Harmonious cooperation, essential for Myanmar arts to become popular worldwide

Information Minister attends presenting of cash donations for 2nd ceremony to pay respects to old musicians

YANGON, 21 Dec—The presenting of cash donations to organize the second ceremony to pay respects to octogenarian musicians to be held by the Myanmar Music Association (Central) took place at Studio (A) of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here, on 19 December, with an address by Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan.

In his speech, the minister said that paying respects to older musicians is, indeed, preserving a fine tradition of Myanmar. In some way, that helps contribute to the music world, and improve the music world and the music community. Music professionals not only serve national interests hand in hand with the government, but that of the music world and their own, he noted.

He called on the association to expedite tasks through a variety of ways in line with the four objectives and eight work programmes it has laid down for its development of and that of the music world, and welfare of music professionals. He underlined the importance of harmonious cooperation among related individuals and associations for Myanmar arts including Myanmar music to become popular worldwide as well as the need of preserving and promoting tradition and national culture.

He promised that the ministry will keep rendering all-round assistance for better conditions for artists and improvement of the art world. The minister presented K 500,000 donated by the ministry, and K 100,000 by him and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win and family to Chairman of the Myanmar Music Association U Maung Maung Latt.

Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. (See page 8)

Hmawby (2) model monsoon paddy harvested in Katha

KATHA, 21 Dec—Reaping of Hmawby (2) monsoon paddy was carried out at the farm of farmer U Ran Palarsud in Pyithaya village-tract, Katha Township on 1 December. It was supervised by the chairman of Katha Township Peace and Development Council, the Township police captain, the staff officers of township Land Records Department and Planning Department, the manager of township Agriculture Mechanization Department, staff from Land Records Department and Agriculture services. The yield of Hmawby (2) monsoon paddy is 80.26 baskets per acre.

Township IPRD
Easy access to highlands by train

The driving force behind programmes for regional development is smooth transport. To amplify it, smooth transport between one region and another makes substantial contribution towards commercial growth, friendly relations among national races and national unity.

As a result of building more and more roads and railroads to form transport networks throughout the nation, people can travel directly by car with convenience between Patuao in the northern part and Kawkhoun in the southern part, and between Muse, Lashio and Kengtung in the eastern part and Sittway in the western part of the nation in any season.

With new roads, bridges and railroads, the nation can cope with all forms of natural barriers between regions. Local people are in a position to enjoy smooth transport between the eastern and western parts of Bago Region, a mountainous region with a large number of ravines and gorges.

Every region can transport their products to markets in a short time, which is a fundamental factor for trade development. The Myanmar Railways is building new railroads, some of them go as far as the areas on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River, and some pass through Yoma mountain ranges.

Kengtung-Wenkaung section of Mongnai-Kengtung Railroad Project being undertaken by the Myanmar Railways was put into service the other day. In cooperation with Public Works, township electric power enterprises and local regimes, the Myanmar Railways has transported locomotives and coaches to Shan Yoma mountain ranges standing at an altitude of more than 2600 feet.

When over 200 miles long Mongnai-Kengtung Railroad Project is completed, Shan State (East) will be able to transport its local products to other regions speedily. Thanks to a growing number of railroads, many regions across the country is on the point of greater development and better transport.

New ‘Axe’ ointment to be on display at Yangon Expo 2010

YANGON, 21 Dec — New Axe brand ointment, distributed by the sole agent Golden Palace Enterprise Ltd, will be displayed on sale at Yangon Expo 2010 to be held with the sponsorship of Smart Business Group at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall from 23 to 26 December.

The new Axe brand ointment is a kind of embrocation scientifically made from traditional herbal plants such as capsicum oleoresin and osteoarthritis. Axe carminative ointment and Axe inhalers are also being distributed on a wholesale and retail basis. For detailed information, contact Golden Palace Enterprise Ltd, No.32, Latha Street, Latha Township, Yangon (Ph: 01-377914, 09-992304) and Mandalay (Ph: 09-9050657, 095104551). These medicines are also available at pharmacies, stores and traditional medicine shops in various towns. —MNA

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

Minister U Thein Swe inspects dredging along course of Yangon River

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — Minister for Transport U Thein Swe, accompanied by the managing director and officials of Myanmar Port Authority, inspected local and foreign ships at Pansodan, Bo Aung Kyaw and Botataung jetties by Thameehla vessel starting from Nanthida jetty here yesterday morning.

Onboard Yadana Theinga dredger, Managing Director U Thein Htay and officials reported the minister on the dredging along the course of Yangon River.

The minister viewed dredging and gave necessary instructions. He heard reports submitted by the managing director and general manager on the vessel and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Prize presentation ceremony of colour photo contest to mark 63rd Anniversary Independence Day held

YANGON, 21 Dec — A ceremony to present prizes to winners of “Peaceful Myanmar” colour photo contest to mark the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day 2011, organized by Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information, was held at Traders Hotel here yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Radio and Television, IPRD Director-General U Ye Htut, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and officials, chairman of Myanmar Photographic Society and members, winners and guests.

First, the IPRD director-general made an address and MPS Chairman U Tin Myint gave accounts of selecting the winners.

Next, the IPRD director-general presented prizes to those who stood first, second and third in the competition.

Then the MRTV director-general and MMPE managing director awarded consolation prize winners. — MNA

Director-General U Ye Htut of IPRD presents award to a winner at colour photo contest in commemoration of 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA
UK police arrest 12 men in anti-terrorism raids

London, 21 Dec—Twelve men were arrested across Britain on Monday in counter-terrorism raids described by a senior police officer as essential to protect the public from the threat of an attack.

John Yates, Britain’s most senior counter-terrorism officer, said the men were held on suspicion of the “commission, preparation, or instigation of an act of terrorism in the UK”. He described the operation to arrest the men as significant, but refused to give details of the allegations against them.

The BBC said in an unsourced report that the arrests were linked to an investigation into al-Qaeda-inspired attacks within Britain. The inquiry was led by the MI5 domestic security agency and the suspected plot was in its early stages, it said.

Police would not comment on the report.

Yates said it was right to launch the raids, particularly because Britain is on the second highest state of alert for an attack. The threat level stands at “severe”, meaning an attack is highly likely.

“With the current threat level at severe and with the information we had, I believe that today’s arrests were absolutely necessary in order to keep the public safe,” Yates said.

MNA/Reuters

Gun battle leaves four militants dead in N Afghanistan

Taliquan, 21 Dec—Clash between police and Taleban fighters left four militants dead in northern Takhar Province on Monday, a local official said Tuesday.

“A group of armed Taleban militants were attempting to disrupt a meeting of local authorities in Khajaghar District yesterday afternoon but police returned fire killing four rebels,” District governor Mohammad Omar told Xinhua.

Four more militants sustained injuries in the action, he further said.

There were no casualties on police, he stressed.

Taleban militants fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops have yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Newark Airport terminal reopened after bomb scare

Newark, 21 Dec—Security forces began allowing passengers back into Newark Airport’s Terminal A after the terminal was shut for more than half an hour early on Monday because of a suspicious package, a one of three major airports serving the New York metropolitan area, came during the busy holiday travel season when authorities are on high alert for any security threats.

Reuters

Two French hostages still alive

Paris, 21 Dec—Two French journalists abducted in Afghanistan near a year ago are still alive and appear healthy, as a new video footage containing their message to family members shows, local television channel France 3 said on Monday night.

According to France 3, the authenticity of the video clip, which was sent to French authority in November, has been confirmed.

The two journalists — Herve Ghesquiere and Stephane Taponier — were working for France 3 in the north of Kabul when local militants took them away along with three Afghan employees on 29 December, 2009.

Speaking in a TV show on Sunday, French Foreign Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said that the two are “alive, rather healthy.” “The foreign minister expressed hope for the hostages’ early release with the help of the Afghan government. “We will find them as soon as possible,” she said.

Xinhua

Premature explosion kills two Afghan militants

Pul-e-Alam, 21 Dec—Two militants were killed as their explosive device went off prematurely in Logar Province 60 km south of Capital Kabul on Monday, an official said Tuesday.

Two Taleban militants were killed yesterday in Baraki Barak District when a mine they wanted to plant on a road exploded accidentally.

District governor Mohammad Rahim Amin told Xinhua.

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Reuters
Science

Tree disease linked to rise in Lyme ticks

The question is which animal populations grow and which shrink in response to the breaks in the canopy, she said.

UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in New York have embarked on a multiyear study of animal populations in forests infected with Sudden Oak Death.

Researchers monitored ticks and four of their animal hosts: deer mice, wood rats, lizards and deer.

The researchers found fewer wood rats but more deer mice and western fence lizards in regions affected by Sudden Oak Death.

In 2009 7.6 cases of Lyme disease were reported for every 100,000 people in California’s Mendocino County and 6.5 per 100,000 people in Del Norte County, a rate 20 times greater than the state average.

Dinosaur tracks at centre of dispute

MORRISON, 21 Dec—Scientists and civic authorities are at odds over plans to preserve ancient dinosaur tracks in Colorado with a proposed covering structure, observers say.

The Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, the group that manages the site at the Dinosaur Ridge outdoor museum in Morrison, says the tracks are in danger of eroding away in 10 to 15 years and wants to erect a canopy of high-tech fabric to protect them, The Denver Post reported Monday.

When the proposal was submitted to Jefferson County commissioners, however, it was turned down as violating the Front Range Mountain Backdrop policy, which protects the view of the Front Range of the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

The commissioners are emphatic that they do not want any structures on the mountain backdrop,” Jefferson County spokeswoman Kathryn Heider said.

Venezuela passes media, Internet-muzzling law

CARACAS, 21 Dec—The Venezuelan parliament passed a law banning for the first time Internet content that promotes social unrest, challenges authority or condones crime, fueling outrage by the opposition.

The law was pushed through the unicameral National Assembly in less than a week by President Hugo Chavez’s ruling party. The vote came just 10 days before a new assembly in which the opposition has swelling its ranks takes seat on 5 January, following September legislative elections.

The new law expands 2004 restrictions on content in radio, television and print media. In an unprecedented move, it now also includes content from the Internet and electronic subscription services, making webpage managers “responsible for the information and content” published on their websites.

“It is meant to crack down on media content that “makes an apology of crime,” “promotes unrest in the population” or “challenges legally established authorities.” Webpage managers must now “establish mechanisms to restrict, without delay, the diffusion of messages that are included in the ban.”—Internet

Technology

China develops first spherical robot with telescopic arms

BEIJING, 21 Dec—China has successfully developed its first spherical robot with telescopic arms, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) said Monday.

The omni-directional movable robot with retractable hands can perform tasks, a statement on the ministry’s website said.

It has improved mobility and environment adaptability, the statement added.

Researchers from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications added.

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New iPhone app translates foreign-language signs

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Dec—Augmented-reality applications have promised to revolutionize the way we live on the go with our smartphones, but none have fully delivered yet.

This may be changing. A new iPhone app called Word Lens shows remarkable promise for helping international travelers.

Word Lens uses the phone’s video camera, and the phone’s processor, to interpret printed words and almost instantly translate them into another language.

Those traveling abroad could hold the phone in front of their eyes to decipher a foreign-language street sign. The app projects the translated words onto whatever sign you point the phone at.

Google’s Goggles app has the capability to translate text or identify objects in an image. But it requires users to take a picture with their phones. Word Lens does it on the fly, meaning it’s interpreting frames in video, almost in real time. A similar app called LookTel, designed to help blind people, scans print on objects such as packages of food and reads them aloud.

The Word Lens concept is fascinating, the video demonstration is wonderful; and the app is free and technically advanced.

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Health Tip: Lichen planus triggers skin rash

Lichen planus is a disease that results in a rash on the skin or inside the mouth. While its exact cause isn’t known, it’s believed triggered by an allergic or immune system reaction.

The US National Library of Medicine says common symptoms of lichen planus include:

- Lesions on the tongue, cheek or gums.
- Blush white bumps in the mouth.
- Mouth sores that may progress to painful ulcers.
- Lesions on the skin that can itch, look scaly or shiny, and may form an ulcer or blister.
- Dryness of the mouth.
- Loss of hair.
- Ridges that form in the nails.
- A metallic taste in the mouth.

Too much screen time, little socializing

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec—A growing number of parents are restricting their children’s Internet time, much as parents have been restricting TV for the last decade, US researchers say.

Researchers at the Centre for the Digital Future at the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism at the University of Southern California say parents have also become concerned a child’s inperson friendships suffered with more time spent at the computer.

The researchers say their survey indicates more parents each year have been restricting their children’s Internet use. This year, 57 percent of homes restrict their child’s Internet use. However, the majority of parents — 69 percent — reported their children spend about the right time on the Internet. Only 28 percent thought their children spent too much time on the Internet — vs 41 percent who thought their children’s television time was excessive.

Overall, family face time has fallen from 26 hours per week in 2007 to just under 18 hours by 2010.

“We need to make sure families are reinforced rather than weakened in the digital future,” Michael Gibler said in a statement.

Gibler and colleagues conducted the telephone and Web-based survey of 1,926 Americans age 12 and older in April 2010. The margin of error was 2 percentage points.

US stocks close mixed, as Nasdaq hits new two-year high

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—The US stocks closed mixed on Monday after a pre-Christmas session of lackluster trading due to the lack of economic news, but Nasdaq and S&P 500 hit new two-year highs.

President Barack Obama signed an 858-billion-dollar package on Friday, renewing the Bush-era tax cuts for another two years and also extending federal unemployment benefits through the end of 2011.

Some investors hope the tax cut will help boost spending as consumers feel better about their financial situation, while others doubt the deal can do much to stimulate the economy.

Meanwhile, the mood turned cautious after the market posted three straight weekly gains, and investors were normally reluctant to take big moves around Christmas.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 13.78 points, or 0.12 percent, to 11,478.13. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index added 3.17 points, or 0.25 percent, to 1,247.08 and the Nasdaq rose 6.59 points, or 0.25 percent, to 2,649.56.

Autistic children lack visual skills

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—Autistic children have difficulty finding things such as shoes in a bedroom or apples at a supermarket, impairing their ability to lead normal lives, according to a study published Monday.

Researchers at the University of Bristol said that by testing the ability to carry out real-life tasks they had challenged previous findings that autistic children have enhanced visual searching skills.

“This new research indicates that children with autism are unable to search effectively for objects in real-life situations — a skill that is essential for achieving independence in adulthood,” they said in a statement.

The researchers told 40 children, half of whom were autistic, to search for targets in a test room in an experiment they said mirrored daily life better than previous tests that used computers or tabletop tasks.

Toshiba says may hit nuclear sale

TOKYO, 21 Dec—Revenue from Toshiba Corp’s (6502.T) nuclear power plant business may reach 1 trillion yen ($12 billion) in the next three years, ahead of schedule, the Japanese industrial conglomerate said on Tuesday.

Toshiba spokesman Hiroki Yamazaki confirmed comments by the company’s president, Norio Sasaki, in an interview with the Nikkei business daily that the firm could reach the sales mark ahead of its March 2016 target.

The firm is benefiting from growing demand for nuclear power plants in emerging economies such as China and Vietnam as nuclear facility construction in the United States slows, the Nikkei said.

Sales at its US subsidiary, Westinghouse, are growing by 20 percent a year with the profit margin for Toshiba’s overall nuclear reactor business likely to be as high as 10 percent within the next two years, Sasaki told the Nikkei.

Toyota to pay $32.4M in extra fines

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—Toyota Motor Corp has agreed to pay the government a record $32.4 million in additional fines to settle an investigation into its handling of two recalls at the heart of its safety crisis. The Transportation Department said late Monday the civil investigation into its handling of two recalls at the heart of its safety crisis.

The latest settlement, on top of a $16.4 million fine Toyota paid earlier in a related investigation, brings the total penalties levied on the company to $48.8 million. It caps a difficult year for the world’s No 1 automaker, which recalled more than 11 million vehicles globally since the fall of 2009 as it scrambled to protect its reputation for safety and reliability.

Toyota’s board of directors agreed to pay the fines on Tuesday at the company’s board meeting in Japan, according to an official familiar with the case, and the company said it agreed to the penalties without admitting to any violations of US laws. However, that does not free Toyota from potential civil and criminal penalties in private lawsuits and other federal investigations.
California storm causes evacuations  

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec— A storm pounding California with record rain forced authorities in the San Joaquin Valley to order 2,000 residents to evacuate the farming community of McFarland due to major flooding.

An estimated 400 to 500 homes were in danger, Kern County Fire Department spokesman Sean Collins said. A sheriff’s helicopter crew was trying to locate the source of the flooding, which possibly was coming from ditches and canals that supply water to farms, Collins said. Two evacuation centers were set up.

“We cannot mandatorily evacuate anybody,” Collins said. “If a person wants to stay, we cannot arrest them.”

Stormy weather has gripped California since late last week, triggering mostly minor flooding, mudslides, road closures and power outages. Forecasters warned of worsening conditions Tuesday and Wednesday as more storms bore down on the state and threatened to dump another 5 to 10 inches of rain.

Fresno TV station KFSN reported a 5-year-old boy was killed Sunday night when an SUV driven by his father went out of control during a downpour west of Temperance. The three surviving family members were taken to a hospital.

Virtually the entire state was affected by the bad weather, from coastal cities to the Central Valley, Sierra Nevada and southern deserts. On Sunday, rainfall records for the date fell, numerous traffic accidents snarled roads and trees tumbled. Some locations in Southern California received more than 12 inches of rain, said meteorologist Jamie Meier of the National Weather Service. It was the most rainfall in one storm event since 2005, he said.

Man kills bride, best man, self at wedding

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Dec— A bridegroom fatally shot his new wife, his best man and then himself after announcing to horrified guests that he had a “surprise” for them, authorities said Monday.

Witnesses reported that 29-year-old bridegroom Renato Alexandre Costa Coelho and best man Marcelo Guimaraes were both killed in Saturday's body suicide. A brother of the bride was treated at a hospital and released. The website Globo.com quoted a sister of the bride who left before the shootings as saying she didn’t believe it was a crime of passion.

“My sister was a wonderful person who loved and wanted to be loved,” Lucia Helena Coelho was quoted as saying.

“He was happy, she was happy, the party was beautiful. His family adored her and doesn’t understand this,” Coelho told Globo.com. He revealed himself as a sociopath who fooled the entire family and killed his best friend, who was the best man.

Two pilots killed in air crash in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 21 Dec— Two pilots were killed on Monday when a training aircraft from the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crashed in Bangladesh’s Barisal District, 169 kilometres south of capital Dhaka.

The Inter-Service Public Relations of Bangladesh Army said in a release the BAF training aircraft PT-6 Rosom crashed at about 14:18 local time during a training mission on the western side of Barisal Airport.

Two pilots of the aircraft Squadron Leader Ashraf Ibne Ahmed and Squadron Leader Md Mahmudul Haque died in the crash, the release said, adding a committee has been formed to investigate the real cause of the accident.

The release said Air Force chief Ziaur Rahman has already reached Barisal by helicopter and he has given necessary instructions to all concerned for the rescue operation.

ISC says 6.5 magnitude quake hits southeastern Iran

TEHERAN, 21 Dec— An earthquake of 6.5 magnitude hit Iran’s southeastern city of Hosein Abad in Kerman Province on Monday, the Iranian Seismological Centre (ISC) said on its website.

However, there were no reports of casualties as of now.

The earthquake, occurring at local time 22:12 (1842 GMT) and at a depth of five km, was 28.6 degrees north latitude and 59.1 degrees east longitude, the ISC said.

Iran, including its capital Teheran, sits astride several major fault-lines in the earth crust, and is prone to frequent earthquakes. Moderate quakes sometimes cause huge damage in some regions due to the poor construction.

Some Iranian officials have suggested to move the capital from Teheran to some other places. The idea of shifting the capital away from Teheran is not something new, and related preliminary planning was done in the late 1980s and again in the early 1990s.—Xinhua

5.8-magnitude quake rocks Indonesia’s Yogyakarta, triggers panic

JAKARTA, 21 Dec— A 5.8-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia’s Yogyakarta Province at 10:59 am local time (0359) on Tuesday.

The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency in a statement said that the earthquake was centered at 140 kilometres southeast of Wonosari regency and at a depth of 16 kilometres under seabed. The agency said that the tremor was felt at residences of Wonosari of Yogyakarta Province and several parts of Central Java Province.

Detikcom online news reported that the tremor caused panic in Wonosari. Students ran out of schools following the earthquake that lasted for several seconds. The report said that the tremor was also felt in Central Java Provincial capital city of Semarang and Pacitan regency of East Java Province.

“I was at the sixth floor of HSBC building in Simpang Lima area of Semarang. We were panicked and ran down (to the ground) via emergency stairs,” Vito, a local resident, told detikcom.

No damage infrastructure due to the tremor. —Xinhua

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**JPMorgan Chase buys old Lehman London HQ**

**LONDON, 21 Dec—** US bank JPMorgan Chase has agreed to buy the former European headquarters of failed peer Lehman Brothers for some £500 million pounds, vendor Canary Wharf Group announced on Monday.

"JPMorgan today acquired 25 Bank Street in Canary Wharf from Canary Wharf Group Plc.," CWG said in a statement, added that the US firm will pay a total of 495 million pounds (£585 million euros, 768 million dollars).

"The building will become the new European headquarters of JPM’s investment bank in 2012," it added.

The tower, which has more than one million square feet of floor space, used to house Lehman Brothers until the US investment bank collapsed in September 2008 as the global financial crisis broke. The move will bring together JPMorgan’s investment bank division which is currently spread across four locations in London.

"Even during the recession, we have continued to invest and grow our businesses internationally," JPMorgan chief executive Jamie Dimon said in the statement. "This acquisition is a long-term investment and represents part of our continued commitment to London as one of the world’s most important financial centres."

**Former MOE scholar expelled from University of York**

**SINGAPORE, 21 Dec—** A former scholar with Singapore’s Ministry of Education (MOE) has been expelled from the University of York.

23-year-old Jonathan Wong, who was a history major at the university, had been found guilty of owning child pornography videos.

In a statement on Monday, the university said Jonathan has been "permanently excluded" on the grounds of gross misconduct.

The university added that it is strongly committed to child safety and deplores all types of child pornography and abuse.

**KLM to launch scheduled service to Xiamen**

**THE HAGUE, 21 Dec—** KLM Royal Dutch Airlines announced Monday it will begin operating scheduled service to Xiamen International Airport in China on 27 March 2011.

According to a Press release, KLM is the first airline to offer direct flights between Xiamen and Europe.

"This 7th destination in China strengthens the KLM position in this fast growing market. With this new route KLM offers 43 weekly frequencies to China," says KLM President & CEO Peter Hartman.

The new service will be operated three times a week. Flights will be operated with Boeing 777-200ER equipment, which can seat up to 318 passengers.

**Russia considers new START treaty unchangeable**

**MOSCOW, 21 Dec—** Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday told local media that the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) is unchangeable, saying the new treaty will promote strategic stability between Russia and the United States if put into force.

="I can just emphasize that the treaty, in our view, is completely in line with the national interests of Russia and the US. It cannot be ‘reopened’ and become a subject of new negotiations," Lavrov told the Interfax news agency.

With regard to the reported attempts of some US senators to make changes to the new START, Lavrov said: "We hope the senators will show their responsibility by supporting it (the new treaty)."

="However, we are not in any way going to interfere in the process of the hearings on the treaty in (the US) Capitol Hill — that is a domestic issue of the United States," he added."
Harmonious cooperation,…

(from page 1)

U Aung Thein Lin presented K 6.75 million donated by USDp for the ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati and K 2.15 million for the ceremony to pay respects to old musicians to Chairman of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) and Chairman U Maung Maung Latt.

USDp has set up trust funds for old artistes and literati, and will continue to yearly make cash donations to them.

The minister and officials accepted the donations that totalled K 46,805,000 plus medical equipment worth K 64,000 by Seinbayent Medical House and Sky Net DTH TV sets and free cards worth K 6,106,000 by Shwe Than Lwin Media Co for 43 doyen musicians including K 5 million by U Maung Maung Aye (Alinka Wutty); K 3 million by Sky Net of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd; and K 2 million each by Family Entertainment, U Ko Ko Htwe Royal Family and Forever Group Co Ltd, K 1.1 million each by U Win Thein-A, Tin Tin Hla and U Zaw Min (Mingalaa Co) and K 1 million each by Bagan FM, Patamyta FM, Cherry FM, Mandalay FM, Pynswady FM, Shwe FM and Myanmar Worldy Co, K 810,000 by BTL Co, K 600,000 by Vocalist Pyu Thi (Luppyandaw Patamyta), K 500,000 each by TMW Enterprise Co, Shwe Super Light Co, Vocalist May Khalna and Mahanan Restaurant (Malaysia).

Chairman U Maung Maung Latt explained the purposes of the respect-paying ceremony and spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the attendees, donors, musicians and artists.

UMFCCI President meets JCCY counterpart

Yangon, 21 Dec—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and Vice-President U Zaw Min Win met President of Japan Chamber of Commerce, Yangon (JCCY) Mr. Toru Hiroe and Secretary Mr. Eitaro Kojima at the office of the federation on 15 December.

They held discussions on more cooperation between UMFCCI and JCCY in order to boost Myanmar-Japan businesses, more investments in Myanmar by Japanese entrepreneurs and holding the 8th meeting of MJBCC/JMBCC in Japan in 2011.—MNA

Myanmar Akarat transformers available

Yangon Akarat Transformer factory is producing international-standard transformers, located in No.476, Mogok road, industrial zone-1 in South Dagon Township, Yangon. The industry, established in year 2000, produces transformers with German technology by using raw materials and related materials from Italy, Japan and Sweden and Thailand. Guarantee for the transformers is five years. For more information, contact No.86/B, Shin Saw Pu road, Sangyoung Township, Yangon, dial 01-516512, 516510, 723755 and 098611880, send Fax no 01-516510 and myin@myanmar.com.mm.—MNA

Eye patients get free medical treatment in Thandwe Township

Yangon, 21 Dec—An Eye Specialist team led by Professor Dr U Ko Ko Tin provided free medical treatment to eye patients at an eye clinic in MyaPyin village in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State from 16 Dec to 19 Dec.

The 13-member team comprising eight doctors and five nurses gave free medical treatment to 787 eye patients and performed operations to 152 patients with cataract from Thandwe, Gwa, Kyeintali and Taunggup Townships.

Wellwishers Dr U Tin Kyi and Daw Than Ngwe and family of Bakhtaw Ward in Yangon, Dr U Son Han and Daw Tin Tin Htwe of Singapore and U Kyi Lin and Daw San San Win and family of Insein in Yangon made contributions to providing free medical treatment and surgeries.

UMFCCI President meets JCCY counterpart

Saya U Wint Kyaw LCCI stipend comes out

Yangon, 21 Dec—U Thant Zaw (LCCI-KMD), son of Saya U Wint Kyaw, and Principal of MHR U Aye Kyaw, U Wint Kyaw’s pupil, arranged a programme of LCCI stipend with the contribution of renowned LCCI course instructors in Yangon.

Course instructor U Wint Kyaw is a late writer and also a banker. Saya U Aye Kyaw is making contact with British Council and in-charge of LCCI to get exemption of exam fee.

There are 26 stipends for LCCI level I and II, 18 for level III. Those wishing to win the stipend may contact MHR training centre at No.905, ninth floor of Thanzay Condo, Lannmadaw Township, with a copy of NSIC (National Scrutinization-Tion Card), two passport sized photos, a copy of family registration list, a copy of matriculation certificate and marks list of the exam.
NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint held a meeting with the entrepreneurs who run gold mining with No (2) Mining Enterprise through joint venture at the ministry here today.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the state and region Peace and Development Councils, members of supervisory committee for gold mining joint venture enterprise and central work committee for special inspection, officials of district and township special inspection work committees, officials of Attorney-General’s Office, Auditor-General’s Office and Central Bank of Myanmar, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises of the Mines Ministry and responsible persons.

The minister said that the ministry is striving for promotion of mines sector in accord with the motto saying “exploit soil, promote country’s economy”; that in compliance with market-oriented economic system, the ministry gives encouragement to entrepreneurs in favour of private sector development in conformity with rules and laws; that the ministry cooperates with Attorney-General’s Office, Auditor-General’s Office and other related ministries for emergence of mines fields by promulgating rules and laws; and that the director-general of Mining Department has been sent to four states and regions. He called for needs in order not to harm environment and action to be strictly taken against illegal gold mining.

The minister continued that Gold Entrepreneurs Association has been formed as a result that the gold production and market are much bigger than last years; that entrepreneurs need to pay tax to the State correctly; and that entrepreneurs are in need of working together with officials concerned to enhance gold mining. The officials concerned took part in the meeting.

The minister then coordinated essentials regarding the reports.

Culture Minister inspects renovation of edifices in Mandalay, Sagaing Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Minister for Culture U Khin Aung Myint visited Hunkynye fortress in ancient Innwa in TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, on 18 December. There, he gave instructions to officials on preventive measures against river bank erosion in the north and west parts of the fort and its maintenance. He then proceeded to Asekhlan fortress in Sagaing and Thabyetan fortress in Amarapura Township and left necessary instructions on maintenance of the fortress. Later, the minister visited the archaeological museum in ancient Innwa and gave necessary instructions there.

Hospitality Management Course to be opened in Jan

YANGON, 21 Dec—Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy will open International Hospitality Management Course in the first week of January. The five-month course is intended for those who want to work in hotel, restaurants and hospitality industry at home and abroad as management level staff and those who want to manage hotels, restaurants and coffee shops. Experienced teachers will conduct the course based on course guide line of HND-BETEC (UK) and Institute of AH & LA (USA). For further information, contact StarResources Hospitality Management Academy, building (267), room (302), Pyay Road, Myenigon, Sangyoung Township, Yangon and dial 01-523623, 523200, 4412256 and 09-5020302.

Take fire preventive measures ...

(from page 16)

At present, special emphasis is being placed on taking preventive measures against outbreak of fire in rural areas. Responsible persons coordinated in their meetings for many times to keep markets and high-rise buildings free from outbreak of fire. In addition, calamity in outbreaks of fire have been made known to the people through newspapers, radio, TV and journals. Fire drills were performed at factories and workshops for many times. Moreover, talks on fire preventive measures have been organized in wards, villages and townships.

It is necessary to build water tanks filled with water at all markets, wards and villages as part of efforts to prevent danger of fire. All the residences and buildings are to be put up with fire extinguishers.

If fire breaks out at any place, the incidents should be informed to the respective Fire Services Department immediately. Moreover, people are to participate in putting out the fire through united strength.

Taking fire preventive measures is all the people’s concern. The people and shopkeepers of markets are to follow fire preventive plans. All the people are urged to conquer the bad master through activity of taking preventive measures.

Translation: TTA

Myanmar Alin: 19-12-2010
China celebrates success of 2nd lunar probe “Chang’e-2”

BEIJING, 21 Dec—China celebrated on Monday the success of its second lunar probe, Chang’e-2, highlighting the significance of the project in boosting the country’s technological development.

In a celebration rally in Beijing, President Hu Jintao hailed the project as another achievement in China’s lunar exploration programme and a result of its drive to build an innovation-oriented nation. The lunar probe project was a strategic decision based on China’s goal of building an innovation-driven nation and achieving rapid economic development, said Hu.

Through the success of Chang’e-2, China had not only made breakthroughs in a series of core and key technologies, but also promoted the development of the basic sciences and applied technologies, said Hu. The project had also brought experience of managing major science and technology projects, and cultivated high-quality science, technological and managerial staff, said Hu.

Hu praised the contributions of all the project staff, their great sense of responsibility, solidarity, earnest efforts, and devotion.

The project provided important inspiration and experience for realizing rapid economic development during the 12th Five Year Plan period (2011-2015), said Hu. Chang’e-2 was launched on 1 October and entered its long-term lunar orbit on 3 November. It has begun to capture images of the moon’s Sinus Iridum, or Bay of Rainbows.

Three killed in train-car collision in northern France

PARIS, 21 Dec—Three people were killed after a regional express train (TER) collided with a car on Monday in the northern Province of Recquignies, local media reported.

The TER which was heading to Mons in Belgium collided with a car on a level crossing in the morning and three people in the car were killed, said RTL radio.

“The accident was very violent for the train was at 140 kilometres an hour and the car was dragged about 300 metres,” the rescue team was quoted as saying by the radio.

Fortunately, passengers on the train were all safe and sound.

The cause of the accident remained unknown.

The Recquignies collision was the second of its kind in a week after a medium-route passenger train collided with a school bus in central eastern France, injuring 19 children.—Xinhua

San Bernardino Country Firefighters work their way towards a car trapped in a wash while crossing Hughes Road in Victorville, Calif on 20 Dec, 2010.—INTERNET

Greece plans to reduce social security cost over two years

ATHENS, 21 Dec—Greece on Monday announced a plan to reduce by 25 percent the social security cost for businesses over the next two years.

Addressing an economic forum in Athens, Alternate Labour and Social Security Minister Giorgos Koutroumanis said that the aim of the measure is to address the “plague” of undeclared employment in the country that each year costs social security funds more than 10 billion euros (about 13.14 billion US dollars).

The reduction plan, subject to parliament approval in January 2011, is expected to come into force in the second half of 2011. Enterprises which pay social security funds in time will be given a 10 percent discount which will gradually reach 25 percent by 2013, says the plan.

“The success of our strategy regarding the future of social security will depend on the course of structural changes,” Greek Labour and Social Security Minister Louka Katseli said at the forum, noting that national consensus is necessary so that Greece will exit the current debt crisis as soon as possible.—Xinhua

A partial lunar eclipse is seen in Conakry, Guinea, on 21 Dec, 2010. XINHUA

Special flight to fly back Thai tourists’ bodies

Ivoke, 21 Dec—A special flight will be deployed to fly back the bodies of 24 Thai tourists killed in Monday’s tour bus accident at Cameron Highlands, one of the famous highlands in Pahang, a central state in Peninsula Malaysia.

Thai Ambassador to Malaysia Than Duangrana made the remarks at the hospital here in the capital of Perak, the neighbouring state of Pahang, where the 10 injured victims of the deadly crash were undergoing treatment.

According to the ambassador, the embassy is arranging with its government for a special flight from here to Bangkok to bring home the killed victims. The double-decker bus carrying 34 Thai tourists heading to Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, crashed into a divider and overturned in 40.6-metre ditch, killing 24 Thais and three Malaysians, who were the driver, the co-driver and the tourist guide.

The Malaysian police believed that accident, one of the most serious bus tragedies in Malaysia, was caused by speeding or brake failure.—Xinhua

Planes are deiced at Orly Airport south of Paris on 20 Dec, 2010. INTERNET

Blast hits residential houses, casualties unknown

HANGZHOU, 21 Dec—A blast occurred in residential houses in east China’s Zhejiang Province Tuesday, but the casualties remained unknown, local authorities said.

The explosion occurred in Ouhe District of Wenzhou City early in the morning, police said.

Initial investigations blamed the explosion on gas problems, according to work safety supervision officers.

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Initial investigations blamed the explosion on gas problems, according to work safety supervision officers.

Xinhua
highest hotel expected in Shanghai in 2014

BEIJING, 21 Dec—The Shanghai Tower Hotel, set to be the world’s highest hotel when it opens in late 2014 or early 2015, surpassing the Park Hyatt Shanghai, which currently holds the honours.

The Park Hyatt occupies the 79th to 93rd floors of Shanghai’s tallest building, the World Financial Centre.

The Shanghai Tower is located in the central business District of Lujaizui, Pudong District, near the Shanghai World Financial Centre and Jin Mao Tower.

The establishment, a new brand of Jin Jiang Hotels, will span the 84th to 110th floors of the structure’s lower stories. The Shanghai Tower J Hotel will also challenge the new Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong expected to open next year.

Indonesia likely to miss inflation target this year

JAKARTA, 21 Dec—The Indonesian government said it would be difficult to meet this year’s inflation target of 5.3 percent, explaining that extreme weather had resulted in soaring food prices, the Jakarta Post reported on Monday.

“IT must admit that it is hard for us to meet the inflation target of 5 plus minus one as the extreme weather has had a significant impact on our food prices,” Coordinating Economic Minister Hatta Rajasa said.

Meanwhile, Bank Indonesia (BI) Governor Darmin Nasution said that this year’s inflation rate may likely surpass 6.5 percent, but next year would not pass the rate forecast between 4 and 6 percent, as “it will be in the range of 5 plus minus 1 percent”.

Bl predicts next year’s inflationary pressure to remain heavy, but the rate will not be as high as this year, Darmin says.

The revised 2010 state budget sets the inflation target at 5.3 percent, while the central bank has forecast an inflation rate of between 4 and 6 percent.

Adobe 4Q earnings beat Street, as does outlook

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—Software maker Adobe Systems Inc on Monday posted earnings for its latest quarter that exceeded analyst expectations, and it provided a rosy outlook.

Investors pumped the stock up by $1.57, or 5.4 percent, to $30.75 in extended trading, after the release of the results.

The maker of Photoshop, Acrobat and Flash software earned $269 million, or $0.35 per share, in the latest quarter, which ended 3 Dec. In the same period last year, it posted a loss of $32 million, or $0.41 per share.

Adobe has said revenue jumped 33 percent, explaining that extreme weather had resulted in soaring food prices, the Jakarta Post reported on Monday.

Peugeot China sales could outstrip France by 2015

BEIJING, 21 Dec—French automaker Peugeot has said its sales in China could pass those in its home market in five years, a report said Monday, underlying the Asian nation’s importance as the world’s largest car market.

Peugeot, a unit of French group PSA Peugeot Citroen, is hoping to sell about 500,000 vehicles by 2015, China-based company executive Timothy Zimmerman said.

That would exceed the company’s performance in France—where it posts annual sales of about 400,000 cars—in 2015 or shortly thereafter, Zimmerman said.

China’s auto sales, for 2009 had 13.64 million units as the nation took over the title of the world’s top auto market from the United States.

Foot-and-mouth disease inches toward Seoul

SEOUL, 21 Dec—South Korea confirmed an additional case of foot-and-mouth disease Tuesday at a cattle farm in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province, indicating that the disease has spread across the area near the capital despite quarantine efforts.

The Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries confirmed a suspected case reported from the cattle farm in Gapyeong late Monday turned out to be foot-and-mouth disease.

“The 55 heads of cattle on the farm have been culled to prevent further spread of the disease, with other livestock within a 500-metre radius to be destroyed as well,” the ministry said. Gapyeong is located near Gangwon Province, the country’s leading producer of beef, thereby aggravating fears over devastating consequence of further spread of the animal disease.

The first case of foot-and-mouth disease was reported in Andong, North Gyeongsang Province, last month, and the disease has spread beyond its origin despite extensive quarantine efforts.

Flamenco dancers perform during the staging of “A Posteriori”, in Santiago, Capital of Chile, on 17 Dec, 2010. The flamenco show from the Spanish dancer Sara Baras mixes dance with audiovisual montages.

Jakarta Post

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Adjusted earnings were $0.56 cents per share in the latest quarter, surpassing the average forecast of $0.52 cents per share, among analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

Adobe said revenue jumped 33 percent to $1.01 billion from $757 million last year. It was Adobe’s first billion-dollar quarter. Adobe, which is based in San Jose, Calif, says it expects to earn $54 cents to 59 cents per share in the current quarter, excluding items, on revenue of $1 billion to $1.05 billion. Analysts were expecting 51 cents, on
AARHUS, 21 Dec—A research team at Aarhus University, Denmark, is ready to launch a weaver ant project next month in Tanzania and Benin in collaboration with local scientists and farmers to produce organic fruits, with the ants themselves possibly serving as an alternate source of protein for human beings.

An arboreal insect known for its lethal biting power, the weaver ant has been recorded to serve as a natural biocontrol agent against agricultural pests, according to ancient Chinese beliefs.

Estonians attend a horse racing during the opening of the winter Nadam fair in Hulunbuir, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 17 Dec, 2010. Nadam, meaning entertainment and playing in Mongolian language, is a traditional entertainment and games festival of the Mongolian ethnic group. During the event, local residents participate in activities like horse racing, archery and Mongolian wrestling. —Xinhua

China delivers first upgraded homegrown short haul passenger aircraft

XI’AN, 21 Dec—China’s first new-generation homegrown short haul passenger aircraft, Xianzhou-600, was delivered Friday to China Civil Aviation College in Guangnan City of southwest China’s Sichuan Province. The Xianzhou-600, developed by Xi’an Aircraft International Corporation (XAIC) of the China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC), had its first flight trial in October 2008 in Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi Province, said the AVIC.

The turboprop aircraft was an upgraded version of the Xianzhou-60 that can carry 50 to 60 passengers. The Xianzhou-600 had been updated with a more comfortable cabin and better designed body structure, said Jiang Jianjun, general manager of XAIC. —Xinhua

Eat and be eaten, that’s how weaver ants can help African farmers

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Calligraphic works from mountainous Chinese county exhibited in Tokyo

Tokyo, 21 Dec—An array of 60 calligraphic works by artists and enthusiasts in a mountainous county in east China’s Jiangxi Province are displayed in the Chinese Culture Center in Tokyo. The works, crafted by people in Jiangxi County aged from 18 to 87, ranged from cursive script to regular script. Exhibited along with the works are photos depicting the scenic county. The exhibition was initiated by the Chinese Association of Poverty Alleviation and Development (CAPAD) with the purpose of introducing the foreign public to Chinese elements in counties struck by poverty. “This is the first step of our program to help such counties connect with the outside world,” Yu Zhaoxia, an official with the association told Xinhua. —Xinhua

Survey says over half of Canadians trust pets more than people

VANCOUVER, 21 Dec—Over half of Canadian pet owners think their animals are more reliable than people as nearly all of them talk to their pets on a regular basis, and some even confess their deepest, darkest secrets to their four-legged friends. That was the conclusion of a recent survey conducted by Harris/Decima, Canada’s research firm, on behalf of the pet food company Nestlé Purina PetCare into the pet food company’s HoReCa restaurant fed.

“Bistronomy” — Bistros going for slimmed-down gastronomy, says Jan De Haes, head of the regional HoReCa restaurant federation. —Xinhua

Dancers from the Russian Royal Ballet Ensemble perform the classic ballet drama “the Swan Lake” at the Liaoning Grand Theater in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 19 Dec, 2010. —Xinhua

Hot gastropubs serve gourmet grunge

BRUSSELS, 21 Dec—It was an unlikely laurel: the first-ever mention of a pita-and-falafel joint in one of Europe’s leading culinary guides. The GaultMillau, whose influence is on par with that of Michelin or Zagat, only granted the Finjan restaurant 13 out of 20 points. However, the fact it was tapped at all drives home a new phenomenon on the culinary scene: frugal is fashionable in Europe’s bleak economic times. The continent’s recession has been cutting into pocketbooks and expense accounts, hitting exorbitant Michelin-starred restaurants hard. Europeans are turning to humbler fare to tickle their finicky palates or call it gourmet grunge.

The growing attraction of homely brasseries and gastropubs is another sign of how lean wallets are feeding a back-to-basics approach to food. After spending at Belgian restaurants suffered an 11 percent slump in 2009, it’s estimated to fall a further 3 percent in 2010. But this year, a clear class differentiation also emerges if the over-35 euro (US$46.25)-a-head restaurant is projected to have 7 percent fewer visitors this year, the cheaper under-35 euro class is bouncing back with 4 percent more, says Gert Laurijssen of the Foodstep study group. There’s even a name for it: “Bistronomy.” Bistros going for slimmed-down gastronomy, says Jan De Haes, head of the regional HoReCa restaurant federation. —Xinhua

The study, which surveyed 1,014 Canadians (of which 781 owned or had owned a cat or dog) found that 53 percent of pet owners, and 59 percent of those between the ages of 45 and 54, find their pets more reliable than their partners.

Australia researchers hail lung cancer breakthrough

Canberra, 21 Dec—Austalian doctors on Saturday said they have found a lung cancer treatment that could turn a common form of the highly lethal disease into a manageable condition such as diabetes.

In what is being labeled the biggest breakthrough in lung cancer to date, scientists from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Australia have developed a drug therapy they believe can shut down a defective gene that causes diseased lung tissue to grow out of control.

The gene is present in 25 percent of lung cancer patients.

Professor Gavin Wright said laboratory models of the disease had shown that the drugs should destroy the tumors in about 80 percent of these people. A trial of the drugs on patients with squamous cell lung tumors will begin in Victoria next year. Prof Wright hopes other hospitals around the world will join them to accelerate the testing process, adding that if the trials show the drugs are safe and effective, the treatment could be available to patients in three to five years. —Xinhua

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Ohio zoo names snake Hanna, after celeb zookeeper

An Ohio zoo has settled on a familiar name for its new snake that has replaced her record-breaking mother.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium says its new reticulated python will be called Hanna—which happens to be the last name of the zoo’s celebrity zookeeper, Jack Hanna.

Hanna the snake was acquired last month from the same private breeder who had sold the zoo her mother, Fluffy. At 24 feet, Fluffy was the longest snake in captivity when she died in October of an apparent tumor.

At 18 feet, Hanna is a little shaver compared to her mom. The zoo says a name-the-snake contest on Facebook awarded Hanna the most votes, slightly more than second-place, Fuzzy. Jack Hanna says having a namesake chokes him up.

Running red light leads to 500-pound marijuana bust

Police stopped a driver for running a red light and discovered more than 500 pounds of marijuana inside his minivan, authorities said on Monday.

Clement Hunter, 30, was awaiting arraignment on Monday following his arrest on drug charges, authorities said.

Hunter ran a red traffic light in the city’s Queens borough early on Sunday morning and tried to evade police for several blocks, police said.

When he was pulled over, the 513 pounds of marijuana stuffed into large garbage bags was partly visible inside his minivan, police said.

He faces 30 counts of felony possession of marijuana as well as charges of reckless endangerment and fleeing officers.

Anonymous thief pays for stolen hammer, decades later

An anonymous thief sent an envelope of cash to a family-owned supply store in western Pennsylvania to pay for a hammer stolen decades ago, one of the store owners said on Monday.

The cash arrived at Central Contractors Supply Co in Johnstown, Pa, with a handwritten note saying the hammer was stolen 23 to 30 years ago, said Lynne Gramling, who owns the store with her father.

“I knew it was wrong, but I did it anyway. Enclosed is $45 to cover the hammer plus a little extra for interest,” said the unsigned letter dated 6 December. “I’m sorry I stole it, but have changed my ways.”

While plenty of merchandise has disappeared since the family bought the store some 50 years ago, this is the first time anyone has paid for a stolen item, Gramling said.

Fewer films eligible for 83rd best picture Oscar

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec—Two hundred forty-eight feature films are eligible for the 2010 Academy Award for Best Picture, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Monday.

The number has decreased over the past two years: In 2009, 274 were eligible, while 281 made the cut in 2008. Like last year, 10 films will be nominated for Best Picture.

To be eligible for consideration, feature films must open in a commercial motion picture theater in Los Angeles County by midnight 31 Dec, and begin a minimum run of seven consecutive days, the Academy said.

The 83rd Academy Awards nominations will be announced live on 25 Jan. The awards will be presented at the Kodak Theater at Hollywood & Highland Centre, and televised live by the ABC Television Network. The event will be televised live in more than 200 countries worldwide.—INTERNET

Jiang Wen to “Let the Bullets Fly” in Hollywood


“It’s one of Hollywood’s biggest companies,” Yan Yunfei, the marketing director of the film, told xinhua.com.cn, but refused to give the company’s name.

Jiang Wen has been invited to direct the remake, according to Yan.

“The Let the Bullets Fly” is actor-turned-filmmaker Jiang Wen’s fourth directorial work. The tensely-paced film revolves around a bloody battle of wits between a bandit and a gangster in a remote town set in 1920s China. Jiang Wen also stars in the film, along with Chow Yun-Fat, Ge You, Carina Lau, Chen Kun and Zhou Yun.

The film has won acclaim for its spellbinding story and entertaining dialogue. However, it has also attracted criticism for its violent scenes. Xinhu
**SPORTS**

**Celtic’s South Korean stars to miss Rangers clash**

GLASGOW, 21 Dec — South Korea stars Cha Du-ri and Ki Sung-yueng will miss Celtic’s Old Firm clash with Rangers on 2 January because of international commitments.

Celtic manager Neil Lennon had been trying to keep the pair for an extra week so they could play in the crucial fixture against the Scottish champions at Ibrox.

But Lennon has confirmed Cha and Ki will fly home to prepare for the Asian Cup after Celtic’s Scottish Premier League clash against St Johnstone on Sunday.

Lennon said: “It’s a huge blow because the two of them have been influential this season.

“Ki has made massive strides this season and Cha has been very consistent.

“They have played the majority of games so they will be a big loss.”

**Eto’o named African Footballer of the Year**

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Dec — Cameroon striker Samuel Eto’o was named African Footballer of the Year a record fourth time at the annual CAF awards ceremony in Cairo on Monday.

The 29-year-old native of central town Nkongsamba clinched a 2-1 victory against the Scottish in the crucial fixture week so they could play on 2 January because of Firm clash with Rangers will miss Celtic’s Old Firm unbeaten run came to an end.

**Benitez denies talk of sacking closer to the exit door Sunday after his club president Massimo Moratti blasted the former Liverpool boss for his post-Club World Cup outburst.**

“Having seen his side beat Conolese outfit Tout Pant-sanzou 3-0 to win their fifth trophy of the year, Benitez launched a tirade against the powers that be at Inter.

He accused his bosses of failing to support him in the transfer market and accused the players of taking their own decisions.

He said: “Now there are three roads either the club starts a project and buys four players right now in January or we continue like this with the coach who is the only person to blame or otherwise the president speaks to my agent and we find a solution.”

**Cassano set to pen AC Milan deal**

ROME, 21 Dec — Controversial Italian forward Antonio Cassano has reached agreement to join AC Milan after falling out of favour at Sampdoria and will sign for his new club on Tuesday, the ANSA news agency reported.

The five-million euro clause due to Real Madrid, Cassano’s club from 2006-2007, which had been holding up the deal, will be jointly paid by Sampdoria, AC Milan and the player himself, according to Gazzetta dello Sport.

The contract will not be filed before the official opening of the transfer market.

**Dawson is next on boxer Pascal’s hit list**

MONTREAL, 21 Dec — Jean Pascal, who kept his World Boxing Council light heavyweight crown with a draw against American Bernard Hopkins, will fight a rematch with Chad Dawson next rather than face Hopkins again.

Haitian-born Canadian Pascal said Monday that he would prefer to face Hopkins, who is a month shy of his 46th birthday and trying to become the oldest major champion in boxing history, but contracts mandate Dawson be next.

Pascal knocked down Hopkins twice, the first time the US veteran had been sent to the canvas in 16 years, but one judge scored the fight for Hopkins and two others called it a draw, allowing Pascal to keep his crown.

The majority draw had Hopkins fuming, vowing to never return to Canada and that some in boxing were waiting for him to age and fade away.
WEATHER

Tuesday, 21st December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr.
M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy over Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Northern Shan State and upper Sagaing Region, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kayah and Kayin States, Taninthayi Region and about December average temperature in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Mogok (2°C), Lashio (3°C) and Machanbaw (4°C).

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 20-12-2010 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 21-12-2010 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-12-2010 was (73%). Rainfall on 21-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 20-12-2010 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 21-12-2010 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-12-2010 was (54%). Total sunshine hours on 20-12-2010 was (9.6) hours.

Rainfall on 21-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 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 Northeast at (09:30) hours MST on 20-12-2010.

Bay Influence: Weather is generally fair in the North and West Central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 22nd December 2010: Light rain are possible to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy over Kayin State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of decrease night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (22-12-2010)/Wednesday

Transmissions Times
Local - (09:00am ~ 11:00am) MST
Oversea Transmission - (22-12-10 09:30 am ~ 23-12-10 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission
* Opening
* News
* Let’s Visit Flower City by Coach
* News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments “Myanmar Harp”
* News
* The Night of Heartthrob Pho Chit
* News
* Surprising Myanmar (The Shwedagon Pagoda) (II)

Oversea Transmission
* Opening
* News
* Let’s Visit Flower City by Coach
* News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments “Myanmar Harp”
* News
* The Night of Heartthrob Pho Chit
* News
* Surprising Myanmar (The Shwedagon Pagoda) (II)
* News
* Monastery Shwe In-Pin Kyaung
* A DAY IN ZALUN
* News
* Environmental Conservation from the Myanmar cultural Perspective
* Music Gallery
* News
* Coconut Jaggery
* News
* Treasure Trove for Knowledge Seekers
* Myanmar Movie ‘Regretful Game’

Myanmar’s pepper export revenue increase 23% in first 11 months

HANOI, 21 Dec — Vietnam earned 397 million US dollars from pepper export in first eleven months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 23 percent, said a report of Vietnam’s General Statistics Office on Tuesday.

The country exported 112,000 tons of pepper during this period, a decrease of 11.5 percent year-on-year.

Vietnam sold 8,000 tons of tea in November alone, raking in 38 million US dollars, said the report. Vietnam’s major markets for pepper in the first eleven months include the United States, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, said the report.—Xinhua
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

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

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

Take fire preventive measures

Whenever the open season arrives, members of fire brigade participate in activities of taking fire preventive measures in respective wards and villages and townships. They are busy with issuing fire warnings.

Fire can break out at any time. Especially, it can break out in the open season. Outbreaks of fire may be due to various reasons such as negligence, short circuit, arson, forest fire and fire broke out due to other reasons.

In November, the nation saw 52 fires. Of them, there were 46 times of negligence. It can be said that the number of outbreaks of fire due to negligence was more than others.

The Fire Services Department disseminates knowledge on damages caused by outbreaks of fire and urges all the national people to follow fire preventive activities continuously.

In addition, the Fire Services Department is practising the system of disseminating knowledge about fire preventive measures to the students so as to mitigate outbreaks of fire. (See page 9)

Invitation cards for respect-paying ceremony to doyen literati available at MWJA

YANGON, 21 Dec—Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will organize respect-paying ceremony to doyen literati in commemoration of Myanmar Sarsodaw Day for 1372 ME at Yangon City Hall on 26 December.

Township WJA Chairmen and Secretaries are to draw invitation cards on behalf of the doyen literati and township WJA members at MWJA Office, No. 529, 2nd floor of Sarpay Beikman, Merchant Street, starting from 22 December.—MNA

Football Tournament to mark Independence Day opens in Pobbathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—The opening of Junior Open Football Tournament to mark the 63rd Anniver-sary Independence Day was held in the football ground of Basic Education High School in Kyidaungkan vil-lage in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw District yesterday.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Tint Kyaw Lwin made an opening address and opened the tournament.

Altogether twenty-two football teams (Junior/Open) will take part in the tournament. Zigon village-tract team played against Thityakon village-tract as a debut match of the tournament. Volleyball, Sepak Takraw, badminton and track and field events will be held up to 4 January.—MNA