Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects developments in Dawei

NAV PSI TAW, 10 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo inspected road sections along Myeik-Palaw-Kawthoung road and rubber plantations on both sides of the road on 4 December.

Upon arrival at the office of Palaw PDC, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local residents at Kanyoetan Yadana Hall.

After hearing reports on monsoon and summer paddy plantations, food sufficiency in the region, perennial crops, palm oil and rubber plantations, measures taken in the region to uplift the development of rural areas, he gave necessary instructions.

Then, he stressed the need to make efforts for ensuring monsoon paddy surpluses, extending the plantations of palm-oil, rubber, pepper and physic nut, and set up departmental committees to raise the development of the town and to conduct market research in fisheries.

After viewing road sector of Palaw-Thayetchaung-Dawei road and rubber plantations along the road, he attended the ceremony to donate offertories to the members of social organizations and local residents.

At the ceremony, he donated offertories to members of the Sangha. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw of the monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattho Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa and shared the merits gained.

Afterwards, he met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local residents.

At the meeting, he heard reports on matters on economic, education, health, and road transportation, plantation of monsoon paddy, summer paddy, palm oil, rubber, pepper and physic nut in the region.

He gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Then, he made speeches at the coordination meeting on road and bridge sectors to ensure smooth transportation at Dawei Station Hall.

Regarding the reports on work to be done, he stressed the need to make concerted efforts in their respective sectors and construction of the quality roads and all-weather ones.

Officials of the district PDC reported matters on conditions of rural roads and future programmes to be carried out whereupon Maj-Gen Tha Aye instructed them to raise the momentum of construction of roads in the open season.

MNA

Myanmar earns one more gold, two silver and three bronze medals

YANGON, 10 Dec — Myanmar sports contingent earned one more gold, two silver and three bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games being held in Thailand. Aung Sithu claimed one gold medal in the men’s Changeguan event, Si Si Sein a silver medal in the women’s 48-kilo Sanshou event, Yazar Khine a silver medal in the women’s 60-kilo Sanshou event. Htein Lin picked up a bronze medal in the men’s 50-kilo Pencak Silat, Tin Oo a bronze medal in the men’s 55-kilo Pencak Silat and duo Sandi Oo and Thet Thet Naing a bronze medal in the women’s attack event. — MNA

Opening ceremony of Yadanabon Teleport, Myanmar ICT Week on 14-20 Dec

NAV PSI TAW, 10 Dec — Opening ceremony of Yadanabon Teleport and the 6th Myanmar ICT Week 2007 will be held at Yadanabon Teleport (PynOol.win) in PyinOol.win Township, Mandalay Division, from 14 to 20 December. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strictly abide by traffic rules for road safety

In Myanmar, with an increase in the number of vehicles, road accidents have occurred due to lack of abiding by traffic rules.

For passengers and commuters to be able to travel from one place to another conveniently and safely, passenger bus lines and ferries need to strictly follow traffic rules.

To minimize road accidents, bus drivers are to refrain from speeding in their attempts to overtake along the road, stopping at a bus stops for long and driving in the wrong lane.

Pedestrians often fall victim to road accidents, for they do not cross the road at zebra crossing, stroll on the road instead of using the pavement and lack of abiding by traffic rules.

To ensure road safety drivers are to strictly follow traffic rules and stay away from drunk driving. At the same time, they are to constantly make sure that their vehicles are in perfect working order.

Hence, it is incumbent upon both drivers and pedestrians to strictly follow traffic rules, and only then, will they be able to reach their destinations safely.

Golden Jubilee of BEHS of Pindaya to be held

YANGON, 10 Dec — The golden jubilee of Basic Education High School of Pindaya along with ceremony to pay respects to the teachers will be held on 29-30 December in Shan State (South). Former teachers and students are requested to attend the ceremony without fail. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Finance & Revenue Minister leaves for Bali, Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun left here by air this morning to attend the finance ministers’ meeting on climate change to be held in Bali, Indonesia.

The delegation members were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw airport by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, managing directors and directors-general of departments and enterprises under the Ministry and families of the delegation members.

The delegation comprises Director Daw Ohmar Sein of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Deputy Director U Min Htu of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue. — MNA

MWAF members visit Kanbawzathadi Palace, Shwemawdaw Pagoda

YANGON, 9 Dec — Head of Organizing Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Discipline Enforcement Department Daw Mya Theingi and Leader of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group Daw Tin Tin Nwe and party of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation visited Bago yesterday morning.

They were welcomed at Kanbawzathadi Palace by Patron of Bago Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Sao Nang Khun Hsam, Chairperson Daw Khin Sse Nyunt and members.

Assistant Director U Kyi Khin of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department explained the history of Bago and Palace, and excavation of Kanbawzathadi Palace, Writer Dr Ma Tin Win establishment of Kanbawzathadi Palace through the united strength of the national people, safeguarding of the nation and the religion of King Bayintnaung.

They visited the palace.

At Shwemawdaw Pagoda, writer Dr Ma Tin Win explained the history of the pagoda, jolting of earthquake and restoration of the pagoda through patriotic spirit and goodwill of the people.

Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 10 Dec — President of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders’ Association (MIFFA) U Aung Kyaw Min, Secretary U Aung Khin Myint and Joint Secretary Daw Hla Hla Yi today left here for Thailand to participate in UNECE-UNESCAP Workshop on Facilitation information exchange for Single Window in Asia Pacific using UN electric Trade Documents (UNeDocs) to be held in Bangkok, on 14 December.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by responsible personnel. — MNA

President of MIFFA U Aung Kyaw Min and party seen at the airport before departure for Thailand. — UMFCCI
Iran protests over US nuclear “espionage”

TEHERAN, 9 Dec—Iran has sent a protest letter to the United States accusing it of spying on the Islamic state’s nuclear activities, the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday, citing the country’s Foreign Minister. The letter, submitted to the Swiss Embassy in Teheran which handles US interests in the country, was in reaction to a US intelligence report published last Monday which said Iran halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003. “The ministry submitted a letter to the Swiss Embassy in Teheran... demanding explanations over America’s espionage on Iran’s nuclear case,” Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki was quoted as saying by IRNA. Mottaki, addressing students in Teheran, said it was delivered shortly after the US intelligence estimate was released in Washington. He said the report itself had made clear the use of surveillance satellites and other espionage operations. “Iran is seriously following up the issue of espionage,” Mottaki said. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday declared victory over the United States following the release of the report, which contradicted the Bush Administration’s charges that Teheran was actively seeking a nuclear weapon. US President George W Bush has said Iran remained a danger because it was mastering technology with a military use. But the intelligence assessment appeared likely to increase resistance from Russia and China to US demands for further United Nations sanctions against Iran, following two rounds of UN punitive measures since December.

Striking writers, studios break off talks again in US

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec—Days after sounding a brief note of conciliation, studio bosses and striking screenwriters broke off contract talks again on Friday, dashed hopes the two sides were getting closer to settling the worst Hollywood labour crisis in two decades.

News that four straight days of negotiations had collapsed in acrimony came in a sharply worded statement issued late in the day by the studios’ bargaining arm, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

The studios blamed Writers Guild of America (WGA) leaders for making “unreasonable demands that are roadblocks to real progress”.

Huge waves crash onto Vizvelez’s seafront in the northern Spanish region of Asturias, on 9 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Photo taken on 21 Nov, 2007, shows the road leading to the main building of the third terminal of Beijing Capital International Airport.—INTERNET

US Justice Dept investigating destroyed CIA tapes

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—The Justice Department said on Saturday it had opened a preliminary investigation into the CIA’s destruction of videotapes that showed terrorism suspects being subjected to severe interrogation techniques.

“The Department of Justice and the CIA announced today that the Department’s National Security Division initiated a preliminary inquiry in conjunction with the CIA’s Office of Inspector General regarding the destruction of the interrogation tapes,” Justice Department spokesman Brian Roehrke said in a statement.

A preliminary inquiry is aimed at gathering initial facts to decide whether there is enough reason to launch a full investigation. “I welcome this inquiry and the CIA will cooperate fully,” CIA Director Michael Hayden said in a statement. “I welcome it as an opportunity to address questions that have arisen over the destruction back in 2005 of videotapes.”

The probe comes just days after Hayden acknowledged that the CIA had made and destroyed videotapes documenting interrogations of terrorist suspects that used techniques critics have denounced as torture.

The United States has been widely criticized by European allies and human rights groups for methods like “waterboarding” in which prisoners are made to fear that they are drowning.

Ancient metallurgy relics unearthed in central Vietnam

HANOI, 10 Dec—An archaeological site full of metallurgy tools and pottery dating back nearly 3,000 years ago has been discovered in Vietnam’s central Khanh Hoa Province, local newspaper Pioneer reported Friday.

The Vietnam Archeology Institute found a number of bronze molds and bronze refining tools, eight tombs and over 126,000 pieces of pottery in the Vinh Yen 50-square-metre site in Van Ninh District. The antiques belonged to an ancient village, whose residents lived on agriculture, pottery and bronze casting.

18 ancient clay seals found in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 10 Dec—Archaeologists have discovered 18 ancient clay seals and two brick-built structures at Bhasu Bihar archaeological site in Bangladesh’s Bogra District, 170 kilometres northwest of capital Dhaka, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Saturday. One of the clay seals bears the first “Dharmachakra” message of Gautam Buddha inscribed on it, excavation team member Nahid Sultana was quoted by.

A seven-member team started the excavation work on 22 November. Nahid said most of the 18 seals are 1,800 years old. A few small pieces of bronze and two ancient brick structures were also found at the site.—MNA/Xinhua
China, Japan should take chance to improve relations

BEIJING, 10 Dec—China and Japan should take the chance to push forward the relations on the track of long-term, healthy and stable development, said a Chinese leader on Saturday afternoon.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), put forward a five-point proposal to further improve Sino-Japanese relations in a meeting with Nikai Toshihiro, chairman of the General Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The proposal included strengthening the high-level exchange of visits and political trust; expanding economic and trade cooperation; enhancing personnel exchanges; promoting political contact; and properly handle the sensitive issues to safeguard the political foundation of Sino-Japanese relations.

Jia said China and Japan are important countries of Asia and the world, and Sino-Japanese good-neighbourly relations benefit the two countries and peoples and is in conformity with the trends of the times.

He said China would observe the principles in the three Sino-Japanese political documents to build up strategic and reciprocal relations to achieve the goal of peaceful existence, reciprocal cooperation, common development and friendship generation by generation.—MNA/Xinhua

Noted US forecasters see seven hurricanes next year

MIAMI, 9 Dec—The noted Colorado State University hurricane research team predicted on Friday that 13 tropical storms will develop in the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season, of which seven would strengthen into hurricanes.

The team formed by forecasting pioneer Wil- liam Gray, whose long-range forecasts have been wrong for the past three years, said that would make 2008 a “somewhat above-average” hurricane season.

The long-term average is for 10 tropical storms and six hurricanes during the six-month season starting 1 June.

Gray’s team, now led by his protege Philip Klotzbach, said three of the hurricanes next year would be the most dangerous Category three or above storms, with winds of at least 111 miles per hour (178 kilometres per hour).

The Colorado State University hurricane experts, whose forecasts are closely followed by energy and commodity markets as well as disaster relief profes- sionals, had predicted there would be 17 tropical storms in the 2007 season that ended on 30 November.

In the end, the season saw 14 Atlantic tropical storms, of which six strengthened into hurricanes.

Two of the hurricanes, Dean and Felix, reached the maximum Category 5 strength on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity.

MNA/Reuters

Merkel urges German states to improve child welfare

BERLIN, 9 Dec—Chancellor Angela Merkel will urge the leaders of Germany’s states to focus more on child welfare after a spate of grisly deaths involving young children: a government spokesman said on Friday.

This week police detained a 31-year-old German mother on suspicion of involvement in the deaths of her five boys aged between three and nine. Reports of German parents fatally neglecting or murdering their children have become an almost daily occurrence.

Another woman was arrested after the corpses of her three children were found in a suitcase, a freezer and a plastic bag on a balcony. Under Germany’s federal system child welfare is ultimately the responsibility of local authorities and the 16 state governments. “We don’t want to ask the federal government to question that responsibility,” federal government spokesman Thomas Steg told reporters. “However, the chancellor wants to use the 19 December meeting with the state premiers to emphasize the issue of child welfare and protection.” It was important for child protection authorities to talk themselves if enough was being done to prevent neglect and abuse and where improvements needed to be made, he said.—MNA/Reuters

Two policemen wounded in Baghdad bombings

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec—Three roadside bomb explosions rocked the Iraqi capital on Saturday, wounding two police commando members, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police commando patrol in the Kendi thoroughfare in Baghdad’s western neighbour- hood of Harthiyah, damaging a police vehicle and wounding two commando members aboard, the source told Xinhua.

Another roadside bomb explosion struck a US patrol in the Bunoog neighbourhood in northeast of the capital, the source said.

Two policemen wounded in Baghdad bombings

Investigators inspect the site of a plane crash near Kiev on 9 Dec, 2007. A small chartered plane flying from the Ukrainian capital on 9 Dec, 2007 killing all five people on board, Ukraine’s emergency ministry said. INTERNET

A replica of La Amistad slaveship comes in to dock in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 9 Dec, 2007, where a group of 19th-century slaves who revolted against their captors were eventually returned home.—INTERNET

An antique that is said to be a bronze pot from the Spring and Autumn Period (770BC-476BC). INTERNET

It was unknown whether there was any casualty among the US soldiers as the troops immediately cordoned off the area preventing the Iraqi police from approaching the scene, he added. The US troops conducted an under control detonation for an explosive device found in Baghdad’s main parking-lot of Alawi in central the capital, without causing any casualty, he added.

Violence continues in Baghdad despite the fact that the US and Iraqi security forces have staged a security plan in the capital since 14 February aimed at putting rampant violence under control.

MNA/Xinhua

A 19 December meeting with the state premiers to emphasize the issue of child welfare and protection.” It was important for child protection authorities to talk themselves if enough was being done to prevent neglect and abuse and where improvements needed to be made, he said.—MNA/Reuters

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ECONOMIC NEWS

Scholars say ASEAN-China trade ties close, rosy

HANOI, 9 Dec.— Scholars from China and the ASEAN said here Saturday the ASEAN-China trade relations, which have seen remarkable improvements in recent years, will thrive amid the future establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA). With a fast-growing economy and large population, China has great potentials for ASEAN businesspeople and investors, Denzil Abel, representative of the Secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) said at an international conference starting here on Saturday.

He predicted that the trade and economic ties of the two sides will be broadened and deepened strongly after the CAFTA formation.

At the one-day conference entitled “ASEAN-China Trade Relations: 15 Years Development and Prospects” held by the Centre for ASEAN and China Studies under the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, the academy’s vice president Nguyen Xuan Thang said “the CAFTA will create a new foundation for economic and trade relations between the two sides to thrive”, given that their trade turnovers surged 20 times to over 160 billion US dollars in 2006 from nearly eight billion dollars in 1991.

Under the CAFTA, China and the older ASEAN members — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — will impose zero tariffs on most goods in 2010, and Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam will follow suit in 2015, Thang noted. —MNA/Xinhua

Oxfam criticizes US-EU trade proposal

Bali (Indonesia), 10 Dec— Oxfam International, a confederation of 13 organizations dedicated to finding solutions to poverty and injustice, Saturday criticized a US-EU trade proposal as “old wine, different bottles”.

In a Press release in Bali, a resort island of Indonesia, which is hosting a UN climate change conference, Oxfam said the trade ministers meeting in the sidelines of the conference, which is held on Saturday and Sunday, has been “seriously” compromised by a proposal from the US and EU that uses the climate crisis to push for their trade liberalization schemes, which had been heavily criticized at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This is a double whammy for poor countries, the Press release said.

Not only are poor people bearing the brunt of climate change caused by industrialized nations, but rich countries are now also seeking to boost their exports by opening up developing countries’ markets.

Number of Indonesia’s unemployed falls by 1.5 m in 2007

JAKARTA, 9 Dec— The number of Indonesia’s unemployed is expected to fall by up to 1.5 million this year thanks to the National Unemployment Prevention Programme (GNPP), a minister said.

The programme, launched in 2005, had had a positive impact on the reduction of the unemployment rate. Antara news agency quoted Manpower and Transmigration Minister Erman Suparno as saying here on Saturday.

The number of jobless people dropped by one million in 2005 and by 400,000 in 2006, he said. The number of unemployed people in the world’s fourth most populous nation stood at 10.55 million in early 2007 compared to 11 million a year earlier, he said.

—INTERNET

China’s Central Govt to increase investment budget

BEIJING, 10 Dec — China’s Central Government will increase its overall investment budget and continue to adjust investment structure, the nation’s top economic planning agency said on Friday.

Ma Kai, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a national development and reform meeting that after “continuous and rapid” increase in fiscal revenue in recent years, China will mainly use its fiscal expenditure to improve people’s livelihood and boost economic and social development in weak and backward areas.

He didn’t disclose the specific figures for 2008, noting a relevant ministry is working at the budget. The fiscal budget for 2007 reached 2.687 trillion yuan (358.2 billion US dollars), up 14.4 per cent year on year.

—INTERNET

A Chinese worker installs Sinopec billboard at a new station in Beijing. The Academy of Sciences under the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, the Centre for ASEAN and Development and Prospects held by the Centre for ASEAN and China Studies under the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, the academy’s vice president Nguyen Xuan Thang said “the CAFTA will create a new foundation for economic and trade relations between the two sides to thrive”, given that their trade turnovers surged 20 times to over 160 billion US dollars in 2006 from nearly eight billion dollars in 1991.

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China’s State Council approves draft plan on holidays

BEIJING, 9 Dec — China’s State Council on Friday approved in principle a draft plan on adjusting its national holidays and a set of regulations on paid vacations. The final plan and regulations will be promulgated after further revisions.

According to the draft plan on national holidays, made public in early November for public discussion, three traditional festivals are added as national holidays.

According to the draft plan, New Year’s Day remains a one-day holiday. The Spring Festival remains a three-day holiday, but it will now start a day earlier from the eve of the Spring Festival, also known as the lunar New Year.

The National Day golden week will remain unchanged. The May Day golden week will be replaced by a one-day holiday.

Window washer killed in scaffolding collapse in NY city

NEW YORK, 9 Dec — A scaffold plummeted 43 stories from a skyscraper on Manhattan’s Upper East Side on Friday morning, killing a window washer and leaving his brother seriously injured.

The accident took place at around 10:30 am (1530 GMT) at a high-rise residential building at 265 East 66th Street, between Second and Third Avenues.

One man was pronounced dead at the scene and the other was rushed to New York Weill Cornell Medical Centre in serious condition. The two window washers were brothers from Ecuador.

A doorman said the window washers, both in their 30s, had worked at the building for about three years.

Indonesian House agrees subsidized gasoline cut

JAKARTA, 10 Dec — The Indonesian House of Representatives has given a nod to the government’s plan to reduce the supply of heavily subsidized gasoline and oblige car owners to use higher octane gasoline, local press said Saturday.

The House gives the governments three weeks time to prepare the supply of gasoline with octane level 90 that is free from state subsidy. The government currently subsidizes 88-octane gasoline which sells at a mere 4.500 rupiah (about 48 US cents) per liter.

The soaring global oil prices make the subsidy very costly to the state budget. Having raised fuel prices by 125 per cent in October 2005, imposing another hike in domestic fuel prices is not the government’s option.

The government finally came up with an idea to oblige motorists to buy high-octane gasoline, with trials expected soon in the Greater Jakarta area.

One killed in B’desh building collapse, many hurt

DHAKA, 10 Dec — At least one person was killed and about 50 workers were injured when the roof of a 22-storey building collapsed in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, police and witnesses said on Sunday. Several other workers were trapped inside the building, which was being demolished, when it collapsed on Saturday night, they said.

The building was being demolished because its construction violated government rules. Army personnel, along with police and firefighters, were working to rescue the labourers trapped inside.

One man was killed in a bus explosion at the station in the regional city of Nevinnomyssk, some 60 km outside Stavropol. A bomb exploded on a bus on Sunday in Russia’s northern Caucasus region, killing at least two people and wounding several others, regional officials quoted as saying.

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LA police crackdown on gangs

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec — Los Angeles police raided 14 homes and arrested 12 gang members, including a suspect in the killing of a teenage girl, it was reported on Saturday.

The 11 men and one woman in custody were members of the Stevenson Village gang, according to the Daily Breeze. “This was a good one,” sheriff’s Captain Todd Rogers told the Breeze. “We got about every one of our primary suspects.” About 100 deputies and police officers, including two special weapons teams (SWT), launched raids in several areas in the city beginning at 5 am on Friday, the Breeze reported. No one was hurt during the arrests, police said. Officers with guns drawn burst into homes, and the SWAT officers used flash-bang explosives to disjoint the occupants before they entered, the newspaper reported.

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Musharraf rejects unilateral US action on militants

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec —Pakistan might welcome US assistance in a military strike against al-Qaeda, President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview aired on Sunday, but he rejected the idea of a unilateral US decision to send troops into his country after militants.

"Whatever intelligence we get on the terrorists, we jointly think of what kind of action is possible and whatever assistance we can get," Musharraf, a key US ally in the region, said on CNN’s Late Edition.

"But it is the Pakistan forces who act...the prerogative must remain with Pakistan," he said in the interview, which was taped on Saturday.

Musharraf balked at a recent statement by US President George W. Bush, who said he would send US forces after Osama bin Laden or other senior militants in Pakistan if he had reliable intelligence.

"Frankly, I don’t agree with that," Musharraf said, speaking from the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi.

Musharraf, who called Bush a "great personal friend," has been under intense international scrutiny since he declared emergency rule in early November, suspending the constitution and deposing judges who threatened his political future.

Pakistan is expected to hold a general election on 8 January.

Musharraf cited the growing threat of Islamist militants in nuclear-armed Pakistan for his emergency declaration.

MNA/Reuters

Five killed in car crash in western Canada

OTTAWA, 10 Dec — Two adults and three children were killed when their car collided with a cement truck on a street in the city of Calgary in western Canada, reports reaching here Saturday.

The Chrysler Intrepid was stopped at a red light Friday evening when it was struck from behind by a Mack 700 Tri-Axel cement truck. The force of the impact lodged the Intrepid under the front of the cement truck and then pushed it for nearly 300 metres before it finally came to rest, police said.

The male driver, 41, and a female passenger, 33, were pronounced dead at the scene, while two girls, aged six and nine, and a 16-month-old baby boy were also killed in the crash.

The male cement-truck driver, 50, was uninjured.

Police said that excessive speed and alcohol are believed to have been factors in the crash.

The cement truck driver has been arrested and charged with refusing to undertake a breath test and on five counts of the dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death. He is expected to appear in court later Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter crashes in Japan, pilot killed

TOKYO, 10 Dec — A pilot was killed and a female mechanic suffered serious injury after their helicopter crashed on Sunday morning in Shizuoka prefecture near Tokyo, local media said.

The 37-year-old male pilot radioed the heliport about problems with the chopper before the crash, which occurred at around 10:55 am local time (0155 GMT) in Shizuoka City, Shizuoka prefecture. The mechanic, 33, is still unconscious after being sent to hospital, Kyodo News said.

The Eurocopter EC 135 light twin-engine helicopter, under contract with Japan’s public broadcaster NHK, was scheduled to land at Shizuoka heliport for refueling on its way to Osaka from Tokyo, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean, Chinese tourists most frequent in Siem Reap

PHNOM PENH, 10 Dec — Most of the foreign tourists coming to Siem Reap, where the renowned Angkor Wat is situated, were from South Korea and China in October, Chinese language newspaper the Commercial News reported on Saturday.

The percentage is unclear, but they just shared the majority, the paper quoted a report from the provincial tourism authority as saying.

Meanwhile, altogether 170,180 people visited Siem Reap in October, it said.

Among them, 86,833 were foreigners, a 22.15-per-cent increase over the same period last year, and 83,347 Cambodians, a rise of 50.93 per cent, it said.

From October to March next year is usually the peak period of tourism for the province, said the report.

MNA/Reuters

Palestinian faction urges Hamas to end Gaza “coup”

RAMALLAH, 10 Dec — A Palestinian faction calls on the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to end its military coup in Gaza Strip on Saturday.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) renewed the call as the group announced three principles on the forty-fifth anniversary of its foundation.

“We still believe that Hamas must retreat the coup and its aftermaths,” said Abdel Rahim Malouf, PFLP deputy of secretary-general.

He added that the PFLP “is committed to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.”

Recognizing the legitimacy of the PLO is one of the main conditions that President Mahmoud Abbas drew up before he gives green light for Fatah-Hamas dialogue.

MNA/Xinhua

Four more shots in Colorado

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — Four more people were shot in Colorado after a gunman killed two people and injured two others at a training centre dormitory for young Christian missionaries in the US Midwest state early Sunday.

The four were shot in the afternoon at the parking lot outside the New Life Church in Colorado Springs, one of the largest churches in the state, El Paso County sheriff Lari Sevne told reporters. Their situation remained unclear.

By far, there has been no evidence to show that the incident was related to another one that occurred after midnight at the Youth With a Mission training centre in Arvada, Denver suburb, which is 105 kilometres away.

In the earlier shooting incident, the dead were identified as a male and a female in their mid-20s, and the two injured males are 22 and 23, respectively, said Arvada police spokeswoman Susan Medina. The centre spokesman, Paul Filidis, said that all of the four victims were staff members of the centre and one of the injured was in critical situation.

About 45 people were evacuated from the dormitory to secured places and local residents were notified by a police automated call system to stay at home and lock the doors, Medina said.

Police sent several dogs to search the area, and also asked residents to report any discovery of disturbed snow during the night, which might lead to the arrest of the gunman, she added.—MNA/Xinhua
December.

Influenza (bird flu) held in New Delhi from 4 to 6 international conference on Highly Pathogenic Avian back here on 8 December after participating in the meeting. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived and evaluation on coordinated international assistance.

HPAI outbreaks and achieving pandemic readiness mitigating social and economic impacts and containing on responding to HPAI and influenza pandemic, Mya Oo presided over the meeting. Address by Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan influenza disease was opened on 5 December with an their respective countries.

meeting. Deputy ministers and high ranking officials Ramadoss presided over the first day session of the conference in New Delhi, Republic of India, on 4 December.

of the conference in New Delhi, Republic of India, on 4 December. They were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and departmental officials.

Health ministers and high ranking officials from 105 countries attended the pre-opening ceremony of the conference in New Delhi, Republic of India, on 4 December. Minister for Health of India Dr Anbumani Ramadoss presided over the first day session of the meeting. Deputy ministers and high ranking officials reported on preventive measures against the disease in their respective countries.

The ministerial meeting on human and avian influenza disease was opened on 5 December with an address by Prime Minister of India Dr Mammoohan Singh and Deputy Minister for Health of Myanmar Dr Mya Oo presided over the meeting.

Participants of the meeting discussed matters on responding to HPAI and influenza pandemic, mitigating social and economic impacts and containing HPAI outbreaks and achieving pandemic readiness and evaluation on coordinated international assistance.

Yangon, 10 Dec — A ceremony to honour departmental personnel, local authorities and social organization members who undertook the regional development tasks was held at the hall of Kayan Township Peace and Development Council this afternoon. Chairman of Yangon South District PDC U Zaw Win reported on participation of departmental personnel and social organization members in the regional development undertakings from 25 November to 9 December in Kayan Township.

CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Yangon Division in-charge Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, Zaw Win, reported on preventive measures against the disease in their respective countries.

Yangon Mayor inspects maintenance of Ngamoeyek Bridge

YANGON, 10 Dec — Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected maintenance of Ngamoeyek Bridge which links Dawbon and Mingala Taungnyunt Townships, and stressed the need for officials concerned upon timely completion of the bridge.

He went over the machine to mix asphalt and gravel at Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of the committee in Dawbon Township, and urged officials to make efforts.

Later, he looked into Yegu Pumping Station of Engineer Department (Water and Sanitation) of the committee on Yayset Street, Mayangon Township. He instructed officials on supplying more purified drinking water to locals.
NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — The 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry volleyball Tournament continued at designated places here today.

In the morning events, Ministry of Commerce won over Supreme Court with 3-0. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation defeated Ministry of Education with 3-2 in the group-C.

In the evening events, Ministry of Industry-1 crashed Ministry of Construction with 3-0 in the group-A. Ministry of Rail Transportation won over Ministry of Mines with 3-0 in the group-H.

Among the spectators were Minister for Rail Transportation, Deputy Minister for Electric Power, Ministry of Information teams in Inter-Ministry volleyball tournament.—MNA

Minister calls for close supervision in power supply

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — A coordination meeting on power supply to states and divisions including Yangon Division was held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, on 8 December.

Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, departmental heads and officials concerned attended the coordination meeting.

The minister made an opening speech on the occasion. Next, Chief Engineers U Tin Maung Tun and U Aung Khine briefed the minister on progress of work and Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise, Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise and Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Hydro Electric Power

IPRD opens Basic Library

Science Course

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Information and Public Relations Department under the ministry here today.

At the opening ceremony, Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD delivered an address. A total of 54 trainees from states and divisions are attending the five-week course.—MNA

Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD speaks at the opening of Basic Library Science Course.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min watches the match between Ministry of Rail Transportation and Ministry of Information teams in Inter-Ministry volleyball tournament.—MNA

Thura U Thaung Lwin, Departmental Heads, officials, service personnel and sports enthusiasts.

Ministry of Transport will play against Ministry of Defence in the group-D, Ministry of Cooperatives against Ministry of Sports in the group-C tomorrow morning and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement against Ministry of Science and Technology in the group-B and Ministry of Electric Power No 1 against Ministry of Mines in the group-F tomorrow evening.

There will be no events on 12 December. The second round-robin events will resume from 13 to 18 December.—MNA

Chinese lawmaker meets Latin-American Parl’s President

PANAMA CITY, 10 Dec — A senior Chinese lawmaker met with President of the Latin American Parliament Jorge Pizarro Soto here to exchange views on enhancing friendly cooperation between China’s legislature and the inter-parliamentary organization.

Lu Congmin, deputy director of the foreign affairs committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC), said that the NPC attaches great importance to its ties with the Latin-American Parliament.

MNA/Xinhua

Director U Soe Lwin of Bago (West) Division Development Affairs Committee inspects progress in paving Napyarin-Kyakhet rural gravel road being implemented by Pay Township Development Affairs Committee. Executive Officer U Kyi Than and Engineer In-Charge U Tun Tun Zaw presented reports to them during their inspection.

(TOWNSHIP DAC)

Sakyin Village BEHS (Branch) inaugurated, computer and accessories donated

MADAYA, 10 Dec — A ceremony to inaugurate Sakyin Village Basic Education High School (Branch) in PyinOoLwin District was held at the school on 18 November.

Township Education Officer Daw Khin Swe and the chairman of Ward Peace and Development Council made speeches on the occasion and chairman U Aung Lin of school board of trustees explained about the emergence of the school.

Township Education Officer Daw Khin Swe, the schoolheads of Madaya Township BEHS and high school (Branch), local authorities and the chairman of school board of trustees formally opened the signboard of the school.

Schoolhead Daw Than Nwe and the chairman of school board of trustees presented commemorative flags to the schoolhead of Madaya Township BEHS.

On behalf of donors, wellwisher U Win Khin Oo presented computers and accessories worth K 1,420,000 to be used at multimedia classroom through schoolhead Daw Than Nwe. — TOWNSHIP IPRD

A wellwisher donates computer and accessories to Schoolhead Daw Than Nwe. TOWNSHIP IPRD

DISTRICT NEWS
China to collect over $8.1b to finance oil subsidies

BEIJING, 10 Dec — China will collect more than 60 billion yuan ($1 billion US dollars) in special funds from oil producers to offer subsidies to public service sectors and low-income families feeling the pinch of increasingly higher prices. In the first nine months, the country’s oil producers have paid 41 billion yuan into the special fund, the National Development and Reform Commission said on Thursday in a statement posted on its website.

The special fund was launched to regulate the part of profits earned by oil producers from soaring international crude prices. The country’s domestic crude prices were roughly in line with global prices, unlike government-controlled prices for refined products. The commission said it had provided subsidies totalling 42 billion yuan this year for taxi drivers, low-income families challenged by higher charges for LPG and farmers affected by increased diesel prices. — MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Latam bioenergy cooperation have broad prospects

BUENOS AIRES, 10 Dec — Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang said here Sunday that China and Latin American countries have different characteristics and advantages in bioenergy exploration and enjoy broad cooperation prospects.

In an interview with Xinhua, Wan said that with rising world oil prices and growing concern for fuel pollution, many countries are conducting bioenergy exploration and application.

In its bioenergy development, the Chinese Government abides by three principles, namely, not using grain resources, not occupying agricultural lands and not affecting ecological environment. This practice is winning broader and broader recognition worldwide.

Wan said Latin American countries use their own methods and have special experience in bioenergy exploration. The Chinese Government hopes that both sides will reinforce cooperation in this regard. — MNA/Xinhua

PNA asks US to force Israel stick to Road Map

RAMALLAH, 10 Dec — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Saturday appealed for the United States to force Israel carrying out obligations as part of a US-backed peace plan.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Voice of Palestine radio that “We loudly ask the US Administration to act as the judge and compel Israel to implement its commitments which the Road Map plan specified.”

Erekat’s remarks were in response to an Israeli tender to expand a West Bank settlement though the first phase of the Road Map called on Israel to freeze settlement activities and the natural grow of the settlements.

Erekat pointed out that the tender comes about a week after the end of Annapolis peace conference which set on 12 December as the time for Israel and the PNA to start negotiations on the final-status. — MNA/Xinhua

Major earthquake hits South Fiji

WELLINGTON, 10 Dec — An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck in the vicinity of the Fiji Islands at 0729 GMT Sunday. The quake was reported at a depth of 187.6 kilometres, and 600 kilometres south-west of Nuku’alofa, Tonga, according to the US Geological Survey.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre has not issued tsunami warning relating to the earthquake. So far there is no report of damages. — MNA/Xinhua

Student arrested for Internet threat posting

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec — Police arrested a 21-year-old student at the Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles after he posted an Internet warning of a shooting on the campus, authorities said on Sunday.

Carlos Huerta, 21, a senior, was arrested about 10:15 last night near his campus apartment on suspicion of posting the threat on JuicyCampus.com, a blog primarily used by college students, said Los Angeles police officer Mike Lopez of Media Relations.

The supposed threat showed up about 11:30 am on Saturday on the Web site, which allows people to post messages anonymously.

Detectives with the Major Crimes Division, working with LMU’s Department of Public Safety, determined the JuicyCampus.com posting had come from Huerta’s computer, Lopez said.

Deputy Chief Michael Downing, head of the Counterterrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau, said: “There was never an indication the threat made was a valid one, and there is no ongoing threat to LMU.” — MNA/Xinhua

Brown in Iraq, bomb kills police chief

BASRA (IRAQ), 10 Dec — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown paid an unannounced visit on Sunday to the troops whose mission he is winding down in Shiite southern Iraq.

South of Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed the police chief of Babel Province, showing Shiite areas remain violent despite an overall reduction in bloodyshed across Iraq.

Brown visited the last major outpost of British troops at an air base outside the city of Basra and said Britain would hand over responsibility within weeks for security in Basra Province, the last of four it once patrolled in southern Iraq.

Britain now has just 4,500 troops in Iraq — a tenth of the force that Brown’s predecessor Tony Blair dispatched in 2003 to help the United States topple Saddam Hussein.

US troops kill 12 suspected insurgents in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec — US troops raided hideouts of suspected fighters of al-Qaeda in central and northern Iraq on Saturday, killing 12 suspects and detained 13 others, the US military said.

During an operation near the town of Yousifiyah, 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, the US troops backed by aircraft targeted a building and fought gunmen believed to be affiliated to al-Qaeda in Iraq network, killing ten suspected insurgents and detained two others, the military said in a statement.

The troops also seized numerous machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and several sandbags full of homemade explosive material, the statement said.

In Diyaala Province, the troops conducted another raid in Jalahlaarea, some 125 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, killing another suspected insurgent who is reportedly “associated with senior terrorist members and involved in attacks against Coalition and Iraqi security forces,” it said. — MNA/Xinhua

A visitor views the miniature scenery of the Suzhou Gardens in the new hall of Suzhou Garden Museum opened in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 4 Dec, 2007. — Internet

Baby girl Nadia (L), who weighed 7.75 kg (17.1 lbs) after birth, lies in a maternity ward in the Siberian city of Barnaul on 26 Sept, 2007. — Internet
Balinese dancers perform in front of global warming signs at the main venue for the UN climate conference meetings on 10 Dec, 2007 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia—INTERNET

A dredging boat sprays sand at the shore of Den Helder on 27 Nov, 2007. The Netherlands, world leaders in land reclamation, are considering an island in the shape of a tulip to fight overcrowding and shield the coastline from the rising sea.—INTERNET

A boy cries as Fruity, a trained dolphin, kisses him during the ‘Wonderful World of Dolphins’ show in Manila last month.—INTERNET

In this photo released by the Wildlife Conservation Society, a polar bear named Ida wears the container that previously held her holiday gift of peanut butter, trout, and whipped cream, at New York City’s Central Park Zoo, on 8 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JUPITER ACE VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV JUPITER ACE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of ASIA WORLD TERMINAL whereupon the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: BRIGHT SHIPPING CO. LTD. KOREA
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PLENTY OCEAN VOYNO (0707)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLENTY OCEAN VOYNO (0707) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL THILAWA where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: YOUNG MORE SHIPPING PTE LTD CHINA
Phone No: 256924/256914

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited
TENDER, IBF No. 05/Local/2007
Supply of Medicine, Tyre & Tube, Pump, Service, Electrical Items and General Items (35 lots) are invited from Local Suppliers by FEC Currency. Closing Date will be on 24th December 2007.
Tender documents are available at the following addresses:
Yangon: 70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7; Fax: (95) 1 514208; Email: micel@micel.com.mm
Site: Tel: (95) 71 222556; Fax: (95) 71 22522; Email: supply@micel.com.mm
Bids in sealed envelopes are to reach the above offices on or before the closing date.
Queries can be done between 10am to 4pm to Supply Dept (Tel: (95) 71 222556;
Email: supply@micel.com.mm) before the Tender Closing Date.

President’s of Venezuela, Belarus meet for cooperation
CARACAS, 9 Dec—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his Belarusian counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko, held a meeting here Friday on boosting bilateral cooperation.
Lukashenko arrived Thursday for a three-day official visit to Venezuela.
The visiting President paid homage at the National Pantheon to Freedom Fighter Simon Bolivar prior to meeting with Chavez. Chavez said he and Lukashenko will seek establishment of a joint venture to produce trucks for mining.
The two countries have signed cooperation agreements in a number of sectors, including energy, mining, technology, agrobusiness and petrochemicals.

Beijing-Shanghai express rail project solicits bids
BEIJING, 9 Dec—the company leading the construction of a Beijing-Shanghai express railway has invited bids for the project, which is to begin construction in January. In an announcement on Thursday, the Beijing Shanghai Express Railway Company invited global firms and organizations to compete for the project consulting work.
Two other contracts, for civil construction and engineering supervision work, are limited to domestic institutions and companies. The bidder for the global contract could also be a joint venture of one foreign consulting institute and two local ones, with the Chinese side as lead bidder. Bidding closes on 17 December.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The family of Daw Wai Wai Kan Oo (Rosalind) would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who took care of her during her illness; to friends and relatives who visited her during her illness and gave her words of encouragement; to her friends from the diplomatic corps and the expatriate community as well as the local community who attended her funeral or came personally to console the family and to those who sent floral tributes, messages of condolence by telephone, facsimile and e-mail. The family deeply regrets their inability to thank them individually.

Bereaved Family
ASEAN+3 call for removing barriers against disabled people

HANOI, 9 Dec — ASEAN ministers in charge of social welfare and development and three countries of China, South Korea and Japan called for consolidated efforts in removing all barriers that had previously hindered the full participation of persons with disabilities in society, Vietnam News Agency reported on Friday.

The appeal was set out in a joint statement released on Friday at the conclusion of the 2nd ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development in Hanoi. Ministers expressed their great appreciation to the relentless and continued support and cooperation by the Plus Three Countries in building ASEAN’s social welfare and development sectors. “We noted that one of the purposes of ASEAN as set out in the ASEAN Charter is to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice and hoped to see enhanced ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in the social welfare and development sector,” ministers said in the joint statement.

Ministers of the 13 countries also welcomed the proposal to establish a network addressing aging issue in ASEAN Plus Three countries as well as the proposed convening of ASEAN Plus Three meetings on aging to address the potential contribution and vulnerabilities of older persons. The next ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development is scheduled to take place in Burma in 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

US bird-flu expert calls for changes in early-warning system

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — The international science community is not doing enough to track many avian influenza viruses that might cause the next pandemic, an expert from University of California, Davis, said in 6 December issue of the journal Nature.

Global surveillance is critical for identifying and tracking potential pandemic viruses such as highly pathogenic H5N1. But the current surveillance strategy in wild birds is piecemeal and risks missing important virus sources or subtypes, Walter Boyce writes in a commentary entitled “Vigilance is not enough”.

Boyce, a UC Davis professor of veterinary medicine, is co-director of the Centre for Rapid Influenza Surveillance and Research, which is charged with tracking viruses in wild birds in the United States and Asia. — MNA/Xinhua

Arrest warrant issued for actor Daniel Baldwin

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec — A judge has revoked probation and issued an arrest warrant for actor Daniel Baldwin after he failed to appear in court for a progress report on his drug rehabilitation stemming from an arrest last year.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Scott Millington issued the warrant after the actor failed to show up in court as scheduled on Friday morning, according to court papers.

Baldwin, 47, is the brother of actors Alec, William and Stephen. Baldwin and has starred on numerous television shows, including "Homicide: Life on the Street," and in movies. — MNA/Reuters

NY museums say they are rightful owners of Picassos

NEW YORK, 9 Dec — Two New York museums asked a judge on Friday to declare that they are the legitimate owners of two Picasso paintings whose ownership has been challenged by a man who says they were sold under duress in Nazi Germany.

The 1935 sale of “Boy Leading a Horse” and “Le Moulin de la Galette” was legitimate, the Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R Guggenheim Foundation said in a suit filed in Manhattan federal court. The two museums are suing Julius Schoeps, a scholar at the University of Potsdam, who says he is the heir of wealthy German Jewish art collector and banker Paul Robert Ernst von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and that the banker was forced to sell the paintings in Nazi Germany before his death in 1935. — MNA/Reuters

Developing countries propose technology fund for climate change

BALI (Indonesia), 9 Dec — Developing countries, grouped under the G-77, have proposed at the ongoing Bali UN climate conference that a new multilateral cooperation fund be set to finance the development, deployment and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

This was the highlight of the G-77’s paper on “Proposed Elements for A Draft Decision on Development and Transfer of Technologies” at the conference, sources with the Third World Network said. The paper was presented at a contact group under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) during the conference, which is tasked with drawing up a “roadmap” for negotiations on a new climate deal before the current phase of the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

The proposal came after developing countries insisted that the technology transfer issue is important to adapt to and mitigate climate change and proposed that the issue be discussed in SBI to ensure that the commitments of developed countries will be implemented, the spokesmen said.

The paper delivered by Ghana referred to the fact that the current institutional, financial and monitoring arrangement under the Convention are inadequate to deliver immediate and urgent transfer of technologies to developing countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Taxis enter and exit a section of a covered road that crosses over the Beijing Zoo on its inaugural day, on 21 Nov, 2007. One thousand metres long, it is the first enclosed stretch of road in the capital, and was built with insulating materials to minimize traffic noise to the zoo animals. — INTERNET

An ice-covered downed tree covers a pickup truck in Joplin, Mo, on 9 Dec, 2007. An ice storm downed trees and power lines in southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas leaving many residents without power. — INTERNET

An artist makes final touch to a mural painting in a coal mine in Huaibei city, east China’s Anhui Province, on 27 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET
**SPORTS**

**Middlesbrough end Arsenal's unbeaten run**

LONDON, 10 Dec — Leaders Arsenal suffered their first Premier League defeat of the season on Sunday when they were deservedly beaten 2-1 away by struggling Middlesbrough.

An early penalty by Stewart Downing and a shot by Turkey striker Tuncay Sanli after 73 minutes were fair reward for Boro's dominance.

Arsenal remain top on 37 points, one ahead of Manchester United who beat bottom club Derby County 4-1 on Saturday while Chelsea are two points further back after beating Sunderland 2-0.

Next Sunday, Arsenal play Chelsea and Liverpool host Manchester United.

Middlesbrough, who began the day in the relegation zone after going 11 games in all competitions without a win, went ahead with Downing's fourth-minute penalty after Kolo Toure brought down his former team mate Jeremie Aliadiere. — MNA/Reuters

**English Premier League match reports**

**Blackburn Rovers 1 West Ham United 0**

Dean Ashton came on as a halftime substitute to earn West Ham's fourth away win of the season, tucking in a low cross from George McCartney after 52 minutes. Blackburn tried everything to get level but Roque Santa Cruz shot over when through in the second half while Tugay Kerimoglu's late volley was spectacularly saved by West Ham goalkeeper Robert Green.

**Bolton Wanderers 4 Wigan Athletic 1**

Bolton's recovery under Gary Megson continued while things remain dire for second-to-last Wigan.

A Paul Scharner own goal in the third minute put Bolton ahead, Denny Landzaat equalizing in the 14th. Kevin Nolan restored Bolton's lead before halftime with Kevin Davies and Nicolas Anelka, who earlier blazed a penalty over the bar, on target after the break.

**Tottenham Hotspur 2 Manchester City 1**

City, so dominant at home, failed on the road again as Jermain Defoe came off the bench to win it for Spurs eight minutes from time.

Tottenham went ahead at the end of the first half through a clearly offside Pascal Chimbonda following a hardly awarded freekick, before City sub Ro- lando Bianchi crashed in a header from a corner after an hour.

City had Stephen Ireland sent off for a bad challenge seconds before Defoe's winner. — MNA/Reuters

**Celtic snatch late draw to go two points clear at top**

GLASGOW, 9 Dec — Champions Celtic moved two points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League on Saturday after substitute Derek Riordan's late strike allowed them to snatch a 1-1 draw at home to St Mirren.

Struggling Saints grabbed the opener when Celtic goalkeeper Mark Brown parried a Billy Mehmet shot in the 73rd minute only for Steve McGuin to crack in the rebound. With just five minutes left, Riordan bundled in the leveller after a pass from Dutch midfielder Evander Sno.

Celtic, aiming for their third successive SPL title, top the standings with 33 points from 15 matches. Second-placed rivals Rangers, on 31 from 14 games, had their Sunday clash with Gretna postponed to allow them more time to prepare for their Champions League match against Lyon. — MNA/Reuters

**Partizan rout OFK to go 5 points clear in Serbia**

BELGRADE, 9 Dec — Serbian league leaders Partizan Belgrade romped to a 5-1 home win over city rivals OFK on Saturday to go five points clear of second-placed Vojvodina Novi Sad, who were 2-0 winners at home to Napredak Krusevac. Three goals in six minutes by Moreira, Stevan Jovetic and Antonio Rukavina shortly before the break gave Partizan a 4-1 lead at the interval after their former player Stefan Babovic had cancelled out Lamine Diarra's opener.

**Inter romp past Torino to stretch lead**

ROME, 10 Dec — Inter Milan crushed Torino 4-0 at home on Sunday to stretch their lead at the top of Serie A to five points. Zlatan Ibrahimovic set the champions on their way in the 38th minute with a penalty, while Julio Cruz, Luis Jimenez and Ivan Cordoba completed the rout in the second half. The champions have 37 points from 15 games, while second-placed AS Roma have 32 after being held 1-1 at Livorno. Inter coach Roberto Mancini said his side, who are unbeaten in the league, were not running away with the title.

"There is still a long way to go," he told Sky television. "We have to stay concentrated and be careful. Roma are a great team and Jave have the advantage of not being involved in European competition." At the San Siro the visitors had the best chances before Ibrahimovic's spot kick, concealed when Gianluca Comotto brought down the Sweden forward in the area. — MNA/Reuters

**Lyon lose before visiting Rangers**

PARIS, 9 Dec — Olympique Lyon warmed up for their decisive Champions League Group E tie at Rangers in poor fashion by losing 1-0 at modest Caen in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Forward Yoan Gouffran hit the winner for promoted Caen when he raced into the box to beat Lyon goalkeeper Remy Vercoutre on 18 minutes. Lyon, who looked sluggish in the first half and clumsy in the second, have to win in Glasgow on Wednesday to make the last 16 of the Champions League while Rangers only need a draw to advance. — MNA/Reuters

**Barca reclaim second spot after win over Depor**

MADRID, 10 Dec — Barcelona re-claimed second spot in the Primera Liga behind arch-rivals Real Madrid after they maintained their 100 per cent record at the Nou Camp with a 2-1 comeback win over Deportivo Coruna on Sunday.

Deportivo silenced the home crowd when they took a shock lead in the third minute, former Barca youth teamer Cristian beating Victor Valdes with a 20-metre swerve, but Barca equalized through a Ronaldinho penalty just before the break.

Depor looked as though they might hold out for a draw until midfielder Xavi side-footed home from close range 20 minutes from time after keeper Gustavo Munua had tipped a Carles Puyol cross into his path. Barca striker Samuel Eto'o returned to action after over three months out with a thigh injury and came through unscathed. — MNA/Reuters

**Sarka Zahrobska of Czech Republic competes during the first run of the World Cup Slalom ski race on 9 Dec, 2007 in Aspen, Colo. Zahrobska had the 6th best time in the first run.** — MNA/Reuters

**Ireland's Jessica Kurten clears a fence on Castle Forbes Libertina to take the 3rd place of the FEI World Cup competition at the 47th CSI-W Show-jumping tournament in Geneva, Switzerland, on 9 Dec, 2007.** — MNA/Reuters

**Villarreal's Ruben Gracia "Cani" (C) is tackled by Betis' Matias Fernandez watches during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Madrigal Stadium in Villarreal on 9 Dec, 2007.** — INTERNET

**Runners endure heavy rain during the early morning start of the 35th Honolulu Marathon, on 9 Dec, 2007.** — INTERNET
Afghan troops capture 31 insurgents

KABUL, 10 Dec—Afghanistan’s law enforcing agencies have claimed capturing 31 Taliban militants including their group commander in central province Wardak, a local newspaper citing intelligence sources reported Saturday.

"Sources in national intelligence department said Thursday that Taliban commander Ahmad Shah along with his 30 men were captured in an operation in Syedabad District of Wardak Province," the newspaper Arman-e-Milile reported.

According to intelligence sources, the alleged Taliban commander, Ahmad Shah had been involved in terrorist activities including abducting people, murdering, robbery and setting on fire the local radio station over the past one year. Taliban militants have yet to make comment.

Wardak, some 35 kilometres west of Kabul, has been the scene of Taliban activities over the past couple of months. Conflicts and Taliban-related violence have claimed the lives of over 6,000 people so far this year in war-torn Afghanistan.

Afghan Interior Ministry condemned the killing, it added, offering no more details.

There has been no responsibility claim yet. In neighbouring Nimruz province, a failed suicide blast targeting provincial governor killed seven people on 19 November. Governor Ghulam Dastgar survived the attack.

Rising military-related violence has left over 6,000 people killed this year in war-torn Afghanistan.

Ambush kills district chief, 5 in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Dec—Unknown militants killed chief of Delaram District and five others on Saturday during an ambush on the district chief’s convoy in western Afghan Farah Province, an interior ministry statement said.

“Enemies of Afghanistan during an ambush on the convoy of Gulam Yeri, Chief of Delaram District, killed him, his three bodyguards and two relatives today when they were on the way to another district,” the statement said.

Afghan Interior

Belgian rail strike cuts services by half

BRUSSELS, 10 Dec—About half the usual number of trains ran on the Belgian rail network on Saturday as a rail union staged the first in a series of 24-hour work stoppages that will include Christmas and New Year.

A spokeswoman for rail operator Infrabel said a few areas had no services at all but nationwide about one in two trains were running.

“It’s made it quite difficult for passengers, especially in areas where there is no alternative transport,” said Sofie Van Haele.

The OVS-SIC independent rail workers union has also announced plans for stoppages on 15, 22 and 29 December, from 2 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve in its dispute over working conditions.

The union represents a large number of train drivers.

Van Haele said the Flemish-speaking Flanders region was more badly affected than French-speaking Wallonia.

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 11 December

View on today

7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas
2. Meditation on Christ
3. Prayer for all people
4. Checking weather
5. Dancing of national head
6. Nice and sweet song
7. Morning news

7:40 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

8:00 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

8:20 am 7. Song of yesteryears

8:30 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

8:40 am 7. Song of yesteryears

9:00 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

9:20 am 7. Song of yesteryears

9:40 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

10:00 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

10:20 am 7. Song of yesteryears

10:40 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

11:00 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

11:20 am 7. Song of yesteryears

11:40 am 1. Meditation on Christ
2. Prayer for all people
3. Checking weather
4. Dancing of national head
5. Nice and sweet song
6. Morning news

WEATHER

Monday, 10 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in remaining areas. Night temperatures were (8°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Pina lung and PyinOoLwin (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 9-12-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 10-12-2007 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 10-12-2007 was 74%.

Total sunshine hours on 9-12-2007 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 10-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall 1-1-2007 was (136.57) inches at Mingaladon, (141.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (16:30) hours MST on 9-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-12-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, Bago, Ayeawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 11-12-2007: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-12-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-12-2007: Generally fair.
People’s Desire

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

Minister inspects progress in upgrading Yangon-Pyay railroad

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Vice-Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Sein Myint inspected progress in upgrading of Yangon-Pyay railroad and maintenance of roads and bridges along the railroad on 2 December.

They looked into progress in replacing wooden sleepers with concrete ones between Hsinhmeswe and Thiegon railroad section. Upon arrival at the steel beam bridge at Paungde Township, they inspected maintenance of the bridge and gave instructions on keeping control over the waterways flowing under the bridge.

At Nattalin and Thayawady Stations, they looked into security, sanitation and beautifying measures and maintenance of the railroad and urged officials concerned to focus on smooth and secure transport for the passengers.

Next, they inspected progress of maintenance along the railroad and arrived at Insein Station where they looked into the station and its compound, and roads, bridges and stations standing along Yangon-Pyay railroad. — MNA

SIGNIFICANT NIGHT TEMPERATURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>(-2°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinlaung</td>
<td>(5°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PyinOoLwin</td>
<td>(5°C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation

☆ BBC lying
☆ VOA deceiving
☆ RFA setting up hostilities
☆ Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers