

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 260

3rd Waxing of Pyatho 1367 ME

Sunday, 1 January, 2006

## Strength and prowess of Myanmar is glorious in history

It has been placed on record with many concrete and profound evidences that Myanmar are people who have successively inherited and preserved the pride of their origin and lineage and safeguarded their freedom with heroic spirit. In the course of their struggles for regaining national independence without letting themselves get bogged down in the quagmire of slavery in the aftermath of lawless aggression of colonial forces, Myanmar on the strength of their love of lineage and nation had fought back against the colonialists politically and militarily in various ways. We should never forget that the proud strength and prowess of Myanmar who had forged strong unity and striven in unison throughout the course of the struggle for Independence, sacrificing lots of lives, blood and sweat, is glorious in Myanmar history.

**Senior General Than Shwe**  
**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council**  
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services**

(Message sent on the occasion of the 51st Anniversary Independence Day)



## Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Cuba

YANGON, 1 Jan— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2006. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Sudanese President

YANGON, 1 Jan— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Lt-Gen Umar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Sudan which falls on 1 January 2006. — MNA

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends meeting of Central Committee for observance of 58th Anniversary Independence Day

YANGON, 31 Dec — The Central Committee for observance of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day for 2006 held its coordination meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that today's coordination meeting was the second to be held to

organize the 58th Anniversary Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2006 on a grand scale in line with the Independence Day Objectives.

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of Central Committee for observance of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day for 2006. — MNA

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**

## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 January, 2006

### Safeguard cultural heritage and national character

In the long history, Myanmar stood tall among the international community under its own monarchs for years countable by the thousand. Myanmar has been recognized by the world in its preservation of national culture.

Myanmars being civilized peoples are to value their nation, race and culture. They are to keep a constant vigilance against the penetration of alien culture and character. It is incumbent upon all the national people including artistes to safeguard cultural heritage and national character.

The Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2004 of the Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise under the Ministry of Information was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon on 30 December, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The government is making efforts in all seriousness for developing Myanmar film world. In this regard, genres of academy award have been extended and now there are a total of 11 genres. So far, altogether 279 awards have been presented. Besides, measures are being taken to raise the quality of Myanmar films and to ensure the participation of Myanmar in foreign film festivals and the penetration of Myanmar films into foreign nations. Myanmar films of high class were shown and Myanmar artistes and technicians took part in Myanmar Film Festival held in Singapore this year and the festival held to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing Myanmar-Korea diplomatic relations.

In the meantime, some of Myanmar films were shown at Cape Town Film Festival in South Africa and Golden Cock Film Festival in the People's Republic of China. Myanmar films could be introduced in Malaysia and Australia.

While striving for development of the Myanmar film world and improvement of Myanma movie standard, the government has reconstituted Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on which those from the film world have to rely.

At present, foreign movies and CDs are flooding into Myanmar and they outnumber domestic films. They are a grave threat to Myanmar film and video industries as well as to national culture, nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit.

Only when this threat is removed will there be improvement in Myanmar film and video industries. Nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit will flourish and can be preserved.

At a time when efforts are being made for improvement of Myanma movie standard, those from the film world are to try their utmost in safeguarding the cultural heritage and national character.



## People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

### Foreign Minister felicitates Cuban Counterpart

YANGON, 1 Jan— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Felipe Perez Roque, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2006.

MNA

### Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Sudan

YANGON, 1 Jan— On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Sudan, which falls on 1 January 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Lam Akol Ajawin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan.

MNA

## Health Minister on inspection tour of Kayin, Mon states



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspects construction of the annex of Kawkareik District Hospital in Kawkareik.— HEALTH

YANGON, 31 Dec — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint together with Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department, Deputy Director-General U Than Aung and officials of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) made an inspection tour of hospitals in Mon State yesterday morning.

The Minister and party arrived at Thaton District General Hospital in Mon State, and inspected wards, the delivery room, the laboratory and the operation theatre and gave necessary instructions.

At Kawkareik District General Hospital, they observed the laboratory, the operation theatre, the medical store, wards, and inspected progress in construction of an annex to the hospital. In the evening, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and party arrived at

Hlaingbwe Township Hospital, and viewed round units of the hospital and inspected progress in construction of a 50-bed hospital. While in Hpa-an, the minister and party oversaw units of Hpa-an General Hospital, and gave encouragement words to patients.

This morning, the minister and party inspected Hpa-an Nurses Training School. Next, they also viewed round Mottama Station Hospital and Paung Township Hospital in Paung Township, in Mon State. The minister viewed round the hospitals and gave necessary instructions. They proceeded to Zingyaik health care centre and cordially met with staff.

The Minister enquired public health and disease control measures. Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and party arrived at Kyaihto General Hospital and observed wards, maternity room, laboratory, surgical ward and medical store and attended to the needs.—MNA

### Hole-in-one

YANGON, 31 Dec — Vice-President of Tokyo Enterprise Co. Ltd Mr Shigeo Hana scored an ace from 180 yards using Tour Stage (7) Wood and Prestep No 22 ball at the hole No 8 while playing together with partners Mr Takashi Endo, Mr Yusuke Ohmi and Mr Hiroyuki Sakurai at Yangon Golf Course on 18 December morning.

MNA



RESPECTS PAID: Old students of Institute of Medicine-2 (Mingaladon) for 1970-1971-1973 academic year held the ceremony to pay respects to retired faculty members at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on 31-12-2005. An old student presents gifts to a retired faculty member.— H

In memory of late U San Lwin, Maung Kyaw Sithu Wai and Maung Min Sithu Wai of Kamayut Township present K 100,000 to Treasurer U Aung Than of Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently.— H

### All this needs to be known

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

# Top Russian, Cuban military huddle in Havana

HAVANA, 30 Dec — Cuban Defence Minister Raul Castro has met in Havana with Russia's second-ranking military officer, official media said on Thursday.

The chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Army General Yuri Baluyevsky, arrived on Monday for a two-week visit. Baluyevsky's delegation is the highest-ranking to visit Cuba since 1998. The trip comes amid an increase in Cuban defence spending and concerns over the US military posture after the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The entire front page of the Communist party daily, *Granma*, was taken up with a photo of Wednesday's meeting and commentary describing the encounter as one between old friends.

"The conversation between the two military leaders was cordial and

friendly, with both recognizing the historic ties between their two countries," *Granma* said.

Baluyevsky is touring military units and installations equipped with vintage Soviet hardware

and was expected to vacation on the island as well. The Cuban economy has been recovering from a more than decade-long crisis during which the military budget was cut by at least 50 per cent,

according to the government. But defence spending has steadily risen since 2003, as always-tense relations between the Communist nation and the United States deteriorated further.—MNA/Reuters

## At least 12 killed as landslides destroy Yemeni village

SANAA, 30 Dec — Landslides in Yemen have destroyed a small village southwest of the capital Sanaa, killing at least 12 people including women and children with dozens more missing, a government official said on Thursday.

He said large rocks fell down a mountain — about 12 miles southwest of Sanaa — into the village, destroying its 27 houses.

Police cordoned off the area and are searching for survivors. About 10 people were injured — some seriously — and have been taken to hospital.

Landslides are rare in Yemen, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, but the country is prone to floods in spring and summer.— MNA/Reuters

ထုတ်တုန့်အံ့သ တိုးမြှင့်



A south Korean protester chants slogans at an anti-war protest near Parliament in Seoul, on 30 Dec. 2005.

INTERNET



Firefighters turn over a vehicle as they try and douse the fire after a bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

## US small plane crash kills three

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — A small plane crashed in a cornfield in Midwestern US state of Nebraska Thursday morning, killing all three people on board, US media reported. The crash occurred shortly after 10 am local time when dense fog blanketed that area.

The wreckage was later found in the cornfield near a highway.

Police has not identified the victims and could not immediately confirm whether mechanical problems played a part in the accident. — MNA/Xinhua

## Ten killed in US air strike on Iraqi village

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec — US fighter jets dropped two 500-pound (225-kil) bombs on a village in northern Iraq, killing 10 Iraqis they suspected of planting explosive devices on a nearby road, the US military said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Tuesday in a small village near the town of Hawija, 30 miles southwest of Kirkuk, the military said.

The pilots were

flying a routine patrol when they saw three men digging holes by the side of major road and planting bombs in them, a statement said.

When they heard the planes overhead, the men jumped in a car and fled. They were soon joined by another car as the jets tracked them. They drove the cars into the village and tried to hide by parking between two buildings, the statement said.

The pilots then dropped two 500-pound laser-guided bombs.

"They were able to destroy the vehicles while causing only minimal damage to surrounding structures," the military said.

MNA/Reuters

## Accident in Kathmandu on rise

KATHMANDU, 30 Dec — The number of accidents in Nepali capital, the Kathmandu Valley has increased remarkably in the recent months, an official of the Valley Traffic Police Office (VTPO) said here Thursday. Over 32 bus accident cases have been registered with the VTPO in the last six months, inspector at the VTPO Rajendra Bastola said.

"Records show at least one bus accident takes place in the Valley every week on an average," he said, adding that previous records show just half the number of bus accidents — one accident in every two weeks. — MNA/Xinhua

## Study shows about one in ten US teens face major depression

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — Nearly one in 10 American teenagers experienced major depression last year and fewer than half were treated, according to government statistics released on Thursday that doctors say confirm the problem is still overlooked among young people.

Overall, 9 per cent of teenagers, or 2.2 million, were depressed, with older teens more at risk than their younger peers, said the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA.

About 12 per cent of youths aged 16 or 17 faced severe depression in 2004, compared with about 5 per cent of those 12 or 13 years old. Among those aged 14 or 15, 9 per cent experienced a major episode.

"These new data serve as a wake-up call to parents. Mental health is a critical part of the overall health and well-being of their

children," said SAMHSA Administrator Charles Curie.

Major depression was considered a period of at least two weeks that included a loss of interest, depressed mood and at least four other symptoms such as a change in sleeping, eating or concentration.

Doctors said the findings showed more needed to be done to help teenagers early on, but were not surprising.

"The real tragedy, as the report notes, is that there are still so many young people who aren't receiving the appropriate and effective treatment they

need and deserve," Dr David Fassler, a psychiatry professor at the University of Vermont, said in an e-mail to Reuters.

Dr. Bennett Leventhal, a professor of child and

adolescent psychology at the University of Illinois in Chicago, said the number of depressed teens had hovered at about 10 per cent for 15 to 20 years.

MNA/Reuters

## Two more GIs killed in Iraq; toll at 841

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec — Two more US soldiers were killed in Iraq as the year wound down Friday.

The two new deaths of US military personnel were announced Friday by the American military. A bomb killed one soldier when it struck his vehicle in Baghdad on Friday, while the second soldier was shot and killed in the western city of Fallujah.

Their deaths brought the number of US military members killed so far in 2005 to 841, of whom 64 died in December. A total of 846 troops died in 2004 and 485 in 2003. The worst month in 2005 was January with 106 fatalities, followed by November with 96 and August with 85. The United States hopes that as more Iraqi police and army forces are trained, they will slowly take over responsibility for security from American troops. — Internet

## India to launch South Asia free trade pact from January

**NEW DELHI, 30 Dec**— The Indian Cabinet approved on Thursday the introduction of a pact with its neighbours from 1 January to promote free trade and economic ties in South Asia, home to nearly one-fifth of the world's population.

Commerce Minister Kamal Nath said India would initially cut Customs duties by 5 per cent for goods imported from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Nepal after the launch of the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement.

Although some member countries are yet to ratify the pact, Indian officials said New Delhi would go ahead with implementing the agreement from 1 January and was hopeful its neighbours would follow suit.

"This is a first major step for a free-trade agreement with the meeting.

The trade pact was first mooted in 1995 by the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), an economic grouping formed to reduce poverty, promote trade and fight terrorism.

Under the pact, SAARC's developing states—Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka—will cut tariffs to between zero and 5 per cent within seven years of the start of the agreement. Its least developed countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives—have 10 years to complete the process, though all members can maintain a list of sensitive products on which tariffs will not be

reduced.

"There is a special dispensation for the least developed countries for the revenue loss," Nath said.

Free trade is expected to boost economic activity and growth in the region, home to about 1.5 billion people, more than 400 million of whom live on less than a dollar a day.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မုနွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

## Frosty restaurant draws diners in China's ice city

**BEIJING, 30 Dec**— Harbin, China's "ice city", has opened a sub-zero eatery — one with ice brick walls, a vaulted ice dome and ice tables and stools.

It seems hardly the cosiest of settings but has surely enjoyed a roaring trade, *China Daily* reported Thursday.

Diners are greeted with a frosty reception as soon as they walk through the doors at the eatery, which is solely made of ice.

Not surprisingly, one of the most popular choices there is "huoguo",

or hotpot.

The restaurant, located on the Sun Island, a tourism resort north of the Songhua River, is arousing huge interest among visitors to the area.

The outside feature of this sub-zero architecture is of European design, while its interior decoration is Chinese style, with ice sculptures of traditional

legendary figures dotted inside.

The ice restaurant is aimed at providing visitors to Sun Island with a completely new and unforgettable experience, *China Daily* quoted Liu Jianguo, sales manager of the restaurant, as saying.

He said some 800 cubic metres of ice was used to build the restaurant, which can accommodate 100 people.

An Ice and Snow Sculpture Art Exhibition is on show at Sun Island and the ice restaurant is undoubtedly an eye-catching highlight of the event.—MNA/Xinhua



Police officers check on a photo journalist's identification outside the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 30 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

## Sudan shuts Iraq Embassy to aid hostages

**BAGHDAD, 30 Dec**—Sudan will close its embassy in Baghdad in an effort to win the release of six kidnapped employees, a Sudanese diplomat said Friday, a day after al-Qaida in Iraq threatened to kill the captives if the diplomatic mission remained.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, which has kidnapped and killed a string of Arab diplomats and embassy employees in a campaign to scare Arab governments from setting up full diplomatic missions in Iraq, had set a Saturday deadline for Sudan to "announce clearly that it is cutting its relations" with the Iraqi government, or it would kill five Sudanese hostages.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry reported on 24 Dec that six of its embassy employees were kidnapped — including the mission's second secretary. It was not immediately clear if the al-Qaida statement referred to the same group. "A statement was issued by the Sudanese government to close the embassy in Iraq to win the release of our kidnapped citizens," the embassy's charge d'affaires, Mohamed Ahmed Khalil, told *The Associated Press*.

He added that the embassy's 12 employees would leave on Monday.—Internet

## Ten from neighbouring families killed in South Egypt

**ASSIUT (Egypt), 30 Dec**— Ten people from three neighbouring families were murdered in a south Egyptian village on Thursday and their corpses mutilated, police sources said.

The killer or killers slit their throats at dawn and disappeared without anyone noticing them, leaving the bodies lying

in the houses in the same street in the village of Ezbet Shamseddin, 110 miles south of Cairo, they said.

The victims were a lawyer, 40, and his 60-year-old mother in one house, and a teacher, 35, his wife, 25, and their two sons, aged three years and nine months, in another, they said.

The victims in the third house were a farmer, 50, his 45-year-old wife

and their son and daughter, aged 10 and eight, they added. Other sources gave slightly different details earlier.

All of the victims had Muslim names.

"We are not aware of any disputes or matters of honour involved in this crime. So we're working on the assumption it was someone mentally deranged," one police source said.

MNA/Reuters

## Road accident kills six in central Iran

**TEHRAN, 30 Dec**— Six people were killed and 22 others injured when a bus and an automobile collided in the central Iranian province of Yazd on Wednesday afternoon, the official IRNA news agency reported on Thursday. Abbas Heydari, local transportation police officer, was quoted as saying that the driver of the automobile, who overtook inappropriately, was to blame for the accident.

Iran has one of the highest rates of road accidents in the world. Official statistics show that in every 24 minutes there is one person dead in a road accident.

Transport experts blame most of the accidents on hazardous roads and reckless driving.

According to the latest figures, more than 15,000 people have been killed in traffic accidents in Iran since March 2005, 6.3 per cent up from that of last year.—MNA/Xinhua



Salaa Haider, 28, talks to a medic at a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 Dec, 2005, after sustaining injuries from an exploding Improvised Explosive Device, or IED, when he parked his car in the centre of Baghdad.—INTERNET

## Indonesia aims for 5.5 m tourist visits in 2006

**JAKARTA, 30 Dec**— The Indonesian Government has targeted to accommodate 5.5 million tourist arrivals and earn 5 billion US dollars from this sector next year, an official said Thursday.

"The targeted 5.5 million arrivals are our moderate figure. We also set a more optimistic target of 6 million arrivals," Minister of Culture and Tourism Jero Wacik told reporters here.

He said the estimated tourist arrivals dropped to 5.1 million this year from 5.32 million in 2004 and foreign exchange revenue from the sector also fell to 4.5 billion US dollars against last year's 4.7 billion US dollars.—MNA/Xinhua

# Iran, Russia to discuss uranium enrichment

**TEHRAN, 30 Dec**— Top Iranian and Russian officials agreed on Thursday to hold talks on a Russian proposal aimed at resolving Teheran's nuclear standoff with the West, an Iranian diplomat close to the talks said.

The proposal, which is backed by Washington and the European Union, involves the creation of a joint Iranian-Russian company to enrich uranium in Russia.

The plan has been put forward by Moscow in a bid to allay international concerns that Iran could manufacture highly-enriched uranium on its own soil to build atomic

weapons.

Iran says it only wants to enrich uranium to a low-grade, suitable for use in atomic power reactors.

Iranian officials had previously said they would reject any plan which denied Iran the right to build its own uranium enrichment facilities.

But, in a sudden change of tone, a senior

official had said on Wednesday Teheran would "seriously and enthusiastically" study the Russian plan.

The diplomat, speaking to *Reuters* on condition of anonymity, said the agreement for talks on the proposal came during a telephone conversation between Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and

Russian Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov.

Larijani told Ivanov there were "ambiguities and problems" with the Russian plan but that "the outline of the proposal can be reviewed", the diplomat said.

Ivanov agreed to send a delegation to Teheran led by one of his deputies for further talks, the diplomat said, without specifying when they would take place. Ivanov, who has a record of holding unofficial talks on tricky foreign policy issues for the Kremlin, was not immediately available for comment.

*MNA/Reuters*



*Pedestrians walk past a department store decorated with various toy dogs in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 30 Dec, 2005. 2006 is the year of the dog, according to the Chinese lunar calendar, which starts on 29 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET*

## 2.2 tons of cocaine seized in Madrid

**MADRID, 30 Dec** — Spanish police seized 2.2 tons of cocaine in Madrid on Wednesday night in the biggest bust in Spanish history, police said on Thursday.

According to police, the drug was hidden in one-kilo packs in several tanks at the Barajas International Airport and in the Loeches community in Madrid.

The drug was brought in from Venezuela to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with a stopover in Miami of the United States, and was supposedly bound for a firm of Seville.

Three Spanish men, aged from 27 to 33, were arrested Wednesday night when they went to pick up five tanks of drug hidden in Loeches. The remaining drug was found at Barajas.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## One dead, four injured in Ukraine gas blast

**KIEV, 30 Dec**— Rescuers have retrieved one body and rescued four people after a gas explosion tore through an apartment building in the southern city of Odessa, Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry said on Thursday.

Emergency crews ended their rescue efforts early on Thursday, more than 16 hours after the gas blast, the ministry said in a statement. —*MNA/Xinhua*

## Seven dead in Russian hospital fire, 12 injured

**MOSCOW, 30 Dec** — Seven people were killed and at least 12 suffered burns when fire broke out early on Thursday at a hospital near Moscow that treats people for nervous disorders, officials said.

A spokesman for Russia's Emergencies Ministry said the fire started at about 4 am (0100 GMT) at the two-storey hospital at the village of Dmitrovsky Pogost 93 miles southeast of Moscow. —*MNA/Xinhua*

## Heavy snow partly closes Prague airport

**PRAGUE, 30 Dec** — The main Czech airport at Prague-Ruzyně was partly closed on Thursday after heavy snow overnight.

A spokeswoman for Airport Prague, the airport authority, said planes could not take off and only 15 per hour could land. She could not say when the airport would be fully re-opened.

Heavy snow across the Czech Republic disrupted transport, with accidents closing some highways. Snowstorms are forecast until at least Sunday.

*MNA/Reuters*

## S Korean boat capsizes, one killed, 10 feared dead

**SEOUL, 30 Dec** — A South Korean fishing boat capsized and sank off the country's southern coast, killing one crew member and leaving 10 others missing, feared dead, a Coast Guard official said on Thursday.

The boat, identified as the *1001 Hanil* by *Yonhap* news agency, capsized late on Wednesday. The captain was rescued but died early on Thursday in hospital. — *MNA/Reuters*

## Earthquake jolts India-Pakistan border

**NEW DELHI, 30 Dec** — An earthquake of moderate intensity jolted the India-Pakistan border in the Kashmir Region early Thursday morning.

According to the Meteorological Department, it measured 5.2 on the Richter Scale. No casualties or damage was, however, reported. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Iraq suspends oil minister as gasoline fears deepen

**BAGHDAD, 31 Dec** — A fuel crisis in Iraq deepened Friday as the nation's oil minister was suspended for objecting to steep government-imposed gasoline and cooking fuel price increases.

Drivers formed lines 400 meters, or a quarter of a mile, long at gasoline stations in Baghdad, spurred by fears of more price hikes, electricity outages that have forced them to siphon gas for use in power generators, and talk of refinery outages in Bayji and Baghdad.

The oil minister, Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum, had been outspoken in opposition to the decision to triple prices for the most common type of gasoline. He said that while some increases were needed, a change of that magnitude would put far too heavy a burden on most Iraqis.

But upon returning from a vacation abroad this week, Bahr al-Uloum found a note waiting for him in which Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari ordered him to give up his post for the next 30 days, according to an Oil Ministry spokesman.

"When he came back he was astonished to find

that the prime minister issued a letter ordering Dr. Ibrahim to stay 30 more days on holiday because of his disagreement and his threats to resign from office," the spokesman, Asim Jihad, said in an interview Friday.

The ministry shut down

a major refinery in Bayji, north of the capital, after insurgents threatened to kill tanker drivers who truck gasoline and other refined products from the refinery to markets across Iraq, the Oil Ministry spokesman said.

*Internet*

## France urges kidnappers to free Frenchman in Iraq

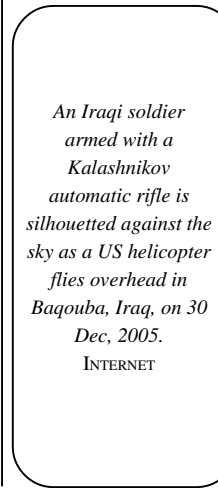
**PARIS, 30 Dec** — France on Thursday urged a militant group holding a French engineer hostage in Iraq to release him and reminded the kidnappers that it had no military presence in the Arab country.

"Nothing justifies Bernard Planche being held in captivity," Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said in a statement. "I again call on the kidnappers to release our fellow countryman immediately."

"France has no military presence in Iraq and has always pleaded for this country's full sovereignty to be restored," he added.

A little-known militant group has threatened to kill the engineer unless France ends its "illegitimate presence" in the Arab country, Al Arabiya television reported on Wednesday.

The Dubai-based station aired a black-and-white video from the "Surveillance for the Sake of Iraq Brigade" showing a man seated in front of militants who pointed rifles at his head. The man identified himself as Bernard. — *MNA/Reuters*



*An Iraqi soldier armed with a Kalashnikov automatic rifle is silhouetted against the sky as a US helicopter flies overhead in Baqouba, Iraq, on 30 Dec, 2005.*

*INTERNET*

## Castro welcomes Bolivia's new leader

**HAVANA, 31 Dec — Cuban President Fidel Castro welcomed on Friday Latin America's latest leader, Bolivian president-elect Evo Morales, to discuss political, economic and social cooperation.**

A beaming Castro greeted Morales at the Havana Airport with a warm embrace. The two men have known each other for years.

"It appears the map is changing, but one has to be reflective," Castro told reporters before the two men were whisked away in a black limousine.

"This is a gesture of friendship with the Cuban people," Morales said.

Morales, an avowed socialist, chose Communist Cuba for his first trip abroad since his overwhelming victory at the polls two weeks ago.

"The Cubans are

going to offer massive medical and educational assistance and whatever else they can, like they did with Venezuela when Hugo Chavez became president," a Latin American diplomat said.

A government statement hailed Morales' arrival on the eve of the 47th anniversary of the Cuban revolution that brought Castro to power on 1 January, 1959.

"The presence of comrade Morales in Cuba fills our people with satisfaction and is an important stimulus to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the

Cuban Government and the future Bolivian government," the statement said. Much to the chagrin of the United States, a still feisty Castro at 79 is less and less isolated in Latin America and the Caribbean as left and centre-left parties come to power and strengthen their political and economic ties with Cuba.—MNA/Reuters



Firefighters and rescuers search through the rubble of a collapsed building destroyed by a gas explosion, in Quarrata near Pistoia, Italy, on 29 Dec, 2005. Two people died in the explosion police said.—INTERNET

## Drivers trapped as snow hits Britain

**LONDON, 31 Dec — Snow and freezing weather struck parts of Britain on Friday, trapping up to 50 vehicles in one area of East Yorkshire.**

Up to 20 centimetres of snow was expected to fall in some higher areas in the north of the country and strong winds were causing drifting.

Humberside Police said up to 50 vehicles had become trapped on the A1079 in East Yorkshire because of heavy snowfall.

The Met Office has issued severe weather

warnings for large parts of eastern England and Scotland.

"Drivers in the North East, East and South East are warned that they could wake up to a covering of snow on Friday morning," The Highways Agency said.

"Driving conditions in these parts are likely to be difficult during Friday morning's rush hour."

It said the snow could lead to severely reduced visibility and the settling of snow on roads could make conditions hazardous.

"Drivers are advised to delay their journey if they can in falling or lying snow," the agency said.

"If conditions deteriorate, then delay your journey if you can until the weather improves."

The Met Office said the snow will become heavier and more persistent as it crosses the country on Friday before it starts to ease when rain sweeps in later in the day.

MNA/Reuters

## Budapest-Vienna motorway shut by pile up in snow

**BUDAPEST, 31 Dec —**

The motorway connecting Budapest with Vienna has been closed after about 60 vehicles crashed in a pile-up due to a heavy snowfall that hit Hungary overnight, police said on Friday.

The accidents happened on the M1 motorway at the city of Győr amid 30-40 centimetres of snow on the road, and police said at least 14 people were injured, five seriously.

No deaths were reported. Due to the heavy snowfall, only one runway was open at Budapest's main international airport, which was expected to cause flight delays, the airport authority said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

## Fire in Manila leaves 3,000 families homeless

**MANILA, 31 Dec — Overnight fire left nearly 3,000 poor families homeless as the new year coming in Tondo, Manila, local radio reported on Friday.**

Two including a child were hurt in the sudden fire, while one of the victims was identified as a volunteer firefighter, DZMM radio said.

An estimated 50,000 US dollars' worth of properties were destroyed in the fire, according to the report.

Firefighters said the blaze started at around 9 pm Thursday at a squatter's area in Tondo. Flames were still raging in some parts of the community after midnight. The fire was put under control after 1 am Friday.

Officials said that the fire reached the Task Force Delta alarm, meaning that all firefighters' districts in Metro Manila were called to the scene.

MNA/Xinhua

## LG to invest another \$22m in Indonesia

**JAKARTA, 31 Dec —** South Korea's LG Electronics plans to add investment in Indonesia by 22 million US dollars in 2006, bringing the total amount of investment to 114 million dollars in the country, reports said on Friday.

The local branch, PT

LG Electronics Indonesia (LGEI), has informed planned spending on research and development amounting to 38 million dollars while the remaining 76 million dollars will go to projects to increase production capacity, said *Bisnis Indonesia*.

"LGEI plans to boost investment in Indonesia in line with the successful sales this year," LGEI president Lee Kee Ju was quoted as saying.

The company reported conventional TV sales from and in Indonesia in 2005 rose 32 per cent on-year to 1.45 million units, refrigerator sales soared 50 per cent to 900,000 units and plasma TV sales doubled to 2,000 units.

Lee said export sales accounted for 32 per cent of total sales volume of 352 million dollars while local sales shared 68 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

## Snowstorm helps German police catch burglars

**BERLIN, 31 Dec —** German police on Thursday captured two men suspected of stealing from 15 cars and two garden sheds by following their footprints in the snow for several kilometres (miles).

Policemen were checking up on a car whose alarm had been set off just after midnight in the town of Hoentrop when they found a smashed window and two sets of footprints which they followed more than ten streets.

"At one point the tracks disappeared because someone had cleared the pavement outside their home in the middle of the night," police said in a statement.

After this minor setback, the officers picked up the trail again. The two sets of footprints led them directly to the entrance of a flat where the burglars not only stored their booty but also left their shoes and gloves to dry. —MNA/Reuters



A government soldier patrols the waterfront as part of stepped up security in the capital Colombo, on 29 Dec.—INTERNET

## US Embassy in Malaysia closed after threat

**KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Dec —** The US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was closed on Friday due to a security threat, a spokeswoman in the Malaysian capital said.

"We got some information indicating there was a threat to the embassy and decided to close at 11.40 (0340 GMT) this morning," Kathryn Taylor said. "I'm afraid I can't be more specific".

Taylor said the embassy would remain closed at least until Tuesday because Monday is a public holiday in the United States. "We'll reassess on Monday whether to open on Tuesday," she said.

The US Embassy was closed briefly in September 2004 after a white powder was discovered in a mailed envelope. The powder was later found to be non-toxic.

In October this year suspicious packages containing a yellow, oily liquid — and in one case a powder — were delivered to about a dozen embassies, including the US, British, French, German, Australian, Canadian and Russian missions.

Analysts said the packages, which included a message condemning the countries for mistreating Muslims, were probably sent by scaremongers with no serious ties to well-known terrorist groups.

MNA/Reuters

# Communication sector witnesses sustained progress

## Development of communication in the time of the Tatmadaw government

### Development in domestic and overseas communication services

The domestic and overseas communication services play a leading role in striving for the success in economic, social and administrative sectors of the Union of Myanmar.

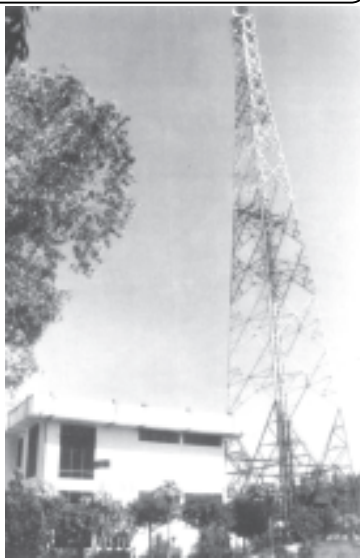
People can widely use not only domestic communication services but also overseas ones with the improvement of communication services in the nation. Of the communication systems, satellite communication system is the best.

Satellite links and new auto exchanges were introduced in the satellite communication system, and now the system covers

97 towns.

In overseas communication system, 1,012 telephone channels have been installed through Submarine cable system in communicating with Singapore. Besides, more overseas ground satellite stations and new channels, overseas submarine cable systems and new channels, and new international telephone channels were installed to link with other nations.

To keep pace with changes and developments in the world today, more modern satellite communication systems were installed in the time of the



*Microwave Station in Loikaw, Kayah State shows the development in domestic and overseas communication services.*

Tatmadaw government.

The table shows the increased number of communication services.

### Progress of Myanmar Telecommunication services

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Construction of MPT satellite terminal		97	97
2	Installation of overseas satellite channel	21	601	580
3	Overseas Submarine cable station		1	1
4	Installation of external overseas cable communication channel		1012	1012
5	International telephone channel	26	1613	1587

### Safeguard Independence

- \* Under colonialism  
We were quagmired, enslaved  
Over a century, were subjugated  
Land of Myanmar, was impoverished  
Few were the bridges  
Difficult was the transportation.
- \* Teak, oil, rice and cereals  
Gems, minerals, they took away  
And they grew rich, prospered  
As for Myanmar nationals  
Their livelihood was uneven  
Poor was our plight then.
- \* Among nationals of the Union  
Had occasion to communicate  
Were awake and alert  
But the colonialists fretted much  
The opening of eyes and ears  
Even the distance was not pronounced  
They made it look like it was far  
And whatever wide roads they made  
Were simply scant.
- \* The Myanmar nation regained independence  
And then the Tatmadaw  
With much foresight, went into building  
And made transport and communications easy  
Spanning wide rivers with bridges  
And caused the beloved kinsfolk's land  
Communicable at all times  
Border areas were beautified and developed  
With schools and hospitals  
There was all-round prosperity.
- \* O, Citizens, beware  
Our nation's development  
They want not and disdain  
With much contempt  
"If unobtainable, will whittle, if obtainable will expand"  
With clear sense of discern  
Safeguard Independence  
'Tis our duty, Citizens all.

(Hailing the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day)

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)

## Zimbabwe receives 166 vehicles from China

**HARARE, 31 Dec — ZESA Holdings has received a consignment of 166 vehicles and electricity distribution equipment worth 11.6 million US dollars from China, according to the company's executive chairman Sydney Gata on Friday.**

Sydney Gata said the consignment came following a strategic swap deal ZESA entered into with China which would see the power utility funding and supporting the production of tobacco and cotton for export in exchange for equipment that would need foreign currency to import.

Zimbabwe is facing acute foreign currency shortages compounded by sanctions imposed on the country by Britain, the United States and other Western countries. This has negatively affected the operations of several companies and essential service providers such as hospitals who are finding it difficult to import drugs.

Part of the consignment including

transformers and cables among other things, is already in Zimbabwe while the rest awaits clearance.

Gata said the equipment and vehicles would be used in the rehabilitation and expansion of the urban electricity distribution infrastructure.

"We received a consignment from China during the Christmas holiday and some of the equipment is ready for installation in our major urban areas, particularly Harare and Bulawayo," he said.

Electricity infrastructure in Harare and Bulawayo, which was installed about 60 years ago, has become too old resulting in power cuts whenever it rains.

MNA/Xinhua

## Uganda's economy to grow by 6% in 2006

**KAMPALA, 31 Dec — Uganda's economy will grow at a projected average of 6.1 per cent in 2006 despite a cut back in donor budget support and high energy costs, a financial expert has said.**

Releasing a report of the State of Uganda's Economy January- November 2005 available here on Friday, Executive Director for Research in Bank of Uganda Michael Atingi-Ego said that this calendar year, the country's economy grew at an average of 6 per cent surpassing the projected 5.5 per cent.

He said that though there have been cuts in donor support given to Uganda, the economy will not be affected in the short run.

"The total donor cuts to the budget have amounted to 73 million US dollars. While there are implications of these developments on the conduct of monetary and fiscal policies, its impact to the real economy, at least this financial year 2005/06, should be insignifi-

cant," said Atingi-Ego.

He said because the Parliament had already passed the 2005/06 budget, expenditures on priorities like education and health could not be reduced.

He noted that following the donor cuts, government will resort to domestic borrowing to meet the expenditure.

He said the borrowing would not become inflationary because the monetary aggregates would remain the same.

"You have one part of the aggregate which is the foreign assets reducing because of cuts in donor disbursement. So you cannot build up the equivalent foreign currency. But you have domestic assets increasing because the government is borrowing from the banking system," he said.— MNA/Xinhua

# Legislative structure and essence of future state (1)

Soe Mya Kyaw

Now, the delegates, representing the entire Union and all national races, are playing an active role in the discussions and coordinating at the National Convention, the first as well as the most crucial stage of the State's seven-point Road Map. It is also adopting the detailed basic principles to be included in the State Constitution.

I have presented in my previous article the structure and essence of future state that will emerge according to the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention.

According to the new State Constitution that will prescribe sovereignty of the State, three branches of sovereignty — legislative, executive and judicial powers — will be exercised as separately as it can, and there will be check and balance. In this article, I would like to present the discussions Bagyi Soe, Kye Kye Mya and I have held, to enable the national people to visualize the structure and essence of legislation to be practised in the future nation.

**Bagyi Soe:** Hi, Maung Kyaw. It's a pleasure to welcome you to our home. Today, shall we talk about the sharing of legislative power of the Union of Myanmar democratically and equally?

**Kye Kye Mya:** Your uncle has searched notes and references since yesterday to support his explanations.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** That's why I rely on you, Bagyi and Kye Kye.

**Bagyi Soe:** As you know, Maung Kyaw, a nation must be complete with three pillars. A nation can exist stably in the longrun only if its legislative, executive and judicial pillars are firm and strong.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Yes, I agree with you. I've learnt that in a nation, the Hluttaws that engage in the legislative pillar have to hold discussions to enact necessary laws. And they have to amend or revoke the old laws that are no longer applicable. Moreover, they have to lay down important policies of their nation. So, would you please explain the legislation of the future Myanmar to me?

**Bagyi Soe:** Regarding the legislation, one of the basic principles the National Convention has adopted said that **the State's legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw. The legislative power prescribed by the State Constitution is vested in self-administered areas.**

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Very well, Bagyi. How should the Hluttaws known to the people as legislative bodies be formed?

**Bagyi Soe:** At the Hluttaw level, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is at the central level and it will be constituted with the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. Moreover, there will be seven Region Hluttaws, seven State Hluttaws, one self-administered division leading body, and five self-administered zone leading bodies.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** As far as I know, the legislative structure of the future state will be constituted with seven legislative bodies. They are:

- (1) Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
- (2) Pyithu Hluttaw
- (3) Amyotha Hluttaw
- (4) Region Hluttaw
- (5) State Hluttaw
- (6) Self-administered Division Leading Body
- (7) Self-Administered Zone Leading Body.

**Bagyi Soe:** You're right if it's to be easily comprehensible to the average reader. But, to say under the central level, there will be (1) the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw) (2) Region Hluttaws/State Hluttaws, and (3) Self-administered Division Leading Body/Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies.

**Kye Kye Mya:** The structure of the State you've discussed is constituted with two Union territories, isn't it? And do these two Union territories have separate legislative bodies?

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** I'd also like to know that, Bagyi Soe.

**Bagyi Soe:** The previous day, we discussed the two Union territories, and I said Yangon City and Cocogyun would be formed as Union territories. These two Union territories will be under the direct rule of the Union President. But the Union President will form the Yangon City Council to rule Yangon City, and to jointly rule Cocogyun with the Yangon City administration.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Which will be responsible for the legislation of the two Union territories: the Union President or the Yangon City Council assigned duties by the Union President?

**Bagyi Soe:** If it were as you said, it would be neither democratic nor in conformity with the basic principle that sovereignty will be exercised as separately as it can. That's why a detailed basic principle has been adopted that the legislative power of the two Union territories shall be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw instead of in the Union President.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Oh, I see, I see. I'd also like to know the terms and formation of the seven legislative bodies you have explained.

**Bagyi Soe:** The Pyithu Hluttaw is the Hluttaw that will be constituted with the Hluttaw members who are elected based on the population of the nation, and the Hluttaw members the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services nominates in accord with the law.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** What about the Amyotha Hluttaw?

**Bagyi Soe:** The Amyotha Hluttaw is the Hluttaw that will be constituted with an equally fixed number of the Hluttaw members elected from each Region and State, and the Hluttaw members the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services nominates in accord with the law.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** To say for comprehension regarding these two Hluttaws, the Pyithu

Now, the delegates are holding discussions at the ongoing National Convention for the adoption of the basic principles and detailed basic principles in formulating the State Constitution. By studying these basic principles and detailed basic principles, one can envisage the future of the nation in form and essence. Articles on the National Convention will be inserted in the newspapers daily for enabling the people to visualize the future of the nation in form and essence.

Hluttaw (House of Representatives) is the Hluttaw elected based on the population, and the Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities) is the Hluttaw elected with an equally fixed number of the representatives from each Region and State.

**Bagyi Soe:** It means like that. The Hluttaw comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw shall be called the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not the one that was formed through the election, then. Am I right?

**Bagyi Soe:** The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall not be formed through a separate election. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be formed through the combination of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The legislative affairs of the whole nation will be taken by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Is it true that the Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw have been formed for delegating legislative power, Bagyi Soe?

**Bagyi Soe:** Yes it is. The Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw will have the power to enact laws necessary for the region or the state concerned within the framework of powers prescribed by the State constitution.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** The seven regions and seven states will be able not only to form the Hluttaw concerned or legislative bodies but also to share legislative power. This is a new chapter of the present era, Kye Kye.

**Kye Kye Mya:** Of course, Maung Kyaw. According to the 1947 Constitution, there were the Pyithu Hluttaw (Chamber deputies) and the Chamber of Nationalities as legislative bodies. There was the Parliament that was the combination of the two Hluttaws and the Kachin, the Kayah, the Kayin and the Shan State councils. Under the 1974 Constitution, there was only one Pyithu Hluttaw. For the future nation, there will be the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw as legislative bodies as well as seven Region Hluttaws, seven State Hluttaws and leading bodies of self-administered areas. As basic principles and detailed basic

(See page 9)



# Legislative structure and essence of future state (1)

(from page 8)

**principles have been adopted for the sharing of legislative power, it is obvious that all the national races will have the power to promulgate laws democratically.**

**Bagyi Soe:** This is a matter of sharing of power, and it is sure that the entire national people will heartily accept it.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Certainly, they will accept it with delight. And although legislative bodies of the Central, regions and states are termed as Hluttaws, legislative bodies of self-administered divisions and areas are termed as such. Can you explain that point to me, Bagyi?

**Bagyi Soe:** **The legislative powers of the Pyidaungsu, regions and states are exercised by the respective Hluttaws and executive powers by government bodies. The legislative powers and executive powers are shared. In the self-administered division and self-administered zones, the leading body concerned has the right to exercise legislative powers and executive powers. This being so, for the self-administered division and self-administered zone, legislative bodies are termed as leading bodies instead of Hluttaws. It is significant both in form and in essence.**

**Kyee Kyee Mya:** It is safe to say that right to exercise legislative powers and executive powers objectively has been granted to the national race groups who reside in contiguous regions with appropriate number of population to be able to effectively serve the interests of self-administered division and self-administered zones.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** That's right, Kyee Kyee. It is a new opportunity created, for the national race groups to effectively serve the interests of own regions and races by themselves. How delightful it is!

**Bagyi Soe:** Of course. It is a significant legislation of the future nation in form. In essence, there emerge democracy rights on a wider scale for the national races.

**Kyee Kyee Mya:** **According to the 1947 Constitution, only the four state councils had the power to enact the law state-wise. The Special Division for the Chins has no such right. And now all the regions and states have the right to form Hluttaws and will be able to share the legislative power. Moreover, the goodwill of the National Convention delegates who are paving the way for the self-administered division and self-administered zones to share the legislative power is enormous.**

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Right, Kyee Kyee. We fully realize the goodwill of the Head of State as we are daily engaged in the drive for implementing the guidance, work guide-

line, attitude and outlooks of the latter. Likewise, the entire national people who are practically enjoying the fruitful results of the goodwill of the State have come to realize the functions and activities of the State.

**Bagyi Soe:** Of course, as the people have realized the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention, the most important step of the seven-point Road Map, it is sure that the future of the State will be much brighter.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Certainly, Bagyi. It is fair and logical that legislative powers are shared with from the Central right down to the self-administered areas. It is learnt that legislative powers for Pyidaungsu territories have been vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And can you explain to me whether there is any limitation to introduce laws?

**Bagyi Soe:** As legislative powers for Pyidaungsu territories have been vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, any law enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will come into force in Pyidaungsu territories. One of the detailed basic principles said that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall promulgate the necessary law for Pyidaungsu territories concerning matters included in the regions/state legislative lists and self-administered areas legislative lists whenever necessary. Hence, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall exercise the legislative power, and the State President who directly governs Pyidaungsu territories or the Pyidaungsu territory councils shall not have the right to do so.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** **It is clear that priority has been given to the interest of the entire national people by distributing legislative power covering all regions of the Union.**

**Kyee Kyee Mya:** If there come clashes over the sharing of different legislative powers, how can it be decided and which law is to be referred to for final decision?

**Bagyi Soe:** No problem! A systematic democratic system has been shaped to make sure that there comes no ambiguity about this. For instance, if laws enacted by the leading body of a self-administered division or by that of a self-administered zone go against the laws prescribed by the Region Hluttaw or the State Hluttaw concerned, only those of the Region Hluttaw or the State Hluttaw shall be referred to as final.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** What a great democratic system in which the minority has to respect and follow the wishes of the majority!

**Bagyi Soe:** Similarly, if laws enacted by a State Hluttaw or a Region Hluttaw go against the laws prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw only those of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be accepted as final.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Ah, this also is the essence of democracy as all parts of the country have to respect the decision of the State.

**Kyee Kyee Mya:** Again, if laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, State / Region Hluttaw and the leading body of a self-administered area are in contrast to the State constitution, what measures will be taken to solve the problem?

**Bagyi Soe:** It's just a simple matter too. The State constitution prescribes how the three branches of State power shall be distributed and to whom they should be entrusted. The State constitution is of utmost importance for the Union of Myanmar. Thus, only prescriptions of the State constitution are to be accepted as final. Everything needs to be judged by a constitutional criterion alone. Any laws that contrast with the State constitution cannot be enacted.

**Kyee Kyee Mya:** I'm so delighted that democratic rights that have never existed in the previous eras will go into the hands of new generation of smaller ethnic groups.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** That's right, Kyee Kyee. By the way, how will you compare the present constitution with the previous ones that you have experienced?

**Kyee Kyee Mya:** In the age of parliamentary democracy, only the parliament that was a combination of Pyithu Hluttaw (Chamber of Deputies) and Chamber of Nationalities and four State Councils had the legislative powers. Likewise, only the Pyithu Hluttaw wielded the legislative powers in the era of Myanmar Socialist Programme Party. By contrast, the present National Convention is opening the way for extensive distribution of legislative powers based on prevailing conditions of the State and the national people. Hence, in my opinion, the present constitution is fairer and more appropriate than the previous ones.

**Bagyi Soe:** Actually, the present constitution is more than that. It has reasonable points and it is a good one in both essence and form.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** You're right. We are sure that the forthcoming constitution will reflect the goodwill of the Tatmadaw government towards the future State to create a good atmosphere with fair democratic rights, multiparty democratic system and freedom and equality.

**Bagyi Soe:** Well done! OK, let's continue our talks the next week on how our leaders of the State and the National Convention are shaping the pillar of legislation.

**Soe Mya Kyaw:** Thank you very much, Bagyi and Kyee Kyee. May I pay respects to both of you. I have gained much knowledge from today's talks and I will share it with the public.

(Translation: MS+TS+ST)

\* \* \*



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views round preparations for organizing 58th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition.— MNA

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends meeting ...

(from page 1)

He added the first coordination meeting was held on 12 November 2005, and the National Objectives of the Independence Day were laid down. Furthermore, the Central Committee and 10 sub-committees have been set up. Therefore, the sub-committees are making preparations for organizing the Independence Day ceremony.

The Secretary-1 urged officials from respective sub-committees to submit their preparatory tasks, and to take part in the discussions.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and chairmen of the sub-committees, deputy ministers and officials briefed

the Secretary-1 on progress in making preparations for Yangon City State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony, Independence Day Reception and Dinner, security, information, essay contests, TV quiz and computer arts contest, compilation of the message of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Independence Day Exhibition, entertainment, health, and sports meets.

The ministers, the deputy ministers and officials gave supplementary reports.

After holding discussions related to the reports, the Secretary-1 gave the concluding remarks.

In the evening, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected preparatory tasks at the 58th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition to be organized by the exhibition sub-committee at Tatmadaw Convention Hall, here, and gave necessary instructions to officials. —MNA

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe reports on preparations for 58th Anniversary Independence Day Celebration. MNA



## Mandalay Mayor inspects upgrading tasks of tar road

YANGON, 31 Dec—Mandalay City Develop-

ment Committee Chairman Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and party inspected the upgrading tasks of 62nd Road for extending up to 48-foot width in Chanmya Thazi Township on 28 December morning and gave instructions on meeting the set standard of the tasks.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw speaking at opening ceremony of Panlaung Bridge in Singaing Township. MNA

Afterwards, the mayor and party inspected the progress of constructing concrete block factory of Mandalay City Development Com-mittee.

Next the mayor and party looked into the sinking of tube-well in the compound of water work on 35th Street and left necessary instructions. MNA

## Government striving for...

(from page 16)

education, health and social sectors of all regions. In his address, he called on local people to participate in implementing the development tasks while maintaining the transportation facilities for their durability.

Panlaung Bridge is 400 ft long and it is the 210th one which is 180 ft and above long built in the time of the Tatmadaw government. The bridge can withstand 60 tons of load and 24 ft wide. It has three-foot long walkways. The bridge was con-

structed at a cost of K 140 million and US \$ 0.007 million. Before 1988, in Mandalay Division there were 18 bridges which were 180 ft and above. At present, the number of bridges the length of which are above 180 feet reaches 27 and five are under construction. MNA



Newly-inaugurated Panlaung Bridge in Singaing Township.— MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun speaking at opening ceremony of Panlaung Bridge. MNA

## Doh Kyeywa Journal published

YANGON, 31 Dec — Doh Kyeywa Journal, Vol 3, No 1, comes out on 1 January 2006.

The journal carries articles on agriculture and livestock breeding, use of bio-gas, other features,

short story, humour, cartoon, poem and news.

The journal is available at Information and Public Relations Departments, the book stall of Sarpay Beikman, Wah Moe Aung Sarpay in

Yangon and Tun Oo Literary House in Mandalay.

Manuscripts and advertisements may be sent to No 30-32, 10th Street, Lanmadaw Township, Tel: 372342, 252452 and 379768. — MNA

## Wai Zeyanda Shopping Centre opened in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 31 Dec — The opening ceremony of Wai Zeyanda Shopping Centre took place at the avenue on Wai Zeyanda Road in Thingangyun Township this morning, attended by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, officials of Township Peace and Development Council Office and guests.

The Yangon mayor and special guest Brig-Gen Win Myint and Sky World Construction Company Managing Director U Aung Than formally opened the shopping centre. The shopping centre will be kept opening daily from 6 am to 9 pm together with Internet Cafe and Feel Restaurant and the various kinds of cosmetic stuff, fashionable clothes, household stuff, foodstuff and kitchen utensils are available.

MNA

*Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and Sky World Construction Company Managing Director U Aung Than open Wai Zeyanda Shopping Centre.—MNA*



## Over 2,000-year-old tombs unearthed in Inner Mongolia

Нонют, 31 Dec — Archaeologists in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region have unearthed about 500 tombs dating back more than 2,200 years in Horinger County and excavated a large number of relics.

The 500 tombs of the Warring States Period (475 B.C.-221 B.C) were excavated at the ruins of the ancient Tuchengzi City from April to December, said Li Qiang, a work staff with the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional Institute of Archaeological Research.

Li said that archaeologists found that dead people buried in these tombs lie on their back, some with limbs straight

and others with limbs bended. There are also some who lie on their side.

What is noteworthy is that archaeologists found five tombs with many bodies buried randomly together. One of the five tombs is buried with more than 50 bodies. Experts said that more than 96 per cent of the dead people buried in these tombs are men, aged around 25.

MNA/Xinhua



*Champion and winners of Air Bagan Golf Tour seen after prize-distribution ceremony.—MNA*

## Hydel power projects in Pyu, Kyaukdaga, Shwegyin inspected



*Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects Kunchaung Hydel Power Project in Pyu Township.—MNA*

YANGON, 31 Dec — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut

inspected construction of the water control tower and approach road, building of the main embankment, dredging of the No 1 approach tunnel, preparation for installation of the steel pipeline, and dredging of No 2 approach tunnel at Kunchaung Hydel Power Project in Pyu Township yesterday.

In Kyaukdaga Township, the minister and party oversaw completion of the power station at Yenwe Hydel

Power Project, installation of steel pipeline, dredging of the inlet water tunnel, building of the main embankment, tasks of the sluice gate and flow of water into the dam.

This morning, the minister and party proceeded to the construction project site of 230-kv Thayagon (Kyaukdaga) Sub-Power Station. The minister viewed round the completion of the station and the power control

station. He instructed officials to take safety measures in supplying power to the surrounding areas. At Shwegyin Hydel Power Project site, six miles northeast of Shwegyin, the minister and party looked into construction of the water intake building, the main embankment, and the emergency spillway and progress of tasks. The minister left instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standard. — MNA

## Soe Kyaw Naing emerges champion in Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour



YANGON, 31 Dec— The fourth day events and prize presentation of the fourth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour 2005-06 organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd continued yesterday at Bagan Resort Golf Club in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division.

After the 18-hole events, the prize presentation ceremony was held. Executive U Ko Ko Lay of MPGA and MGF presented first prize winner of Tiger Putting Challenge to Professional Golfer Myo Khaing (KM Goff Centre); Professional Golfer and Sole Agent of Srixon U Aung Hla Han presented US\$ 100 to third prize winner Zaw Zin Win and US\$ 200 to second prize winner

Than Naing; Manager Capt Aung Myint (Retd) of Bagan Resort Golf Club and Director U Min Thein of Air Bagan Ltd presented awards to Derek Htet Doe who scored hole-in-one.

Tournament Director U Min Thein presented Daily Best Awards in Amateur level to winners and Vice-President U Zaw Min to winners in professional golfers.

Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Te Za presented first, second and third prizes in Amateur Level to Aung Win (Monywa) with 299 strokes, Kyaw Thiha with 302 strokes and Bo Bo with 303 strokes.

President of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented first prize in Professional Golfers to Soe Kyaw Naing of Srixon with 276 strokes, second to Than Naing of Srixon with 284 strokes and third to Zaw Zin

Win of Srixon with 287 strokes.

Soe Kyaw Naing also won US\$ 300 presented by U Aung Hla Han, K 500,000 each by U Ja Rit, U Win Kyi and U Zaw Min and K 1.2 million by U Te Za.

Next, Tournament Director U Min Thein presented a souvenir to Manager Capt Aung Myint (Retd). The main sponsor of the Golf Tour is Air Bagan and official bank is KBZ Bank Ltd.

The co-sponsors are Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasury Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd, Kachin Golfers Group, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, London, Imperial Jade Drinking Water and Bagan Resort Golf Club and Han Event Management

Highlights of the Golf Tour may be accessed to [www.golfingmyanmar.com](http://www.golfingmyanmar.com).

MNA

**ADVERTISEMENT**



**New Year Greetings**

Hninzigone Home for the Aged wishes happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year to all donors and well-wishers.

**Management Committee  
Hninzigone Home for the Aged  
21-Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan,  
Yangon. Ph. 541796, 541797.**

**Guatemala slashes US immigration bill**

**MEXICO CITY, 30 Dec** — Guatemala condemned a US immigration bill as “inhuman” on Thursday, saying Washington treats Latin America as a region of criminals, reports reaching here said.

The bill was “absolutely intolerable and inhuman” as the US industry, trade and families have benefitted from Latin American immigration, legal or illegal, Guatemalan Vice-President Eduardo Stein told the Press in the capital Guatemala City. “It seems a true offence to all Latin America that a government who says it is a friend and partner of the region only wants our money and products,” said Stein.

Latin America “as though we were a sub-hemisphere of criminals”, he added. The Vice-President said the bill forced Latin America to reconsider its relations with the United States.

Guatemala lodged a protest to the United States last week against the anti-immigration bill and agreed to fight it together with Mexico.

Under the bill, a fencing of 1,200 kilometres will be built along the 3,200-kilometre border between the United States and

Mexico. Military technologies will also be used to prevent undocumented immigration.

Illegal immigrants and those who help them, including their family members, will be taken as criminals, the bill said.

Stein said the immigration issue will never be solved with the construction of a fence.

As for the negotiations with Mexico on joint measures against the bill, Stein said the two countries would seek a way to ensure

the immigrants’ rights.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Jorge Briz and his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Derbez, have agreed to meet in Mexico City on January 9 to work out the joint measures against the bill which has been passed by the US House of Representatives and is under consideration in the Senate.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Yangon Sailing Club  
Annual General Meeting**

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date : 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006  
Place : Yangon Sailing Club  
Time : 9:30 AM

Secretary  
Yangon Sailing Club

**Bank Holiday**

All Banks will be closed on 4<sup>th</sup> January (Wednesday), Independence Day 2006, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

**Seven die of queer disease in north Peru**

LIMA, 30 Dec—A queer disease broke out recently in the jungle area of Imaza in the northern Peruvian State of Amazonas, killing seven people and infected 73 others, the Peruvian Ministry of Health confirmed here on Wednesday.

The diseased people have shown such symptoms as fevers, general weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea and hematemesis. The Peruvian Ministry of Health has sent medical experts to the epidemic-stricken area to diagnose and treat the patients.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Assailants kill 11 members of Iraqi Shiite family**

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec—Six assailants broke into a house just south of Baghdad on Thursday and killed 11 members of the same Shi’ite family by slitting their throats, police said.

They said the family had been warned by guerrillas to move out of the largely Sunni district of Latifiya, around 20 kilometres (13 miles) south of the capital, but had not done so.

The gunmen arrived at the house in two cars, broke in and bound the hands of the 11 and killed them before driving off, leaving the bloodied bodies in the house.

Seven of the dead were men and four were women, police said.

Families from both sides of Iraq’s deep sectarian divide have been subjected to attacks by gunmen seeking to drive members of one sect or another from certain areas.

Shiites are believed to make up around 60 per cent of Iraq’s population, based mostly in the south, while the 20 per cent Sunni Arab minority is centred on the area around Baghdad and the western province of Anbar.

*MNA/Reuters*

**Five killed in traffic accident in South Africa**

JOHANNESBURG, 30 Dec—Five people were killed and 21 others injured near Ladybrand in South Africa’s eastern province of Free State when their taxi hit a cow, police said on Thursday.

Constable Christopher Mophiring said that the taxi overturned when it hit a cow at 10 pm on Wednesday between Kommissiepoort and Hobhouse near Ladybrand while travelling from Embalinhle in Mpumalanga. The injured were taken to the Mantsopa Hospital in Ladybrand, but were later transferred to Pelanomi Hospital in Bloemfontein because of the seriousness of their injuries. The 26 were travelling in a Mitsubishi minibus coaster taxi certified to carry 29 passengers, excluding the driver. The taxi was headed

for Idutywa in the Eastern Cape where most of those on board were to attend the funeral of people killed in a bus accident at Wepener in the southern Free State last week.—*MNA/Xinhua*

**US judge orders deportation of convicted former Nazi camp guard**

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—On Wednesday, a US federal judge ordered John Demjanjuk, accused of being a Nazi concentration camp guard, to be deported back to his native Ukraine, according to Press releases.

Demjanjuk has been fighting for almost 30 years to stay in the United States. The 85-year-old retired auto worker was found guilty of lying to gain entry to the country and has been stripped of his US citizenship.

The judge ruled that Demjanjuk should be deported to Germany or Poland if Ukraine would not accept him. Demjanjuk can appeal the ruling with the Board of Immigration Appeals

within 30 days.

Demjanjuk was accused by the US Justice Department in 1977 of being a notorious Ukrainian prison camp guard nicknamed Ivan the Terrible who tortured Jewish inmates and operated gas chambers at three concentration camps that killed 900,000 people.

Israel requested Demjanjuk’s extradition in 1983 to face war crime charges. He was found guilty and sentenced to

death. The conviction was overturned in 1993 when the Israeli Supreme Court heard testimony from former death camp guards and labourers that another man was actually Ivan.

The current case is based on evidence uncovered by the US Justice Department alleging he was a different guard.

Demjanjuk has denied the charges, saying that he spent much of his war time as a German prisoner.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Bank of Beijing to increase 30b yuan loans to SMEs**

BEIJING, 30 Dec — Bank of Beijing promises here Thursday to increase 30-billion-yuan (3.7-billion-US-dollar) loans to the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the next three years.

The bank source said the decision was made in accordance with a cooperation agreement on supporting SME development signed by Beijing municipal development and reform commission on Wednesday.

The increase will chiefly go to the short-

term loans.

In line with the agreement, Beijing municipal development and reform commission will establish a financing service platform to enlarge the financing channels for the SMEs.

All the SMEs registered at the municipal industrial and commercial

administrative department running for more than one year can apply for the loan via Beijing SME website.

The commission will also organize Bank of Beijing and some guarantor bodies to provide services including consultation and training to the small- and medium-enter-

prises which find it difficult to acquire the loans.

Beijing has 698,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises by the end of 2004, creating jobs for 75.8 per cent of the city’s population and contributed 50.8 per cent of the gross output value last year.—*MNA/Reuters*



Allentown High School’s Redbird Band from New Jersey, USA, perform a free concert in Trafalgar Square, London, on 30 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဓာတ်မိဗွဲ့ ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

### Meats differ in effect on colon cancer risk

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — People who eat a lot of processed meats may have a higher risk of developing pre-cancerous growths — polyps — in the colon, while the opposite may be true for fans of chicken, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that among 1,520 adults with a history of colon polyps, those who ate a diet heavy in processed meats had a higher risk of polyp recurrence than those with the lowest intake. On the other hand, patients who favoured chicken had a lesser risk of new polyps than those who ate the least.

Colon polyps are growths that, while usually benign, can become

cancerous. Patients in the current study had all had polyps removed and were then followed for 4 years to detect any recurrences.

Overall, the one-quarter of patients with the highest intake of processed meat were 75 percent more likely to develop an advanced

polyp compared with the one-quarter of patients who ate the least processed meat, the researchers found.

MNA/Reuters

### One million years old ivory fossil unearthed in Shanxi

TAIYUAN, 30 Dec — A Chinese villager unearthed an ivory fossil in north China's Shanxi Province, which was verified by archaeologists

to be at least one million years old. The milk-white fossilized tusk is nearly 27-centimetre long and 22 centimetres in diameter in the thickest part and 12 centimetres in diameter in the thinnest part.

The fossil was unearthed by a villager surnamed Xue in Hehe Village in Jishan County in the province, when he was digging sand by a river. He immediately contacted the local relic protection bureau about his findings. Archaeologists said that the fossil was integrated. It has been kept in preservation by local relic protection authorities.

There were several findings of ivory fossils in the region. The oldest ivory fossils previously spotted in the province was 450,000 years old.

Ancient ivory fossils were previously discovered in north China's Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province, and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the northwest. But ivory fossils of more than one million years old were rarely seen. — MNA/Xinhua

### No 1 glacial "data bank" melting more quickly in N-W China

URUMQI, 30 Dec — The thawing of the No 1 glacier of the Tianshan Mountains in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyguy Autonomous Region has accelerated, due largely to global warming, local scientists say.

The trend indicates the affluent data the glacier carries about climate and environment

in both modern and ancient times are losing at a quicker rate, the scientists added.

Approximately 120 kilometres away from the regional capital, Urumqi, the No 1 glacier is the nearest from a city in the world. With its typical sediments, the glacier is appraised as "living fossils". Until now it has been the best place for glacial observation in China, boasting one of the best preserved glacial records in the world.

Li Zhongqin, head of the Tianshan Mountains Glacier Observation Station under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that ice corings picked up from glaciers were seen as best carriers for data of ancient climate and environment. The data

recorded in glaciers were better than those by tree's growth rings and earth and deep-sea sediments in terms of definition and fidelity.

According to the observation station, over the past 45 years in which glacial data were collected, the No 1 Tianshan glacier had its thickness down by 11 metres. And the decrease was up to more than 20 meters in some parts of the glacier.

An analysis on the glacial data collected between 1958 and 2003 showed that the No 1 glacier lost 18.38 million cubic metres of ice.

MNA/Xinhua



Streets are covered with snow near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, on 30 Dec, 2005, as cold weather conditions prevail in France since the beginning of the week, with snowfall and icy conditions in many parts of the country.

INTERNET

### Salt tide threatens water supplies in south China

BEIJING, 30 Dec — A severe drought in southern China's Guangdong Province is letting sea water flow further up rivers than usual, contaminating fresh water with salt and disrupting normal supplies, state media said on Thursday.

The cities of Zhuhai, Zhongshan and a district of the provincial capital Guangzhou have been affected, and local governments are advising people in certain areas not to drink tap water, the official China Daily said.

But Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong and is home to China's second most important stock market, has not been affected as its main river is still full of water, the newspaper said.

"The biggest salt water tide this year has now reached the province and it will last... until January 8 next year," the report quoted Huang Qingliang, vice-director of the Guangdong Department of Water Resources, as saying.

Water flows through one of the main tributaries of the Pearl River are less than half of last year because of the drought, which began in 2004, the newspaper said.

Three water plants in Dongguan City, where many Hong Kong and Taiwanese investors have factories, have been shut because salinity levels are five times higher than normal, the Guangzhou Daily added.

But the financial hub of Hong Kong should not be impacted, a government spokesman said, as the territory gets its water from a place in Guangdong which has never been affected by salinity.

"We are in close contact with authorities there," the

spokesman for the Water Supplies Department said. "If the water quality is abnormal we will be informed quickly."

It is China's third water crisis in less than two months, and the second in Guangdong this month.

In November, an explosion at a chemical plant in China's northeastern province of Jilin poisoned drinking water for millions and sent a frozen, poisonous slick heading towards Russia.

Earlier in December, a spill of toxic cadmium forced authorities in areas downstream to turn off tap water supplies to tens of thousands of people in Guangdong.

MNA/Reuters

### Mexican scientists to launch HPV vaccine

MEXICO CITY, 30 Dec — Scientists in Mexico announced on Wednesday that by next June they plan to present a vaccine which can prevent and control the human papilloma virus (HPV), the virus that causes cancer in cervical tissue.

The main advantage of the vaccine is the possibility of using it on women who have pre-malignant lesions to prevent and revert the HPV infection, Gabino Vaca, chief of the Endoscopy and Gynecology Service of the Fray Antonio Alcalde Civil Hospital, told the Press. The vaccine has been shown to be able to reduce the chance of developing uterine cancer by 97 per cent, and is now being processed in the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the most renowned institution of higher learning in the country, said Vaca.

Vaca said that every two hours, one woman dies of uterine cancer in Mexico, and of the women who die of the disease every year, 4,000 could have been saved by early-detection tech-

niques.

HPV is a wart virus that causes many cervical

cancers, including endometrial cancer (in the uterus). — MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks from team United Arab Emirates light up the sky as Filipinos watch during the last day of the 1st World Pyro Olympics in Manila on 30 Dec, 2005. Nine countries participated in the event that drew thousands of spectators and which was won by Australia. — INTERNET

# SPORTS

## Dutch leader PSV held to draw at home

BRUSSELS, 31 Dec— Dutch soccer league leading PSV Eindhoven on Thursday held to a surprise 1-1 draw at home to Twente but still stayed ahead in the standings. Twente managed the game's first goal in the 41st minute, when midfielder Kennedy Bakircioglu scored on a

cross from Bas Sibum. PSV captain Philip Cocu tied it in the second half in the 71st minute.

Also on Thursday, Feyenoord crushed Willem II, 6-1. With the victory, Feyenoord moves into second place on the table, one point behind PSV. Dirk Kuyt posted a hat trick for Feyenoord.

In another match Utrecht beat Roosendaal 2-1 to move up to fifth place in league standings. Nassir Maachi scored in the 30th minute and Stefaan Tanghe followed with another goal in the 75th minute. Forward Ebou Sillah scored Roosendaal's only goal in the 84th minute.

The win gives Utrecht 29 points, trailing fourth place Ajax by one point.

MNA/Xinhua



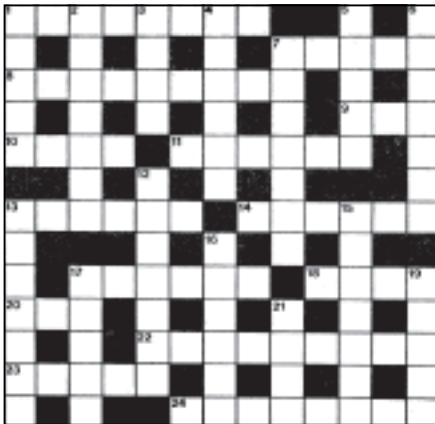
Alena Sidko, center, from Russia Anna Dahlberg, left, from Sweden and Claudia Kuenzel, right, from Germany celebrate during the awarding ceremony of the women 1.2km Sprint Free cross country FIS World Cup event in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic, on 30 Dec, 2005. Sidko won the race ahead of Dahlberg who took second place and Kuenzel who placed third.—INTERNET

## Peru's U-20 team leaves for Chile

LIMA, 31 Dec— Peru's Under-20 women's team will travel on January 2 to Chile to participate in the South American championship slated for January 4-20 at Vina del Mar, the Peruvian Soccer Federation (FPF) said on Friday. The Peruvian team, integrating Group A with Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela, will play in its opening match versus the Uruguayans.

The next games will be against the Venezuelans, on January 8; the Brazilians, January 10; and Chile January 12. Group B includes Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay.—MNA/Xinhua

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Cherished
- 7 Shades
- 8 Treasury
- 9 Period
- 10 God of love
- 11 Forerunner
- 13 Abundance
- 14 Imitated
- 17 Vocalist
- 18 Self-satisfied
- 20 Nothing
- 22 Listen for secrets
- 23 Black wood
- 24 Climbed

### DOWN

- 1 Portion
- 2 Surround
- 3 Holm-oak
- 4 Rapacious money-lender
- 5 Single
- 6 Attempted
- 7 Lese-majesty
- 12 Boy's name
- 13 Loot
- 15 Imprisoned
- 16 Foliage
- 17 One-mastered vessel
- 19 Yawned
- 21 Lies (anag.)

## Huntelaar helps Heerenveen trounce future club Ajax 4-2

AMSTERDAM, 31 Dec— Klaas Jan Huntelaar scored one goal and set up another to inspire Heerenveen to a stunning 4-2 win over his future employers Ajax Amsterdam on Friday.

Huntelaar, the Dutch First Division's leading scorer with 17 goals, doubled Heerenveen's lead in the 38th minute, three minutes after Greek Georgios Samaras had opened the scoring.

Midway through the second half Andre Hanssen added a third after being set up by Huntelaar and Samaras scored his second to put Heerenveen 4-0 up.

Defender Thomas Vermaelen pulled one back from close range 11 minutes before time and Tomas Galasek converted a disputed penalty for Ajax in injury time.

Heerenveen finished with 10 men after Paul Bosvelt's late dismissal.

The 22-year-old Huntelaar will join

Ajax in January in a nine-million-euro (10.65-million-US-dollar) transfer deal.

PSV Eindhoven are top with 42 points after their 1-1 home draw against Twente Enschede on Thursday, one point ahead of Feyenoord, who thrashed Willem II Tilburg 6-1.

AZ Alkmaar are third with 38 points and a game in hand as their match against ADO Den Haag was postponed due to adverse weather conditions.

Ajax remain fourth with 30 points, one above Heerenveen, Utrecht and Groningen. Groningen fought back from a goal down to score three in the final 18 minutes and beat Roda JC Kerkrade 3-1.

MNA/Reuters

## Wenger all but gives up hope of Premier League title

LONDON, 31 Dec— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has virtually written off their chances of winning the Premier League and is focusing on

cup competitions in their final season at Highbury.

The Frenchman said on Friday that his side had only a "small chance" of winning the English championship this season. They trail champions Chelsea by 20 points.

"There is a small chance, let's be realistic, but we want to finish as well as we can, as close as we can," said Wenger at a news conference on Friday.

"I'm not interested in Liverpool or anyone else. I want us to be the top team after it is Liverpool or Chelsea, I don't mind.

"There are still exciting challenges in front of

us in the Champions League, Carling (League) Cup and FA Cup. In the championship we want to show again that we can be consistent."

Arsenal are sixth in the Premier League and need to improve on their away form in particular to qualify for next season's Champions League.

On Saturday, the Gunners travel to Aston Villa in search of their third win of the season away from home.

"I agree that it has been troubled," Wenger said, "We have never had a period where we are not consistent, we are always consistent.—MNA/Reuters



China's Cao Yang (R) fights for the ball with Racing Santander's Jonathan Valle during their friendly soccer match at Santander's Sardinero stadium in northern Spain on 30 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

## Huaqiao University stuns CBA's Shandong 65-52

WUHAN (Central China), 31 Dec — Huaqiao University stunned CBA's Shandong youth team 65-52 at the CUBA vs CBA youth team basketball tournament here on Friday.

Forward Chen Liwei grabbed 16 points and 10 rebounds, dishing out six assists to give Huaqiao their second win from as many games.

Huaqiao, the defending champion of CUBA (China's NCAA), controlled the game from the very beginning, leading 11-9 in the first quarter.

Shandong fought back from the second quarter by sending their big forward Zhang Zhaoxu to the court. Zhang, a 2.15-metre giant, dominated the ace inside the key, giving Huaqiao enormous pressure in defence.

Thanks to Zhang's height, Shandong took the lead

45-44 in the third quarter.

"Zhang gave us lots of trouble. He is so tall that it was really difficult for us to block him. When you face a guy a head above your shoulders, you can feel the pressure," said Chen.

At the crucial moment, Chen of Huaqiao stood out to make two three-point shots, inspiring his teammate to counter the surge in the final quarter.

"Thanks to our cooperation, we could finally win the game. If we lost our concentration at that moment, we would have lost." —MNA/Xinhua

## Liverpool, Villarreal agree Kromkamp transfer

MADRID, 31 Dec— Villarreal and Liverpool have agreed a deal to take the Spanish club's Dutch defender Jan Kromkamp to the European champions, Villarreal said on their website on Thursday.

Liverpool's Spanish defender Josemi is set to join Villarreal as part of the deal, although the players have not yet discussed personal terms.

Josemi, whose full name is Jose Miguel Gonzalez, was the first of several signings made by Spaniard Rafael Benitez shortly after he took over as Liverpool coach in 2004. Dutch international Kromkamp joined Villarreal, fourth in the Primera Liga, in August on a five-year contract from Dutch club AZ Alkmaar.—MNA/Reuters



Japan's Daito Takahashi is airborne during the Nordic Combined World Cup event in Oberhof, eastern Germany, on 30 Dec, 2005. Takahashi leads after the jumping portion.—INTERNET

# Survey shows most Britons back total smoking ban

LONDON, 31 Dec — Most Britons back an outright ban on smoking in all workplaces and support action to ensure all pubs and bars are also smoke-free, according to a poll released on Friday.

Anti-smoking campaigners said the findings would add to pressure from health officials and parliamentarians for Prime Minister Tony Blair's government to bring in a total ban because it could no longer argue

the public would not back such a move.

Earlier this year, amid an unusually open bout of ministerial squabbling, the government said it would bring in a partial English ban, outlawing smoking

in restaurants and bars where food is served but exempting those not serving food.

The proposal would put England at odds with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which have either banned

smoking in public places or have proposals to do so.

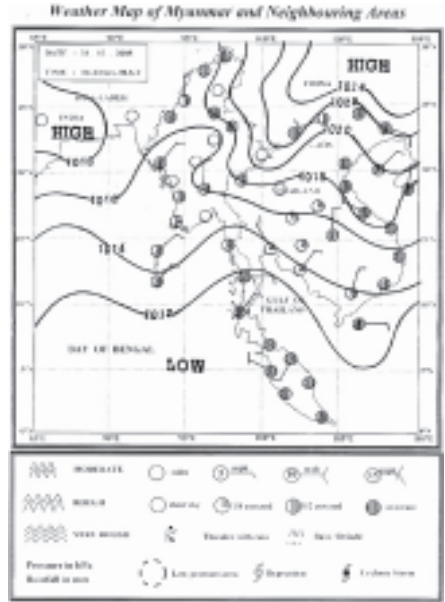
The YouGov survey, commissioned by the Cancer Research British charity and the anti-smoking lobby group ASH, found that 72 per cent of Britons supported legislation for a blanket smoking ban covering all workplaces, restaurants and bars.

The figure for England was 71 per cent, while the poll of 3,600 adults also found that 66 per cent of English respondents specifically backed a smoking ban in bars and pubs — up from 51 per cent in April 2004.

MNA/Reuters



People waiting to get on a bullet train at Tokyo station on 30 Dec, 2005. Many Japanese go back to their hometowns for the year-end holidays, known in Japan as 'Shogatsu'. —INTERNET



## WEATHER

Saturday, 31 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (6°C) below normal in Shan and Chin States, (3°C) below normal in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C) and PyinOoLwin (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 30-12-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 31-12-2005 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 31-12-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 30-12-2005 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 31-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (106.14) inches at Mingaladon, (105.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.92) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 30-12-2005.

**Bay inference:** Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 1-1-2006:** Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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


**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-1-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-1-2006:** Fair weather



Sunday, 1 January  
Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -World filled with love
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -In your perfect world
- 8.50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Fairground
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: Heaven
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's Delight -Story for children -Songs for children
- 9.00 pm Weekly news review
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.20 pm Music/Latest Hits/Let's Improve English Through Songs -Special songs feature
- 9.45 pm New & Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



**Sunday, 1 January**  
View on today

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <p>5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၀)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ</p> <p><b>8:05 am</b></p> <p>6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:15 am</b></p> <p>7. ပေါင်းလောင်း ရေလောင်းတံခွန် လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အားပေးစက်မူ</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>8. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>9. Say it in English</p> <p><b>11:00 am</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>11:10 am</b></p> <p>2. (၅၀)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်းပွဲ</p> <p><b>11:25 am</b></p> <p>3. Round up of the week's International News</p>	<p><b>11:40 am</b></p> <p>4. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စုစည်းနေ့နေ့" (အပိုင်း-၁၉)</p> <p><b>12:20 pm</b></p> <p>5. သံလွင်မြစ်နဒီ လက်ခုတ်ပုံစံစီ</p> <p><b>12:35 pm</b></p> <p>6. Teleplays: "ရေပြင်ညီ" (ရဲ့အောင်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ သာဉာဝင်ထွန်း၊ သုညသံသာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p> <p><b>1:40 pm</b></p> <p>7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>1:50 pm</b></p> <p>8. "ရုစံသောရေ ရုစံသောမြေ" (ရာဇာဓိပတိ၊ နိုင်နင်း၊ ဝေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့မူ)</p> <p><b>2:00 pm</b></p> <p>9. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>2:15 pm</b></p> <p>10. နိုင်ငံဂုဏ်ဆောင် ရွတ်ဆိုပီဇာရီ မြန်မာ့သံနံ့စွမ်း အားကစားအဖွဲ့နှင့် တွေ့ဆုံမေးမြန်းခန်း</p> <p><b>2:30 pm</b></p> <p>11. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>2:45 pm</b></p> <p>12. International news</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b></p> <p>4. သာယာမျိုးအေး (၃၀)ပြာမင်္ဂလာတေး</p>	<p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <p>5. အစားသောက်ကုသိုလ်ယဉာဏေ ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြားသင်္ချာဇာတ်ကား (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ရုပ်သော)</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>6. Dance of national races</p> <p><b>5:30 pm</b></p> <p>7. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>5:35 pm</b></p> <p>8. Agricultural source of Myanmar development</p> <p><b>5:45 pm</b></p> <p>9. အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်အတွက် အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <p>10. Evening news</p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <p>11. Weather report</p> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <p>12. Sing and enjoy</p> <p><b>7:20 pm</b></p> <p>13. အိန္ဒိယစက်ဝိုင်းနှင့် လူစီတွဲများ စတင်အသုံးပြုမည် ရန်ကုန်-ဣန္ဒိယ-မုဒါးစဉ်</p> <p><b>7:35 am</b></p> <p>14. (၅၀)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်းပွဲ</p> <p><b>7:45 pm</b></p> <p>15. အချစ်အခြားအာသာ ရွန်ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်မာစေမှု နို့စေ့ရွှေညာတို့တော် တို့ကျေးလက်</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <p>16. News</p> <p><b>8:30 pm</b></p> <p>17. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 pm</b></p> <p>18. Weather report</p> <p><b>9. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုစံမြေရင်" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)</b></p> <p>20. The next day's programme</p>
--	---	---

**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

## Yangon Division plans to grow 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas

YANGON, 31 Dec — The Government is seeking ways and means to save use of fuel with substitution of the oil from Jetropha curcas that can grow not only in the tropical regions but also in temperate areas, Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe said at the meeting to put 500,000 acres of land under jetropha curcas in Yangon Division, at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

At present, the Supervisory Committee for Growing 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas in Yangon Division has been set up, he added. He urged all to make utmost efforts for cultivation of jetropha curcas to fulfil



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe speaking at the meeting to grow 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas in Yangon Division.— MNA

commander on the plan to grow 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas from 2006 to 2008. Officials presented reports on growing of jetropha curcas and use of its oil.

After the meeting,

the commander and party inspected saplings, seeds, flowers and fruits of jetropha curcas and demonstration of running Leyar-16 brand power-tiller and harvester using the oil. — MNA



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe views demonstration of Leyar-16 brand power-tiller with the use of jetropha curcas oil.— MNA

local needs.

Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Oo reported on the history of jetropha curcas oil and cultivation technique.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Growing 500,000 acres of Jetropha Curcas in Yangon Division Commissioner U Hla Soe of General Administration Department briefed the

### Pyay Road between Ahlon and Shin Saw Pu Roads to be closed temporarily on 4 Jan

YANGON, 31 Dec — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council today announced that the Yangon City Flag Hoisting and State Flag Saluting Ceremony in commemoration of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day will be held at the People's Square, here, on 4 January 2006. The Pyay Road near the People's Square between Ahlon and Shin Saw Pu Roads will be closed from 4 to 9 am on that day. — MNA

### Government striving for equitable development of regions and development of the economy of the people

YANGON, 30 Dec — Panlaung Bridge across Panlaung River in Singu Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division was inaugurated this morning.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge.

The bridge located on Paleik-TadaU Road was constructed by the Bridge Construction Special Group-14 of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said he was glad to see the emergence of Panlaung Bridge that will benefit the people in the region and residents will enjoy fruits of the social and economic development.

In an effort to improve the living standard of the people, the Government has been striving for equitable development of regions and development of the economy of the people, he added.

He continued to say that thanks to the bridge, residents will be able to travel directly from Mandalay to TadaU by car and transport commodities easily to other regions.

In conclusion, he thanked the Government for construction of roads and bridges across the country and called on local people to help maintain the facility for its durability.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun also made an address. He said the Government has built road network and bridges for smooth transportation and for development of economic, (See page 10)

#### INSIDE

At the Hluttaw level, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is at the central level and it will be constituted with Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. Moreover, there will be formed seven Region Hluttaws, seven State Hluttaws, one self-administered division leading body, and five self-administered Zone leading bodies.