi-Phaunggyi-Bago Road (Taikkyi-10th Mile section) (42/7 miles), Minhla-Seinkantlan-Myochung-Phado-Penialok Road (89/6 miles), Koebin-Thagar Road (96/3 miles), Katha-Sinkhan Road (65/0 miles), and Yangon-

Bird’s eye view of PyinOoLwin(Yenge)-Mogok Road.—MNA

Sittway Road (Minbu-An-Sittway Road) (296/5 miles).

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that with smooth transport, national development will pick up momentum and the people will be able to enjoy rapid development in the education, health, economic and social sectors; that regions with poor transport will lag other regions in development; that tar is imported for road projects, so research needs to be done to build concrete road section with domestic cement; that moreover, innovations are to be made to (See page 9)
With smooth transport, ...

(from page 8)

manufacture machines for construction work which is now carried out with labour only; that apart from that, innovative measures are to be taken to produce machines to do so for other sectors including the agricultural sector; and that only then will the goal of building a modern, developed nation be achieved earlier than expected.

From the view deck, the Senior General inspected PyinOoLwin (Yenge)-Mogok Road Project.

The Senior General and entourage from helicopters inspected progress in building PyinOoLwin-Mogok Road.

MNA

Part of PyinOoLwin (Yenge)-Mogok Road Project.

MNA

Victorious Myanmar shooting team arrives back from Indonesia

YANGON, 18 Dec — The victorious selected Myanmar shooting team that won one gold medal, four silver medals and two bronze medals in the 34th Southeast Asian Invitational Shooting Championship held in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia, from 10 to 18 December arrived here back by air this morning.

The team was welcomed by officials of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon).

The team was headed by Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Win (Ministry of Defence) of Myanmar Shooting Federation, officials of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation and sports athletes of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon).

He viewed unloading steel trusses of China Baogi Bridge Group Co Ltd from MV Waily (v-1004) ship at Thilawa Port and loading them onto vessel of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) construction project.

The total weight of steel trusses, arrived as first batch of its kind from the company, is 2838.845 tons.

MNA

BCA Academy to hold entrance exam on 12 Feb

YANGON, 18 Dec — BCA Academy holds its entrance exam on 12 February at Park Royal Hotel, in conjunction with Future Way Co Ltd. Students who had passed basic education high school and at least three subjects of GCE “O” level may be qualified to sit for the exam.

The subjects — Construction Engineering, Mechanical Engineering (Green Building Technology), Strategic Management, Electrical Engineering & Clean Energy, Construction Information Technology and Design (Interior & Landscape) — are optional.

The academy will offer scholarships to those who pass the exam with flying colours.

The Future Way is conducting course for the exam-sitters which will last till 11 February, one day ahead of the exam. For enquiry, one may contact Future Way Education & Services — agent of BCA Academy — at No (9), Room No (6-A), Yawmungyi street (beside Thamada Cinema), Thamada Condo (Ph: 254185, 241099). — MNA
Nation’s first carbon cap-and-trade set

Sacramento, 18 Dec—California will create the nation’s first programme capping greenhouse gas emissions and charging emitters of excessive carbon dioxide, state officials said.

After an all-day session Thursday, the California Air Resources Board voted 9 to 1 to approve the plan, which takes effect 2012, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Friday.

Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols called the proposal “historic,” saying the cap-and-trade programme “really builds on a history, a legacy of leadership in our state.”

The new proposal essentially states the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions will be capped in 2012 at what is forecast to be emitted that year. During the next three years, the limit is expected to drop by 2 percent per year. From 2015 to 2020, the cap will drop by 3 percent per year, the Chronicle reported.

California’s biggest emitters, including utilities and large industrial plants, can expect to feel the impact first, with fuel distributors feeling it in 2015. The proposal will apply to 360 businesses at 600 locations across the state.—Internet

Mexican drone crashes in El Paso

El Paso, 18 Dec—An El Paso resident called Customs and Border Protection to report an object on his property that turned out to be a Mexican government drone, officials said.

Ramiro Cordero, a supervisor with the agency, said the device appears to be the first from Mexico to have crashed in the United States, CNN reported.

He said the device was determined, after discussions with the Department of Homeland Security and the US consulate in Juarez, to belong to the Mexican government.

Keith Holloway, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, said the crash occurred Tuesday.

He said the drone was made by Aeronautics Defence Systems, which advertises it on its Web site as “the ultimate solution for over-the-hill reconnaissance missions, low-intensity conflicts and urban warfare operations.”

The United States uses unmanned drones to monitor the border.

“I guess we are investigating, but we don’t know what we’re going to do with the information at this point,” Holloway said.—Internet

More travellers to be on the move during Christmas-New Year period

Los Angeles, 18 Dec—About 7.2 million Southern California residents are projected to travel during the end-of-year holidays, a three percent increase from the same period of last year, the Automobile Club of Southern California said on Friday.

According to the auto club, the vast majority of travellers are expected to drive to their destinations. Ninety-one percent of them, or 6.6 million people, will travel by car during the period.

Fewer than 300,000 are projected to fly, still a 2.5 percent increase from 2009. Less than 350,000 people are expected to travel by bus, train or other type of transportation.

This represents a 1.8 percent increase, the auto club said.

“The number of air travellers and cruise passengers is still lower than in prior years, but we’ve been moving in the right direction throughout 2010,” said Filomena Andre, the auto club’s vice president for travel products and services.

“Our members are travelling more, spending more and often going greater distances on their trips.”

Statewide, 11.6 million travellers are expected to make getaways this holiday, with 10.6 million auto travelers, 478,000 plane passengers, and 56,000 travellers going by other means.—Xinhua

Store owner owner shot three times kills robbers

Houston, 18 Dec—A Houston jewelry and pawn shop proprietor shot and killed three alleged armed robbers despite having been bound and shot multiple times himself, police say.

“It is a pretty incredible story. The man was clearly defending his business, clearly defending his wife,” Houston Police Department homicide investigator MF “Fili” Waters said. “It’s amazing with all the bullets flying around in there that she wasn’t hit.”

The Thursday incident began at 2:08 pm when two men allegedly posing as customers came into Castillo’s Jewelry and asked Ramon and Eva Castillo to show them some rings, the Houston Chronicle reported Friday.

After a third man walked in and announced he was robbing the store, the first two pulled out handguns and ordered the Castillos to the back of the store, where they tied up Eva Castillo. Houston Police Department spokesman Kese Smith said Castillo then pulled his own pistol from the back of his trouser waistband, killed the robber who tried to tie him up, went to his office and grabbed a shotgun to kill the other two men.—Internet

Britain urges flu shots for those at risk

London, 18 Dec—British health officials are urging the government to persuade those in “at risk” categories for flu to get immunized to stave off a crisis.

“GP (general practitioner) leaders are deeply concerned that a major flu crisis is brewing this winter and are calling on the government to step up the public awareness campaign for seasonal flu immunization”, the British Medical Association said.

“GPs are reporting that fewer of their ‘at-risk’ patients are coming forward to be immunized this year and are concerned that, as a consequence, the regular seasonal outbreak could prove much more serious.”

The British Medical Association says the elderly, pregnant women and people with diabetes or asthma, heart or chest conditions could contract the influenza B strain with potential fatal results without prior immunization, The Guardian reported Friday. Seventeen have died since October.

Britain’s Health Protection Agency report- ed only 40 percent of people in at risk groups have had flu shots so far this year.—Internet
UK says time in sun vital for vitamin D

LONDON, 18 Dec — British health advocates say they recommend short spells in the sun, at midday and without sun cream, to assure the body gets enough vitamin D from sunlight. Vitamin D keeps bones strong and in good health and protects against conditions like osteoporosis. The recommendation comes as many medical experts say fears of skin cancer have made people too cautious about being in the sun, the BBC reported Thursday.

Cancer Research UK and the National Osteoporosis Society are among the organizations recommending “little and frequent” spells in summer sunshine several times a week.

“Total sun protection with high factor sun cream on all the time is not ideal, in terms of vitamin D levels,” Professor Rona Mackie, from the British Association of Dermatologists, said.

“Some of the messages about sun exposure have been too negative,” she said. “UK summer sunshine isn’t desperately strong. We don’t have many days in the year when it is very intense.”

“What’s changed is that we’re now saying that exposure of 10 to 15 minutes to the UK summer sun, without sun cream, several times a week is probably a safe balance between adequate vitamin D levels and any risk of skin cancer,” Mackie said.

Hybrid cars should be seen and heard

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — Silent hybrid vehicles may soon be a thing of the past. Auto safety regulators would be required to set minimum sound levels for hybrid and electric vehicles under a bill approved Thursday by the House. Blind pedestrians have pushed for the changes, saying the quiet purr of hybrids can pose risks for them because they use sound cues to travel safely.

Hybrids such as the Toyota Prius and Honda Insight are well-regarded for their high gas mileage, but they are virtually silent when propelled by electric motors at low speeds. With more hybrids and new electric cars coming onto the market, automakers and advocates for the blind have raised concerns about potential safety problems for blind pedestrians.

“The trend toward putting more environmentally friendly, quiet vehicles on the road has unintentionally jeopardized the safety and independence of the blind and other pedestrians,” said Rep Edolphus Towns, D-NY. —Internet

Google refuses US state’s request for data

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Dec — Google has told attorney general in the US state of Connecticut that it will not comply with his demand to view data collected through the company’s Street View cars, US media reported on Friday.

The state is threatening further legal action against Google in the wake of the company’s decision, Silicon Valley’s San Jose Mercury News said in a report.

“I am disappointed by Google’s failure to comply with my information demands,” Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut’s attorney general, said in a statement quoted by the newspaper.

“We will review any information we receive and consider whether additional enforcement steps — including possible legal action — are warranted,” he added. —Xinhua

GM recalling 111,000 new small SUVs

DEERFIELD, 18 Dec — General Motors Co said on Friday it is recalling about 111,000 Chevy Equinox, GMC Terrain and Cadillac SRX 2011 small SUV models because the anchor to the seatbelt buckle may fail, which could lead to injury in a crash.

The 2011 model-year vehicles were delivered in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Dealers will start notifying owners of the vehicles involved in January, GM said. GM will pay for the work done by dealers.

The buckles were supplied by Autoliv Inc. Hyojin of Korea made the buckles and supplied them to Autoliv, GM said. —MNA/Reuters

Spiders, snakes?

Brain-damaged woman knows no fear

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — Meet SM, a 44-year-old woman who literally knows no fear. She’s not afraid to handle snakes. She’s not afraid of the “The Blair Witch Project,” “The Shining,” or “Arachnophobia.” When she visited a haunted house, it was a monster who was afraid of her.

SM isn’t some cold-blooded psychopath or a hero with a tight rein on her emotions. She’s an ordinary mother of three with a specific psychological impairment, the result of a very rare genetic disease that damaged a brain structure called the amygdala (uh-MIG-duh-luh).

Her case shows that the amygdala plays a key role in making people feel afraid in threatening situations, researchers say.

A study of her life history also shows afraid in threatening situations, researchers say.

“Fearfulness was published online Thursday in the journal Current Biology by University of Iowa researcher Justin Feinstein and colleagues. As is typical, the paper identifies her simply as “SM.” Feinstein declined to make SM available for an interview with The Associated Press, citing laboratory policy about confidentiality.

Chicago corn extends gains on supply concerns

CHICAGO, 18 Dec — Chicago corn futures hit a 5-week high on Friday, lifted by strong demand for ethanol and increasing concerns over tight supply. Both wheat and soybean also advanced.

The most active corn contract for March delivery added 9 cents, or 1.5 percent, to 5.965 dollars per bushel. March wheat futures climbed 7 cents, or 0.9 percent, at 7.5675 dollars a bushel. January soybean added 9.75 cents, or 0.8 percent, to 12.9875 dollars per bushel.

A trader attributed the strength in corn to the tax cut extension for refiners who blend the biofuel into gasoline. —Xinhua

A damaged car is shown at the scene of an accident in downtown Seattle, on 16 Dec, 2010.  -INTERNET

People look at Chinese artists' paintings during the Salon 2010 held by the French National Society of Fine Arts at Carrousel in the Louvre Palace in Paris, capital of France, on 16 Dec, 2010. —Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (551)
Consigateg MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (551) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2010 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

Phone No: 256008/378316/376797

Gunman ‘shot himself’ at Florida school’s board meeting

PANAMA CITY, 18 Dec — A gunman who opened fire during a Florida school board meeting killed himself after exchanging fire with a local security chief, police say.

Police said ex-convict Clay Duke had planned the shooting at the Bay District meeting in Panama City ahead of Tuesday’s date circled on board members’ calendars but revealed no motive. Video shows him firing on board members from eight feet away but missing.

No one else was injured or killed in the incident. “God was standing in front of me,” said member Bill Husfelt. The day after the harrowing incident, police said they had found a calendar with Tuesday’s date circled and anti-government materials in Duke’s house.

Clay Duke and his wife’s sacking were alone with the dead husband before he started talking and pulled out a handgun.— Internet

Man strangled his wife while in deadly grip of ‘nightmares’

LONDON, 18 Dec — A grief-stricken husband unwittingly strangled his wife during a violent nightmare then called the police to report the killing, an inquest heard yesterday.

Brian Thomas (60) believed he was wrestling an intruder who had broken into his camper van and was threatening his wife. He awoke to discover he was alone with the dead body of wife Christine (57) next to him.

After failing to revive her he called the police and said: “Can you send someone. I think I have killed my wife. I think I have killed her. Oh my God.” The tragedy happened during a summer break when the couple had stopped for the night in a pub car park in Aberporth, west Wales, in July 2008.

An inquest in Aberystwyth, Wales, heard that Mr Thomas suffered from a long-standing sleep disorder and occasionally had “night terrors”.

On the night in question boy racers had turned up at the car park doing wheel spins and revving their cars.

The couple had moved to the upper end of the car park but when Mr Thomas slept the experience triggered a violent nightmare. He dreamed a man wearing blue jeans and a fleece jacket had broken into the van and was on top of his wife.— Internet

Serial killer fears as four bodies discovered

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — Police in New York fear a serial killer may have abandoned four bodies, each apparently dumped from a car, along a desolate, windswept stretch of road near a beach east of the Big Apple.

Officers found the badly decomposed remains metres from the roadway near Cedar Beach as they searched for a missing prostitute. At least two of the bodies were female, but authorities haven’t determined the gender of the other two.

Investigators were taking DNA samples and examining dental records to try to identify them.— Internet

Gunman robs casino of $1.51m in chips

LAS VEGAS, 18 Dec — A gunman has stolen SUS1.5 million (AUD$1.51m) in gambling chips during a game of craps at the Bellagio hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

The man walked up to the table, pulled out a gun and stuffed the chips into a backpack before running to the door and escaping on a motorbike, the Las Vegas Sun reported.

Security surveillance footage broadcast on US television shows a man carrying a handgun in his right hand and wearing a motorcycle helmet running down the hotel corridor.

His face is not visible. Police said the robbery took between 2-3 minutes, around 3.50am local time yesterday (10.50pm AEDT yesterday).

No shots were fired during the incident, and there were no injuries, US media reported.

“He parked, walked in, committed the robbery and left,” Clint Nichols with the city police told the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Gambling chips however are not cash and are unique to each casino, so the theft was likely to have difficulty redeeming his loot at the Bellagio. Some gambling chips even have radio-frequency identification, but Las Vegas media said it was unclear if the stolen chips had such technology.—Internet

Security camera footage of the armed man who robbed the Bellagio casino in Las Vegas escaping with over $1.5million in gambling chips.— Internet

Some midday sun exposure ‘healthy’

LONDON, 18 Dec — Englishmen — and other Britons — have been urged to go out in the midday sun to ensure adequate levels of vitamin D contrary to the cover-up message in Noel Coward’s song about “mad dogs and Englishmen”, experts now say. Some unprotected sun exposure is necessary for good health.

A consensus statement by seven leading health groups and charities recommends 10 to 15 minutes of bare skin exposure three times a week in the summer.

Preferably, surrendering your body to the sun should take place at midday, say the experts. Before 10am and after 4pm the rays are too weak in the UK even in summer to stimulate vitamin D synthesis in the skin.

But a big part of the message is that people should “never be red” at the end of the day. After 10 to 15 minutes it is time to go indoors, cover up or slap on the sunscreen.

Safety advice has softened since fear of skin cancer meant everyone was encouraged to avoid the sun, but this has led to confusion.— Internet

Some midday exposure to sun is good for health, experts said.— Internet

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Some midday exposure to sun is good for health, experts said.— Internet
1,914 guitars smashed simultaneously

A Florida casino said a world record for the World’s Largest Guitar Smash was set by destroying 1,914 acoustic guitars at the facility.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood said participants, including casino VIPs, members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and members of the public, set the guitar-smashing record to celebrate the grand opening of the casino’s Winner’s Way parking garage, WPLG-TV, Miami, reported.

Guinness Book of World Records officials said they are working to verify the record.

Woman, 103, may be oldest on Facebook

A 103-year-old British woman who may be the world’s oldest Facebook user said she regularly browses the Web site on her iPad.

Lillian Lowe of Tenby, England, said she uses the Facebook app for the iPad to keep in touch with her 34 grandchildren, including seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, The Sun reported. “I love it—it’s very exciting. It’s a wonderful way of finding out about things,” she said of the iPad’s Facebook capabilities.

She said she recently connected with her Facebook app for the iPad to keep in touch with her 34 grandchildren, including seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, The Sun reported. “I love it—it’s very exciting. It’s a wonderful way of finding out about things,” she said of the iPad’s Facebook capabilities.

The Berlin Wall came tumbling down two decades ago, but you can still revel in the rural holiday splendor enjoyed by the man whose iron rule of East Germany crumbled with the collapse of communist power.

Just an hour’s drive north of Berlin deep in the woods of eastern Germany, visitors will find a unique blend of communist and feudal spirits alive at the holiday retreat formerly reserved for German Democratic Republic leader Erich Honecker.

NewsAlbum

The Facebook homepage of Mark Zuckerman is displayed on the Internet on 15 December, 2010. Zuckerman, 26, has been named Time magazine’s “Person of the Year” for 2010. Zuckerman is the CEO and co-founder of Facebook.

Musical ‘Spider-Man’ on Broadway delayed again

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—Producers have once again delayed the opening of the troubled new Broadway musical “Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark,” the fourth major delay in performances this year for the much-mocked show.

The official opening was pushed back 27 days, from 11 Jan to 7 Feb, because a key actor has missed several previews due to injury and after producers decided that the creative team needs to work out more kinks before allowing critics to weigh in. “Due to some unforeseeable setbacks, most notably the injury of a principal cast member, it has become clear that we need to give the team more time to fully execute their vision,” lead producer Michael Cohl said in a statement Friday. “I have no intention of cutting a single corner in getting to the finish line.”—Internet

Zooey Deschanel sues shoemaker over endorsement deal

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec—Actress/singer Zooey Deschanel sued shoemaker Steve Madden on Friday claiming she’s owed $2 million from an August endorsement deal she signed with the company. In a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, the “500 Days of Summer” star claims the CAA agent Christian Carino negotiated an oral $2 million deal with Madden for the company to use the actress’s name and likeness in connection with shoes and accessories.

When the company later tried to re-negotiate the deal down to $1.5 million, Deschanel agreed but the company allegedly never paid her. She claims she’s owed her fee plus up to 5% of profits. Internet

Don Van Vliet, aka Captain Beefheart, dead at 69

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Dec—Musician and artist Don Van Vliet, who performed a complex brand of experimental rock under the name Captain Beefheart, died Friday. He was 69.

The Michael Werner Gallery in New York confirmed Van Vliet’s death in California due to complications stemming from multiple sclerosis. The gallery exhibits his paintings.

Van Vliet was probably best known for the album “Trout Mask Replica,” which was released in 1969 by Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band. The album’s angular, dissonant take on blues rock and Van Vliet’s growling, surreal lyrics put him outside the mainstream, but staked his place in rock history. Internet

Monkeys take up residence near airport

Floridians near the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport said a family of non-native monkeys has moved into the area with their adopted raccoon.

Dave Winquist, who works near the airport, said the vervet monkeys have been swinging in the Broward County trees for decades but recently became more visible when they migrated north toward the airport, WPLG-TV, Miami, reported Thursday. “This is the first time I’ve been around when there’s been a whole family just breeding and eating,” Winquist said.

Local lore holds the original vervet monkeys, which are native to Africa, were set free by a roadside attraction near Dania Beach in the 1950s, but no evidence exists to confirm the story.

Dreamworks Animation nabs “Maintenance” comic

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec—Sneaking in one last deal before Hollywood shut down for the holidays, DreamWorks Animation has picked up the movie rights to “Maintenance,” an Oni Press comic book. The studio nabbed it out of turnaround from Warner Bros.

The comic, published by Oni in December 2006, followed the exploits of two janitors who work for TerraMax, Inc, the world’s biggest and best evil science think tank.

When they’re not dealing with toxic spill monsters and menial time machine repairs, they have to contend with their boss, a multitude of mad scientists, jetpack-equipped carnivores, alien repomen, and the cute girl who works at reception.
Real Madrid freezes players’ bonuses

Real Madrid, 18 Dec — Real Madrid, one of the biggest spending clubs on new recruits in recent years, have decided to freeze their bonus structure for this season. Spanish media reported on Friday:

Each player will collect 1.135 million euros (1.5 million dollars) if they win a treble this season, the league, Spanish Cup and Champions League, the same as was offered to them last season, sports daily AS and Marca said.

For the individual trophies they will earn $57,000,000 for Champions League success, $36,000,000 for victory in the Spanish league, and $200,000 if they take the Spanish Cup.

Milan, Sampdoria in talks over Cassano

Rome, 18 Dec — AC Milan and Sampdoria are in negotiations over the transfer of Antonio Cassano, Milan’s vice-president Adriano Galliani admitted on Friday.

Italy forward Cassano has been frozen out at Samp since allegedly “gravely insulting” club president Riccardo Gavarone in an argument.

Sampdoria’s bid to have the 28-year-old’s contract terminated, although they did suspend him until the end of January and reduce his salary by half.

Henin eyes more Grand Slam titles, Olympics

Beijing, 18 Dec — Former world number one and seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin says she is not ruling out another major title despite seeing her comeback season cut short by an elbow injury.

The Belgian, who will train in southern China this month before heading to Australia to open her 2011 season with the mixed-teams Hopman Cup in January, also has her sights set on the 2012 London Olympics.

Former world number one and seven-time Grand Slam winner

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29 African antelope

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Gyan tops BBC African Footballer of the Year poll

Johannesburg, 18 Dec — Ghana World Cup hero-cum-villain Asamoah Gyan was crowned BBC African Footballer of the Year for 2010 after receiving more than half the public poll votes.

Gyan scored three of the four goals that took Ghana to the African Nations Cup final last January and grabbed another three in South Africa as the Black Stars became the third African country to make the World Cup last eight.
Algeria army kills 12 terrorists in three days

ALGIERS, 18 Dec—The Algerian army has killed at least 12 terrorists in the past three days during a combing operation in the north of the country, local el-Khabar newspaper reported Friday. The troops were combing suburbs of Illiën town in Ain Yahia Moussa commune, Tizi Ouzou province, over the past week to wipe out strongholds of extremists in the area, the report said, citing unnamed sources.

Over the past three days, the troops killed at least a dozen terrorists, the sources said.

The combing operation is still underway to hunt down the remaining militants, the sources said, adding that the troops are backed by choppers and heavy weapons. Algerians face an increasing threat by Islamist militants since the 1990s. The security forces have recently launched massive military operations against pro-al-Qaeda groups, including the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

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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**

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**People’s Desire**

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

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**VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people**

**RFA, DVB-generating public outrage**

**Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles**

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**With smooth transport, national development will pick up momentum**

**Head of State Senior General Than Shwe inspects PyinOoLwin (Yenge)-Mogok Road Project**

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**NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC Secretary-1 Tha Maung Oo, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and party, left PyinOoLwin by helicopter yesterday morning to inspect PyinOoLwin (Yenge)-Mogok Road Project. The Senior General and entourage were welcomed at the project by Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw and officials. At the briefing hall at Mile Post No. (38/0) near Lonkham Village, Hokho Village-tract, Nawngkio Township, Kyaukme District, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint in his report to the Senior General said that in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, No. (910) Battlefield Engineering Unit carried out a feasibility study, and examined the alignment in cooperation with Public Works to build new PyinOoLwin-Mogok Road. He continued to report that the 84 miles and four furlongs long road, the feeder of Mandalay-Lashio Road, starts at Mile Post No. (46/3) (Yenge). And through Moegyopyit Village, it goes as far as Mogok via Kyaukme-Lonkham-Legyi (Mogok-Mong lon) at Mile Post No. (14/0).**

(See page 8)