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Friday, 15 December, 2006

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates Malaysian King

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin who was proclaimed as Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on 13 December 2006. —MNA

Sri Lankan Prime Minister to visit Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec— At the invitation of General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Honourable Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, will pay a working visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. —MNA

Officials at all levels to dedicate themselves to tasks for greater development of Yangon City

YANGON, 14 Dec—A meeting was held at Konmyinthara here this morning to review the development affairs tasks being undertaken by Public Works in Yangon Division.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence in his speech said that officials at all levels are to dedicate themselves to their tasks for greater development of Yangon City, the economic hub of the nation, in all aspects. In the process, he called for cooperation of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Construction, Public Works and the Yangon City Development Committee. He stressed the importance of completion on schedule and meeting the standards set for the airports, bridges and buildings constructed by the Ministry of Construction and maintenance of the transport facilities.

In conclusion, he said that officials concerned are to exert goodwill in implementing the tasks not only for all-round development of Yangon Division but also for raising the standard of living of the people. And they should make field trips down to the grassroots level to supervise the tasks, he noted.

Deputy Chief Engineer of Yangon Division U Soe Tint reported on work progress of 2006-2007, funds for the construction projects being undertaken by Public Works, progress of implementation of the Kamakyi Bridge and No 2 Thanlyin Bridge projects, maintenance and expansion of the major roads in Yangon Division, current developments about the project for extension of the runway of Yangon International Airport, and orders placed by the ministry and

(See page 9)

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

INSIDE

It is learnt that the respective committees and subcommittees have already been formed to carry out the construction of the Uppatasanti Pagoda and other religious edifices relating to the pagoda to be completed in time.

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BA SEIN (RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe speaks at coordination meeting on development tasks of Public Works.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 15 December, 2006

Blood donation : a noble deed

Blood is the most important thing to humans. Blood transfusion in medical treatment was introduced in Myanmar in 1939.

The first blood bank was established at Yangon Hospital. In 1962, it was named the National Blood Bank. Then in 2003, its name was changed to the National Blood Unit.

The Ministry of Health attaches great importance to a systematic and standardized test of blood to ensure safety in medical treatment by blood transfusion. Moreover, it conducts training courses and workshops to improve the skills of the staff of the National Blood Unit and provides all the necessary equipment.

We Myanmar people consider it a noble deed to save a life by donating blood. Therefore, the number of blood donors in our country is steadily on the increase. And blood donors are honoured every year. The 30th ceremony to honour blood donors was held the other day and it was attended by more than 600 people, including 46 monks, who have donated blood fifty times and above.

Saving a life with one's safe and pure blood is one of the noblest donations. With the help of social organizations and the blood donors themselves, the number of new blood donors will increase. Thus, it will be possible to store more blood and save more lives.

Course in English on Applied Abhidhamma

YANGON, 14 Dec—Abhidhamma Propagation Association (APA) is now taking steps to extend its activities of propagation of Buddhist Abhidhamma overseas in addition to its traditional propagation activities within Myanmar.

As part of these activities the APA will open a course in English on Applied Abhidhamma.

The Venerable Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Nanda Marlar Bhivamsa, Rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University (ITBMU), will give lectures in English on Applied Abhidhamma for 3 months from 7-1-2007 to 1-4-2007 every Sunday at 3 pm at Yadanar-Gara Dhamma Beikman, 49/51 Bahan Road, Yangon.

All interested persons are welcome. — 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

Republics Destructive

- * 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

Minister urges to expedite machine tool factory project

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec— Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin together with officials went to Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries in Pakokku District, Magway Division, on 9 December and inspected construction works of machine and machine tool factory.

At the project, the officials reported the minister

on construction work, and construction of road to the factory, small dam and physic nut cultivation in the compound of the factory.

The minister called on officials to speed up the project, to construct the roads meeting the set standards and to prepare for power and water supply to the factory. —MNA

Livestock and Fisheries Minister visits farm zones

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec— Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Thein together with Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department inspected construction of farms in Zone (2), Tatkon Township on 8 December.

The minister also inspected construction of milch cow farm in Zone (1) of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

SWRR Minister inspects construction of two-storey FSD building in Lewe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accompanied by officials inspected construction of a two-storey fire station built at new site in Lewe Township on 6 December.

The minister heard reports on completion tasks presented by the Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council and officials, and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

USDA CEC member opens course



USDA CEC member Minister U Khin Maung Myint speaks at the opening of USDA organizing course No 27 in Insein. —MNA

YANGON, 13 Dec — Central Executive Committee member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Electric Power No 2 U Khin Maung Myint attended the opening of USDA organizing course No 27 in Insein, on 10 December.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said all the members have the duty to realize the lofty and correct aims and future work programmes.

The secretary of Insein Township USDA accepted K 490,000 donated by twenty-three wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Eighty trainees are attending the two-week course that continued till 24 December.

MNA

MGEA members invited to attend meeting

YANGON, 14 Dec— The fourth annual meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs' Association will be held at Summit Park View Hotel on Ahlon Road in Dagon Township on 16 December.

Invitation cards have been sent to members in advance and thus all members are invited to attend the meeting without fail if they had received the invitations cards or not, it is learnt.

MNA

Donate blood

China, ROK unveil agenda for bilateral Exchange Year

BEIJING, 13 Dec—The governments of China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Tuesday jointly unveiled the agenda for activities celebrating bilateral exchanges in 2007. Next year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the ROK and has been highlighted as the China-ROK Exchange Year.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, activities covering

politics, culture, education, sports, science and technology will be held.

The key events will include a launch in Seoul at the beginning of 2007, a celebration of the anniversary of diplomatic ties on 24 August, and a closing ceremony in Beijing near the year-end.

Film stars Chen Kun and Sun Li from China and actor An Chil Hyun and actress Jang Na Ra from the ROK have been appointed "goodwill ambassadors"

for the events. The two governments also published a slogan with the theme of conducting friendly exchanges and creating a promising future and a logo featuring a design of auspicious clouds in traditional Chinese and ROK styles.

Information on the events will be available on www.xinhuanet.com from January 2007. The ROK will also launch an official website.

MNA/Xinhua

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Malaysia's new king, Mizan Zainal Abidin, inspects an honour guard at the Parliament Square in Kuala Lumpur on 13 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

Earliest flying mammal discovered



V. antiquus is similar to a modern-day flying squirrel. —INTERNET

LONDON, 13 Dec—Mammals took to the skies at least 70 million years earlier than previously thought, scientists say.

A fossil uncovered in China suggests mammals were trying out flight at about the same time—or even earlier—than birds, the team reports in *Nature*.

The researchers said the squirrel-sized animal, which lived at least 125 million years ago, used a fur-covered skin membrane to glide through the air. The creature was so unusual, they said, it belonged to a new order of

mammals. The US-Chinese team said *Volaticotherium antiquus*, which means "ancient gliding beast", belonged to a now extinct ancestral line and was not related to modern day flying mammals, such as bats or flying marsupials.

The fossil was discovered in the Inner Mongolian region of China. The rock beds it was found in date to at least 125 million years ago to the Mesozoic Era, a time when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

Internet

NATO soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 Dec—One soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed by militants in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, an ISAF statement said.

ISAF was involved in a fight with insurgents in Helmand Province, said the statement, which did not give a more detailed location for the clash.

"As a result of the engagement one ISAF soldier was killed," it said.—MNA/Xinhua

Americans increasingly pessimistic about Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—As US President George W Bush weighs changing course in Iraq, Americans are increasingly pessimistic about the war and want most US troops withdrawn within a year, according to a new poll published on Tuesday.

The *USA TODAY*/Gallup Poll, taken Friday through Sunday, showed that about three of four among those surveyed supported the major recommendations unveiled by the Iraq Study Group last week—including negotiating directly with Iran and Syria, jump-starting

peace talks aimed at resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and withdrawing most US combat troops by March 2008—but most predicted the administration would not implement the bipartisan commission's proposals.

By 76 per cent to 22 per cent, those surveyed

said Iraq is in a civil war. The White House disputes that characterization, calling the conflict part of a global battle against terrorism.

The poll of 1,009 adults, which had a margin of error at plus or minus three percentage points, showed that 55 per cent of Americans

wanted most US troops withdrawn within a year, but only 18 per cent thought that would happen.

More than 4 in 10 predicted American troops would be deployed in Iraq for more than two years, though just 14 per cent endorsed that idea.

Bush's job-approval rating was 38 per cent in the poll, up 5 percentage points from the survey taken immediately after congressional elections last month.

In a new Post-ABC News poll released on Tuesday, seven in 10 Americans disapproved of the way Bush was handling the situation in Iraq—the highest percentage since the March 2003 invasion. Six in 10 said the war was not worth fighting.

MNA/Xinhua



An aerial view shows houses flooded with mud in Sidoarjo in Indonesia's East Java Province on 12 Dec, 2006. Some 10,000 people have been displaced and entire villages inundated by the mud that has flowed since a drilling accident in May, causing an unfolding environmental disaster in the Sidoarjo area near Indonesia's second largest city, Surabaya.

INTERNET

Gas cylinder blast kills four, injures three in S Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 13 Dec—At least four people were killed and three others injured Tuesday in a gas-cylinder blast in southern Pakistani city of Karachi, the private Geo Television quoting local police source as saying.

The explosion

occurred at a compressed natural gas (CNG) station in Clifton of Karachi, the capital of south province Sindh, said the report.

It is not immediately known what exactly caused the blast. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital and are said

to be in critical condition.

Pakistani major cities are seeing more and more CNG supply stations as the CNG consumption becomes increasingly popular among drivers because of it is cheaper than petrol.

MNA/Xinhua



Aircraft maker Airbus' President and Chief Executive Louis Gallois proposes a toast to the A380 at the end of the type certification ceremony in Toulouse on 12 Dec, 2006. Aviation authorities were set to declare Airbus's new A380 aircraft safe for commercial flight, capping six years of development for the world's largest airliner, which has been hit by production delays. —INTERNET

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Russian DM elected state aircraft company chairman

Moscow, 13 Dec— Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov was elected board chairman of the newly established United Aircraft Corporation on Tuesday, news reports said.

The company, which will produce both military and civilian aircraft, is expected to be fully established early next

year. More than 90 per cent of its stake is owned by the state, according to the *Interfax* and *ITAR-TASS* news agencies.

Speaking at the meeting of the company's board of directors at which he was elected, Ivanov said development of the civil aviation industry is the company's key task.

"While things are more or less favourable in other sectors of the aircraft industry — military and transport aviation which has good and understandable perspectives, including sales of goods — the situation in civil aviation is calamitous," Ivanov was quoted by *ITAR-TASS* as saying.

Russia's aircraft manufacturing industry has been on the wane since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The United Aircraft Corporation was created by merging the country's major aircraft makers like Sukhoi, Ilyushin and Tupolev in a bid to boost Russia's international competitiveness in the industry.

MNA/Xinhua

India pledges no foreign interference in strategic N-programmes

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec— Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the Parliament Tuesday that no foreign interference will be allowed concerning India's strategic nuclear programmes.

Mukherjee made the statement in the House of the People of Indian Parliament after the main opposition party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Left parties openly opposed to the legislation passed by US Congress on India-US civilian nuclear deal.

"The Government has taken note of certain extraneous and prescriptive provisions in the legislation," he said. "We have always maintained that the conduct of foreign policy determined solely by our national interests is our sovereign right. We have also been clear that our strategic programme remains outside the purview of these discussions."

The US Congress passed the final legislation after a Senate- House reconciliation conference on Saturday, which will allow the US Administration to export nuclear fuel and technologies for civilian use to India.

The nuclear understanding with the United States is significant for India's energy security, Mukherjee said. "Energy security has become a critical constraint in expanding our economic growth and development," he said, adding that India's nuclear energy only contributes less than 3 per cent of the country's energy supply. India plans to increase the nuclear power generation to 30,000 MW by 2022 and 63,000 MW by 2032. — MNA/Xinhua



A Romanian border policeman patrols with his dog at the border between Romania and Moldova in Albita, 350 km northeast of Bucharest on 12 Dec, 2006. Romania is set to join the EU on 1 January, 2007 along with its neighbour Bulgaria. —INTERNET

Spanish woman receives two-hands transplant

MADRID, 13 Dec— Spanish doctors have successfully transplanted two hands for a woman, the world's first such operation on a female, a hospital said Monday. The 47-year-old

woman lost both her hands 28 days ago in an explosion when she was doing a chemical experiment.

The 10-hour surgery was done at the La Fe de Valencia Hospital in 30

November, according to Pedro Cavadas, whose team conducted the operation.

Her new hands are expected to recover some sensation

MNA/Xinhua

A fisherman holds cod fish after they were caught at lake Retimajor (84.6 miles) west of Budapest, on 13 Dec, 2006. Hungary's fish ponds are traditionally harvested at this time of the year to provide fish for the predominantly Catholic country's Christmas tables. INTERNET

This year will be Britain's warmest since records began, say scientists

LONDON, 14 Dec— Britain is on course for the warmest year since records began, according to figures from the Met Office and the University of East Anglia yesterday. Temperatures logged by weather stations across England reveal 2006 to have been unusually mild, with a mean temperature of 10.84C.

The record beats the previous two joint hottest

years of 1999 and 1990 by 0.21C. Temperatures in central England have been recorded since 1659, the world's longest climate record, and they indicate the trend towards warming weather across Britain as a whole.

Experts are convinced that the warming can only be explained by rising greenhouse gases from human activity and rule

out the impact of natural variations, such as the sun's intensity.

"Our climate models show we should be getting warmer and drier weather in the summer, and warmer and wetter in the winter, and that's exactly what we're seeing," said Phil Jones, director of the climatic research unit at the University of East Anglia. —Internet



Annan calls for “new, urgent push for peace” in M-E

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Dec—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed for a “new and urgent push for peace” in the Middle East from the concerned parties on Tuesday, including the international community.

In his last briefing to the Security Council on the region, Annan said the Middle East was in “profound crisis,” and the

situation is now more complex, more fragile and more dangerous than it has been for a very long time with mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians reaching “new heights”.

“Tensions in the region are near the breaking point ... Extremism and populism are leaving less political space for moderates, including those States that have reached

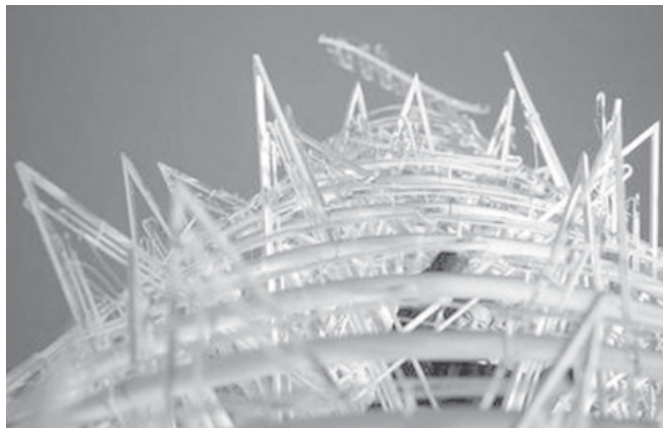
peace agreements with Israel ... The opportunity for negotiating a two-state solution will last for only so long,” he warned.

“Should we fail to seize it, the people who most directly bear the brunt of this calamity will be consigned to new depths of suffering and grief. Other conflicts and problems will become that much harder to resolve. And extremists the world over would enjoy a boost in their recruiting efforts,” he said.

Despite such problems and acknowledging that “much trust will have to be rebuilt,” Annan remains optimistic about a diplomatic solution, as he called for changes in mindset by both Israelis and Palestinians and more effort by the Quartet, which is seeking a two-state solution, known as the roadmap peace plan, for Israel and Palestine to live side-by-side in peace.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis look at a car that was destroyed in an explosion of a car bomb in Baghdad, Iraq, on 13 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET



A worker installs electric Christmas tree at business centre in Shanghai on 12 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

161 depleted uranium missiles found in southern Serbia

BELGRADE, 13 Dec—A total of 161 depleted uranium missiles have been recovered in southern Serbia in the past nine weeks, local reports said on Monday.

The missiles were left in Reljan, near Presevo after the 1999 NATO bombing campaign, the Serbian news agency *Beta* reported, citing representatives of direc-

torate for the protection of the environment.

During its 78-day airstrikes on Serbia’s predecessor Yugoslavia in 1999, the NATO dropped 31,000 missiles and bombs containing depleted uranium, a kind of radioactive toxic material that has been linked to Gulf War syndrome and spiralling levels of cancer and birth deformities in Iraq. In Kosovo, the NATO has identified some 112 sites where it acknowledges using depleted uranium munitions. But NATO has

not given the government in Belgrade a comprehensive list for the rest of Serbia.

The cleanup operation in Reljan started on 1 October, said the reports, adding that 6.5 out of 12 hectares of contaminated grounds have been searched and cleared. A total of 2.4 cubic metres of contaminated soil has also been collected. The Serbian Government has funded the cleanup operation in the Reljan site with 350,000 euros (some 450,000 US dollars). —MNA/Xinhua

Manuscript by Mughal Emperor stolen

GAYA (Bihar), 13 Dec—A rare manuscript of “Gulistan”, written by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and valued at over 10 million rupees was stolen from the locker of a school’s office, police said Monday.

Thieves scaled the wall on the rear side of the

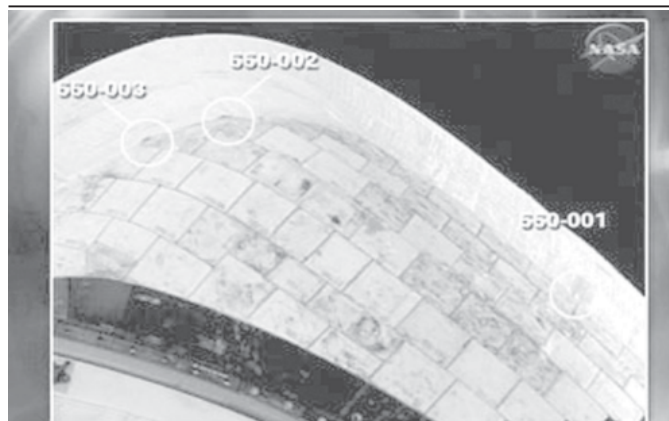
building of Tekari Raj International School Sunday night, broke the locks and stolen the manuscript written in Persian, they said.

It is said that the erstwhile Maharaja of Alwar had sold the “bhojpatra” manuscript to his counterpart of Tekari

for 10,000 rupees about 200 years ago and it was kept in the locker of the school run by an old zamindar family of Tekari.

The manuscript carried sketches of Aurangzeb, who ruled the Mughal Empire from 1658 to 1707.

MNA/PTI



A graphic from NASA TV shows possible damage on the Shuttle Discovery’s wing that NASA officials are taking a closer look at 11 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA



A dam built by the Hittites is pictured in Alacaho-yuk. In this central Turkish village, peasants and archaeologists celebrate a unique achievement—a 3,246-year-old dam, once buried under mud and slime, is back in service to irrigate farmlands. INTERNET

Suicide car bomber kills 45 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec—A suicide bomber blew his vehicle up in a crowded square in central Baghdad on Tuesday morning, killing 45 people and wounding 148 others, a well-informed police source told *Xinhua*.

The deadly suicide car bombing occurred at about 7:00 am (0400 GMT) in Tayaran Square where hundreds of day

labourers were waiting for jobs, the source said on condition of anonymity. Gunfire sounded immediately after the blast. The wounded were sent to the hospitals and the dead to the morgue, he said. The blast also damaged several nearby buildings and shops along with several civilian cars, the source added.—MNA/Xinhua



A visitor tries out a global positioning system (GPS) in the Digital Life International Expo. The 2006 session of the digital life expo kicked off at China International Exhibition Hall in Beijing on 9 Dec.—INTERNET

China considers to allow individuals to invest overseas

BEIJING, 13 Dec—The Chinese Government is considering allowing individuals to invest overseas, said a senior official with the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

SAFE deputy director Deng Xianhong said the government will also expand the trial scope of overseas investments by securities firms and ease rigid controls on foreign exchange.

Deng said the government would encourage overseas direct investment, especially mergers and acquisitions by major companies.

The QDII (qualified domestic institutional investors) programme would be expanded and insurers allowed to invest in more overseas financial products.

China allows domestic institutions and residents to invest money in

overseas financial products via Mainland commercial banks, and allows insurance institutions to invest some of their assets in overseas fixed-income products and money-market products.

Ten domestic and seven foreign-funded banks are allowed to offer QDII services. More banks are expected to be given green light to carry out QDII services.

Deng said the government would ensure smooth and orderly cross-border capital flows with more supervision of investments of foreign funds in the real estate market.

MNA/Xinhua

Getty Museum returns Greek antiquities

ATHENS, 13 Dec—Two important Greek artifacts that were taken abroad by illicit trade in the past, a gold wreath and a marble statue of a standing young woman clothed in long robes dated before the 5th Century BC, both kept in the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, will be returned to Greece in the following months.

Based on a Getty Museum statement, the museum's board of trustees unanimously decided to return the two antiquities to the country of origin.

In a joint statement issued by Culture Minister George Voulgarakis and the museum, it is stressed that there are plans for future cooperation between the Greek Culture Ministry and the Getty Museum.

In an unscheduled Press conference at noon Monday, Voulgarakis stressed that an opportunity is being presented to establish a broad framework of cooperation between the museum and the Culture Ministry on issues of mutual interest such as antiquity loaning and exhibitions.

Getty Museum has returned two pieces of Greek antiquities earlier this year to Greece after several years of disputes between the two sides.

The Greek Government has vowed to ask for the return for the four artifacts from the museum, which Greece believes has got by the illegal way.

MNA/Xinhua



China tightens control on "network music"

BEIJING, 13 Dec—The Chinese Ministry of Culture has issued guidelines on the development and management of "network music", saying that all the imported network music products distributed in China must be approved and regis-

tered by the ministry.

The term "network music" refers to music products distributed by wired or wireless means. It is mainly online music, played or downloaded from the Internet, and mobile music provided by mobile phone servers.

The guidelines state that network music must be imported by legal units approved by the ministry.

Any person or organization which distributes imported network music without approval will be punished by cultural authorities, and their websites investigated by communication departments. Domestic music products aiming for network distribution only must register with the Ministry of Culture.

MNA/Xinhua

Workers use the remote control to guide the 2500-ton, hydraulic, remote-control, self-propelled modular transporter on 11 Dec, 2006.

China's first, 2500-ton, hydraulic remote-control, self-propelled modular transporter has been developed in Suzhou.—XINHUA

Iraqi children look at the wreckage of a burnt vehicle at the scene of a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad on 12 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

Stone tools dating back 20,000 years discovered in N-W China

XI'AN, 13 Dec—Archaeologists have discovered 21 sites of ruins of the Palaeolithic Age dating back more than 20,000 years in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

They unearthed more than 20,000 stone implements from the sites near Longwangchan Village of Hukou Town, Yichuan County, during excavations, said a source with the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Institute.

These stone implements include fine stone cores, a millstone and other stone tools, said the source.

The most eye-catching discovery is a polished shovel made of shale, which is 12.7 centimetres long, 9.2 centimetres wide and 0.8 centimetres thick.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian satellite rides Russian rocket into space

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Dec—Malaysia's third satellite "Measat-3" rode a Russian rocket smoothly on Tuesday into space from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, Malaysia's national news services *Bernama* said.

The 220 million US dollar commercial telecommunication satellite, built by Boeing Satellite Systems Inc in Los Angeles, was blasted off at 5:28 am (2328 GMT Monday) by Russia's premier launcher *Proton* rocket.

The satellite, owned by Malaysian East Asia Satellite System (Measat) Sdn Bhd, will provide telecom services to customers in more than 100 countries from Asia, East Europe to Australia, Africa.

MNA/Xinhua



The Uppatasanti Pagoda (Cetiya), Replica of famous Shwedagon Pagoda being built in Nay Pyi Taw

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The world Buddhist communities recognize that the Union of Myanmar is a leading Theravada Buddhist nation in the Buddhist world. According to the historical records of the Buddhism, the Union of Myanmar has been a Theravada Buddhist nation for thousands of years, and over 90 per cent of the whole population of Union of Myanmar have taken faith in Theravada Buddhism since then.

According to the historical records of Myanmar, the successive Myanmar kings significantly encouraged and supported for carrying out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the country and they themselves built pagodas, monasteries, temples and other religious edifices dedicating to promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. The successive kings of Myanmar devoutly and deeply took faith in the Theravada Buddhism. For instance, His Majesty King Anawrahta who first founded a strong and stable Kingdom of Myanmar vividly implemented the noble task of the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Theravada Buddha Sasana with great assistance of the Most Ven Shin Arahan from Suvannabonmi (Thaton). Furthermore, His Majesty King Anawrahta built a large number of pagodas, monasteries, temples and other religious buildings not only in Bagan, the capital of Myanmar Kingdom at that time but also throughout the Kingdom. Multifarious Buddhist people across the Kingdom carried out the noble task of promotion and flourishing of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Buddha) under the prudent guidance and supervision of members of Sangha Order and His Majesty King Anawrahta.

And now, we all Buddhists throughout the Union of Myanmar are very pleased and honoured to know that the Uppatasanti (Protection against Calamity) Cetiya (Pagoda) is being built in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Union of Myanmar. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements for successful construction of the Uppatasanti Pagoda are well under way under the prudent and effective guidance and supervision of Senior

General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and members.

Four kinds of Cetiya (Pagodas)

During the time of the Omniscient Buddha and after the noble demise of the Omniscient Buddha, the four kinds of pagodas were built by world Buddhist communities dedicating to the Nine Supreme Attributes of the Buddha. The four kinds of Cetiya (Pagodas) are as follows:-

1. Dhatu Cetiya (Pagoda) in which the sacred relics of the Omniscient Buddha are enshrined.
2. Dhamma Cetiya (Pagoda) in which scriptures and inscriptions of the Omniscient Buddha are enshrined.
3. Oddhissa Cetiya (Pagoda) in which Buddha Images and Statues are enshrined.
4. Pariboga Cetiya (Pagoda) in which materials and objects used by the Omniscient Buddha are enshrined.

The Auspicious Stake-Driving Ceremony for Construction of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw

It is learnt that the great grand auspicious Stake-Driving ceremony for construction of the Uppatasanti Pagoda was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2006, and attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, ministers and their wives, responsible personnel of respective

committees for construction of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, donors, well-wishers and other invited guests.

And also members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika the Most Ven Bhaddanta Kumara, Tipitaka Dhara Tipitaka Kovida Dhamma Bandha Garika Sayadaws (Eminent monks) and other invited members of the Sangha were present on the auspicious occasion.

The grand congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing observed the Nine Precepts delivered by the Most Ven. Bhaddanta Kumara, Chairman of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Union of Myanmar.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing respectfully presented offertories to the Most Ven Bhaddanta Kumara.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe and Secretary-1 Lt-General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win respectfully presented offertories to the members of the Sangha.

After that, members of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, ministers and deputy ministers respectfully presented offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Next, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharatha Guru the Most Ven Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon and Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation shared the merits gained for good deeds.

Consequently, in accordance with rites and rituals of Buddhism, driving noble stakes at designated holy places in the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda were successfully conducted by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and members.

It is further learnt that the respective committees and sub-committees have already been formed to carry out the construction of the pagoda and other religious edifices relating to the pagoda to be completed in time.

The Uppatasanti Pagoda of 325 feet high which is being built in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Union of Myanmar, is the Replica of the most ancient famous Shwedagon Pagoda which was built during the lifetime of the Omniscient Buddha in 103 Great Era, over 2500 years ago.

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Titles and medals presented to outstanding persons in Yangon Division

YANGON, 14 Dec—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council organized a ceremony to present titles and medals, conferred by the State Peace and Development Council, to recipients for 2004-2005 at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road in Yangon this afternoon.

Secretary of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe explained matters on conferring titles and medals on outstanding persons for 2004-2005.

On behalf of the chairman of the SPDC, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented certificates and medals through the officials to 584 persons from Yangon Division—11 for outstanding performance in arts and science, five in medical field, 10 in technological field, one in agricultural field, 43 in industrial field, 110 in administration field, and 404 in social field.



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presents honorary medal and certificate to a recipient. — MNA

MNA

USDA SG U Htay Oo contributes cash to school education fund in Hinthada

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo together with executives and members of Hinthada District USDA met with townsenders, members of the school board of trustees, teachers and members of Pinyinma Gyaung Ward USDA at Pinyinma Gyaung Basic Education Primary School No 6 in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Division on 10 December.

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo, wife Daw Ni Ni Win and family and members of USDA contributed cash to school education fund.

Next, they met with teachers and students of Kayin Baptist Seminary in Hinthada and extended Christmas greetings. The secretary-general and Township USDA executives presented cash and kind for the Seminary to a responsible person.

Later, they offered provisions to State Ovadacaria Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa of Padamyar Monastery in Hinthada.—MNA

Myanmar-China Border Trade Expo 2006 on 18 December

YANGON, 14 Dec — The Ministry of Commerce will hold Myanmar-China Border Trade Expo 2006 in conjunction with a joint committee meeting for Myanmar-China Border Trade, a coordination meeting on economic affairs, a signing ceremony on trade and a talk on rules and regulations of investment at 105th mile Trade Zone in Muse, Shan State (North)

from 18 to 20 December on a grand scale.

Those wishing to have detail information can contact Muse 105th mile Trade Zone (Ph: 01-3331258, 3331259, 3331260 and 3331261) and Border Trade Department (Nay Pyi Taw) (067-408015, 408235 and 408358).

MNA

Mily code of conduct, extempore talks held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — To mark the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Camp Commandant's Office organized Contest for Military Code of Conduct here yesterday and extempore talks today.

Twenty-nine officers and 138 other ranks participated in the military code of conduct contest and 16 officers and 72 other ranks in extempore talks held at the Ministry of Defence here.

Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein visited the contest and extempore talks.

MNA

Blood donors honoured

YANGON, 14 Dec — Organized by Working Committee of National Blood Bank (Central), the 30th ceremony to honour the blood donors was held at the hall of University of Nursing (Yangon) this morning, attended by Acting Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health and

officials, WHO Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo, responsible persons of international and local social organizations, guests and blood donors.

The acting director-general extended greetings and presented certificates of honour to 20 blood donors who donated blood more than one hundred times.

Executive Director of Myanmar Red Cross Society Col Khin Maung Hla, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha of Yangon People's Hospital and Director Dr Nay Win also presented the certificates to the wellwishers who donated K 10.6 million and US\$ 1600 for the activities of blood bank.

MNA



Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein visits Contest of Military Code of Conduct. — MNA



Dr Tin Nyunt, Acting Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department, delivers address at ceremony to honour blood donors. — HEALTH

95 pearl lots sold

YANGON, 14 Dec— A total of 95 pearl lots were sold at Myanma Pearl Enterprise's 22nd Pearl Sales here today.

Sixty-four merchants gathered at the second day of the sales and sold pearl lots through the tender system. The sales will conclude tomorrow.

MNA

Officials at all levels to dedicate themselves to tasks...

(from page 1)

administrative bodies.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Hlaing reported on work progress of the project to extend the runway from 8,100' x 200' facility to 11,200' x 200' one and follow-up plans.

Officials also reported on current developments about Six-lane Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project (Yangon Division section) and Yangon-Pyay Highway Project (Yangon Division section), projects set for 2006-2007 fiscal year, the road linking Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 and Thilawa Industrial Zone,

the road linking Hlingthaya Industrial Zone No 5 Road and Dalla-Twantay Road, Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project, the 30-mile road section between No 3 Junction and Hlawga Road and future tasks, the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital Project at the corner of Banyadala Road and Byaingyay Osin Road in Yangon, the container yard project in Shwepyitha Township, the project for upgrading Eastern Yangon University and the training hall project in the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi).

Superintending engineers of four districts in Yangon Division reported on progress of construc-

tion of roads, bridges and buildings district-wise.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win gave a supplementary report on development affairs tasks being undertaken by Public Works.

In response, Lt-Gen Myint Swe dealt with the reports. Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and officials.—MNA

Sports Minister arrives back from Qatar



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint arrived back here by air this morning after attending the 15th

Asian Games and the 25th Asian Olympic Council Conference held at Doha, Qatar.

They were welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw airport by Minis-

ter for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials.

MNA

Police seizes lost items worth over K 5.8 million within two days

YANGON, 14 Dec — Police arrested a person on 1st December in Mandalay on suspicion of stealing gold jewellery and cash with a total value of over K 5.8 million.

Ma Shwe Ye Nyein Chan, owner of Ye Oo Pharmacy in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, lost a jeans bag containing seven items of gold jewellery and cash on 29 November and reported to the case to the No 3 Police Station in Mandalay.

Acting on investigation, police found the lost items and about K 200,000 in cash hidden in a cement bag on the roof of the bath room of the house of Ma Shwe Ye Nyein Chan on 1st December afternoon.

In connection with the case, police arrested Ma Khin Mar Thein (a) Maung Thein, a construction worker, of Yemon Taung Ward, Maha Aungmyay Township, on suspicion of the case.

After being questioned, the suspect confessed that he stole the jeans bag, picked up K 160,000 and kept the bag and jewellery together with a cement bag on the roof of the bathroom.

Police also seized K 160,000 from the women and action is being taken against her. — MNA

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**

Three killed, one wounded in bomb explosion in Mongphyat

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—A woman and two children were killed and a child wounded in a bomb blast that occurred near Shan Danu Village in Mongphyat Township, Shan State (East), on 11 December morning.

While on the way to the farm, one of the four—Daw Shell Taw, and three

children—stepped on the mine planted by the insurgents. Daw Shell Taw, 28, daughter of U Kyaw He and Maung Shar Phat, 9, died on the spot. Ma Kyaw Hmway, 9, daughter of U Kya Ya succumbed to the injuries on the way to Kengtung Township People's Hospital for medical treatment. Maung Kya Ka,

10, sustained injuries in his both thighs, belly, forehead, lip and right shoulder in the incident. He was given medical treatment and assistance at the hospital.

Officials concerned and local people are now cooperating to expose the culprits.

MNA

Uncensored tapes seized

YANGON, 14 Dec—Paung Township Police Force combed Waing Waing video tape rental shop of U Win Tin of Kadar Ward, Paung, Mon State, and seized illegal Myanmar subtitled 5-

movie channel video tapes and uncensored video tapes on 3 December.

So, action was taken against the owner of the shop according to Television and Video Law.

Plans are under way

to expose other cases of making copies of the movies and series broadcast through MRTV-4, and its related channels, 5-movie and 5-series, and illicit distribution of the uncensored tapes.—MNA

224 drugs-related cases exposed in November

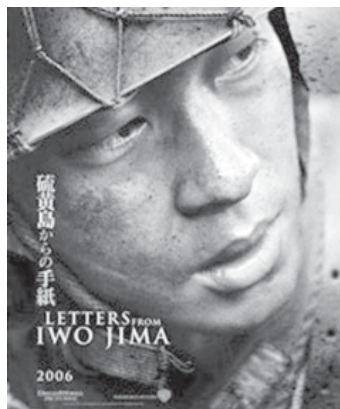
YANGON, 14 Dec—A combined team comprising the Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 224 drugs related cases in November 2006.

They seized 34,7942 kilos of heroin in 20 cases, 6,4960 kilos of opium in 88 cases, 5,2296

kilos of opium oil in 9 cases, 7,7978 kilos of low opium in 8 cases, 25,4076 kilos of marijuana in 10 cases, 909,319 stimulant tablets in 52 cases, 10 kilos of stimulant powder in two cases, 55,099 kilos of opium speciosa in 11 cases, 2,8565 kilos of stimulant solid (ice) in 2 cases, 120 tablets of

Lorazepam in one case, 50 tablets of diazepam, 140.14 litres of chemical liquid in one case, 0.95 kilos of chemical powder in one case, nine cases in failure to register and 10 other cases.

Action was taken against 328 persons—271 men and 57 women—in 224 cases. — MNA



The poster of the movie Letters from Iwo Jima. It seems that Warner Bros has made one of the smartest movies of the year by moving Letters from Iwo Jima up to December in time for award season. The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures picks are out and Letters from Iwo Jima has been chosen as Best Film of 2006.—INTERNET

Course on preventing diseases and taking care of the patients opened



Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai addresses opening of training course on preventing diseases and taking care of the patients. — MNA

YANGON, 14 Dec— Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization conducted a training course on preventing diseases and taking care of the patients with AIDS, TB, other chronic diseases and their families at the meeting hall of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council at noon today.

Present at the ceremony were Chairperson of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai and officials, members of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, officials of health department, chairpersons of the district WAOs, trainers and trainees.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai made an opening speech. Next, Dr Hla Myint, head of Yangon division health department explained the purpose of opening the course and the ceremony ended.

Altogether 132 trainees from division, districts, townships attended the 2-day course.

MNA

Saw Mon Nyin awarded Life-Long National Literary Award

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee of the Ministry of Information chose Saw Mon Nyin today as the winner of Life-Long Literary Award.

Daw Yin Yin who has written books under the pen name of Saw Mon Nyin has dedicated to her life to the progress of Myanmar literature, said the committee.

She will be awarded at the prize presentation ceremony for National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and for 17th National Motto Literary and Photo Contests for 2005 to be held here. — MNA

List of National Literary Award winners announced

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee of the Ministry of Information scrutinized the books published in 2005 and announced the National Literary Award winners today.

SinPhyuKyun Aung Thein won the National Literary Award in novel genre, Yin Yin Nu (Mandalay) in collected short stories genre, Zarni in collected poems genre, Maung Moe Yan belles-lettres genre, Minshin Aung (Twantway) in Myanmar Culture and Fine Arts literature genre, Tin Lin Zaw in child

literature, Nan Mya Kay Khine in translation (Knowledge) genre, Maung Ye Khine in translation (aesthetic) genre, Ma Kyan in general knowledge (arts), Dr Aye Kyaw in general knowledge (science), Win Chit in general knowledge (applied science) and ambassador U Pe Thein Tin in political literature.

There were no winners in drama and youth literature. Winners are to contact the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman at No 529-531 on Merchant Street, Tel: 240048/381449. The prizes will be awarded in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin) Life-Long National Literary Award winner



(News and photo : Thaug Win Bo)

The Life-Long National Literary Award-2006 went to Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin). She was born of U San Tin (ATM) and Daw Daw Myot on 8 October 1921 in Moemeik, Shan State (North). She obtained BA and a diploma in Japanese.

Sayamagyi Saw Mon Nyin received Children's Literary Award for the book titled 'Shae-hsaung-lunge-thauk-shu-kye' in 1963; Cultural Literary Award of YMBA for the book titled 'Myanma-hmu-son-pan-yagon' in 1965; National Literary (Culture) Award for the book titled 'Adornment of Myanmar Women' in 1989; SEA Write Award in 2000; Pakokku U Ohn Pe's Life-Long Literary Award in 2004; and the award for outstanding performance in arts in 2002.

She went on study tour of England, Holland, Switzerland, France, China, Vietnam, Japan, India, Pakistan and Thailand. She is contributing to voluntary services in social, religious, cultural and art sectors. She is also serving in various capacities such as cultural adviser to Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, member of Film Censor Board, drama adviser to University of Culture, member of the Leading Committee of Myanmar Traditional




Daw
Yin Yin
(Saw
Mon Nyin)


Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, member of Department of Myanmar Language Commission, author of Myanmar Athan Cultural article, patron of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, member of the delegate group of other invited persons to the National Convention and member of the scrutinizing committee for Myanmar Academy Award.

Sayamagyi Saw Mon Nyin said in an interview with the NLM "I didn't expect the Life-Long National Literary Award. But what I only expected was to be awarded for my book titled 'Saw Mon Nyin of Saw Mon Nyin'. I am now 87 years of age and I feel I am of little use because of my age. But I am very happy and grateful to the State for its recognizing me".

(Translation: ST)

Ambassador U Pe Thein Tin wins National Literary Award (Political Genre)

(News and photo : Thaug Win Bo)

Ambassador U Pe Thein Tin was named winner of 2005 National Literary Award (Political Genre) for his work "A Guide to Diplomacy". He was born of former Irrigation Commissioner U Tin and Sayamagyi Daw Hla Thein in Yangon.



He passed the qualifier test of public service selection board in 1961, and served for the Diplomats Reception Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 38 years.

In 33 years of his service, he shouldered duties for 22 years in France, Pakistan, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Myanmar Permanent Representative's Office to UN in Geneva.

He discharged duties as adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for three years and served as special envoy of the Government of the Union of Myanmar in Pakistan, Egypt and Morocco. The government conferred Medal for Outstanding Performance in Administration Field (First Class) on him in 2002.

He said, "I am very proud of the award because this book is my first work. I had intended to compile




U
Pe
Thein
Tin


such a book for many years. And I had to compile a lot of facts for many years. The purpose of my writing this book is to enable new generation youths to discharge diplomatic duties without difficulties.

"This book is a manual for many people especially for those shouldering duties in Myanmar embassies abroad and in Central Institutes of Civil Service (Phaunggyi and Zeebingyi). It is a work of heritage I have handed down to new generation youths. Now, I am compiling a guide book for Myanmar female diplomats and wives of Myanmar male diplomats to enable them to promote and introduce Myanmar traditions and culture and Myanmar cookery in foreign countries where they are serving".

Translation: MS



A woman takes a photo in front of a Christmas decoration in Hong Kong on 11 Dec, 2006. Hong Kong may be a beacon of free-market capitalism with the highest number of Rolls-Royces per capita in the world. But its residents are also among the world's most generous donors to charity, a trend that is accelerating.—INTERNET

Liver-transplant patient gives birth to baby in S-W China

CHONGQING, 14 Dec — A Chinese woman who had liver-transplant surgery two years ago has given birth to a baby in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

Feng Jie, 29, became a very happy and lucky mum on Sunday when she gave birth to a healthy boy, making her China's fourth and the world's 40th liver-transplant woman to successfully produce a baby. The baby, weighing 4.41 kilogrammes, was born by Cesarean section on Sunday morning in the No 1 Hospital affiliated to Chongqing Medical University.

The mother and her baby are in a stable condition, said Doctor Du Chengyou.

Feng received a liver transplant in 2004, after being diagnosed in 2001 with Wilson's disease, a major liver disease which leads to hepatic failure, liver cirrhosis and ultimately death.

The pregnancies of

liver-transplant patients threaten the lives of mother and baby and usually lead to infant deformation and obstetric disease.

Feng got pregnant in April 2006 and life smiled on this resilient and gutsy

woman who insisted on becoming a mother.

China's first baby born to a liver-transplant patient came into the world on 18 August, 2004 in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia criticizes US to build missile defence shield in Europe

Moscow, 14 Dec — Russia's military chief of staff criticized on Wednesday US plans to deploy missile defence systems in Europe, saying the planned move is a mistake.

Russia sees the plans as "an erroneous step with extremely negative consequences for international security", General Yuri Baluyevsky was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

"The formation of a US missile defence base in Europe cannot be viewed otherwise than as a serious re-configuration of US military presence," he said.

The United States is in talks with NATO members Poland and the Czech Republic in search for a base to deploy missile defence systems in eastern Europe.

Baluyevsky said the deployment of a European missile defence shield is

"an unfriendly step" to Russia.

"The possible area of interception of ballistic

missiles will cover a significant part of Russia's European territory," he said. — MNA/Xinhua



A worker checks a dog at a shelter for detained dogs established by Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, in Beijing on 11 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

China to be key growth engine for Asia Pacific in 2007

HONG KONG, 14 Dec — China will remain key growth engine for Asia Pacific in 2007, according to a report released here Tuesday by Standard and Poor's.

The report combines Standard and Poor's predictions for equity markets, credit quality and economic performance across the region next year, and includes the latest forecasts from Standard and Poor's Ratings Services and Standard and Poor's Equity Research.

According to the report, the economic development in Asia Pacific will continue to benefit from the three significant subregional economies in 2007 — China, India and Japan.

China, in particular, continues to be a key driver of regional growth, with the economic

slowdown in the US expected to dampen China's growth momentum only marginally, the report said.

It said that Chinese real GDP growth in 2006 is likely to reach 10.5 per cent, after hitting a high of 11.3 per cent in the second quarter. GDP growth in 2007 should hit close to 10 per cent, due to factors including continuing macro-economic stabilization measures, tightening fiscal stance, and an over-performed stock market in 2006. — MNA/Xinhua

Hundreds of firefighters injured in Australia's bushfires

CANBERRA, 14 Dec — Hundreds of firefighters have been injured in bushfires in several states in Australia as the country's Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday visited towns affected by some of the worst bushfires so far this summer.

Only in the southeastern state of Victoria, 409 firefighters have been treated for a range of injuries, including bruises, cuts, blisters, burns, oxygen therapy, rehydration and eye irrigation, local reports said, adding that 11 of those had been taken to hospital for treatment.

More than 150 volunteers, including doctors, nurses and first aid officers, are providing all

emergency medical treatment during the bushfire crisis, according to the reports. — MNA/Xinhua



A vendor selling shoes waits for customers at retail shop in Beijing on 11 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

NATO warning shot claims Afghan civilian life

KABUL, 14 Dec — An Afghan civilian motorcyclist died as a warning shot fired by NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) hit him in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province Tuesday, said a Press release of the military alliance here Wednesday.

"Tuesday afternoon, a motorcyclist travelling at high speed approached an ISAF security cordon in Kandahar City. Despite verbal warning to stop, he refused to halt. ISAF forces fired a warning shot in a safe direction which hit the civilian," the Press release added.

The man was taken to hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead, the Press release stressed.

"ISAF deeply regrets the loss of life to civilians. It is not known why the motorcyclist failed to stop when clear signals were given," the Press release further said. NATO's erroneously firings and bombings have claimed the lives of over two dozen civilians since beginning this year in Afghanistan mostly in the southern region. — MNA/Xinhua

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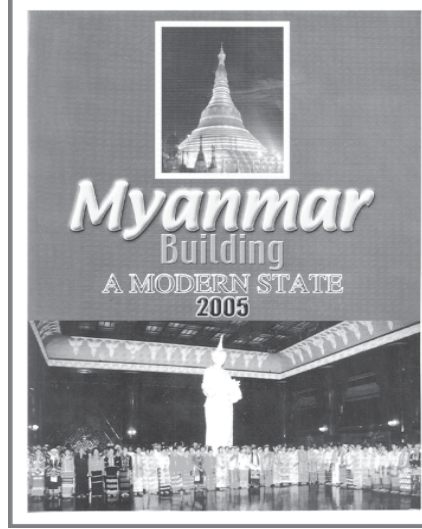


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Indonesia aims to become biggest cacao producer

JAKARTA, 14 Dec — Indonesia is determined to become the world's largest cacao producer and exporter, a minister said Tuesday.

"We are determined to become world's number one in cacao industry," Agriculture Minister Anton Apriyantono said in a seminar here.

According to the government data, the country has 992,546 hectares of cacao plantations with production totalling 652,350 tons in 2005.

Indonesia is currently the world's third largest in cacao production after the Ivory Coast and Ghana and second largest in cacao export after Ghana.

The country earns more than 650 million US dollars in foreign exchange revenue a year from cacao export.

"We need to raise competitiveness and productivity of Indonesia's cacao export to the global market," the minister said. Through the cacao revitalization programme, production is expected to reach two million tons a year, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Four die, nine injured in hotel fire in N China

HOHHOT, 13 Dec—Four people died and nine were injured in a hotel fire in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Tuesday morning, said the local fire fighting department.

A waitress from the Ejin Banner Hotel, of the Alxa League, and three guests died in the fire which was discovered at 3:40 am and was put out an hour later.

Five of the nine injured have left hospital after treatment. The fire started from the second floor of the hotel where 53 guests were staying on Monday night. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ Govt appoints education counsellor to India

WELLINGTON, 13 Dec—An New Zealand education counsellor has been appointed to India in a bid to strengthen the education relationship, Tertiary Education Minister Michael Cullen announced here Wednesday.

He said Perya Short has been appointed as New Zealand's South Asia education counsellor, based in New Delhi. Counsellors have also been appointed to Beijing, Brussels, Washington, Kuala Lumpur and appointments are to be made to Santiago and Seoul. "Previous New Zealand ministerial missions to India highlighted interest on both sides in collaborative

BEIJING, 13 Dec— As nearly 60 per cent, or 86 million elderly people in

China live in rural areas, the country is probing the establishment of an old-age security system in the areas, says a white paper issued by the information Office of China's State Council on Tuesday.

The document, titled "The Development of China's Undertakings for The Aged", says that the government has begun to study the establishment of an old-age social security system in rural areas in order to guarantee the basic livelihood of the elderly people, by

highlighting the role of the land and the family in providing for elderly people.

By the end of 2005, the paper says, about 1,900 counties in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the central government had established their own old-age social insurance systems.

More than 54 million farmers were involved, with the accumulated insurance funds reaching 31 billion yuan (4.2 billion

US dollar). And more than three million farmers now receive pensions.

In recent years, the Chinese Government has gradually established a uniform basic old-age insurance system in urban areas. The white paper says that by the end of 2005, the number of people participating in the basic old-age insurance scheme across China had reached 175 million, 43.67 million of whom were retirees.

MNA/Xinhua

China enhances spacecraft monitoring network

BEIJING, 13 Dec— China is beefing up its space monitoring network, and will locate its central command system powered by sophisticated home-grown technology in north

China's Xi'an City, according to an industry source.

"The orbit error of China's spacecraft can be reduced to a little more than ten metres, compared to more than a hundred kilometres when space technology in China was still underdeveloped," Cen, a Chinese economic portal website, quoted a space expert as saying.

He said climatic conditions affect the landing of recoverable satellites, meaning that vehicles may land several kilometres away from the predicted landing site, making it difficult to carry out post-landing satellite searches.

MNA/Xinhua



Andrea Henkel of Germany skis during the Biathlon World Cup 15 km individual competition in Hochfilzen, Austria, on 13 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

China's PLA unit takes Internet user to court for slander

BEIJING, 13 Dec — A China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) unit took a Chinese Internet user to court Thursday after he claimed on the Internet that a PLA official had ordered the destruction of a local sauna, Monday's Beijing-based *Legal Daily* reported.

Ji Shenghui, the accused netizen from north China's Hebei Province, posted a bulletin on a local BBS under the name "Changjiang 750" claiming that a PLA official named Qin stationed in

Shijiazhuang, capital city of Hebei, ordered soldiers under his command to smash up a lavish sauna after he broke a glass there and was charged 500 yuan (around 62.5 US dollars) for it.

The bulletin did not say when the destruction of the sauna occurred.

At a Press conference Thursday, Wang Jushan, deputy director of the political department of the PLA unit, said Ji's claim was a groundless slander, adding that the local police department has confirmed

the sauna was never attacked.

The sauna in Ji's story also denied the incident in a statement on 13 August, and reported the rumor to local police 4 days later.

Wang said the bulletin had done great damage to the reputation of the PLA, and to the PLA official.

The bulletin has been removed from the local BBS, but several different versions of the story are still going the rounds among Chinese net users.

MNA/Xinhua



In this image from NASA television, an astronaut makes his way around the outside of the international space station on 12 Dec, 2006. Space walkers Robert Curbeam and Christer Fuglesang will work to install a 2-ton addition to the space station. —INTERNET

Singapore eyes int'l medical tourism

SINGAPORE, 13 Dec — Singapore sees medical tourism as one engine to boost its economy and hopes to attract over one million international patients a year by 2012, nearly three times the current number.

These were discussed at a four-day International Medical Travel Conference which opened here Tuesday.

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) figures, more than 374,000 visitors came to Singapore specifically for health care in 2005, an increase of about 50,000 visitors over the previous year.

Indonesians accounted for the majority of 51.7 per cent of the total number of foreign medical visitors last year, followed by patients from Malaysia of 11 per cent.

"We need to maintain our services, and acquire the best technology possible."

MNA/Xinhua



An acrobat dressed like "Spider-man" stunts between two galloping cars during a show by Filmka stunt group from Hollywood at a stadium in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, on 9 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

S Korea to build more nuclear power plants

SEOUL, 13 Dec — South Korea announced on Monday that it plans to build a total of 39 more power plants, including 8 nuclear ones, by 2020 to meet rising energy demands and cut its reliance on oil.

The government will spend a total of 29 trillion won (31.3 billion US dollars) by 2020 to build eight more nuclear power plants, 14 coal-fired plants and 17 more power stations using liquefied natural gas by 2020, said a plan of the Commerce and Energy Ministry.

According to the ministry, South Korea will have 20 nuclear plants, 40 coal-fuelled plants and 45 LNG-powered plants in operation, which generate a combined 53.6 million kilowatts of electricity annually, by the end of this year. The ministry forecast that electricity demand will rise an average 2.5 per cent annually over the next 15 years, reaching 478.6 billion kilowatts per hour in 2020. In 2006, the electricity demand stood at 353.1 billion kilowatt per hour.

MNA/Xinhua

IAEA to help Vietnam develop atomic power

HANOI, 13 Dec — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has planned to help Vietnam further research and develop atomic power in the country, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Tuesday.

The IAEA has approved six projects valued at almost 1.5 million US dollars for Vietnam in the 2007-2008 period.

The projects cover industrial application, nuclear analysis technology, radioactive solid waste management, promotion of legal capacity for nuclear agencies, and medical application and

related human resources development.

The projects are a follow-up to a 2001-2006 programme, under which the IAEA offered technical assistance to 24 projects on energy development, with total investment of over 2.6 million dollars.

The IAEA has provided over 1.5 million dollars in equipment for the projects in the five-year period. IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei paid a three-day visit to Vietnam concluding on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua



Damage assessors look at damage to a property on Chamberlayne Road in the Kensal Rise area of north London the day after a small tornado struck, on 8 Dec, 2006. Some of the houses caught in the path of the tornado, which injured six people and damaged up to 150 homes, may have to be torn down, council officials said on Friday. —INTERNET

SPORTS

China beats Jordan for Asiad men's basketball final

DOHA, 14 Dec — Wang Zhizhi scored team-high 20 points to help China breeze past Jordan 86-58 against a sluggish start to reach the final of the Doha Asian Games men's basketball tournament here on Wednesday.

Wang also dished out two rebounds and three blocks. NBA prospect Yi Jianlian scored 17 points and pulled down 10 rebounds while Mo Ke and Zhu Fangyu contributed 13 and 12 points respectively.

China's man-to-man defence proved a failure as they were trailing 26-21 in the first quarter.

"We are not very well in the start but finished well. I am happy we finally enter the finals," said Jonas Kazlauskas, coach of the Chinese team, "because we had some problems on the defence and Jordan had some good three pointers. It's very difficult to cover very well, so we put on zone defence."

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing promises "clean" Olympics with anti-corruption efforts

BEIJING, 14 Dec — The Chinese capital promised to host a "clean" Olympics here Wednesday as its top official vowed to tighten anti-corruption efforts on the preparations for the 2008 event.

"We must tighten auditing and monitoring efforts on the preparatory work of the Olympics to prevent all potential (corruption) problems," said Liu Qi, secretary of the Chinese Communist Party's Beijing Municipal Committee.

Efforts must be made to ensure that staff members involved in the Olympic preparations and venue construction projects remain on track, Liu was quoted as saying by Wednesday's Beijing Daily.

Liu, who is also chairman of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics, was speaking following an announcement by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspections of the expulsion of former Beijing vice-mayor Liu Zihua from the Party.

Liu Zihua, who had also been dismissed from all administrative posts, was found to have taken millions of yuan in bribes by taking advantage of his official position. — MNA/Xinhua

N Korea defeats Japan to win women's soccer gold

DOHA, 14 Dec — North Korea beat Japan 4-2 in the penalty shoot-out after a scoreless regular and overtime to win the gold medal of the women's soccer tournament at the Doha Asian Games here on Wednesday.

During a balanced first half, North Korea focused on attack and tried to score first but had few chances to shoot on goal, while the

China defeats S Korea to win women's soccer bronze medal

DOHA, 14 Dec — Chinese midfielder Wang Kun scored twice to help China beat South Korea 2-0 and win the bronze medal in the women's soccer tournament at the Doha Asian Games on Wednesday.

The two sides played a dull game at the first half, but China created more opportunities than South Korea.

China's goal came in 40th minute when midfielder Wang Kun headed the ball into lower left corner of the net, giving China a 1-0 lead.

After the break, China gradually gained advantage and launched attacks one after another. China's efforts were paid off in the 66th minute when Wang Kun sent home a cross from defender Liu Huana.

China continued to attack while South Korea also put more power to attack, but both sides failed to score thereafter. — MNA/Xinhua



Chelsea's Michael Essien tackles Newcastle United's Antoine Sibierski during their English Premier League soccer match at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground in London, on 13 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

China continues one-two finish in diving at Doha Asiad

DOHA, 14 Dec — China continued its unbeaten streak on the day four of diving competition by winning both the men's and women's 3m springboard titles at the 15th Asian Games here on Wednesday.

Wu Minxia and He Zi, winner and silver medallist in the women's 1m springboard on December 12, repeated the feat by winning in 371.85 and 366.90 points respectively.

Wu, who beat Chinese Olympic champion Guo Jingjing to win both the Grand Prix Super Final and World Cup, said that "it should be a perfect performance but I did some mistake in the entry of the water in my last dive. I was too eager to start the dive without deep thinking".

He, 16, said that "my performance is normal expect the third dive of back 2 and 1/2 somersault. It is my first big event and it seemed that I still have a lot of aspects to improve".

MNA/Xinhua



Arsenal's Theo Walcott, right, is disposed by Wigan's Leighton Baines during their English Premier League soccer match at the JJB Stadium, Wigan, England, on 13 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

China stuns boxing ring with 2 golds

DOHA, 14 Dec — Chinese boxers Zou Shiming and Hu Qing overpowered their opponents respectively

in the last-day boxing finals, awarding China two golds from the ring at the Doha Asiad here on Wednesday. Zou Shiming, the Chinese world champion, won the 48kg category for the first ever boxing gold medal for China in 16 years since the Beijing Asian Games.

North Korea almost broke the deadlock before the end of the first half with two powerful shots, which narrowly missed the target.

The second half went on smoothly with attacks from both sides and neither of them had created any real chances until 11th minutes into extra time when Japanese Ohno Shinobu found the net with her header, which was ruled off-side.

North Korea went on to win the final 4-2 in penalty shoot-out.

MNA/Xinhua

Zou triumphed over Pannon Suban of Thailand with a stoppage victory in the second round with an overwhelming 21-1 lead.

The 24-year-old Chinese admitted that he was too nervous to sleep last night, but had managed to adjust himself when he was on the way to the stadium.

The Thai, a bronze medallist at the Busan Asiad, said that his Chinese opponent was strong and noble, but he could have survived to the last bout if the referee was fair.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Zheng Jie takes women's tennis singles title

DOHA, 14 Dec — Second seed Zheng Jie from China beat fourth seed Sania Mirza from India in full sets thriller to claim the women's singles title at the Asian Games tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

A 23-year-old Zheng needed one hour and 45 minutes to claim a 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 triumph over Mirza, who was cheered by a roaring Indian crowd at the center court of the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha.

The two met each other once at WTA Hyderabad Open, India, in 2005 when Mirza defeated Zheng 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 in the round of 16 and held on to win the first and sole title in her career.

MNA/Xinhua



North Korea's Song Kyong-sun (L) fights for the ball with Japan's Ohno Shinobu (C), as North Korea's Song Jong-sun watches, during their gold medal women's soccer match at the 15th Asian Games in Doha, on 13 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET



India's Leander Paes, right, and Sania Mirza show their gold medals for the Asian Games Tennis Mixed Doubles final in Doha, Qatar, on 13 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

Kofi Annan flays United States policies

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Dec — Outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has criticized the US for its “go it alone” diplomacy and alleged that America abandoned the principles of human rights while pursuing the war on terror.

In his last major address before he steps down on 31 December at the Harry Truman’s presidential library in Independence, Missouri, Monday Annan repeatedly quoted the former American president to

buttress his argument and stressed the need to follow them in the interest of common good.

While asking the United States to collaborate with others, Annan quoted Truman as saying, “We all have to recognize, no matter how great our strength, that we must deny ourselves the licence to do always as we please.”

Annan came down heavily on the United States, criticizing its go it alone diplomacy and lectured it on the advantages of multi-

lateralism and lamented its apparently abandoning high principles of human rights in the war against terrorism.

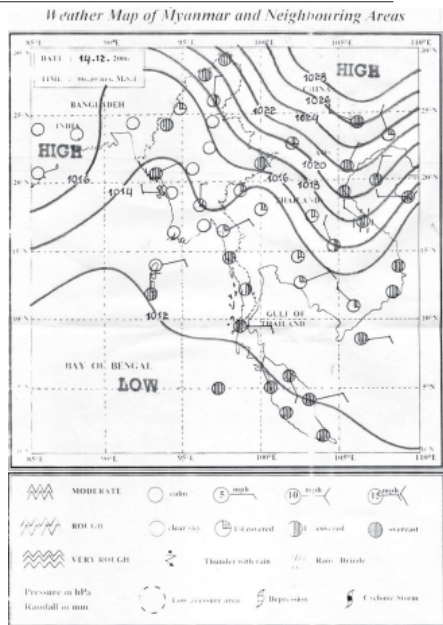
The US, Annan said, has given the world an example of a democracy in which everyone, including the most powerful, is subject to legal restraint. “Its current moment of world supremacy gives it a priceless opportunity to entrench the same principles at the global level.” In his second five-year term, Annan had repeatedly clashed especially over war in Iraq which

he considers illegal as the United States did not get approval from the Security Council.

“When power, especially military force, is used, the world will consider it legitimate only when convinced that it is being used for the right purpose — for broadly shared aims — in accordance with broadly accepted norms,” Annan reiterated once again. Asked during the question & answer session as to how to deal with Iraq, Annan repeated his belief that the United States needs to work with other states, including Syria and Iran, something which Washington opposes.

The aim should be to ensure Sunni and Shiite share political power as also oil revenue, Annan said.

MNA/PTI



Iraqi boys are seen through the broken window of a car which was damaged in mortar attack in southwest Baghdad, on 11 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



Friday, 15 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံလွန် ဗဟုသုတအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟာရဋ္ဌာန၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဒမ္မဇာတိက၊ တီပီငှက်စရာ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
- 5. ငွယ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

- 8:00 am
- 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am
- 7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:15 am
- 8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:25 am
- 9. တံတားအလှူပန်းလောင်း
- 8:30 am
- 10. International news
- 8:45 am
- 11. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm
- 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm
- 5. Song of national

- 6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:25 pm
- 7. “အလှူအစာ” (စင်ပိုင်၊ ဓမ္မစင်သွန်း၊ စင်သန်းမွယ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်စောလင်း)
- 5:35 pm
- 8. လက်ဆိုင်ကမ်းမေးဂီတတေး
- 5:45 pm
- 9. Song of yesteryears
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 12. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေဥာဏ်ရှင်
- 7:15 pm
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ” (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report.
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရေလှေမလေးပထမရက်ပြိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 18. The next day’s programme



Friday, 15 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Out in the open ... Amy Grant
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -I can't live with you ... Queen
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Two hearts ... Phil Collins
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Take it easy ... Eagles
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Never been alone ... Bee Gees -Almost peculiar man ... Simon & Garfunkel -Heart beat ... Tracy Haung
- 9:00 pm WOM -Germany, France, Spain, China, Laos
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request -Only for you ... Ronan Keating -If only you were love ... Stephen Gately
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Thursday, 14 December, 2006

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 (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State and Bago Division, (5°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C) and Pinlaung (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 13-12-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 14-12-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-12-2006 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 13-12-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 14-12-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at 14:05 hours MST on 13-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 15-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 15-12-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 15-12-2006: Fair weather.

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Delegate Group of Political Parties holds group meeting

YANGON, 14 Dec — The group meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties was held at the meeting hall in Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

It was attended by members of panel of chairmen and NC delegates. Before the group meeting, members of panel of chairmen and NC delegates signed in attendance books.

At the meeting, U Le Kwe Chin of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party presided over the meeting together with U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party and U Saw Philip (a) Philip Hsam of Wa National Development Party. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu of NCC Work Committee Office acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director Daw Htay Htay

Win, co-MC.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the meeting valid as the attendance accounted for 96.67 per cent. Next, the meeting chairman made a speech on the occasion.

Next, delegates U Kyar Har Shal of Lahu National Development Party and U Yan Kyint Kan of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party read out the proposal to be sub-

mitted to NCC Work Committee to lay down the detailed basic principles of the chapters on Amendment of Constitution, State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital, Transitory Provi-

sions and General Provisions to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

Afterwards, the meeting chairman made conclusion remarks.

MNA

Alternate Chairman U Le Kwe Chin of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party makes address at group meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties. — MNA



Objectives of 59th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to join hands forever for safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty of the State;
- All the national people to collectively safeguard non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
- All the national people to make concerted efforts for the emergence of an enduring constitution and building of a new, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation; and
- All the national people to work in concert for the success of the seven-step Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit.

Electrical Appliances Factory of Super Mega Engineers Group and Trading Company inspected

YANGON, 14 Dec — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with responsible personnel went on an inspection tour of Electrical Appliances Factory of Super Mega Engineers

Group and Trading Co, Ltd in North Okkalapa Township on 11 December.

On his inspection tour, the minister called on the industrialists to manufacture import substitute electrical appli-

ances necessary for the ministry, to manufacture advanced electrical appliances and take cooperative measures for supply of electricity.

Next, managing director U Khin Maung Win conducted the min-

ister and party round the factory. Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to the office of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Electric Power Supply Board and looked into the cash counter.

At the briefing hall, township officer U Min Min Oo briefed the minister and party on distribution of electricity, condition of power lines and use of electricity and Chief Engineer U Tun Aye of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board gave supplementary report on the cause of unit loss.

After the minister had urged service personnel to try to be good and able ones, he inspected lists of power consumers and fulfilled the needs.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects the electrical appliances manufactured by Super Mega Engineers Group and Trading Co Ltd.—MNA

MRTV-4 introduces free to air

YANGON, 14 Dec — The public of Yangon and its neighbourhood will have access to MRTV-4 which begins its free to air telecasts as from 15 December. The public now receiving UHF Channel 16 can watch MRTV-4 programmes except pay channels.

Similar service of MRTV-4 programmes will be extended to the remaining states and divisions.

MNA

Weather Forecast for (15-12-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring are

Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Fair weather.