

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 21 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

## Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka and party during their working visit at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence, here, at noon today.

Also present at the call were Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Religious Affairs

Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr PAD Samarasekera.

MNA

*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw.*

MNA



*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw.*

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 21 December, 2006

### Enhancing economic cooperation through promotion of border trade

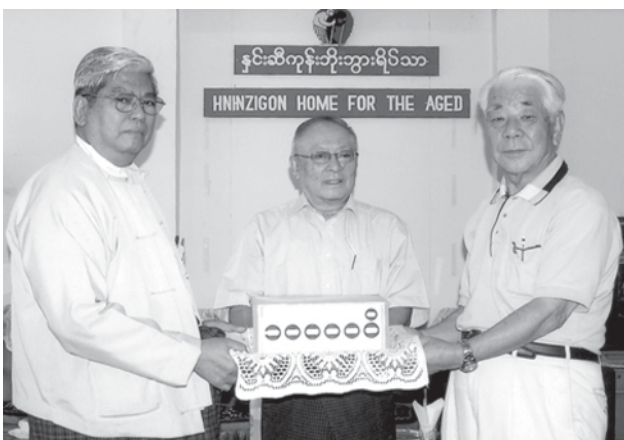
Myanmar and China established diplomatic relations based on Paukphaw friendship in 1950. As trade is an engine for development, trade promotion is being undertaken after the trade agreement and border trade agreement between Myanmar and China were signed.

Myanmar-China Trade Fair was held at 105th Mile Trade Zone in Muse, Shan State (North) beginning 18 December. Beans and pulses, maize, fruits, marine and forest products, agricultural produce, gems and personal and household goods produced by industrial zones were on display at over 200 booths at the trade fair.

Muse 105th mile Trade Zone, the first of its kind and the largest one in the country, was opened in April this year. The zone handles 70 per cent of the volume of the border trade. It is important for Myanmar-China border trade and a strategic economic zone of countries and South East Asia and East Asia.

At the trade fair, cosmetics and blankets, medicines and marine products of Thailand, India and Bangladesh were also put on display. Participation of neighbouring countries in the fair indicates bright prospects for trade and economic cooperation.

Cooperation in trade through goodwill relations among neighbouring countries and promotion of normal trade through border trade will contribute toward the progress of commerce in border areas and enhance bilateral economic cooperation.



Mr Shuzo Fujita of Osaka, Japan, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) of Hninzigon Home for the Aged accepts the donation. — 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

### Pyapon, Maubin get new roads



Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends opening of tarred road in Pyapon. — PBANRDA

YANGON, 19 Dec — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the opening ceremony of a new gravel road in Pyapon Township on 17 December.

The village-to-village road was constructed by Pyapon Township DAD. It is 3,000 ft long and 10 ft wide and links two villages and Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road.

Similarly, Minister Col Thein Nyunt also attended the opening ceremony of a new tarred road in Maubin constructed by Maubin Township

DAD.

CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Col Thein Nyunt met with executives and members of Ayeyawady Division, Pyapon District and Maubin District USDAs at Pyapon District USDA office on 16 December.

At the meeting, they discussed development tasks carried out in the region.

During his tour, he also met with executives and members of Ayeyawady Division and Maubin District USDAs in Maubin.

MNA

### Mayor inspects Water Treatment Plant

YANGON, 20 Dec — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected Ngamoeyeik Water Treatment Plant in Hmawby Township, Yangon District (North), yesterday.

On his tour of inspection, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave a green light to officials to construct a Bailey bridge across the canal of Ngamoeyeik Dam and to upgrade the road linking Nyaunghnapin Road and the treatment plant.

The water treatment plant is included in the Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) being carried out by YCDC.

Later, the mayor and party went to Hlegu Township and inspected the 300-acre cultivation and the 1,600-acre cultivation of physic nut of YCDC in the township. On his tour, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended to the needs for the cultivation of physic nut saplings to be planted in the coming rainy season. —MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects intake channel linking Ngamoeyeik Dam and Water Treatment Plant. — YCDC

## Venezuela keen to learn Malaysia's eradication of poverty

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Dec— Venezuela is interested to learn from Malaysia's success in poverty eradication, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Monday.

Syed, who is accompanying Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on his visit to Venezuela, said his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro informed him of the matter during their discussion Monday.

Maduro was keen to learn how Malaysia could manage to reduce its poverty rate drastically from more than 50 per cent in the early 1970's to only 5.7 per cent last year, Syed told Malaysian journalists in Caracas, capital of

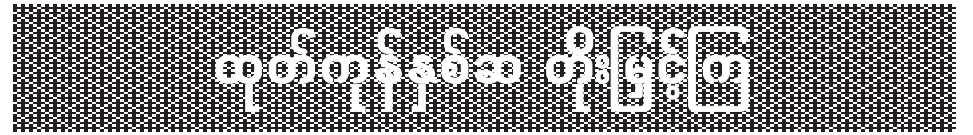
Venezuela.

In facilitating the move, the two countries will establish a joint economic and social development council next year, Syed was quoted as saying by the *Bernama* news agency.

The council, which will consist of representatives from the government and private sectors of both countries, will strengthen bilateral economic ties and also look into ways to help lift poor Venezuelans out of poverty, said Syed.

Trade between the two countries stood at 39.6 million US dollars last year, according to figures given by the Malaysian side.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese Foreign Ministry held a new year party for officials from the United Nations and other international organizations in China, Beijing, on 19 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

## Cambodia, Vietnam to boost cooperation in various sectors

PHNOM PENH, 19 Dec— Visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and his Cambodian counterpart here on Monday decided to beef up bilateral cooperation and investment in the sectors of trade, energy, mines and law enforcement. "Hun Sen requests his counterpart to create an association of rice-exporting countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand) and try to open more international gates along the two countries' borders," said Information Minister Khieu Kanharith.

The two sides also agreed to speed up mutual extradition for inmates, cooperate to combat all criminal acts and fight against communicable diseases, said the minister at the Council of Ministers, where the two

leaders held a meeting for more than one hour.

The two leaders agreed that Cambodia needed investment from Vietnam to develop more hydro-electricity projects, said Kanharith, adding that Vietnam planned to invest in four more such projects while it had already invested in nine.

"We are monitoring the distribution of electricity from Vietnam. Cambodia will buy more electricity from Vietnam. We hope electricity to be cheaper in the future," said the minister who is also government spokesman.

During the meeting, Vietnam pledged to invest in exploration of mines and rubber plantation in Cambodia and Hun Sen asked to draw a map for mines exploration for both countries, he said.

Meanwhile, Nguyen

Tan Dung asked Hun Sen to boost the border demarcation between the two countries, he said, adding that both sides would study to set up a golf course with nine holes in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia, and another nine in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam.—MNA/Xinhua

## Expert says multinationals help slow China's brain drain

BEIJING, 19 Dec— International Forum on Multinationals in China have helped hold back outgoing local talents, although they posed great challenges to local companies and research institutes, said a Chinese expert here Friday.

At the ongoing

International Forum on Globalization of R&D, Wu Yikang, senior adviser of the Chinese Association for International Science and Technology Cooperation, said more and more local talents in China flowed to multinationals since multinationals are

mostly engaged in cutting-edge hi-tech researches and offer high salaries. "It is a fact that multinationals in China have created large amount of job opportunities for Chinese graduates, and also attracted many Chinese students studying abroad to return home," he said.

Early reports said almost 40 per cent of China's elite group worked in foreign-invested enterprises. A survey in Shanghai also indicated that the proportion of Chinese researchers to expatriate R&D staff reached nearly 40 to 1 in foreign-invested research agencies based in China. However, Wu pointed out, Chinese R&D talents usually have very good academic background but very little market experiences.—MNA/Xinhua



In this photograph provided by Columbia Pictures, actor Eli Wallach celebrates his 91st birthday and the success of his latest film "The Holiday" in New York on Monday. INTERNET



Entrance of eBay headquarters in San Jose, California. eBay plans to hand over control of its main website in China to Beijing-based TOM Online in a major setback for the Internet auction pioneer, newspaper reports said.—INTERNET

## S Korea's firm develops world's fastest memory module

SEOUL, 19 Dec—South Korea's Hynix Semiconductor Inc. has developed the world's first 800 MHz memory module using 60-nano one-gigabyte DDR2 dynamic random access memory, or DRAM chips, the *Korean Herald* reported on Monday.

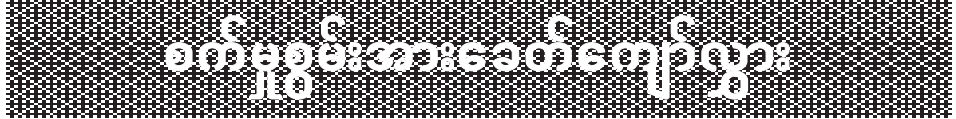
According to the Hynix, the newly developed one-gigabyte DDR2 module, which is the fastest ever and is considered a milestone in micro circuit manufacturing, has already passed Intel's "advanced validation lab" test and is ready for final approval next year.

The new memory module, using the "three-dimensional transistor" and "three-layered metal allocation" technologies, realizes both 800 MHz and 667 MHz that support high-speed data transmissions and can enhance storage and speed capacities. Hynix plans to carry out the new product early next year, the report said.—MNA/Xinhua



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad talk as they meet in Moscow's Kremlin, on 19 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET



## Malaysia's manufacturing sector sales up 10.7% in Oct

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Dec— The sales value of Malaysia's manufacturing sector expanded by 10.7 per cent to 45.6 billion ringgit (12.66 billion US dollars) in October year-on-year, the Department of Statistics said Monday.

Compared with the previous month, the sales value for October also

posted an increase of 0.8 per cent, the department said in a statement.

The number of employees engaged in the sector in October amounted to one million people, up 8.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis and down 0.4 per cent on a month-on-month basis.

In the first ten months this year, the manufacturing sector registered

a total sales value worth 423.7 billion ringgit (117.69 billion dollars), an increase of 11.1 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the total salaries and wages paid out to employees of the sector also grew 9.8 per cent to 18.9 billion ringgit (5.25 billion dollars) on a year-on-year basis.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indian PM flays West on globalization, its role in WTO

NEW DELHI, 19 Dec— Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Monday said the approach of developed nations in managing global affairs was not acceptable and questioned the subsidies given by the West in World Trade Organization regime to the detriment of developing countries.

"Old ways of managing global affairs, wherein a single digit group of nations could constitute themselves into a global board of management, are over.

"There are of course, a few big powers, and these will continue to exercise global influence.

"But we must learn to

work with nations big and small," Singh said inaugurating a seminar on globalization.

Hitting out at developed countries for giving subsidies that were coming in the way of Doha Round of the World Trade Organization, he said: "We cannot continue to live in a world of 'butter mountains and rivers of milk', liberally funded by government subsidies when the poor starve in the villages of the Third World."

Even the United Nations, which could have been a political instrument to manage globalization, had not succeeded, he said and regretted not much attention has been paid to

politics of globalization.

He cautioned that the UN would not be able to succeed unless it reforms as an institution and its own management is more democratic and more representative.

The increasingly multi-polar world required global "rules of the game", not just for trade and capital flows but for the management of peace and security, he added.

MNA/PTI



Tiger Woods holds his trophy after winning the Target World Challenge gold tournament, on 17 Dec, 2006, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

INTERNET

## Vietnam to spend \$1.4b improving rural water supply, sanitation

HANOI, 19 Dec— The Vietnamese Government has decided to pour 22.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (over 1.4 billion US dollars) into safe water supply and environmental hygiene projects implemented in rural areas from now to 2010, according to a local media report on Monday.

The government is aiming to offer access to clean water to 85 per cent of the rural population, and provide 70 per cent of rural households with hygienic toilets and 70 per cent of farmers with sanitary facilities in their farms, *Vietnam News* newspaper reported.

All kindergartens, schools, health care units, markets, communal houses and other public places in rural areas will also benefit from the national programme on rural safe water and environmental sanitation.

The government will prioritize supplying water to densely populated regions and areas either vulnerable to drought and pollution or in disadvantages areas like islands.

Of the 22.6 trillion VND, 3.2 trillion VND (200 million dollars) would come from the central state budget, 3.4 trillion VND (212.5 million dollars) from international aid, and the rest from local budgets, public contributions and preferential credits, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua

## Suicide attack wounds two NATO soldiers in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec — Two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were wounded as a suicide bomber targeted their convoy in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province Monday, a spokesman of the military alliance said.

"The suicide bomber drove a vehicle laden with explosive material and detonated it near NATO convoy in Daman District at 2:30 pm local time, damaging two military vehicles and wounding two soldiers," Captain Andrew Fallun told

reporters.

However, he declined to identify the nationalities of the injured soldiers.

The bomber was also killed in the incident.

MNA/Xinhua

## Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec— Two US soldiers, including a Marine, were killed in Iraq's volatile Anbar Province, the US Military said on Monday.

One soldier, assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armoured Division died from wounds sustained due to "enemy action" while operating in the western Anbar Province on Friday, the military said in a statement.

The latest death brings the total death toll of US military personnel in Iraq to more than 2,945 since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to the Pentagon figures.— MNA/Xinhua



A cluster of upscale apartment buildings is shown in Hong Kong on 19 Dec, 2006. Blue-chip Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd paid a record per-square-foot price for a residential site in the upmarket Peak district at the fourth land auction of the Hong Kong government in this fiscal year. —INTERNET

## Singapore's non-oil exports up 8.1% in November

SINGAPORE, 19 Dec—Singapore's growth of non-oil domestic exports (NODX) expanded by a faster 8.1 per cent in November 2006 as compared with the same month of last year, due mainly to faster growth in non-electronics NODX.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Monday, the exports of electronic products contracted by 8.4 per cent in November over the

previous year while the exports of non-electronic products grew by a robust 25 per cent in the same month.

The European Union, Malaysia and the United States made the largest contributions to NODX growth in the month.

The NODX to the United States increased for the tenth consecutive month albeit at a slower rate of 3.6 per cent in November year-on-year.

While the NODX to the European Union

expanded by a robust 40 per cent in the same month, due to stronger growth in electronic and non-electronic NODX.

The NODX to China reversed last month's 8.2 per cent decline to expand by 2.8 per cent in November because of higher non-electronic NODX.

MNA/Xinhua



An HD DVD recorder is seen in Tokyo. Japanese consumer electronics maker Sharp Corp said on Tuesday it has started the commercial production of blue laser diodes, taking aim at a market with strong growth potential. The diodes can be used in DVD players based on the HD DVD format. — INTERNET

## California suffers highest casualties in Iraq

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—California has the highest number of military personnel killed in Iraq among all the US states, it was reported Monday.

As the Pentagon considers whether to increase troop levels in Iraq, a soldier from California has become the 300th Californian killed in the war-torn country. Special private class Nicholas P Steinbacher, 22, died yesterday of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his armoured vehicle in Baghdad on 10 December, according to the Pentagon.

Texas is second with 259 war dead, according to the website icasualties.org, which bases its tally on Defence Department statistics.

MNA/Xinhua



A new species of tree frog named *polypedates chlorophthalmus* is seen in this undated handout picture released by WWF. Dozens of new species of animals and plants including catfish with protruding teeth and a tree frog with striking bright green eyes have been found in the past year in the forest of Borneo, a WWF report said on 19 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

## Indonesian police warn of attack on Christmas

JAKARTA, 19 Dec—The Indonesian police on Monday warned of possible attacks during Christmas and New Year holidays by the terror group led by the country's most wanted militant Noordin Moh Top.

Noordin is believed to be the suspected brains behind a series of major bombings since October 2002, when two subsequent attacks at two nightclubs on Bali Island killed 202 people.

Police believed the Malaysian-born militant also masterminded the triple suicide bombings on the same island last year that killed 19 people.

"He (Noordin) is still out there. Security officers and other societies should work together to prevent (attacks)," National Police Chief Sutanto told reporters here.

He said all provincial police stations would deploy their maximum strengths to ensure security during the holidays.

"We are doing our utmost to prevent more attacks," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Malaysia to unveil 60-metre Ferris wheel

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Dec — Malaysia will unveil a 60-metre high Ferris wheel called "Eye on Malaysia," a structure similar to the "London Eye", next year to celebrate the Visit Malaysia Year 2007, local newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is expected to unveil the Ferris wheel here on 6 January next year, which will comprise 42 gondolas.

The wheel, costing about 30 million ringgit (8.3 million US dollars), currently was in its final

stage of construction and would be open to the public on 7 January.

However, the country has yet to decide whether to keep the wheel as a permanent feature in the country after next year.

The launch of the wheel is one of the 240 events planned by Malaysia to celebrate the Visit Malaysia Year 2007.

A floral parade, an international fireworks contest and an international aerospace exhibition have also been planned for next year.

MNA/Xinhua



Models present the collection of Polish Designer Maciej Zien during the fashion show in Warsaw, Poland, on 19 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET



Seoul National University's researchers show three genetically identical Afghan Hound clones, named Bona (L), Hope and Peace (R) during a photo opportunity at the university in Seoul on 18 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

## Pakistan says Indian PM's remarks welcoming new ideas "positive"

ISLAMABAD, 19 Dec — Pakistan Monday termed as "positive response" Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's remarks that he welcomed new ideas to normalize relations between the two countries.

Reacting to Singh's comments made on his way back from a visit to Japan, Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said the "positive response would help pave the way to find a solution acceptable to Pakistan, India and Kashmiris".

Sidestepping a direct reaction to the latest Kashmir solution formula of President Pervez Musharraf, Singh had said on Saturday that he anytime welcomed new ideas from whomsoever it comes.

"I welcome efforts ....to normalize relations between India and Pakistan...If anytime new ideas come, we welcome them," he had said.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference organized by the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q, Aziz said Pakistan always talked about the solution to the Kashmir issue that would be in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris.

Pakistan always supported "Kashmiris on their just cause", he said and emphasized the need to resolve the issue through negotiations.

In her media briefing, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam also termed Singh's

remarks as "positive" and said the two countries have been discussing these proposals both through formal and back-channels.

Replying to various questions including on reported remarks by Indian officials that Pakistan has not forwarded the proposals of demilitarization, self-governance and joint management proposed by Musharraf formally, Aslam said Kashmir issue was being discussed between the top leaders, besides at the level of foreign ministers and foreign secretaries.

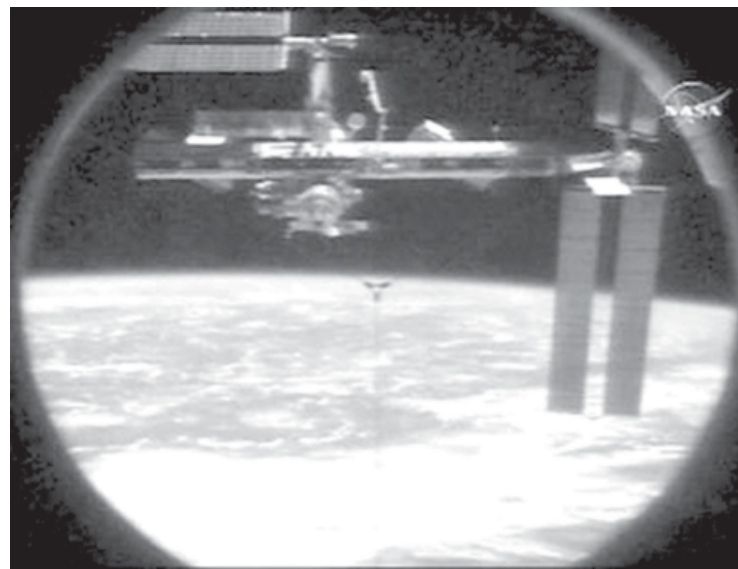
She said there was a separate group that discussed Jammu and Kashmir besides back-channel dialogue that discussed "Kashmir specifically".

"These proposals and ideas were shared with the Indian side at every level and there have been discussions and I would not go into any further details", she said.

Responding to a question whether India has forwarded any proposals, she said "there were proposals from their side. We are also responding to their proposals", she said but declined to give any details.—MNA/PTI



Twelve-year-old boy Qi Xiaoyu (first from right) performs "face-changing" for his classmates at school in Hami, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, on 18 Dec, 2006. Qi has been the city's youngest artist of "face-changing," a highlight of the traditional Chuan Opera that involves changing masks without the audience noticing how the performer did that.—INTERNET



The International Space Station is seen from the centerline camera mounted in the shuttle Discovery's specialized mating adapter as the two spacecraft undocked in this view from NASA TV on 19 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

## Pilot killed in plane crash in downtown Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, 19 Dec — Nobody on the ground was injured as a light aircraft crashed into a block of flats in Yeoville in central Johannesburg, South Africa, on Monday night, killing the pilot, the South African Press Association (SAPA) reported.

Johannesburg emergency services divisional commander Malcolm Midgley told the news agency that the plane crashed into the basement of the four-storey building at the corner of Harley and Hendon streets around 9 pm local time (1900 GMT) during a thunderstorm.

Midgley said the pilot,

who was believed to be the only person on the plane, was killed on impact.

The occupant of the flat which was hit was shaken.

"You can imagine an aeroplane landing in your bedroom..." said Midgley.

It is not yet known where the plane was coming from or going to, but Midgley said it appeared to be on course for the Lanseria airport area in northern Johannesburg.

MNA/Xinhua



Soldiers perform a motorcycle stunt during an exhibition in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata on 13 Dec, 2006. INTERNET

## China, S Korea should contribute to regional peace, development

BEIJING, 19 Dec — China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) should further strengthen strategic communication and coordination, and contribute to regional peace and stability, said State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan.

Meeting with Kim Young Won, head of a ROK-Japan cultural exchange meeting and Park Sam-koo, chairman of the Republic of Korea (ROK)-China Friendship Association here Monday, Tang said the current international situation is complicated, and the two countries should deepen exchanges and cooperation.

2007 marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of China-ROK diplomatic ties and the China-ROK Year of Exchange.

Tang said he hopes the two countries can take the opportunity to promote bilateral relationship in

various fields, enhance friendship and create a brighter future.

Tang also called for China, ROK and Japan — three major countries in East Asia — to work together for regional peace, stability and prosperity.

He said the improvement

and development of Sino-Japanese relations and ROK-Japanese relations, as well as the growing cooperation among the three countries, will benefit the whole region and foster peace, stability and prosperity.

MNA/Xinhua

## Egypt, China to jointly build soda-ash factory south of Cairo

CAIRO, 19 Dec — An Egyptian bank and a leading Chinese chemicals company have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly establish a soda-ash factory in Egypt, Xinhua learnt here Monday.

Under the MoU, signed between the China National Chemical Engineering Corporation (CNCEC) and the National Bank of Egypt on Sunday, the soda-ash factory with joint investment is to be built in Fayyum, 85 kilometres south of Cairo, Cao Jiachang, the commercial counsellor at the Chinese

Embassy to Egypt, told Xinhua.

Cao said that the deal is a fruit of the strengthened Chinese-Egyptian economic and trade cooperation after the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to China in early November.

Egyptian Trade and Industry Minister Rashid Mohammed Rashid also hailed in a statement that "this deal comes as one result of the sustained efforts by Egypt to strengthen and deepen its economic ties with China.

MNA/Xinhua

# National brethren who are enjoying socio-economic development

*Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)*

As soon as I entered the training hall, I smelt an odor of a forest product that was familiar to me over 30 years ago. I was born and brought up in a locality where large stretches of land were covered with forests in which diverse array of timber and bamboo species thrived well. My unforgettable moments were my visits together with my uncles to the forests at the foot of Western Yoma (mountain ranges) to cut bamboo. It was a wonderful experience to ride back home on a bullock-cart loaded with a bunch of bamboos.

Thirty-four national race women of border areas were attending the No 1 Wickerwork Training Course. One male instructor and three female instructors were from Yekyi and Ngathaingchaung regions in Ayeyawady Division. Director-General U Than Win of Education and Training Department (ETD) after making arrangements to provide sufficient teaching aids and health and other needs, urged trainees to study till they can make fine personal and other wickerworks.

Other courses opened together with the No 1 Wickerwork Training Course on 27 November 2006 were Management Course No 27, Advanced Domestic Science and Vocational Training Course No 14, Refresher Course No 3 of Culture Instructors and Nos 46 and 47 Training Courses for Clerical Staff. The courses were conducted at the Central Training School of ETD of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. The director-general of ETD spoke at the ceremony to mark the opening of those courses.

Each course had its own objectives; but all the courses were training national races of the border areas to enable them energetically take part in the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special zones development project and five rural development tasks, the government has been implementing as a national task.

**During the time of the Tatmadaw government, border areas are enjoying peace and stability as never before. National race armed groups returned to the legal fold after abandoning their armed struggle line. Beginning 1989, the government formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the Work Committee for DBANR, the regional work committees and subcommittees at all levels. As the committees have been carrying out their tasks with might**

**and main, peace and stability had been restored in a short time in the border areas that are now achieving rapid progress.**

To maintain the unprecedented peace and stability and development momentum is to constantly promote and propagate Union Spirit and develop human resources in border areas. And to realize the aim, the government has been running 27 nationalities youth development training schools and 34 women's domestic science and vocational training schools in border areas, one Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College each in Yangon and Mandalay, nationalities youth technical schools in Mongla, Pangsang and Laukkai and a machine repair workshop in Sittway.

The aims of the women's domestic science and

Bamboo and rattan grow in large quantities in many parts of Myanmar. Skillfully created wickerworks are popular in the global markets. National races of border areas will be able to earn extra money if they are skilled in making these handicrafts.

For every citizen, the preservation and safeguarding of traditional culture and national characteristics is his bounden duty. In other words, he will have to pay serious attention to further vitalizing Union Spirit to strengthen the national unity ever more. In addition, all will have to join hands firmly and unitedly to protect and preserve traditions and culture.

As the government has been laying down and implementing projects to safeguard traditions and culture, the PBANRDA Ministry has been



*Trainees are attending No 1 Wickerwork Training Course. — MNA*

vocational training schools are as follows:

- (a) **to teach national race girls of border areas domestic science vocational education and to help them till they can set up and run their own businesses,**
- (b) **to acquire social development in all aspects and improve living standard through their own businesses,**
- (c) **to become young women of good character who preserve national prestige and lineage,**
- (d) **to become young women possessing strong patriotis and**
- (e) **to promote and propagate traditional culture and domestic science.**

The schools are conducting knitting courses and weaving courses in accord with the guidance of the Head of State in addition to basic and advanced tailoring courses, embroidery courses and cooking courses.

opening culture courses at its Central Training School. The courses are producing persons who can hand down singing, dancing or musical instrument playing techniques to national race youths of border areas.

**The culture courses have produced a large number of young women and girls who are preserving and safeguarding national prestige and lineage and good sons and daughters who value and cherish national culture with the full patriotism, and helped improve living standard of the young women of border areas.**

All the favourable conditions and developments I have presented in the article are the results of the goodwill of the government towards the national races of the entire Union.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 20-12-2006



*Prime Minister General Soe Win and his counterpart of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka take the salute of Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. (News on Page 16) — MNA*



*Prime Minister General Soe Win and Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka inspect Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. (News on Page 16) — MNA*

## Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Sri Lankan PM

### National Landmarks Garden and Flower Festival continues

YANGON, 20 Dec — To mark the diamond jubilee of the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin, the National Landmarks Garden and the First Flower Festival continued today.

The festival is will be held from 14 December 2006 to 13 January, 2007.

The number of visitors reached 300,000 within five days.

The National Land-

marks Garden and the First Flower Festival were organized by the Ministry of Forestry under the guidance of the Head of State.

MNA



*People visit National Kandawgyi Gardens, National Landmarks Garden and First Flower Festival in PyinOoLwin. — MNA*

### NCCWC holds coord meeting



*Chief Justice U Aung Toe delivers address at coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Work Committee. — MNA*

YANGON, 20 Dec — A coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Work Committee was held at the meeting hall of NCCWC in Nyaunhnapin Camp, Hmawby Township this afternoon.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye

Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, joint-secretaries and committee members.

At the meeting, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe presided over the meeting while Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint acted as master of ceremonies.

Next, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice

U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt explained matters related to the National Convention.

Afterwards, committee members reported on work procedures concerning the National Convention. Chief Justice U Aung Toe then made concluding remarks.

MNA



## Sri Lankan Prime Minister arrives to pay working visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 20 Dec — At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka arrived here by air on 18 December morning to pay a working visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw, Director-

General U Nyan Lin of Political Department, Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economic Department, Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr PAD Samarasekara and embassy officials.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party visited the Myanma Gems Emporium in the afternoon. They paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image and viewed white elephants at the shed. In the evening, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party paid homage



**Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka and party visit Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township. — MNA**



**Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win welcomes Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka at Yangon International Airport. — MNA**

to Shwedagon Pagoda and made cash donations.

Yesterday morning, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party, together with Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials, left for Bagan-NyaungU by air. At the airport, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe welcomed the guests.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party visited Bagan Archaeological Region in a motorcade. While in Bagan, they visited Shwezigon and

Arnanda Pagodas, Bagan Archaeological Museum, and U Ba Nyein Family Laquerware House.

In the evening, Col Phone Maw Shwe hosted dinner in honour of the guests at Aureum Palace Hotel. After the dinner, Col Phone Maw Shwe and the Sri Lankan Prime Minister exchanged gifts.

This morning, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and delegation members left NyaungU for Nay Pyi Taw by air. They were seen off at the airport by the Chairman of Magway Division PDC and officials. — MNA

### Sports equipment donated to MHF

YANGON, 20 Dec—Managing Director Mr Khurshid Alam and Director Mr Ahmed Hashim Muneef of the Modern Builders International Co Bangladesh, agent of Polytan Germany, donated hockey sticks and balls worth K 300,000 to the women's hockey subcommittee under the Myanmar Hockey Federation at the hockey pitch on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

Vice-President of the MHF U

Kyaw Naing briefed them on the plans for the development of Myanmar hockey.

The managing director presented the sports gear to the subcommittee through Chairperson Daw Swe Zin Htaik and Vice-Chairperson Daw Hla Myint.

The MHF is planning to organize a hockey tournament (women) on a grand scale at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch in the coming season. — MNA

**Mr Khurshid Alam presents Hockey sticks and balls to Daw Swe Zin Htaik of Myanmar Hockey Federation.**  
MHF



### SSA-S (Ywet Sit) terrorist group abducts village heads, demands for ransoms in Hsihseng

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—About 15 members of the Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) abducted heads Byar Kai and Byar Paik of Salaungtaung Village in Taungshei Village-tract, Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South), at about 9 pm on 12 December.

The insurgent kidnappers demanded 1.2 million kyats for their release. So, the villagers paid 700,000 kyats they had collected to the insurgent kidnappers. The kidnappers released Byar Kai, but still held Byar

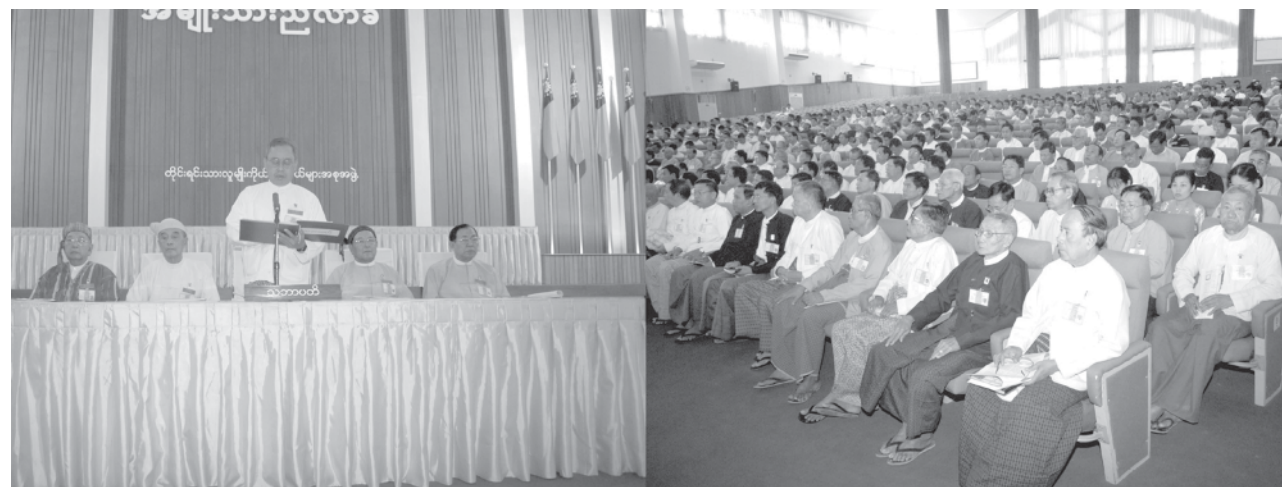
Paik.

In addition, a group of SSA-S (Ywet Sit) terrorist insurgents abducted Chairman U Hla Nyunt of Yaybyu Village Peace and Development Council in Hsihseng Township at 10.30 pm the same day. They demanded a ransom of 4 million kyats for his release and proceeded to Salaungtaung at about 11 pm.

Servicemen of the local regiment are now in hot pursuit of the members of the SSA-S (Ywet Sit) terrorist group. — MNA

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

## Delegate groups of national races, peasants and intellectuals and intelligentsia read proposals at group meetings



YANGON, 20 Dec — Delegate groups of national races, peasants and intellectuals and intelligentsia of the National Convention held the meetings at respective places of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

### Delegate Group of National Races

At Pyidaungsu Hall, Alternate Chairman U Aung Zan Wai of Rakhine State presided over the group meeting together with members of the Panel of Chairmen U Mahn Ohn Maung of Kayin State, U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yei of Kayah State, Duwa Zoak Dong of Shan State (North) and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division.

The NC delegates attended the meeting, accounting for 80 per cent. First, Alternate Chairman U Aung Zan Wai of Rakhine State gave a speech.

U Ar Phar of Shan State read out the proposal concerning the chapter on Amendment of Constitution, U Myo Tint of Magway Division the chapter on the State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital, Daw Wah Wah Mon of Mon State the chapter on the Transitory Provisions, and U Tin Oo of Kayah State the chapter on the General Provisions.

Next, the Alternate Chairman sought the approval and approved the proposal to be submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention.

### Delegate Group of Peasants

The group meeting of the Delegate Group of Peasants was held at the hall No 4. Alternate Chairman U Kan Nyunt of Khamti Township presided over the meeting together with members of the Panel of

Chairmen U Kyi Tint of Danubyu Township and U Mya Aye of Kayan Township.

The meeting was attended by 92.47 per cent of the delegates.

First, the Alternate Chairman delivered an address. Afterwards, U In Shein of Kawthoung Township read out the proposal of the delegate group



Alternate Chairman U Kan Nyunt of Khamti Township addresses group meeting of Delegate Group of Peasants. — MNA

concerning the chapter on the Amendment of the Constitution, the State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital, U Hla Shwe of An Township the chapter on the Transitory Provisions, and U Tun Oo of North Okkalapa Township and U Sai Yi Mon of Namhkam Township the chapter on the General

## Donors invited to renovate Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda

YANGON, 20 Dec — Board of Trustees of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda has invited donors to contribute to the 4th renovation of the religious buildings at the pagoda in Pazundaung Township.

Those wishing to donate cash to the funds for the renovation may contact Ph 01-290425 not later than 15 January, 2007. The donation after 15 January will be channelled to the renovation appropriately, said the board.

MNA

### Alternate Chairman U Aung Zan Wai of Rakhine State addresses group meeting of Delegate Group of National Races.

MNA

Provisions.

The Alternate Chairman approved the proposal of the delegate group to be submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention.

### Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia

The group meeting held at the hall No 6 was presided over by Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw, President of



Myanmar Academy of Technology, together with members of the Panel of Chairmen Director-General Dr Maung Maung Wint of Medical Science Department and U Hla Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

The group meeting was attended by 85.71 per cent of delegates.

First, President of Myanmar Academy of Technology Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw delivered a speech.

Architect and Sculptor U Win Maung (Tampawady) read out the proposal of the delegate group concerning the chapter on the Amendment of the Constitution, the State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital, and Technician U Sein Kyi of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise the chapter on the Transitory Provisions, and the chapter on the General Provisions.

The Alternate Chairman sought the approval from the delegates and approved the proposal to be submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention. — MNA



President of Myanmar Academy of Technology Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw addresses group meeting of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia. — MNA



## Pakistan, China joint anti-terror military exercise

ISLAMABAD, 20 Dec — China and Pakistan have traditional friendship ties and their armies are also friends of all weather, said a Chinese military chief Monday at the conclusion of the eight-day Pakistan-China Joint Exercise Friendship-2006.

“For many years Pakistan and China have focused on economic development and regional stability. At the same time, we are confronting the three evil forces, terrorism, extremism and separatism. China is ready to conduct anti-terrorism with Pakistan to construct the area of lasting peace and mutual prosperity,” said Lieutenant-General Lu Dengming, Chief of Staff

of the Chengdu military region of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

The Pakistani Army is highly professional outfit and he and other members of his entourage and the participating troops are highly impressed with the professionalism, dedication and commitment of the Pakistani troops during conduct of joint exercise friendship 2006, Lu told a group of journalists in Rawalpindi, some 30 kilometres south from Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Lieutenant-General Tariq Majid, Corps Commander Rawalpindi said that Pakistan-China Joint Exercise, Friendship-2006, “is a manifestation of our resolve that Pakistan and China stand united to fight and eliminate the menace of terrorism, which is affecting the entire fabric of human society”.

MNA/Xinhua



A ballerina from Classical Ballet of Moscow performs during the rehearsal of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s ‘El Cascanueces’ (‘The Nutcracker’) at a Madrid theatre on 19 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

## Gunmen rob almost million dollars in S Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec — Gunmen disguised as Iraqi police commandos stopped a bank truck with almost a million US dollars on board in southern Baghdad and robbed the money on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Gunmen in four vehicles set up a checkpoint in Karradah neighbourhood and seized the salaries of employees of the Iraqi Industry Ministry which mounted to 1.25 billion Iraqi dinars (more than 900,000 dollars),” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua



Kosmos 3M rocket with Germany’s SAR-Lupe reconnaissance satellite on board takes off from Plesetsk cosmodrome in northern Russia on 19 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

## Joblessness still tops Swiss list of worries

GENEVA, 20 Dec — Unemployment, health and old age pensions remain the biggest concerns for the Swiss, according to a latest survey released on Monday.

The study, published

by the bank of Credit Suisse, showed the top worries have not changed over the past four years, Swiss Radio International (SRI) reported.

Two thirds of those interviewed said their main

concern was keeping their jobs, while health and pension issues came second with 55 per cent and 51 per cent respectively. The study found that an increasing number of people with average salaries and people below the age of 39 years old were expressing concern over joblessness compared with a similar survey four years ago.

The country’s official jobless rate currently stands at 3.1 per cent. However, elderly people — as expected — saw health and pension as their main issues. Overall the top three items on the worry barometer have remained largely unchanged since 2003.

Refugees and asylum seekers (39 per cent), poverty (28 per cent), foreigners (27 per cent) and salaries (26 per cent) were next on the list of worries of the Swiss population. The study is based on interviews with more than 1,000 people conducted by a research institute in August and September, SRI said.—MNA/Xinhua

## Astronauts successfully retract solar array

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec — During an extra spacewalk on Monday, two astronauts successfully retracted a set of balky solar array outside of the International Space Station, according to NASA TV.

Mission specialists Robert Curbeam and Christer Fuglesang stepped out of the station at 2:00 pm EST (1900 GMT), attempting to coax the 35-metre solar array into its storage boxes. It was the fourth spacewalk of Discovery’s flight to the orbiting outpost. They tried to free up the array for retraction with several techniques — pulling guide wires, flipping grommets, pushing panel hinges, and even shaking the solar array panel.

Finally, the duo solved the problem, and the final bay of stubborn array was folded at about 6:55 pm EST. Applause rang out of the ground mission control centre when the two ends of the array’s boxes met for the first time since it was deployed in 2000.

The two astronauts floated back into the Quest airlock of the station at 8:27 pm EST, ending the final excursion. The impromptu of the spacewalk was an historic moment for Curbeam, who became the first astronaut to conduct four spacewalks during a single mission.

Space shuttle Discovery is scheduled to undock at 5:09 pm EST (2209 GMT) on Tuesday, ending the eight-day stay at the station. — MNA/Xinhua

## Albanian oil fire brought under control

TIRANA, 20 Dec— After raging for almost 30 hours, the oil fire inferno in a port city in northwestern Albania was completely brought under control on Monday by the joint efforts of Albanian and Greek firefighters, officials said.

At least seven firefighters and two policemen were injured in fighting the flame, it was reported.

Three oil tanks caught fire on Sunday in Shengjin, a small town 60 kilometres northwest of Tirana, the capital city of

Albania, and one of them exploded.

Albanian Ministry of Environment said more than 1,000 tons of oil has leaked into the lagoon from the oil tanks. The leakage and the smog have already caused concerns about environmental damage.

The cause of the fire was still not clear, however, it was not ruled out that the fire was set intentionally, authorities said.

MNA/Xinhua



They’re toast! : Two actors dressed as slices of toast run down a street during the making of a film in central London. INTERNET

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GEE HONG VOYNO (9896)**

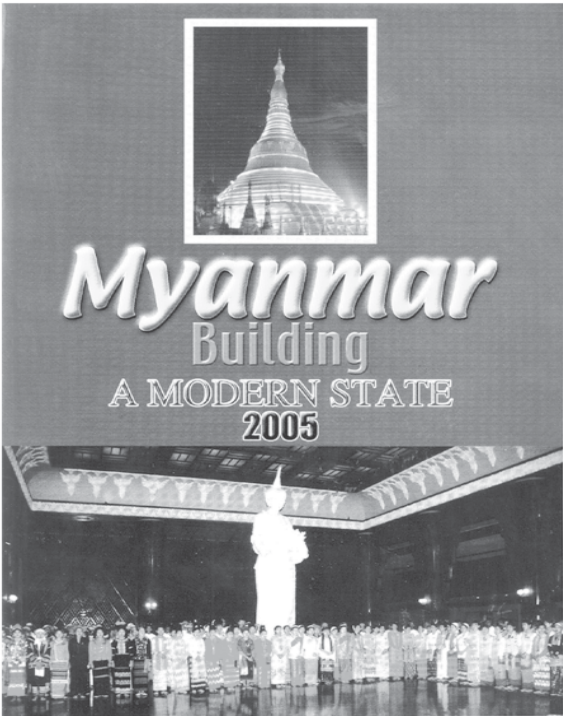
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOYNO (9896) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD**  
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Yangon. 21 December 2006

**WHO denies recommending Chinese smoking cessation product to public**

BEIJING, 19 Dec— The World Health Organization (WHO) has denied that it has recommended Ruyan, a Chinese product claimed to be effective in helping people quit smoking.

Ruyan, meaning cigarette-like in Chinese, is made up of a cigarette pipe and "smoking balls", which act as substitutes for cigarettes. It was promoted as the WHO-recommended way to stop smoking, and raked in more than one billion yuan (125 million US dollars) in domestic sales last year.

An official with the

WHO's Beijing office told the *People's Daily* that the therapy behind the product — nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) — was possible, but not the best way to quit smoking.

"The WHO never recommends any specific product for the public, nor will it recommend Ruyan," he was quoted as saying. Ruyan came under fire after the *Beijing Times* reported that each ball contains 18 milligrammes of nicotine, far higher than the average 1.2 milligramme in a cigarette.

Its producer argued that nicotine is only addictive, but not pathogenic, while the carbon monoxide and tar produced by cigarettes caused diseases.

However, his claim has been refuted by Liu Yunqing, a professor at the school of basic medical sciences of Zhengzhou University in central China's Henan Province.

"Although nicotine is not carcinogenic, it can quicken the growth of cancer," Liu told *Chengdu Business* newspaper. "It

can trigger heart disease, arteriosclerosis and strokes, and a milligramme of nicotine can kill a white rat."

Yang Gonghuan, deputy director of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, stressed that NRT was not widely used and it should be strictly supervised.

"The substitutes for cigarettes and other tobacco products are only allowed to have a very low and restricted nicotine content," Yang said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Toll of Tanzanian light plane crash rises to two**

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 19 Dec— A second victim of Saturday's light plane crash in southern Tanzania has died of severe injuries, according to hospital sources on Monday. The deceased, identified as Nathaniel Katimila, was the chief crop marketing coordinator in the Prime Minister's Office.

A photojournalist, Theresia Nyantori, died on the spot when a *Cesna* twin-engine six-seater plane crashed on Saturday shortly after taking off from the Mwanjelwa Airport in Mbeya in southern Tanzania.

The four others who were also on that ill-fated plane are still hospitalized in Dar-es-Salaam. They include Juma Akukwete, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of parliamentary affairs, and the pilot, Martin Sumari.

The light plane belonged to the Air Tanzania Corporation and was chartered by the Prime Minister's Office for the tour.

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

The Tanzanian Government has sent a special team to Mbeya to investigate the fatal incident.

MNA/Xinhua

**Japan, S Korea agree to try to resume FTA talks**

TOKYO, 19 Dec— Japan and South Korea agreed on Monday to make joint efforts to resume talks on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), *Kyodo News* reported. Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka and South Korean Deputy Trade Minister Kim Joong Keun agreed on a meeting in Tokyo to give attention to the importance of a Japan-South Korean FTA since business circles from the two countries expect such a pact, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

No specific agenda to resume the negotiations was produced from the meeting.

Japan and South Korea suspended their FTA talks in late 2004, mainly because Japan refused to open its market for agricultural products.— MNA/Xinhua



**China's actress Gong Li poses during a news conference to promote her movie 'Curse of the Golden Flower' in Taipei (China) on 19 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET**

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (R Front) answers questions during his final Press conference at the United Nations in New York, on 19 Dec, 2006. XINHUA

## Bulgaria signs long-term contract with Gazprom

SOFIA, 19 Dec— Bulgaria and Russian gas giant Gazprom Export signed on Monday a new gas deal that guarantees a long-term settlement of the energy fight between the two countries until the end of 2030, local media reported.

Bulgarian Premier Sergei Stanishev, Energy and Economic Minister Rumen Ovcharov, General Director of

Bulgargas Kiril Gegov and the CEO of the Russian gas monopoly Gasprom Aleksei Miler attended the official ceremony for signing the memorandum for future development of co-operation in gas sector between Bulgaria and Russia.

The agreement has a term until 2030. The Russian side guarantees to pay transit gas to Bulgaria in cash and increases transit volumes to 17.8 billion cubic metres per year by 2010, and the revenues of the

Bulgarian side will reach 3.18 billion US dollars by 2030.

It is for the first time in the recent 10 years that Gasprom provided gas to the Bulgarian buyer without a mediator. It also grants Bulgaria to use fuel of the gas-transit factories in the country for heat-generating use.

Bulgaria will increase gradually price for buying gas from next spring till to 2012, when the price will see an increase by 40 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

## Uranium returned to Russia from Germany

Moscow, 19 Dec— A Russian plane brought back home on Monday more than 300 kilogrammes of Soviet-era enriched uranium from Germany for processing into fuel for nuclear power plants.

The plane carrying 268 kilogrammes of highly enriched uranium and 58 kilogrammes of low enriched uranium landed at an airport near Moscow, the Federal Atomic Energy Agency was quoted by news agencies

ITAR-TASS and RIA Novosti as saying.

The uranium was supplied to a research reactor in Rossendorf, Germany, as part of

cooperation agreements between the Soviet Union and East Germany, the agency said. The reactor was shut down in 1991.

Monday's shipment of

uranium to Russia was part of a programme to reduce global stockpiles of highly enriched uranium.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, the ice sculpture 'China-South Korea Friendship Tower,' centre, stands illuminated in Harbin, the capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

## UN launches new standards to help rehabilitate ex-fighters

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Dec — The United Nations on Monday launched a new set of standards aimed at improving the process of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating (DDR) ex-combatants in war-ravaged countries. Many aspects of the new standards, called Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS), are "field-tested", having been drawn from the best practices of various UN agencies and missions currently working in peacekeeping, said the UN in a statement.

"We're very proud of the work we've done so far in places like Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, where more than 134,000 combatants laid down their arms with the UN's help, but we acknowledge that we can do better," said UN Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown. "That is why these standards are so important; they will allow us to ensure that all phases of the process from disarmament to demobilization to reintegration of former combatants back into society are carried out smoothly, with due attention to the special concerns of different groups and situations," he said— MNA/Xinhua

## Lightning kills two in north Zambia

LUSAKA, 19 Dec— Two youths aged 21 and 14 were killed by lightning during a heavy downpour in Kawambwa, north Zambia, over the weekend, *Zambia News and Information Services* (ZANIS) reported on Monday.

Both hospital and police sources confirmed the death. Eye witnesses, Dickson Chishala and Henry Chola who are security guards at a sub power station about 150 metres from the scene, said the lightning first struck the station and then hit the house where the boy and girl lived.

MNA/Xinhua

## Saved whale found dead in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Dec— An injured whale which was towed back into deep waters has been found dead, local Press reported Monday.

The huge dead body was found last Sunday morning almost in the same spot where it got struck days ago in shallow waters near Sabah State in eastern Malaysia.

The sight brought tears to the eyes of many visitors, including volunteer rescuers who had done their best to save the whale, which had visible cuts and

bruises on its body, reported the *New Straits Times* (NST).

The whale had been trapped in the shallow waters since late last Thursday. Scores of people from Sabah Parks, the Maritime Agency, Worldwide Fund for Nature, dive enthusiasts as well as members of the public were at the whale's side, keeping it cool until it was finally towed out by tugboat Friday evening. Dr Nicholas Pilcher, a marine biologist and Marine Research

Foundation executive director and founder, was involved in the rescue. He was not surprised by the death of the whale.

"A perfectly healthy whale won't beach itself. There was already something wrong with it, though we will never know what. A majority of stranded whales don't survive, even after going back to sea with human aid. Most will beach again somewhere and die," he was quoted as saying by the NST report.

MNA/Xinhua

A technician inspects a 12-inch wafer at a United Micro-electronics Corp plant in Tainan, Taiwan, recently. INTERNET



# SPORTS

## FIFA club world winner Internacional party in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Dec— Brazilian team Internacional, winner of the FIFA club world championship 2006, arrived in Rio Grande do Sul state, in the South of the country, on Tuesday afternoon to join the party prepared by the club to celebrate the title.

On Monday, the plane with the teams delegation left Tokyo, where they had defeated Spains Barcelona 1-0 on the day before. Thirty-three hours later, a hired plane took the players from Sao Paulo to Canoas Airport, 15 kilometres away from Rio Grande do Suls capital, Porto Alegre, the clubs hometown.

The plane flew over the Beira Rio Stadium, Internacionals headquarters, where thousands of the so-called colorados fans gathered to welcome the team. Musical concerts with local bands were hired to cheer up the fans before the squad did not come.

At the airport, a committee of politicians and other authorities, as well as part of the clubs coaching committee and representatives of the board of directors, awaited the champions. State Governor Germano Rigotto and Porto Alegres Mayor Jose Fogaca will deliver medals to delegation members.

From Canoas, the team will go on a motorcade on two Fire Brigade trucks,

up to Beira Rio stadium. "It will be exciting to climb on fire truck. I have never done that. When it happens, that is because the achievement was huge. This year was unforgettable. We won the Libertadores Cup and the club world championship, and we ranked second in the Brazilian League," said head coach Abel Braga.

MNA/Xinhua



Minnesota Wild goalie Manny Fernandez, right, covers the net as Wild defenceman Brent Burns, centre, and Vancouver Canucks defenceman Yannick Tremblay (28) vie for the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game in St Paul, Minn, on 19 Dec, 2006. The Wild beat the Canucks 5-2.—INTERNET

## Parreira says Cannavaro is not the best in world

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Dec— Carlos Alberto Parreira, head coach of Brazil's national team criticized on Tuesday FIFA's choice of Italian defender Fabio Cannavaro as World Player of the Year.

"He is not the best in the world and cannot be compared to players like Ronaldinho or Kaka," said the coach.

According to him, the main reasons for the choice were the title won by Italy in Germany World Cup, as well as other players' weak individual performances at the competition.

Cannavaro represents a moment in soccer. He was the highlight of a World Cup in which squads prevailed for their collective skills, stressed Parreira, who added that, if technical quality were the main criteria, there would be no room for competition with Brazilian players.

Still exulting his country's soccer, he praised local club Internacional on their victory over Barcelona on Sunday, when they won the club World Championship in Tokyo.

Barcelona did not lose. Internacional won. That was a great demonstration of the strength and power of the Brazilian soccer, he said.

The head coach also made comments on his role in the command of South African national team, a position he will take over in February 2007. He said that he has preparing team directors and fans for possible defeats on their way to play FIFA World Cup 2010, which South Africans will host.

MNA/Xinhua



Phoenix Suns forward Shawn Marion, right, is fouled in the act of shooting by Toronto Raptors' Morris Peterson during the second quarter of their NBA basketball game, on 19 Dec, 2006, in Phoenix. The Suns won 115-98, to set a new team record with 15 consecutive wins.—INTERNET

## Bulgaria's Soccer Player of Year elected

SOFIA, 20 Dec— Martin Petrov, striker of Atletico Madrid and the Bulgarian national team, has been named Bulgaria's Soccer Player of the Year 2006, the official website of the Bulgarian Football Union said.

The 27-year-old Petrov is awarded the title for the first time in his career. The ceremony took place on Tuesday evening in Sofia.

The second best is Dimitar Berbatov, title-holder in 2005 and 2004, striker for English premier league side Tottenham Hotspur, Stilian Petrov, midfielder in another English team Aston Villa and also the former captain of the Bulgarian national team, placed third.

The other titles are separated by: Todor Radomirov (Spartak Varna), fairplay of the year; Valeri Domovchiyski (Levski Sofia), the most promising young footballer; Stanimir Stoilov (Levski Sofia), coach of the year; Georgi Petkov (Levski Sofia), goalkeeper of the year; Stanislav Angelov (Levski Sofia), midfield of the year; Dimitar Berbatov, striker of the year and fans' favourite footballer.

This year the 46th "Bulgaria's Soccer Player No. 1" was held among 161 journalists and editors from 61 media organizations. — MNA/Xinhua



Wycombe Wanderers team members celebrate defeating Charlton Athletic during their English League Cup quarter-final soccer match at The Valley in London on 19 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

## Women's world footballer of year to become global

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Dec— Brazilian national women's soccer teams striker Marta, who won the FIFA World Player 2006 prize on Monday in Zurich, arrived in Rio de Janeiro with prospects of becoming a role model of a global female player.

Brazil is the country of men's soccer, not of women's soccer. Brazil won a silver medal of women's event in the 2004 Olympics and still nothing has changed, said the player. Brazil does not even have a national women's league, which shows prejudice against women in the country where soccer is more popular than in any other place in the world.

Since she was 17, Marta has played for Sweden's Umea IF, one of the main European women's clubs, maybe the most competitive in the world. The 20-year-old player also ran for the Player of the Year title in 2004, when she got third, and in 2005, when she was overcome only by Germany's Brigit Prinz.

The striker may not be recognized on Brazilian streets, but her success in Europe called the attention from agent Fabiano Farah, who also assists Real Madrids star Ronaldo, a holder of three Player of the Year awards (1996, 1997 and 2002).

Sponsors and club directors know that Marta is a great promotional platform for companies that wish to operate in markets for women's soccer, said Farah, who added that the strategy is to transform Marta into a global product, just like they did to Ronaldo.

MNA/Xinhua

## Argentine Boca Jrs markets Gago to Barcelona, Milan

MADRID, 20 Dec— Argentine soccer team Boca Jrs is marketing midfielder Fernando Gago, 20, to Spanish league team Barcelona and Italy's AC Milan because Spain's Real Madrid baulked at Gago's 23-million-euro asking price, Spanish media said on Tuesday.

Gago helped Argentina win the sport's under-20 World Cup in 2005, and is sought after by Madrid's manager, Fabio Capello, who has compared him to Fernando Redondo, another Argentine who made his name at Real Madrid, as a playmaker with funky hair.

Capello told a weekend Press conference in Madrid that, "We need Gago but, when he's signed, I'll talk more about him".

MNA/Xinhua



Real Mallorca's Jose Carlos Nunes (L) and Valencia's Joaquin Sanchez (R) fight for the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, on 19 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

# US public support for Iraq war falls to new low

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec — Fewer than a third of Americans still support the war in Iraq, and more than half say they want US troops out of the country within a year, according to a CNN poll released on Tuesday.

Support for the nearly-four-year-long war fell to a new low of 31 per cent, while a record 67-per-cent voiced opposition, according to the poll conducted Friday through Sunday.

Nearly three-quarters said the Bush Administration's Iraq policy needed a complete overhaul or major changes.

Only 11 per cent of those surveyed supported calls to send more American troops to Iraq, as President George W Bush was said to be

considering.

Among over 1,000 American adults interviewed, only 32 per cent supported keeping US troops in Iraq "as long as necessary". By comparison, 21 per cent said they wanted Americans to leave immediately, and 33 per cent said they preferred a US withdrawal within a year.

The poll also found Americans were increasingly pessimistic about the outcome of the war, which had cost nearly 3,000 American lives

since March 2003.

Half of those polled — an even 50 per cent — said the war was likely to

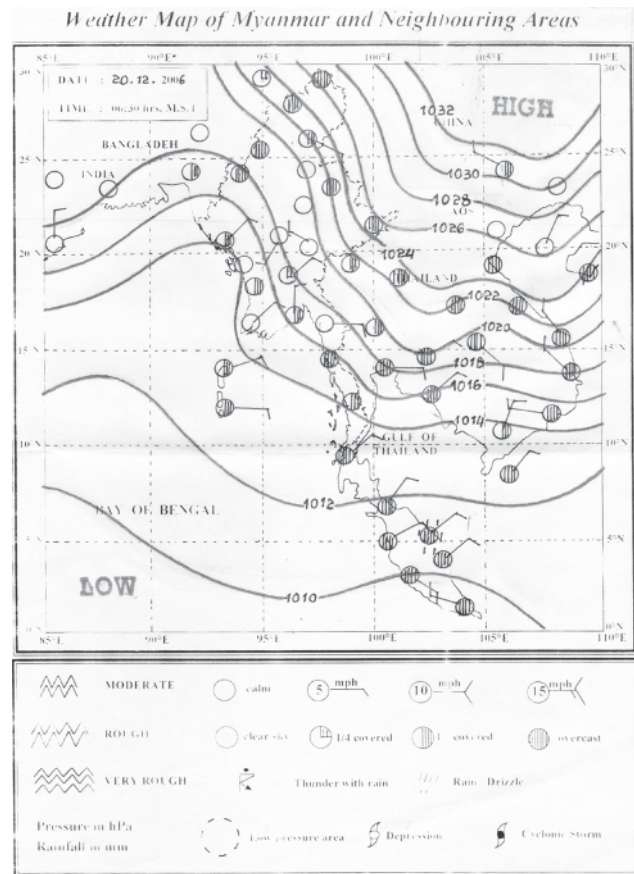
end in a stalemate, while the same number said victory was no longer possible. — MNA/Xinhua

## US Marine killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec — One US Marine was killed on Monday in Iraq's volatile province of Anbar, the US military said on Tuesday.

A Marine from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, died Monday from wounds sustained due to "enemy action" in Anbar Province, the US military said in a statement.

The latest death brings the total death toll of US military personnel in Iraq to more than 2,945 since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to the Pentagon figures. — MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

Wednesday, 20 December, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in upper Sagaing Division isolated in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin and Mon States, Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Heho (4°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlaik (1.22) inches and Shwebo (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-12-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 20-12-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 20-12-2006 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 19-12-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 20-12-2006 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 East at 12:45 hours MST on 19-12-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 21-12-2006:** Rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay Division 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:** Continuation of slight decrease of night temperatures are likely in the lower Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-12-2006:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-12-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-12-2006:** Generally fair weather.



Oldrich Svarousky, a member of the Hollywood-based Filmka stunt group, skips through a flaming hoop during a performance in Shanghai on Saturday, 16 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET



Thursday, 21 December  
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -I see you
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Do wah diddy
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Once in a while
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Venus
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Adam & Eve -Do I love you -Endless love
- 9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Pourri
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers -Only you -Listen to your heart
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

<p>Thursday, 21 December View on today</p>	<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p>	<p>ပထမနှစ် (ရှုကွဗေဒအထူးပြု)</p>
	<p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p>	<p>8:10 am</p> <p>6. ကျေးပင်အက်ရေလှောင်တစ်</p>
<p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p>	<p>8:15 am</p> <p>7. Dance variety</p>	<p>5:50 pm</p> <p>4. နိုင်ငံတကာဖိတ်ခေါ် ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (မြန်မာ ယူ-၂၃ဘောလုံးအသင်းနှင့် မြန်မာလက်ရွေးစင် ဘောလုံးအသင်း)</p>
<p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p>	<p>8:30 am</p> <p>8. International news</p>	<p>8:00 pm</p> <p>5. News</p>
<p>7:55 am</p> <p>5. Dance of national races</p>	<p>8:45 am</p> <p>9. Let's Go</p>	<p>7. Weather report</p>
	<p>3:20 pm</p> <p>1. နိုင်ငံတကာဖိတ်ခေါ် ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (အင်ဒိုနီးရှားဘောလုံးအသင်းနှင့် မလေးရှား ယူ-၂၃ ဘောလုံးအသင်း)</p>	<p>8. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကျောမလေးပထမရက်ပြိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)</p>
	<p>5:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p>	<p>9. The next day's programme</p>
	<p>5:30 pm</p> <p>3. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ</p>	

## Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Sri Lankan PM

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec— At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win, a goodwill delegation led by Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, arrived here today to pay a working visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The goodwill delegation was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Prime Minister General Soe Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads and officials.

Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka proceeded to the dais where they took the salute of the Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

After that, Prime Minister General Soe Win and the Sri Lankan Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Soe Win



*Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA*

greeted the delegation members who accompanied the Sri Lankan Prime Minister.

Likewise, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka greeted members of the

welcoming party of Prime Minister General Soe Win.

Next, the goodwill delegation led by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister left for Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone where they would put up. — MNA

## PM General Soe Win holds talks with Sri Lankan counterpart Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win held talks with Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka at the meeting hall of the Government Office, here, today.

Also present were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for For-

eign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of the Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and Deputy Director-General Daw Than Than Htay of the Political Depart-

ment under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary to Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Bandusena, Additional Secretary Mr Karunatilaka Amunugama of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar Mr PAD Samarasekera and high-ranking officials.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and strengthening friendship between the two nations.

MNA



*Prime Minister General Soe Win holds talks with Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Hon Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka. — MNA*