World prepares for Christmas

Birmingham, Ala. The Birmingham Christmas Tree lights up Linn Park in downtown Birmingham, Ala.

Lansing, Mich. - Fireworks explode over the state Capitol following a the ceremonial lighting of the official state Christmas tree in Lansing, Mich. The event was part of the 28th annual Silver Bells in the City celebration. This year's state tree is a 75-foot-tall Concolor Fir tree from Jackson, donated by Anthony and Stephanie LaPorte.

Brussels, Belgium - An abstract light installation replaces the traditional Christmas tree at the Grand Place in Brussels. Traditionally, a 20m (65ft) pine tree from the forests of the Ardennes decorates the city's central square, the Grand Place. This year, it has been replaced with a 25m (82ft) construction.

Moscow, Russia - Moscow's Kremlin is reflected in Christmas-tree decoration balls hung on a Christmas tree in Red Square. New Year's is the biggest holiday of the year in Russia.

Trafalgar Square in London - The lit up tree is seen during the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at Trafalgar Square in London, The tree is presented by the Norwegian capital of Oslo to the citizens of London as a token of gratitude for Britain's support during the World War II. Credit: AP Photo/Sang Tan

Vatican City - The 24 metres (78.74 feet) Christmas tree is lit in St. Peter's square at the Vatican. The Christmas season kicks off Friday at the Vatican with the traditional lighting of the tree in St. Peter's Square — and a reminder from the Pope about what happened when the "lights" of God were turned off in past atheistic regimes.

Warsaw, Poland - People enjoy the Christmas illuminations at the Royal Treaty street in Warsaw, Poland.

New York - A 130-foot tall digital Christmas tree is unveiled high atop One Times Square on the Toshiba Vision and TDK screens,in New York. The tree will deliver high-tech holiday greetings to the "Crossroads of the World," 24 hours a day, every 10 minutes, through January 13, 2013.

Seoul, South Korea - A Christmas tree is lit up to celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday in front of City Hall in Seoul, South Korea. Credit: AP Photo/Lee Jin-man
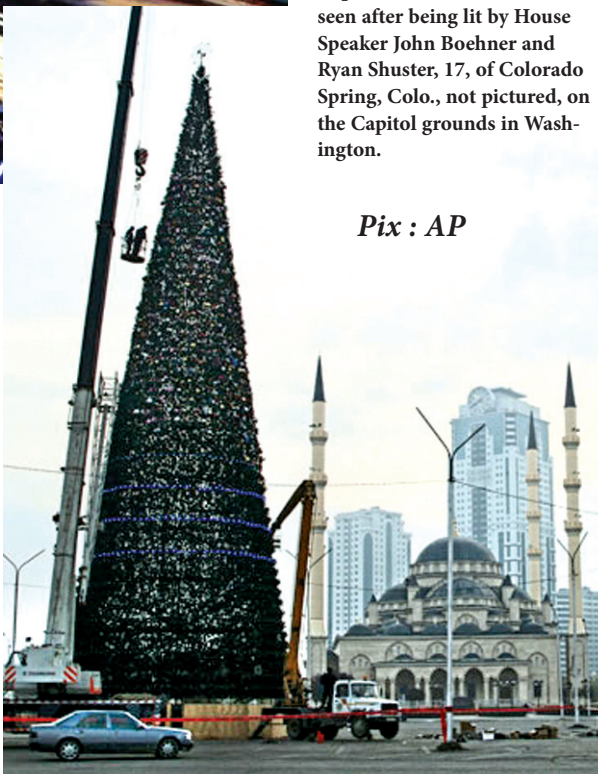
Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Capitol Christmas tree is seen after being lit by House Speaker John Boehner and Ryan Shuster, 17, of Colorado Spring, Colo., not pictured, on the Capitol grounds in Washington.

Pix : AP

Grozny, Russia - A giant Christmas tree is installed in front of a mosque in Chechnya's provincial capital Grozny, southern Russia.

Tokyo - A sales clerk poses near a Christmas tree made of pure gold at jewelry store GINZA TANAKA in Tokyo. The 2.4-metre(7.8-feet)-tall and 43 kilograms (about 95 pounds) tree which is decorated with Disney characters, went on sale for 350 million yen (US$4.3 million).

Erfurt, Germany - People walk at a Christmas Market during heavy rain in front of the Mariendom (Cathedral of Mary), left, and St. Severi's Church, right, in Erfurt, central Germany. The Erfurt Christmas Market is one of the most beautiful Christmas Markets in Germany. The square is decorated with a huge, candle-lit Christmas tree and a large, hand-carved nativity scene.

Los Angeles - The Holiday Tree is seen at the 5th annual Holiday Tree Lighting at L.A. Live and opening of LA Kings Holiday Ice, in Los Angeles.

Nice, France - An illuminated pyramid is the design for Christmas lights in Nice, southeastern France.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - Fireworks explode over a floating Christmas tree in Lagoa lake at the annual holiday tree lighting event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Christmas tree is believed to be one of the largest in the world decorated with millions of Christmas lights.