

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 23 December, 2006

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates newly elected President of Swiss Confederation

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to the Federal Counsellor of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation Her Excellency Madam Micheline Calmy-Rey, who was elected as President of the Swiss Confederation on 13 December 2006. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Emperor of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2006, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 9th Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the graduation dinner of the 9th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy at the parade ground of the DSTA in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, at 5.30 pm yesterday.

Also present at the dinner were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief

(Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Develop-

ment Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and their wives, ministers, senior military officers, the Man-

dalay Mayor, the Director-General of the SPDC Office and officials, the PyinOoLwin Station Commander, senior military of-

icers of PyinOoLwin Station, the Rector of DSTA, the Director of Literature, the Chief Instructor Officer, commanding offic-

ers of the cadet battalions, professors, faculty members, graduate officers and their parents and relatives. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend a dinner to mark the graduation of 9th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. — MNA

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 23 December, 2006

Strive to become brilliant military engineers

In modern age, those countries which have superiority in technology are trying to influence other nations. At such a time, developing countries like Myanmar are to defend themselves with their own strength.

At a time when efforts are being made for the country to stand tall among the global nations the government is building a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw in order to fully defend the country.

Defence Services Technological Academy is one of the higher learning institutions which are constantly producing qualified human resources required by a modern Tatmadaw.

The graduation parade of the 9th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held in PyinOoLwin on 21 December. This has fulfilled the needs for junior military engineers in the nation.

The graduate junior military engineers are to discharge the three major tasks of the Tatmadaw—defence, training and community welfare—in addition to technological task. At the same time, they are to make a constant study of military science and technology as well as modern warfare that are undergoing a constant change.

We firmly believe that the graduate junior military engineers will be able to discharge the national defence duty at the risk of their lives, while making continued efforts to become brilliant military engineers in accordance with the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw that is protecting the lives and property of the entire people.

Peoples' Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Lt-Gen Myint Swe meets entrepreneurs of industrial zone, fish paste, dry fish, fish sauce zone



Lt-Gen Myint Swe meeting with businessmen at fish paste, dry fish, fish sauce zone of YCDC. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence met with industrial entrepreneurs from Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Industrial Zone at Kanaung Hall of the zone this afternoon.

Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development reported to Lt-Gen Myint Swe on construction of the strand road along Bago River in the township, construction of the embankment to the river, the road linking Thayetbin Village to Bago River, building of Gyargyi Creek Sluice Gate, Phobyan Creek Sluice Gate and Nyaungbintha Creek Sluice Gate, the plan for establishment of Chilli Powder Production Zone and matters related to the township.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Com-

mand Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials gave supplementary reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected construction of Thayetbinchaung Village, roads and Nyaungbintha Creek Sluice Gate.

At the briefing hall, Head of Revenue Department of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Zin submitted reports on reclamation of the fish paste, dry fish, fish sauce zone, sales of plots, upgrading the roads, installation of transformers, water supply, fire prevention and greening tasks.

The commander, the mayor and officials gave supplementary reports.

After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended to the needs of the entrepreneurs. — MNA

Sales centre of Super Power Engine Oil and Lubricant opened in Mandalay

YANGON, 21 Dec — A dinner to mark the opening of the sales centre (Upper Myanmar) of Super Power Engine Oil and Lubricant distributed by Myanmar New Stars Industry Co Ltd was held at Zaygyo Hotel in Mandalay on 19 December.

Managing Director U Thet Naing of the company extended greetings first. The movie stars performed entertainments at the ceremony.

Super Power Engine Oil and Lubricant are being produced in UAE and these quality-products

are on sale across the world nations.

The UAE made-engine oils and lubricants are available at Building (A / 39), Room-9, Bayintnaung Market, Mayangon Township in Yangon and No 328/B on 82nd street between 28th and 29th streets in Chanayethazan

Middle Ward in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.—MNA

The Best of the Best... Always Essentials

SP SUPER POWER

BEST LUBRICANT MADE IN U. A. E

MYANMAR NEW STARS INDUSTRY Co.,Ltd

SUPER POWER (အပူအမြင်)

အထက်မြန်မာပြည် (အပူအမြင်) ဆိုင်ခွဲ

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MMU benefits from aid

YANGON, 22 Dec — Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa donated furniture worth US \$9,000 to Myanmar Maritime University today.

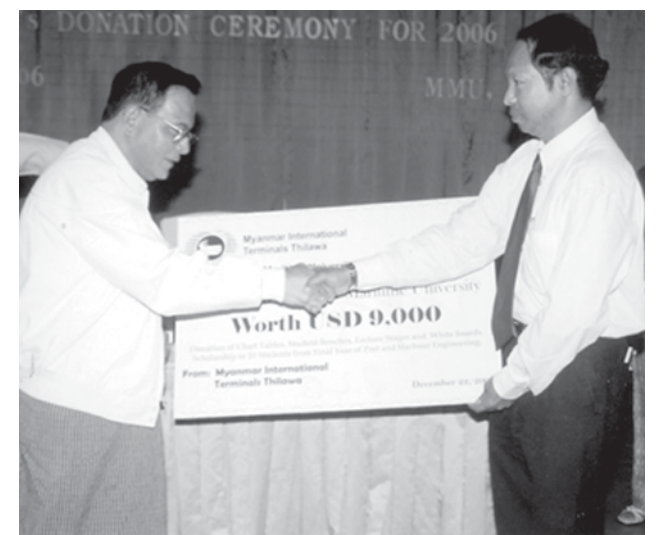
At the donation ceremony held at the university in Thanlyin Township, Assistant General manager U Min Kyi of MITT handed over 60 sets of desks, 120 chart tables and three white boards to Rector of MMU U Thein Tun. MITT also contributed cash to the funds of the university for scholarship. On the occasion, Assistant General Manager U Min Kyi of MITT explained the purpose of the

donation. This is the fifth time that the university benefited from aid.

At the ceremony rec-

tor of the university briefed on facts about and progress of the university.

MNA



Assistant General Manager U Min Kyi of MITT presents cash to Rector of MMU. — MNA

Thai-Laotian Friendship Bridge officially opens

BANGKOK, 21 Dec—The second Thai-Laotian Friendship Bridge linking the Laotian province of Savannakhet with northeastern Thailand's Mukdahan Province officially opened Wednesday.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand and Lao Vice-President Bounhang Vorachit jointly presided over the opening ceremony on Wednesday morning which was witnessed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries and diplomatic corps, according to the *Thai News Agency*.

The 2nd Friendship Bridge is aimed at facilitating transportation, trade, investment and tourism activities for countries in the Mekong Sub-region. Bridge construction began on 21 March, 2004.

The bridge has two traffic lanes and is 12 metres wide and 1,600 metres long. It is part of the land transport development plan of the East-West economic corridor running through Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. Previously, the first Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge over the Mekong linking the Thai province of Nong Khai and Lao capital Vientiane was opened in 1994. —MNA/Xinhua



A view of the Thai-Laos second Friendship Bridge over Mae Kong River in Mukdahan Province, near the Thai-Laos border. The 1,600 meters long and 12 metres wide bridge was started in December 2003 for a cost of 2.67 billion baht (76.28 million USD).—INTERNET

Construction begins on super high-voltage power lines

CHUXIONG (Yunnan), 21 Dec—Construction began on the world's first 800-kilovolt direct current transmission lines in Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Chuxiong, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on Tuesday. The project, undertaken by China Southern Power Grid, will have an investment of 13.24 billion yuan (1.66 billion US dollars) and

extend 1,438 kilometres.

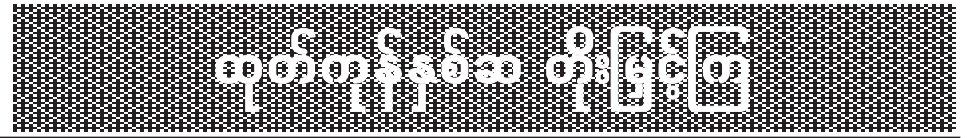
Designed to send electricity from underdeveloped Yunnan Province to Guangdong via Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the project will be completed in 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

Joseph Alvarado, 3, watches his father Louis Alvarado shovels snow from their front walk in Denver, on Thursday morning, 21 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



Carmen, a spider monkey, eats 'christmas treats' hung by staff at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, on 21 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET



Jordan's King Abdullah (L) shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe prior to talks at the premier's official residence in Tokyo, on 22 Dec, 2006. King Abdullah is in Japan on a three-day visit.—INTERNET

Cambodia calls for establishment of rice exporters' association

PHNOM PENH, 21 Dec—Cambodia on Wednesday called on Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to join hands with it to form an association of rice exporting countries to stabilize the price of rice.

An association of the rice exporting countries along the Mekong River could be important for the world market, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

said Wednesday while inaugurating a building for the orphans in Battambang City, capital of Battambang Province.

The association was somewhat like the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), he was quoted by local radioreports as saying. The association then could play a role in balancing OPEC's influence, he

said. "If they want cheaper rice, then they should decrease oil prices," he added.

According to official statistics, Cambodia is to export 1.5 million tons of rice in 2006. Annual rice exports in the region of the Mekong River stand at over 10 million tons, almost half of the world's annual rice exports.

MNA/Xinhua



Fighter plane crashes in S Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 21 Dec—A French-made *Mirage* fighter plane of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) crashed in the suburbs of the southern Pakistan port city of Karachi Wednesday, but the pilot ejected safely, a PAF spokesman said.

The plane was on a routine operational training mission and came down in the Manghopir locality of Karachi, the spokesman said.

TV channels reported that technical fault may

have caused the crash.

The Pakistani Air Force headquarters has constituted a board of inquiry to determine the cause of the crash.

Pakistan's arsenal of *Mirages* is the second biggest after France, which is not only maintaining a big fleet of *Mirages* but also overhauling the planes of the PAF and Air Forces of several friendly countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian leaders meet Chinese delegation

PHNOM PENH, 20 Dec— Cambodia's Acting Head of State and Senate President Chea Sim, Prime Minister Hun Sen and National Assembly President Heng Samrin met here Tuesday respectively with a visiting Chinese delegation on bilateral ties and co-operation.

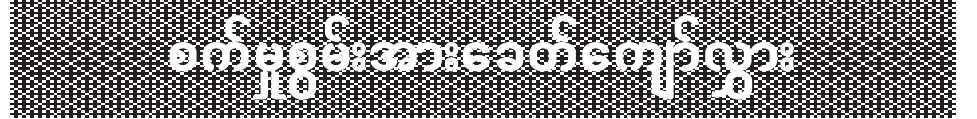
The delegation is

headed by Li Guixian, president of the Chinese Association for International Understanding and vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

In their meetings, the Cambodian leaders all expressed their willingness to develop friendly and cooperative ties with

China. They also said Cambodia will adhere to the "one China" policy and support China's reunification cause.

Li briefed the Cambodian leaders on China's current political and economic situation, and positively evaluated the two countries' overall and deep cooperation in all fields. — MNA/Xinhua



Germany's Naval Chief, Vice-Admiral Wolfgang E Nolting (L), shakes hands with India's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, during his ceremonial reception in New Delhi, on 20 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET



Ice sculptures are displayed on the street of Harbin, dubbed the "Ice City", northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Dec, 2006.

XINHUA

Annan says Iraq war is worst moment in tenure

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Dec — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday that the failure to stop the Iraq war was the worst moment of his 10 years in office.

"I think the worst moment was the Iraq war which as an organization

we couldn't stop and I really did everything I can to try to see if we could stop it," he said at his last Press conference when asked about his top achievements and worst moments in his tenure.

Among the achievements, he cited the UN's

human rights efforts, the war against inequality both between and within states and the battle for development as epitomized by the Millennium Development Goals that seek to slash a host of social ills, such as extreme hunger and poverty, infant

and maternal mortality and lack of access to education and health care, all by 2015.

He pleaded that the UN not be judged by the Iraq oil-for-food scandal but by its myriad humanitarian and development actions.— MNA/Xinhua

Noise makers to face heavier fines in Beijing

BEIJING, 21 Dec— A new set of Beijing noise pollution prevention and control regulations, jointly issued Tuesday by the municipal environmental protection bureau and the legal affairs office, has upped fines for those making noise in the capital. The regulations, which will take effect next year, replacing the 1984

regulations, state that individuals or shops who seriously disturb the peace with car honking, deafening sound systems or noisy house decorating on the weekend and during vacations will be fined 200 to 500 yuan (about 25 to 63 US dollars) each time.

Fines for this sort of activity were limited to a maximum of 50 yuan

(about seven US dollars) in the 1984 regulations.

The newly-issued regulations also said construction sites that illegally keep working at night are subject to fines of 30,000 yuan (about 3,750 US dollars).

Companies which build highways, railroads or flyovers must take measures to control noise pollution when the projects can affect nearby residents.—MNA/Xinhua



As his sons Michael, 10, center, and Lucas, 6, look on, Dave Sell, of Erie, Colorado, clears his neighbor's driveway on Thursday, 21 Dec, 2006. A winter storm deposited over two feet in Erie. —INTERNET

A craftswoman makes a Christmas decoration in a workshop in Russia's Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, on 20 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET



Iraq's V-P calls for "scheduled" pullout of US troops

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Dec— Iraqi Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi on Tuesday called for a scheduled pullout of US troops from his war-torn country.

"I am calling for a scheduled withdrawal of American troops," the Vice-President told

reporters at the UN headquarters after he met with outgoing UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

But Hashemi added that the American withdrawal should come only after Iraq's security forces have become capable of taking on the country's

security issues by themselves.

"We work closely with the Americans who want their soldiers home. But withdrawal cannot come before the Iraqi forces are capable of handling the situation on their own," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore receives first millionth Chinese visitor

SINGAPORE, 20 Dec — Singapore received its first millionth Chinese visitor when Yu Yongkang landed at Changi Airport on Tuesday afternoon.

The occasion marked the first time that Singapore has reached the one millionth mark for visitor arrivals from China and the first country to do so, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) said.

Yu, on a business trip organized by his company,

was declared the winner after he touched down in Singapore, with a surprise red-carpet welcome by the STB. "I feel very honoured and excited to be Singapore's first millionth Chinese visitor. This is really a pleasant surprise for me," Yu said.

He has won over 15,000 Singapore dollars (about 9,700 US dollars) worth of prizes, including complimentary hotel stays, dining, shopping and spa vouchers, courtesy cruise tickets, even two business-class return tickets to Singapore.

Ken Low, the STB's assistant chief executive (Brand and Communications), regarded this as a significant milestone for Singapore's tourism industry.—MNA/Xinhua



Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (L) walks with the head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Hermogenes Esperon, upon her arrival at a ceremony marking the armed forces anniversary in Manila, on 21 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Top US commander in Middle East to step down

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec— Army General John P Abizaid, the top US commander in the Middle East, has submitted plans to retire and will leave his post in March, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Wednesday.

According to Pentagon officials, Abizaid submitted his retirement documents just over a month ago, shortly before then Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld gave in his resignation, the report said.

Abizaid's planned departure clears the way for Robert M Gates, the new defence chief, to bring in his own commander, which Pentagon officials believe is a choice between generals who back Abizaid's drive to transfer security responsibilities to the Iraqi authorities and those arguing for a more aggressive US-led counterinsurgency campaign, it added.

On Gates' list for Abizaid's successor is Army General George W Casey Jr, the commander of US forces in Iraq, who is most closely associated with Abizaid's strategy. Counterinsurgency advocates Army Lieutenant-General David Petraeus and Army Lieutenant-General Peter Chiarelli are also leading candidates for the top US military office in the Middle East. Other candidates associated with this group are Army Lieutenant-General Martin E Dempsey, and Marine Lieutenant-General James N Mattis.—MNA/Xinhua



General view of Russia's gas monopoly Gazprom headquarters in Moscow on 19 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Unknown brain fever kills 35 Indian children

NEW DELHI, 20 Dec — An unknown brain fever has killed 35 children in three months in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, leaving health authorities puzzled, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported Tuesday.

The latest virus has symptoms similar to that of Japanese encephalitis even though it was reportedly less fatal. Japanese encephalitis killed over 1,400 children last year in Uttar Pradesh, one of India's most backward and impoverished states with a population of over 180 million.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian passenger plane skids off runway

JAKARTA, 20 Dec — A passenger plane belonging to Indonesia's Mandala Airlines skidded off a slippery runway during a landing in the East Java Town of Malang on Monday, but no one was injured in the incident. The *Boeing 737-200* with 77 passengers onboard had its landing gear broken after the incident at the Abdul Rachman Saleh Airport, reported the national *Antara* news agency.

The airport's runway measures only 1,800 metres or below the ideal length of 2,300 metres, it said.—MNA/Xinhua

Seven killed in road accident in N-W Bangladesh

DHAKA, 20 Dec — Seven traders were killed and six others injured as an onion-laden truck bound for the capital Dhaka overturned in northwestern Bangladesh early Monday, local news agency *UNB* reported. All the onion traders hailed from western Kushtia District.

According to *UNB*, one of the front wheels of the Dhaka-bound truck from Kushtia got disjointed, and the lorry turned turtle on the road in northwestern Sirajganj District in the early morning, killing six people on the spot. Among the injured, one died at hospital. —MNA/Xinhua

Two children die as gas cylinder explodes in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 20 Dec — Two children were burnt to death and three others badly injured on Tuesday when a gas cylinder exploded in a house near eastern Pakistani town Chiniot, local media reported.

The gas cylinder, which had been leaking all night, exploded on Tuesday morning when the house owner lit a match to cook breakfast, according to the state-run *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

The accident occurred at the outskirts of Chiniot, some 130 kilometres west of Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province.

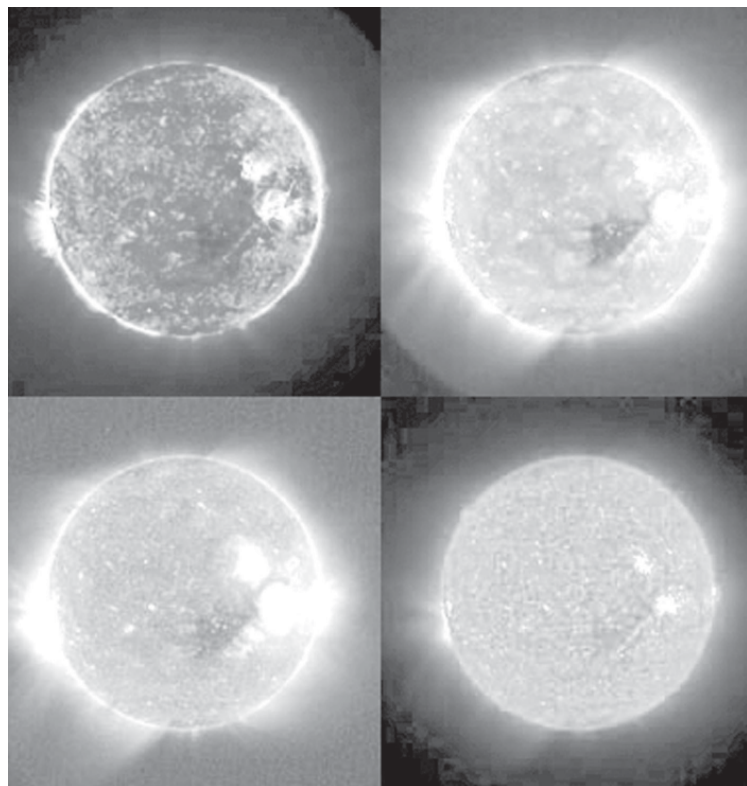
MNA/Xinhua

17 injured in Philippine bus crash

MANILA, 20 Dec — At least 17 bus passengers were injured on Tuesday after the vehicle fell off a bridge in the central Philippine province of Camarines Sur, local radio reported.

Sketchy reports said the 17 casualties included the bus driver, but no one was killed in the accident. Police said that overspeeding may have caused the bus to crash off the bridge, *dzEC* radio said in the report.—MNA/Xinhua

NASA's two nearly identical spacecraft have begun returning images of the sun's corona. The two spacecraft are supposed to study the most energetic events on the surface and in the lower atmosphere of the sun, as well as their travel through interplanetary space. —XINHUA



The amendment of any provision of the constitution is as important as the lifeblood of the nation

YANGON, 22 Dec— The following is a translation of the proposals on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” to be included in drafting the State Constitution made by Shan State Kokang Democratic Party at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, yesterday.

I wish you all, Mr Chairman and members of the panel of chairmen, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee and members and delegates health and happiness.

I am U Khaung Daing, a National Convention delegate of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party.

Amendment of the Constitution Mr Chairman,

We are in support of adopting the para 1 (a), (b) concerning the means to amend the constitution, the para 2 the amendment of the constitution only at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the para 3 the percentage of MPs required for an amendment as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

We find that the para 4 states as follows:

“(a) The adopted provisions of the State Fundamental Principles, the State Structure, the Formation of Legislature, the Formation of Executive, the Formation of Judiciary, and the State of Emergency shall be amended with the prior approval of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a nationwide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote.

“(b) Provisions other than those mentioned in the paragraph (a) shall be amended only with a majority vote of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

“(c) Articles that are concerned with or inclusive in Chapters stated in the paragraph (a) shall be prescribed when the Constitution is drafted.”

Mr Chairman,

We would like to present our opinion concerning the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of the para 4.

As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, the colour green that stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment should be used. In addition, yellow that depicts solidarity, harmony, re-consolidation and love and unity of all the national races should be used in the Flag. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness, should also be portrayed.

After the establishment of an independent state, a constitution is promulgated. But constitutional amendments in connection with some of the adopted provisions will have to be made due to certain reasons or if and when necessary. The amendment of any provision of the constitution is as important as the lifeblood of the nation. Instead of amending the constitution with the referendum or over 75 per cent of the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the stipulations of the Constitution, a detailed basic principle should be adopted to amend the constitution if over 50 percent of the members of the respective Hluttaws proposed to do so.

Hence, we would like to suggest to adopt the said detailed basic principle as follows;

“(a) The adopted provisions of the State Fundamental Principles, the State Structure, the Formation of Legislature, the Formation of Executive, the Formation of Judiciary, and the State of Emergency shall be amended with the prior approval of more than 50 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a nationwide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote.

“(b) Provisions other than those mentioned in the paragraph (a) shall be amended only with a majority vote of more than 50 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

“(c) Articles that are concerned with or inclusive in Chapters stated in the paragraph (a) shall be prescribed when drafting the Constitution.”

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital Mr Chairman and delegates,

I will now discuss the chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”.

It is true that every independent and sovereign world nation has its own State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital. We also have our own. It is appropriate to have procedures and rules in connection with the State Flag and to prescribe punishments for offences in the separate law.

Mr Chairman,

The prescriptions and the colour of the State Flag of our nation mostly depend on her history and objective conditions of her national races. According to the 1947 Constitution, we used the National Flag that was rectangular in shape and red in colour with a canton of dark blue. In the canton were a five-pointed large white star with five smaller stars between the points.

Mr Chairman,

According to the clarification of the Work Committee Chairman, we have come to know that the colour blue representing peace, tranquillity and stability used in the State Flag in accord with the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution will not be used in the coming State Flag.

Mr Chairman,

As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, the colour green that stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment should be used. In addition, yellow that depicts solidarity, harmony, re-consolidation and love and unity of all the national races should be used in the Flag. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness, should also be portrayed.

As the Work Committee Chairman’s explanations concerning the State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital are comprehensive and realistic and in accord with the historical conditions, we have no further suggestions concerning them.

The detailed basic principles “The State Seal shall

U Khaung
Daing of
Shan
State
Kokang
Democratic
Party.
MNA



be as shown below”, “The present National Anthem shall be prescribed as the National Anthem” and “The capital of the State is Nay Pyi Taw” should be adopted.

Transitory Provisions

I will now discuss our proposal concerning the chapter “Transitory Provisions”. In most of the world nations, in formulating a State Constitution, the situation of a nation before the Constitution does not come into force is somewhat different from that after the Constitution comes into force. It is, indeed, transition from one system to another. In the process, there follow changes in the major pillars—legislation, execution and jurisdiction—and economic and social infrastructures during the transitional period.

It is required to prescribe transitory provisions in the State Constitution to ensure continuous exercise of State sovereign powers as well as duties and responsibilities to be carried out during the transitional period. It is found that the State Constitutions of the nations of the world carry transitory provisions, and so do the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution of Myanmar. And Article 195 of the 1974 Constitution says, “This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a nationwide referendum by more than half of all the people who have the right to vote”.

Mr Chairman,

The nation at present is in the process of building a democratic state. A referendum will be held nationwide after the adoption of all the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. Free and fair elections will be held to elect MPs; Hluttaw meetings will be held in accord with the Constitution; the leaders of the State elected by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the government and the administrative bodies formed by the Hluttaws will build a new modern and developed democratic nation. It is proper to hold a nationwide referendum to adopt the Constitution.

The Work Committee Chairman’s clarification concerning the paras 1 and 2 in connection with the coming into force of the Constitution, the exercising of the State power during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened; the para 5 in connection with the existing law should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

The para 6 concerning the continued existence of rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures, the para 7 concerning the judicial cases, and the para 8 concerning the State service personnel are in accord with the nation’s current situations. They should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

(See page 7)

The point “State constitution is the basic law of the laws of the State” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle

YANGON, 22 Dec—The following is a translation of the proposals on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” to be included in drafting the State Constitution made by Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, yesterday.

Mr Chairman and members of the Panel of chairmen, the chairman and members of the National Convention Convening Commission, the chairman and members of the NCC Work Committee, the chairman and members of the NCC Management Committee and NC delegates, I extended my greetings to you all.

I am representative U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of the Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization of Rakhine State.

May you delegates be blessed with physical and mental wellbeing.

Mr Chairman,

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 10 and 13 November 2006, the chairman of the Work Committee explained points about the Chapter “Amendment of the State Constitution” to be included in the State constitution.

Mr Chairman,

The nation after adopting and promulgating the Constitution will have to make amendments as necessary depending on time and situation. Some nations use two methods to make amendments to the constitution concerned.

The first method is to hold a referendum to make an amendment to some provisions of the Constitution with the approval of 75 per cent or two-thirds of the MPs. In the Union of Myanmar also, the topic has been provided as a separate Chapter in both the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution.

If there arises a matter to amend the Constitution, the method of amendment should be designated. The method is that every proposal for an amendment should be in the form of a Bill, and that the Bill should contain no other proposals.

Mr Chairman,

It is required to prescribe a principle to designate the Hluttaw at which a bill shall be initiated. Some countries prescribe that one of the two Hluttaws shall initiate a bill. Section 209 (1) of the 1947 Constitution stated, “Such Bill may be initiated in either Chamber of Parliament.” And in the 1974 Constitution there was only one Hluttaw, and it was stated as follows:

- (c) Members of the Pyithu Hluttaw may submit to the Pyithu Hluttaw motions for amending this Constitution.
- (d) If a People’s Council wishes to submit a motion for amending this Constitution, such a motion shall be submitted stage by stage from the lower to the higher levels and finally to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The new Constitution will have two Hluttaws — the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprises the said two Hluttaws. Only the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will draft bills and promulgate laws. So, the detailed basic principle “Such Bill to amend the Constitution may be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw” should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

Instead of submitting the Bill directly to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, there should be a stipulation, and the submission of the Bill should be in accord with the provisions. Therefore, the point the Work Committee clarified that “The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution for consideration, if 20 per cent of all the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw members submit it” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the points proposed for the Chapter “Amendment of the State Constitution”, I would like to make a suggestion for sub-paras (a), (b) and (c) of the paragraph (4) the Work Committee chairman presented.

The para (a) says “The adopted provisions of the State Fundamental Principles, the State Structure, the Formation of Legislature, the Formation of Executive, the Formation of Judiciary, and the State of Emergency shall be amended with the prior approval of more than 75



U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of the Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization.
MNA

per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a nation-wide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote.

According to the constitutions of some nations and the 1974 constitution of Myanmar, if need arises to make amendments to the State constitution, the provisions, except the main articles and provisions, shall be amended with the approval of at least 75 per cent of the number of the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the procedures to make amendments to the State constitution, some nations prescribe two ways in their constitutions. The first is that some provisions are amended with the approval of 75 per cent or two-thirds of the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw through a referendum.

The sub-paras (a), (b) and (c) of para (4) the Work Committee chairman explained regarding the amendments to the forthcoming State constitution are appropriate. So, we do not make any suggestions about them.

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

At the plenary session of the National Convention, the Work Committee chairman clarified the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”.

(See page 8)

The amendment of any provision of...

(from page 6)

General Provisions

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the chapter “General Provisions”.

In his clarification, the Work Committee Chairman said, “A Constitution is the main law that reflects a nation’s history and portrays the structure of that nation. Moreover, the Constitution is the main pillar of the laws of a nation stipulating the sharing of the three branches of power — the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power — and the political and economic system. Hence all the laws of a nation should be in conformity with the Constitution. In the 1974 Constitution of our nation and constitutions of some nations, it is stated that the Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State.”

Mr Chairman,

The para 1 which states that the Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State; the para 2, which states that Myanmar language is the official language, and the paras 3, 4 and 5 which say that all interpretations concerning the Constitution should be in Myanmar are appropriate to

be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The para 6 “A Myanmar manuscript of this Constitution shall be kept at the National Archives. The manuscript shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of this Constitution” should be adopted.

As regards the para 6, we would like to give a suggestion. Myanmar is formed with Regions and States and self-administered areas where various national races are living. There are national races who are not skilled in Myanmar literature and language. Moreover, some areas of the nation are far away from the place where the National Archives is located. Hence, copies of the Constitution that are translated into the languages of various national races will surely be required. The government should enact necessary law to keep the translated copies of the Constitution at the respective Regions, States and self-administered areas.

Mr Chairman,

The para 7 says as follows:

“In the interest of the State, the Union Government may permit—

“(a) Region or State government,

“(b) a cooperative society or a person to run any of economic enterprises, which are prescribed to be operated solely by the Union Government, through a joint-venture

system with the Union Government or under agreements” and the para 8 states, “The Union of Myanmar shall honour all legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements which before the commencement of this Constitution were in force between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of any other State, provided that such other State honours any reciprocal obligations towards the Union of Myanmar”. As the Work Committee Chairman explained the two paras with high vision, they should be adopted.

The subparas (a) and (b) of the para 9 ensures that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar may sue and may be sued. The para 10 and subparas (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and the para 11 concern the Constitutional Tribunal and the paras 12, 13, 14 and 15 the term of the Constitutional Tribunal. They are appropriate to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

We have studied the paras from 16 to 26 and found no further suggestions concerning them. Hence, they should be adopted as detailed basic principles. I concluded my proposals in reading the Work Committee Chairman’s explanations concerning the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, Capital, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions”.—MNA

The point “State constitution is the...

(from page 7)

In his explanation, he said that every independent and sovereign nation has its own specific State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital. Some nations stated them in the Constitution and in some nations, the legislative assembly promulgates separate laws concerning them.

He also said that mostly, provisions concerning the State Flag focus on the means to stipulate and design it. Procedures and rules in connection with the State Flag and punishments for offences are prescribed in the separate law enacted by the legislative assembly.

He said that the stipulation of the State Flag mostly depend on history of a nation. Colours including white, red, blue, green, yellow, orange etc are used in the State Flags in accord with the history of a nation.

He discussed the facts about the size and colours to be portrayed in the State Flag referring to the Section 215 of the 1947 constitution of Myanmar.

He said that the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution prescribed red, white and blue colours for the State Flag; and that it has been constantly believed that red stands for courage and decisiveness, white for purity and blue for peace, tranquillity and stability.

Mr Chairman,

The Work Committee chairman said that the detailed basic principle has been adopted that “No part of the territory of the Union shall ever secede from the Union.” As all the national races are living through thick and thin and in unity, a big white star in an upward position representing the Union should be portrayed in the State Flag.

As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, the colour green that stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment should be used. In addition, yellow that depicts solidarity, harmony, re-consolidation and love and unity of all the national races should be used in the Flag. In some countries, yellow is a royal colour representing the glory. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness, should also be portrayed. As the said three colours — green, yellow and red — portray the nation’s objective conditions and national unity, the Flag should be marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio. On the left end of the green stripe at the top should be a big white star directing upwards in the State Flag.

Mr Chairman,

We noticed that his clarification was in conformity with the forthcoming State constitution and the geographical features of the nation.

So, we will not deal with the State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital and these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Transitory Provisions

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

The Work Committee chairman also explained the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions”.

He said that in formulating a State Constitution, the situation of a nation before the Constitution does not come into force is somewhat different from that after the Constitution comes into force. It is, indeed, transition from one system to another. In the process, there follow changes in the major pillars—legislation, execution and jurisdiction—and economic and social infrastructures during the transitional period.

He added that the State Constitutions of other nations, and the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution of Myanmar carry transitory provisions.

We noticed that he clarified the eight points covering the coming into force of the Constitution,

- the continuing of exercising State sovereignty during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened,
- the work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force until the Constitution comes into force,
- the devolving of all policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights of the State,
- existing laws,
- existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives,
- the cases pending in all courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution, and
- all functioning State service personnel.

So, we would like to make no suggestions about these points, and suggest that they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

General Provisions

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

Now, I would like to present our views about the Work Committee chairman’s clarification to the detailed basic principles for the Chapter “General Provision”.

Mr Chairman,

A Constitution is the main law of a nation that reflects the history and portrays the structure of that nation. Moreover, the Constitution is the main pillar of the laws of a nation stipulating the sharing of the three branches of power — the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power — and the political and economic system. Thus, all the laws of a nation should be in conformity with the Constitution.

In the 1974 Constitution of our nation and constitutions of some nations, it is stated that the Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State.

So, the point “State constitution is the basic law

In formulating a State Constitution, the situation of a nation before the Constitution does not come into force is somewhat different from that after the Constitution comes into force. It is, indeed, transition from one system to another. In the process, there follow changes in the major pillars—legislation, execution and jurisdiction—and economic and social infrastructures during the transitional period.

of the laws of the State” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

We conducted a careful study on the Work Committee chairman’s clarification to—

- the designation of Myanmar language as the official language,
- interpretation of the expressions contained in this Constitution based only on Myanmar text when need arises,
- interpretation of the expressions stipulated in this Constitution,
- the statement that the manuscript shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of this Constitution,
- the economic sector while the basic principles were adopted for designating policies of the State,
- the treaties or agreements signed between the government of the Union of Myanmar and the governments of other countries in the post-independence period,
- any contracts or liabilities signed between the government of the Union of Myanmar and the governments of other countries before the State constitute comes into force,
- the establishment of the Constitutional Tribunal,
- the formation of the Constitutional Tribunal, appointment of members, designation of its members’ required qualifications, the term of the Constitutional Tribunal, assigning duties to the members, being loyal to the State, and functions of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Here, we noticed that he presented a collection of 26 points that should be adopted as detailed basic principles for the Chapter “General Provisions”. These points are found appropriate and so we would like to make no suggestions about them and supported them.

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

This NC plenary session, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, we have made suggestions about the Chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”, Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, Chapter “Transitory Provisions” and Chapter “General Provisions” to be included in the State Constitution. Mr Chairman and members of the Panel of chairmen, the chairman and members of the National Convention Convening Commission, the chairman and members of the NCC Work Committee, the chairman and members of the NCC Management Committee and NC delegates, I wish you all in physical and mental wellbeing.—MNA

A Constitution is the main law of a nation that reflects the history and portrays the structure of that nation. Moreover, the Constitution is the main pillar of the laws of a nation stipulating the sharing of the three branches of power — the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power — and the political and economic system. Thus, all the laws of a nation should be in conformity with the Constitution.

General Thura Shwe Mann...

(from page 16)

Senior General at the department, implementation of the guidance given by the Senior General during his inspection tour, and progress in compilation of the book on Myanmar herbal plants.

Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) briefed them on strength of the staff, sending of personnel to internal and external training courses for their further studies, coordination with traditional practitioners for

doing research on traditional medicines, other research works being conducted with the assistance of the WHO and future tasks.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on collection of Myanmar herbal plants and conducting research works. Next, he inspected various species of herbal plants at the plantation. The General also viewed other Myanmar herbal plants at the nursery.

At the hall of PyinOoLwin Pharma-

ceutical Factory (Project) of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported to General Thura Shwe Mann on implementation of the guidance given by the Senior General on his inspection tour to complete the project tasks in December 2006, produce medicines meeting the set standards, take care of medicines' standard, reduce production cost, and manufacture potent traditional medicines in cooperation with the Medical Research De-



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory.—MNA

partment (Upper Myanmar). General Thura Shwe

Mann heard reports on running of the factory at full capacity, availability

of raw materials, ratio of possible cost to income, and gave necessary instructions.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected production units and production process. PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory commenced its production of tablet, capsule, lotion, liquid and powder medicines.

On completion of the project, the factory will manufacture and distribute 213 kinds of tablet, capsule, lotion, liquid, powder, vaccine and injection. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann hears reports of Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.—MNA

Water Treatment Plant commissioned into service

YANGON, 22 Dec — Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to open the Water Treatment Plant built by Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of YCDC at Thanlyetsoon of Botahtaung Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Joint Secretary of YCDC U Aung Than Win and committee members, Head of the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) Dr Tun Than Tun, officials and guests.

First, the commander and the mayor formally opened the Water Treatment Plant.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the plant.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the mayor and guests inspected the plant.

At the briefing hall, Head of the department Dr Tun Than Tun reported on construction of the water treatment plant. Next, the mayor presented gifts to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of

State, the work committee was formed on 1 January 2003 to release sewage into Yangon River through activated sludge process system. The implementation of the Water Treatment Plant Project commenced on 12 April 2003 and its test-run started on 17 January

2005.

The plant was built for throwing sewerage not only from six townships of Yangon but also from private sewerage tanks. The plant that can treat about 3 million gallons of sewerage daily was built by Myanmar engineers and other technicians,

spending US\$ 0.96 million and K 2065.7 million.

The plant can reduce 94 per cent of biochemical oxygen demand and 98 per cent of suspended solid in the sewerage, and it can prevent water pollution in Yangon River. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and officials inspect Water Treatment Plant.—MNA



Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, commission members and delegates attend the plenary session of the National Convention.—MNA

Plenary Session of National...

(from page 16)

at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of subcommittees, delegates of political parties National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago,

Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5, Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayinni National Democratic Party (KNDP) (Dragon) Group, Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Hoya), Kayinni National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBA) and Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Nyeinchanyay

Myothit Group from Hpa-an Township of Kayin State, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine State Group), Arakan Army (AA), Homein Region Development and Welfare Group, Shwepyiaye (MTA), Manpan People's Militia Group, Mon Peace Group (Chaungchi Region) and Mon Nai Seik Chan Group that had exchanged arms for peace.

Before the Plenary Session of the National Convention, Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the subcommittees, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of the National Races, Peasants, Workers, Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, State Service Personnel, and Other Invited Persons, signed attendance books at Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall.

U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties presided over the Plenary Session of the National Convention together with Member of NCCWC U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Maung Gyi of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegate Group of National Races, U Kan Nyunt of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers, Dr Maung Maung Wint of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, and U Tin Kha of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel

and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of NCCWC Office acted as Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

The MC declared the start of meeting as 1,065 out of 1,080 delegates were in attendance, accounting for 98.61 per cent, and the plenary session commenced with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Delegates presented proposals of Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party of Delegate Group of Political Parties on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters "Amendment of the Constitution", "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital", "Transitory Provisions" and "General Provisions" in drafting the State Constitution. First, Delegate U Kya Har Shel presented proposals of Lahu National Development Party.

Next, U Saw San Shwe of Union Kayin League presented the league's proposals and the Plenary Session took a break at 10 am.

When the Plenary Session resumed at 10.15 am, U Khin Maung Aye of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party presented proposals of the party.

Afterwards, U Nyi Palok of Wa National Development Party presented proposals of the party. The Plenary Session went into recess at 11 am.

(The proposals will be reported.)

The Plenary Session continues on 26 December (Tuesday) at 1 pm.—MNA

FM sends felicitations to Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Taro Aso, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. — MNA

Proposals to be published

YANGON, 22 Dec — Proposals of Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party of the Delegate Group of Political Parties on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters "Amendment of the Constitution", "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital", "Transitory Provisions" and "General Provisions" to be included in drafting the State Constitution made at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, will be published in dailies.—MNA

From Patriotism Onward

- * **Patriotism**
Held over head
Forever
Hands held in unison
To establish
It's our duty
As always
Hands held together
Maintain forever.
- * **Objective**
Unfazed
To take your part
And I mine
Tread correct path
To arrive at
In high regard
Do your duty
Not losing sight
- * **Convention**
To be in good stead
While deliberating
You have your part
And I mine
In competition
Hands held helpfully
Together, in unison
All smiles.

Po Yan Naing (Kyauk Kyi) (Trs)
(Hailing the National Convention)

Minister for Commerce attends 50th Anniversary of Sino-Myanmar Gathering in Yunnan Province

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — A ceremony to unveil the bronze plaque of the monument of Sino-Myanmar friendship tree in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Sino-Myanmar Gathering was held at in the compound of Mangshi Hotel in Mangshi of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province on 16 December morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Commerce of the Union of Myanmar Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China U Thein Lwin,

Ngwe and party and the Officiating Governor of Yunnan Province and party cut the ribbon to open the museum in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Sino-Myanmar Gathering. They viewed the documentary photos in the museum.

Afterwards, the festivities to mark the gathering commenced with hoisting of the State Flag of the Union of Myanmar at the Mangshi Square.

On the occasion, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein delivered an address, saying that Myanmar and China have been cementing friendly ties since yore. Myanmar is one of the countries that early

China at the invitation of Chinese President Mr Jiang Zemin. In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Founding the China-Myanmar Diplomatic Relations, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President of the People's Republic of China (now President) Mr Hu Jintao exchanged goodwill visits. Furthermore, Prime Minister General Soe Win attended the Commemorative Summit Marking the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations held in Nanning of the PRC and called on the Chinese Premier.

Exchanging goodwill



Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and party visit the museum to mark the 50th Anniversary of Sino-Myanmar Gathering.—MNA

Yunnan Province practises neighbouring diplomacy laid down by the Central Government of the People's Republic of China for further strengthening Phaukphaw

Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein at Mangshi Hotel. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe, Myanmar Ambassador to China U

Thein Lwin, Myanmar Consul-General U Myo Tint and party, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and officials.

In the evening, a dinner was hosted in honour of Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and party and those who attended the 50th Anniversary of Sino-Myanmar Gathering at Mangshi Hotel.

On 14 December evening, a press conference on the gathering was held at Mangshi Hotel.

Officials clarified the purpose of organizing the gathering and replied to the queries raised by correspondents.—MNA



Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein receives the Officiating Governor of Yunnan Province.—MNA

Consul-General of the Union of Myanmar to China U Myo Tint and officials, members of the Myanmar delegation, responsible persons of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Officiating Governor of Yunnan Province and officials, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu, Chinese traditional cultural troupes and national races of Myanmar.

First, the Minister for Commerce and the Officiating Governor of Yunnan Province unveiled the bronze plaque.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister Col Tin

recognized the founding of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949. In addition, the diplomatic relations were formally established by the two countries in 1950.

In June 1954, Chinese Premier Mr Chou En-lai paid a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar and declared a joint statement on five principles of peaceful coexistence together with the Myanmar leaders.

In the recent years, leaders of the both countries have exchanged goodwill visits. In January 2003, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe paid a goodwill visit to

visits of both leaders have been contributing towards further cementing of friendly relations between Myanmar and China. Progress of economic cooperation between Myanmar and China can be witnessed as over 30 economic agreements were signed during last two years.

In conclusion, the minister said he believed the ceremony to mark the get-together will contribute much to further cementing the relationship between Myanmar and China and the people of both countries.

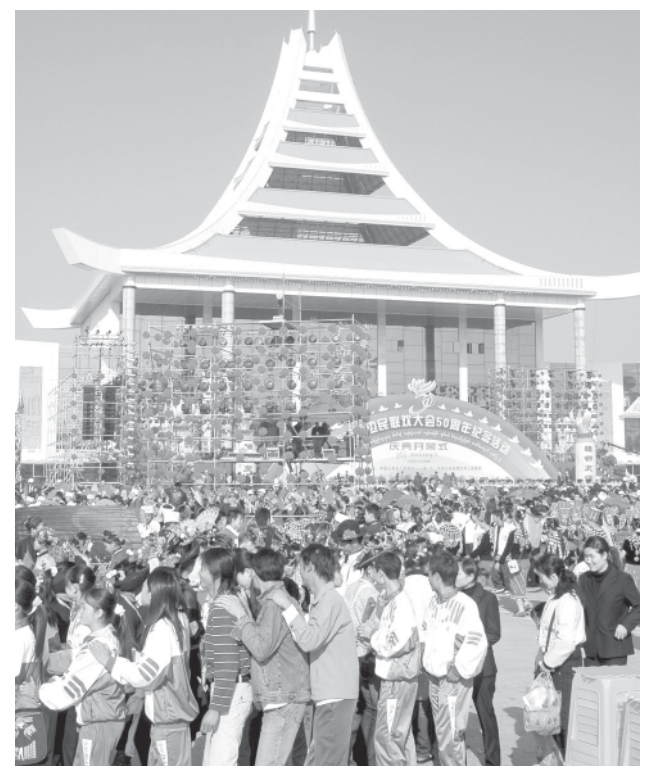
Next, the Officiating Governor of Yunnan Province delivered an address. He said that the

friendship through the exchange of goodwill visits between leaders of both countries.

The ceremony ended with entertainment of the Chinese traditional dance troupes.

At 2 pm, the meeting on development of economic and trade development between Myanmar and Yunnan and the meeting on cooperation in Myanmar-Yunnan tourism and cultural sectors were held at the city hall in Mangshi, attended by members of the Myanmar delegation.

On 15 December afternoon, the Officiating Governor of Yunnan Province called on Minister for Commerce



Participants taking part in traditional dances in front of the museum to mark the 50th Anniversary of Sino-Myanmar Gathering.—MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (025)

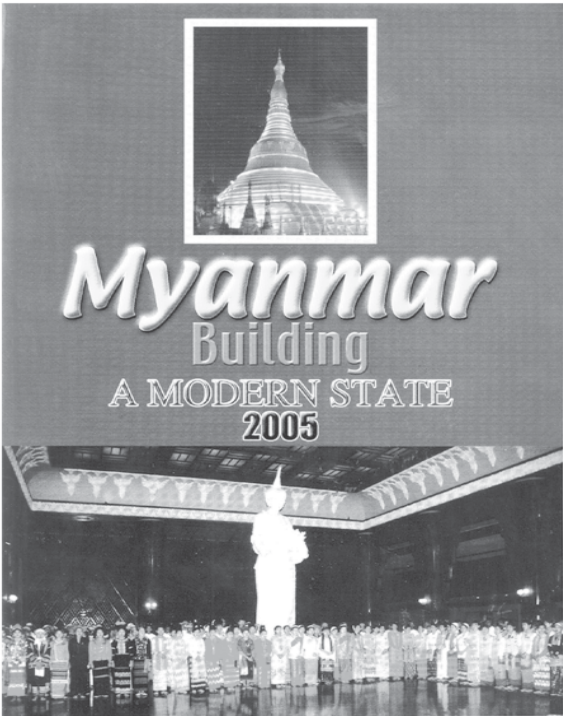
Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ကျွန်ုပ်၏ အမှုသည်ဖြစ်သော ဦးခင်မောင် **Royal Myanmar San Cho B.E** ထုတ်လုပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းအမှတ်-၁၇၂၃၊ နဂါးရုံလမ်း၊ ပြည်မြို့၏ ညွှန်ကြားချက်အရ အောက်ပါအတိုင်းကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။
ကျွန်ုပ်အမှုသည်၏ **Royal Myanmar San Cho B.E** ထုတ်လုပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း ကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အား **Myanmar Brewery Limited** ၏ ကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်နှင့် ဆင်တူယိုးမှားထုတ်လုပ် မိသည့်အတွက် **Myanmar Brewery Limited** (မြန်မာဘရူဝါရီ လီမိတက်)အား အထူးတောင်းပန်ကြောင်းနှင့် ဤသတင်းစာ ပါသည့် နေ့မှစ၍ အဆိုပါအမှုသည်၏ ကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်ကို ဖျက်သိမ်းပြီး ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။
အမှုသည်၏ ညွှန်ကြားချက်အရ **ဦးမောင်အေးရွှေ (L.L.B)** တရားရုံးချုပ်ရှေ့နေ အမှတ်(၈၃/၁၄-ဗ)၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း၊ ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

INVITATION TO TENDER
TENDER NO. 3(T) AMD (2006-2007)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of the following stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No	Lot No	Description	Quantity
1.	Lot (1)	LY-16 Power Tiller parts	3000Sets
2.	Lot (2)	LY-16 Power Tiller Gear Box Parts	3000Sets
3.	Lot (3)	Tool Boxes & Assy; of LY-16 P.T	3000 Sets
4.	Lot (4)	Standard Parts for LY-16 Power Tiller	3000 Sets
5.	Lot (5)	Industrial Paints	1 Lot

2. Tender closing date 5.1.2007 (Friday) (16:00 HR)
3. Tender documents are available at the Factory and Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township, Yangon during the office hours.
4. For further details please call 680959, 682046 Ext. 323

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 25th December (Monday), Christmas day 2006, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

Bicycle bomb injures at least ten in S-W Pakistan
ISLAMABAD, 21 Dec— At least 10 people were injured Wednesday when a bomb attached to a bicycle exploded in southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, the *NTI* news agency reported quoting the police source.
The bicycle was parked in a cycle stand near a police station in the centre of Quetta, and two women are among those injured in the blast, according to the report.
All injured were passers-by, among whom two were stated to be in critical condition, the report said, adding that the blast also smashed windows of several nearby buildings and created panic among the people.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Venezuela receives Russia-made helicopters
CARACAS, 21 Dec—Venezuelan Defence Minister Isaias Baduel said on Wednesday that Russian-made helicopters had arrived in the country's military bases in the eastern Venezuela states of Apure and Tachira.
“These craft do not have any offensive goal. They are multi-use craft. They are for general use. They will be used to transport people and aid to remote locations,” Baduel said.
While declining to comment on the total number of the new craft purchased, Baduel named the models as the *MI35*, which can carry up to eight passengers, and the *MI26*, a transport aircraft that can also help in logistics. The Defence Minister said that in Tachira there are persistent criminal activities, in some cases on a very wide scale, caused by the violence that is happening in Colombia.
Baduel said he had worked closely with Tachira Governor Ronald Blanco La Cruz, and that he was expecting a presidential decree that would reorganize the command and control of the air units to boost efficiency.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Kenya's Jan-Nov tea output down 7%
NAIROBI, 21 Dec— Kenya produced 276 million kilogrammes of tea between January and November this year, making a shortfall of 7 per cent from 298 million kilogrammes recorded in the same period last year, tea regulators said on Wednesday.
In a statement issued in Nairobi, Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) attributed the decline in output to severe drought experienced in the first quarter of the year whose effect was felt in the major tea growing regions.
“Despite a reversed output trend in the second half of the year, it is apparent that full recovery may not be realized by the end of December and this could result in a seven per cent shortfall in tea production compared to last year,” the board's Managing Director Sicily Kariuki said.
Meanwhile, Kenya registered five per cent increase in tea output for November to stand at 31.6 million kilogrammes from 30 million kilogrammes recorded during the corresponding month last year.
Kariuki attributed increased production to favourable weather conditions particularly well distributed rainfall experienced in the East of Rift. “During the month of November 31.8 million kilogrammes worth 4.4 billion shillings (about 63 million dollars) was sold to 33 market destinations compared to 25 million kilogrammes valued at 3.0 billion shillings (about 43 million dollars) exported during the same month last year,” she said.
MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi TV comedian killed in Baghdad
BAGHDAD, 21 Dec—A well-known Iraqi actor was killed in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday, an informed police source said.
“Zuhir Muhammad Rashid, was gunned down by unidentified gunmen in al-Baladiyat neighbourhood,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.
The killing of Rashid, a star of al-Sharqiyah TV's sketch show *Caricature*, was the latest in a series of attacks on Iraqi artists. On 20 November, Walid Hassan Ja'az, who worked with Rashid in the *Caricature* show, was also killed by unknown gunmen in western Baghdad. The show used to make fun of corrupt politicians, guerillas and coalition forces.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Sony BMG pays penalties for anti-privacy software
LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec—Sony BMG Music Entertainment will pay 750,000 US dollars in civil penalties and costs for installing anti-privacy software on CDs which harmed customers' computers, California officials said on Tuesday. The company will also reimburse California customers whose computers were harmed by the software with up to 175 dollars, given the customer provides a description of damage caused by the software, California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said in a statement.
The lawsuit charged the company with embedding digital rights management software on CDs without fully informing customers of the information, Lockyer said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Jordan's Queen Rania (R) and Princess Iman (C), dressed in kimonos, pose with Japan's first lady Akie Abe as they visit Sodo Kimono Academy in Tokyo on 22 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

Russia launches German military spy satellite

Moscow, 21 Dec — A German military spy satellite has been launched from the Plesetsk space centre in northern Russia, Russia's *Ria Novosti* news agency reported on Tuesday.

A Russian *Cosmos 3M* booster has successfully put Germany's *SAR-Lupe* satellite into orbit, the agency quoted a spokesman for Russia's Space Forces as saying.

"This is the first time Russia is launching a German military space-

craft," spokesman Alexei Kuznetsov said.

The German satellite system is designed to provide high-resolution radar images to NATO military commanders in

Europe, according to the report.

Under a contract signed in 2003, Russia would launch five *SAR-Lupe* satellites by 2009.

MNA/Xinhua

New robot being designed to help surgeons

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec — US researchers are working on a new device that would help doctors perform surgical tasks that are nearly impossible today.

The snake-like robot and steady-hand system would equip the operating room of the future and help doctors treat patients more safely and effectively, said a report on the website eurekaalert.org.

Drawing on advances in robotics and computer technology, Johns Hopkins University researchers were designing the robot with two thin rods

tipped with tentacle-like tools capable of moving with six degrees of freedom.

The tools could enable surgeons, operating in the narrow throat region, to make incisions and tie sutures with greater dexterity and precision. Another robot, the steady-hand, may curb a surgeon's natural tremor and allow the

doctor to inject drugs into tiny blood vessels in the eye, dissolving clots that can damage vision. With most of the new medical tools linked to computers, the device would record the doctors' work, allowing doctors to check data describing how well a patient responded to the treatment. From this review, doctors could learn which techniques and procedures were most effective.

"We could produce

the equivalent of a flight-data recorder for the operating room," said Russell H Taylor, a professor of computer science in-volving in the research.

The emphasis is on futuristic technology, but "we're not trying to replace or automate surgeons",

Taylor said. "We want to work in partnership with surgeons to help them do their work more effectively."

MNA/Xinhua

SIA signs deal for nine more superjumbo "A380"

SINGAPORE, 21 Dec — Singapore Airlines (SIA), the island state's national carrier, on Wednesday signed an agreement with the European giant aircraft manufacturer Airbus to buy nine more A380s.

The agreement confirmed the order announced by SIA in July this year, which brought the amount of A380 ordered by SIA to 19.

Deliveries for the additional nine A380s, will commence in January 2010 and complete in early 2011, SIA said in a statement.

The agreement also includes an option for six more of the superjumbos

and SIA also signed a deal to lease 19 A330-300 widebody jets from Airbus.

SIA became A380's first customer when it ordered 10 such planes, worth 8.6 billion US dollars, in 2000.

The A380 roll-out has been delayed three times due to "wiring problems", and the first A380 is expected to be delivered to SIA in October 2007.

The statement also said that SIA has reached settlement with Airbus on issues relating to delays of deliveries of the A380, but the terms of the purchases and settlement were confidential.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists say rainfall-vegetation link may be drought breaker

CANBERRA, 20 Dec — A group of scientists working on Western Australia's south coast say their findings linking rainfall to vegetation types could help break the drought.

The Murdoch University team, working along the number one rabbit-proof fence near Lake King, has found cloud formation is affected by vegetation growing on the land below. The scientists have been using aircraft to measure moisture levels.

They have found rain clouds form above dark green swaths of native vegetation more readily than pale coloured crops such as wheat.

Professor Tom Lyons says the fence offers an ideal contrast between agricultural land and native vegetation.

He says understanding the phenomena should assist in developing strategies to increase rainfall.

"There's been a significant decrease in rainfall over the south-west of Western Australia, and particularly the agricultural area, but there hasn't been the same decrease in rainfall over the native.—Internet

China uses new radiotherapy procedure for malignant tumours

LANZHOU, 22 Dec — China has successfully carried out a medical procedure to treat malignant tumours using a heavy ion beam.

The new heavy ion beam radiotherapy procedure for malignant tumours was carried out by the General Hospital of Lanzhou Command of the People's Liberation Army and the Institute of Modern Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMPCAS).

From 6 to 16 November, the two partners treated four patients using a heavy ion beam. After a month, the size of the patients' tumours had shrunk by 60 to 80 per cent on average.

The four patients have tumours in their nose, breast, lung and abdomen respectively.

"In the new therapy, the heavy ion beam targets the tumour directly. This technique damages less normal tissue than traditional surgical procedures and has fewer side effects," said Li Sha, the doctor in charge of the radiotherapy.

Li predicted that the four patients' tumours would disappear in one to two months.

"The success of these clinical tests shows that China's cancer technology has reached an internationally advanced level," said Zhang Hongsheng, an IMPCAS researcher.

"Currently, only the United States, Germany and Japan have the heavy ion beam technology, which is recognized as an advanced radiotherapy for the treatment of malignant tumours," Zhang said. — MNA/Xinhua



Horses graze in a field as the last of a winter storm leaves Colorado on Thursday afternoon, 21 Dec, 2006, near Longmont, Colo. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Ice-dancing duo named Bulgarian Athletes of the Year

SOPIA, 22 Dec — Bulgarian sport journalists and editors elected world figure skating champions Albena Denkova and Maxim Stavitski Bulgarian Athletes of the Year 2006, reported *BTA* on Thursday.

Vanya Stambolova, who won titles of European champion in Gothenburg and world indoor vice-champion at 400m in Moscow in 2006, was ranked second in the poll. World wrestling champion in Guangzhou Radoslav Velikov was ranked third.

The president of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee Stefka Kostadinova, head of the National Agency of the youth and sport Vesela Lecheva and the mayor of Sofia attended the awarding ceremony.

The winner of the title in 2005 was chess king Veselin Topalov. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Kenya moves up in FIFA ranking

NAIROBI, 22 Dec — Kenya's national soccer team, Harambee Stars, facing indefinite suspension imposed by the world's soccer governing body, FIFA, has moved up eight places in the rankings.

According to the latest world soccer rankings released by FIFA, the East African nation moved from position 135 in November to number 127, gaining seven points to finish the year on 175 points.

In Africa Harambee Stars has gone up by two

places and are ranked 35th out of 51 countries.

World body FIFA suspended Kenya in October after Kenya Football Federation (KFF) failed to implement agreements it had signed with the world body.

The suspension saw the country being locked out of the regional Council for East and Central Africa Football Association (Cecafa) Senior Challenge Cup held in Ethiopia last month.

FIFA met a fortnight ago to review Kenya's situation but declined to lift the ban citing the prevailing confusion in regard to the local Premier League.

The Super Eagles of Nigeria are still perched at the top of the African rankings followed by former African champions Cameroon. World Cup debutants Ivory Coast are third followed by Guinea.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Norwegian wins men's giant Slalom to retake overall lead

VIENNA, 22 Dec — Aksel Lund Svindal from Norway won a men's World Cup giant slalom in Hinterstoder, Austria, on Thursday to retake the overall lead from American Bode Miller.

Svindal, who led after the opening leg, raced down the Wertung course in a combined time of two minutes and 25.63 seconds to win his first career World Cup giant slalom. Svindal also reclaimed the lead in the giant slalom standings despite near zero visibility and unpredictable snow conditions on the mountain.

"Not a typical race, but a good race for me," Svindal said. "I couldn't see a thing but I knew I had to attack otherwise I would fall behind."

Francois Bourque of Canada, fifth after the opening run, moved into second place with a stunning second trip through the thick fog blanketing the mountain. His combined time was 2:25.89.

In Wednesday's Super-G, Bourque finished 49th.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Bulgarian runner elected top Balkan Athlete of 2006

SOPIA, 22 Dec — Bulgaria's Vanya Stambolova, who grabbed the country's first 400m gold medal at the European Athletics Championships in Gothenburg and the silver at the World Indoor Championships in Moscow, was elected top Balkan Athlete of 2006, *BTA* reported Wednesday.

The poll covered all eight national news agencies of the Balkan countries Romania, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bulgaria. They quoted a total of 28 athletes in 12 types of sport — basketball, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, water polo, volleyball, rowing, athletics, swimming, artistic gymnastics, tennis and figure skating.

Last year's winner in the poll, artistic gymnast Marian Dragulescu (Romania), ranked second. He won two gold medals in men's vault and floor exercise at the 2006 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships.

World silver basketball medallist and winner of the European League with CSKA (Moscow) Teodoros Papalukas ranked third.

Stambolova is the 16th Bulgarian sports figure, and the seventh Bulgarian athlete to become No. 1 on the Balkans.

In addition to the medallists, seven more athletes were also elected in the shortlist, they are:

- Stanka Zlateva (Bulgaria) — freestyle wrestling,
- Perikles Iakovakis (Greece) — athletics,
- Sagir Taner (Turkey) — weightlifting,
- Radoslav Veliko (Bulgaria) — freestyle wrestling,
- Hamza Yerlikaya (Turkey) — Greco-Roman wrestling,
- Yelena Jankovic (Serbia) — tennis,
- Boris Georgiev (Bulgaria) — boxing

Vanya Stambolova was born on 28 November, 1983. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Two sprinters honoured as Slovenian best athletes in 2006

BELGRADE, 22 Dec — Slovenian sprinter Matic Osovnikar and cross-country skier Petra Majdic were honoured as the country's best male and female athletes in 2006, said reports reaching here from the Slovenian capital Ljubljana on Thursday.

The two athletes, who were selected by the Association of Slovenian Sports Journalists, received the awards in a ceremony in Ljubljana on Thursday evening, the Slovenian national news agency *STA* reported.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



Barcelona's player Eidur Gudjohnsen (R) fights for the ball with Atletico Madrid's Pablo Ibanez Tebar during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona, 21 Dec, 2006.
INTERNET

Three Peruvian soccer teams through to Copa Libertadores

LIMA, 22 Dec — Wednesday night's opening tournament win for Peruvian club Alianza Lima, has also decided Peru's three teams for the 2007 Copa Libertadores as Alianza, Cusco team Cienciano and Sporting Cristal.

Alianza will be in Group Two alongside Brazil team Sao Paulo, Chilean team Audax Italiano and the second placed Mexican team, which will be decided by local league play.

Cienciano who won Peru's Closing Tournament, will be in Group Seven, facing Argentina's Boca Juniors, Bolivia's Bolivia and Mexico's Toluca.

Cristal, which won the third place because it has the highest aggregate score from the opening and closing tournaments, will have to play two qualifying games with a Mexican team which has also not been defined. If it wins

the qualifying round then it will join Group One where it will face Argentina's Banfield, Paraguay's Libertad and Ecuador's Nacional.

The first phase of the tournament runs from 24 January to 7 February, the second round runs from 14 February to 25 April, and the knockout phase runs from 2 May to 20 June.

Two different Peruvian teams — Tacna team Bolognesi and Lima team Universitario — will play in Latin America's other big club tournament, the Copa Sudamericana.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Northern Arizona's Alyssa Wahl (30) shoots over New Mexico's Dionne Marsh, left, and Julie Briody in the first half of a college basketball game at The Pit in Albuquerque, NM, on 21 Dec, 2006.
INTERNET

US ski star grabs resounding victory in Austria

VIENNA, 22 Dec — US ski star Bode Miller won a men's Alpine skiing World Cup Super-G in Hinterstoder, Austria, on Wednesday.

Following up his downhill victory in Beaver Creek on December 1 and another Super-G triumph last Friday in Val Gardena, now the 29-year-old former overall World Cup champion recorded his third triumph of this season.

He finished the whole race in 1:09.76, 0.79 ahead of Italian Peter Fill, who placed second. "Bode is simply on another planet," said Fill. "He made mistakes but still had the best time. He's unbeatable at the moment."

In the meantime, with the help of pain-killers, the four-time World Cup winner, 34-year-old Austrian Hermann Maier, was third, 0.94 seconds behind Miller.

"It's a pity, I really skied badly this morning, and I mean really badly," said Maier.

Besides that Benjamin Raich achieved his world slalom champion at Turin Winter Olympics, the Austrians have now finished 12 races without a win, which is really their worst performance in 14 years. — *MNA/Xinhua*



El Salvador registers 560 small earthquakes in 72 hours

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec — El Salvador has registered 560 small earthquakes in the past 72 hours, the country's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources said on Wednesday.

The bulk of seismic activities began at 11:30 pm local time (0530 GMT) on Tuesday, and by early Wednesday morning there were 316

such activities, 92 of which could be felt by the residents.

Seismic activity measuring stations said the series of quakes occurred

near Atiquizaya and Turin, in the Ahuachapan department, of which the first was registered on Sunday.

Residents of Atiquizaya, Turin, San Lorenzo and Juayua have reported feeling 110 quakes, while specialist equipment reported 560 quakes, of magnitudes between 2.5 and 4.3 on the Richter Scale, at a depth of five to 10 kilometres.

The strongest quake took place at 1:30 am local time (0730 GMT) on Wednesday between Atiquizaya and Turin, with a magnitude of 4.3 at a depth of around 7.9 kilometres.

The ministry has set up a network of earthquake measuring stations across the Central American state and said that Salvadoreans should remain alert about warnings from authorities only and ignore rumours.

MNA/Xinhua

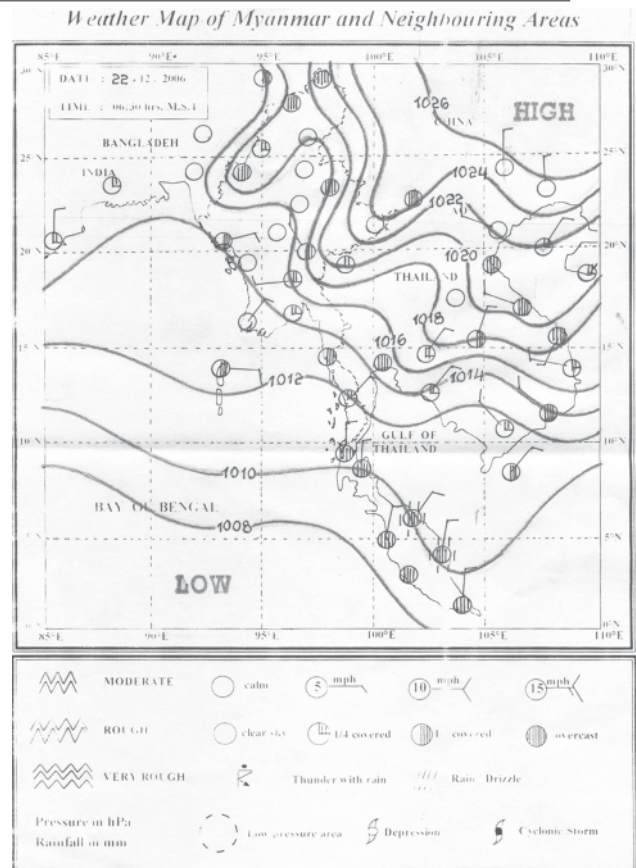
Mexico plans new 30,000-strong nationwide police force

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec — Mexico will set up a new 30,000-strong police force — The Federal Police Corp — to strengthen anti-crime efforts, Secretary of Public Security Genaro Garcia Luna said on Wednesday.

Garcia Luna said that the new force will redesign crime-fighting strategies and try to help improve the efficiency of other federal police agencies.

Last Friday, the Mexican Government decided to bring together the Federal Investigation Agency (AFI) and the Federal Preventative Police (PFP), to make anti-crime coordination more effective.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 22 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State and Upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Southern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Chin States, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (-1°C), Heho (1°C) and Haka (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 21-12-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 22-12-2006 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 22-12-2006 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 21-12-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 22-12-2006 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 (8) mph from East at 16:30 hours MST on 21-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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. Sea will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of low night temperatures in Shan State.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 23-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-12-2006: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weekend of December 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Giraffe Nyota feasts on a 'Christmas Tree' at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, on 21 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET



Saturday, 23 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -The best thing
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -More than a feeling
- 8:50 am National News/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Love at 1st sight
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Soda pop
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Music at your request / Lunch time music:
- 9:00 pm ASEAN news
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Myanmar Culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Saturday, 23 December
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:55 am 5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:10 am 6. Musical programme</p> <p>8:20 am 7. စလင်းရေလှောင်တံခွန်</p> <p>8:30 am 8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy</p>	<p>11:00 am 1. Martial song</p> <p>11:15 am 2. Musical programme</p> <p>11:30 am 3. Games for children</p> <p>11:50 am 4. Round up of the week's TV local news</p> <p>1:05 pm 5. ကြားမြင်သတိပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ</p> <p>1:15 pm 6. "စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတိုးပြည်အကျိုး" (ဖြိုးထွန်း၊ မိုးဒီ၊ စောနိုင် (ရှမ်းပြည်)၊ သဇင်၊ နှင်းဆီ၊ ခင်နီ၊ နီအေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ -သုတေသီ)</p> <p>1:35 pm 7. မြန်မာ့ရေလှေကားပွဲစဉ်: ရွှေပွဲတော် (၂၀၀၆)အောင်မြင်မှု (အပိုင်း-၁)</p> <p>1:50 pm 8. Dance of national races</p> <p>2:10 pm 9. "အန္တရာယ်ကင်းစေ ဘေးရှင်းစေ" (လူမင်း၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ - သက်တင်)</p> <p>2:20 pm 10. International news</p>
<p>3:20 pm 1. နိုင်ငံတကာပိတ်ခေါ်ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ဗိုလ်လုပွဲ) (မြန်မာလက်ရွေးစင်ဘောလုံးအသင်းနှင့် မြန်မာလူ-၂၃ ဘောလုံးအသင်း)</p> <p>5:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>5:30 pm 3. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်</p> <p>6:00 pm 4. Evening news.</p> <p>6:30 pm 5. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 6. အလှူရှာမယ် လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်</p> <p>7:05 pm 7. Discovery</p> <p>7:15 pm 8. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြယ်ကြွေရင်ခုန်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၅)</p> <p>8:00 pm 9. News</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>11. Weather report</p> <p>12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၆)</p> <p>13. The next day's programme</p>	

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of congratulations to newly appointed Vice-President of Swiss Confederation

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Pascal Couchepin, who was appointed as Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation. — MNA

On completion of the project, PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory will manufacture and distribute 213 kinds of tablet, capsule, lotion, liquid, powder, vaccine and injection.

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects herbal plantations of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar), progress of PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory (Project)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, who accompanied Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, together with SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief



General Thura Shwe Mann visits herbal plants garden in PyinOoLwin.—MNA

(Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Office and officials, arrived at the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health on yesterday morning. At the hall, Minister Myint reported on inspection of the PyinOoLwin Township for Health Dr Kyaw (See page 9)

Plenary Session of National Convention continues

YANGON, 22 Dec — Four delegates presented proposals of Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party of Delegate Group of Political Parties on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters

“Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” in drafting the State Constitution at the Plenary Session of the National Convention which continued (See page 10)

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends felicitations to Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2006, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. — MNA

The Plenary Session of the National Convention in progress.

MNA

