Established 1914
Volume XVIII, Number 251                                     7th Waning of Nadaw 1372 ME                        Tuesday, 28 December, 2010

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

Energy Minister visits No. 5 Fertilizer Factory construction project in Pathein

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—Minister for Energy U Lun Thi visited the construction project of No. 5 Fertilizer Factory in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard the reports presented by the project director on ongoing works. Managing Director of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise gave a supplementary report.

After that, the minister urged the officials concerned to make systematic coordination in every step in line with technical process because test running of pre commissioning and commissioning are being carried out and to make efforts to open the factory as soon as possible. Then, he also coordinated the essentials.

(See page 8)

Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway to be commissioned soon

Byline: Yan Gyi Aung; Photos: Aye Min

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the government has been building roads, bridges and railroads across states and regions into a nationwide transport network with Nay Pyi Taw in the centre of it to ensure smooth transport and equitable development of all parts of the nation and to make the administrative machinery more effective.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Project, one of the Union highways to form networks, was launched in 2005. Linking Yangon, the commercial city, with Mandalay, the capital of upper Myanmar, whose centre lies in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon-Mandalay Expressway is the most strategic transport facility.

A section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section was put into service on 25 March 2009, which is only a four-hour drive. Now, Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section is to be launched soon.

When asked about work progress, Project Engineer Chief Engineer U Tint Hsan from Special Projects (1) of Public Works said that for Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section, Public Works undertook work from Nay Pyi Taw junction to Pantin (19 miles) and from Kukwe to Zaga-inn (48 miles and five furlongs); that of the 150 miles and five furlongs Nay Pyi Taw-Zaga-inn section, the 83 miles long Pantin-Paypinlay-Kukwe section was undertaken by the Directorate of Military Engineering of the Ministry of Defence; that the 200 feet wide facility had

(See page 8)
To be well convinced of national goals

Higher education standard is a much-needed requirement for national development. So, the government is implementing short- and long-term plans to promote the nation’s education standard.

Today, the world sees great changes in the science and technology, and it has become necessary for the economic, education, health and social sectors. Universities, colleges and high schools have access to e-Education system.

The people will have an opportunity to broaden their horizons increasingly if there is a growing number of intellectuals and intelligentsia in both arts and science.

And if the entire people are able to distinguish between good and bad with high reasoning power, Myanmar will become a stable and peaceful society in which the people can keep off violation of laws. In order to achieve that lofty goal, younger generations are to be nurtured in the education sphere to have a stronger sense of nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

Basic education teachers not only teach but also guide students in attitudes in order that the youth will achieve greater success in studies and have high thinking power, good morality and good habits.

Now, the government is working hard especially in the education sector to shape the future of the nation. Therefore, teachers have to organize the entire people including new generations to be well convinced of national goals.

Myanmar WWW Institute to open new classes in Jan 2011

YANGON, 27 Dec — Myanmar WWW Institute will open new classes of basic IT course, essential programming course and web design course in coming January.

The basic IT course covers use of Microsoft Windows system, PowerPoint and Photoshop in addition to basic programming course features the art of problem solving before real programme coding with the use of Pseudo Code and Flow Charts. One may learn the creation of a website from A to Z in Web Design course.

The seat of a particular class is limited to 10 who enrolled ahead the opening of classes. For inquiry, Myanmar WWW Institute may be contacted at Campus No (5), Room No (4), Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Universities Campus, Yangon (Ph: 652288, 521125 and 652258).—MNA

FM receives Vietnamese guests

YANGON, 27 Dec — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received President of the Vietnam Lawyers Association and Chairman of ASEAN Lawyers Association Mr Phan Quoc Anh and party from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the ministry here today.

They held discussions on matters related to the ASEAN Lawyers Association.—MNA

Health Minister visits Specialist Hospitals in Mingaladon, Thakayta Townships

YANGON, 27 Dec — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, together with Deputy Health Minister Dr Paing Soe, on 24 December morning visited Specialist Hospital (Mingaladon)in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region.

Director-General of Health Department Dr Win Myint and officials concerned conducted them round the newly-built out-patient department.

The out-patient department of the hospital will be soon inaugurated as construction work started in April 2010 was completed in December.

Myat Mandalay Tun Bus Line to extend Yangon-Mandalay-Muse route

YANGON, 27 Dec — Myat Mandalay Tun Bus Line, which is plying Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Sagaing, Yangon-PyinOoLwin and Yangon-Lashio routes, will extend Yangon-Mandalay-Muse route starting on 2 January 2011.

Expresses of the Myat Mandalay Tun Bus Line board only 45 passengers and provide services by well-trained staff for meeting customer satisfaction. Tickets can be bought at Myat Mandalay Tun branches in Mandalay, Muse, Yangon, Lashio and PyinOoLwin.—MNA
Afghan troops. stronghold and has seen some of the worst fighting killed in 2010. That makes this the deadliest of the southern Afghanistan.

Afghan security forces have for the past two years had control of Kabul and all NATO operations in the capital. After the attack, the source added.

Almost simultaneously, another suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up outside a government bank and a nearby court house, close to the site of the first attack, the source added.

Earlier, the source put the toll at six killed and 18 wounded by the two attacks. Xinhua

Nine, 40 wounded in twin suicide bombing in western Iraq

RAMADI, 27 Dec—Nine people were killed and some 40 others were wounded in twin suicide bomb attacks outside government buildings in the city of Ramadi, the capitol of Iraq’s western Anbar province on Monday, a provincial police source said.

“Our latest report said that nine people including five policemen, were killed and 40 people, nine policemen among them, were wounded by the coordinated suicide bomb attacks in Anbar’s capital city of Ramadi,” the source from Anbar’s operations command told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The attacks took place Monday morning when a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a checkpoint at the entrance of a government complex in central Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, the source said.

Almost simultaneously, another suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up outside a government bank and a nearby court house, close to the site of the first attack, the source added.

Earlier, the source put the toll at six killed and 18 wounded by the two attacks. Xinhua

Iraqi police search a car at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq, on 21 Dec, 2010. The Iraqi government tightened its security measures as Iraqi lawmakers unanimously approved a new government to be headed by incumbent Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Xinhua

Afghan official says NATO violated security agreement

KABUL, 27 Dec—The US-led coalition violated a security agreement in Kabul when its troops raided a private security company in the capital and killed two guards, the Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

Spokesman Zemari Bashary said the police general who helped them has been suspended and an investigation was under way into why coalition forces on Friday raided the compound of Tiger International, an Afghan private security company, killing two guards and wounding two others.

Afghan security forces have for the past two years had control of Kabul and all NATO operations in the city. The source added.

“Was a very tragic and unfortunate incident which occurred in Kabul two nights ago. The forces which were involved in that operation didn’t pay any attention to the rules and regulations which we were agreed upon earlier regarding such operations in Kabul,” he said. “For the past two years we have agreed that the security of Kabul is the responsibility of the Afghan forces, or Afghan forces must be in the lead of any operation in Kabul.”—Internet

A tourist is wheeled into a hospital in Cairo after the bus they were riding in collided with a truck near the southern Egyptian City of Aswan on 26 December, 2010, killing eight Americans and injuring 21 others. Internet

Eight Americans killed in Egypt bus crash

CAIRO, 27 Dec—Eight American tourists were killed and 21 injured when their bus collided with a truck near the southern Egyptian City of Aswan, police and the official MENA news agency said.

The bus carrying 37 tourists from the United States was headed to the ancient Egyptian Abu Simbel temples when it collided with a damaged truck parked on the side of the road, MENA said.

A police official said six of the dead were women. The bus driver and a tour guide were also injured in the crush, which occurred early in the morning about 30 kilometres (18 miles) from Aswan. Four tourists were in critical condition, the police official said, adding that the injured were taken to a military hospital in Aswan.

US President Barack Obama, who is on holiday in the island state of Hawaii, was briefed Sunday on the “tragic accident that took the lives of a number of American citizens in Egypt, and the US government’s ongoing efforts to support the victims and their families,” the White House said in a statement.

The US embassy in Cairo said it was “deeply saddened by the traffic accident in Aswan that has led to deaths and injuries among American tourists.” It did not provide a toll, and neither did the White House in its statement.—Internet

Afghan policemen carry a wounded soldier during a gunbattle in Kunduz on 19 December. A suicide bomber killed a policeman and injured five civilians at a checkpoint in Kunduz, northern Afghanistan on Thursday, a local official said.—Internet

At least one killed, 20 injured in car bomb explosion in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, 27 Dec—A powerful car bomb attack rocked Taleban birthplace Kandahar in south Afghanistan on Monday killing at least one person and injuring 20 others including 14 policemen, provincial police chief Khan Mohammad Mujahid said. “It was a remote-controlled car bomb attack targeted at policemen, who were receiving their salaries from Kabul Bank branch in Kandahar city as a result one policeman was martyred and 20 others including 14 policemen and six innocent civilians were injured,” Mujahid told Xinhua. Xinhua

UN headquarters to be closed on Monday due to blizzard

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Dec —The UN Headquarters will be closed on Monday due to a winter storm that blanketed New York and other places along the US East Coast on Sunday. “Due to inclement weather, the United Nations Headquarters complex in New York will be closed on Monday, 27 December 2010. All meetings at Headquarters have been cancelled,” reads a UN staff emergency hotline message late Sunday. A similar notice was posted on the UN website. The storm has been ravaging New York region since earlier on 25 Dec, 2010.

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Science

Gene codes cracked for strawberries and chocolate

London, 27 Dec—Teams of scientists have cracked the genetic codes of the wild strawberry and a certain type of cacao used to make fine chocolate, work that should help breeders develop better varieties of more mainstream crops.

The wild strawberry is closely related to important food crops such as apples, peaches, pears and raspberries, as well as cultivated strawberries, so its gene map will help breeders of these plants to produce new varieties, the researchers said.

“Because farmers have been cross-breeding and hybridizing food crops for centuries to improve traits, they tend to have large complicated genomes but the wild strawberry’s is relatively small so we can get access to all of these useful genes comparatively easily,” said Dan Sargent of Britain’s Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Cosmic nebulae dazzle in new space telescope photos

New York, 27 Dec—NASA’s WISE infrared telescope, which recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of its launch into space, has returned some stunning photos lately.

The new pictures from WISE — short for Wide Field Infrared Survey Explorer, which launched on 14 Dec, 2009 — are dramatic, colourful images of interstellar clouds of gas and dust called nebulae.

The first photo depicts a structure known as the Flaming Star Nebula, which is about 1,500 light-years away in the constellation Auriga. At the nebula’s heart is the star AE Aurigae, which appears to be ablaze, hence the name.

AE Aurigae is a so-called runaway star, researchers said. It was likely born in the Trapezium Cluster, in the constellation Orion, but was booted out by a collision with a binary star system about 2.5 million years ago.

The enhanced colours seen in the image represent specific wavelengths of infrared light, which unaided human eyes cannot see. Hot stars scattered throughout the nebula shine up as blue and cyan. Glowing gas appears green, while heated-up dust is primarily red, researchers said.

This WISE photo shows the Jellyfish Nebula — also known as IC 443 — which is about 5,000 light-years away from Earth, in the constellation Gemini.

The jellyfish shape is a shell surrounding the remnants of a massive star that exploded 5,000 to 10,000 years ago, researchers said.

Browse music videos by location with VEVO HD iPad app

Washington, 27 Dec—Will apps kill the cable music channel? MTV ought to queue up more reality shows like “Jersey Shore,” “cause VEVO is hammering away at what little is left of its music video business. VEVO offers a popular web site, an iPhone app and, now, VEVO HD for the iPad. All three feature free music videos from several music publishers. VEVO HD might be the best of the three, mostly because of the easy portability and touch interface of the iPad itself.

VEVO HD presents handy sorting of the large catalog of music videos. You can view by Featured, Most Popular, Artist, or you can browse by a long list of Music Genres. Flicking through the video catalog is fun, and lets you discover new music. After you touch on a video to play, there is a slight delay while the video loads — to pass the time VEVO displays artist trivia. The videos play smoothly, and the sound over the iPad’s built-in speakers is decent.

You can share any of the videos you watch with friends over Facebook and Twitter with just a couple of taps. Perhaps the coolest feature is Music Map — which displays the video watching selections, anonymously, of people using VEVO based on location. It starts with your current location — but you can travel the globe, and check out music tastes around the world by dragging the map around.

Earn rewards with location-based Shopkick Android app

New York, 27 Dec—It’s location-based shopping — with your Android phone — at its best. The free shopkick app pulls up the closest deals at all your favourite stores, based on your location, plus you earn shopkick points just for walking into a store.

I work off of Michigan Avenue in Chicago, so I get access to a plethora of deals on a daily basis from the shopkick app. For instance, a holiday sale at Macy’s offered a diamond-accent bangle and hoops for $59.99, regularly $200. Guess what my best friend is getting for Christmas?! I registered using my Facebook account, and then had to also register and verify my mobile number in order to start earning kickbucks. This was slightly annoying, but worth it for the free kicks. Kickbucks are shopping points you collect, and once you have enough, you trade in for fashionable and fun prizes like Facebook credits, Target gift cards, True Religion Jeans and more! Once I checked in at Macy’s, I received 100 kickbucks for getting a sample of perfume from an employee and scanning the barcode on the sheet.

Earning shopping rewards for just walking into your favourite stores brings a whole new level to window shopping! You can also fan your favourite cafes, gyms, etc, and become a top fan on the establishment’s shopkick wall by checking in when you visit.

Technology

Breakdown in defences caused BP spill

Washington, 27 Dec—The 20 April explosion on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that caused the largest environmental disaster in US history occurred because every defence on the BP-leased platform failed, The New York Times reported Sunday. The newspaper, which undertook its own investigation of the blast that killed 11 workers and injured dozens of others, said some of the defences on the Deepwater Horizon rig were deployed but did not work, some were activated too late, and some were never deployed at all.

Communications fell apart, warning signs were missed and crew members in critical areas failed to coordinate a response, the report concluded. The result was paralysis, The Times said.

For nine long minutes, as the drilling crew battled the blowout that began in the BP well on the sea floor, with mud from the well gushing out of the top of the riser like a fountain, no warning was given to the rest of the crew, the paper noted.—Internet

Fireboat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon 21 April, 2010. Internet

Participants use their customized computers during the annual “Campus Party” Internet users gathering in Valencia July 29, 2010.—INTERNET

Jays to release stylish, midrange earbuds in US

Stockholm, 27 Dec—Sweden’s headphone manufacturer Jays announced that its A-Jays Four iPhone earbuds for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad are being released in the US market. Jays’ headphones have picked up a number of awards from Macworld’s international sites, so their addition to the US product lineup adds a potentially attractive option to the midrange headset market.

The A-Jays Four features rubber earbuds designed for use outside the ear canal, with flat wiring that is claimed to be “no-tangle.” Earbuds come in five different shapes and sizes to fit your personal cranial architecture. A three-button inline remote is clearly styled to match the iPhone 4. The headphones come in both black and white varieties, in case you want to color-coordinate your cables to next year’s iPhone, or to your favorite Chinese white iPhone knockoff.

The Jays website reports immediate availability of the A-Jays Four, but does not include US release dates or pricing.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs (R) looks at a display of the new MacBook Air at the company’s headquarters in Cupertino, California.—INTERNET
Reported cholera cases in Dominican Republic rise to 105

SANTO DOMINGO, 27 Dec — The number of people affected by cholera in Dominican Republic has reached 105, following the detection of 70 cases on 21 Dec. officials said on Sunday. Of the infected patients, 11 are receiving medical treatment and are in stable condition and the rest have been discharged, said Health Minister Bautista Rojas Gomez. On Saturday, Gomez visited the southern Provinces of San Juan de la Maguana and Azua, where several cases of cholera have been reported. “We have promoted a day of prevention, in which a trained volunteer will go to 50 homes with rehydration packs to help people with diarrhea,” he said. A delegation of 5,000 volunteers will meet Dominican President Leonel Fernandez next Tuesday to report to him their efforts to help prevent cholera, Gomez said.—Xinhua

Cuban scientists use nanotechnology to fight cancer

HAVANA, 27 Dec — Cuban scientists are designing treatment plans and medicines by using nanotechnology to fight cancer, an official said Sunday. Marlene Porto, Director of the state-run Centre for Investigation and Development of Medicines, told local newspaper Juventud Rebelde that Cuban scientists “are working on important pharmaceutical designs on a nanotechnological scale.” Porto talked about targeted spread of AH1N1

Sri Lanka warns

COLOMBO, 27 Dec — Sri Lanka’s health authorities said Sunday that immediate orders have been placed in order to prevent the spread of AH1N1 virus commonly known as Swine flu. W M D Wanninayake, spokesman for the health ministry told reporters that more than 300 AH1N1 cases were reported this year and 22 deaths have been caused by the virus. The number of confirmed and unconfirmed AH1N1 cases has seen a sharp increase during this month, officials said. The health authorities recently decided to make AH1N1 vaccine compulsory for pregnant mothers following concerns on the rising level of victims.—Xinhua

Market oil balanced, prices likely to increase

TEHERAN, 27 Dec — Iran’s OPEC governor Mohammad Ali Khatabi said on Sunday that the oil market was stable and the crude prices could reach $100 per barrel, the Oil Ministry’s website said. SHANA reported. “It is unlikely that OPEC holds an emergency meeting... There is a balance between supply and demand in the market... It is possible that the price of crude reaches $100 per barrel,” Khatabi said, SHANA reported. Oil hovered around its highest levels in more than two years on Friday, supported by cold weather across the globe, appetite for risk assets and signals from OPEC it would not arrest the rally. “In the opinion of the experts there is no need for an emergency OPEC meet under stable oil market conditions,” Khatabi said. Analysts said oil could continue its rally on strong global demand and falling inventories in 2011, which promises to be a strong year for risk assets as confidence about the global economic recovery picks up.—Reuters

China makes fresh pledges to keep prices in check

BEIJING, 27 Dec — China made fresh assurances that it will keep inflation in check, saying it will improve efforts to stabilize prices and ensure an abundant supply of essential commodities ahead of the Chinese New Year. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Sunday that China’s government will be able to keep prices at a reasonable level, a day after the central bank raised interest rates for a second time in just over two months to counter stubbornly high inflation. Cracking down on price speculation and related market manipulation should be high on the agenda of governments at all levels, Xinhua news agency said late on Sunday, citing a circular issued jointly by the General Offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, or China’s Cabinet. The circular also urged tighter supervision of the food and medicine markets and called on related departments to distribute subsidies to low-income groups.—Reuters

South Korean health officials work on a farm in Chungju, south of Seoul. South Korea Monday confirmed three new cases of foot-and-mouth disease, bringing the total to 56 since the country’s worst outbreak began a month ago. Internet

Chinese customers buy vegetables at a supermarket in Hefei, east China’s Anhui Province on 23 December. China is well-placed to tackle inflation and tame runaway house prices, Premier Wen Jiabao said Sunday, while acknowledging that rising costs had made life harder for the poor. Internet

Business
Rescue chopper makes emergency landing into northern Hong Kong

**Kong’s reservoir**

HONG KONG, 27 Dec—A Eurocopter AS332 L2 helicopter, belonging to the Hong Kong Government Flying Service, made an emergency landing on Monday morning at a reservoir in northern Hong Kong, and all three crew members managed to swim to safety, local media reported.

TV footage showed that the white-and-orange helicopter was kept afloat by an inflatable device in the water close to the bank.

The helicopter was participating in the aftermath of a wildfire when police said one of its engines failed and the machine went down, Hong Kong radio reported.

The Government Flying Service is a department of the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, employing 226 civil servants responsible for flight operations, maintenance and administration.

It began operating in April 1993. Its goal is to provide emergency air services to the local community in Hong Kong and those who earn their livelihoods in the South China Sea, the Government Flying Service said on its website.

The department has a fleet of ten aircraft comprising two British Aerospace Jetstream 41 (J-41) fixed-wing aircraft, one Zlin Z-242L fixed-wing aircraft, three Eurocopter AS332 L2 helicopters and four Eurocopter EC155 B1 (EC155) helicopters.

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**180 flights canceled in Chicago due to East Coast blizzard**

CHICAGO, 27 Dec—More than outbound 180 flights have been canceled at Chicago’s two major airports on Sunday due to a blizzard that engulfed the US East Coast, Chicago Department of Aviation said.

There were about 150 cancellations at O’Hare International Airport as of Sunday afternoon, and some flights were running about 30 minutes behind schedule. At Midway Airport, some flights were delayed up to an hour and about 35 flights were canceled. Local aviation authorities advised travelers to contact airlines for information on specific flights and to arrive at the airport at least two hours before takeoff.

More than a feet (30.48 cm) of snow was expected to fall on New York and Boston, while 20 inches (50.08 cm) were expected in Philadelphia.

At least 1,400 flights had been canceled at New York’s airports alone.

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**Nine kids dead, ten injured after vehicle plunges into creek in C China**

CHANGSHA, 27 Dec—A vehicle taking children to school plunged into a creek in central China’s Hunan Province Monday morning, leaving nine children dead, 10 injured and one missing.

The accident happened at 7:30 am in Songjiang Township, Hengnan County, said a county education bureau spokesman.

The injured are being treated in hospital.

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**Four Turkish engineers kidnapped in E Afghanistan**

GEREDZ, 27 Dec—Unknown armed men kidnapped four Turkish engineers in eastern Paktia Province on Sunday, an official said.

“Unidentified armed men abducted four Turkish engineers in Dand-e-Patan District this morning and took them to unknown locations,” Abdul Rahman Mangal, the deputy to provincial governor told Xinhua.

These engineers were going to construct barracks for Border Police Force in Dand-e-Patan District when the unknown armed men kidnapped them, he added.

“Search operation has been launched to locate and rescue the abducted engineers,” Mangal further said.

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**Police officer, suspect shot to death**

WOBURN, 27 Dec—A police officer responding to a department store holdup and a suspect died in an exchange of gunfire Sunday night in Woburn, Mass., authorities said.

A second man suspected in the attempted armed robbery was arrested, while the status of a third suspect was not known, The Boston Globe reported.

The shootings occurred about 9 pm at a Kohl’s department store.

The names of the slain Woburn police officer, who was pronounced dead a Burlington clinic, and the suspects were not released, the Globe said.

“This is a horribly tragic incident in which an officer was fatally shot in the line of duty,” Middlesex District Attorney Gerard T. Leone said. “We continue to investigate the circumstances of the shooting and will update the public with information as it is developed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Officer’s family at this time.”—Internet

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**Some hide classroom cellphone use**

DURHAM, 27 Dec—Student researchers report 91 percent of US college students use their cellphones one to five times per class.

The student researchers at the University of New Hampshire in Durham report students were aware phone use was frowned upon in class and almost half of those using phones during class — 49 percent — attempted to conceal their use.

The university-wide study also found 51 percent of students said they knew their concentration was being adversely affected by phone use and 52 percent said the phone affected the amount of information they receive during class.

Female students were 7 percent more likely to text, 5 percent more likely to text frequently and 13 percent more likely to hide phone use in class than male students, the survey says.

“Even though the majority of college students do not own a smartphone, those who do, are much more active using their phones in class,” study leader Chuck Martin said in a statement.

Martin says the study is based on 1,265 students, 99 percent of whom own a cellphone with 9 percent owning multiple mobile devices.

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**Is your camel most beautiful? : An Emirati man stands next to camels getting ready to take part in the Mazayin Dhafra Camel Festival in the desert 150 kms west of the Emirati Capital Abu Dhabi.**

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Over 100,000 people hit by floods in eastern Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO, 27 Dec —** Over 100,000 people or 56,000 families were affected by floods in east Sri Lanka, relief officials said on Monday.

The eastern districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee were the worst hit in a period of continuous heavy rains.

Pradeep Kodippily, a top disaster management official said that some 10 relief camps are being run in the Batticaloa District.

The weather officials said rains were to continue in the northeastern, central, southwestern and western provinces. Iramadu, the main reservoir in the northern province had reached spill level forcing the opening of its 11 sluice gates.

Officials said the rain fall in the east was unusually high this year.

China to offer overseas tourists tax refund for purchases in Hainan

**HAIKOU, 27 Dec —** Overseas tourists can claim, starting next year, tax refunds at 11 percent of their purchases in pilot shops in southern Hainan Province when leaving China there, a local official said Monday.

The minimum purchase eligible for the tax rebate is 800 yuan (121 US dollars), said Lu Yong, vice director of the Hainan Provincial Bureau of Finance.

Hitachi, Foxconn eye LCD panel tie-up

**TOKYO, 27 Dec —** Japanese high-tech firm Hitachi and Taiwan IT giant Foxconn are eyeing an alliance to create the world’s largest supplier of small and midsize LCD panels, a business daily reported Monday.

In the envisaged tie-up, Foxconn would purchase a total of roughly 100 billion yen (1.21 billion dollars) in shares of Hitachi’s LCD panel subsidiary, Hitachi Displays Ltd, the Nikkei newspaper said.

Foxconn was expected to hold a controlling stake in Hitachi Displays, with Hitachi’s interest falling to around 30 percent from the current 75.1 percent, the report said.

The two companies were in the final stages of negotiations, the Nikkei said without citing sources.

Hitachi declined to confirm the report on its subsidiary, with a spokeswoman saying: “The company is seeking measures to strengthen its operations.”

Foxconn, a leading supplier of LCD panels for Apple Inc’s iPhones and iPads, acquired Taipei LCD panel maker Chimei Innolux Corp in March.

When the shares of Hitachi Displays and Chimei are combined, they controlled 17.3 percent of the world’s small and mid-size LCD panel market in 2009, beating the top-ranked Sharp Corp of Japan with a 16.5 percent share, the Nikkei said.

The venture company would build a new plant in Japan to start operating in 2012, more than doubling the firm’s annual output capacity, the Nikkei said.

Icy rain shuts down Moscow’s airport, power lines

The rain struck the city Saturday night. Workers are scrambling to restore the power supply after heavy ice snapped power lines, Russia’s Emergency Situations Ministry said.

Moscow’s Domodedovo airport closed Sunday morning after it lost power. No planes were allowed to land or take off for 15 hours until the airport opened for outbound flights to several domestic destinations. The airport’s full power supply has not been restored yet.

At least 13 flights had already taken off, civil aviation chief Alexander Neronko said on state-run Rossiya 24 TV.

Moscow’s other two major airports, Sheremetyevo and Vnukovo, remained open but experienced severe delays.

Moscow motorists woke up to find their cars covered with an inch of ice. Power lines across the region, loaded down with ice, snapped at the slightest touch, disrupting public transport and suburban trains.

Georgians not to see snow before New Year

**TBILISI, 27 Dec —** Georgia’s chief weather forecaster on Sunday disappointed the country’s snow sport lovers with a prediction that the South Caucasus country would meet the New Year without snow.

Svetlana Nioradze, head of the forecast center under the Georgian ministry for environmental protection, said that dry weather would continue throughout the week.

“Temperature will drop from January 1st but no sediment is expected,” said the chief forecaster.

“November and December were unusual (warm) this year.”

The lack of snow in this time of year has delayed the full operation of Georgia’s ski resort at Gbilauri.

Though the country has not seen snow in December, it has been affected this month by snow elsewhere, as Tbilisi-London and Tbilisi-Warsaw flights have been canceled at the Tbilisi International Airport due to snow-caused bad weather in the destination countries.

A London-Baku-Tbilisi festival flight service has also been canceled due to snow-caused bad weather.

“The latest weather forecast, however, gave snow lovers in the country some hope of seeing the first snow this winter right on the New Year day, when it is forecast with a 30-percent probability of snow. Before that time, the weather will be clear or partly cloudy.”

Artists from the National Ballet Theater of Belarus present the Swan Lake in Wuhan, central China’s Hubei Province, on 25 Dec, 2010.—XINHUA
Energy Minister visits No. 5 Fertilizer Factory construction project...

Next, the minister presented fruit basket to the foreign experts who are discharging duties at the project.

The minister inspected the control of machines that produce Ammonia and urea with DCS (Distributed Control System) through control room, heating with primary reformer gas burner, which is primary process of Ammonia production in primary reformer.—MNA

Energy Minister U Lun Thi visits the control room of No. 5 Fertilizer Factory in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.

ENERGY

Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway...

30 feet wide traffic islands and 25-foot-wide concrete way each on both sides; and that the completed section links Nay Pyi Taw junction to the junction near Zaga-inn Village which leads to Mandalay International Airport.

He said that the Directorate of Military Engineering provided heavy machinery under the directive of the Quartermaster-General Office of the Ministry of Defence for completion on schedule; that they also used heavy machinery from the Ministry of Construction and got enough cement, iron rods and other construction materials from factories under the Myanmar Economic Corporation; that steel factories under the MEC provided girders for construction of over 90 feet long bridges; that the Ministry of Energy sold fuel monthly, and the majority of paving stones were provided by the Correction Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs; that the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications rendered assistance for smooth communications in every part of the facility; that the Ministry of Electric Power No. (2) provided electric power; and that the project was completed ahead of schedule thanks to all-round assistance from related ministries.

He added that to build highways was associated with a wide variety of consequences, and building a modern, developed nation called for a road network assessable from the four corners of the nation with Nay Pyi Taw in the centre; and that that was why the Head of State gave guidance on the project.

Like Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section, Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section is a two-way/two-lane facility. When the whole expressway is completed, tolls will be paid at the Toll Gate near Sagain Junction in Mandalay on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

He said that the alignment of the expressway stretched straightly between southern and northern parts, passing by the eastern foot of Bago Yoma mountain range; that therefore it went through a large number of ravines, gorges, rivers and creeks that rose in Bago Yoma mountain range, and lakes; and that it had 1396 large and small bridges including box culverts. In explaining facts about difficulties they had to cope with, he said that they could work with convenience only for six months a year due to rain, and 70% of work was carried out in the rainy season.

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Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway...

(from page 8)

the distance between Yangon and Mandalay will be just a seven-hour drive, and it will be just a six-hour drive if by private car.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Toe Khaing from Special Group (13) said that they carried out groundwork, and built three under-50-foot bridges and 115 concrete box culverts to complete 48 miles and five furlongs long Kukwe-Pyinsi-Zagain section; that feasibility study began in October 2005 to seek in Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Project. He said that to complete Kukwe-Zagain section, they had to use over 200 units of heavy machinery and crawler drills and deal with swamp areas for eight miles.

To ensure gradient, they ensured that underpasses and approach roads met vertical sight distance, and they followed superelevation designed by the Road Design Department, he said adding that he gained a lot of engineering and administrative experiences from the project.

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Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyi Zaw Myint said that he took responsibilities for laying concrete the whole expressway; that the lower concrete layer was 27 feet wide and six inches thick, and the upper concrete layer, 25 feet wide and 12 inches thick; that it could stand 80 tons of loads; that he gave top priority to quality control in producing and laying concrete.

He said that construction of Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section commenced in April 2009 and it was completed ahead of schedule as they carried out all tasks as planned. Senior Engineer U Zaw Tun said that they started to lay concrete on Kukwe-Pyinsi-Zagain section in July 2009, and used only quality chipping and cement; that they had to build 18 concrete mixers in order to use fresh concrete only in building the section; that they used only quality concrete in fixed periods.

The section has five underpasses, four of which are road-cum bridges and one of which, overpass, along with 26 large and small bridges, and 98 box culverts. Underpasses are for slow moving vehicles only.

Underpass No (2) of that section lies on Mysitha-Yaywun-Myintyan Road, and it is 11 miles from Myintyan and 36 miles and four furlongs from Yangon and Mandalay through the underpass, as well as to Bagan and NyaungU from Mandalay through the expressway.

(To be continued)

Translation: MS
Eleven return to legal fold

NAV PO TAW 27 Dec—The State Peace and Development Council adheres to Our Three Main National Causes in its bid to achieve national reconciliation and equitable development of all parts of the nation. As a result, armed groups underground came to understand that the government shows benevolent attitude and that they are going to the wrong way. And they are exchanging arms for peace.

In Southern Command region two, 11 members led by Saw Kyaw Kyaw Htet from KNU/KNLA exchanged arms for peace, bringing together with them two carbines, one 9mm pistol, a long barrel rifle, a short barrel rifle, a hand grenade, three magazines, 29 rounds of ammunition, and three walkies talkies. Officials concerned gave them a warm welcome and provided assistance and aid. There are more armed group members who want to exchange arms for peace.

NetInfo to open CCNA course in Jan 2011

YANGON 27 Dec—NetInfo Training Centre will open new three-month CCNA course starting on 1 January. The course is fit for those who incline to take networking career and prefer overseas jobs.

For more information, one may contact NetInfo at Campus No (4), Room No (2), Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township, Yangon (Ph: 507045 and 652291).—MNA

Fires in a decade...

(from page 16)

negligence, 206 stove fires, 86 electric shock fires, 37 arsons, 13 forest fires, five accidental fires. In the fires, 3111 houses, 34 factories and 26 warehouses were damaged. Eighteen were dead and 99 wounded. The damaged were K 368,722,816. In 2001, 868 times of fires broke out. They were 437 times of negligence, 225 stove fire, 137 electric shock fire, 43 arson, 13 forest fires, six accidental fires and one arson by insurgent group. In the fires, 5032 houses and buildings, 14 factories and 23 warehouses were destroyed. The total damages amounted to K 4,830,391,573.

In 2002, 843 times of fires broke out. They were 462 times of negligence, 184 stove fire, 110 electric shock fires, 38 forest fires, 28 arsons and five accidental fires, one arson by insurgent group and five under investigation. A total of 5,311 houses and buildings, 26 factories and 27 warehouses were damaged and thirty two people died in the fires. The total amount of damages was equal to K 523,099,154. The most outbreaks of fires in this year were due to the negligence.

The outbreak of fires in 2003 was 760 times—419 negligence, 170 stove fires, 91 electric shock fires, 37 arson, 18 forest fires, 14 accidental and one arson by insurgent group. Altogether 3,692 houses and buildings, 40 factories and 39 warehouses were destroyed and 30 people died in the fires. The total amount of damages was K 1,045,319,258.

In 2004, 956 fires broke out. This was the year the fires occurred most in a decade. These cause 486 negligence, 205 stove fires, 152 electric shock fires, 53 forest fires, 36 arsons, one arson by insurgent group and five under investigation. A total of 5,311 houses and buildings, 26 factories and 27 warehouses were damaged and thirty two people died in the fires. The total amount of damages was equal to K 200,543,067.

In 2005, 835 fires broke out. The reasons of the outbreaks were due to 462 negligence, 194 stove fires, 103 electric shock fires, 38 arsons, 31 forest fires, three accidental fires, one arson by insurgent group. A total of 4,868 houses and buildings, 22 factories and 40 warehouses were ruined and 20 people died in the fires. The total amount of damages was K 969,433,941.

In 2006, 833 times—508 negligence, 171 stove fires, 106 electric shock fires, 25 forest fires and three accidental fires. Altogether 2,341 houses and buildings, 23 factories and 13 warehouses were destroyed and 39 people died in the fires. The total amount of damages was K 24,168,081,552.

In 2007, 944 fires broke out. The reasons of the outbreaks were due to 520 negligence, 236 stove fires, 108 electric shock fires, 32 forest fires, 29 arsons, 31, ten accidental fires. Altogether 3,974 houses and buildings, 22 factories and 12 warehouses were ruined and 33 people died in the fires. The total amount of damages was K 24,168,081,552.

In 2008, 714 fires broke out. The causes were due to 308 negligence, 191 stove fires, 146 electric shock fires, 34 arsons, 22 forest fires, 11 accidental fires and two fires by lighting. A total of 2,282 houses and buildings, four factories and 13 warehouses were damaged and 33 people lost their lives in the fires. The total amount of damages was K 9,407,558,170.

Up to November 2010, the outbreaks of fires were 856 times—422 negligence, 222 stove fires, 101 electric shock fires, 33 arsons, 64 forest fires, 13 accidental fires and one fire by thunder. A total of 5,152 houses and buildings, four factories and eight warehouses were damaged and 133 people dead in the fires. The total amount of damages was K 24,168,081,552.

In Myanmar, the most outbreaks of fires in a decade were due to the negligence of people. In addition, stove fires and electric shock fires included in these incidents. Only when each and every one use fires with a sense of cautions, will we avoid the danger of fires.

Translation: MT

Myanmar Alin:

26-12-2010

Australian eye specialists to provide free medical treatment at Sangha Hospital in Kyaukpaung

YANGON, 27 Dec—An ophthalmologists team from Australia will provide free medical treatment to eye patients at Mt. Popa Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Kyaukpaung Town-

Father Land to partake in Housing, Living and Furniture Fair

YANGON, 27 Dec—Father Land Construction & Decoration Co., Ltd will take part in Housing, Living and Furniture Fair to be held in Tarmadaw Convention Hall from 1 to 4 December. The company will sell condominiums, buildings, home decoration, wall paper and plaster cornices at special prices.

During the fair, customers may enjoy 5 to 20 percent discount. The customers who place orders for K 10 million and above and those who buy one flat will get a phone worth K 500,000 as a gift. The company is selling high-rise and low-rise buildings, wall paper, and parquet and building high-rise and separate houses through PAE system and providing services for decoration and renovation.

For more information, contact Father Land Construction & Decoration Co., Ltd., No.219/221, Bo Myat Tun Street, Botataung Township, Yangon and dial 09-5131071, 204055 and 204069.—MNA
NYC needs blood donations

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—Despite a snowstorm that may leave more than a foot of snow in New York City, the New York Blood Centre says it still needs 2,000 people a day to give blood.

The Sunday/Monday storm will cause blood donation cancellations and the blood donation losses for Sunday and Monday may amount to more than 1,000 units.

During the winter months, blood donations drop due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. In addition, some 25 percent of regional blood collection comes from high schools and colleges, most of which are closed for recess this week.

New York Blood Centre, which serves more than 20 million people in New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, New Jersey, and parts of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, is calling on the community to please donate blood and platelets, as the tri-state area braces for a winter snowstorm.—Internet

NY police ask for help in tracking stolen paintings

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—Police in New York have asked for public assistance in tracking a half a dozen paintings by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein that were stolen from an apartment in November.

A police statement made public Friday said the burglary took place between 24 to 28 November when an unknown suspect broke through a hallway wall into the apartment and removed artwork, watches and other jewelry.

The painting include “Superman,” “The Truck” and “Camouflage” by Andy Warhol as well as Lichtenstein’s “Moonscapes” and “Thinking Nude.” “Live Cat,” a painting by British artist Carl Fudge, was also among the stolen objects.

Police have not revealed the name of the collection’s owner, but local media reports said it belonged to New York art collector Robert Romanoff.

The value of the stolen objects is estimated to be around 750,000 dollars.—Internet

12 killed, dozens injured in traffic accident in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 Dec—At least 12 people were killed and dozens of others injured in two fog-related traffic accidents on Monday morning in northern Pakistan, according to local media reports.

The first accident occurred at about 9:00 am on a motorway from Peshawar to Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, where 10 to 14 vehicles collided with each other due to dense fog at an interchange near Charsadda, a town near Peshawar, killing at least 12 people and injuring a dozen of others, said a local Urdu TV channel ARY. But other local media reported only three were killed in the accident.

The motorway has been closed following the accident.

Some 25 people were injured in a second accident on a highway near Mardan, a city northeast of Peshawar, when 15 vehicles were damaged due to pile-up triggered by dense fog.

Biologists head to bunkers to fight bat disease

CONCORD, 27 Dec—Biologist Susi von Oettingen, cats bats found last winter in the New Hampshire bunker, an endangered species biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. But two of the three species discovered there — the Northern Long-eared Bat and the Little Brown Bat — have been dying off from the disease.

Starting as early as next month, von Oettingen will be part of a group of state and federal biologists monitoring that bunker and a few others in the state. They’ll study temperature and humidity levels and put up footholds for the bats, hoping to attract more and figure out if there’s a way to control white-nose syndrome, first discovered near Albany, NY, in 2006.—Internet

Two killed in train-car collision in France

PARIS, 27 Dec—Two people were killed after a regional express train collided with a car on Saturday night in the northern province of Eure, local media reported.

The train bound for Paris from northwestern city of Caen collided with the car on a level crossing. The car was pushed about 1.5 km away and two people in the car were killed on the spot.

The two victims have not been identified and the cause of the accidents remained unknown as of Saturday night. No injuries were reported among the 570 passengers on board, who have continued their Paris trip by transferring to other trains, said the state-owned French National Railway Company.

Statistics show that there are a total of 14,000 level crossings in France. In 2009, 36 people were killed in 128 accidents of train-car collisions in France. Car drivers are held responsible for most of the accidents. On Monday, three people were killed after a train collided with a car in the northern French Province of Recoupperies.—Xinhua
China's top model stars on global fashion stage

BEIJING, 27 Dec — December’s American Vogue features eight of the highest-profile Asian models from China, Japan and South Korea who are, according to the magazine, “redefining traditional concepts of beauty.” Australian models have become more prominent in the fashion industry now-a-days, due to the Asian market’s rising significance to luxury brands.

Among the eight, 22-year-old Chinese model Liu Wen standing 179 centimetres is undoubtedly the brightest star. She is ranked No 10 on the world’s Top 50 Models list by models.com, the highest ranking ever for an Asian model. On Wednesday, she appeared on American Vogue’s “Impact List of 2010” alongside Lady Gaga and Alexander McQueen. The list selected the top 10 people, faces and events that made an impact on fashion this year.

Liu was the first and only “angel” of Asian descent to walk the runway in Victoria’s Secret’s winged outfits, both in 2009 and last month in New York.

INTERNET

Flooding fears in Queensland

WELLINGTON, 27 Dec — A faltering tropical cyclone Tasha crossed the far north Queensland coast between Cairns and Innisfail on Christmas morning. The Bureau of Meteorology said the fading category one cyclone made land about 5.30am south of Cairns. Although there had been no reports of major damage and Tasha has been downgraded to a tropical low, flooding is the major worry due to widespread rain.

Police are warning Inisfail residents to stay indoors because of fallen power lines and uprooted trees blocking roads. A home at Mission Beach lost its roof and Tasha has been downgraded to a tropical low, flooding is the major worry due to widespread rain.

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JAL says bamboo wheelchairs to ease security checks

Japan Airlines (JAL) passenger jets jam up the tarmac at Tokyo International Airport on 30 November, 2010.

Japan Airlines (JAL) has come up with a novel way to help wheelchair users avoid setting off metal detectors at airport security gates — by offering them bamboo wheelchairs instead.

"Passengers using steel wheelchairs have had to put up with a full body check every time they fly because the metal frame of a wheelchair sets off the security alarm," JAL said in a statement.

"But with the bamboo-made wheelchair, physically challenged flyers can now go to the gate swiftly as they remain seated while they go through security."

JAL will start offering the new wheelchair model, which it likens to "a piece of sophisticated furniture," next year — first at Japan’s Oita airport on Kyushu island and then at Tokyo’s Haneda airport.

The bamboo model, completely hand-made and with rubber wheels, costs about 600,000 yen (about 7,200 dollars) each and is made at a pace of one a month by a specialised workshop, a JAL official said.

Mini pet pigs live with dogs, cats

Can you believe this? Mini pet pigs live with dogs and cats. Jane Croft breeds full time the irresistibly cute teacup-sized pigs weighing just 90 ounce (2.56kg) and standing at around 14 inch (35.5 cm) tall.

Moreover, the pigs are exceedingly clean and enjoy the company of people.

Armenian police target teenage rock cult

YEREVAN, 27 Dec—When police officers arrived at 13-year-old Masha’s home, searched her room and inspected her computer, it was not because they suspected her of any crime. Her offence was simply to be a devoted follower of the angst-ridden punk-rock subculture known as ‘emo’.

It was offensive and frightening at the same time,” said Masha, a schoolgirl in the Armenian Capital, clearly upset by the experience.

Police in Yerevan have been conducting a campaign against the capital’s small but controversial emo community since the recent suicides of two teenagers who were rumoured to have been emo fans.

Exhibit opens on Curious George’s wartime escape

WATERVILLE VALLEY, 27 Dec—Long before he pedalled himself into all sorts of mischief in “Curious George Rides a Bike,” the famous monkey took a much more harrowing ride when his creators escaped the Nazi invasion of France.

The manuscript that would later launch their beloved series of children’s books was among the few belongings that Margret and HA. Rey took with them when they fled Paris in June 1940, just days before German troops marched into the city.

Both German Jews, the husband-and-wife team cobbled together two bikes out of spare parts and pedalled south to Orleans. Trains carried them through Spain and Portugal, where they boarded a ship to the United States.

Husband delivers baby on highway shoulder

An Ohio woman gave birth on the shoulder of a highway with her husband serving as obstetrician.

“Whatever I do for the rest of my life, nothing will top this,” Jason Davis of Fairfield told The Cincinnati Enquirer Friday. “It’s wild.”

Janice Davis gave birth to the couple’s third child and first daughter Thursday evening on Interstate 75.

Rancher gets prized dog back for $10,000

A Texas rancher is still missing his pickup and trailer, but considers it well worth paying a $10,000 reward to have his dog back.

Chris Cooley’s truck disappeared from a parking lot Tuesday, along with six cattle gates, financial papers and his golden retriever, Jim Bowie, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

When Nathan Ramos of San Antonio called him on Christmas Eve and said he’d found Jim Bowie while walking his own dog, Cooley handed over the $10,000 he had posted for a reward.

Ramos had seen Cooley’s offer on television, but he was shocked when he actually wrote him the check, said Cooley, of Cotulla, Texas.

Ramos did not return messages, but Cooley said he told him the $10,000 would go to relieve debts for his late father’s liver transplant, the newspaper reported.

Olympic filmmaker Bud Greenspan dies at 84 in NYC

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—Oh, to catch Bud Greenspan’s eye and then turn up in one of his Olympic documentaries.

For many athletes, from the famous to the obscure, the honour ranked just behind winning a medal.

The filmmaker, who riveted tales soared as wonder and he never wavered in the stories he wanted to tell, nor how he told them,” she said through a family friend.

“No schmaltzy music, no fog machines, none of that.

Teena Marie, known as ‘Ivory Queen of Soul,’ dies

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec—Teena Marie, who made history as Motown’s first white act but developed a lasting legacy with her silky soul pipes and with hits like “Lovergirl,” “Square Biz,” and “Fire and Desire” with mentor Rick James, has died. She was 54.

The confirmation came from a publicist, Jasmine Vega, who worked with Teena Marie on her last album. Her manager, Mike Gardner, also confirmed her death to CNN.

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Ensemble takes part in a tractor race in Qiongzhong, south China’s Hainan Province, on 26 Dec, 2010. The first Hainan Tractor Skills Competition kicked off on Sunday, a total of 34 farmers of Hainan took part in the competition.

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Japan’s Kameda defends WBA flyweight title

SAITAMA, 27 Dec—Japan’s Daiki Kameda defended his World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight title on points against Romania’s Silvio Olteanu on Sunday. In a split decision three judges scored it 116-112, 115-113 for Kameda, while the other counted it 110-118 for the challenger. It was the 21-year-old Kameda’s second defence of the title he won from Denkaosen Kaowichit of Thailand in February, stretching his record to 19 wins, including four KOs, against two defeats. The 32-year-old Olteanu, ranked 14th in the WBA, has now 11 wins, including five KOs, against four defeats. Kameda is the second of three boxers, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy inclinations, all of whom have bad-boy incren weeks at West Ham struggled to climb off the bottom of the Premier League, but the former Chelsea manager earned a stay of execution thanks to Cole’s heroics. The England striker, recalled as one of Grant’s five changes for the crunch clash, cancelled out an early goal from Fulham defender Aaron Hughes and then struck again with the decisive third goal after Frederic Piquionne put the Hammer in front.

Bolton beat West Brom, boost unlikely Euro challenge

BOLTON, 27 Dec—Bolton’s unlikely challenge for a place in Europe remains on course after goals from Matt Taylor and Johan Elmander secured a 2-0 win over West Bromwich Albion on Sunday. Owen Coyle’s side moved into fifth place in the Premier League thanks to a combination of clinical finishing by Taylor and Elmander and some wayward shooting from Albion at the Reebok Stadium. Bolton can be passed by Tottenham if the north London club win at Aston Villa later on Sunday but regardless of that result, Wanderers will be firmly in the running for a European League spot if they maintain this form. They have now won four of their last seven league matches after riding their luck against the Baggies. Albion’s top scorer Peter Odemwingie was fit to start after recovering from a calf injury, while midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu returned from suspension. Albion midfielder Graham Dorrans had an early sight of goal when he fired straight at Jussi Jaaskelainen.

Stoke City’s German defender Robert Huth (R) scored the second goal of the English Premier League.—INTERNET

Rodallega, Cleverley give Wigan win at Wolves

BIRMINGHAM, 27 Dec—First-half goals by Colombian international Hugo Rodallega and on-loan midfielder Tom Cleverley saw Wigan to a 2-1 victory over fellow English Premier League strugglers Wolves on Sunday and a priceless three away points. Although Steven Fletcher grabbed a late consolation goal for the hosts it was not enough to dampen the celebrations of Roberto Martinez’ players who were registering only their third away win of the year and just their third away points. In a 3-1 victory away to Newcastle United. Sunday’s success at St James’ Park saw City go second in the Premier League, two points behind leaders and local rivals Manchester United. Although controversial striker Carlos Tevez scored twice it was the performance of England international Milner, left Villa under a cloud last season, that caught Mancini’s eye. “He was fantastic. All our players did well, but he stood out.”

Sunderland’s Dutch midfielder Boudewijn Zenden (R) goes head to head with Manchester United’s French defender Patrice Evra (L) during the match at Old Trafford in Manchester, north-west England on 26 Dec, 2010. United defeated Sunderland 2-0.—INTERNET

Man City’s Milner set to survive

NEWCASTLE, 27 Dec—James Milner is likely to keep his place when Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini makes changes for Tuesday’s home match against Aston Villa after starring in a 3-1 victory away to Newcastle United. Sunday’s success at St James’ Park saw City go second in the Premier League, two points behind leaders and local rivals Manchester United. Although controversial striker Carlos Tevez scored twice it was the performance of England international Milner, left Villa under a cloud last season, that caught Mancini’s eye. “He was fantastic. All our players did well, but he stood out.”

Bolton Wanderers’ Swedish striker Johan Elmander (R) scores the second goal of the English Premier League.—INTERNET

Stoke City’s German defender Robert Huth, pictured in February 2010. Stoke City moved up into eighth in the Premier League after a 2-0 victory away to Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park here on Sunday.—INTERNET

Sunderland defender Boudewijn Zenden (R) goes head to head with Manchester United’s French defender Patrice Evra (L) during the match at Old Trafford in Manchester, north-west England on 26 Dec, 2010. United defeated Sunderland 2-0.—INTERNET

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Mourinho rules out national team duty

LISBON, 27 Dec—Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho on Sunday ruled out the prospect of becoming a national team manager after being refused permission to take temporary charge of his native Portugal in the autumn.

Mourinho had been approached to replace Carlos Queiroz, but Real blocked the approach and Paulo Bento eventually took full-time charge of the national side. It was a development which the former Inter Milan and Chelsea boss described as his “greatest frustration of 2010”.

“I believe that I will never coach a national team because it’s a question of mentality, of personality,” Mourinho told Portuguese media.

“I am a coach who works every day, is ready to play three times a week if necessary. But at that moment, I was motivated to do it.”—INTERNET

Man United’s Fergie shrugs off Rooney goal drought

MANCHESTER, 27 Dec—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson insists he’s unconcerned about Wayne Rooney’s goal drought, believing the England striker is close to once again becoming the country’s deadliest striker.

Rooney has not scored for United in open play since netting against Bayern Munich in March, but Ferguson was delighted with the England forward’s overall contribution in Sunday’s 2-0 win over Sunderland at Old Trafford. "Wayne had a couple of tries. He was very unlucky with the chip and there were a couple of shots saved by the goalkeeper," Ferguson said. "He is getting there. The important thing is he is playing well. That is refreshing."

Meanwhile, Ferguson hopes to welcome back Darren Fletcher and Nani at Birmingham on Tuesday after his team maintained pole position in the Premier League with Sunday’s three points.

Carlton Cole double sinks West Ham

LONDON, 27 Dec—Carlton Cole scored his first ever Premier League double as West Ham eased the pressure on boss Avram Grant with a crucial 3-1 win at Fulham on Sunday. Grant has been edging closer to the sack in recent weeks at West Ham struggled to climb off the bottom of the Premier League, but the former Chelsea manager earned a stay of execution thanks to Cole’s heroics. The England striker, recalled as one of Grant’s five changes for the crunch clash, cancelled out an early goal from Fulham defender Aaron Hughes and then struck again with the decisive third goal after Frederic Piquionne put the Hammer in front.
Ma Lin voted Player of the Year by Table Tennis World

BEIJING, 27 Dec—Chinese table tennis star Ma Lin was voted as the World Table Tennis Player of the Year by Table Tennis World Magazine on Monday.

Ma, whose form dropped after he won two gold medals at the 2008 Olympic Games, snatched two games in China’s 3-1 final victory over South Korea in the world championships in Moscow.

Ma has competed in the five straight world championship finals with a perfect record.

The 30-year-old Ma, agonizing over his marital problems and the drop of form in the past two years, booked the Chinese team’s last ticket to the Moscow worlds after a string of intra-squad playoffs.

The Singaporean women’s team, which stunned China in the world championship final under the guidance of former Beijing coach Zhou Shusen, was voted as the Breakthrough Team of the Year by Table Tennis World Magazine.

Ma Lin of China returns the ball to Soumyajit Ghosh of India during the men’s singles first round match at the 2010 China Open table tennis tournament in Suzhou, a city of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 19 Aug, 2010.—XINHUA

Table Tennis Magazine, whose editor-in-chief is former International Table Tennis Federation president Xu Yinsheng, is run by the Chinese Table Tennis Association.—XINHUA

WEATHER
Monday, 27th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr. M.S.T.
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Shan States, Yangon and Yangon Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kayin, Northern Shan and Rakhine States and Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, and (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Kayah States. Upper Sagaing Region and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Pmyin-u (4°C), Heho (2°C), Haka (1°C), Namhsan and Loikaw (0°C) each.

Nay Pyi Taw
Maximum temperature on 26-12-2010 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 27-12-2010 was 53°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-12-2010 was (65%).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)
Maximum temperature on 26-12-2010 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 27-12-2010 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-12-2010 was (59%).

Total sunshine hours on 26-12-2010 was (10.0) hours.
Rainfall on 26-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mandalay, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mandalay, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from West at (09:30) hours MST on 27-12-2010.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until the 28th December 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Tainnhtay Regions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon Region and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the Whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 28-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-12-2010: Generally fair weather.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Fires in a decade
The dry season has now set in. Authority concerned often reminds the public about fire preventive measures. They are also carrying out dissemination of knowledge as well as inspections of whether the public follow precautions against fires or not. To reduce the risk of fire outbreaks, people should follow the precautions of Fire Services Department.

Night temperature outlook
NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—According to the observation at (06:30) hrs M.S.T today, (-3° C) to (-4° C) below December mean minimum temperatures were observed at Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and (-5° C) to (-6° C) below December mean minimum temperatures in Chin and Kayah States, Upper Sagaing Region with some record setting stations at the Southern Shan State.

It is expected that the night temperature will remain below December mean minimum temperature for that areas within next three days commencing noon today, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (27-12-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinlaung</td>
<td>(-4° C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heho</td>
<td>(-2° C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>(-1° C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Namhsan and Loilem</td>
<td>(0° C) each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lashio and Mogok</td>
<td>(3° C) each</td>
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Among the most fire outbreaks in Myanmar in a decade was the negligence of the people. The fire outbreaks across the country in the year 2000 were 876 times — 525 times of (See page 10)