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Tuesday, 19 December, 2006

Senior General Than Shwe inspects 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi Multipurpose Hydel Power Dam Project that will generate 6,685 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually

NAY PYI TAW, 18
— Chairman of the State
Peace and Development
Council Commander-in-
Chief of Defence Services
Senior General Than Shwe
left PyinOoLwin by air and

arrived at Homalin in Hkamti
District, Sagaing Division,
yesterday morning.

Accompanied by
Member of the State
Peace and Development
Council General Thura

Shwe Mann, members of
the State Peace and De-
velopment Council Lt-
Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen
Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Thiha
Thura Tin Aung Myint
Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye,



Out of the hydel power projects under construction, the Htamanthi Multipurpose Hydel Power Dam Project will generate the largest amount of electric power. Six 200-megawatt turbines will be installed and the project will generate 1,200 megawatts.



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects site chosen to construct Htamanthi Dam. — MNA

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, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers, senior military officers, the director-general of State Peace and Development Council Office and officials, the Senior General arrived at Homalin airport and was welcomed by Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kale Station, Col Htay Win and officials.

(See page 16)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 19 December, 2006

National Kandawgyi Gardens with various species of flora and fauna

The National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin is a botanical gardens with a long history. It was facilitated with various species of flora and fauna for vacationers to enjoy natural scenic beauty of PyinOoLwin, a hilly resort.

A ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the National Kandawgyi Gardens was held on 15 December in conjunction with the opening of the First Flower Festival and the National Landmarks Garden. The flower festival is complete with different booths staging local and foreign flower species and orchids numbering about three million in order that the people can observe them.

Moreover, the National Landmarks Garden built on 50 acres that is contiguous to the National Kandawgyi Gardens was also opened on 15 December.

Visitors to the National Landmarks Garden will now be able to relax and enjoy significant landmarks from the states and divisions as a mini-union in the Union.

As the National Kandawgyi Gardens complete with natural beauty and splendid buildings has been undergoing facelifts up to its diamond jubilee, some 600,000 tourists visit the gardens annually. The concerted efforts of relevant departments under the leadership of the Ministry of Forestry will surely make the Kandawgyi Gardens keep abreast of botanical gardens of the world as well as contribute to the development of Myanma Tourism Industry.

Park Royal Hotel serves meal to elder persons

YANGON, 18 Dec—Park Royal Hotel served a meal to 30 older persons from Hninzigone Home for the Aged on 16 December.

On the occasion, General Manager Mr Teddy Chia of the hotel extended greetings and explained the purpose of the donation and presented 1000 FEC to Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Board of the Home U Thaug Htut. On behalf of the senior citizens, Po Soe Thein spoke words of thanks.

H

General Manager Mr Teddy Chia and hotel staff donate FEC 1000 to Hninzigone Home for the Aged. — H

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe meets with officers, other ranks and their families of Phugyi and Taikkyi Stations

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence met with officers and other ranks and their families of Phugyi and Taikkyi Stations at Phugyi Station in Hmawby Township on 16 December. Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged them to implement the 12 State's Objectives and seven-step Road Map upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected physic nut seeds and saplings and rubber grafts displayed at physic nut plant and rubber nurseries of Phugyi Station and stressed the need to make effort for



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects physic nut and rubber nurseries in Phugyi Station. — MNA

the extended cultivation of physic nut and rubber plants. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed thriving

rubber plantations of Yapyae Co in Hmawby Township and heard reports on production and

selling matters by a responsible person. Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions. —MNA

Rail Transportation Minister inspects Kyangin-Pokokku railway project



NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials arrived at the site of Kyangin-Oakshitpin section of Kyangin-Pokokku railway project on 15 December.

Project Director U Myo Win of Myanma Railways reported to the minister and party on the launching of the section, completion of earth work, bridges



Maj-Gen Aung Min visits construction site of Thaletan bridge of Kyangin-Oakshitpin road section. — RAILWAY

construction, arrivals of equipment and machines and requirements of work site. Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report.

The minister gave necessary instructions. He called on service personnel to make effort for the development of transport sector in the region.

The minister inspected 602.5 feet long Kyaukphu creek bridge construction site, 1370 feet long Thaledan creek bridge construction site, earth work site of near Pathein-Monywa cross road, 460 feet long Khawa creek bridge construction site, earth work at the chosen site for building Betye Yard and gave necessary instructions. Project director U Myo Win reported to the minister and party on the completion of Phaushin bridge.

Next, the minister and deputy minister inspected the site and gave necessary instructions.—MNA



Bangladesh President urges joint efforts for prosperous nation

DHAKA, 17 Dec—Bangladesh President Iajuddin Ahmed on Saturday called for a concerted contribution to maintain the continuity of the Constitution and advance of the democracy for building a prosperous nation. President Ahmed, who is also Chief Adviser of the caretaker government, made the call in celebration of the Victory Day marking the birth of the country in 1971.

“On this great Victory Day, it is the expectation

that we all make joint effort to make the national independence and democracy meaningful,” the President said.

The President observed that the nation is now engaged in “Great War” for building a happy and prosperous nation free from poverty. The President and other party leaders placed wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar, 20 kilometres north of capital Dhaka, early in the day.

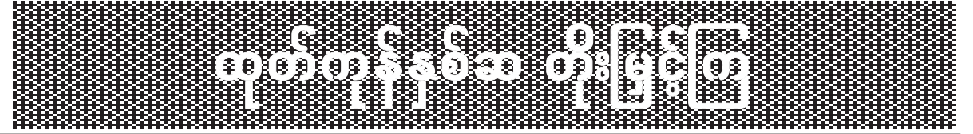
Thousands of people,

representing various socio-cultural and professional organizations, visited the National Mausoleum since early morning and placed wreaths at the altar.

President Ahmed later attended a colourful rally of children and juvenile staged at the national stadium as part of the celebrations at state level.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a reception at Bangabhaban (President House).

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese President Hu Jintao meets US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and other participants to the strategic economic dialogue after it concluded on 15 Dec, 2006 morning. The two-day dialogue is the first of its kind in Sino-US relations.—XINHUA

25 children hospitalized after taking expired pills in Russia

Moscow, 17 Dec—Twenty five children were hospitalized late on Thursday after taking expired pills at a boarding school in Russia’s southwestern Voronezh Region, local authorities said on Friday.

According to Voronezh’s chief sanitary inspector Mikhail Chubirko, the 25 children felt unwell after they took “Isoniazid” and “Heksavit” pills at supper and were then rushed to hospitals.

Three of them suffered heavy allergic reactions, while the others were in a more stable condition, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The pills believed to cause the poisoning were

provided by a charity organization. “Isoniazid” is used to treat tuberculosis and “Heksavit” is a kind of vitamins. Both pills expired in November.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish PM labels EU decision as “injustice”

ANKARA, 17 Dec—Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday labelled the European Union’s decision to partially freeze Turkey’s membership talks with the bloc as a “great injustice”.

At a summit in Brussels on Thursday, EU leaders endorsed the suspension of eight chapters of Turkey’s talks with the bloc as agreed by EU foreign ministers on Monday as punishment for Ankara’s refusal to open

its ports and airports to the Republic of Cyprus.

“The EU Council decision is a great injustice for Turkey,” Erdogan told a joint news conference at the Ankara Esenboga Airport with British Prime Minister Tony Blair before the latter’s departure for Cairo.

Blair arrived in Turkish capital Ankara later Friday for a one-day working visit to Turkey. He said that keeping Europe’s door

open to Ankara was vital, not just in respect of Turkey but with wider relationships between the West and the Muslim world. The eight chapters agreed to be frozen in the accession talks with the EU are free movement, finance, agriculture, fishery, transport, Customs, foreign policy and services trade. But they can be unfrozen once the conditions are met.

MNA/Xinhua



A snow covered sign for Cooper Spur is shown on 15 Dec, 2006, on Mount Hood, Ore. Weather was worse on the mountain on Friday but a break is expected on Saturday that might improve rescue possibilities for the three missing climbers.—INTERNET

Record high winter temperature set in Moscow

Moscow, 17 Dec—A winter maximum temperature record for Moscow was set on Friday, the capital’s weather bureau said.

Friday’s maximum of 8.6 degrees Celsius (47.48 degrees Fahrenheit) is the highest winter temperature on record for the Russian capital, the spokesman was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

The previous winter record for Moscow was 8.1 degrees Celsius (46.5 degrees Fahrenheit), set on 17 February, 1989.—MNA/Xinhua

Crude oil prices leap over \$63 a barrel

NEW YORK, 17 Dec—Crude oil prices leapt over 63 dollars a barrel Friday following a 1.14-dollar-jump Thursday as the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) is to cut oil production by 500,000 barrels a day since 1 February.

New York’s main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in January, rose 92 cents to 63.43 dollars per barrel.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for January delivery climbed 60 cents to 63.49 dollars.

OPEC decided in Nigeria on Thursday to cut crude production that would leave its total production level drop from 26.3 million barrels per day to 25.8 million barrels.

MNA/Xinhua

The Minotaur I Rocket, carrying the TacSat 2 micro satellite, launches from the pad at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops Island, Virginia on 16 Dec, 2006. The payload also included the GeneSat-1, a fully automated, miniature space flight system that will study look for genetic changes in bacteria (E Coli) during space flight. This is the first launch from the regional spaceport.—INTERNET



US criticism on China's post-WTO performance rejected

BEIJING, 16 Dec— US accusations that China is failing to live up to its World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments have been rejected by experts in China, which has just received an “A-plus” performance rating from WTO director-general Pascal Lamy.

In response to complaints of rampant piracy, protectionism and export subsidies, Zhao Yumin, an expert of the Commerce Ministry research institute, said the United States had failed to thoroughly examine China's performance, so it could not provide an objective appraisal.

The report, issued by the US Trade Representative's Office on Monday, in the run-up to the top-level China-US strategic economic dialogue in Beijing on Thursday, is widely seen by Chinese experts as an attempt to pressure the Chinese Government on certain key issues. of a lack of a forceful crackdown on piracy, the report said, “China routinely fines copyright violators rather than prosecuting them”.

But Zhao said China had issued regulations in 2004 that stipulated prison terms of up to seven years for those convicted of selling more than 5,000 pirated discs.

Regarding the market opening, the US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said certain US industries “face frustrating barriers to doing business in China and there are worrisome signs that China's market liberalization efforts have slowed in the last year”.

“China opened all the sectors listed in its WTO commitments five years ago and removed barriers to foreign participation,” said Zhao Yumin.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Philippine death toll from Typhoon “Utor” rises to 27

MANILA, 16 Dec— The Philippines' death toll from Typhoon Utor reached 27, with eight others still missing, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said Thursday.

The NDCC said in a report that, of the 27 confirmed dead, seven were from Southern Luzon, nine from Western Visayas, six from Central Visayas and five from Eastern Visayas.

At least 42 were injured while eight were still missing, it added.

More than 97,000 families or 470,000 people were affected by Typhoon Utor. Of these, there are still 10,915 families or 53,942 people staying at 108 evacuation centres, according to the NDCC

statistics.

Damage to property was estimated at 433.84 million pesos (8.75 million US dollars), including loss in agriculture and infrastructure, the NDCC said.

MNA/Xinhua



A new luxury hospital for new mothers will open in Shanghai's Putuo district during the Christmas season.—INTERNET

စက်မှုဝန်ထမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်ပွား

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak (L) talks to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono after their meeting at the presidential palace in Jakarta on 16 Dec, 2006. Najib is in Indonesia for a four-day working visit.



INTERNET

Heavy fog delays dozens of flights in Los Angeles Airport

LOS ANGELES, 16 Dec— Heavy fog delayed dozens of flights to and from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Friday morning, according to aviation officials.

Planes were being held on the ground at LAX and some flights in the air were

being diverted to other airports in the region, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor. Gregor said he did not know about departure delays, but there were definitely some flights having been delayed. “Some planes have been able to land, but not all of them,” the spokesman said, adding that delays have averaged 48 minutes to the airport and the maximum delay was 144 minutes.

Only some pilots are qualified to land in “the worst conditions”, he said. However, the spokesman said the visibility in the airport has improved after at least 10 incoming flights were diverted into the nearby Ontario International Airport because of the heavy fog.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Internet

Stranded whale saved in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Dec— An injured whale stranded in shallow waters off Malaysia was towed to apparent safety after divers worked tirelessly to keep it alive, news reports said Saturday.

Villagers discovered the 24-metre-long (78-foot-long), silver-gray Bryde's whale bruised and bleeding at low tide near the shores of Gaya Island in Malaysia's eastern state

of Sabah early Friday, *The Star and New Straits Times* newspapers reported.

Dozens of volunteer divers spent nearly 12 hours pouring water over the partially submerged whale's exposed back to keep it wet and cool before tying it with ropes to a tugboat, which towed it out when the tide came in, the reports said.

“It was an elating moment,” *The Star* quoted a professional underwater cameraman, Simon Enderby, as saying. “The ropes slipped off after we managed to move the whale some 100 metres (320 feet). ... The whale swam away and disappeared in the darkness.”

An official with Sabah Parks, a state-run environmental management body, confirmed that wildlife authorities helped coordinate the rescue of a whale in the area Friday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, saying he was not authorized to make public statements, said he did not have details of the incident or whether authorities would try to locate the

whale.

The news reports said the whale had cuts on its body after it apparently scraped against corals while trying to free itself. “Our hope is the whale will survive,” *The Star* quoted tugboat skipper Drajad Naeared as saying.

Bryde's whales are members of the baleen whale suborder and are found in tropical waters.



Hong Kong actor-singer Aaron Kwok poses with a PlayStation Portable next to a silver-painted model during the opening ceremony of the Asia Game Show in Hong Kong on 15 Dec, 2006. INTERNET

Seppi Hurschler of Switzerland performs a trial jump in a World Cup nordic combined 10 km mass start competition in Ramsau on 16 Dec, 2006. INTERNET





Middle-school girls use mobile phones as they chat in a restaurant in Seoul on 15 Dec, 2006. South Korea will try to put the brakes on teenagers ringing up massive mobile phone bills by enacting a new set of regulations from the start of the year that give parents a greater say in how their children communicate. INTERNET

UNICEF to provide assistance for Indonesia's tsunami-hit children

JAKARTA, 16 Dec— The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has allocated 66.8 million US dollars for an assistance package to help improve children's welfare in Indonesian Aceh and North Sumatra provinces in 2007, an official said here on Thursday.

"The amount represents more than half of UNICEF's overall assistance for children in Indonesia. The full-fledged assistance is to be given for children in Aceh and Nias District in North Sumatra," *Antara* news agency quoted Dedi Masykur Riyadi, deputy

head of the department for human resources and culture at the National Development Planning Board (Bappenas), as saying after signing a document on the UNICEF assistance.

Aceh and Nias were hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami in December 2004.

UNICEF would also provide financial assistance for survivors of an earthquake that rattled Yogyakarta last 27 May but Dedi did not mention the amount of the assistance for Yogyakarta.

The document on Indonesia-UNICEF co-operation for 2007 also

stated that 120 million US dollars in assistance funds would be used for Aceh reconstruction and rehabilitation as well as health and educational programmes. It said health assistance totalling 300,000 US dollars for Acehese people would come from donor agencies.

UNICEF would also provide health assistance for other areas in Indonesia, namely Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya, Makassar, Kupang, Ambon and Jayapura. Nusatenggara and Java would receive sanitation assistance.

MNA/Xinhua

Oldest dinosaur fossil found in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Dec— Paleontologists from Universidade Luterana do Brasil (Ulbra) in Rio Grande do Sul State announced on Thursday that they had found fragments of bones that they claim to be of the oldest dinosaur ever tracked.

Some 50 centimetres high, the fossil was found two years ago among sedimentary rocks of the Triassic period in the municipality of Agudo, and also in Rio Grande do Sul.

According to the specialists, the fossil is 228 million years old, and still presents satisfactory preservation.

The researchers stressed that the fossil is the closest to the acknowledged Jurassic dinosaurs. Unlike four other fossils tracked in Brazil and in Argentina, its waist was similar to that of the animals that appeared in later period.— MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bombing kills NATO soldier in Afghan

KABUL, 16 Dec— A roadside bombing killed one soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and injured two others on Friday in eastern Afghanistan, an ISAF statement said. An ISAF vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Mehtar Lam District of Laghman Province in the afternoon, it said, adding one ISAF soldier was killed and two others injured.

MNA/Xinhua

3,500-year-old sword unearthed in Romania

BUCHAREST, 16 Dec— A 3,500-year-old sword was dug out by a local in Neamt County, northeastern Romania, the national *Rompres* news agency reported on Wednesday.

Archaeologists said Constantin Dogaru struck the sword while digging his yard in the Piatra Soimului Commune.

Realizing it was a precious object, he tried to sell it on a market, *Rompres* said.

The sword, which is 70 centimetres long, "is a rarity that can change all we know about history", said Adrian Alui Gheorghe, head of the culture department of the Neamt County Museum Complex. —MNA/Xinhua

Ancient public bath discovered in S-E Turkey

ANKARA, 16 Dec— Turkish archaeologists said Wednesday that they had discovered a 1,500 year-old public bath while digging into a former cornfield in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

"We have found a public bathing complex and five ancient coins," excavation team head Omer Celik, who supervised the excavations, was quoted as saying.

According to Celik, the ancient bathing complex included water heating and resting rooms and canals. —MNA/Xinhua



Michael Frenzel, CEO of holiday giant TUI AG, poses behind a model plane of the new company brand 'TUIfly.com' following a news conference in Hamburg on 15 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

At least four killed in storm sweeping northwest US

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec— At least four people have been killed and tens of thousands of others have been left without power in a storm sweeping across the northwestern US states of Washington and Oregon, US media reported Friday.

The *Associated Press* said at least three people were killed in the storm, but CNN reported that at least four lost their lives.

In Seattle, Washington, a woman died Thursday after she became trapped in her basement while it flooded, and another two people were killed in traffic accidents related to the storm, which hit the states with speeds as high as about 140 kilometres per hour and brought rain and snow to the region.

Some flights at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport were cancelled, as one of the concourses lost power supply, and at the Portland International Airport, about 30 flights were cancelled, airport officials were quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Courtney Chapman, a waitress dressed as a nurse at the Heart Attack Grill, holds up a triple bypass burger on 1 Dec, 2006 in Tempe, Ariz. The barely year-old Tempe, Ariz, restaurant with its slogan "taste...worth dying for!" makes the "quadruple bypass burger," estimated to be 8,000 calories, and it is served by waitresses in "nurse" outfits.—INTERNET

Lebanese PM asks Russia for help in reequipping Army

Moscow, 16 Dec — Lebanon has requested Russia's assistance in reequipping its Armed Forces, visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora said here on Friday.

"Earlier I sent a letter to the Russian leadership requesting assistance in rearming the Lebanese Army," Siniora told reporters after talks with Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Siniora said a significant number of Lebanese servicemen "require serious military, material and technical support". "We are appealing for help to all

our friends, including Russia," Siniora said.

He denied media reports that the talks in Moscow had mulled deliveries of Russian air defence systems to Lebanon. "We did not raise questions related to air defence systems at all," he said.

Siniora also said the Russian leadership had assured him that Russia was willing to make more efforts to solve the problem of a disputed

area known as the "Shebaa Farms".

The Shebaa Farms area was seized by Israel from Syria in 1967. But the area is claimed by Lebanon. Controversy over the area arose in 2000, as the UN certified that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon was complete.

MNA/Xinhua



Germany's Michael Roesch skis during the Biathlon World Cup 10 km sprint competition in Hochfilzen, Austria, on 16 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

Mexican police arrest leader of kidnapers group

MEXICO CITY, 16 Dec — The alleged leader of a kidnapers ring who maimed his victims was arrested on Thursday in the central Mexican state of Hidalgo, public security authorities said.

The ring leader, identified as Alberto Barragan, also known as "Cecilio" or "El Cuije", was arrested in Tepeapulco Municipality in Hidalgo State in an operation against organized crime launched last Monday.

Barragan was charged with maiming his victims by chopping off fingers or ears to intimidate their families, prosecutors said.

President Felipe Calderon aims to bring peace back to Michoacan, a western state ravaged by criminal groups, through

this operation. About 7,000 troops from the Army, Navy and Federal Preventative Police have taken part in the operation.

"El Cuije" used to hide in Michoacan and the southern state of Guerrero, police said.

During the operation, Elidia Cortes, 34, and Mauricio Barragan Cortes, 18, wife and son of the alleged ring leader, were also arrested.

The criminal group is allegedly responsible for at least 21 kidnappings.

MNA/Xinhua



A car of the new Paris tramway is seen at Porte de Versailles, South of Paris, shortly after its inauguration in Paris, on 16 Dec, 2006. The tram will transport some 100,000 travellers a day to and from the southwest area of Paris. —INTERNET

Two banks attacked in northern Greece

ATHENS, 16 Dec — A Citizens' Service Centre (KEP) and a bank ATM in Thessaloniki were the targets of two separate attacks by unidentified

individuals using home-made incendiary devices early Thursday morning.

According to police, the perpetrators used home-made devices comprising small propane canisters to torch a Citizens' Service Centre in Kalamaria, Thessaloniki.

The explosion destroyed the front entrance glass and caused limited damage to the offices' interior. Earlier, a National Bank of Greece ATM situated next to the front entrance of the Agios Pavlos City Hall in the Thessaloniki Old City District was destroyed when a similar device exploded.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian researchers find moderate drinking good for health

ROME, 16 Dec — Moderate drinking is good for people's health, according to a latest Italian research, carried by Italian news agency ANSA on Thursday.

The study summarizing results of 35 previous surveys found that wine is the best choice to avoid heart problems and other fatal diseases. Beer comes a close second. "Two units of wine a day, or one unit if you are a woman, cut the risk of cardiovascular problems by 25 per cent," said leading researcher Giovanni de Gaetano, whose findings have been published in the famous US journal *Archives of Internal Medicine*. A unit of wine is about 150 millilitres.

"Beer is not bad either, reducing risks of heart problems by about 18 per cent, according to the collated results of the surveys," de Gaetano said.

De Gaetano also said men could have double the daily dose of wine because their bodies are better at assimilating alcohol while he recommended a daily dose of beer at 200 millilitres.

It was important to stagger one's intake and stick to the recommended daily intake rather than gulping down one's weekly amount all in one go. "That could have the opposite effect," de Gaetano said.

Whisky, brandy, cognac, gin and other spirits are to be avoided if possible, he said, adding "very small amounts of them, about 10-20 millilitres, can push you close to the risk threshold." —MNA/Xinhua

China predicts magnetic storm, bad news for world's pigeons

BEIJING, 17 Dec — China's National Centre for Space Weather Monitoring and Warning forecast on Friday that another powerful magnetic storm may occur on Saturday, affecting the normal operation of the world's man-made satellites and telecommunication systems.

A magnetic storm on a huge scale that was caused by a sunspot arrived on earth on Friday, said Le Guiming, a Chinese researcher on space weather.

Powerful solar storms can disrupt shortwave communication and global positioning

systems (GPS), but usually will not affect the usage of mobile phones, said Le.

Pigeons may not be able to find way their home as magnetic storms change the direction of magnetic force lines, Le said.

MNA/Xinhua

A woman sells woollen scarfs and socks as snow falls in front of a store offering winter hats at an open street market in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 14 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET



The 59th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in year of 2007

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

It is known that the Union of Myanmar has been a predominantly Theravada Buddhist nation in the world for nearly one thousand years, and over (90) per cent of nation's population has taken faith in Theravada Buddhism since then. Furthermore, the Union of Myanmar has been recognized as a permanent higher learning centre of genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in the Buddhist world but also throughout the world. According to historical records of Buddhism, the Fifth and Sixth Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were successfully convened in the Union of Myanmar with a view to purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the Buddha's teachings) all over the world. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council, which was attended and participated by Maha Theras from Five Theravada Buddhist Nations, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, was successfully held in the Union of Myanmar in 1954.

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, a great number of Buddhist Monastic Institutions and Learning Centres of Buddhist Scriptures have been established in the Union of Myanmar for years. For the time being, the two Pariyatti Sasana Universities, one in Yangon and the other in Mandalay have been so far established to promote and propagate the Theravada Buddhism throughout the world. At present, Buddhist monk students are attending these two universities, and if they have got through the prescribed examinations held by these Universities, they will be conferred Takasila Dhammacariya Degree (Bachelor of Arts) in Buddhism and Tekkasila Maha Dhammacariya Degree (Master of Arts) in Buddhism respectively. And now, the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the very first one in the Buddhist world has been also already established in the Union of Myanmar in order to propagate, promote and flourish genuine Theravada Buddhism throughout the world, and to share the knowledge of Buddhism both in theory and practice with the peoples of the world to promote their happiness and

moral well-being.

According to the Paritatti (learning canonical Texts) Education System of the Union of Myanmar, there are seven kinds of religious examinations including the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination yearly held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar. The seven kinds of religious examinations are as follows: -

- (1) Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination
- (2) Dhammacariya Examination
- (3) Pathamagyi Examination
- (4) Pathamalat Examination
- (5) Pathamange Examination
- (6) Abhidhamma /Visudhimagga Examination (only for Laymen and Nuns)
- (7) Five Nikaya Examination

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar for the past fifty-eight years. Buddhist monk candidates who wish to appear for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi Examination. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates have to take (33) days to sit for this examination. They have to take both oral and written examinations as prescribed. The oral examination consists of Pali Texts of 8026 pages of Tipitaka canons and the written examination consists of Pali Texts, Athakatha (Commentaries) and Tika (Sub-Commentaries) of 9934 pages of Tipitaka canons respectively. Only the candidates who have got through the oral examination will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara and the candidates who have got through both oral and written examinations will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (the Title of Religious Heroes). Up to now, only nine outstanding

members of Sangha (Bhikkhus) were presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within over (58) years' duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

It is learnt that many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years. It is learnt that such examination cannot be held in other Theravada Buddhist nations.

Members of Sangha, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are striving to propagate, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in homeland but also at abroad. We all Buddhists know that the Sasana is of the three kinds, viz (1) Pariyatti Sasana (Learning the Buddha's teaching), (2) Patipatti sasana (Practical application of the Buddha's teaching) and (3) Pativedha Sasana (Realization of the Buddha's teaching). Out of them, the Pariyatti Sasana is the most important one which mainly leads to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the noble teachings of the Buddha). The aims and objectives of holding the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination are to preserve, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism all over the world.

59th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in year 2007

We all Buddhists are very pleased and honoured to learn that the 59th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be held at Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) in the precinct of Kaba Aye Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar and it will take (33) days starting from 24 December 2006. The entitled candidates of members of Sangha who have been enrolled throughout the Union of Myanmar will sit for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of year 2007. Lodging and messing (four kinds of requisites) for candidates will be provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, donors and well-wishers throughout (33) days. It is further learnt that devotees, well-wishers and other people are cordially invited to visit the Mahapasana Cave (examination centre) for paying profound respect to the members of Sangha who are sitting for the 59th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

It is learnt that many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years. It is learnt that such examination cannot be held in other Theravada Buddhist nations.

Senior General Than Shwe inspects 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi Multipurpose...

(from page 16)
on arrangements for provision of fuel and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye on cooperation.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said the major requirements for national development are electricity and fuel. That is why the government has been implementing hydro-

electric power projects. Earlier completion of the projects will ensure sooner benefits for the State and the people, he said.

He urged officials concerned to make strenuous efforts for completion of the projects a head of schedule.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe inspected

maps, scale models and charts on projects, and samples of earth and rock.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected the construction of the dam and he presented cash awards for service personnel to Project Director of Hydel Power Projects Implementation Department U Ko Ko Lay and Director of Construction-4 of Irrigation Department U Victor.

The 5,250 feet long and 263 feet high earth dam will be built on Chindwin River, irrigate over one



Education Minister Dr Chan Nyein inspects learning aid centre at Homalin BEHS.— MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint visits 100-bed People's Hospital in Homalin.— MNA

million acres of farmlands.

Out of the hydel power projects under construction, the Htamathi Multipurpose Hydel Power Dam Project and Hydel Power Dam Project will generate the largest amount electric power. Six 200-megawatt turbines will be installed and the project will generate 1,200 megawatts.

It is the major multipurpose project that generates electricity and bring about socio-economic

progress.

On 16 December, member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met secretaries and joint secretaries and executives of Mandalay Division USDA and PyinOoLwin District USDA at the PyinOoLwin District USDA.

The minister went to pharmaceuticals industry project site and inspected construction of factory

and installation of machines and production of medicines.

Yesterday, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein inspected multimedia teaching centres of Basic Education High School in Homalin and discussed academic matters with Township Education Officer, headmistress and teachers.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected 100-bed People's Hospital there.

MNA

National Kandawgyi Gardens and Flower Festival in PyinOoLwin crowded with people

YANGON, 18 Dec —Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Forestry, ceremonies to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the National Kandawgyi Gardens of the Ministry of Forestry, and the opening of the First Flower Festival and the National Landmarks Garden were held at the

respective venues in PyinOoLwin on 15 December morning. A large number of people visited the gardens on the opening day.

Plans are made to hold the festivals for a month and fun fairs and musical entertainments were held starting from 14 December. The opening of National

Landmarks Garden was attended by the Head of State and it was crowded with people.

Prior to the opening of the festivals, various kinds of flowers were on display, and the venues were decorated with balloons and miniature flags. At night also, the National Kandawgyi Gardens and



People visit National Kandawgyi Gardens and Flower Festival.—MNA



the National Landmarks Garden were illuminated.

PyinOoLwin was crowded not only with its own residents but also with visitors from Mandalay, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Monywa, Sagaing, Mogok, Naunghkio, Kyaukme, Lashio, Hsipaw, Taunggyi and Kalaw.

The flower festival was crowded with flower-lovers and youths represented the majority of the audiences at stage-show performed by famous vocalists. Shops are also crowded with people.

Families strolled along the roads in the National Landmarks

Garden and had photos taken and some were on Buggies to visit around the garden.

From 14 December to yesterday, around 200,000 people visited the National Kandawgyi Gardens and the National Landmarks Garden, it is learnt.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin look into progress in building tarred road

YANGON, 18 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin went on inspection tour of a tarred road linking Yangon West University and Yangon North District this morning.

Upon arrival at Yangon West University near Hteinkon village/tract in Htantabin Township, they were welcomed there by Joint-Secretary of YCDC U Aung Than Win, Head of Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) U Bo Htay and responsible personnel.

Next, Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win and responsible personnel briefed them on progress in building of 3 miles and one furlong long tarred road which is 16500 feet long and 14 feet wide with the use of charts.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected progress in building of short cut tarred road linking Yangon West University and Htantabin Township. They then looked into conditions of bridges namely Cipinhaya, Hteintabin, Ywathitgyi and Inlayywa.



Thanks to tarring of road from Yangon West University to entrance to Htantabin, University students from Htantabin Township have now easy access to Yangon West University. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects bridge linking Yangon West University and Htantabin.— ycdc

USDA CEC meets Singapore's youth friendship delegation



USDA CEC member U Aung Thein Lin meets with Mr Vincent Lam of Singapore's youth friendship delegation.

MNA

YANGON, 18 Dec— CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aung Thein Lin received a youth friendship delegation of Singapore here today.

Also present at the meeting were Head of the association's

headquarters U Win Myaing and responsible personnel.

At the meeting, U Aung Thein Lin extended greetings and briefed on cooperation of the association and the people for the development of the State.

Afterwards, the CEC member replied to the queries raised by the delegation which was led by Mr Vincent Lam and exchanged souvenirs with the delegation.

MNA

MGEA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 16 Dec — Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association held its fourth annual meeting at Summit Parkview Hotel on Ahlon Road this morning.

Present at the annual meeting were CEC members of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, invited responsible personnel of departments, guests and members of MGEA.

First, secretary U Hton (UHton GoldShop) read out the annual reports of CEC members and budget and members approved them.

After the master of ceremonies had read out a list of 21 CEC members for 2007-2008, vice-chairman of MGEA made concluding remarks.

MNA



Tourism product development and marketing course opens

YANGON, 18 Dec— Under the program of Initiative for ASEAN Integration - IAI Work Plan Project, Tourism Product Development and Marketing Course was opened here today.

The course was conducted by ASEAN secretariat and Civil Service Selection and Training Board (CSSTB).

At the three-day course, Mr Teo Puay Kim and Mr Francis Soh Kok Yuen of International Trade Institute of Singapore will give lecture to 20 trainees from Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Ministry of Forestry.

The course was opened with an address by Deputy Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Wai Myint.

So far nine courses dealing with Public Sector Capacity Building have been conducted by the CSSTB this year.

MNA

U Kyaw Myint speaks at annual meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

MGEA

**DONATE
BLOOD**

NCC Management Committee holds coord meeting

YANGON, 18 Dec— A coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Management Committee was held in Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman of NCC Management Committee Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence, management committee members, chairmen of sub-committees, secretaries and departmental officials.



Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung addresses the coordination meeting of NCCMC. — MNA

Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presided over the meeting and Secretary of NCC Management Committee Col Win

Naung acted as Master of Ceremonies. Next, chairmen and secretaries of sub-committees and

departmental officials submitted reports on respective sectors and progress of tasks. Afterwards, members of

management committee, chairmen of sub-committees and departmental officials took part in the discussions.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung attended to the needs and the meeting ended with his concluding remarks by the chairman.—MNA

Delegate Groups' meetings held in Nyaungnabin Camp



U Saw Philip (a) Philip Sam addresses the group meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Dec — The group meetings of Delegate Group of Political Parties and Delegate Group of State Service Personnel were held at the designated places in Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township this morning.

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

Delegate Group of Political Parties

The Delegate Group of Political Parties held its group meeting at the meeting hall-1 in Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

At the meeting, U Saw Philip (a) Philip Sam of Wa National Development Party presided over the meeting together with U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party and U Li Kwe Shin of Kokang Democratic and Unity 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 Khaung Daing of Kokang Democratic Party, U Maung Paing (a) U Khin Maung

Thein of Mro(a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, U Saw San Shwe of Union Kayin League and U Saw Joseph (a) Joseph Tun of Wa National Development Party read out the proposal to be submitted to the National Convention Plenary Session to lay down the detailed basic principles of the chapters on Amendment of Constitution, State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital, Transitory Provisions and General Provisions to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

Afterwards, the meeting chairman made conclusion remarks.



Delegate Group of Representatives-elect

Similarly, the Delegate Group of Representatives-elect held its group meeting at the meeting hall-2 in Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

At the meeting, U Maung Gyi of Union Pa-O National Organization presided over the meeting together with U Law Hsin Kwan of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and U Mann Tin Aung of (a) U Mann Myo Nyunt of Union Kayin League. Deputy Director U Khin Sein of NCC Work Committee Office acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director Daw Me Me Shein, co-MC.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the meeting valid as the attendance accounted for 91.67 per cent. Next, the meeting chairman made a speech on the occasion.

Next, delegates representative-elect U Thet Wai of Wakema Township Constituency-2 of Ayeyawady Division and U Thein Tun of Ingapu Township Constituency-2 read out the proposal of National Unity Party to be submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention to lay down the detailed basic principles of the chapters on Amendment of Constitution, State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital, Transitory Provisions and General Provisions to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

(See page 11)



Alternate Chairman U Maung Gyi of Union Pa-O National Organization addresses the group meeting of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect. — MNA



Vice-Chairman of Palaw Township NLD quits

YANGON, 18 Dec — U Maung Aye (a) U Maung Maung Aye of Shatpon village, Vice-Chairman of Palaw Township National League for Democracy in Taninthayi Division, resigned from NLD of his own accord sending copies of his resignation to NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In his resignation letter sent to Palaw Township National Democracy General Election Sub commission, he said he quit the party of his own volition on the grounds that he has lost faith and trust in the party due to its subversive acts and wants to start his own business. —MNA

Delegate Groups' meetings held...

(from page 10)

Afterwards, independent delegate Dr Hmu Htan of Htantalon Township Constituency of Chin State read out the collective proposals of Dr Hmu Htan of Htantalon Township Constituency of Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency of Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency of Shan State (North). Next, U San Tha Aung of Kyauktaw Township Constituency-2 of Rakhine State read out the proposal of Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization.

Later, independent delegates U Tin Win of Kyaiklat Township Constituency-2 of Ayeyawady Division and U Theim Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1 of Magway Division read out the collective proposals of independent delegates U Tin Win of Kyaiklat Township Constituency-2 of Ayeyawady Division, U Theim Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1 of Magway Division, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township Constituency-2 of Magway



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win extends greetings at Christmas service. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Dec—The Myanmar Council of Churches and the Yangon Catholic Church co-organized Christmas Service at St. Mary Cathedral Church on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Botahtaung Township here yesterday afternoon.

Abbot of St. Mary Cathedral Church Ven. David Tin Htut said prayers.

Next, greetings of Archbishop Charles Bo

was read.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivered an addresses.

General Secretary of the Yangon Catholic Church expressed thanks and presented gifts to the commander, the minister and heads of department.

The Bible was read out. The general secretary of the Yangon Catholic Church and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Churches Ven. U KD Lwan delivered preaches.

Chairman of the Council of Churches Chief Archbishop of the Myanmar Christian Council of Churches Mann Si San Htay prayed for God's blessing.

MNA

Division, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township Constituency-2 of Yangon Division, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency-1 of Yangon Division and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township Constituency-2 of Yangon Division.

Next, responsible personnel presented the proposals read out and the meeting chairman made concluding remarks.—MNA



IBTC Managing Director U Aung Moe Kyaw awards Soe Myat Min, who won Man of the Match award in the match of the second Grand Royal Invitational football tourney between Myanmar football selection team and Indonesia team in Ba Htoo sport ground in Mandalay on 17 December.—NLM



Myanmar's U23 team playing against Malaysia's U23 team in the second Grand Royal Invitational football tourney in Ba Htoo sport ground in Mandalay on 17 December.—NLM

Six killed in shooting spree in US

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — Six people were killed Saturday morning in Kansas City, in the Midwestern US state of Missouri, in which a man shot five people and later himself to death, US media reported.

The gunman first killed one woman, reportedly his cousin, and then shot his girlfriend and their four children ranging from one year to 14 years old in another place. The man killed himself later.

Only one of the

children survived the shooting, but he was in critical condition, news reports said.

It was not known immediately what had caused the man to shoot his children and relatives.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists to continue search for white-place dolphins

WUHAN, 18 Dec— Chinese scientists said they will continue to search for the rare white-flag dolphin although it is possibly extinct as a 38-day search failed to find any in the Yangtze River.

Wang ding, head of a team of scientists that concluded their fruitless white-flag dolphin search

on Wednesday, said the efforts to search for and protect the dolphin should continue as there might be some such dolphins still living.

“We will try every effort to save them as long as it is not announced to be extinct,” said Wang, who is also vice-director of the hydrobiology

institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Wang said human beings had achieved successes in the protection of endangered species such as David's deer, which has grown into a population of 3,000 worldwide from the verge of extinction.

MNA/Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (109)

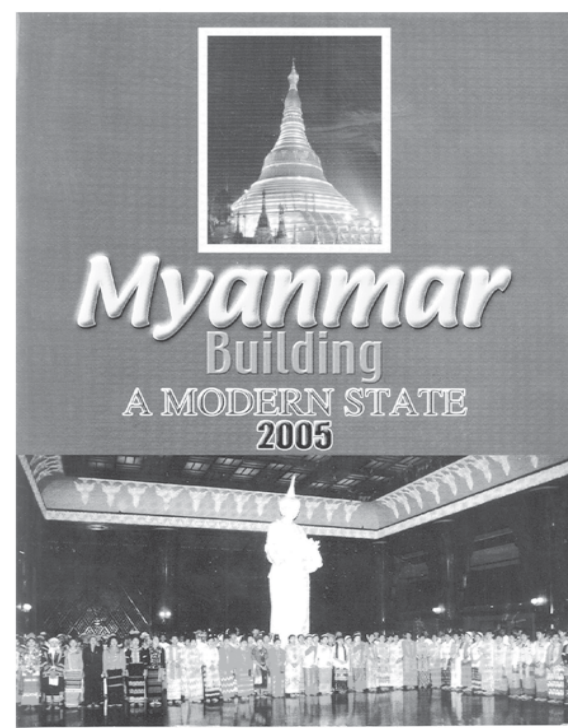
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (109) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 18.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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**Myanma Foodstuff Industries
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1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Foodstuff Industries, for Supply of the following.

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	33 (T) IRM-MFI (DAGON) 2006-2007	Plastic Seed for Drinking water	2 Items
2.	35(T) IRM-MFI (Beer)	Raw Material for Beer Factory	13 Items

Closing Date & Time: 3.1 2007 (Wednesday) (16:00) Hours

2. Tender document is available at the office of the General Manager (Marketing), Myanma Foodstuff Industries, 192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon starting from 20-12-2006 during the office hours.

3. For further details Please Call-01-561054.

Kazakh President urges long-term strategy for C Asia security

ALMATY, 17 Dec— Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Friday called for long-term security strategies to safeguard the Central Asia region.

Speaking at a celebration commemorating the 15th anniversary of

the country's independence in the capital, Nazarbayev said that many factors—including Iran's complicated geopolitical situation, international terrorism, religious extremism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

illegal immigration and smuggling of drugs and weapons — pose severe threats to the security in the whole of Asia.

Future economic development and the people's welfare largely depend on the security of the nation and the whole Asia, the President said.

There is a need to maximize the competitiveness of the whole of Central Asia to ensure the security and stability of the region, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

India to invest in Myanmar Port

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec— India will invest 4.5 billion rupees (100 million US dollars) in developing Myanmar's Sittway Port to connect northeast India with East Asia, a senior Indian official said Saturday.

The project will start next month and be completed within the next three years, said Minister of State for Commerce Jairam Ramesh in

Agartala, capital of northeast Indian state Tripura, according to *Indo-Asian News Service*. The Indian Government wants to connect northeast India with the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries going round Bangladesh, he said.

India plans to connect northeast state Mizoram with the Sittway Port, earlier known as Akyab

Port, through the Kaladyn River.

India will also spend 8.5 billion rupees (about 188.89 million US dollars) in developing 13 Land Customs Stations (LCSs) in border areas in next three years and improve bordering infrastructure in a bid to increase trade with neighbouring countries, Ramesh said.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian countries commit to better air quality

JAKARTA, 17 Dec— Asian nations refreshed a commitment to support initiatives to improve urban air quality, a media reported here on Saturday.

An agreement was announced by representatives of 20 Asian governments attending the region's First Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality, which was held on the sidelines of the three-day Better Air Quality 2006 workshop in Yogyakarta Province. The workshop ended on Friday. Participants to the meeting came from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Among them were representatives of international organizations including the Asian

Development Bank, World Bank and the World Health Organization, who acted as observers.

MNA/Xinhua

Finnish, Russian universities agree on common teaching programmes

HELSINKI, 17 Dec— Five Finnish and four Russian universities will begin cooperation on common teaching programmes next autumn, the Finnish media reported on Friday. Under an agreement signed at the Lappeenranta Technical University in Finland on Thursday, the universities will begin training students in common masters' degree programmes in six different fields, including information technology, history, forestry, health care, business administration, and international relations.

Between 20 and 40 students from Finland and Russia will be chosen for each programme each year. Students will spend half of their two-year curriculum in Finland and the other half in Russia.

Finnish institutions participating in the project are the universities of Helsinki, Tampere, Kuopio and Joensuu, as well as Lappeenranta Technical University. The Russian institutions involved are the State University of St Petersburg, the State Technical University, the European University, and the State University of Petrozavodsk.

MNA/Xinhua



Strollers are pictured in front of the townhall in Hamburg, Germany, as they visit the Christmas market on 17 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A diver gives the finishing touches to an underwater nativity scene set up into the shark tank of the aquarium of Cattolica, Italy, on 16 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

IFRC criticizes unfair distribution of disaster funds

GENEVA, 16 Dec — Individuals and governments donated a record 17 billion US dollars to help disaster victims in 2005, but the distribution of those funds was quite inequitable, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said on Thursday.

In 2005, the international community responded more generously to people's humanitarian assistance than any time in recent history, IFRC said in its annual World Disasters Report. But millions of people still missed out on vital, potentially life-saving aid because funds were directed at high-profile disasters, while countless other crises were neglected, the report said.

According to the Geneva-based federation, the Indian Ocean tsunami was the best-funded disaster in 2005, with at least 1,241 dollars per beneficiary in humanitarian aid. While emergency appeals for Chad, Guyana, Ivory Coast, Malawi and Niger raised on average less than 27 dollars per person in need.

"The generous response in 2005 shows people and governments are committed to helping those in need," said Jan Manuel Suarez del Toro, president of the federation.

But he said the huge disparities of aid distribution was unacceptable. "Now we must ensure aid goes where it is most needed and that it is not skewed for political, security or media reasons."

The report also complained about uneven media coverage of disasters. It noted that Hurricane Katrina, which killed about 1,300 people, generated 40 times more media coverage than Hurricane Stan, which killed 1,600 people in Guatemala shortly afterwards.

MNA/Xinhua

Two astronauts finish second spacewalk

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — Two astronauts finished the second spacewalk ahead of schedule on Thursday, successfully rewiring the *International Space Station*, according to NASA TV.

Mission Specialists Robert Curbeam and Christer Fuglesang took on the roles of electricians and movers during the 5-hour excursion, which ended at 7:41 pm EST (0041 GMT on Friday). They rearranged the station's power system from a

temporary status to a permanent setup and relocated two equipment carts. To prepare the station for the spacewalkers' electrical work, flight controllers sent a barrage of commands to power down roughly half of the station's systems.

As the spacewalk began at 2:41 pm EST (1941 GMT), Curbeam and Fuglesang rewired two of the station's four power channels. After they finished the connections, flight controllers began

sending commands to power up the electrical systems in their new configuration.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia to establish Bank of Development

Moscow, 16 Dec—The Russian Government approved a bill on setting up a state-owned Bank of Development, Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov said on Thursday.

"We should try to create a financial instrument that allows solving current matters, development of the infrastructure, management of investment funds, support to exports, development segment

of the economy where private investors do not come," Fradkov was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

The bill is hoped to be approved by the Lower House of Parliament in the first quarter of 2007, Fradkov said.

The Prime Minister will chair the bank's observer council, which will bring forward proposals to the Russian President on bank chairman.—MNA/Xinhua



Director of Development Shannon Laukhuf holds Toby the box turtle, one of 150 animals seized from a Pound Ridge, NY teenager, at the Westchester County SPCA in Briarcliff Manor, NY, on 14 Dec, 2006. A teenager's compassion for animals in need grew so big that he took in 150 of them, a menagerie of flying, walking and crawling creatures seized by authorities because he could not care for them.

INTERNET



In this photo released by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Felix, a mountain lion at the Queens Zoo in New York, opens his holiday gift by pushing it against a tree on 13 Dec, 2006. Felix and other animals at the zoo will be getting gifts this weekend as part of the zoo's annual 'presents to the animals,' a month-long celebration of the holiday season.—INTERNET

Indonesia awards oil exploration rights to 18 firms

JAKARTA, 16 Dec — The Indonesian Government has awarded exploration rights over new oil blocks to 18 companies in a bid to raise oil production, local Press reported Thursday.

Among the winners are a consortium made up of the third-biggest US oil company, ConocoPhillips, and Norway's Statoil ASA, and China's largest offshore oil producer, CNOOC, reported major national newspaper *The Jakarta Post*.

ConocoPhillips and its partner Statoil won the rights to explore oil and gas in the Kuma block in western Sulawesi, while CNOOC and its local partner PT Gregori Gas Perkasa won the right to prospect in the Batanghari block in central Sumatra.

MNA/Xinhua

Rejection of construction project at Victoria Falls welcomed

LUSAKA, 16 Dec — A Zambian tourism official has welcomed the decision by the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ) to ban the construction of golf course and 450 chalets in the Victoria Falls area.

Times of Zambia quoted Livingstone Tourism Association (LTA) Chairman Nicholas Katanekwa as saying on Thursday that the park is the heart of Livingstone and the decision has protected the future of tourism.

Livingstone Parliament member Sakwiba Sikota also welcomed the decision, which ECZ senior communications officer Justin Mukosa has said was made because the area is too small to accommodate such facilities without disturbing its ecological balance.

The construction of the golf course and chalets at the cost of 260- million-US dollars in the Victoria Falls area has been hotly debated in the southern African country.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Huntelaar's hat-trick earns Ajax victory

BRUSSELS, 18 Dec— Dutch rising star Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scored a hat-trick to earn Ajax a 3-1 away win over Excelsior on Sunday at the Dutch First Division soccer league.

Ajax stay third however after AZ Alkmaar beat Gronigen 2-0 while Feyenoord stumbled to a 2-1 loss to Utrecht on the same day.

Egyptian President congratulates Al-Ahly

CAIRO, 18 Dec— Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday congratulated Al-Ahly, Egypt's best soccer club and five-time African champions based in Cairo, on winning the bronze medal in the 2006 FIFA Club World Cup in Japan, MENA news agency reported.

Earlier in the day, Ahly beat Mexico's Club America 2-1, grabbing the bronze medal in the Club World Cup in the Japanese city of Yokohama.

MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese coach says Egypt's Al-Ahly reach new level

CAIRO, 18 Dec— Manuel Jose, Portuguese coach for Egypt's Al-Ahly, said Ahly are now capable of playing at the highest levels after they clinched the bronze medal in the 2006 FIFA Club



Internacional team members celebrate their victory at the FIFA Club World Cup soccer tournament after defeating Barcelona in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 17 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Striker Huntelaar, who is nicknamed "The Hunter", opened the scoring for Ajax after 23 minutes and the home side's task was made harder when skipper Jos van Nieuwstadt was dismissed six minutes before the interval for dissent.

MNA/Xinhua



Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee, centre, holds the trophy as he is congratulated by lines of caddies after winning the Volvo Masters of Asia golf tournament at the Thai Country Club Golf Course on 17 Dec, 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. Thongchai captured the title with scores 11-under 277.—INTERNET

Els wins fourth SAA Open title

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Dec— South African golf star Ernie Els won his fourth South African Airways (SAA) Open title at Humewood Golf Club in Port Elizabeth on Sunday.

Els overturned a three-shot deficit on his countryman Trevor Immelman and closed with a 65 to win on 24 under par, three strokes ahead of Immelman, who signed for a 71, the SAPA

news agency reported.

The victory, his first win in a year, saw Els maintain his record of winning at least once a year since 1992. His total of 264 was also a championship record, surpassing the 267 of Tony Johnstone at Durban Country Club in 1993.

Swede Patrik Sjoland finished third on 20 under, while defending champion Retief Goosen was tied fifth on 15 under.

Els was given the wind he wanted for the final round and started well with a birdie at the second. Back-to-back birdies at holes five and six and Immelman's drop on six saw him take the lead, and another drop by Immelman on eight gave Els a two-stroke lead going into the back nine.

With five birdies in six holes from the 12th, Els made the championship his despite a bogey at the last.—MNA/Xinhua

Greek police to set up special unit to tackle soccer violence

ATHENS, 18 Dec— Greek police will set up a soccer violence unit to help prevent incidents at soccer matches and other sports events that will also arrange data exchanges with authorities abroad, police said on Saturday.

Created under a presidential decree, the unit will be housed in a general policing division operations room at police headquarters, Athens News Agency reported.

MNA/Xinhua

South Africa wins COSAFA U20 Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Dec— The South African U20 soccer team won the Metropolitan COSAFA (Council of Southern African Football Associations) Cup with a 2-1 win over Zambia on Sunday.

The final was played at the Mmbatho Stadium in Mafikeng, capital of South Africa's Northwest Province. First and second half strikes by midfielders Bafana Sibeko and Thulani Maseko ensured the victory for the host team, with Zambian captain and tournament's top goal-scorer Sebastian Mwanza scoring for the visitors, the SAPA news agency reported.

After impressive displays in the group stages, the South African team, better known as Amajita, let the foot off the pedal in the final match, where they could have shown more.—MNA/Xinhua



Ma Lin of China competes during the Pro Tour Grand Finals table tennis tournament against Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus in Hong Kong, China, on 16 Dec, 2006. Ma Lin beat Vladimir Samsonov 4-3.—XINHUA

Blatter says Al-Ahly set example for Africa

CAIRO, 18 Dec— FIFA president Joseph Blatter said Sunday in the Japanese city of Yokohama that Al-Ahly's performance in the Club World Cup has set an example for the rest of the African teams on how to be a world-class team, Egyptian soccer website filgoal.com reported.

"Despite finishing in sixth place last year, Ahly played like a world-class side who matched their opponents," Blatter told a Press conference in Yokohama before the third-place tie between Ahly and Club America.

Ahly, Egypt's best soccer club and five-time African champions based in Cairo, became the first African team to clinch bronze in the global event after a classy double from Mohamed Abou-Treika earned them a thrilling 2-1 victory over Club America of Mexico.—MNA/Xinhua

Egypt's Zamalek moves closer to signing new coach

CAIRO, 18 Dec— Zamalek, one of Egypt's best soccer clubs, has moved closer to signing Helmi Toulan, an Egyptian coach, after the sacking of Portuguese boss Manuel Cajuda on Friday, a Zamalek official said Sunday.

Toulan met Zamalek chairman Mamdouh Abbas and few board members and initially accepted the club's offer but delayed his final decision until meeting the whole board on Saturday.

Toulan, former Harras Al-Hodoud coach, has also nominated certain names to work with him in the new technical staff. Toulan, who had a spell with Zamalek as an assistant to German coach Otto Pfister six years ago, demanded Zamalek to give him all authorities to manage the team.—MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Rare bacterium infects 7 children in LA hospitals

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — Seven children became infected with a virulent bacterium, including one baby who probably died as a result, in two hospitals near downtown Los Angeles, officials confirmed Saturday.

The Boyle Heights Hospital first closed its neonatal and pediatric intensive care units to new admissions after identifying an outbreak of pseudomonas aeruginosa, which is believed to have infected five babies last week.

On Friday, the White Memorial Medical Centre closed its high-level pediatric unit after learning that two older children were infected with the bacterium.

Dr Rosalio Lopez, Boyle Heights hospital chief medical officer, said he is unsure if the new cases are linked to the outbreak among babies.

Neither unit will be

reopened until “we believe it is safe for the patients to be admitted”, Lopez said, adding that other parts of the hospital are not affected.

White Memorial officials said they believe that the most likely cause of the outbreak is improper cleaning of a laryngoscope blade, a piece of equipment used to insert breathing tubes. They are working with local, state and federal health investigators to conclusively determine the source.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a common bacterium found in water and soil and can be spread through body contact, fluids and water.

In most people, it is immune systems can ward off infection. dangerous, because their

MNA/Xinhua

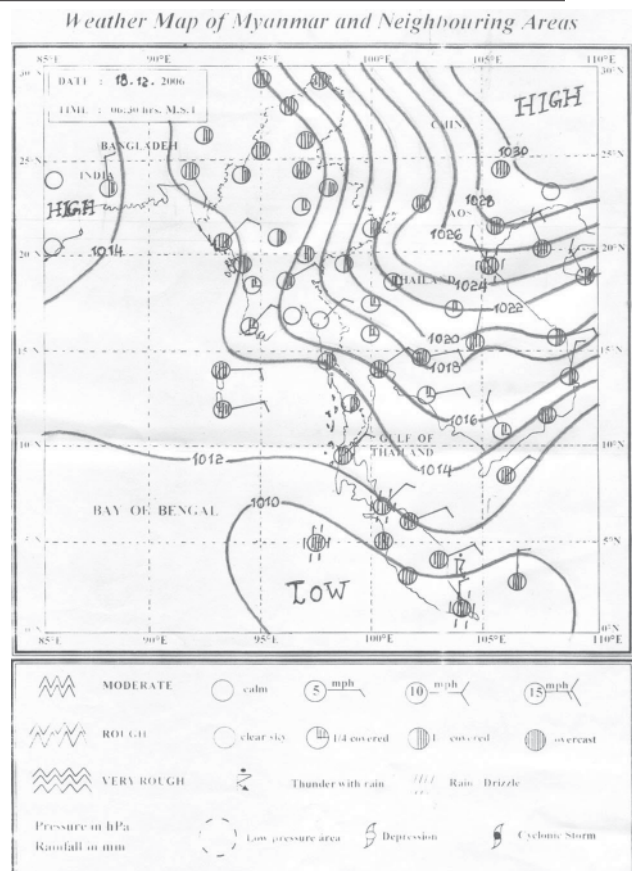
Carving for god Amoun's High Priest discovered in Egypt

CAIRO, 18 Dec — A mission of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) has discovered a stone carving for god Amoun's High Priest in the ancient city Luxor, Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said on Sunday.

The carving was on a large quartzite stone with 17 lines of hieroglyphics and it dated back to King Setnekht, founder of the 20th Dynasty and father of Ramses III who ruled Egypt in the 12th century BC, MENA news agency quoted Hosni as saying.

The discovery is expected to reveal many secrets about the 20th Dynasty, he added, without giving more details.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 18 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) below normal in upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 18-12-2006 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-12-2006 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 17-12-2006 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-12-2006 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 (10) mph from North at 09:30 hours MST on 18-12-2006.

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 19-12-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the Sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-12-2006: Fair weather.



In this photo released by the Wildlife Conservation Society, a young pygmy marmoset holds on to a branch at the Bronx Zoo in New York, on 14 Dec, 2006. This is one of two marmosets born on 20 Aug, and can be expected to reach a height of five inches and weigh in at one half pound. One of the smallest of all monkey species, the pygmy marmoset inhabits the jungles of Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

INTERNET



Tuesday, 19 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -This time
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45am Music: -Love so high
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -It's you
- 9:05am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -One love
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Honestly OK -Heal
- 9:00pm English Speaking Course Level() Unit()
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Weekly sport reel
- 9:30 pm Music for your listening pleasure -Say it -Hello darling -Paper roses
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 19 December
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U 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. ကဗျာဝန်းဥယျာဉ်
- 8:05 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am 7. Song of yesteryears.
- 8:25 am 8. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း မဟာရာ ရေလှောင်တံ
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. Let's Go
- 3:20 pm 1. နိုင်ငံတကာမိတ်ခေါ် ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (မြန်မာ ယူ-၂၃ဘောလုံး အသင်းနှင့် အင်ဒိုနီးရှား ဘောလုံး အသင်း)
- 5:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit

- 5:20 pm 3. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:50 pm 4. နိုင်ငံတကာမိတ်ခေါ် ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (မြန်မာလက်ရွေးစင် ဘောလုံးအသင်း နှင့် မလေးရှား ယူ-၂၃ ဘောလုံး အသင်း)
- 8:00 pm 5. News
- 6. International news
- 7. Weather report
- 8. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တကယ်သဘောကျတယ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 9. The next day's programme

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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 inspects 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi Multipurpose...

(from page 1)

The Senior General inspected the 12,000 feet long and 200 feet wide runway of the airport.

At Tazone Village about 30 miles north of Homalin, the Senior General and party inspected Htamanthi Multipurpose Hydel Power Dam Project being implemented on Chindwin River.

In the Htamanthi Hall, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min reported to them on the salient points of the project that will be undertaken by

Hydel Power Projects Implementation Department of the ministry, saying that the 1,200-megawatt power station will generate 6,685 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

The minister continued to say that in addition to the Htamanthi Project, the 520-megawatt Mawlaik Hydel Power Project and the 600-megawatt Shwesarye Hydel Power Project will also be implemented. The total generation capacity of the three hydel power projects



Senior General Than Shwe gives cash award to Project Director of Hydel Power Projects Implementation Department U Ko Ko Lay. — MNA

Major requirements for national development are electricity and fuel. That is why the government has been implementing hydro-electric power projects. Earlier completion of the projects will ensure sooner benefits for the State and the people.

on Chindwin River basin is 2,320-megawatt.

He said, of the hydel power plants under construction, Htamanthi Project will have the largest power generation capacity. Hence, the work volume of the project will also be large. The minister then explained the location, axis and other points of the project.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint briefed the

Senior General and party on water resources in Myanmar, geological condition of the area where Htamanthi Dam will be built and the project period and plans.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo explained the task including the dam-building to be carried out by the Irrigation Department of the ministry. The Ministry of A&I and the Ministry of

Electric Power No 1 will make cooperative efforts to build the diaphragm, the spillway and the irrigation network. Personnel concerned have already undergone training to drive the Trench Cutter Machine that will be used in building the diaphragm.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on forests in the project areas, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi (See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on Htamanthi Hydel Power Project presented by Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min.

MNA