

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 245

13th Waning of Nadaw 1368 ME

Sunday, 17 December, 2006

Every citizen is to love and cherish their nation and the people and defend the Union Patriotism without sacrifice is patriotism without essence

Senior General Than Shwe inspects 200-bed district hospital, Yadanabon Myothit Project in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, together with SPDC members General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, senior military officers, the director-general of the SPDC Office and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw by air on 13 December morning and arrived at Anisakhan Airport in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, later in the morning.

They were welcomed there by

SPDC Member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station and officials.

The Senior General inspected the district hospital in PyinOoLwin.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reported on the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of the 100-bed district hospital in PyinOoLwin on upgrading the medical facility to a medical resort, construction of new wards for the hospital in compliance with the guidance, the inauguration of the facility as a 200-bed one, and the plan under way to build annexes to the hospital.

(See page 16)



Senior General Than Shwe meets with officials of Central Training Centre of MPF, Central Fire Services Training School and Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar). —MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 December, 2006

Strive to become good warriors, leaders

A modern Tatmadaw is essential for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Therefore, all the necessary measures are being taken for building a strong and more efficient Tatmadaw to defend the nation without any reservation.

Quality is much more important than quantity in building a strong Tatmadaw. Hence, each and every Tatmadawman needs to always try hard to be qualitatively efficient. In the meantime, he is to constantly study the phenomena of modern wars.

The junior leaders to whom the task of continuously building the Tatmadaw will be handed over are to strive to be good warriors as well as good leaders who keep the four oaths at risk to their lives; obey orders and observe military disciplines; have strong will, perseverance, and sacrificial spirit; have spirit of comradeship and solidarity; have physical strength and combat skills, and have three capabilities of the Tatmadaw.

Moreover, the junior leaders are to try their utmost to become good warriors who win the respect, confidence and trust of the troops under their command.

We firmly believe that the new generation junior leaders will be able to defend the nation and protect the lives and property of the people in line with the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, while striving to become good warriors capable of leading the troops under their command.

Peoples' 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

Triangle Region Command Commander's Shield Volleyball Championship concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Final match of Triangle Region Command Commander's Shield Volleyball Championship for 2006 took place at Shan State East's Sports Grounds in Kengtung on 11 December.

Kengtung Station (B) Team emerged the champion of Women's Volleyball Tournament for 2006 and Kengtung Station (A) Team the champion of the men's volleyball tournament after the final matches.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the commander, presented the championship shield and cash awards to the victorious women's team. Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing awarded the championship shield and



Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presents 2,000 baskets of tea seeds to an official of MAS.—MNA

presented cash award to the Kengtung Station (A) Team.

In the afternoon, Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing attended the poppy-substitute tea seeds presentation ceremony held at the command.

At the ceremony, the

commander handed over 2,000 baskets of tea seeds to officials of Myanma Agriculture Service to be distributed to local farmers in Shan State (East).

After the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visited Tea Nursery where

200,000 tea saplings are planted.

Arrangements have been made for growing 10,000 acres of tea, 500,000 acres of physic nut and 100,000 acres of rubber as poppy-substitute crops in Shan State (East).

MNA

Industry-2 Minister inspects Thagara Industrial Zone in Yedashe

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin accompanied by officials inspected construction works of diesel engine factory project and excavator and bulldozer factory project, and chosen site for turbine and generator factory

project at Thagara Industrial Zone in Yedashe Township, Bago Division on 13 December.

The minister urged the officials to finish the tasks in time, to build roads for the factory projects and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Paper reading session of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation

YANGON, 15 Dec—The paper reading session on legal affairs sponsored by the Legal Studies and Suggestion Working Group of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at the meeting hall of the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township here this afternoon.

It was attended by Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Thet Htay, the secretary and members, heads of department, leaders of the working group, organizers and guests.

Leader of the working group Daw Ni Ni Win extended greetings.

Next, Professor/Head of Department of Law Department of Yangon University Dr Daw Than

Nwe, Professor Dr Daw Tin May Tun of Law Department of Yangon Distant Education and Tutor Daw Khin Nilar Myint Naing of Law Department of Yangon University presented papers and answered the questions raised by those present.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

သက်ရှည်ကျန်းမာဖို့ လမ်းလျှောက်ကြစို့

ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှု နည်းပါးခြင်းကြောင့် အလွန်ရောဂါ၊

နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ သွေးတိုးရောဂါ၊ ဆီးချိုရောဂါနှင့် အရိုးအဆစ်များ နာကျင်ရောင်ရမ်းခြင်းတို့ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။

လမ်းလျှောက်ခြင်းသည်

၁။ သွေးတိုး ကျစေသည်။

၂။ စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်ကျန်းမာစေသည်။

၃။ အရိုးများ ကြံ့ခိုင်သန်စွမ်းစေသည်။

၄။ အဝ မလွန်အောင် ထိန်းသိမ်းနိုင်သည်။

၅။ ကြွက်သားများ သန်စွမ်းဖျတ်လတ်သည်။

၆။ သွေးတွင်းမှ အဆီကျစေသည်။

၇။ သွေးတွင်းမှ သကြားဓာတ်ကျစေသည်။

၈။ အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး လူတန်းစားမရွေး ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်သည်။

ရောဂါဘယကင်းစင်၍ သက်ရှည်ကျန်းမာကြစေရန် မိသားစု တစ်စုလုံး နေ့စဉ်နာရီဝက်ခန့်ပုံမှန်လမ်းလျှောက်ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Annan says tourism helps people out of poverty

MADRID, 15 Dec— Tourism can help many people out of poverty and makes a significant contribution to the efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday.

“Tourism has become a plentiful and dynamic economic sector and an essential element in many people’s lives,” the UN Secretary-General said in a message read during the 60th anniversary of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in Madrid.

“Tourism covers an ever growing series of themes and activities so it cannot be tackled without having in mind the United Nation’s world programme. This is the reason why the WTO’s transformation into a specialized UN entity was so important,” Annan

said.

The WTO, then known as the International Union of Tourism Official Organizations (IUTOO), was established in 1946 in London.

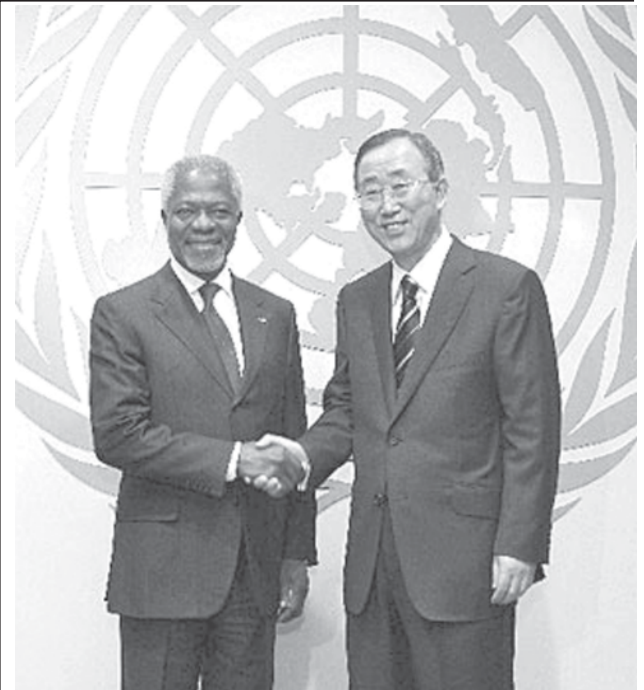
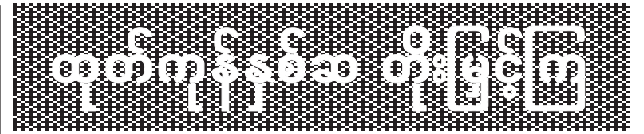
WTO Secretary-General Francesco Frangialli said the UN General

Assembly in December 1969 recognized the important and vital role the IUTOO played in the field of international tourism.

Since then, the organization has been closely linked to its host country, Spain, where the WTO established its secretariat in 1976.

Tourism can encourage economic growth, job creation, environmental and cultural heritage protection and it can also promote peace, prosperity and respect for human rights, Frangialli said.

MNA/Xinhua



Secretary-General Kofi Annan (L) shakes hands with Secretary General-elect Ban Ki-moon, on 14 Dec, 2006, at United Nations Headquarters.—XINHUA



China National Academy of Chinese Painting was launched here on 14 Dec, 2006. The academy grew out of the Institute of Chinese Painting, which was founded in 1981 with painting master Li Keran serving as the first president.—XINHUA

Ducks swim on a lake at the Moscow Zoo in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 13 Dec, 2006. Moscow is witnessing a warm winter this year, with the highest temperature standing at 4 degrees centigrade on Wednesday, 8.5 degrees centigrade higher than the average temperature in the same period of past years. — XINHUA

Indonesian Navy claims piracy on Malacca Strait down sharply

JAKARTA, 15 Dec—The Indonesian Navy claimed Wednesday that piracy on the busy international water

way of Malacca Strait has fallen sharply to two cases this year from 15 cases last year. “That is a drastic drop which makes us proud,” Navy Chief Admiral Slamet Soebijanto told reporters here.

Located on the maritime borders shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, the Malacca Strait is one of the busiest sea lanes in the world, through which some 600 vessels and 11 million barrels of oil pass each day.

The three littoral states have coordinated patrol operations in the Malacca Strait within the framework of Malsindo launched in July 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



US envoys start rare Cuba visit

LONDON, 15 Dec—The largest delegation from the US Congress to visit Cuba since the 1959 revolution has arrived in Havana.

The 10 members of the bipartisan group favour the easing of US sanctions on Cuba and are seeking dialogue.

Jeff Flake, a Republican congressman heading the delegation, said he hoped to meet officials and launch a

“new era in US-Cuba relations”. It is not clear whether the team will meet acting President Raul Castro, who has called for better ties with the US.

President Fidel Castro, 80, temporarily ceded power to his brother after having emergency intestinal surgery in July.

The US broke official ties with Cuba following Fidel Castro's rise to power

in 1959 and has had an economic embargo in place against the island since 1960.

The US delegation will spend three days in Cuba, during which time members are due to meet several high-ranking Cuban officials.

Made up of six Democrats and four Republicans, the party is led by Mr Flake, a Republican from Arizona, and William Delahunt, a Democrat from Massachusetts.

Internet

Road accidents kill four in N-W Bangladesh

DHAKA, 15 Dec—Four people, including a minor boy, were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents Wednesday in Bangladesh’s north-western Sirajganj District.

In the first accident, three people were killed and 11 others injured as a cement-laden truck plunged into a roadside ditch at Sholamile in Sirajganj District Wednesday morning.

Police said the driver of the truck, with 14 people on board, lost control over the steering and the vehicle fell into a roadside ditch, killing two persons on the

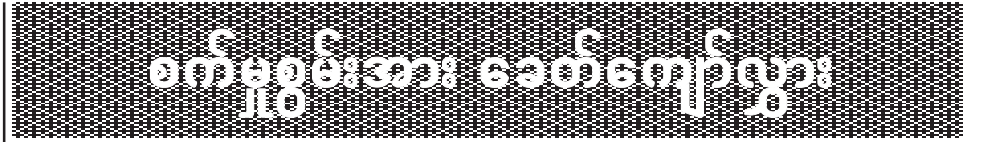
spot while another one died at hospital. In the other accident, Shanto, 5, was run over by a bus at Chhongachha Bazaar area in Sirajganj District in the evening. —MNA/Xinhua

China’s currency rose to a new high on 14 Dec, 2006 as American and Chinese officials tackled thorny trade issues in Beijing, hitting 7.8180 per US dollar in early trading.—INTRNET





Lantern craftsmen from Zigong are preparing a giant lantern "Temple of Heaven" in Qiqihar, on 13 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA



Bolivian FM urges to build multipolar world

LIMA, 15 Dec— A multipolar world has to be built, said Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca on Wednesday.

"South American brotherhood does not only have to try to eradicate poverty, exclusion and social inequality. It must also try to build a balanced world based on a peaceful culture," the Foreign Minister said.

During the 8-9 December second Summit of the South American

Community of Nations (CSN) in Cochabamba, Bolivia, its member states understood the need to put an end to the current unipolar world.

The CSN groups 12 members including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Also, Bolivian President Evo Morales, CSN

temporary president until 2008, will promote several actions to step up an integration process which will end with the signing of the South American Nations Union Agreement, Choquehuanca said.

In January 2007, Morales will call for a meeting of the high level officials commission to draw up the South American agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian scientist warns of another huge quake

JAKARTA, 15 Dec— An Indonesian scientist has predicted that a huge earthquake with a magnitude of 9 on the Richter Scale is likely to rock Sumatra in the foreseeable future.

Earthquake scientist Danny Hilman Natawidjaja from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) said the two huge earthquakes that devastated Aceh Province and Nias Island in 2004 and 2005 were not the end of the earthquake cycle on Sumatra Island, English daily *The Jakarta Post* reported Thursday.

The data recorded by a global positioning system until June 2006 showed

the earlier earthquakes were reflections of underground forces pushing the island in different directions.

"This movement will accumulate the energy from a huge earthquake source under the Mentawai Islands, whose power could reach up to a 9 magnitude (quake) or even higher," Danny said.

While it was impossible to predict when the earthquake would hit, it

would likely affect the Mentawai Islands and Sumatra's west coast — from West Sumatra Province to Bengkulu.

Danny has been working with the California Institute of Technology's (Caltech) Tectonic Observatory since 1991 on the active tectonic plates in Sumatra.

An extremely large earthquake hits Sumatra every 100 to 300 years, he

said. Recorded earthquakes followed by tsunamis occurred in the 1300s, 1600s, 1797, 1833 and 2004.

The last earthquake centred under Mentawai measured 8.2 on the Richter Scale in 1797 and caused 10-metre high waves, he said,

This data was verified by Danny and Caltech with tests they made on coral. — MNA/Xinhua



French President Jacques Chirac (R) attends an EU summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 14 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

Five workers die when scaffolding crashes in Bangalore

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec— Five workers died and 13 were injured Wednesday when a scaffolding crashed at a construction site in Bangalore, capital of south Indian state of Karnataka, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The victims were fixing the glass facade of the building on the scaffolding when one of the ropes holding the scaffolding gave away from the top and they fell on a concrete floor from a height of 13.7 to 15 metres, Bangalore deputy commissioner of police Subhendu Mukherjee said.

One of the injured was in critical conditions, he said. The accident happened in the construction site belonging to leading Indian IT company Infosys Technologies.

The families of the five

victims would be paid about 250,000 rupees (about 5,555 US dollars) under the Workers' Compensation Act and a matching amount by the company after completing investigations, said an official of Shoba Developers, a construction firm that executes all Infosys building projects in the country.

This was the second such accident after three workers died last week in the Biocon Park campus when an under-construction store-room came crashing down.—MNA/Xinhua

World's tallest man saves plastic eating dolphins

BEIJING, 14 Dec— The long arms of the world's tallest man reached in and saved two dolphins by pulling out plastic from their stomachs, state media and an aquarium official said on Thursday.

The dolphins got sick after nibbling on plastic from the edge of their pool at an aquarium in Liaoning Province.

Attempts to use surgical instruments to remove the plastic failed because the dolphins' stomachs contracted in response to the instruments, the *China Daily* newspaper reported.

Veterinarians then decided to ask for help

from Bao Xishun, a 7-foot-9 herdsman from Inner Mongolia with 41.7-inch arms, state media said.

Bao, 54, was confirmed last year by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's tallest living man. Chen Lujun, the manager of the Royal Jidi

Ocean World aquarium, told The Associated Press that the shape of the dolphins' stomachs made it difficult to push an instrument very far in without hurting the animals.

People with shorter arms could not reach the plastic,

he said.

"When we failed to get the objects out we sought the help of Bao Xishun from Inner Mongolia and he did it successfully yesterday," Chen said. "The two dolphins are in very good condition now."

Internet

Bao Xishun, left, the world's tallest man, retrieves a piece of plastic from the stomach of a sick dolphin at an aquarium in Fushun, in China's northern Liaoning Province, on 13 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



Singapore congratulates Malaysia's new King

SINGAPORE, 15 Dec — Singapore leaders congratulated Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Almarhum, who took the oath of office as the 13th Malaysian Supreme Head of State on Wednesday.

In their congratulatory letters, President S. R. Nathan and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong expressed their confidence that the close bonds of friendship between Singapore and Malaysia will grow from strength to strength under the new King's reign.

Nathan said in his

letter that Singapore and Malaysia share a long tradition of strong economic, social and cultural engagement, adding that

Singapore welcomes the further development of warm relations during the new King's term of office. — MNA/Xinhua



Tourists gather under Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate sculpture in Chicago, on 14 Dec, 2006. About 65 million people will journey between 23 Dec and 2 Jan, more than the record 63.5 million who traveled last year, according to a survey by the Travel Industry Association and the AAA.—INTERNET

33 tourist buses robbed overnight in north India

PATNA (India), 15 Dec — A gang of robbers looted 33 tourist and passenger buses Wednesday night in central Indian state Jharkhand, the local police said Thursday.

The criminals attacked the buses on the Chatra-Ranchi and Chatra-Bagda highway in Chatra District of Jharkhand while they were passing through dense forests there, a senior police officer told Xinhua from Ranchi, state capital of Jharkhand.

They robbed passengers off the valuables and hard cash, he said.

The victims reported the incidents to the Chatra police Wednesday morning and the police have

launched massive raids in the areas to nab the criminals.

Chatra, covered with dense forest surrounded by hills and mountains, is considered one of the districts in Jharkhand that were hit by guerillas most.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Malaysians to swim across Malacca Straits

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Dec — Two Malaysians plan to swim across the Malacca Strait next year to celebrate the Visit Malaysia Year 2007 and the country's 50th Anniversary of Independence, local reports said Wednesday.

Ahmad Shauqie Abdull Aziz, 16, and his elder sibling Mohd Norazmin, 22, will swim across a 60-kilometre section of the Malacca Strait from Sumatera, Indonesia, to Port Dickson, Malaysia in May next year.

Ahmad Shauqie set a record in the *Malaysia Book of Records* as "The Youngest To Swim The Longest Distance" last year after he swam across a distance of 10 kilometres in three hours 10 minutes.

MNA/Xinhua



Villagers search for landslide victims amid the ruins of a building near Solok, West Sumatra Province, on 15 Dec, 2006. Landslides in Indonesia's Sumatra Island killed 17 people on Friday, a rescue official said.

INTERNET



The French Alps are covered with less snow than usual on 8 Dec, 2006. After a record warm November delaying snowfall in the Alps, an OECD report has warned that climate change poses "serious risks" to snow reliability in ski areas and to the economies that depend on it.

XINHUA

Peruvian bus accident kills at least 21 passengers

LIMA, 15 Dec — A bus crashed head-on with a truck and plunged into a river on Wednesday in northern Peru, leaving at least 21 passengers dead and more than 20 others injured.

The accident happened at 2:30 pm (1930 GMT) in a mountainous region of Amazonas, about 680 kilometres northwest of Lima.

The bus with over 50 aboard rammed into a truck from opposition direction on a mountain curve and rolled 70 metres down to the torrential Utcubamba River. — MNA/Xinhua

Explosion breaks out at Canadian oil refinery

OTTAWA, 15 Dec — An explosion ripped through an oil refinery in Canada's eastern Ontario Province early on Thursday, causing a fire that is still on but under control.

Nobody was injured in the blast at the Imperial Oil refinery in Sarnia, Ontario, Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley said, adding residents have been asked to stay inside and shut off sources of air intake such as furnaces or air exchanges.

The explosion occurred around 3 am local time and was followed by a fire. — MNA/Xinhua

Trailer accident kills 40 in Northern Nigeria

LAGOS, 15 Dec — About 40 people have been killed and several others injured when a trailer rammed into a crowd in northern Nigeria, a police officer said on Wednesday.

The incident took place at about 11:30 am (1030 GMT) on Tuesday in northern Kaduna State when the trailer was trying to avoid an unidentified police vehicle, the official who declined to be named said.

According to an eyewitness, the trailer was on high speed and in order to crush the police car, the driver swerved and ran into several persons and other vehicles parked on the roadside. — MNA/Xinhua

2 injured in train derailment in east Australia

CANBERRA, 15 Dec — Two women were injured in a train derailment at a railway station in Brisbane, capital of Australia's eastern state of Queensland, Thursday.

The two who suffered light injuries were rushed to hospital for observation, *Australian Associated Press* quoted a Queensland Rail spokeswoman as saying. The train, which was carrying 250 passengers, went off the tracks at the Chelmer railway station in Brisbane's south-west. — MNA/Xinhua

China-Malaysia trade to reach \$36b this year

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Dec— Trade between Malaysia and China is well on track to achieve the target of 36 billion US dollars this year, a Chinese official said here Thursday.

For the first ten months, total trade value between the two countries amounted to 30.1 billion dollars, said Lu Kejian, Director-General for Asian Affairs Department, China's Ministry of Commerce. "We are confident that the figure will keep increasing and could reach the total trade target of 50 billion dollars in 2010, as set by the two countries, faster than the time frame," he said at a Press conference at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Lu made the remarks after the opening ceremony of the Chinese Export Commodities Exhibition and Investment Conference (Malaysia) 2006.

The trade target was set earlier by leaders of the two countries. When talking about the investment between the two countries, Lu said the Chinese Government has always encouraged Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Malaysia and cooperate with Mala-

ysian businessmen.

The exhibition and conference, sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of China and organized by China Foreign Trade Centre, is going on here until Sunday.

In 2005, China was Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner and Malaysia was the eighth largest trading partner for China. — MNA/Xinhua



Liu Yandong (C), vice chairwoman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, hands out gifts to children during her visit to a kindergarten in Macao Special Administrative Region, China, on 14 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

Report shows women better financial managers than men

JAKARTA, 15 Dec— Microfinance programmes led by women tend to be better run and more successful than those controlled by men, according to a report from an anti-poverty group in Jakarta.

The Community Recovery Programme Final Report was conducted between 1998 and 2006 by the Association for Community Empowerment (ACE), a non-governmental organization (NGO) working to reduce poverty here.

"Women are better at saving money than men. In paying debts, women are also more on time," ACE executive director Titik Hartini was quoted Wednesday by national newspaper *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

"Once women got access to credit and started running their own businesses, the profit went automatically into the needs of their families, such as child education and family health. Men,

however, tended to spend their income for other needs first," she added. ACE was established eight years ago to provide guidance and loans to single- or mixed-gender groups in 25 provinces.

"Women can be more diligent and scrupulous in their work. Unlike men, they also meet with their peers regularly," said association member Budi Santosa.

With 600,000 rupiah (66 US dollars) and the

help of ACE volunteers, a women's association in North Sumatra started a business selling goods and processing food products. They made 25 million (2,756 dollars) in two years.

As the members repay their debt, the money is loaned to new groups, so successful people help others improve their lot. The report found the empowerment project boosted solidarity and self-esteem among the poor. The

programme also appeared to help reduce tension in conflict areas.

The association operated from a 28.9-million-dollar fund from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, New Zealand and PT Belersdorf Indonesia. The United Nations Development Programme, which also made donations, acted as a financial manager.

MNA/Xinhua



An ice slide is built by workers in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 15 Dec, 2006. More than 100 meters long and 15 meters high, the ice slide will be completed in late December.—XINHUA

India cell phone users to top 250 m by 2007

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec— India's cell phone users are expected to reach 250 million by 2007, said Indian Communications and IT Minister Dayanidhi Maran here Thursday.

Maran was quoted by *Indo-Asian News Service* as saying that mobile phone subscribers in India have grown very fast and the number has totalled 185 million now.

India aims to have more than 500 million mobile subscribers by 2010, he said at the fair of

India Telecom 2006 opening here Thursday. India has invested 17 billion US dollars in developing IT and telecom industry this year, of which two billion went to telecom manufacturing only, he said.

Over 200 companies are participating in the exposition, including leading companies like Bharti Airtel Limited, Hutchison Essar Mobile Services Ltd and Reliance Communication Ltd.

MNA/Xinhua

Solar flare disrupts China's shortwave radio communications

BEIJING, 15 Dec— Streams of electrically charged atomic particles from the sun caused widespread disruption of shortwave radio com-

munications in China on Wednesday morning.

The phenomenon, known as solar flare, occurred at around 10:40 am Beijing Time,

according to the China Research Institute of Radiowave Propagation.

The X3-class flare caused widespread interruption of shortwave communications and broadcasts, and seriously affected electronic survey systems for a long period.

According to the institute, its radio wave observation stations in Guangzhou, Hainan and Chongqing experienced interruption of shortwave detection signals from around 10:20 am through 11:15 am.

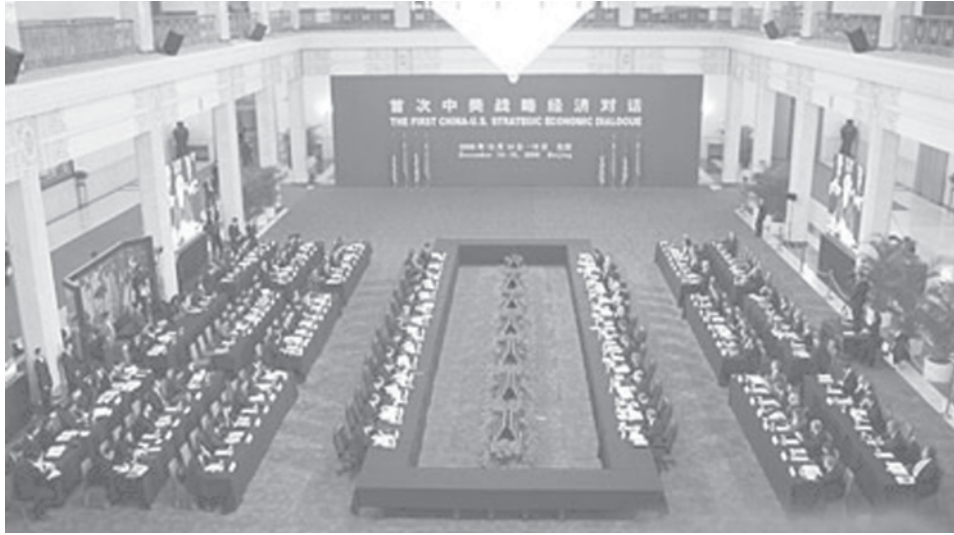
The situation returned to normal at 1:30 pm.

Two X-class 5 December and 7 December, accompanied by several M-class solar flares.

MNA/Xinhua



The ANDRILL site is seen on the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica on 12 Dec, 2006. The project, short for Antarctic geological drilling, aims to drill back in time to about 10 million years ago for possible clues to the consequences of global climate change. The drill rig is covered in a white tent to keep temperatures about 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) so that the drill's hydraulics can work.—INTERNET



China and the United States concluded their first strategic economic dialogue on Friday 15 Dec, 2006, with "a number of consensus" being reached. The second dialogue will be held in Washington in May next year.—XINHUA

China-US conclude first strategic economic dialogue

BEIJING, 16 Dec — China and the United States concluded their first strategic economic dialogue Friday noon, with "a number of consensus" reached.

"We have reached a number of consensus, although we remained different on some issues," Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi told the Press after the two-day landmark dialogue.

The US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson also hailed the dialogue, saying "it is important and encouraging that we have agreed on so many principles in the dialogue".

"We each will take measures to address global imbalances through greater national savings in the

United States and to increase consumption and exchange rate flexibility in China," said Paulson, who is leading a high-profile US trade mission to the dialogue.

In a fact sheet released at the end of the dialogue, China and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing macroeconomic policies.

"China will carry out the exchange rate regime reform and the United States will increase saving rates so as to promote balanced and strong

growth and prosperity in two nations," the fact sheet said.

Both sides agreed that the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ should open offices in China.

It said the two governments concluded an agreement facilitating financing to support US exports to China and agreed to relaunch bilateral air services negotiations beginning in January 2007.—MNA/Xinhua

Showa Denko opens 2nd hard disk media plant in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 16 Dec— Japan's major electronic parts manufacturer Showa Denko K K will invest 60 billion yen (about 511 million US dollars) in its second plant in Singapore to produce plates used in hard disk drives.

The new plant will employ 600 workers and is expected to operate early next year, according to a statement issued Thursday by the Japan-based company, which started its hard disk media manufacturing operation here in 2003. The plant comes after Seagate Technology, a top hard disk drive manufacturer in the world, launched its third media manufacturing plant here in September.

The presence of Showa Denko and other

key players in the sector, such as Seagate and Hoya, in Singapore was a telling sign of the city state's capabilities and attractiveness to hard disk drive industry, Lim Hng Kiang, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, said at the opening ceremony of the new plant.

In recent years, Singapore has reaped a leadership position in the manufacture of hard disk media, a key component of hard disk drives.

MNA/Xinhua



Runners dressed as Santa Claus stretch before the Santa Marathon race, a charity event to raise money for the needy, in Seoul on 16 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET

Singapore vibrant economy creates record number of jobs

SINGAPORE, 16 Dec— Singapore's vibrant economy created a record 124,500 jobs in the first nine months this year, surpassing the gains of 113,300 for the whole of 2005, according to a report by the Ministry of Manpower (MoM) on Friday.

"This employment creation is the highest ever recorded," the ministry said.

Some 43,000 jobs were created in the third quarter this year, which was an upward revision from an earlier estimate

of 41,600 jobs. This third quarter figure was much higher than the 28,500 in the same period last year.

The seasonally adjusted overall unemployment rate was 2.7 per cent, a marked improvement from 3.2 per cent a year ago.

The resident unemployment rate held steady at 3.6 per cent from the previous quarter, but was lower than 4.2 per cent in September last year.

MNA/Xinhua

US giving up programme to track if visitors leave

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec— Officials at the US Homeland Security Department have for now given up on plans to develop a facial or fingerprint recognition system to determine whether a vast majority of foreign visitors leave the country, *The New York Times* reported Friday.

Officials at the department have conceded that they lack the financing and technology to meet their deadline to have exit-monitoring systems at the 50 busiest land border crossings by next December, the report said.

It would require additional employees, new buildings and roads at border crossings, and would probably hamper the vital flow of commerce across those borders, they said.

In January 2004, US domestic security officials began fingerprint scanning for arriving visitors. The programme has

screened more than 64 million travellers and prevented more than 1,300 criminals and immigration violators from entering, officials were quoted as saying.

The programme,

known as US Visit, fingerprints and photographs 2 per cent of the people entering the country, because Americans and most Canadians and Mexicans are exempt.

MNA/Xinhua



Japan's Daisuke Takahashi performs his short programme during the ISU Grand Prix Figure Skating Final in St Petersburg, on 15 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

EU proposes to harmonize radio frequencies

BRUSSELS, 16 Dec— The European Union (EU) on Thursday unveiled plans to harmonize short-wave frequency bands for wireless devices from garage door openers to baby monitors across Europe.

Life will be simpler as people will be able to use the same short range wireless product anywhere in the EU and manufacturers need only make one product for the whole EU market, the EU's executive arm European Commission said.

The envisaged new rules will lower prices and boost production, it said.

Consumers will no longer need to worry whether a wireless product bought in one country will work in another, or whether it will disrupt other wireless communications.

The commission also proposed to harmonize radio frequencies for Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID). These electronic tags are increasingly used by businesses to track goods and persons or for security.

MNA/Xinhua



Senior General Than Shwe hears report by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw on extended building of 200-bed district hospital in PyinOoLwin.—MNA

Country needs to respect discipline, rules and regulations in order to develop

(from page 16)

Next, the Senior General inspected the condition of the hospital compound and its surrounding areas and the buildings to be extended.

The district hospital is equipped with specialists of various medical fields, and it is now in the process of being upgraded to a 300-bed facility to give better health care to the people.

On the morning of 14 December, the Senior General inspected the Yadanabon Myothit Project in PyinOoLwin Township.

Chairman of the supervisory committee for the project Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw in his report said that the project is located near the mile post No 27/0 on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road with an area of 10,000 acres; that the project is being implemented systematically to become an IT-based town; that for the first phase, an area of 2,200 acres will be used for software and 2,200 acres for hardware and the teleport main building and incubation building will be constructed; and that so far the construction of roads in the project area has been completed 45 per cent. He also reported on the project with the use of the map of the project, and the charts of the



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction project area of Yadanabon Myothit in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

designs of the teleport and the incubation buildings.

Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Win reported on progress of allocating the plots in the project area; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, arrangements for water supply; and Managing Director of the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo, on the plan to supply electricity to the new town through PyinOoLwin sub-power station and Shwesaran sub-power station.

In response, the Senior General fulfilled the requirements and gave guidance on the project, calling for seeking ways to supply water to the new town.

Next, he inspected the maps of the project and charts of the buildings and viewed the project area from the briefing hall.

Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted local and foreign IT experts and IT industrialists and inspected the area of Yadanabon Myothit Project.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to training schools in Zibingyi in PyinOoLwin Township. He met officials of the central training centre of Myanmar
(See page 9)



Purpose of the training schools is to nurture and produce human resources needed in building a peaceful modern developed nation. It is important for the trainees to possess spirit, discipline and ability. The spirit means spirit of cherishing one's nation and its people and the Union Spirit.



Senior General Than Shwe views charts showing Yadanabon Myothit construction project.

MNA

Only when there is discipline, will the nation develop

(from page 8)

Police Force, Central Fire Services Training School, and Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) at the meeting of Central Fire Services Training School.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo reported on opening of central training centre of MPF in 1999, training courses, the number of courses, trainees and instructors and implementation of the guidance given by Senior General Than Shwe during his inspection tour of the central training centre.

Next, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported on training courses being conducted at the Central Fire Services Training School and implementation of the guidance on the training school by Senior General Than Shwe.

Director-General of Fire Services Department U Myint Tun reported on matters on building of Central Fire Services Training School, cultivation of perennial and seasonal crops, teak, shade trees and physic nut, raising of cattle, generation of hydro-electric power and welfar tasks.

Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun reported on lecture rooms, hostels for trainees, staff quarters, construction of the halls, implementation of the objectives, organizational setup of CICS (Upper Myanmar), courses and measures undertaken for agriculture and livestock breeding.

In his speech, Senior General Than Shwe said he had given guidance on three training schools during his previous inspection tours and the guidelines are to be implemented.

He said the purpose of the training schools is to nurture and produce human resources needed in building a peaceful modern developed nation. It is important for the trainees to possess spirit, discipline and ability. The spirit means spirit of cherishing one's nation and its people and the Union Spirit, he said.

Every citizen is to love and cherish their na-

tion and the people and defend the Union, he pointed out.

In connection with patriotism and the Union Spirit, he said the trainees should have the courage to sacrifice their lives and property for the country. Patriotism without sacrifice is patriotism without essence, he said. Patriotism should be combined with sacrifice so that patriotism with essence will emerge, he added.

He said the trainees are to be nurtured to become the ones with noble spirit and efforts are to be made for inculcating the people with correct patriotism and Union Spirit through the trainees.

Likewise, it is necessary for the training schools to ensure discipline enforcement. Only when there is discipline, will the nation develop. It can be found that some countries are developing rapidly due to their flourishing discipline. So, our country also needs to respect discipline, rules and regulations in order to develop.

Besides the spirit and discipline, we need to develop our intellect. Police force members need to be skilled in their profession. Similarly, fire brigade members must be skilled in their profession. Only

then will they be able to build a strong nation. Our nation will be able to catch up with the developing world only when the people are equipped with good spirit, discipline and intellect.

Nowadays, some big powers are trying to dominate weaker nations like our country. So, all Myanmar people need to develop such three characteristics. Only with morale, can we repulse outside instigation and rebut false accusations. Therefore, training schools are to nurture their trainees to be armed with the three characteristics.

As the training schools play an important role, the State on its part has built splendid training schools. So, to match with the form of the school buildings, all the trainees need to cultivate good spirit, discipline and intellect. All the trainees are urged to try their best diligently.

Later, the Senior General and party inspected the buildings of the Central Fire Services Training School, Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) and Central Training Centre of Myanmar Police Force, growing of trees and livestock breeding tasks.

MNA

Only with morale, can we repulse outside instigation and rebut false accusations. Therefore, training schools are to nurture their trainees to be armed with the three characteristics. As the training schools play an important role, the State on its part has built splendid training schools. So, to match with the form of the school buildings, all the trainees need to cultivate good spirit, discipline and intellect.

USDA SG meets with social organization members in Kyonpyaw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec— Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association accompanied by departmental officials met with townsenders, service personnel, members of the social organizations and Ward/Village Peace and Development Councils at Ayeyar Min Hall in Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady Division on 10 December.

The Secretary-General stressed the need to make effort for the development of the region.

Next, the Secretary-General contributed cash to the education funds to responsible persons.—MNA

Yangon Command Commander takes part in mass walk



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win together with the people taking part in 2006 December Mass Walk. — MNA

YANGON, 16 Dec — Yangon Division December Mass Walk for the third week took place at Youth Training Centre (Thuwanna) in Thingangyun Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win together with members of Yangon Division PDC, officials of Sports and Physical Education Department, members of social organizations, students and people totalling 15,500 people took part in the mass walk.

They went around

the centre and took physical exercises at No 1 Training Ground.

Similarly, the people from districts and townships totalling 25,000 people actively participated in mass walks held at Aung San Stadium and Kyaikkasan grounds.

MNA



Sports Minister takes part in 2006 December Mass Walk

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — To make the people all over the nation actively participate in the national sports activities, 2006 December Mass Walk for the third week took place at Myoma market gathering point, Pyankapyay gathering point and Thabyaygon gathering point, here, this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, departmental heads, government employees, teachers, students and locals totaling over 15,000 people took part in the mass walk.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and the participants walked along Taungnyo-Pyinmana motor road to Nay Pyi Taw Myoma market and took exercises in front of the market.

Similarly, Government employees, members of social organizations, local people and students from the Pyankapyay and Thabyaygon gathering points walked to Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

MNA

Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, service personnel, local people and students participate in 2006 December Mass Walk in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

NDCG holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 16 Dec— The Annual General Meeting of National Development Companies Group was held at the office of NDCG this morning, attended by members of the Panel of the Patrons and

Board of Directors and share holders. NDCG Chairman Dr Khin Shwe presided over the meeting and delivered an address.

At the meeting, responsible persons explained the matters

related to the report of the Board of Directors, annual report for 2005-06 and profits of the share holders. Next, they answered the queries raised by the share holders and reorganized the Board of Directors. — MNA



Meeting Chairman Dr Khin Shwe addresses annual general meeting of NDCG. — MNA

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

Singapore encourages green building technologies

SINGAPORE, 16 Dec — The Singapore Government is committed to promoting green building technologies through three incentive measures, a senior official said Thursday.

Minister of State for National Development Grace Fu made the statement at the Real Estate

Developers Association of Singapore's 47th Anniversary Dinner, according to a Channel News Asia report.

The first initiative is that all new public sector building and those undergoing major retrofitting works must be Green Mark certified. — MNA/Xinhua

Hsinbyugyun Aung Thein emerges winner of National Literary Award (novel genre)

News, photo : *Thaung Win Bo*



Hsinbyugyun Aung Thein

Hsinbyugyun Aung Thein is a veteran writer. He became a household name after he had won the National Literary Award for his work "A collection of Ko Hseyo short stories". He is well-known as a writer of descriptive stories which reflect the lives of rural folks. His original name is U Kyi Aye. He lives in Thakayta Township in Yangon Division.

It took 12 years (from 1993 to 2005) for him to complete his prize-

winning eight-volume work "Nemin Tahtaung". So, that has gone down in the annals of the history of Myanmar literature world.

The novel "Nemin Tahtaung" was created against a background of late Konbaung Era in which the colonialists waged aggressive wars against Myanmar to annex the country. And the work is based on independence struggles of three generations.

Regarding the purpose of his writing the novel, he said, "Personally, unity and amity bring fruitful results. But, the consequences of disunity and disintegration are worse than the heat of one thousand suns. So, it is required of the people to hand down the anti-colonialist sentiment from one generation to the next. I would like the young generation to take invaluable lessons.

Translation: MS

Dr Aye Kyaw wins National Literary Award in general knowledge (Science) genre

News, photo : *Thaung Win Bo*



Dr Aye Kyaw (Medical Research)

Dr Aye Kyaw (Medical Research) was awarded for his work titled 'The Diary of a 40-year-experienced medical researcher. He served as a director in Myanmar Medical Research Department and he is now a retiree. Having over 30 years of experience, he has devoted his life

to writing.

Through his medical experience, he is working hard to publish his books on international level research. He said, "I am very proud to be awarded and this encourages me to write more books. I won the third prize of Sarpay Beikman in general knowledge (Science and Applied Science) genre in 1998 for the book titled 'Introduction of Gene'. As a matter of fact, I didn't expect the National Literary Award. I am now collecting facts and data to write the history of Myanmar medical research by studying the research work of experienced medical researchers of Myanmar."

Translation: ST

Vietnam, Cambodia to complete border, marking by late 2008

HANOI, 16 Dec — Vietnam and Cambodia plan to complete their border demarcation and landmark planting by the end of 2008, local newspaper reported on Friday.

The Commission for Ideology and Culture under the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee held a conference on Thursday to disseminate information about the border demarcation.

The supplement to a treaty on border demarcation, signed by the two countries' prime ministers in October 2005, paves the way for their improved political and

economic ties, and the setting of border markers.

Since the signing of the treaty in 1985, Vietnam and Cambodia have demarcated over 200 kilometres out of the 1,137 kilometres shared between the two countries, and planted 72 markers out of the 322 planned ones, said the report.

The Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Committee on Border Demarcation has agreed to use newly-designed landmarks to replace existing ones. Vietnam will help Cambodia manufacture the landmarks after the two sides agree to use symbols and scripts.

Ten of Vietnam's 64 cities and provinces border nine localities of Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua

Panama, Brazil open flight routes to strengthen ties

PANAMA CITY, 16 Dec — The launch of direct flights by Panamanian airline COPA to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this week underlines how important the two countries' ties have become, Brazilian Ambassador in Panama, Luiz Tupy Caldas de Moura, said on Thursday.

Brazilian aeronautical company Embraer sold COPA 12 94-seat airplanes, which are destined to new routes in Panama's commercial air transportation.

The new flight to Rio de Janeiro was added to a regional flight operating since last July between Panama and Manaus, one of the most important cities in South America's Amazon area.

The ambassador stated that his government is interested in enhancing ties with Panama in other areas, such as trade, which currently amounts to 320 million US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua



Sculptors are working at their sculptures recently in Balikun County, Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The second Balikun Snow Tourism & Culture Festival will be held at the end of December. — XINHUA

Cisco invests \$50m in Chinese telecom giant

BEIJING, 16 Dec — Cisco Systems, one of the world's leading Internet equipment, technology and service providers, inked a strategic investment of 50 million US dollars in China Communications Services Corporation Limited (CCS) on Thursday.

CCS is a Hong Kong-listed company specializing in telecommunications services and support in China's telecoms market. Its shareholders include China Telecom Group, China Mobile and China Unicom. According to the contract, Cisco and CCS will jointly provide telecommunications services commissioned by Chinese enterprises,

such as network operation and management.

Additionally, the two companies will provide customers with new network solutions, including IP infrastructures, digital video, and 3G platforms and applications.

"We are pleased to be working with Cisco to bring advanced telecommunications services to corporate customers in China," said Li Ping, Chief Executive Officer of CCS.

Cisco has already invested over 700 million US dollars in venture funding to help launch around 30 Chinese start-up companies such as the on-line gaming company Shanda. — MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

**ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက်
လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ
ဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ယှဉ်တွဲပါ အရေအတွက်များအတိုင်း ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

- (1) Air Conditioner Window Type (1.5HP) ၇ လုံး
- (2) Air Conditioner Split Type (1.5HP) ၁ လုံး
- (3) Exhaust Fan (18 inch) ၈ လုံး
- (4) Welding Transformer (400 Volt 12 amp) ၁ လုံး
- (5) Perfect Book Binding Machine ၂ လုံး
- (6) Personal Computer Pentium IV 2.8 GHZ, 256 MB DD ROM Memory, 80 GB, 7200 Rpm ၂ လုံး
- (7) Laserjet Printer (A-4) ၂ လုံး
- (8) Laserjet Printer (A-3) ၁ လုံး

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါ ပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက် စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်-

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများ
ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထွဲရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား
ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း-၅၃၇၆၅၅

**ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက်
လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ
ဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ယှဉ်တွဲပါ အရေအတွက်များအတိုင်း ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

- (1) Office P C 4 Nos
- (2) Web P C 5 Nos
- (3) Scanner A4 7 Nos
- (4) Printer A4 5 Nos
- (5) UPS (1 KVA) 3 Nos
- (6) UPS (2 KVA) 5 Nos
- (7) UPS (5 KVA) 2 Nos
- (8) System Software 1 Lot
- (9) MEG OHM Meter 2Nos

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါ ပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက် စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

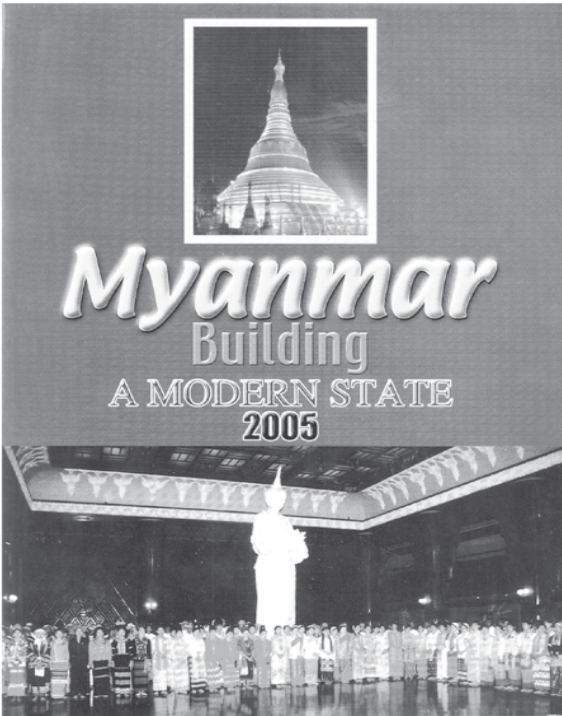
ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများ
ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထွဲရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား
ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း-၅၃၇၆၅၅

Ban Ki-moon sets principle for naming senior UN officials

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Dec— UN Secretary-General-designate Ban Ki-moon said Thursday that he intends to appoint senior UN staff without changing balance and geographical distribution in the organization.

Ban told reporters after the swearing-in ceremony that he will take the personal merit into consideration in making senior appointments.

He also said he is looking at several names for the position of outgoing Deputy Secretary-General with the preference for women candidates. — MNA/Xinhua



MYANMAR
Building A Modern State
2005

This facts studied book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading.
Illustrated with colourful photographs.
Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters:
The Beautiful Land,
Economy,
Infrastructure,
Social Setting,
International Cooperation.

On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy

Available at
Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎: 381448, 249031
News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, No. 212, Theinpyu Street, Yangon ☎: 294306
Hotels, Shopping Malls and other Book Shops in Yangon

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (713)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (713) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI SUVIDHA VOYNO (71607)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOYNO (71607) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 19th December (Tuesday), Kayin New Year day 2006, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

Cambodia's tourism income to surpass \$1.3b
PHNOM PENH, 15 Dec — Cambodia expects to harvest 1.3 billion US dollars from its tourism sector in 2006, the *Jianhua Daily* on Thursday quoted Deputy Prime Minister Sok An as saying.
More and more visitors are coming into the kingdom, which will bring the sector's income to a record high of 1.3 billion US dollars, in comparison with last year's total of one billion US dollars, said Sok An, while inaugurating the Angkor Coex building in Siem Reap on Wednesday.
From January to October this year, Cambodia received 1,322,306 visitors, around 300,000 of whom are from South Korea, 148,672 from China, 151,958 from ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asia Nations) countries and 70,875 from Japan, he said.
Cambodia has become one of the region's most favourite travel destinations, mainly because its consumption level is not so high, he added.
Tourism and garment production are the two major foreign currency earners for Cambodia.
MNA/Xinhua

Turkish police seize 101.9 kilos of heroin

ANKARA, 15 Dec — Turkish police has seized 101.9 kilos of heroin in an operation in a southeastern region, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Wednesday.
Acting on a tip-off, anti-drug police teams stopped and searched a truck in Gaziantep, seizing 101.9 kilos of heroin stashed in truck, said the report, adding two suspects were arrested in the operation.
According to the police, street value of the heroin is nearly 1 million euro.
Earlier on Monday, Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah said that

police also seized 265 kilos of heroin and 160 kilos of hashish en route to Europe in two separate operations in Istanbul and northwestern city of Sakarya.
He added that 24

people were detained in relation with the haul.
Turkey is a key transit route for gangs smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in Western Europe.
MNA/Xinhua



Furry Crab. The "yeti crab," discovered on the floor of the Pacific Ocean, is so extraordinary that a new taxonomic family had to be invented for it.—INTERNET

billions of dollars, in comparison with last year's total of one billion US dollars, said Sok An, while inaugurating the Angkor Coex building in Siem Reap on Wednesday.
From January to October this year, Cambodia received 1,322,306 visitors, around 300,000 of whom are from South Korea, 148,672 from China, 151,958 from ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asia Nations) countries and 70,875 from Japan, he said.
Cambodia has become one of the region's most favourite travel destinations, mainly because its consumption level is not so high, he added.
Tourism and garment production are the two major foreign currency earners for Cambodia.
MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

India, Russia to sign deal to upgrade "MiG-29" jets

Moscow, 15 Dec — India and Russia are to sign a bilateral deal to upgrade MiG-29 fighters in service with the Indian Air Force.

Under the 850-million-US-dollar deal, Moscow based Russian Aircraft Corporation (RAC)-MiG will install new modified engines and avionics in 66 MiG-29 jets.

A spokesperson for RAC-MiG, however, denied Russian media reports that the deal has already been signed, saying "negotiations for the contract are still underway".

Kommersant daily and AVN military news agency had reported Wednesday that the contract to refurbish the MiG-29s, which had been in the pipeline for several

years, had been signed.

Indian diplomatic sources said though the "technical bid" has been completed by a Russian team during a recent visit to India following negotiations with the IAF, the contract would be signed only after the finalization of a "commercial bid".

The deal to upgrade the MiG-29 has assumed urgency as three of the jets crashed in India this year.

The IAF has three squadrons of MiG-29 jets that were inducted between 1986 and 1996. Following the mid-life

upgrade, their technical life would be extended from 25 to 40 years, IAF sources said.

The upgrade will enhance the capabilities of the Russian made jets as they will be fitted with more powerful radars and advanced avionics. The MiG-29s will also be fitted with air-to-air refuelling capabilities to enhance their endurance and range.

MNA/PTI



George Soros, a self-made Hungarian-born billionaire, right, speaks while Former Malaysia Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad smiling during a joint news conference at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 15 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Award for Bangladeshi film a boost to Parallel Cinema

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec — The special jury award for Bangladeshi feature film "Nirontor"

(Forever Flows) directed by Abu Sayeed at the recent International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji has come as a major boost to the fledgling parallel cinema whose directors struggle to get funds to make meaningful movies.

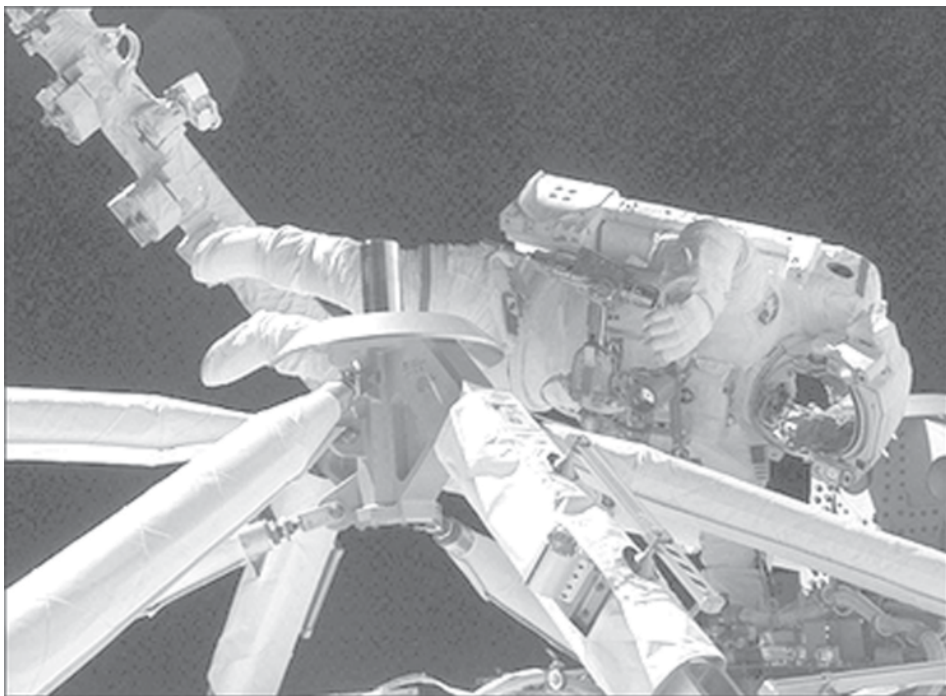
For 43-year-old Sayeed, winning the award was a first not only for himself on two counts but also for Bangladeshi. It was the first time that a feature film from Bangladesh won an award in the IFFI. It was also his debut in the festival. The last time a Bangladeshi movie had won an award in IFFI was in 1985 when Morshedul Islam's "Aagami" got it in the

short film category.

Sayeed, whose "Nirontor" is only his third feature film in a career that began just six years ago with "Kirtankhola", is the latest and the youngest in the

select club of directors in Bangladesh's parallel cinema circuit studded by names like Tanveer Mokammel, Morshedul Islam and Tareque Masud in the last decade or so.

MNA/PTI



US space shuttle Discovery US Mission Specialist Robert Curbeam works outside the International Space Station on 12 Dec, 2006. Two Discovery astronauts worked as space electricians far above Earth, successfully rewiring half of the International Space Station's power grid, NASA said recently.—INTERNET

British police announces Diana's death "tragic accident"

LONDON, 15 Dec — British police announced on Thursday that the death of Diana, late Princess of Wales, was a "tragic accident" and there had been no conspiracy or cover up.

"Our conclusion is that one all the evidence available at this time, there was no conspiracy to murder any of the occupants of the car. This was a tragic accident," said Lord Stevens, former Metropolitan Police Commission, who led the three-year investigations on the allegation of "conspiracy to murder".

The police team come to the

conclusion after examining the motive for the alleged murder, and the opportunity and capability to carry it out.

According to Stevens who made the announcement at the Press conference, the team has interviewed over 300 witnesses, some for the first time. They have carried out over 500 actions and collected more than 600 exhibits. More than 20 International Letters of Request have been submitted to the French authorities.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam reports 150,000 cancer patients annually

HANOI, 15 Dec — Vietnam has annually detected some 150,000 cancer cases, including 75,000 fatalities in recent years, local newspaper Pioneer reported Thursday.

Only 20 per cent of the sufferers have undergone cancer diagnosis early, the paper quoted Nguyen Ba Duc, director of the K Hospital in capital Hanoi, which specializes in cancer diagnosis treatment, as saying.

Many of the patients are in the age of over 40. The most common cancers include lung cancer, gastric cancer, bronchial tube cancer, and liver cancer. The infection and fatality are attributed mainly to the polluted environment and the late diagnosis of the disease. — MNA/Xinhua



Jurassic Shrimp. Caught at a depth of 1,300 feet (400 meters), the new species is described as a "living fossil" by survey member Bertrand Richer de Forges, a marine biologist based in nearby Noumea, New Caledonia. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Gold medallist Chai Fong-ying (L) and bronze medallist Ng Shin-yii of Malaysia pose after winning the women taijiquan of the wushu event at the 15th Asian Games in Doha on 14 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

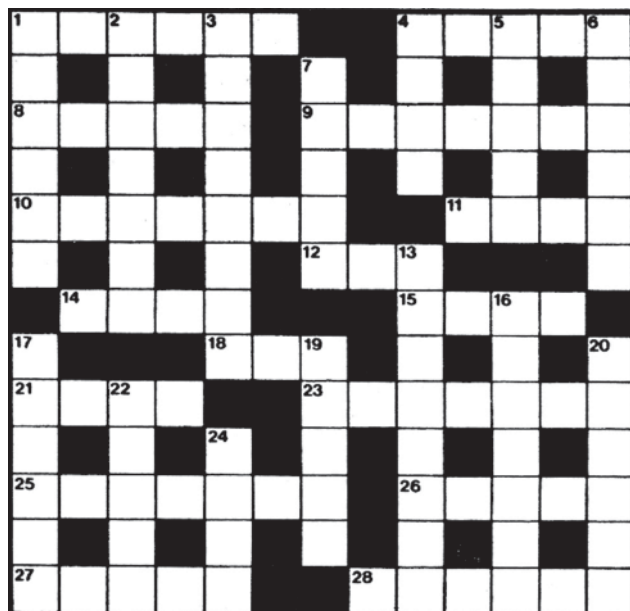
Wushu champion wins 4th gold medal for Philippines

MANILA, 16 Dec— The Philippines posted its best-ever finish in 44 years with a golden performance in wushu on the penultimate day of the 15th Asian Games, local media reported on Friday.

Four-time world wushu champion Rene Catalan capped a glittering career with a smashing win in the 52-kilo division final, said a report by The Manila Bulletin daily.

Undefeated since 2003, the 27-year-old former amateur boxer did not disappoint a wildly-cheering throng who watched his final performance against Vietnamese Quoc Vin Phan, said the report. Catalan, too crafty and experienced, brought the taller Quoc down to the canvas thrice in the two-round bout which he won, 10-0, the report said.— MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Salad vegetable
- 4 Arrest
- 8 Circular
- 9 Desert
- 10 Dishonest musician!
- 11 Liberate
- 12 Affirmative
- 14 Religious song
- 15 Partly open
- 18 Label
- 21 Charity
- 23 Dress
- 25 Rubbish
- 26 Tread heavily
- 27 Sum
- 28 Stick

DOWN

- 1 Wine bottle
- 2 Washing place
- 3 Fragrant
- 4 Dressed
- 5 Senior
- 6 Dog-house
- 7 Loiter
- 13 Surfeited
- 16 Mean
- 17 Nothing
- 19 Avarice
- 20 Double-point nail
- 22 Derseve
- 24 Dance

Champions League Knockout stages Fixtures

Tuesday, 20 February 2007

Celtic v AC Milan	19:45
Lille v Man Utd	19:45
PSV v Arsenal	19:45
Real Madrid v Bayern Munich,	19:45

Wednesday, 21 February 2007

Barcelona v Liverpool	19:45
FC Porto v Chelsea	19:45
Inter Milan v Valencia	19:45
Roma v Lyon	19:45

Tuesday, 06 March 2007

Chelsea v FC Porto	19:45
Liverpool v Barcelona	19:45
Lyon v Roma	19:45
Valencia v Inter Milan	19:45

Wednesday, 07 March 2007

AC Milan v Celtic	19:45
Arsenal v PSV	19:45
Bayern Munich v Real Madrid	19:45
Man Utd v Lille	19:45



Team International's Paula Creamer hits from a bunker at the 11th green during the first day of the Lexus Cup golf tournament in Singapore on 15 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Iran revenge to take bronze medal of Asiad men's basketball

DOHA, 16 Dec— Iran revenged their early loss to Jordan with a 84-78 victory to grab the bronze medal of the Asian Games men's basketball tournament here on Friday. Aidin Nikkhah Bahrami's three goals in a row pushed Iran to 80-68 with less than five minutes remaining and almost sealed the victory despite Jordan's run later in the third quarter, which cut the deficit to five points.

Mahdi Kamrany led Iran with 19 points while captain Karam Ahmadian added 18.— MNA/Xinhua

Qatar beats Iraq to win men's soccer gold at Doha Asiad

DOHA, 16 Dec— Host Qatar beat Iraq 1-0 to win the gold medal of the men's soccer final, the last competition event at the Doha Asian Games here on Friday.

After the kickoff at the Al Saad Foot Stadium, Qatar almost opened the accounting in the seventh minute when midfielder Abdulmajid Wesam Rizik swung his header against the bar. And the Iraqis failed to have a shot on the goal in the first half.

After the break, Qatar intensified their efforts for the goal, and were eventually paid in the 63rd minute when midfielder Rajab Bilal Mohemmed powered the ball home with a header off a corner.

Minutes later, the hosts had another goal, which was ruled off-side.— MNA/Xinhua

Premiership!

16 Dec , 2006

Arsenal	2	Portsmouth	2
Charlton	0	Liverpool	3
Newcastle	2	Watford	1
Reading	1	Blackburn	2
Wigan	0	Sheff Utd	1

Internet



Liverpool's Craig Bellamy scores the second goal against Charlton Athletic during the English Premiership League soccer match at The Valley, London, on Saturday 16 Dec, 2006. Liverpool won the match 3-0.

INTERNET

Liverpool go third as Portsmouth hold Arsenal

LONDON ,16 Dec — Liverpool moved up to third in the Premier League after they won 3-0 at Charlton Athletic and rivals Arsenal could only draw 2-2 with Portsmouth after being two goals down on Saturday.

An early penalty from Xabi Alonso and late goals by Craig Bellamy and captain Steven Gerrard gave Liverpool an easy victory over a Charlton side rooted in the relegation zone.

A third consecutive high-scoring league win moved Liverpool on to 31 points, just ahead of Arsenal (30) and Portsmouth (29) after their entertaining draw in north London.

Nigeria striker Obafemi Martins scored both Newcastle United's goals in a 2-1 win over bottom club Watford, striker David Bentley got a late winner as Blackburn Rovers won 2-1 at Reading and Sheffield United beat Wigan Athletic 1-0 away.

Internet



Arsenal's Robin Van Persie, right, and Portsmouth's Linvoy Primus, center, look on as Portsmouth's David James makes a save during their English Premiership League soccer match at the Emirates stadium, London, on Saturday 16 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Angola granted OPEC membership in Abuja meeting

ABUJA, 16 Dec— Angola has been formally admitted into Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a full member, the oil cartel said here on Thursday.

“The conference unanimously admitted the Republic of Angola as the twelfth full member of the organization, with effect from the 1 January, 2007,” an OPEC spokesman said at the end of the OPEC ministers meeting in Nigerian capital Abuja.

“Our production and future as an African oil

producer will be brighter with our membership of OPEC,” Angola’s Oil Minister Desiderio Verissimo told delegates to the conference which opened today.

He said that the Angolan Government had in November approved a resolution to formally join OPEC “in its own

interest”.

“We are ready to share the benefits of OPEC as well as shoulder the responsibility that comes along,” he added.

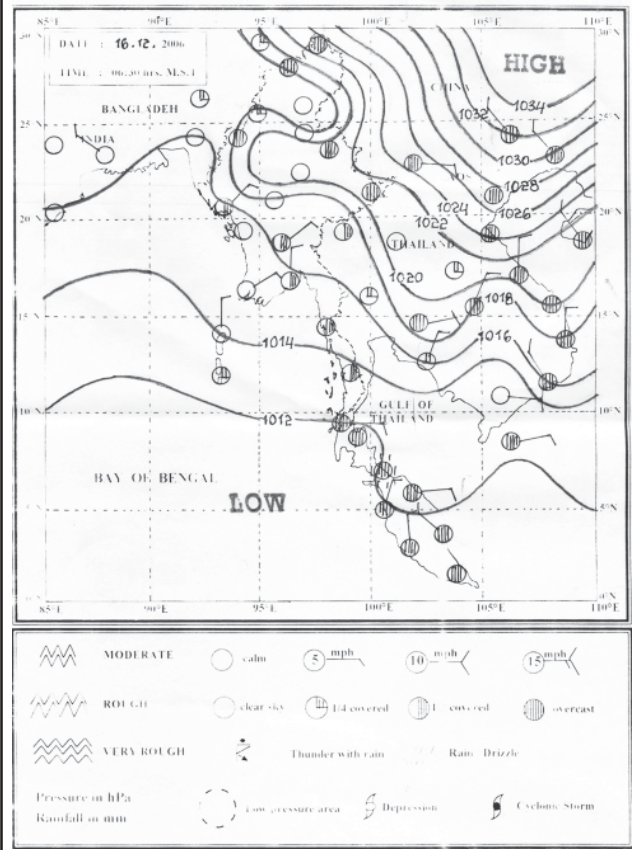
After submit application to OPEC, Verissimo has said that once its membership of OPEC is approved, Angola would no longer

“window shop” but rather “shop properly within the organization”. According to him, four oil blocks in northern Angola are expected to produce an additional 700,000 barrels to bring its production level to about 2.2 million barrels in 2007.

Angola, an OPEC observer since 1971, is the second largest oil producer in Africa after Nigeria and presently produces 1.5 million barrels of crude per day.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 16 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (7°C) below normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Eastern Shan, Mon States and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam, Pinlaung and Haka (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 15-12-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 16-12-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-12-2006 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 15-12-2006 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 16-12-2006 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 (4) mph from East at 09:30 hours MST on 16-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-12-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in southern Myanmar area.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-12-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-12-2006: Fair weather.



Performers dance during a rehearsal for the closing ceremony of the 15th Asian Games in Doha on 14 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 17 December
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
-Girls & boys

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:
-Year 3000

8:50 am National news/
Slogan

9:00 am Music:
-Red river rock

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar

9:20 am Music:
-Persuasion

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Children's delight
-Story

1:50 pm Songs for children

9:00 pm Weekly news review

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Music
-My way
-Never on Sunday

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL



Sunday, 17 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayaradaw Ottamathara

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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:10 am

6. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

7. စွန့်ချောင်းရေလှောင်တံ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's international news

11:35 am

4. Yan Can Cook

11:50 pm

5. Myanmar Movie: “နှစ်မြူအသည်း” (ဝင်းညွန့်၊ မေသစ်၊ စန္ဒာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးတင်မောင်)

2:00 pm

6. “သတိနဲ့ယှဉ်အသိနဲ့ပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးခယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလျှန်၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ပြည်ဖူးရီ၊ ဆောင်းနှင်းဝေ၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဝိုင်းစုနိုင်သိန်း၊ ဒိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

2:15 pm

7. International news

3:20 pm

1. နိုင်ငံတကာဖိတ်ခေါ်ဘောလုံး ပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (မြန်မာယူ-၂၃ ဘောလုံးအသင်း နှင့် မလေးရှားယူ-၂၃ ဘောလုံး အသင်း)

5:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:25 pm

3. Sing and enjoy

5:50 pm

4. နိုင်ငံတကာဖိတ်ခေါ်ဘောလုံး ပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (မြန်မာလက်ရွေးစင် ဘောလုံးအသင်း နှင့် အင်ဒိုနီးရှားလက်ရွေးစင် ဘောလုံးအသင်း)

8:00 pm

5. News
6. International news
7. Weather report
8. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ” (အပိုင်း-၈)
9. The next day's programme



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets local and foreign IT experts and entrepreneurs. — MNA

Every citizen is to love ...

(from page 1)

The chairman of the construction company gave an account of construction of a laboratory, X-ray room and operation theatre.

The commander reported on condition of the roads

leading to the hospital, and the plan to build more wards.

In response, the Senior General called for necessary steps to ensure a modern and clean facility and upgrading it to a 300-bed facility so that the patients can receive medical treatment and take recreation in comfort.

(See page 8)

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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of DSA 49th Intake

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec— The graduation dinner of the 49th Intake of Defence Services Academy was held in the parade ground of DSA in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present were Member of the State Peace and Development

Council General Thura Shwe Mann, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura

Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-

Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, the

commanders and their wives, the ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay Mayor, the commander of PyinOoLwin Station,

senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station and DSA, faculty members of DSA, graduate officers and their parents.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of the 49th Intake of DSA.

MNA