

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 20 December, 2006

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

Growing Sino-Myanmar trade contributes much to regional development and transport improvement

Myanmar-China Trade Fair opened in Muse, Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — Myanmar-China Trade Fair was opened at 105th Mile Trade Zone in Muse, Shan State (North) yesterday.

Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein formally opened the fair and delivered addresses.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that the trade fair was opened with the objectives to develop two-way trade and cooperation between Myanmar and China, to find sound economic opportunities and good and trusted friends and for further flourishing of love and friendship between Myanmar and China.

The bilateral trade volume has been increasing thanks to the strenuous efforts of the respective ministries in accord with the directives of superiors. The growing trade volume contributes much to progress and transport improvement of the border



Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut delivers opening speech at Myanmar-China Trade Fair. — MNA

If all neighbours make cooperative efforts to find ways and means to overcome difficulties and challenges, trade volume will rise many times higher. It is believed that the neighbours will extend trade cooperation to form a united force in accord with the Myanmar saying, which goes, "Unity is strength".

area concerned.

Similarly, efforts are being made to develop Myanmar's trade and cooperation with India, Bangladesh, Laos and Thailand. The total volume of two-way trade with those countries is rising higher because of friendship and cooperation. In the previous year, the Myanmar-China Trade Fair was held at Manwein, Muse. This year's venue is the Trade Zone at 105th Mile in Muse. The Trade Zone was opened in April this year.

Minister for Commerce
Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein.
MNA



It is the first and largest trade zone in Myanmar. The fair houses over 200 booths that are displaying beans and pulses, corn, fruits, aqua products, forest products, agricultural produce and polished gems, and personal and household goods manufactured by industrial zones. The fair produces opportunities for buyers and sellers to meet. The second day programme is for the traders to reach agreements and hold meetings.

In addition to traders from Myanmar and China, their counterparts of India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos have been invited to the fair to serve the interests of all. The meetings at the fair will contribute towards enhancing friendship and trade. In addition to displaying their goods, traders will have the opportunity to reach agreements.

Thanks to the age-old friendship, understanding and sympathy among the neighbours, success has been achieved in sector-wise cooperation in all aspects. As trade is the main driving force behind development, the growing trade volume will serve the interest of all the neighbours. The neighbours are involved in the ASEAN, BIMSTEC, GMS and ACMECS in one way or another.

About 70 percent of two-way trade between Myanmar and China go through formal procedures. (See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 20 December, 2006

Hydel electric power projects along Chindwin River Basin

Electric power is a fundamental factor for the development of the nation's economy, productivity and social sector. Being blessed with a great number of rivers and creeks, Myanmar is now speeding up electric power generation from its aquatic resources.

The government has implemented hydel power projects in all favourable regions. Chindwin River Basin has seen Htamanthi multi-purpose dam hydel power project, Mawlaik hydel power project and Shwesaryay hydel power project.

Upon completion, Htamanthi multi-purpose dam hydel power project will be able to generate 1,200 megawatts and benefit more than 1 million acres of arable lands.

Among the ongoing hydel power projects, Htamanthi multi-purpose dam hydel power project will produce electricity more than any other project. And it will produce more than 6,000 kilowatt hours annually.

In addition, on completion, Mawlaik hydel power project will be able to produce 520 megawatts and Shwesaryay hydel power project, 600 megawatts. So, the hydel power projects along Chindwin River Basin will generate over 2,300 megawatts.

Today, the government is establishing more and more industries for the industrial development of the nation. It is believed that by making increased efforts to ensure completion of the ongoing hydel power projects on schedule and to extend distribution of electricity, the nation will be able to boost commodity production and raise the socio-economic standard of the people.



U Nay Myo Tun and Daw Tin Tin Nu of Bangkok, Thailand, donate K 250,000 to Hwinzigon Home for the Aged recently. Joint Treasurer of the Home U Maung Maung Gyi accepted the donation which will be spent on providing meals and construction of a two-storey building for the home. — H

PEOPLE'S VOICES

- * 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

Pyapon gets new tarred road

YANGON, 19 Dec — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Independence Day, a new tarred road was inaugurated in Pyapon, Ayeyawaddy Division, on 17 December.

The road was 2,500 ft long and 14 ft wide and constructed by Pyapon Township Development Affairs Department. The construction of the road was funded by Pyapon Township DAD.

The road was formally opened by officials concerned in the presence of Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

The road is a major route linking Pyapon, Bogale and Kyaiklat.

After the ceremony,



Opening ceremony of gravel road in Shankwin Village, Pyapon Township in progress. — PBANRDA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt went to Bogale and attended the opening ceremony of Kandawgyi Road which was upgraded from the earthen type to tarred one. The road is 2,950 ft long and 12 ft wide and construction of it was funded by Bogale

Township DAD. The minister also went to Thayet Creek in Bogale and assisted in construction of a wooden bridge which is 100 ft long and 12 ft wide.

During his tour of Bogale, CEC Member of Union Solidarity and De-

velopment Association Minister Col Thein Nyunt met with executives and members of Ayeyawaddy Division, Pyapon District and Bogale Township USDAs, departmental officials and members of social organizations in Bogale. — MNA

Minister visits railroad project, attends opening of earth road in Waw Tsp



Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of railroad linking Sittoung and DaikU. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Myanmar Railways Managing Director U Min Swe and officials, visited Sittoung (Hsathwagun)-Myitkyo-DaikU railroad project site yesterday morning and inspected the project work. Next, he visited the sites for construction of the 352-foot-long bridge across Sittoung canal, Nagapauk creek bridge and Hsathwagontaya railway station and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The minister, who is also CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, attended the opening of village-to-village earth road and a ceremony to submit USDA membership applications in Kamakaban Village in Waw Township. The

CEC member accepted the applications of various villages of the township and donated K 1 million for the renovation of the road. Later, he donated desks to the post-primary school in Myodwingyi ward, Bago Division. — MNA

ICT exhibition and market festival on 23 Dec

YANGON, 19 Dec — Under the sponsorship of Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association, educational project contest and ICT exhibition and market festival will be held at Myanmar Info-Tech building in Hline Township from 23 to 25 December 2006.

MNA



US Congressmen take part in a Press conference at the National Hotel in Havana, Cuba on 17 Dec, 2006. Arrived in Havana on 15 Dec, the 10-member US congressional delegation, the largest to go to Cuba since Castro's 1959 revolution, met with senior Cuban officials aiming at easing bilateral tensions between two countries.—XINHUA

Malaysia to upgrade Penang Port

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Dec—Penang Port in Malaysia will upgrade its infrastructure and facilities with an injection of 1 billion ringgit (277.78 million US dollars) in the next five years, a newspaper report said on Monday.

The port's Chief Operating Officer Mohd Niana Merican said the investment would cover costs to extend its wharf, depend its draft and purchase six new Post Panamax cranes.

"With the delivery of the two Panamax cranes,

our handling capacity will be increased to 1 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) next year, which should have been our capacity for this year," he was quoted as saying by the *New Straits Times* (NST).

Currently, the port has seven cranes and two new cranes are to be delivered by February next year.

Mohd Niana said that due to the delay in the delivery, the port has been facing a shortage of cranes for the past one year.

Meanwhile, Penang

Port plans to deepen its draft to 14 metres to accommodate bigger vessels in the future, said Mohd Niana.

Once the draft is extended to 14-metre deep, it will be able to take up to 7,000-TEU vessels, compared with just 3,000-TEU vessels now.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's power group urged to produce more electricity

HANOI, 18 Dec—The Vietnamese Government has instructed the Electricity Group of Vietnam (EVN), a formerly state-owned corporation, to record annual growth of 16-17 per cent between 2006 and 2010, local media reported Monday.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung on Sunday gave the instruction at a ceremony on turning the state-owned corporation into an economic group operating in various fields, including production of electricity and construction materials and provision of information technology services, *Saigon Liberation* newspaper said. He also required the EVN to be more competitive both in the domestic market and foreign ones like Laos,

Cambodia and China. The economic group has a registered capital of nearly 48.4 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (some three billion US dollars).

The restructure of the EVN, Vietnam's biggest electricity producer and sole distributor, will help wipe out monopolies and encourage other economic sectors to develop the local energy sector, *Vietnam News* newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua



Mobile phones made of gold and diamonds are displayed on the Top Show, a luxury goods exhibition in Shenzhen on 17 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Dutch police net 32 smuggling drugs on one flight

BRUSSELS, 18 Dec—The Dutch anti-drug personnel have arrested 32 passengers suspected of drug smuggling on one flight.

The drugs haul, exceptionally huge in terms of the number of suspects, was made a week ago but only revealed by local media on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

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Iran ready to share N-technology with neighbours

TEHERAN, 18 Dec—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Saturday that his country is ready to share its nuclear technology with neighbouring countries, according to his official website.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to provide regional states with its valuable experience and achievements in the field of peaceful nuclear energy as a source of clean energy and a proper replacement for oil," Ahmadinejad was quoted as telling visiting Kuwaiti envoy Mohammad Dhaifullah Sharar.

The Iranian President welcomed a decision made by leaders at a Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) summit held in Riyadh last weekend to establish nuclear power plants, the website said.

For his part, Sharar said that enhanced exchange of views and cooperation between Kuwait and Iran would serve the interests of all regional states.

Leaders of six Gulf Arab states announced last Sunday that their countries would jointly develop peaceful nuclear technology and draw up a plan for the purpose.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese travel agency fined for selling cheap air tickets

JINAN, 18 Dec—A travel agency in east China's Shandong Province has been fined 150,000 yuan (19,180 US dollars) by the local

government for selling air tickets for one yuan (13 US cents) each.

The Jinan Price Bureau said in a notice that Jinan Spring Holiday Travel Agency had broken the regulations on selling discounted air tickets by the National Development and Reform Commission and the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

Jinan Spring Holiday Travel Agency and its parent company, the budget airline Spring, put more than 400 one-yuan tickets on the market on 28 November and they sold out in three days.

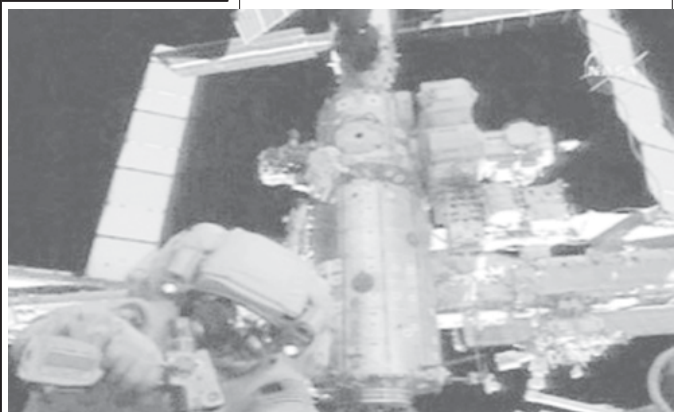
The tickets were for flights between Jinan and Shanghai from 30 November to 10 December and accounted for 10 per cent of all the seats.

The national regulation dictates that airlines can only offer discounts of up to 45 per cent on standard air tickets. But the travel agency argued that the regulation did not specify whether it referred to every ticket sold or the total number of tickets sold by the airline.

The travel agency plan to plead their case with the local government and ask for the fine to be revoked.

MNA/Xinhua

In this image from NASA TV astronaut Robert Curbeam works with a handheld power tool during his spacewalk with the International Space Station in the background on 16 Dec, 2006. — XINHUA



CPPCC leader ends Macao tour

MACAO, 18 Dec— Liu Yandong, Vice-Chairwoman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), wrapped up her Macao tour and departed for Beijing here on Sunday.

The official arrived here Wednesday to attend the Overseas Chinese World Conference for Promoting Peaceful

Reunification of China, which is launched annually by overseas Chinese pro-reunification organizations worldwide.

Liu told the media at the Macao International Airport that during her visit she has eyed the dramatic change of Macao under the leadership of Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah and his administration.

Macao's change

proves the success of the implementation of "one country, two systems", and demonstrates that the Macao Basic Law is the legal foundation of Macaos", prosperity and stability, said the official.

She expressed her wish that the Macao compatriots would exert more effort to build a more prosperous, harmonious and beautiful Macao.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်စုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Military officials of China and Pakistan discuss in a meeting during a joint anti-terrorism exercise in Abbottabad, Pakistan on 17 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA



Will Smith's new film *The Pursuit of Happyness*, the story of a struggling salesman and father, opened as the top film in the United States and Canada last week. INTERNET

Vietnamese PM arrives in Cambodia for official visit

PHNOM PENH, 18 Dec— Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung arrived here on Monday morning for a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen.

During his first ever official visit to the kingdom since he was elected as Prime Minister, Nguyen Tan Dung is scheduled to meet Acting Head of State and President of National Assembly Heng Samrin and Hun Sen.

MNA/Xinhua

Six stolen Zimbabwean antiques recovered in Poland

HARARE, 18 Dec— Six antiques that were stolen from the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in June this year have all been recovered in Poland, *The Sunday Mail* reported.

An official at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, who preferred

anonymity, was quoted as saying that the antiques had been recovered in good condition. She could not say when the antiques would be returning home.

"We are delighted and impressed with the people who managed to trace the artifacts.

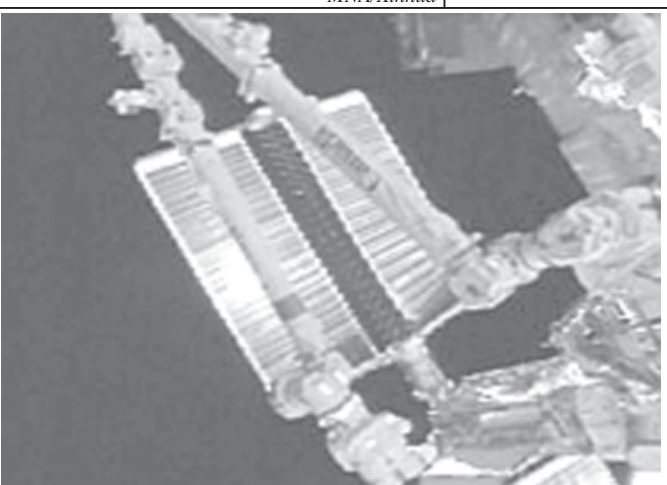
The gallery will definitely reinforce security measures so that there will not be a repeat of such thefts," she said.

"This will send a message to world dealers that we will do all we can to recover any stolen antiques.

"Apparently, we are targeted by world dealers as we have the most valuable antiques that bring in large sums of money when sold outside the country," she said.

According to the Museum Security Network website, a seller in Poland offered the stolen antiques to a collector in the USA five weeks ago.

MNA/Xinhua



The International Space Station's troublesome P6 solar array is shown in this NASA TV on 17 Dec, 2006 video grab.

XINHUA

Helicopter crash kills two in Moscow

Moscow, 18 Dec— A two-seat helicopter crashed in the Voskresensk District of the Moscow Region on Saturday, killing two people on board, the information department of the Russian Emergencies Ministry said.

The helicopter, production of which is being ascertained, crashed near the village of Gorodishche at about 1:15 pm Moscow Time (0815 GMT). The pilot and a passenger were killed.

MNA/Xinhua



A man performs stunt with a motorcycle in Zabei Stadium in Shanghai on 16 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

Global copper production exceeds projected output

LUSAKA, 18 Dec— The global copper market recorded a surplus of 306,000 tons during the first 10 months this year, one-third more than the forecasted production, a Zambian newspaper reported Saturday.

The Post quoted the

World Bureau of Metal Statistics (WBMS) as reporting that Zambian production rose by 62,000 tons, while Indian and Japanese production went up by 107,000 tons and 116,000 tons respectively.

Copper consumption during the first 10 months

totalled almost 15 million tons, up by 1.6 per cent from the same period last year.

In October, world refined copper production stood at 1.46 million tons while demand totalled 1.41 million tons.

MNA/Xinhua

China, US sign MoU on N-power technology

BEIJING, 18 Dec— China and the United States on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding for Westinghouse Electric Co to provide technology for four nuclear power units to be built in China. The memorandum of understanding was signed by China's Minister of the National

Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Ma Kai and US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman. "The pact was signed to ensure the introduction of technology and the smooth construction of the nuclear power plants," according to a statement released by the NDRC. The US-based

Westinghouse will provide China with the AP1000 technology, a light water nuclear reactor which has an advanced design and an automatic system to deal with emergencies. The deal was signed on the sidelines of a five-country energy ministers meeting in Beijing. MNA/Xinhua



World Ice Art Champion and Team USA Captain Steven Berkshire of Michigan carves a polar bear from 1400 lbs (635 kg) of ice inside Union Station as part of the 'Norwegian Christmas at Union Station' sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington end of last month.—INTERNET

Indian PM leaves for home after visit to Japan

TOKYO, 18 Dec— Prime Minister Manmohan Singh left here Saturday for home after four-day visit during which he held talks with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on various issues including India's growing need for civilian nuclear energy.

During the talks Japan agreed to engage in discussions with India on civilian nuclear cooperation under "appropriate" international safeguards in a clear indication that it may come round to backing the Indo-US nuclear deal.

Japan stopped short of any direct support to the landmark Indo-US deal but said that international civilian nuclear energy cooperation should be enhanced through "constructive approaches" under appropriate International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The two countries also decided to establish a strategic and global partnership and signed nine agreements covering a range of areas including political, economic and defence sectors. Stepping up their defence and security ties, the two countries put in place a mechanism of cooperation among their Coast Guard forces to secure maritime interests in their large Exclusive Economic Zones with a focus on the fight against piracy. The decision to enhance defence cooperation was taken at talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe with the aim of achieving the common goal of promoting security, stability and prosperity in Asia and in the world as large.—MNA/PTI



A visitor walks past an Egyptian queen dressed as Isis, displayed as part of the exhibition 'Egypt's Sunken Treasures' presented at Paris' Grand Palais, recently.—INTERNET

China's largest underwater exploration project completed

BEIJING, 18 Dec— China's Ordos Basin has a proven annual under-

water supply of 10.5 billion cubic metres, with 5.8 billion cubic metres exploitable every year, according to a latest report from China Geological Survey Bureau.

The bureau said it has singled out 161 sources with aggregate exploitable underwater of 2.2 billion cubic metres per year.

Situated in northwest China's Loess Plateau, Ordos Basin has become an important coal production base since 1980s and serves as a crucial energy engine to power the Western China Development Strategy and alleviate national energy shortage.

MNA/Xinhua



Germany's Aliona Savchenko (L) and Robin Szolkowy perform during the Gala exhibition of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating final in St Petersburg on 17 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Four killed in Indonesian earthquake

JAKARTA, 18 Dec— Four people were killed and buildings were damaged in a strong earthquake on Indonesia's Sumatra Island early Monday morning, according to a local media report.

The 5.8-magnitude tremor struck just before dawn and was centred off the coast of Sumatra Island, the report said. "At least four people were killed in one village in north Sumatra when two houses collapsed," it added.

No tsunami warning was issued as a result of the quake.—MNA/Xinhua

13 killed in traffic accident in north China

HONHOT, 18 Dec— Thirteen people were killed in a traffic accident in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, police said on Sunday.

The accident occurred at 8:15 am Saturday when a coach with 49 people onboard overtook a truck and collided head-on with another coach carrying 24 people in Tongliao, Inner Mongolia.

Eight people were killed on the spot and 27 others were injured and sent to hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bombing kills Afghan civilian, injured three others

KABUL, 18 Dec— A suicide bombing targeting the US-led coalition forces killed one civilian and wounded three others in Khost Province of eastern Afghanistan on Sunday. A man strapping explosives on his body attacked a coalition convoy in Nadir Shah Kot District, killing an Afghan civilian and wounding three others, the district chief Lutfullah Khan told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua

Three US soldiers killed in Iraq bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec— Three American soldiers were killed and a fourth was wounded Saturday when a roadside bomb went off near their vehicle north of Baghdad, the US military said on Sunday.

The attack occurred when a military patrol was conducting a "route clearance mission in order to free the roads of any possible dangers so that a follow-on unit could move through the area without harm", the military said in a statement.—MNA/Xinhua



A stockholder looks at the share-list at a stock exchange in Yichang, Hubei Province on 18 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

Greece says Turkey gas pipeline to operate in 2007

ATHENS, 18 Dec — The Greek section of a natural gas pipeline to Turkey is due to begin operating in May 2007, Development Minister Dimitris Sioufas said on Saturday.

The domestic stretch is budgeted at 82 million euros (108 million US dollars), Sioufas told a celebration by the Public Gas Corporation to mark the 10th year of natural gas consumption in Greece.

“On operation of the pipeline, a major step will have been taken for implementation of a natural

gas corridor between Greece, Turkey and Italy,” the minister said. The 250-million-euro (320-million-dollar) project starts from the Turkish town of Karacabey to the northern Greek town of Komotini, carrying natural gas from Azerbaijan’s massive Shakh Deniz gas field and possibly other suppliers as well. Natural gas

consumption in Greece totals 400 million cubic metres annually.

Greece and its western neighbour Italy are also planning to build a gas pipeline, the construction of which is expected to begin in 2008. By building the pipelines, the European countries intend to reduce dependence on Russia for energy supplies.

MNA/Xinhua

Road accidents kill 15, injure 33 in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Dec — A total of 15 people were killed and 33 injured in two separate road accidents in South Africa on Saturday.

The SAPA news agency reported that eight people were killed and 30 were injured, 18 seriously, when a bus overturned in the Eastern Cape Province on Saturday.

The accident happened after a tyre burst on the vehicle transporting 72 passengers from Cape Town, which caused the driver to lose control.

The driver escaped the accident uninjured, but eight passengers, including three children, were killed.

On the same day, a family of six — including a baby — died in a head-on collision between their car and a bakkie in Mpumalanga Province.

A man in the bakkie also died and three people were critically injured. They were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The report said both vehicles were trying to avoid a truck that was trying to overtake another truck across a barrier line.

The driver of the truck has been arrested and charged with seven counts of culpable homicide and reckless and negligent driving.

MNA/Xinhua



An H-2A rocket carrying Japan’s largest satellite lifts off from Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on Monday afternoon, 18 Dec, 2006 after poor weather caused a two-day delay. —XINHUA

“AIDS” fund deficit in Uganda worries experts

KAMPALA, 18 Dec — An estimated 600 million US dollars is required for treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS in Uganda over the next five years, yet the inefficient source of funding worried experts.

“The estimate of resources required is quite large. It may not be possible to attain this level of support. In the area of care and treatment, there might be some savings if

the cost of ARV drugs decline,” John Stover, a consultant, was quoted by *New Vision* on Saturday as saying.

“So only a slower pace of scaling up ART coverage to reach the target by 90 per cent is likely to reduce the resources needed,” he told an annual joint review conference by the Uganda AIDS Commission earlier this week. —MNA/Xinhua

Gas leakage kills family of seven in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Dec — A South African family of seven died due to a gas leakage in their home in Ermelo in Mpumalanga Province, police said on Saturday.

A 9-month-old baby, two children aged five and seven, their 31-year-old mother and three elderly people died in their sleep on Thursday, local police spokesperson Abie Khoabane told the SAPA news agency. It was believed that gas from their stove leaked throughout their house. —MNA/Xinhua

Oil tanks catch fire in N-W Albania

TIRANA, 18 Dec — Three oil tanks caught fire on Sunday in a port city in northwestern Albania, and one of them exploded, Interior Ministry officials said.

Four firefighters sustained slight injuries in the explosion of a fuel storage tank as they tried to put out the flames in Shengjin, a small city about 60 kilometres northwestern of Tirana, capital of Albania, police said.

The fire was brought under control, police said. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

Bad weather causes plane crash in Tanzania

ARUSHA (Tanzania), 18 Dec — A preliminary investigation has displayed bad weather probably caused the crash of a light plane which left one killed and five others seriously injured on Saturday in southern Tanzania.

The *Cesna* twin-engine six-seater took off from the Mwanjelwa Airport in Mbeya, south Tanzania.

It crashed into a village, killing Theresia Nyantor, Press officer with the Tanzania Information Services, and injuring five others including Juma Akukweti, Minister of State in the

Prime Minister’s Office in charge of parliamentary affairs.

The pilot, Martin Sumari, was also wounded seriously.

The source that informed *Xinhua* did not identify the other three injured. The three were also from the Prime Minister’s Office.

The light plane was chartered by the Prime Minister’s Office for the tour.

Before the crash, it bumped off the roofs of a couple of houses in the village, but no casualties were reported so far on the ground.

The Tanzanian Gov-

ernment has formed a special team to investigate the crash.

MNA/Xinhua



A replica of the Dutch ship *Duyfken* sails through the Harbour in Sydney, on 13 Dec, 2006. The *Duyfken* has made a 12,000 kilometres (7456 miles) voyage to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first documented European contact with Australia, which occurred at Queensland’s Cape York in 1606. —INTERNET

Specific uses of lesser-used timber species in Myanmar

Rector U Win Kyi-1

With a view to encouraging use of lesser-used timber species in Myanmar and exporting other promising species, with the sponsorship of the International Tropical Timber Organization, research was carried out on 54 such species at the Forest Research Department in Yesin from 1997 to 2000 to discover more findings on wood anatomy, moisture content, shrinkage, dimensional stability, density, specific gravity, static bending, compression, tension, hardness, drying behaviour, kiln schedule, durability, treatability and workability.

The 54 promising but lesser-used timber species were chosen from among the species of timber that grow in Khabaung Forest Reserve and Pyu Forest Reserve in Toungoo District.

According to the findings from the research, the trade names and botanical names of the chosen species are as follows:—

(1) Construction use

Kokko (*Albizia lebbek*), Gyo (*Schleichera oleosa*), Kyetyo (*Vitexpeduncularis*), Chinyok (*Garuga pinnata*), Sit (*Albizziaprocera*), Zaung bale (*Lagerstroemia villosa*), Taung-peinne (*Artocarpus chaplasha*), Taung-thayet (*Swintonia floribunda*), Tawkkyan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Dwani (*Eriolaena candollei*), Nabe (*Lanea coromandelica*), Hnaw (*Adina cordifolia*), Pynma (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), Petthan (*Haplophragma adeno phyllum*),

Panga (*Terminalia chebula*), Pyaukseik (*Holoptelea integrifolia*), Binga (*Mitragyna rotundifolia*), Myauk chaw (*Homalium tomentosum*), Yemane (*Gmelina arborea*), Yindaik (*Dalbergia giacultrata*), Yinma (*Chukrasia tabularis*), Yon (*Anogeissus acuminata*), Leza (*Lagerstroemia tomentosa*), Lein (*Terminalia pyrifolia*), Thadi (*Protium serratum*), Thabye (*Eugenia* spp), Thingadu (*Parashorea stellata*), Thit-sein (*Terminalia bellerica*), Thit-swele (*Schrebera swietenoides*), Thit-magyi (*Albizzia odoratissima*), Thande (*Stereospermum personatum*), Myauk-thwe-gyi (*Myristica* spp) and Myauk-thwe-the (*Myristica angustifolia*),

(2) Furniture use

Kokko, Kuthan (*Hymenodictyon excelsum*), Sit, Zaung bale, Taung-peinne, Taung-petwun (*Pterospermum acerifolium*), Taung-thayet, Tawkkyan, Dwani, Hnaw, Pynma, Petthan, Binga, Myauk chaw, Yemane, Yinzat (*Dalbergia fusca*), Yindaik, Yinma, Leza, Letpan (*Salmalia malabarica*), Lein, Thadi, Thitkado (*Cedrela toona*), Thit-sein, and Thit-magyi,

(3) Veneer use

Taung-peinne, Taung-petwun, Taung-thayet, Tawkkyan, Dwani, Petthan, Panga, Pyaukseik, Yemane, Yinma, Thingadu, and Thitkado,

(4) Floor use

Sit, Thaukkyan, Dwani, Petthan, Pynma, Leza,

Thadi, and Thit-magyi,

(5) Sleeper use

Gyo, Kyetyo, Tawkkyan, Nabe, Petthan, Panga, Myauk-chaw, Yinzat, Yinma, Yon, Thadi, Thit-swele, and Thitpayauang (*Nauclea sessilifolia*),

(6) Sculpture use

Kokko, Sit, Yinzat, Hnaw, Baing (*Tetrameles nudi-flora*), Yindaik, Yemane, and Thitkado,

(7) Farming use

Kokko, Gyo, Kyetyo, Seikchi (*Bridelia retusa*), Zaung bale, Taung-thayet, Tawkkyan, Dwani, Nabe, Pyaukseik, Binga, Yon, Lein, Thabye, and Thit-sein,

(8) Pencil use

Kuthan, Gwe (*Spondias pinnata*), Taung-meok (*Alstonia scholaris*), Dwabok (*Kydiacalycina*), Hnaw, Pyaukseik, Ma-U Lettan-she (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Hmyaseik (*Antiaris toxicaria*), Yemane, Shaw (*Sterculia versicolor*), and Thitkado,

(9) Match and box use

Chinyok, Gwe, Seikchi, Taungthayet, Taung-peinne, Taungmeok, Taung okshit (*Elaeocarpus* spp), Didu (*Salmalia insignis*), Dwabok, Bonmeza (*Albizzia chinensis*), Ma-U Lettan-she, Myaukngo (*Duabanga grandiflora*), Pyaukseik, Letpan, Shaw, Thapan (*Ficus* spp), Thit-sein, and Thit-pagan (*Milletia brandisiana*),

(10) Musical instrument use

Kokko, Chinyok, Taw-thayet (*Mangifera* spp), Taung-thayet, Didu, Pyaukseik, Bonmeza, and Thitkado.

Each of the lesser-used timber species can be used one way or another based on its specific characteristics. If the species are used increasingly instead of exporting the species such as Teak, Ironwood and Thinwin (*Milletia pendula*), the users can save their expenses to an extent and that will serve the interests of the nation.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 19-12-2006

Each of the lesser-used timber species can be used one way or another based on its specific characteristics. If the species are used increasingly instead of exporting the species such as Teak, Ironwood and Thinwin (*Milletia pendula*), the users can save their expenses to an extent and that will serve the interests of the nation.

Mexican authorities arrest drug cartel boss

MEXICO CITY, 19 Dec — Thirty-eight suspected drug smugglers, including a cartel boss, and drugs worth 674.9 million US dollars have been seized by Mexican authorities.

Alfonso Barajas Figueroa, the boss of the Gulf Cartel, was the key suspect in the so-called operation Conjunto Michoacan (Michoacan Together Operation), which took place in the western state of Michoacan.

A security official said a total of 237 marijuana plantations had been destroyed and four kilos of opium poppy seeds with an estimated value of 674

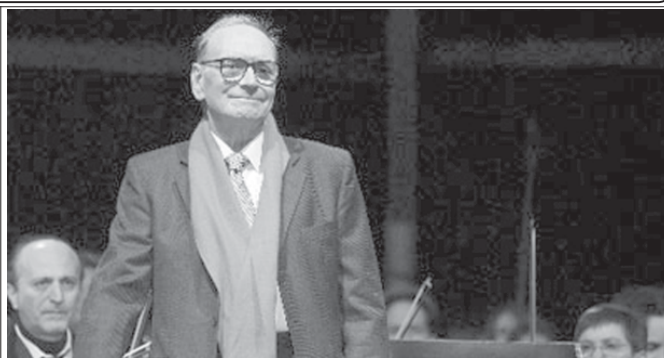
million US dollars were seized during the operation. Additionally, 55 firearms and 12 vehicles are being held by police.

Security forces flew 109 reconnaissance missions over 1,795 marijuana plantations and searched 13,442 individuals and 8,418 vehicles. Around 44 plantations covering a total area of 51,831 square metres had been eradicated in the operation, said the official.

In a separate operation, Mexican authorities arrested two members of the Zetas, a rogue military unit that had joined Mexico's drug traffickers.

In Reynosa, a city in the northern state of Tamaulipas, the authorities arrested the two former soldiers and seized two high powered weapons: an R-15 rifle and an AK-47 sub-machine gun.

MNA/Xinhua



Italian movie composer Ennio Morricone conducts the Sinfonietta orchestra during a Christmas concert in Milan on 16 Dec, 2006. Morricone, famed for his work on such "spaghetti westerns" as "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and "A Fistful of Dollars", will receive an honorary Oscar during the Academy Awards ceremony next February, organizers said earlier this week. —XINHUA

Growing Sino-Myanmar trade contributes much...

(from page 1)

Formal trade will be introduced to all border trade centres. Thanks to the educative trainings conducted down to the township level with the cooperation of the related departments of the Ministry of Commerce, entrepreneurs from all over the nation and local people are to producing more crops for export. They have come to understand more about border trade procedures.

The fruits of trade cooperation among the neighbours are the improvement of living standard of the border areas and developments in the transport and services sectors. All will have to make cooperative efforts to wipe out illegal trade as it may harm the legal trade.

If all neighbours make cooperative efforts way and to find means to overcome difficulties and challenges,



Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province formally open Myanmar-China Trade Fairs-2006. — MNA

trade volume will rise many times higher. It is believed that the neighbours will extend trade cooperation to form a united force in accord with the Myanmar saying, which goes, "Unity is strength".

The Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province, PRC made a speech.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein said the trade fair is an attempt to promote bilateral trade between Myanmar and China and it is an auspicious occasion that reflects the 50th anniversary of bilateral good-

will relations. The trade fairs and talks are held alternately once a year beginning 2001 under the agreement on bilateral border area management and cooperation signed in 1997. They were held in Myanmar in 2002 and 2004 and the 2006 trade fair was the third time, he said. Neighbouring countries, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos were invited to attend the fair, he added.

He also said Myanmar maintains its friendly relations with neighbouring countries and actively takes part in ASEAN and cooperates

with regional economic organizations like BIMSTEC, GMS and ACMECS. Trade volume increases year after year due to the guidance of the Head of State and policy of the trade policy council. Myanmar and China established diplomatic relations based on Paukphaw friendship in 1950.

He said efforts are being made for promotion of bilateral trade and the

all sectors due to Paukphaw friendship that has existed for long. Continued efforts are to be made for promoting border trade to normal trade in accord with the MoU signed in 1997, he added.

Next, the commander, the minister and guests posed for documentary photos. Director-General of Border Trade Department U San Pyi accepted 200,000 mulberries do-

ucts, agricultural produce, marine and rubber products, textile, traditional medicines, rattan ware, personal and household goods and jeeps assembled in industrial zones are on display in Myanmar booths; electrical goods, vehicles, motorcycles and spare parts, farm implements, textile and foodstuff, construction materials, stationery and tourism in Chinese booths; cosmetics, blankets, mats in Thailand booths; medicines in Bangladesh booths and marine products in Indian booths.

The fair continues till 20 December.

ceremony were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, senior military officers, officials, senior officials of the People's Republic of China, members of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, entrepreneurs, traders and economic and trade representatives of China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh, local people and others totalling over 2250.—MNA

Muse 105th mile trade zone, the biggest border trade camp in Myanmar, opened in April 2006, handles 70 per cent of the volume of border trade.



Director-General of Border Trade Department U San Pyi accepts mulberry plants donated by China International Forest Company. — MNA

agreement on bilateral trade was signed on 19 November 1971 and the bilateral border trade on 13 August 1994.

Muse 105th mile trade zone, the biggest border trade camp in Myanmar, opened in April 2006, handles 70 per cent of the volume of border trade. It is important for Myanmar-China border trade and a strategic economic zone among region, South East Asia and East Asia.

He said achievements have been made in

nated by China International Forest Company.

Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Liu Fing formally opened the trade fair.

The commander and the guests inspected salesrooms of local and foreign companies. There are altogether 238 booths at the fair — 110 booths from Myanmar, 122 from China, two each from Thailand, India and Bangladesh.

Gems, wood prod-

Reproductive health training course opens

YANGON, 19 Dec —With the sponsorship of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee conducted the reproductive health course (2/2006) at the Yangon Division Health Department.

Committee Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai addressed the course opening and Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint explained the purpose of the course opening. The five-day course is being attended by 35 youth trainees from four districts.

MNA

Myanmar Marine products festival concludes

YANGON, 19 Dec — Myanmar Marine Products Festival-2006 of Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) concluded at the federation in West Gyogon, Insein Township yesterday.

The Four-day festival was held with the aim of boosting marine products.

The marine products festival is expected to be held every year, MFF said.

MNA

Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Liu Fing.

MNA



Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) wins National Literary Award in general knowledge (arts)

News, photo: Thaug Win Bo

Eighty-seven-year old historian Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) won the 2005 National Literary Award in general knowledge (arts) for her work "Rural administration (1886-97) during the early colonial era".

She had already won the award three times in the past.

Daw Kyan a luminary of the historical field said "As I am interested so much in history, I am still creating literary works based on my historical research. I will continue to compile historical research papers beneficial to the nation. The

award is a prestige for me."

She won the award for the first time in 1978 for her work "The situation of Myanmar"; the second time in 2000 for the paper "In search of the history and other papers"; and for the third time in 2003 for her compilation "The administrative machinery of Mahawun Shindaw Mingyi (1886-97)".

The luminary also won the life-long Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary award in 2004.

The State awarded her for her outstanding performance in arts this year.



Writer Daw Kyan.

After working as a senior researcher at Historical Research Department for over 30 years, she continued to serve the department as an adviser from 1980 to 1984. The 87-year old luminary of the field of history is writing articles and research papers till now.

(Translation: TMT)

Interview with Minshin Aung (Twantay), winner of National Literary Award in Myanmar culture and art genre

News and photo by Ko Ko Soe Nyunt

Minshin Aung (Twantay) won the National Literary Award in Myanmar culture and art genre. His real name is U Hla Thein and his writing career started in 1964 and he wrote poems in the magazines first. His first pen name was Minshin Aung (Sitmye). He has changed his pseudonym to Minshin Aung (Twantay) since 2000.

In an interview with NLM, Minshin Aung (Twantay) said, "I wrote the book, "Maha-Buddha-win-kwet-seik-

zat-htoke-myar-hnint-Dagon Saya Nyunt" to understand and cherish Myanmar culture and art which is near extinction for younger generation. Dagon Saya Nyunt and his family are having a hard time. I am determined to present half of my cash award to him."

Minshin Aung (Twantay) won Sarpay Beikman Manuscript second award for his book, "Myanma-yoke-thay-pyin-nyar-shin-Nan Nyunt Shein (Nan Nyunt Shein: A Myanmar puppeteer)" in 2001. In



Minshin Aung (Twantay)

2003 he won the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award (Research) first award for his book "Maha-Buddha-win-kwet-seik-zat-htoke-myar-hnint-Dagon Saya Nyunt". That book also won the National Literary Award for 2005.

Translation: NY

Shwezarmani brand traditional medicines introduced



Managing Director of Myanmar Zarmani Medicine Production Dr Maung Maung Lay extends greetings. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Dec — Shwezarmani brand Traditional medicines produced by Myanmar Zarmani Medicine Production were introduced today.

At the introducing ceremony held at Traders Hotel here, Director of Myanmar Zarmani Medicine Production Daw Swe Ni Myint briefed on the medicines including Thukha Mon brand tonic

and traditional medicines for women. Thukhamon Tonic can ease the mind and prevent the cardiac disease in women and a traditional medicine for women can ease menstrual pains and itchiness while feeling fresh during the period.

The medicines are available at Ni Lay Naing Co Ltd, No 1190, 50th Street, Pazundaung Township, Ph 01-291805,

378253, 293292.

Dr Maung Maung Lay, Managing Director of Myanmar Zarmani Medicine Production, U Zaw Min Win, Vice President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Patron of Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs Association Daw Saw Mone Nyin extended greetings at the ceremony. — MNA

Distributors of Storm, Galanz, Mikka, Soft-On cosmetic products honoured

YANGON, 19 Dec — Seven Diamond Dragon Trading Co, Ltd honoured distributors of Storm, Galanz, Mikka and Soft-On brand cosmetic products at Park Royal

Hotel here today.

First, Director of the Co U Sai Hu extended greetings and departmental officials, journalists and film stars picked up lucky draws and

officials presented awards to winners.

Next, they gave special awards to those who distributed the products most.

MNA



Mr Dennial reads out message sent from Storm & Galanz Co Ltd (UK).

MNA

Vietnam opens first coffee trading centre

HANOI, 19 Dec — Vietnam, the world's second biggest coffee producer, is expecting to further boost its coffee trade and export by putting the first national coffee exchange centre into operation, local newspaper Vietnam

Investment Review reported Monday.

The Buon Ma Thuot Coffee Exchange Centre (BCEC) in central highlands Dac Lac Province, Vietnam's coffee hub, established in mid-December, initially handles domestic transactions with

a standardized quality management system. In the second phase, it will handle direct electronic transactions with the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE), the world's biggest coffee trading floor.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea, Ukraine sign agreement on space technology cooperation

SEOUL, 19 Dec — South Korea and Ukraine signed an agreement on Monday to carry out closer cooperation in the aerospace sector.

The agreement, signed by South Korean Science Minister Kim Woosik and Valeriy Komarov, Ukraine's first deputy director general of the National Space Agency, will allow South Korea and Ukraine to cooperate in various scientific fields, including basic space science, satellite systems development and launching technologies, South Korean officials said.

The accord will also cover personnel exchanges and development of joint space

programmes, South Korean officials said.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko attended the signing ceremony of the agreement.

The South Korean Government plans to develop the space technology as one of its next-generation economic growth engines. Under an aerospace accord with Russia earlier, South Korea plans to send its first astronaut aboard a Russian space craft in 2008.

Yushchenko arrived here on Monday for a two-day visit. He met with Roh Monday afternoon and is

to hold talks with South Korean Parliament Speaker on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Solar energy bathing to revolutionize hygiene habits in rural China

BEIJING, 19 Dec — Energy experts have devised a cost-effective solar energy bathing scheme aimed at introducing the China's rural population to the joys of a hot bath.

Statistics show that at least 200 million out of China's 800 million rural people only bathe once a month. Tens of millions were found to only bathe once every quarter or every six months, leading to a high number of diseases which resulted from bad hygiene.

The problem is especially acute in western Chinese villages where some farmers and herdsmen do not bathe for a whole lifetime because of poverty and lack of facilities.

Solar energy is being promoted in China's countryside as an alternative to inefficient and polluting gas stoves. The stoves rely on the burning of low-quality briquette that contains sulfur dioxide and other poisonous elements which can cause harm to human health and the environment.

A solar energy bathing scheme set up by the Shandong-based Huangming Solar Energy

Group and Yijianeng Solar Energy Company brought the idea of regular bathing to Zhuangke village in Dezhou city, east China's Shandong Province, last winter.

MNA/Xinhua

China to test new "AIDS" vaccine on humans

BEIJING, 19 Dec — China is seeking volunteers to participate in its second clinic trial of a new AIDS vaccine early next year, a leading Chinese scientist said recently.

The centre is looking for men and women to participate in the trials which will take place in Beijing, said Shao Yiming, chief expert for the National Centre for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention.

He revealed the plan at a conference on Sino-US AIDS vaccine research and development held on Sunday without indicating how many participants will be involved in the trial.

The vaccine was

approved for clinical trials by Chinese drug authorities in November.

Trials on Rhesus Monkeys indicates that the vaccine is safe and effective in preventing HIV infections, Shao said.

In March of 2005 China began its first human clinical trials on an AIDS vaccine in southwestern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The volunteers, 33 men and 16 women aged from 18 to 50, have

been vaccinated and none have had adverse side effects.

According to a recent report, there are 120 clinical trials of AIDS vaccines being conducted on humans throughout the world.

The Ministry of Health said that by the end of this October, a total of 183,733 people had been officially reported to have contracted HIV, 39,644 more than at the end of 2005. — MNA/Xinhua



An unidentified skater jumps on the ice rink set up in front of the Sforza Castle, in Milan, Italy, on Saturday, 16 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Japan launches "H-2A" rocket

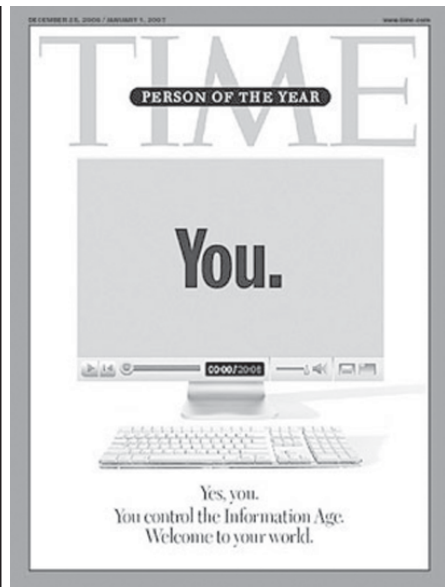
TOKYO, 19 Dec — Japan launches on Monday afternoon an H-2A rocket carrying the country's biggest ever satellite from Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Launch of the rocket was postponed from Saturday because of thick clouds near the space centre.

The 11th and the latest version of the H-2A series of rocket will put the 5.8-ton Kiku No 8 engineering test satellite, Japan's largest stationary satellites, into orbit, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said.

Equipped with four solid strap-on boosters, the rocket boasts the biggest payload capacity in the flagship H-2A series.

The engineering test satellite bears the mission to test technology designed to enable communications between a mobile phone-size device on the ground and a stationary satellite that can cover the entire Japanese archipelago, according to Kyodo News. — MNA/Xinhua

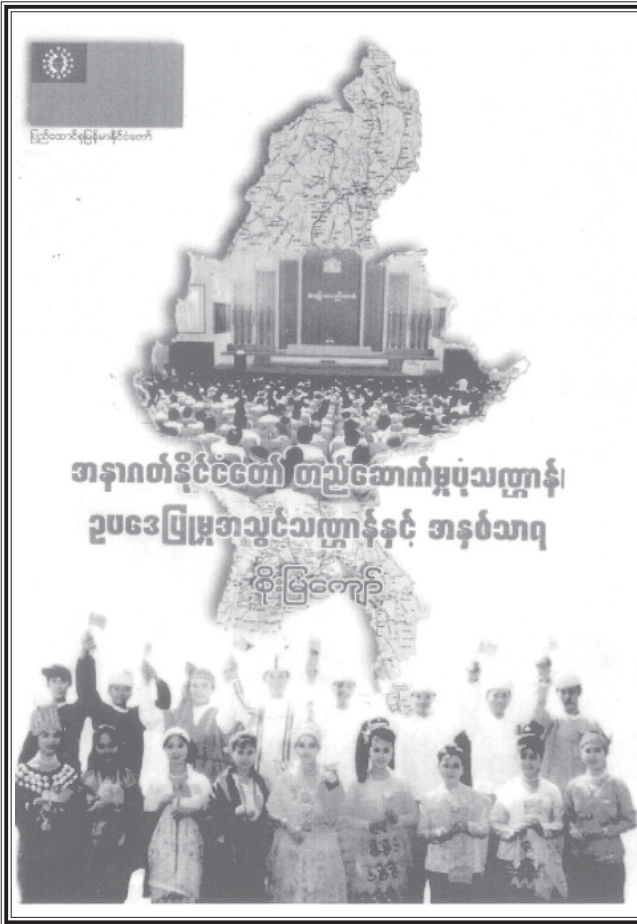


Time magazine unveiled its "Person of the Year" for 2006 on 16 Dec, 2006, as — You, the creators and consumers of user-generated Internet content like video-file sharing site YouTube and social network MySpace. — XINHUA



Adelle penguins make their way to the water in the Cape Evans region of Antarctica in this file picture. The first Adelle penguin chicks of the season -- black fluffballs small enough to hold in the hand -- started hatching this month, and the simple fact that there are more of them in the south and fewer of them further north is a sign of global warming, scientists say recently.

INTERNET



- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှုနှင့်မျှော် ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။
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စိုးမြင်ကျော် ဇာ

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- ရောင်းစုံ သရုပ်ဖော်ပုံများနှင့် စာမျက်နှာ (၁၅၀)၊ ရောင်းဈေး ၃၅၀/-

ထွက်ပြီ

- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၀၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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US Special Forces clash with CIA over spying mission

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—US Special Forces teams in allied countries on spying missions have clashed with the CIA, a newspaper report said on Monday.

There have been several embarrassing incidents involving the two agencies in recent year that have caused diplomatic problems for the United States, said the paper.

The spy missions are part of a highly classified programme that has better positioned the United States to track terrorist networks and capture or kill enemy operatives in regions such as the Horn of Africa, where weak governments are unable to respond to emerging threats, according to the paper.

And to date, the missions have not led capture of a significant terrorism suspect, said the paper.

To rein in its military spy teams, the Special Forces and the Pentagon have taken new efforts to

tighten the rules for military units engaged in espionage, the paper quoted senior US intelligence and military officials as saying.

The paper said some intelligence officials have

complained that Special Force teams have sometimes launched missions without informing the CIA, duplicating or even jeopardizing existing operations.

MNA/Xinhua

Czech astronomers discover unknown asteroid

CESKE BUDEJOVICE (Czech), 19 Dec — Czech astronomers from the Klet observatory in the south of the country discovered an unknown asteroid bypassing the Earth at a distance of 600,000 kilometres Friday night, observatory director Jana Ticha said on Sunday.

Ticha said the asteroid, now designated internationally as 2006 XR4, was discovered when it was at its nearest to the Earth.

The distance is

only a little bit larger than the distance between the Earth and the Moon.

“This is one of the asteroids bypassing us at a very close distance that

has been discovered in Europe. A big majority of such discoveries are made by large US observatories,” Ticha said.—MNA/Xinhua



Passengers queue up for the Parisian tramway car on 16 Dec, 2006. Seventy years after the last streetcar vanished from the streets of Paris, the tramway, increasingly touted as a clean, fast mass transport solution, makes its big comeback to the capital on Saturday.—XINHUA

S African man survives five-storey fall

JOHANNESBURG, 19 Dec – Extremely drunk, barely conscious, but incredibly lucky. That is a man who survived a five-storey fall in Durban, South Africa.

The 31-year-old Durban man fell from the window of a building during an argument, the South African newspaper *The Witness* reported on Monday.

The newspaper said the man was extremely drunk and barely conscious when the accident occurred. But it did not mention when it happened.

Bystanders called the Metro police and paramedics, who found the man lying face down and provided immediate medical assistance. The man was rushed to hospital with serious injuries.

Neil Noble, operations manager of emergency services ER24, commended Metro Police Services for their efficiency in resuscitating the man.

“The man is in a rather serious but stable condition in hospital and is doing surprisingly well taking into consideration the height from which he fell,” said Noble. — MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENTS



Urgently Required (For Local Service Only)

Applications are urgently required for the following posts to be appointed at the plantations of *Rubber, Jatropha curcas*, etc. now being undertaken by FMI Company (MAGTLtd.)

- (1) Field Supervisors (Male/Female)**
Education : B.Ag or Dip.Ag.
Age : Below 25 years
- (2) Assistant Managers (Male/Female)**
Experience : Minimum 10 years of working experience in plantation management
Age : Below 45 years

Interested persons are to be applied with the complete C/V including contact address/phone no. and supporting documents for education and working experience, labour registration copy and 2 photographs to Myanmar Agri-Tech Ltd., office at FMI City, Type(4/5) Hlaing Tharyar Township not later than 31 December, 2006. Only short listed candidates will be interviewed.

India offers to supply food grains for Nepal Maoists

KATHMANDU, 18 Dec—India Sunday offered to supply food grains for about 30,000 Maoists confined to cantonments and satellite camps as per the arms management agreement signed between the Nepal Government and the rebels.

During his 30-minute meeting with Prime Minister GP Koirala at his official residence at Baluwatar, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee offered to provide food grains as assistance to Nepal Government to feed the Maoists lodged in seven cantonments and 21 satellite camps, Koirala's political adviser Suresh Chalishe told PTI.

The political situation in the Himalayan country, the on-going peace process and issues of bilateral cooperation dominated the meeting, he said.

Mukherjee appreciated Koirala's leadership under which Nepal's peace process was moving ahead smoothly, Chalishe said.

He also congratulated Koirala for finalizing the interim Constitution that would pave way for the

Maoists to join the government and ultimately to conduct the Constituent Assembly polls by mid-June to rewrite the Constitution.

Mukherjee also handed to Koirala the invitation from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to attend the 14th SAARC Summit to be hosted by New Delhi in April next year.

Koirala has accepted the invitation.—MNA/PTI

Zambia to ban maize export despite surplus

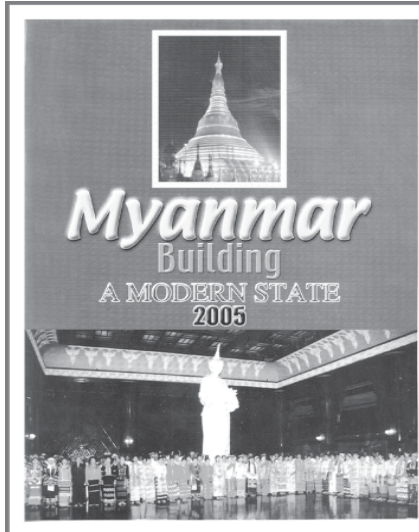
LUSAKA, 18 Dec—Zambia will not export maize this year although the country has recorded a surplus of 160,000 tons of the cereal, as a precautionary measure to fight poor rains in some parts of the country, a minister has said.

Sunday's *Zambia Daily Mail* cited Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Ben Kapita as saying there was no cause to panic over availability of maize, which is Zambia's staple food, because the country produced 1,448,698 tons of the crop with 160,000 tons as surplus.

"So far we are secure in terms of food security. The food we have can take us up to August next year," Kapita said. The country's food reserve agency has bought 398,000 tons of maize from farmers as reserve.

The decision of the Zambian Government to allow the agency to export maize has been rescinded due to an unfavourable rain pattern.

Forecasts indicate the likelihood of normal rainfall in the 2006/07 farming season over much area of the country while certain areas will receive rainfall of below normal.—MNA/Xinhua



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Zimbabwe earns \$591m from mining

HARARE, 18 Dec—Despite the highly difficult macro-economic environment, Zimbabwe raked in a total of 591 million US dollars from mineral sales for the first 10 months of the year compared to 103 million US dollars earned in the same comparative period last year.

This was revealed by the Minerals and Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ), a quasi-government institution established as the exclusive agent for the selling and marketing of all the country's minerals, except for gold, *The Sunday Mail* reported.

This score was against the backdrop of surging mineral prices on the international markets.

Minerals amounting to a total of 749,096 tons were sold compared to 797,294 tons sold in the same comparative period last year. However, this slump represents a negative variance of 6 per cent in volume terms and a growth

of 470 per cent in value terms. The company attributes this slump to the subdued performance by High Carbon Ferrochrome (HCFs), diamonds, steel and copper. Movers for this year's earnings were platinum group metals' concentrates that raked in

123.86 million US dollars compared to 71.96 million US dollars sold last year while steel was this year's shaker, earning the country a paltry total of 704,000 US dollars compared to last year's earnings of 1.2 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian gems, jewellery net export down

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec—India's gems and jewellery net exports in April-November this year dropped by 3 per cent to 10,534 million dollars from 10,864 million dollars in corresponding period last year, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India Sunday. The total exports, including the exports of rough diamonds, however, dropped by 1 per cent to 11,132 million dollars in April-November this year, down from 11,246 million dollars in the corresponding period last year. —MNA/Xinhua



A bride and a groom drink tea with ladles made of calabash during a traditional Zhou-style wedding ceremony in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on 17 Dec, 2006. The ritual took shape during the ancient Zhou Dynasty (1046 - 256 BC), and developed into the wedding ceremonies celebrated in the Chinese dynasties later on.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Members of Bulgaria's National Folkloric Ballet dance during the show 'The Legend', a choreography performed along with Bulgaria's Olympic Rhythmic Gymnastic team, in the southern Spanish town of El Ejido late on 16 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

US launches rocket carrying two satellites into space

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—A rocket carrying two experimental satellites for US Air Force and NASA was launched into space at 7:00 am EST (1200 GMT) on Saturday morning at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, according to AP.

The launch was scheduled on Monday, but a software glitch postponed it to Saturday. It is the first takeoff from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, one of only six federally licensed spaceports.

The four-stage Minotaur 1 rocket blasted away from its seaside

launch pad at this commercial spaceport on the southern tip of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in the Delmarva Peninsula.

The Air Force's TacSat-2 satellite will test the military's ability to transmit images of enemy targets to battlefield commanders in minutes

—a process that currently can take hours or days.

The second payload aboard the rocket is NASA's shoebox-size GeneSat-1 satellite, which carries a harmless strain of E.coli bacteria as part of an experiment to study the long-term effects of space on living organism. The results could be useful for NASA's mission to Mars. — MNA/Xinhua

China establishes national industrial association for oil circulation

BEIJING, 18 Dec— Upon the wholly opening of China's oil market, China established on Sunday an industrial association for oil circulation.

The Petroleum Circulation Committee under the China General Chamber of Commerce (CGCC) is a national organization for petroleum enterprises of private, state-owned or foreign ownership, said He Jihai, chairman of the CGCC.

The committee will be endeavoured to give suggestions for policy formulation and legislation of the government, establishing industrial standard, offering services including information, consultation and training for members and assisting in market order establishment and maintenance, said Zhao Youshan, director of the committee.

According to regulations of the CGCC, any legal enterprises, institutions and individuals doing petroleum business in China could apply for membership of the committee. The government promised to open the market of crude oil and refined oil to foreign capital on December 11 under its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) recently issued two regulations on the management of the crude oil and refined oil market respectively.

MNA/Xinhua



A yacht is displayed on the Top Show, a luxury goods exhibition in Shenzhen on 17 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

China expected to import 140m tons of crude oil in 2006

BEIJING, 18 Dec— China's crude oil imports are expected to reach 140 million tons in 2006, up 10.2 per cent on last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC).

Liang Shuhe, deputy director with the Foreign Trade Department of the MoC, said that China's demand for crude oil would total about 290 million tons this year, of which 48 per cent were imports. According to Liang, China's total output of crude oil is expected to reach 183 million tons in 2006, with 7.40 million tons for exports.

Liang said the fast growth of the economy has forced China to depend more and more on imports because of the limited domestic production, predicting that the steady increase in imports was likely to continue. Statistics from the MoC show that China's crude oil imports increased by 14.1 per cent in the first ten months of this year to reach 120 million tons.

The Chinese Government removed tariffs on oil imports in November and opened its domestic oil market to foreign companies in December to cut the cost of oil imports.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian cancer drug to undergo clinical trial in China

BEIJING, 18 Dec— Australian biotechnology company Progen Industries announced on Sunday its plan to conduct a third-phase clinical trial for a new anti-cancer medicine in China next year.

According to Progen, the newly-developed PI-88 produced positive preliminary results in

the recently completed second-phase trial.

They showed that the medicine could increase a liver cancer patient's amount of survival time after a tumour was removed before it recurred by 76 per cent. Progen is now preparing for larger scale third-phase clinical trials in the United States, China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

Ronni Poon, professor of surgery with the medical school of Hong Kong University, has been invited to supervise the next trial.

Poon said that although removal of tumours by surgery has become a

common way to treat liver cancer, the rate of tumour recurrence is high and the long-term results are not satisfactory. Currently, there is no other effective way to reduce the tumour occurrence for liver cancer patients, said the professor, who is also a doctor at Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong. Statistics show that over half a million new cases of liver cancer are recorded worldwide each year, making it the fourth most common cancer and the third most fatal cancer.

China reported 346,000 cases last year, with 110,000 fatalities, which is 45 per cent of the world total.— MNA/Xinhua



Francois Didier, a reporter for the French daily newspaper Liberation who was hit in the leg by Palestinian gunfire is treated for his wounds at a hospital in Gaza City, on, 17 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

SPORTS



Germany's Marcus Beerbaum riding Leena wins FEI World Cup qualifier during The London International Horse Show at Olympia stadium, on 17 Dec, 2006.
INTERNET

Malawi soccer association taps on under-20 players

LUSAKA, 19 Dec— The Football Association of Malawi (Fam) has said the recent outbursts by the national Under-20 team on their unpaid allowances in the just ended Cosafa Youth Championship in South Africa were uncalled for, local media reported on Monday.

Fam argued that it was not proper for the players to take advantage of the situation to embarrass the country's football association, according to reports on the website of newspaper *The Nation*.

The Malawi Under-20

players issued a 24-hour ultimatum last Thursday threatening to boycott the semifinal match against Zambia the following day unless their outstanding allowances were paid.

Fam general secretary Yasin Osman was cited as saying the development was embarrassing and it displayed lack of discipline and patriotism of the team.

MNA/Xinhua

Cannavaro named World Player of the Year for 2006

GENEVA, 19 Dec — Fabio Cannavaro became the first defender to be named FIFA World Player of the Year after collecting the award at the annual gala ceremony in Zurich on Monday.

The accolade caps an outstanding year for the Italy and Real Madrid centre-half, who captained his country to World Cup glory this summer.

Cannavaro, 33, received 498 votes from the panel of 165 international coaches and 165 international captains.

Retired France international Zinedine Zidane finished second with 454 while Brazil and Barcelona forward Ronaldinho was third with 380.

"It is unusual for a defender to be sitting alongside Ronaldinho and Zinedine Zidane, who do marvellous things all season, so I saw it as a victory just to be here," Cannavaro said.

"I think I have been very lucky this year because we won the World Cup and perhaps this has been very helpful for me to make it here tonight.

"The competition was scary, it was so strong. After winning the World Cup and the European Footballer of the Year award, I do not think I could ask for anything more."—MNA/Xinhua

Fulham beat Middlesbrough 2-1

LONDON, 19 Dec— Brian McBride scored the crucial goal as Fulham triumphed 2-1 in a lively and entertaining game against fellow Premiership strugglers Middlesbrough on Sunday.

Boro began brightly and Stewart Downing and James Morrison could have put them ahead in an impressive opening burst, but Fulham took the lead in the 12th minute when George Boateng tripped Moritz Volz and Heidar Helguson calmly scored from the spot.

McBride's 35th-minute curling shot made it 2-0 but Mark Viduka's composed finish in the 74th minute gave Boro hope after a poor Antti Niemi kick.

Fulham's win seemed unlikely after a frantic opening which was dominated by Boro.

Downing twice went close with vicious curling free-kicks, the first flew inches over and the second forced Niemi to hurriedly beat the ball away.

The impressive Morrison then jinked his way through only to see his fierce drive superbly saved by the home keeper.

Middlesbrough boss Gareth Southgate rued his side's lost chance to score the opener. "We created plenty of chances

and coming in at half-time I couldn't believe we were 2-0 down," he said.

"We had enough pressure and enough opportunities and I thought we deserved something from the game. But you can't give teams a two-goal start.

MNA/Xinhua



Despite cold weather, 15 girls in skirts or even shorts participated in an Icy Beauty Contest held in a snow-covered ski resort in Jinan, Shandong Province, on 16 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Chilean soccer's Universidad's new coach speaks to Press

SANTIAGO, 19 Dec— Peru's Jose Del Solar, known as Chemo, the new manager of Chilean soccer team Universidad Catolica, spoke to reporters on Monday of his joy at leading his former team.

"I want to express my great satisfaction and happiness to be at Universidad Catolica. It is a source of pride and an honour to belong to this great team. I am very excited," said Chemo, who played for the team from 1989 to 1992. He said that the club's history of sporting achievement was demanding and not so much the club's board. He described the club's history as "one of successes, with a name on the South American continent. I am keen to remain the best. We are not going to be held back by a lack of effort", he said.—MNA/Xinhua



Piglets push a ball during the "pig-ball" event at "Russia Piglets' Championship" in Moscow, on 16 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

Everts, Henin-Hardenne take Belgium's top sports awards

BRUSSELS, 19 Dec— Motocross world champion Stefan Everts and women's tennis world No 1 Justine Henin-Hardenne has been named Belgium's sportsman and sportswoman of the year, Belgian media reported Monday.

This was the fifth time Everts was conferred the honour by sports journalists. Everts, who rounded off an impressive career with his tenth world motocross title in 2006, came in ahead of former world cycling champion Tom Boonen, who won the honor last year.

Everts won almost every race he competed in during the 2006 season.

Speaking after picking up his award Sunday, Everts said it was "fantastic" to win the award, and the trophy will be given "a special place" in his trophy cabinet.

Henin-Hardenne, who won the French Open title and the WTA Championship this year, was awarded sportswoman of the year for the third time in four years. Belgian sprinter Kim Gevaert and high jumper Tia Hellebaut came second and third respectively.

Henin-Hardenne, who entered the final of every Grand Slam this year, climbed up to the No. 1 ranking last month. Henin-Hardenne was also a member of the Belgian Fed Cup team, which reached the final this year when it lost to Italy.—MNA/Xinhua

Mexico soccer team rated 20th world wide in 2006

MEXICO CITY, 19 Dec— Mexico's national soccer team ended the year in 20th place world wide in a new list published on Monday by the sport's governing body FIFA, the International Federation of Football Associations. Brazil topped the list for the fifth year in a row.

FIFA's official website shows on Monday that the Mexican team has seen a dramatic drop in rating this year. It was number sixth in the world based on results, ahead of the sports World Cup, held in Germany in July.

Mexico had bounced around between sixth and 11th place in the early part of the year, but the team's elimination before the Cup's quarterfinal phase and its fallow period in the latter part of the year has seen it drop out of the world's soccer elite. It now has 883 points.

Despite its falling rating, Mexico remains the top team in its regional federation: the Federation of the Caribbean, Northern and Central America.

Brazil remains top, but Italy, the World Cup winner, is close behind. Italy is the squad which has risen fastest this year: from number 12 to number two.—MNA/Xinhua



Stars sparkle at Star Awards 2006, in Beijing, on 15 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

US crime surge accelerated in first half of 2006

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—A recent rise in violent crimes accelerated in the first half of 2006 in the United States, the FBI said in a report released here on Monday.

It seems to indicate that the country is in the midst of a prolonged increase in murder, assaults and other violent offenses, according to the report.

The number of violent crimes surged by nearly 4 per cent in the first six months of 2006 on a year-on-year basis, including a dramatic increase of nearly 10 per cent for robberies, according to the FBI's Uniform Report.

The numbers showed robbery increases for cities of all sizes, including a 13-per-cent jump for some of the smallest cities with a

population from 10,000 to 24,999.

Murders and assaults also rose by more than 1 per cent, while the number of reported rapes dipped slightly.

The results follow on the heels of a 2.5-per-cent surge in violent crimes for 2005, which marked the highest rate of increase in 15 years.

The latest numbers suggest that those results were not an anomaly, but rather part of the first significant uptick in violent crime since the early 1990s.—MNA/Xinhua

Powell says US losing in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — Former US secretary of state Colin Powell said Sunday that the United States is losing what he described as a "civil war" in Iraq, the *Washington Post* said in a report on Monday.

"I agree with the assessment of Mr Baker and Mr Hamilton," Powell said in an interview with the CBS, referring to the Iraq Study Group's leaders, former secretary of state James Baker and former Indiana congressman Lee Hamilton.

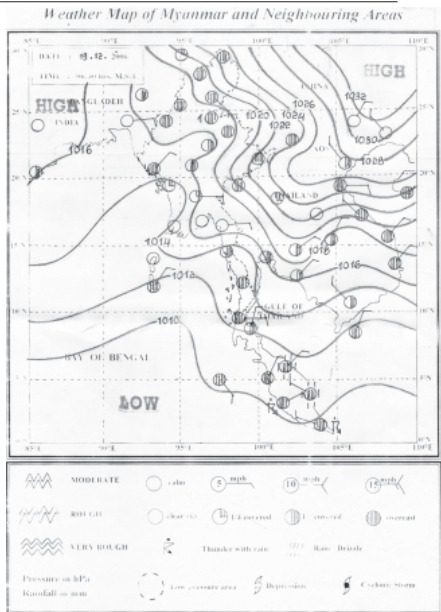
Baker and Hamilton said in the Iraq Study Group report that the situation in Iraq "is grave and deteriorating". "We are not winning, we are losing," it said.

Powell also called for a new strategy that would relinquish responsibility for Iraqi security to the government in Baghdad sooner rather later, with a US withdrawal to begin by the middle of next year, the report said.

Powell's comments broke his long public silence on the Iraq issue and placed him at odds with the administration, the report said.

The report added that President George W Bush is considering options for a new military strategy — among them a "surge" of 15,000 to 30,000 troops to join the 140,000 now in Iraq in order to secure Baghdad and to accelerate the training of Iraqi forces.

Bush has also rejected the dire conclusions of the Iraq Study Group and its recommendation to set parameters for a phased withdrawal to begin next year, and he has insisted that the violence in Iraq is not a civil war, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua



Challenger Chi In-jin (R) of South Korea and WBC featherweight champion Rodolfo Lopez of Mexico fight during the title match in Seoul on 17 Dec, 2006. Chi won the match. —INTERNET



Wednesday, 20 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. အတိတ်ပြင်ပုံ
- 8:05 am
 6. မြန်မာ့ကြွယ်ဝသောကဏ္ဍအက
- 8:15 am
 7. အစောင့်ပြင်ပုံ
- 8:25 am
 8. ရွှေလင်းပန်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
 9. International news

- 8:45 am
 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm
 4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်)
- 5:00 pm
 5. Song of national races
- 5:15 pm
 6. မြန်မာ့စာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:30 pm
 7. "စည်ကမ်းလှိုက်နားကင်းကွာ" (လူကုမ္ပဏီကြားမှကူးမယ်)
- 5:35 pm
 8. Classical song
- 5:45 pm
 9. ရွှေလင်းပန်းအားလုံးအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm
 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 11. Weather report

- 6:35 pm
 12. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညက်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm
 13. Guinness World Records
- 7:20 pm
 14. "မင်းမလဲသေးပါဘူးကွာ" (စရာငှက်ပျော့ကြွေ၊ ရှစ်ရာပျော့ကြွေ၊ အေးအေးနီနီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ရွှေစင်ထိုက်)
- 7:30 pm
 15. The mirror images of the musical oldies.
- 7:40 pm
 16. ကြွယ်မြင်သုတပြည်ဝေစရာ စာပေသဘာ
- 7:50 pm
 17. မြန်မာ့ရေကန်ပစ္စည်း ဈေးပွဲတော်(၂၀၀၆)အောင်မြင်မှု (အရိုင်း-၀)
- 8:00 pm
 18. News
 19. International news
 20. Weather report
 21. Myanmar movie "ပုံမာ" (ကျော်ရွှေစင်ယုမေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်ရွှေ)
 22. The next day's programme



Wednesday, 20 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
 - Toy boy
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
 - Jump for my love
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
 - There you'll be
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
 - Must have been love
- 1:30 pm News /Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music:
 - Candy
 - I believe I can fly
- 9:00 pm Variations on a tune
 - White X'mas
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request
 - Give it to you
 - Dreams
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Tuesday, 19 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kachin State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin and Mon States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlaik (1.06) inches and Homalin (0.15) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 19-12-2006 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 19-12-2006 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 18-12-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 19-12-2006 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 (12) mph from North-east at 12:15 hours MST on 18-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 20-12-2006: Isolated rain are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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 continuation of decrease of night temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 20-12-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 20-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 20-12-2006: Generally fair weather.

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Commander inspects development work in Thanlyin Township

YANGON, 19 Dec— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win this morning inspected regional development in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District after attending the work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee.

Accompanied by officials concerned, the commander inspected the growing of shade and flowery plants along Kyaikkhauk Pagoda Road, Nan Hay Wun Park of Thanlyin Township Development Affairs Committee and the paving of Maggin Road in Bagosu Ward.

After that, the commander attended the work coordination meeting of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee.

The commander stressed the needs for officials under the department to fully engage in

upgrading of roads and bridges for ensuring proper drainage and healthy environment, to keep residential wards and parks and markets clean, and to strive for all-round development of Thanlyin Township.

Next, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee U Kyi Myint reported on rules and regulations prescribed for the best township awards, Executive of Thanlyin Township Development Affairs

Affairs Committee U Phyu Nyunt on efforts made for obtaining of the best township award for 2003-2004 and future tasks.

Afterwards, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe and Chairman of Yangon South District PDC U Zaw Win reported on development tasks being carried out in Yangon Division.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander.

met with local people.

At the meeting, the commander gave instructions on the use of fertilizer, boosting the per acre yield and wider use of water pumping machines for supply of irrigated water.

Next, the commander proceeded to the Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 construction project site and inspected progress of work.

On arrival at the six-lane motor road leading to Thilawa Industrial



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2. — MNA

Committee U Htin Aung Myint on measures being taken for beautifying of the township and Executive of Kyauktan Township Development

Later, the commander looked into the construction of Bawt Creek bridge near Ngapyayma village, Thanlyin Township and

Zone, the commander heard a report presented by Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Ye Tun on the salient points of the project.

The commander met farmers of Letyetsan, Phayagon and Alwanswut villages near Zamani Dam and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander viewed the construction of village-to-village roads in Thanlyin Township and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Officials under the DAD urged to fully engage in upgrading of roads and bridges for ensuring proper drainage and healthy environment, to keep residential wards and parks and markets clean, and to strive for all-round development of Thanlyin Township.

National Kandawgyi Gardens packed with visitors

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— To mark the Diamond Jubilee of the National Kandawgyi Gardens, the National Landmarks Garden and the First Flower Festival are kept open to the public. The entertainment pro-

grammes finished yesterday.

The National Kandawgyi Gardens has been packed with visitors observing seasonal flowers of various species and booths of flowers. Shopping stalls, fashion shows

and quiz programme of Dream Boat Service Co are also crowded with people.

The visitors to the gardens are also enjoying music entertainment programmes.

MNA



National Landmarks Garden and Flower Festival of National Kandawgyi Gardens crowded with people. — MNA