Established 1914

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein on his return from Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who arrived back here after paying a goodwill visit to Cambodia at the invitation of Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 3 pm today.

Together with the Senior General were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiba Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Aung Hwe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, senior military officers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, the Charge d’Affaires ai of the Cambodian Embassy and officials. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin, departmental heads and officials also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Timetable for 2008 Matriculation Examination announced

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — The Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education issued an announcement today that the Matriculation Examination for 2008 will be held in March. Timetable of the examination is as follows:

Students are to sit the examination from 9 am to 12 noon daily for Myanmar on 10 March 2008 (Monday), for English on 11 March (Tuesday), for Mathematics on 12 March (Wednesday), for Chemistry on 13 March (Thursday), for Physics on 14 March (Friday), for Biology/History on 15 March (Saturday), for Geography on 17 March (Monday), for Economics on 18 March (Tuesday) and for Optional Myanmar on 19 March (Wednesday).

MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Realization of 87th Anniversary National Day objectives

The National Day emerged when Myanmar was under the rule of the colonialists who waged three aggressive wars against the country. All Myanmar nationals were oppressed politically, economically and socially. At that time patriotism of all national races was awake.

The colonialists established the Yangon University with the aim of producing educated persons who would assist their administrative machinery.

In 1906 Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA), a national political force waging anti-colonialist movement, came into existence. In 1920, General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA) was formed and it launched anti-colonialist and independence struggle.

The colonialists enacted the Rangoon University Act in 1920 designed to contribute towards the colonial administrative system. The Act restricted the rights of national youths to pursue higher education. That was why the university students with strong nationalist spirit launched a movement demanding a new university education system while protesting university students with strong nationalist spirit. That was why the university students with strong nationalist spirit launched a movement demanding a new university education system while protesting against colonial education system that would prolong the alien rule in the country. It was the 10th Waning day of Tazaungmon, 1282 ME that rekindled nationalistic spirit and patriotism. Later, the day was designated as the National Day.

Nowadays, the government has laid down long-term and short-term plans for national education promotion programme and has been implementing them. Opportunities to learn basic education are available even in rural areas as basic education schools have been opened in the entire nation. Youths can pursue higher education in states and divisions and special development zones.

All the national people are to make continued and concerted efforts for realization of national objectives and serving the national interests in accord with the 87th Anniversary National Day objectives.

3rd Plenary Meeting of 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concludes

YANGON, 2 Dec — The 3rd Plenary Meeting of the 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued for the second and final day at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Chairman of the SSMNC Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Raththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammojotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary Insein Ywama Pariyatti Sasana University on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Later, the meeting concluded with three-time recitation of Jayanto Bodhiyamule Gatha. — MNA

Banking services and financial affairs inspected in Mandalay Div

Manager and officials briefed the minister on opening accounts. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on banking services to help developing regional economy.

Upon arrival at Foreign Investment and Commercial Bank in Mandalay, the Assistant General Manager and officials briefed the minister and party on banking services and tasks for opening accounts.

The minister attended a meeting with officials at division, district and township levels held at the meeting hall of Internal Revenue Department in Mandalay Division.

Division level officials from Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Economic Bank, Customs Department, Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank, Pensions Department, Myanmar Insurance, Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise briefed the minister on accomplishments of the tasks in a year and future tasks. — MNA
**DPRK accuses US, S Korea of aerial spying**

Pyongyang, 2 Dec — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Friday accused the United States and South Korea of committing more than 180 cases of aerial espionage against it in November, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The DPRK said more than 26 cases of aerial espionage were conducted by American U-2 spy planes.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**China asks German official to “stop blemishing its image”**

Beijing, 1 Dec — China on Thursday asked a German official who claimed China is one of the main countries conducting spying activities in Germany to “stop blemishing its image”.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao made the remarks on Thursday afternoon at a regular Press conference, saying China was strongly dissatisfied with certain German official’s “irresponsible criticism.”

Liu said China had already lodged serious representations to Germany and demanded certain officials to “stop bad practices that blemished China’s image over and over again, stop undermining China-Germany relations and hurting the emotions of the two peoples”. Liu said since the beginning of this year, certain German officials had made up “groundless accusations” against the Chinese Government and the Chinese in Germany, adding that it is not for the first or the second time that German officials have raised such groundless accusations.

**Chavez threatens to cut US oil supply over vote**

Caracas, 1 Dec — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez threatened on Friday to halt the OPEC nation’s oil sales to the United States, seeking to fire up his leftist supporters for a weekend referendum on expanding his powers.

Chavez has tried to rally his followers in the last days of the campaign with fiery rhetoric against opponents at home and abroad, and he warned at a huge rally on Friday that he would retaliate if the US Government interferes in the referendum. “There will not be a single drop of oil for the United States,” Chavez bellowed to hundreds of thousands of cheering supporters in downtown Caracas. “And if they want to come and take our oil they will face 100 years of war in Venezuela.”—MNA/Reuters

**Iran tells UNSC stay out of nuclear dispute**

United Nations, 1 Dec — Iran urged the UN Security Council on Friday not to interfere in the international dispute over its nuclear programme and to end its “illegal consideration” of the issue.

**Britain faces “serious threat of dirty bomb attack”**

London, 1 Dec — Britain faces a serious threat of a “dirty bomb” terror attack, warned Home Secretary Jacqui Smith Friday. The minister told Sky News that intelligence analysts believed the number of plots was likely to grow in the months ahead.

“The regular threat assessments I receive make sobering reading,” she said, adding that over the last year or so the threat has been growing.

Eliza Manningham-Buller, former head of MI5, the country’s secret intelligence service, had estimated there were 1,600 to 2,000 individuals involved in terrorist plots in Britain.

On the possibility of a radiological or chemical attack, the Home Secretary said, “If you look at the nature of the sort of attacks that have either been carried out or have been foiled, we are talking about attacks on crowded public places.”

“We are talking about potential use of dirty bombs and other things and it is something that we need to take seriously,” she said.—MNA/Xinhua

**Completed Audi TT sports cars wait for delivery on the yard of the Audi Hungary plant in Gyor (120 km/75 miles west of Budapest), Hungary, on 30 Nov, 2007.** —INTERNET

**An United Airlines jet is tended to by aviation officials after it slid off the taxiway at the Des Moines International Airport in Des Moines, Iowa, on 1 Dec, 2007.** —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters
Son of Iraqi Sunni leader among 36 held in raid

BAGHDAD, 1 Dec — Iraqi security forces arrested 29 people including the son of a leading Sunni Arab politician on Friday after two cars rigged with explosives were found near the politician’s office, a Baghdad security spokesman said.

Seven others were arrested on Thursday evening after the explosives were discovered near the office of Adnan al-Dulaimi. Iraqi security forces detonated the bombs and no one was hurt. Dulaimi has denied any connection with the bombs and said they were found outside his office compound, not within it.

“The total number of detainees is 36, including Mekki, the son of Adnan al-Dulaimi,” Brigadier General Qassim al-Mousawi told Reuters.

“We have also found quantities of weapons and uniforms of the Army and police at the home of Dr al-Dulaimi,” he said. “Dulaimi’s bodyguards are suspected of having links to car bombs and killings. There are confessions against them.”

Dulaimi is the head of the main Sunni Arab bloc in Parliament, which pulled its members out of the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in August.

Son of Iraqi Sunni leader among 36 held in raid

Guo Jinlong appointed acting mayor of Beijing

BEIJING, 1 Dec — Guo Jinlong was appointed vice and acting mayor of Beijing by the standing committee of the municipal people’s Congress on Friday.

Wang Qishan will no longer serve as Beijing mayor and deputy secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), according to a CPC Central Committee decision.

Guo Jinlong, former party chief of Anhui Province, will assume Wang’s position on the municipal Party committee. He was also nominated as a candidate for mayor on Thursday.

Guo will serve as vice mayor and acting mayor before the full mayoralty is decided by voting at the municipal people’s Congress meeting, to be held early next year.

Guo Jinlong appointed acting mayor of Beijing

Thai government ends subsidy for LPG

BANGKOK, 1 Dec — Thailand’s Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) has allowed cooking gas prices to float which takes effect from Saturday, resulting in wholesale gas prices rising by 1.20 baht (about 33 baht to one US dollar) per kilogram.

EPPO director Veerapol Chirapr antidtukul was quoted by Thai News Agency as saying the office had announced the floatation of the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) price by 1.20 baht per kilogram. So, it is expected the retail prices would edge up by the same rate in the next several days.

Chinese Lin says Sino-US ties disturbed by “erroneous actions” of US

BEIJING, 1 Dec — The Sino-US relations were disturbed and impaired by the erroneous actions taken by the United States recently despite the general smooth development, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Thursday.

China and the United States have maintained smooth communication on a series of major bilateral and international issues, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a routine news briefing.

However, bilateral ties were disturbed and impaired by the erroneous actions of the US side recently, for example, the meeting between US leader and Dalai Lama, and his award of the US Congressional Gold Medal, Liu said. China has clearly stated its stance on the issue, Liu added.

On the Taiwan issue, Liu said China appreciated US opposition to the push by the Taiwan authorities for a referendum on UN membership.

“But at the same time, we show great concern over the US arms sales to Taiwan,” he said.

“We demand the US side fulfill its commitments in the three Joint Communiques between China and the United States on the Taiwan issue, not send wrong signals to Taiwan, and jointly maintain peace and stability across the Straits,” Liu added.
Vietnam, Laos to foster investment cooperation

HANOI, 1 Dec — Vietnam and Laos have agreed to beef up their investment cooperation in the future, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Thursday.

During a meeting between Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and visiting Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith on Wednesday, they agreed that relevant ministries should meet regularly to smooth investment flow between the two countries, according to the newspaper.

Thongloun Sisoulith requested the Vietnamese Government to create favourable conditions for the state-owned Vietnam Oil and Gas Group to successfully implement its hydropower project in Laos’ Luang Prabang Province, with an investment of 1.7 billion US dollars. Vietnam and Laos have targeted to post two-way trade of one billion dollars in 2010, and up from 240 million dollars in 2006, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Singapore Airlines to increase fuel surcharge

SINGAPORE, 1 Dec — Singapore Airlines (SIA) will increase its fuel surcharge for tickets next week by up to 19 US dollars as a result of higher jet oil prices, the SIA said in a statement Thursday.

After a hike last month, the new levels will apply to all the SIA and its regional wing, SilkAir on or after 4 December.

EU trade chief says India deal good for world economy

NEW DELHI, 1 Dec — A free trade pact between India and the European Union would provide a big boost to both economies and help shore up global demand if the world economy begins to cool, the EU’s trade chief said.

Reinforcing strong growth in India, the world’s fastest-growing major economy after China, was now an integral part of maintaining global economic demand, Peter Mandelson told businessmen at an India-EU business summit on Thursday.

UK consumer morale at lowest since March 2003

LONDON, 2 Dec — British consumer morale fell for a fifth month running in November to its lowest level since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003, as people’s optimism over the economic outlook soured, a survey showed on Friday.

Research group GfK NOP’s consumer confidence barometer fell to -10 in November from -8 the previous month. Analysts had forecast a more modest deterioration to -9.

The decline suggests tougher credit conditions and higher living costs are taking their toll.

Shoppers were more reluctant to make major purchases than at any time since the end of 1995, something that may worry retailers in the run-up to the crucial Christmas trading period.

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The decline suggests tougher credit conditions and higher living costs are taking their toll.

Shoppers were more reluctant to make major purchases than at any time since the end of 1995, something that may worry retailers in the run-up to the crucial Christmas trading period.
Now, the entire national people are working hard in collaboration under the leadership of the Tatmadaw government to realize the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

The government, the people and the Tatmadaw are now joining hands in carrying out nation-building tasks for equitable development in the political, economic and social sectors in the interests of the nation.

The national education goal is to promote the education standard of the entire people. To achieve the goal, it is required to nurture younger generations, who will shoulder national development tasks, through an international level education system.

Only with sovereignty and independence, will it be possible to prescribe and implement national education system. So, the historical background of the national education came into being together with independence struggles such as anti-colonialist movements and national liberation movements.

On 5 December 1920, the students of Yangon University opposed and denounced Yangon University Act.

According to Yangon University Act that came into force in 1920, Yangon University became a separate educational institution. Nonetheless, many provisions in the Act were designed to put restrictions and pressures on the students. So, the youth of Myanmar national races did not have access to the university.

Yangon University Act (1920) benefited only children of the rich people and restricted the access of the majority of the youth to tertiary education. And the administrative system of the university oppressed the students. Moreover, it was particularly designed to limit the number of degree holders. Therefore, the Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YAMBA) objected to the bill of the Act, and so did the newspapers and journals at the time. Furthermore, the people and members of the Sangha strongly opposed the bill through mass rallies. Nevertheless, the British government showing total disregard for the nationwide objection to the bill promulgated the Act.

Together with the students of Yangon University, the entire mass of the students all over the country opposed the Act. That meant that Myanmar people, who were under various forms of oppression of the colonialism of the British government, managed to open the front page of the national movement to rise against the colonialist government.

The year 1920 students uprising or the national education movement gave birth to the national movement to rise against the colonialists. And there emerged national schools in various parts of the nation. Due to the exhortation of the General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA), the Buddhist schools and government-aided schools that taught the subjects in the languages of national races were changed into national schools.

The British government’s schools particularly designed the subjects to make the students become loyal to the British Emperor and become servants who would serve the interests of the colonialist government. In the meantime, the national schools prescribed the subjects intended to break up the British Emperor and help establish an independent nation. The British government’s schools were designed to make the students think highly of English and British culture. At the same time, national schools were designed to help the students preserve Myanmar and national culture. They also prescribed English subject but it was just to enhance the students’ global knowledge.

The national education policy the government is implementing now is the sequel of the historical background of the national education that emerged in tandem with Myanmar’s anti-colonialist movement, national liberation movements and independence struggles.

The government laid down the objectives of the national education policy to realize the national education system that is in conformity with the nation’s culture, customs, traditions, way of life, and economic system and that contributes towards nation-building tasks. They are:

1. To enable every citizen to have access to basic education,
2. To uplift morality,
3. To upgrade the subjects including science and technology necessary for building a new nation,
4. To produce intelligentsia who are faithful to the motherland and will take part in the building of a new nation, skilled workers, and skilled technicians,
5. To nurture the youth to become well-rounded individuals,
6. To admit those who are bright enough to join university and industrious to pursue tertiary education,
7. To enable employees to join universities and attend post-graduate courses while in service.

In addition, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe laid down five guidelines for improving the education sector as follows:

1. To improve competence of the teachers,
2. To upgrade curricula and school texts to international level,
3. To effectively use pedagogical aids,
4. To enforce law, rules and regulations,
5. To rekindle patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

In compliance with the guidelines, the government opened basic education schools extensively to create better opportunities for local youths to pursue education. In the process, it designated 24 development regions and opened one university, one technological university and one university for computer studies each in every development region to ensure development of human resources and enable the youth of the regions of national races to have an equal access to education. As a result, local young people of national races have an easy access to technology, computer studies and higher education in their own regions. And respective regions are enjoying human resource development and the number of educated persons is on the increase.

Now, the government is taking measures for the people to have equal access to education and pursue education without any difficulties, thereby producing intellectuals and intelligentsia constantly. Furthermore, local human resources will play a leading role in the tasks for regional development. If so, the development gap between one region and another will get gradually narrow and all the regions of the Union will enjoy development proportionately.

As a gesture of hailing the 87th Anniversary National Day, I write this article with the belief that national people will be able to complete the building of a new nation through the national education since the government is working hard for promotion of the national education.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 2-12-2007
Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into river water pumping projects in NyaungU, Myingyan Districts

NAV PI TAW, 2 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials, on 30 November inspected river water pumping projects in NyaungU Township.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party heard a report on progress of work, arrival of transformers and supply of water to 500 acres of farmland. After inspecting the project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint left necessary instructions.

Next, they proceeded to Myakan Reservoir and viewed growing of trees for greening the environs and storage of water. After that, they arrived at the local battalion in NyaungU Township where they met with officers and other ranks and gave necessary instructions.

In Phayalaygon Village, they inspected the thriving cotton fields in the farm of Farmer U Soe Aung and gave instructions on regulation of water supply to paddy fields and thrusting phytic nut. Next, they collected the physic nut on a manageable scale.

On arrival at Thugaungte River Water Pumping Project near Ohnhechaung Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into water supply to paddy fields and gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Next, they proceeded to the physic nut plantations of NyaungU Myanmar Cooperatives Ltd and gave instructions on extracting bio-diesel from physic nut on a commercial scale.

On arrival at Kyawxi River Water Pumping Project in Taungtha Township, they heard a report on the salient points of the project and the current of Ayeyawady River and gave instructions on extended cultivation of paddy and bringing better transport to the project.

Next, they inspected the thriving paddy fields in the farm of Farmer U San Yu in Tamaiktha Village and gave instructions on boosting par acre yield. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the upgrading of Bagan-NyaungU-Myingyan-Myotha-TadaU-Mandalay Highway being undertaken by Public Works and heard a report on progress of work.

Next, they looked into the sesame plantations and physic nut plantations in Nabuaing Village in the township and gave instructions on growing of physic nut on a manageable scale.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the tarring of Bagan-NyaungU-Myingyan-Myotha-TadaU-Mandalay Highway and Myotha Station Hospital in Ngazun Township and left necessary instructions.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 3 December, 2007

Seminar on Myanmar-Korea ICT Cooperation organized

YANGON, 2 Dec — The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) held the Seminar on Myanmar-Korea Cooperation in ICT development at Myanmar Info-Tech, here, yesterday evening. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the Vice-Chairman of the National Task Force and the Resident Representative of KOICA made speeches. The President of Myanmar Computer Federation, the KOICA Senior IT Volunteer, a Korean IT expert and those present participated in the discussions. The seminar aimed at seeking effective ways of cooperation between the two countries.

Energy Minister meets foreign guests

NAV PI TAW, 2 Dec — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thiri received the Energy Minister of the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation Mr. Chedyrov Boris, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Mikhail M Gelazde and party at the minister’s office, here, on 30 November and made comprehensive discussions on energy sector. Present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Hay, the acting director-general and the managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

Manager of SOGO (PVC) Pipe Industry named for Training Programme on International Standardization Advanced Course

YANGON, 2 Dec — Manager U Aung Kyaw Oo of SOGO (PVC) Pipe Industry was named to attend the Training Programme on International Standardization Advanced Course organized by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarships (AOTS) from 3 to 14 December at Yokohama in Japan.

He was seen off at Yangon International Airport by the chairman and officials of Popular Plastic Industry Group and family members yesterday.
Cambodian Prime Minister welcomes Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, accompanied by ministers and departmental heads, left here by special flight to pay a goodwill visit to Cambodia at the invitation of Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Akk Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and arrived at Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh of Cambodia at 10 am Cambodian Standard Time on 30 November.

Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia Dr Aung Naing and Director Mr Eat Seyla of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia welcomed the Prime Minister onboard the aircraft.

A Cambodian girl presented a garland to the Prime Minister.

The Cambodian Prime Minister heartily welcomed Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greeted Cambodian deputy prime ministers, senior ministers, ministers, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hui Phany and officials.

Next, the two Prime Ministers took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, the State Band played the national anthems of the two countries. Next, the two Prime Ministers inspected the Guard of Honour.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greeted Cambodian high-ranking officials, ambassadors and Charges d’Affaires as of foreign missions in Cambodia.

Myanmar Ambassador Dr Aung Naing and wife Daw Aye Mi, embassy staff and family members welcomed the Prime Minister. A Myanmar child presented a bouquet to the Prime Minister.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greeted students and people of Cambodia who are waving miniature flags of the two countries.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation was welcomed at Phnom Penh International Airport with the signboard bearing Warmly Welcome Myanmar delegation in Cambodian and English languages.

Accompanied by Senior Minister and Minister of Environment Dr Mok Mareth and officials, the Myanmar delegation went to Independence Monument from the airport.

At the exit of the airport, local people and students welcomed the Myanmar delegation by waving miniature flags of the two countries. The Myanmar delegation was welcomed by hoisting of State flags of the two countries and the banner across the road.

On arrival at the Independence Monument, General Prohm Dan and officials of the Ministry of National Defence welcomed them.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein laid a wreath at the monument before proceeding to Hotel Inter-Continental. — MNA

Some Western countries putting pressure on Myanmar…

(From page 16)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers Mr Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Keo Puth Reasmey, Senior Minister and Minister of Environment Dr Mok Mareth, Senior Minister and Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Mr Veng Sereyvuth, Minister of Construction and of Transport Mr Sum Chanthol, Minister of Tourism Mr Thong Khon, Minister of Information Mr Khuon Kanharith, the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar and high ranking officers.

The Cambodian Prime Minister said: We warmly welcome your delegation and I am grateful to Myanmar for showing me great hospitality which was on a goodwill visit.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein said: our goodwill visit to your country after we both had met at the ASEAN Summit recently has shown the depth of the friendship and mutual cooperation between the two countries. Our Head of State Senior General Than Shwe visited Cambodia in 1996 and 2002.

You visited our country four times during the period from 1997 to 2007 and your visits have expressed your genuine friendship towards Myanmar.

Exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries will help ensure long-lasting friendly ties. We are grateful to Cambodia for her support for our country both in the international and regional arena. And we believe that your country will continue to support our country.

After briefing on developments of Myanmar, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said: As we have addressed our internal issues within our country, Myanmar is now peaceful and stable.

As an endeavour for democratization in Myanmar it is important to analyze the situation and prevailing conditions of the country. And it is impossible to transform democratic system hastily.

Myanmar is also taking measures for ensuring sound foundations necessary to transform the
Cambodian Prime Minister hosts dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Thein Sein and delegation members

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen hosted a dinner in honour of a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein at Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 30 November.

The ministers, the Ambassador of Myanmar to Cambodia, the departmental officials of Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Deputy Prime Ministers, the senior ministers, the ministers, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials concerned of Cambodia led by Cambodian Prime minister attended the dinner.

First, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen cordially greeted Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

The Prime Ministers of the two countries and members proposed a toast before dinner.

During and after the dinner, the cultural troupe of Cambodia performed traditional songs and dances to them. — MNA

Some Western countries putting pressure on Myanmar...

(from page 8) country into democratic system such as the rule of law, community peace and tranquillity, strong economy, and high education standards of the people. It is necessary for the international community to support and encourage Myanmar if they wish our efforts for democratic transition to be successful. Nonetheless, some Western countries, let alone encouraging our efforts, are putting pressure on the country without having any sympathy and consequently, the majority of the people have to be affected.

We express our thanks to you for your remark made at an economic forum during the ASEAN Summit in which you protested that economic sanctions against Myanmar can adversely affect the majority of the people.

The friendly ties between our two countries have been improving. We expect our good neighboring nations’ understanding and support like Cambodia in order to resist the pressure and sanctions of the Western countries.

The Cambodian Prime Minister said: While our two countries are cooperating each other, we are also collaborating through such organizations as CLMV, ACMECS and ASEAN.

Cambodia opposes not only imposition of economic sanctions against Myanmar but also the attempts to thrust the Myanmar issue into the international spotlight. The situation of Myanmar can be best known by her people only. Cambodia opposes any act to encroach upon sovereignty of a nation.

Our nation did have bitter experiences. We had to overcome both internal strife and external pressures. There were internal armed insurgencies and the country experienced interference of some foreign nations. The Myanmar issue is only her internal affair and it can be addressed only by herself.

Later, the two Prime Ministers discussed matters related to technological cooperation in agricultural sector, development of human resources, promotion of tourism, establishment of direct flights between the two countries, more arrivals of tourists to tourist destinations in the two countries, improvement of cultural heritage, promotion of ecotourism, and promotion of mutual trade between the two countries.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein calls on Cambodian President of Senate

CAMBODIAN and Myanmar are very friendly nations. All of Cambodia is happy and healthy. He said he was glad to know that plans are under way for drafting State Constitution and that is a development move. He firmly believes that Myanmar’s transition to democracy will be successful.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo...

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Acting Head of State and President of the Senate of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothsia Chea Sim. — MNA

Myanmar has less democracy experience...

Assembly to pay a visit to Nay Pyi Taw if conditions permit. He also clarified political situations and peace and stability in Myanmar.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein...
Winners of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2006 announced

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Winners of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2006, organized by Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, were announced today.

In the novel genre, Pathein Aung Than Os Oo stood first and Thu Thein second and Paing Hlaing Thit third.

In the collected short story genre, Maung Cheint won the first prize, Nay Myo Than the second prize and Thwe Htay Nyo (Thakkala) the third prize.

In the collected poem genre, Shwemyaing Pyone Le Maw stood first.

In the belles-lettres genre, Kaymyu won the second prize and U Thaung Ngwe the third prize.

In the General Knowledge (Arts) genre, Nyunt Nyunt Yi (Fine Arts) won the first prize, U Moe Myint Win (Science and Technology) the second prize and Maung Nwe Than (IPRD) the third prize.

In the General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) genre, Aung Soe (Saikpyo-107) stood first, Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglein) second and Dr Aye Kyaw (Physiology) third.

In the children literature genre, Aung Kyaw Hsuan stood first, Myo Myo Myint second and Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt third.

In the youth literature genre, Kyunzinnmaw Saw Khet won the first prize, Myoma Hla Maung the second prize and Maung Sanda (Lewe) the third prize.

In the drama genre, Maung Sanda (Lewe) won the second prize prize.

There were no manuscripts for the political literature and translation genres.

Winners are to contact the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman at No 529-531 on Merchant Street, Tel: 240048/381449. The prizes will be awarded to the winners at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 December 2007.

The manuscripts not chosen can be withdrawn in person or representatives within six months after issuing the the prize winners list.

Those wishing to compete in the manuscript award 2007 contest may submit the manuscripts to the Sarpay Beikman not later than 31 January 2008.

MNA/Xinhua

Hostage crisis in New Hampshire ends

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec — The hostage siege that took place in former first lady Hillary Clinton’s campaign office in Rochester, New Hampshire, ended with the suspect arrested by the police on Friday. The suspect, identified by police as Leeland Eisenberg, surrendered to the police by walking out of the storefront office, holding out his hands and lying on the ground. A CNN live report showed the suspect was handcuffed by the police and taken to a police vehicle.

The man, claiming to be carrying an explosive device strapped on his chest, walked into the simple storefront office shortly before 1600 GMT and took hostage of an unknown number of people working inside the office.

During the standoff, which lasted over five hours, the suspect first released a woman and her baby, then released the hostages one after another. With the last hostage released, Eisenberg surrendered to the police.

MNA/Xinhua

Big fire burns Thai factory, killing one

BANGKOK, 30 Nov — A factory in central Thailand caught on a big fire Thursday afternoon and at least one worker was killed during intermittent blasts.

The chemical plant, located in Thai central Samut Sakhon Province, caught on fire at about 3:00 pm (0800 GMT). A witness told local radio FM 100 that at least four buildings of the factory have been burnt down completely in one hour after the fire. Fire engines and fighters, accompanied with ambulances, have been sent to the scene, but the flame was too raging to put down until Press time.

Local police said many staff of the factory were still locked inside because the fire occurred during working hours. At least one body of the workers has been found, the radio report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia wants Iraqi troops home by mid 2008

CANBERRA, 1 Dec — About 550 Australian combat troops in Iraq should be withdrawn by about the middle of next year, Prime Minister-elect Kevin Rudd said on Friday, setting a broad timetable for the soldiers to return home.

Australia has about 1,500 troops in and around Iraq, but Rudd won power at the Australia’s national election on 24 November with a promise to bring frontline forces home.

“The combat force in Iraq we would have home by around the middle of next year,” Rudd told Australian radio.

Rudd promised a gradual withdrawal of the troops, but had been coy about setting a timetable for their return to Australia. The troops are based mainly in Iraq’s more peaceful south, where they help maintain security and train Iraqi forces.

Australia, a close ally of the United States, was one of the first countries to commit troops to the US-led invasion of Iraq and Australia’s former conservative government had been a strong supporter of the US mission in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

United Nations

The Secretary-General Message on the International Day of Disabled Persons 3 December 2007

This year’s International Day of Disabled Persons focuses on the goal of decent work for persons with disabilities, and reminds us that every person deserves opportunities for productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

Persons with disabilities are deprived of adequate employment opportunities in nearly every society. Estimates show that at least half of all disabled people in developed nations, and the vast majority of those with disabilities in developing countries, are unemployed. Most others are under-employed, or will never have full access to the labour market. This situation is deplorable.

Persons with disabilities have the ability to make valuable contributions in the workforce as employees, entrepreneurs and employers. But they face numerous barriers that prevent them from fulfilling their potential. Early in life, they encounter difficulties gaining access to an education or acquisition of employable skills. Later on, fears and prejudices about their abilities deny them the work opportunities available to others. Inaccessible workplaces, explicit and implicit discriminatory legislation and practices, and unfavourable work conditions pose additional hurdles.

Yet, whenever the opportunity arises, persons with disabilities prove their worth as productive members of the workforce. That is why more and more employers are slowly coming to the realization that employing persons with disabilities makes good sense. Changing workplace environments and advancements in information and communications technologies are also giving persons with disabilities new avenues for seeking decent work.

Most States do not have legislation protecting persons with disabilities in the workplace. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is expected to enter into force early next year, recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment on an equal basis with others. It stresses their right to earn a living from freely chosen work, and to work in an environment that is both accessible and accepting.

On this International Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to seeking equal rights for all, and let us pledge to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in the lives of their communities.— UNIC

Cirque du Soleil artists perform during the “Delirium” show presentation in Lisbon’s Atlantic pavillion on 28 Nov, 2007.

INTERNET
Dhaka, hub city Ras Al Khaimah inaugurated flight from its airline of the United Arab Emirates' fourth airline launches inaugural flight

Xinhua confirmed the report to media.

The official did not give a timeline for the development, but refused to identify the said Trade marks shall be dealt with according to laws.

Mines kill, wound 62 Afghans monthly

On average, 62 Afghans are killed or injured every month by anti-personnel mines, the European Commission's statement said.

More than four million Afghans are living in one of the 2,374 mined communities and are struggling to cope with the legacy of Afghanistan's brutal war, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said in the statement.

Afghanistan is one of the heavily mined countries in the world. More than 12 million mines had been planted during nearly 30 years of war, foreign occupation and factional fighting and of these, five million mines have been defused or destroyed, according to officials.

The EC has pledged another 600 million euros (about 912.12 million US dollars) to continue supporting Afghanistan's mine clearance and mine risk education until 2013.

More than four million Afghans are living in one of the 2,374 mined communities and are struggling to cope with the legacy of Afghanistan's brutal war, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said in the statement.

The post-war Afghanis, according to its Foreign Ministry, has destroyed more than 500,000 stockpiled anti-personnel mines in the last four years and is committed to destroy all its anti-personnel mines by 2013.

Israel court backs Gaza fuel cuts, delays power curb

Jerusalem, 1 Dec — Israel's top court has upheld a government decision to reduce the Gaza Strip's fuel imports, but postponed planned electricity cuts to the Hamas-ruled territory, Israeli officials said on Friday.

Israel began reducing the amount of fuel oil, diesel and petrol allowed into the Gaza Strip last month as part of economic sanctions ordered in response to Palestinian rocket salvoes. The government said it would also begin cutting power on 2 December.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Western leaders warned Israel against imposing illegal “collective punishment” on Gaza’s 1 million largely aid-dependent residents. Human rights groups appealed to Israel’s High Court to intervene.

The court, ruling late on Thursday, found in favour of the government’s argument that fuel supplies for vital activities such as running Gaza’s sole power plant would be maintained.

“We are convinced that, for now, there is no need to issue a stay... especially as the (government) respondents undertook from the outset to ensure that the (fuel) reductions do not cause humanitarian harm,” the panel of three justices wrote.

But the court demanded that the government explain further its plan to cut electricity supplies to Gaza, extending deliberations on those sanctions by at least 19 days. —MNA/Reuters

MOSCOW, 1 Dec — Russian and US troops will hold joint peacekeeping exercises at American ranges in Germany on 1-15 December for the second stage of the command and staff drill, Torgau 2007, Russian news agencies reported Friday.

"The Russian servicemen will arrive in Germany on December 1 aboard a Russian Air Force Il-76 military plane without weapons and military equipment. The Russian soldiers will be provided with American arms for the exercises with live fire," Colonel Igor Konashenkov, aide to the Russian ground troops commander, was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

The drill will take place in two American ranges: Grafenwoehr and Gogenfelz. Two hundred people will be involved.

The Russian servicemen will be armed with M-16 and M-4 rifles and with M-249 and M-240 machine-guns. They will have several days of theoretical and practical lessons to handle the American small arms, Konashenkov said.

Russian servicemen were familiarized with Hummer, Bradley and Abrams tanks and fighting vehicles at the Grafenwoehr Range in Germany during similar joint field exercises in Torgau in 2005. “This practice will be continued at the upcoming exercise Torgau 2007, during which the experience of conducting joint peacekeeping operations in the Balkans will be used,” Konashenkov said.

He said the American Army servicemen earlier practiced with Russian small arms, T-72 tanks and 100-millimetre antitank guns at the Solnechnogorsk Range in Russia in the first stage. —MNA/Xinhua

Russian, US troops to hold joint drill in Germany

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Mines kill, wound 62 Afghans monthly

KABUL, 1 Dec — Mines and unexploded ordnance left over from the past nearly three decades of wars and civil strife kill or wound more than 60 people in war-torn Afghanistan monthly, said a statement of the European Commission received here Thursday.

"On average, 62 Afghans are killed or injured every month by anti-personnel mines,” the European Commission delegation to Afghanistan said in the statement.

Afghanistan is one of the heavily mined countries in the world. More than 12 million mines had been planted during nearly 30 years of war, foreign occupation and factional fighting and of these, five million mines have been defused or destroyed, according to officials.

More than four million Afghans are living in one of the 2,374 mined communities and are struggling to cope with the legacy of Afghanistan's brutal war, Afghan Foreign Ministry said in the statement.

The post-war Afghanis, according to its Foreign Ministry, has destroyed more than 500,000 stockpiled anti-personnel mines in the last four years and is committed to destroy all its anti-personnel mines by 2013.

The EC has pledged another 600 million euros (about 912.12 million US dollars) to continue supporting Afghanistan's mine clearance and mine risk education until 2013.

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China kicks off traditional medicine health care project

GUANGZHOU, 1 Dec — A Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) health care project, advocating disease prevention, was started in Guangzhou, capital city of south China’s Guangdong Province, on Thursday. A total of 1,006 medical care institutions in 21 cities of Guangdong, which has been chosen as a pilot province for the project, will attend the project. The TCM will be used to provide medical service for disease prevention, according to an official with the Ministry of Health. Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi attended Thursday’s opening ceremony. Long before the advent of modern medical science, the Chinese had developed comprehensive theories about the treatment of illnesses. Remedies made from natural ingredients, such as wild plants and herbs, and simple tools like acupuncture needles were used by TCM doctors to treat patients or prevent people from falling ill. — MNA/Xinhua

Finland launches new wide-ranging biodiversity action plan

HELSINKI, 1 Dec — Finland has published a national strategy and action plan for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity until 2016. Finnish Environment Ministry said on Thursday. The plan is already the second of its kind in Finland. It has been drawn up collaboratively by the representatives from many of Finnish ministries and organizations, based on a wide-ranging evaluation of the previous plan, which covered the period 1997-2005. The goals of the plan are: to halt the decline in biodiversity in Finland by 2010, to establish favourable trends in the state of the natural environment in Finland over the period 2010-2016, to prepare by 2016 for global environmental changes that may threaten the natural environment in Finland, particularly climate change, and to strengthen Finland’s role in the preservation of biodiversity globally through international cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

“Space Station” lab will boost Europe’s status in space

CAPE CANAVERAL, 1 Dec — Europe will set down its own stake in space next week with the launch of the Columbus science laboratory to the International Space Station, ending a quarter century in which European space pioneers had run their experiments on orbital to the project. Columbus will stay our property. Our flight control centre will control Columbus. We have the right to do experiments around the clock. When we have a new idea, we can bring it up and (research) it in our own lab,” he said. Atlantis crew member and European Space Agency astronaut Hans Schlegel said in an interview. “But this now has all of a sudden changed.

Turkey soldiers patrol in the southeastern Turkish province of Hakkari on 1 Dec, 2007. The Turkish Army carried out an “intense intervention” against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq on Saturday, sending its special forces a day after the cabinet authorized a cross-border operation. — MNA/Reuters

Romania says bird flu brought in by migratory birds

BUCHAREST, 1 Dec — Poultry in Romanian eastern county Tulcea was contaminated with the bird flu virus from migratory birds, the National Sanitary Veterinary and Animal Safety Authority announced on Thursday. Fodder for the poultry in the contaminated household came from a region intensely sought by wild birds, according to the preliminary epidemiological investigation. At a meeting held on Thursday, the Tulcea County Anti-epizootic Command decided to have the local Hunters and Fishermen Association organize test hunts of wild birds and collect the bodies for specific lab tests. According to data presented in the report of the Danube Delta Biosphere Natural Reserve, 6,800 wild birds were tracked here on Wednesday. The Romanian Institute for Animal Diagnosis and Health confirmed on Wednesday the bird flu outbreak, the H5N1 virus strain, after a laboratory testing of samples taken from dead chickens in a household at Murighiol of Tulcea County. — MNA/Xinhua

Senegal’s teachers called upon to inform students on AIDS

DAKAR, 1 Dec — Senegalese union of teachers’ committee against AIDS and education for all (COSSEL) is urging every teacher in the country to dedicate one hour of class each Friday to sensitize students on HIV/AIDS, according to a statement issued here Thursday. Teachers are being called upon to inform students on HIV/AIDS, notably on its prevention, treatment, medical care and support, as well as on stigmatization and discrimination in schools and in the entire community, says the statement. In addition, COSSEL is urging teachers to emphasize on “behavioral changes” within schools in order to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS. — MNA/Xinhua

A tourist participates in an event during World AIDS Day at Kuta in Bali on 1 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET

Trucks pass under a message board on westbound Interstate 80 indicating an ice storm warning near Des Moines, Iowa, on 1 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET

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Late penalty earns Hearts 1-1 draw with Celtic
Glasgow, 2 Dec — Substitute Andrius Velicka scored with a late penalty to give Hearts a 1-1 draw at home against Scottish Premier League leaders Celtic on Saturday.
Celtic, who opened the scoring through Australian striker Scott McDonald in the 73rd minute to light up a dull encounter at Tynecastle, moved four points clear of second-placed Rangers before their Glasgow rivals’ later match against Kilmarnock. McDonald forced the ball home after French goalkeeper Anthony Basso could only parry Paul Hartley’s free kick but two minutes into stoppage time Celtic’s Gary Caldwell pushed Senegalese defender Ibrahim Tall to concede the penalty. — MNA/Reuters

Werder Bremen go to top of table with 2-1 win
Berlin, 2 Dec — Werder Bremen jumped to the top of the Bundesliga table ahead of Bayern Munich on Saturday with a 2-1 home victory over Hamburg SV, capping a fine week after their 3-2 win against Real Madrid in the Champions League.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Rangers move to within one point of leaders Celtic
Glasgow, 2 Dec — Rangers moved to within a point of leaders Celtic with a 2-0 win over Kilmarnock in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday.
Champions Celtic dropped points by conceding a stoppage time penalty to draw 1-1 at Hearts. They top the standings with 32 points from 14 games, while Rangers have 31 also from 14.
French striker Jean-Claude Darcheville hit the early opener for Rangers when he latched on to a header from Kris Boyd to race into the box and blast a low shot into the bottom right past keeper Alan Combe in the fourth minute.

Kentucky’s Ramon Harris, left, and North Carolina’s Bobby Frasor battle for a loose ball during the first half of their basketball game in Lexington, Ky, on 1 Dec, 2007.— Internet

David Beckham of the LA Galaxy controls the ball during their exhibition match against the Wellington Phoenix at Westpac Stadium in Wellington. Beckham thrilled a record New Zealand football crowd by scoring as the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the Wellington Phoenix 4-1 in a friendly match. — Internet

Arsenal’s Emmanuel Eboue, right, vies for the ball with Aston Villa’s Ashley Young, during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, on 1 Dec, 2007.— Internet

S L A T T R S

Lille’s Nicolas Plestan, center, attempts a shot on goal during his French League one soccer match against Marseille in Villeneuve d’Ascq, northern France, on 1 Dec, 2007.— Internet

Raul extends lead after Barca held at Espanyol
Madrid, 2 Dec — Real Madrid stretched their lead at the top to four points on Saturday after beating Racing Santander 3-1 at home while arch-rivals Barcelona were held to a 1-1 draw at Espanyol in the Catalan derby. Real skipper Raul steered his side to their seventh win in seven games at the Bernabeu when he took his tally for the season to eight goals with a classy double. Barcelona made an impressive start in a pulsating match against neighbours Espanyol, Andres Iniesta putting the visitors ahead in the sixth minute after an electrifying run by Argentinian forward Lionel Messi.
But a second-half strike by Espanyol substitute Ferran Corominas denied Barcelona their second away win of the season.
Real lead the standings on 32 points, four clear of Barcelona and Villarreal who travel to Valladolid on Sunday, while Espanyol are in fourth spot, two points further back.
An injury-hit Sevilla slumped to their third defeat in a row when they lost 1-0 at Almeria, defender Santiago Acasiete scoring the winner with a header after an 87th-minute free kick. Sevilla dominated most of the game but had to play almost all of the second half with 10 men after influential defender Daniel Alves was sent off for picking up a second booking. — MNA/Reuters

Juventus forward Vincenzo Iaquinta, left, and AC Milan defender Kakha Kaladze, of Georgia, jump for the ball during their Italian Serie A first division soccer match between AC Milan and Juventus at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 1 Dec, 2007.— Internet

Cole fires Chelsea to second place
London, 2 Dec — Chelsea beat West Ham 1-0 on Saturday to overhaul Manchester United and go second in the Premier League behind unbeaten leaders Arsenal.
England midfielder Joe Cole sank his former club, rounding Robert Green in the 76th minute to chip right-footed into the top of the net.
Chelsea, now unbeaten in 70 home league games at Stamford Bridge in a run stretching back to Feburary 2004, have 31 points from 15 matches.
Arsenal, on 33 points with two games in hand, were playing later at Aston Villa while champions United, on 30 from 14 games, host Fulham at Old Trafford on Monday.
Sven-Goran Eriksson’s Manchester City failed to make the most of their city rivals’ absence, needing a win to go back ahead of Chelsea but instead being held 1-1 at struggling Wigan Athletic.
City remain fourth, level with United on 30 points but behind on goal difference. Fifth placed Liverpool are at home to Bolton Wanderers on Sunday.
Steve Bruce’s return to the JJB Stadium as Wigan manager started in the worst possible fashion, with Brazilian Geovanni putting City ahead in the first minute before Paul Scharner equalized with a diving header in the 25th.

INTERNET

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INTERNET

INTERNET
Putin suspends Russia from European arms treaty

MOSCOW, 1 Dec — President Vladimir Putin signed a law on Friday suspending Russian participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, the Kremlin said.

The suspension, effective from 12 December, is part of a wave of increasingly aggressive moves directed against the West ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections. The United States, the European Union and NATO have all urged Russia not to pull out of the treaty, widely considered a cornerstone of European security.

But Russia has said it will not abide by the treaty as NATO members have not ratified an amended version of the pact.

"President Putin signed the federal law on suspending the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Mumbai lunch couriers pack AIDS advice in meal box

MUMBAI, 2 Dec — Thousands of Mumbai’s office goers, who have their lunch delivered from home by the city’s famed tiffin couriers, found an extra helping on Friday — not of food but advice on international business.

“The kit was attached to empty lunch boxes and delivered to about 100,000 clients’ homes,” said Raghunath Megde, leader of the lunch couriers, known as “dabbawallahs”. Some 5,000 dabbawallahs deliver 200,000 meals from their clients’ homes all over Mumbai to their workplaces every day, a famous system studied in prestigious international business schools as a model of efficiency.

They collect lunch boxes from homes, sort them out using a system of colour codes and letters, travel by train and even carry massive wooden trays holding up to 35 tin boxes for delivery at offices. Their error margin is said to be one in six million deliveries. Megde says companies such as Mercedes-Benz, Microsoft and Coca-Cola have invited them to speak about their work.

A road clearing vehicle works to keep the Del Dios Highway clear along a burn area in Escondido, Calif, Friday, Nov, 30, 2007. A flash flood warning was posted in north-central San Diego County where the Poomacha and Rice wildfires of late October left thousands of acres barren. — INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 2 December, 2007
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally cloudless in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) below December average temperatures in Kayah State, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5ºC) below December average temperatures in Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5ºC) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakkha (-1ºC), Pinlaung (3ºC) and Namssim (4 ºC).

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2007 was 88ºF. Minimum temperature on 2-12-2007 was 58ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 2-12-2007 was 73%. Total sun shine hours on 1-12-2007 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingalardon, Kabu-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (36.57) inches at Mingalardon, (141.38) inches at Kabu-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (10:30) hours MST on 1-11-2007.

Bay influence: Weather is generally fair in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-12-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State. Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States Sagaing, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions Decree of certain (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-12-2007: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-12-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-12-2007: Generally fair.
People’s Desire

☆ We favour stability.
☆ We favour peace.
☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

Some Western countries putting pressure on Myanmar without having any sympathy

Cambodia opposes imposition of economic sanctions on Myanmar and attempts to thrust Myanmar affairs into international spotlight

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec
— Prime Minister General Thein Sein met Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at Angkor Wat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, at 4:30 pm on 30 November.

Together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia Dr Aung Naing, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Political Department U Phae Thaing Oo, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and departmental heads. Together with the Cambodian Prime Minister were (See page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the opening ceremony of the City Golf Course constructed by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the golf tournament in commemoration of the opening ceremony. (See page 10)