

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 25 December, 2006

Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon)

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay Mayor, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office and officials, inspected the development of Mandalay and scenery of Mandalay Kandawgyi by car yesterday.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project site where they looked into progress of the construction task.

At the briefing hall of the construction project, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report presented by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on condition of Ayeyawady river-crossing Inwa Bridge that has been 65 years old since 1934, restrict on the passing of heavy trucks on the bridge due to its
(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon).— MNA



The main bridge of the 5,614 feet long Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is of steel frame type with 1,140 feet long approach bridge on the bank of Mandalay and 780 feet on the bank of Sagaing.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 December, 2006

Preservation of cultural heritage

Myanmar is a country of rich cultural heritage. The archaeological regions indicate the existence of human beings and are historic resources. Therefore the government is undertaking the measures for preservation of objects of archaeological and historical interest.

Preservation of cultural heritage includes renovation of religious structures, excavation of the palaces and palace walls of ancient Myanmar kings, construction of cultural museums and protection of historical objects, stone inscriptions and parabaiks.

One can see many ancient pagodas in Bagan, an archaeological region and observe ancient cultural arts and crafts. Although a large number of the pagodas in Bagan were destroyed due to the earthquake in 1975, some of them were rebuilt according to their original styles.

Myanmar people of long ago built many pagodas and other religious structures in the region. It is worthy of note that tourists visit the region and observe arts and crafts with keen interest nowadays.

Like Bagan archaeological region, there remains cultural heritage in Innwa, Amarapura, Sagaing and Mingun in Upper Myanmar, Bago and Hanthawady regions, MraukU in Rakhine State and cities of Pyu period such as Beikthano, Hanlin and Srikestra and Sale, Pakhangyi, Pakhanng, Lekai, Sagu and Shwekyau (Mandalay).

Archaeological regions, structures and objects and arts and crafts that have existed for thousands of years reflect high national prestige and integrity. These are the heritage of historical value. It is the duty of departments concerned and the entire people to preserve the cultural heritage and artifacts.



Daw Tin Tin Naing (a) Daw Shu Tin of 52nd Street in Botahtaung Township donates K 101,000 to Hnizigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi. — H

Peoples' Desire

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

Commander takes part in December mass walk for the fourth week

YANGON, 24 Dec — with a view to ensuring uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, the December mass walk for the fourth week for 2006 was held in Aung San Stadium, here, this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Commander Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik, Joint-Secretary of YCDC U Aung Than Win, the secretary of Yangon Di-



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win participates in December mass walk for the fourth week. — MNA

vision PDC and members, departmental officials, government employees, teachers and students, members of social organizations and local people totalling over

1,400 took part in the mass walk.

They walked along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Gyophyu Road, Kandawgyi Lake Ring Road and upper

Pansodan Street. Later, they finished their walks at Aung San Stadium.

Next, they participated in exercises of physical training joyfully. — MNA

Workshop on enhancement of delivery rooms efficiency opens

YANGON, 24 Dec — The opening ceremony of workshop to enhance the delivery rooms efficiency organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Health Department this morning, with an opening address by Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai.

It was attended by CEC members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the chairperson and members of Yangon Division MCWSC, officials, the chairpersons and members of District/Township MCWAs, midwives and guests.

MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members gave educative talks and MCWA chairpersons and members of 18 townships and midwives took part in the discussions. — MNA

Power stations in Myaungdag, Ahlon inspected

YANGON, 24 Dec — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected Myaungdag Power Station in Hmawby Township on 18 December morning.

Chief Engineer U Tun Aye of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board and Project Manager U Saw Win Maung of Power Supply Project (South) reported on supply of electricity from the power station.

At Ahlon Power Station in Ahlon Township, the minister heard reports on availability of natural gas at the gas turbines and generating electricity presented by Deputy Chief Engineer U Nyunt Aung of YEPSB.

At Kyimyindine Station in Kyimyindine Township, the minister and party inspected loading of materials onto the train for building Twin Bundle Double Circuit Towers at Shweli-Mansi 230 KV power line. — MNA

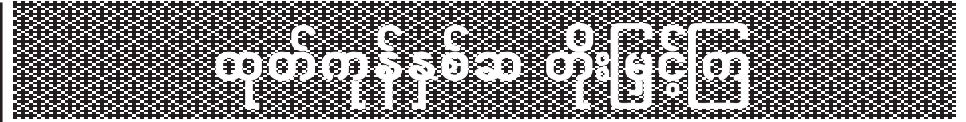


Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Myaungdag Power Station in Hmawby Township. — MNA



Japan's Emperor Akihito waves to well-wishers as he celebrates his 73rd birthday at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 23 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET



Indian PM to attend rescheduled ASEAN Summit on 14 Jan

NEW DELHI, 23 Dec— Prime Minister Manmohan will travel to the Philippines for the rescheduled ASEAN Summit on 14 January, where trade and economic cooperation are expected to dominate the talks.

“The ASEAN Summit, which was postponed due to a storm in December, will now be held at Cebu near Manila on 14 January,” official sources said.

The Summit is

scheduled for 14 January while the next day Prime Minister will be attending the East Asia Summit. The dates of the Summit were conveyed to the government Thursday.

Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath will be part of the advance team that would reach the Philippines on 11 January. The team would try to narrow down differences on India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement that is being negotiated. Nath, accompanied by senior officials, will meet trade ministers of ASEAN nations.

The agreement was to come into force from January 2007 but differences over India's negative list and ASEAN's sensitive list had come in the way.

MNA/PTI



A child greets Swiss tennis player and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Roger Federer (R) at a school in Thazanguda village of Cuddalore, about 165 km (103 miles) from the southern Indian city of Chennai on 22 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Bush should balance views with people's will on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec— Many US public opinion experts said Americans are sending their President George W Bush a clear message as he considers his options in Iraq: Bring the troops home.

Now Bush should balance his views with the American people's will on the issue, the experts were quoted by Friday's *Miami Herald* as saying.

Although public opinion is not a referendum and has no legal power, it does affect a lame-duck president's ability to get his way, said John Mueller, a professor at Ohio State University who specializes in wartime public opinion.

Bush's overall job-approval rating now hovers in the mid-30s, but support for his handling of Iraq has plummeted to the low-to-mid 20s, with disapproval around 70 per cent, according to three national polls in mid-December.

The experts said the overall sentiment is clear — a majority of Americans think the war was a mistake, do not think it will make America safer and do not think the United States will win.

“It's clear now that the public is looking for a

timetable for withdrawal.

If the administration doesn't like that, my advice would be, you have to somehow convince Americans of the benefits of continuing there,” said Frank Newport, editor in chief of the Gallup Poll.

“I think there's wisdom in the collective views of

the public. A wise leader pays attention to it,” he said.

Jeffrey Kimball, a professor from Miami University, said most US presidents would take the hint, especially after voters registered their displeasure in the midterm elections.—MNA/Xinhua

First Chinese trade fair kicks off in Chile

SANTIAGO, 23 Dec— The first Chinese commodity fair opened in Santiago on Wednesday, drawing more than 100 Chinese exhibitors. Represented at the fair are more than 100 Chinese companies from Shandong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and other provinces, who will showcase a variety of Chinese products and technology,

organizers said. The three-day fair is expected to draw over 20,000 visitors.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong quake jolts Andaman Islands of India

HONG KONG, 23 Dec — A strong-earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale struck Andaman Islands, India, early Saturday morning, according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicentre was initially determined by the Hong Kong Observatory to be at 10.7 degrees north latitude and 92.4 degrees east longitude, or about 120 kilometres south-southwest of Port Blair, India. —MNA/Xinhua

Huge lottery win for tiny Spanish village

LONDON, 23 Dec— A remote Spanish farming village with 25 inhabitants was yesterday several million pounds richer after everybody in the village won a share of the top prize in the world's biggest lottery, El Gordo.

The church bells rang in Rebollo de Duero, in the central province of Soria, yesterday morning as the handful of farming families celebrated their good fortune.

Soria is one of western Europe's most sparsely inhabited regions, with many villages abandoned by their inhabitants over



Schoolchildren sing the winning El Gordo lottery numbers.—INTERNET

the past half century.

“I don't know what everybody is going to do with it,” said the mayor, José María García, who said he was several hundred thousand euros richer after the draw. “We'll try not to start arguing.”

With the top prize divided among the thousands of people who buy shares in the winning number, yesterday's El Gordo win was being celebrated in half a dozen places around the country.

It was the biggest

payout ever by the Christmas lottery that is almost two centuries old. Yesterday it gave out more than 2.1bn euro (£1.4bn) across Spain, divided into more than 2m prizes.

Unlike other lotteries, El Gordo creates few millionaires, as most people rarely hold more than a 20 euro share in the winning number. That number pays out 15,000 times the money spent on shares in it, meaning that most of those holding the winning number will have won 300,000 euro for a 20 euro share.

Internet



Early morning frost covers tomatoes in a North Yorkshire garden near York, northern England, on 22 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

China donates 60 sets of prefabricated houses to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Dec — A ceremony for the handover of 60 sets of prefabricated houses donated by the Chinese Government to the Indonesian Government was held here on Thursday.

On behalf of the Chinese Government, Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia Lan Lijun said, the project is one of the largest assistance implemented by the Chinese Government after the catastrophe caused by the tsunami, to which the Chinese Government has paid great attention.

Lan said he hoped that people in Aceh, which was hardest hit by the tsunami in the country, can live better with the facilities donated by the Chinese Government and will build their hometown more prosperous tomorrow.

The chairman of Indonesia's Bureau of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR), Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, thanked the Chinese Government for the aid.

"China is one of the first nations in the world to give hand to the people of Aceh," Kuntoro said. "I can say very proudly that all children in Aceh can receive their education on time with your donations."

Among the 60 sets of completed houses with a total cost of 7.5 million US dollars, 34 are for schools, 17 for kindergartens and

nine for offices.

The agency that undertook the construction of the project overcame such difficulties as scattered allocations and inconvenient transportation and took only one year from 12 December, 2005 to 12 December, 2006 to complete all the construction work.

MNA/Xinhua



An Italian officer from the UN peacekeeping force, dressed as Santa Claus, cheers as his colleagues from Ghana play Christmas music in Naqoura village, in south Lebanon, on 21 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Hundreds join march in Wall Street to protest police shooting

NEW YORK, 22 Dec — Hundreds of people demonstrated near Wall Street Thursday to protest last month's police shooting that left one unarmed man dead and two others wounded.

The demonstration in Manhattan's financial district was the latest in a series of protests over the death of Sean Bell, who was killed when undercover police officers fired 50 shots into his car hours before he was to marry.

Protesters carried signs reading, "Shut Wall Street Down," and called for the resignation of Police Commissioner Ray Kelly. At one point, demonstrators even pushed reporters and threw protest signs in anger.

Critics of the shooting argued that the men were targeted because they were Black. But the police involved in the shooting include Black, White and Hispanic, and they also claimed they thought one of Bell's friends had a gun, and

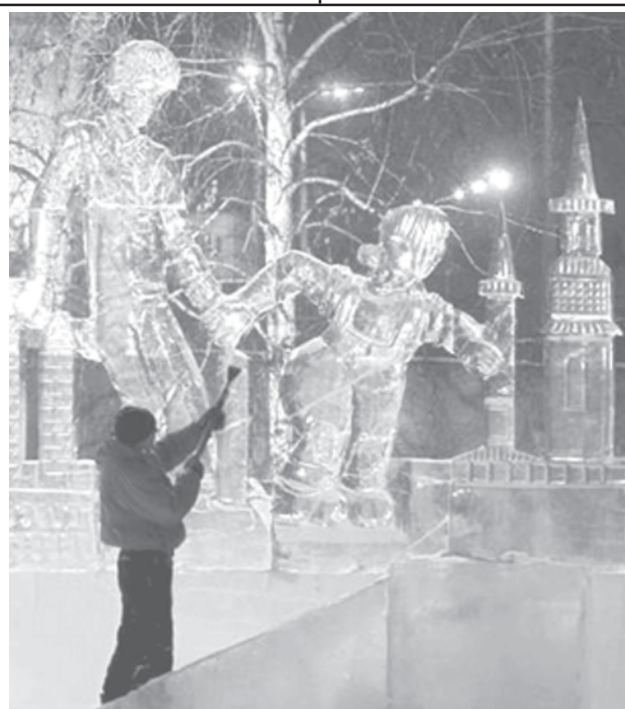
they opened fire after an officer was hit by Bell's car.

Some bystanders at the financial district seemed confused by the demonstrations, saying the demonstrators are not rallying for the right purpose.

But Roger Wareham, a spokesman for one of the participating groups, said the protest was intended to let Wall Street know that it is not exempt from the outrage and the anger grief that the Black and Latino community feels because of police's activities in the community.

On Saturday, thousands walked down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan in a so-called silent march on one of the busiest shopping days of the year to protest the shooting.

MNA/Xinhua



An artist puts finishing touches on the ice sculpture 'Kid and Karlsson' in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 21 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Bird-hit causes crash of "Mirage" fighter jet in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec — Initial investigation indicated that Wednesday's

crash of a *Mirage* fighter jet in southern Pakistan was caused by a bird-hit, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said Thursday.

A large bird was ingested into the aircraft engine, which caused the loss of engine power hence the aircraft flight could not be sustained, said PAF, quoted by the state-run *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

MNA/Xinhua

Ghana earns \$239m from wood export

NAIROBI, 22 Dec — Ghana received a total of 184 million euro (239 million US dollars) from the export of its wood products last year, the *Ghana News Agency* reported on Wednesday.

The amount represents the total volume of 466,155 cubic metric of wood products exported.

Douglas Asomani, Corporate Planning Officer of the Forestry Commission (FC), announced this at the first graduation of 40 apprentices trained by members of the Woodworkers Association of Ghana (WAG) and the Wood Industries training

Centre (WITC) at Akyawkrom in the Ejisu-Juaben District on Tuesday, the report said.

Asomani said the Ghanaian Government recognized the importance of forest and wildlife resources to the well-being of Ghanaians and would continue to initiate measures to reduce waste in the sector.

MNA/Xinhua



A villager walks beside the ruins of a house in earthquake hit Muara Sipongi district in Mandailing Natal, North Sumatra Province, on 20 Dec, 2006. Four people died in Monday's quakes and 680 houses were badly damaged, an official said. Some 230 families had fled their homes amid heavy rain and continuing aftershocks.—INTERNET

Three dead in US military helicopter crash

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec—A US military helicopter crashed near Seattle, Washington, Thursday night, killing all three crew members, CNN reported Friday.

The US military said the helicopter and three crew members belong to an Army aviation unit based in Fort Lewis, Washington, according to the report.

The *Blackhawk UH-60* helicopter was flying on a training mission at the time. The bodies of the three crew members were recovered, but their identities have not been released.

Investigators are trying to find what caused the crash, but said it will take time. The *Blackhawk* helicopters are used by the US Army to carry out attack, medical and training and support missions.—MNA/Xinhua

Visitor arrivals in Singapore up 1.7% in November

SINGAPORE, 23 Dec—A total of 800,000 visitors arrived in Singapore in November this year, moderately up 1.7 per cent year-on-year after a 15-per-cent increase in October, according to the figures released by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Friday.

Visitor days were estimated to reach 2.7 million, an increase of 4.8 per cent in comparison to November last year.

Indonesia, which contributed 137,000 visitors to Singapore in November, still ranked first among the city-state's top five visitor-generating markets for the month, followed by China (88,000), Malaysia (56,000), Japan (52,000) and India (51,000). These five markets accounted for 48 per cent of total visitor

arrivals for the month.

Hotels in Singapore were estimated to register 145.8 million Singapore dollars (about 94.7 million US dollars) in room revenue in November, up 29.8 per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The average room rate

(ARR) was estimated at 176 Singapore dollars (about 114 US dollars), an increase of 21.3 per cent over November 2005. The average occupancy rate (AOR) reached 92 per cent, a 4.1 per cent point increase year-on-year.

MNA/Xinhua



The Rong Yiren Foundation, named after late Chinese Vice-President Rong Yiren, on 22 Dec, 2006 awarded 73 grants to China's top acrobats who have won prizes in international acrobatic contests since 2004. Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong is present at the award ceremony.—XINHUA

Crude oil prices rise as US crude reserves fall sharply

NEW YORK, 23 Dec—Crude oil prices rose above 63 dollars on Wednesday amid concern of supply, as US crude reserves fell sharply.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in January, rose 26 cents to close with 63.72 dollars a barrel.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for February

delivery was up 42 cents to settle at 63.23.

US commercial crude oil inventories plunged 6.3 million barrels to 329.1 million in the week ending 15 December, the Energy Department reported Wednesday in its weekly petroleum survey.

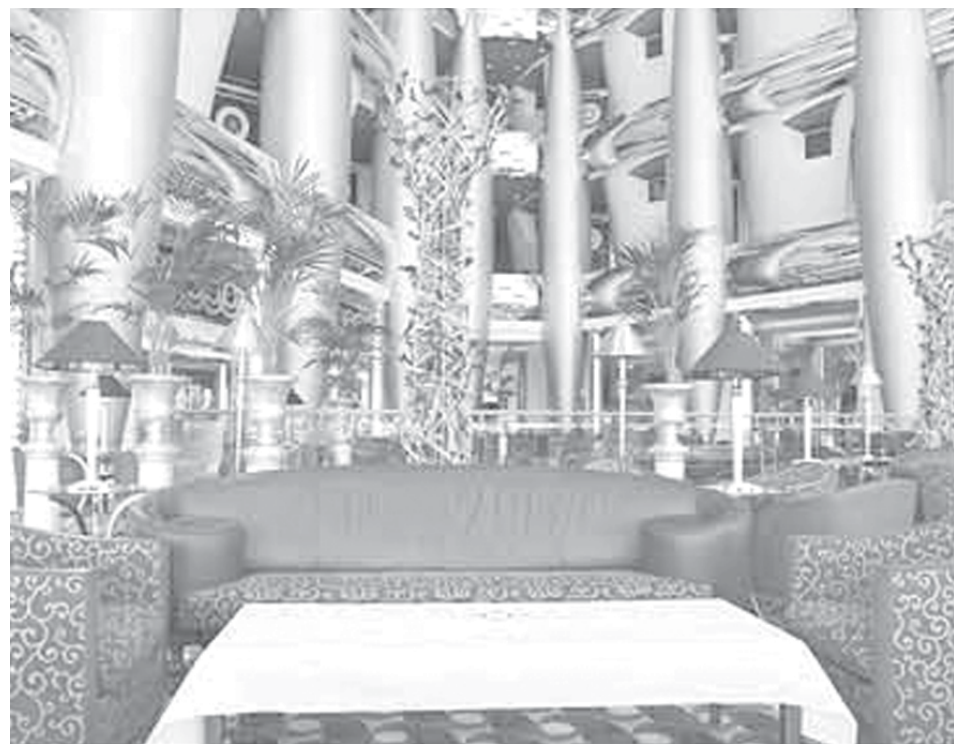
The drop was more than triple the decline of two million barrels expected

by analysts for last week.

Meanwhile, gasoline stocks increased by one million barrels to 200.9 million, but still lower than average levels for this time of year. The gain was against forecasts that gasoline inventories would remain unchanged.

Supplies of distillate products, including heating oil and diesel fuel, were up 1.2 million barrels last week to 133.1 million, at average levels for this time of year. Analysts were expecting a drop of 600,000 barrels.

MNA/Xinhua



Seven star hotel in the United Arab Emirates. — XINHUA

China's first straw-burning power project switches on

BEIJING, 23 Dec—China's first self-developed straw-burning power generation project has begun pilot operation in Suqian, in east China's Jiangsu Province, according to the China Energy Conservation Investment Corporation (CECIC).

The 248-million-yuan (31-million-US-dollar) project is expected to burn 170,000-200,000 tons of straw and generate 132 million kilowatts hour of electricity a year, Yang Xincheng, general manager of CECIC said here on Wednesday.

Currently, around 140 million tons of straw and crop stalks are burned be-side fields or on nearby highways in China each year, threatening the environment as well as the lives of drivers and pedestrians.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean FM to visit Japan very soon

SEOUL, 24 Dec — South Korean Foreign Minister Song Min-soon will pay a two-day visit to Japan next Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Song will also discuss controversial matters such as Japan's tendency to whitewash its colonial past and Seoul-Tokyo relations, the spokesman said.

During the visit, Song will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso and Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, the spokesman added. — MNA/Xinhua

College harnesses cow pat power

LONDON, 24 Dec—The humble cow pat could become the latest weapon in the fight against global warming.

An agricultural college is using methane from the muck produced by its dairy herd to power its working farm.

The dairy cows at Walford and North Shropshire College are housed for eight months a year and their dung is collected and pumped into a digester.

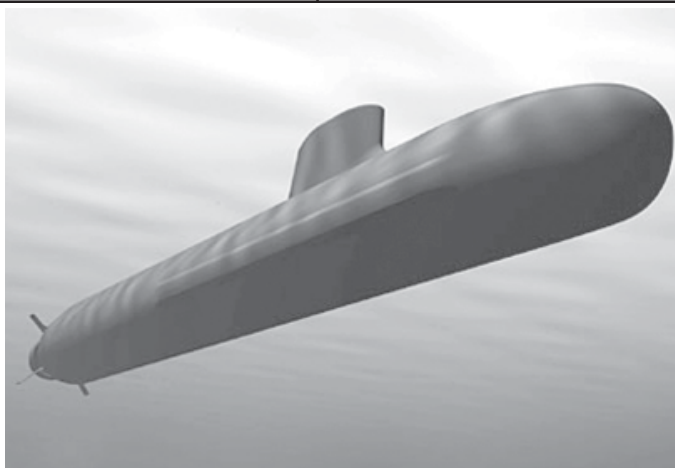
There it is converted into methane and used to power a generator. This produces enough energy to run the farm.

Adrian Joynt, farm manager at the college's new £2.7m environmentally-friendly Harris Centre, said:

"Everything that comes out of the back end of an animal goes in [the digester]. "And what we get out is 7,500 kilowatts—or £7,500 worth.

We actually get enough energy to supply the farm's electricity for a year." He added: "If you are going to put food in one end of the cow, we have to accept what comes out of the other.

"It's about what we do with it. "We can either spread it on the field or we can put it through this digester and get the methane gas out of it."—Internet



France will start a 7.9-billion-euro programme to build six Barracuda nuclear submarines deliverable in 2016, the defence ministry announced on 22 Dec, 2006. XINHUA

Thanks to the harmony between the continuous presentation of discussions and suggestions chapter-wise and proposals and adoption of the detailed basic principles, a new Constitution will come into force

YANGON, 24 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 Kokang Democracy and Unity Party at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 22-12-2006.

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 Khin Maung Aye, a National Convention delegate of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party.

Mr Chairman,

The National Convention has been convening with accelerated momentum to adopt detailed basic principles for the emergence of a constitution of the future state. The National Convention has reached the stage of holding discussions and presenting suggestions on the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions”.

The successful completion of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map and the historic and meaningful task with full of essence, is drawing nearer. And thanks to the harmony between the continuous presentation of discussions and suggestions chapter-wise and proposals and adoption of the detailed basic principles, a new Constitution will come into force to firmly serve the interest of the entire nation and for the nation to stand with dignity among the international community.

It is a prestige for us of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party to energetically take part in the historic and profound task. However, we would like to ask the delegates to understand us with magnanimity as we may have some weaknesses that are natural in this world for everyone or organization.

Mr Chairman,

Now, we are going to discuss and assess the four remaining chapters. The Work Committee Chairman explained that it might be necessary to make constitutional amendments to have a more comprehensive constitution however much we had made efforts in detail in drafting it.

Amendment of the Constitution

Mr Chairman,

We have studied the Work Committee

Chairman’s explanations concerning the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”. The explanations included all the fundamental requirements to amend the Constitution such as the means and procedures to amend the Constitution. Hence, all the points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital

Mr Chairman,

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

Every nation has her own State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital representing her.

Some countries designate a specific flower as their national flower.

The State Flag and the State Seal stand for the government that is heading the nation and the people. Hence, they should have a profound meaning and definition that must be in conformity with the political, economic and social systems the nation has been practising. It’s meaning should have the power to further vitalize patriotism and nationalistic fervour of the entire nation.

So also, the National Anthem should reflect the political, economic and social systems of the nation, while its essence should have the capacity to raise patriotism and national convictions of the people of the whole country.

Nay Pyi Taw, that is located in the nation’s political, social, economic administrative centre of the whole nation and where the head offices of government institutions are situated, has been designated as the nation’s capital.

We find that the Work Committee Chairman’s explanations are appropriate, and we agree that the detailed basic principles concerning the Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital” should be adopted.

Transitory Provisions

Mr Chairman,

Now, I will present our proposal in connection with the chapter “Transitory Provisions”.

As soon as a constitution is ratified, a transitory period is required to change from one situation to another that are different from each other. Hence, the Constitution should include a transitory period.

The Constitution will come into force throughout the nation after its adoption in a nationwide referendum by more than half of the voters.

The State Peace and Development Council should continue to exercise State sovereignty during the interval between the coming into force of the Constitution

U Khin Maung Aye reads out the proposal of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party.

MNA



and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened. Existing laws shall remain in force so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

We have found that all the explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the chapter “Transitory Provisions” are in accord with the present work programmes of the nation and the actual requirements for the transitory period. Hence, we agree that all the detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the Chapter should be adopted.

General Provisions

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the last chapter “General Provisions”.

The Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State. It also acts as the guideline for the legislative bodies to enact laws and to interpret the Constitution itself and other laws.

Of the detailed basic principles, the one in connection with the honouring of all legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements, and another which says that the Union of Republic of Myanmar may sue and may be sued by the name of the Union of Republic of Myanmar have been laid down to prevent any act leading to the existence of the absolute power. Other detailed basic principles in connection with the membership strength of the Constitutional Tribunal, qualifications of the members, procedures and the term of the Tribunal, impeachment of its members, the duties and functions, the procedures for its interpretation, decision and stance, and duties, and rights and privileges were also explained by the Work Committee Chairman. We are in favour of adopting the detailed basic principles in connection with the chapter.

Mr Chairman and National Convention delegates,

We have made an assessment of the Work Committee Chairman’s clarification to the most of our intellectual ability, and we have found that they are correctly based on historical lessons. We firmly believe that we will reach a new stable, modern and developed nation that will serve the public interest.

The collection of detailed basic principles concerning the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” should be adopted.

MNA

The State Flag and the State Seal stand for the government that is heading the nation and the people. Hence, they should have a profound meaning and definition that must be in conformity with the political, economic and social systems the nation has been practising. It’s meaning should have the power to further vitalize patriotism and nationalistic fervour of the entire nation.

The State constitution should be harmonious with the nation's geographical features, culture, customs and traditions, history, and current political, economic and social conditions

YANGON, 24 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 Wa National Development Party at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 22-12-2006.

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, may you be all blessed with physical and mental pleasures.

I am a representative U Nyi Palok of the Wa National Development Party.

I would like to make positive suggestions about the points the Work Committee chairman clarified at the plenary session of the National Convention for adoption of the detailed basic principles for 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,

Regarding the Chapter "Amendment of the State Constitution", after adopting and promulgating the Constitution, a nation has to make amendments as necessary depending on time and situation. With the passage of time, the laws of the State Constitution get old and some of them are no longer in conformity with the prevailing conditions of the nation. Therefore, such laws are to be amended or abrogated. New suitable laws are thus to be prescribed according to the changes. The State Constitution is the fundamental foundation of the Union. So, unnecessary amendments should not be made to it, especially such amendments that are likely to harm the interests of the people. In this regard, in the State constitution, there should be a separate chapter that prescribes procedures to make amendments to a provision if need arises. And the provisions that need amendments should be submitted as bills, and these bills should stipulate no other proposals except the provisions.

Mr Chairman,

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.

The amendment bill should not be submitted directly to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, there should be a stipulation, and the submission of the Bill should be in accord with the provisions. And it is required to prescribe a provision and only the proposals that meet the provisions should be submitted. There should be a principle that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall hold discussions about such a bill only when the report endorsed by at least 20 per cent of the number of Hluttaw members is submitted.

Mr Chairman,

In the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution, the provisions in connection with ways to make amendments are manifested in separate sections and articles and chapters.

Such provisions can be prescribed specifically only when a State constitution is drafted. Now, the proposed points are being adopted for framing the State Constitution. So, now, it is not available to prescribe such provisions article-wise or chapter-wise. Therefore, based on the

headings of the chapters, specific procedures should be prescribed to amend such provisions in proper ways.

It will be clear only if procedures to make amendments to such provisions are prescribed specifically in the articles of a separate chapter when the State Constitution is written.

If a provision on amendments is prescribed in a convenient way or with restrictions, the benefit will not be as much as it should be. So, if need arises, a provision should be prescribed in a proper way.

The four points the Work Committee chairman explained are appropriate, and so I suggest that they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital

Mr Chairman,

Now, I would like to make suggestions about the proposed points for detailed basic principles for the Chapter "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital".

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.

Firstly, I would like to make suggestions about the points for the State Flag in a sincere and positive way.

Mr Chairman,

The stipulation of the State Flag mostly depends on the history of the nation concerned. Our country has a fine tradition that from time immemorial, diverse national races have been living in the Union in amity through thick and thin. So, the National Convention has adopted two related basic principles. They are "The State is constituted by Pyidaungsu (Union) system" and "No part of the territory of the Union, namely, Regions, States and Self-Administered areas etc, shall ever secede from the Union."

The Union of Myanmar is a nation where all the national races live through thick and thin and in unity. So, the State Flag should reflect all-round development, peace and stability of the nation, amity of national races and national solidarity.

Therefore, regarding the State Flag, the point—

- (1) The State Flag shall be prescribed as follows: The Flag is marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio. On the left end of the green stripe at the top of the Flag is a large white star directing upwards.
- (2) Law shall be promulgated concerning the State Flag."

The amendment bill should not be submitted directly to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, there should be a stipulation, and the submission of the Bill should be in accord with the provisions. And it is required to prescribe a provision and only the proposals that meet the provisions should be submitted. There should be a principle that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall hold discussions about such a bill only when the report endorsed by at least 20 per cent of the number of Hluttaw members is submitted.

**U Nyi
Palok
reads out
the
proposal of
the Wa
National
Development
Party.**

MNA



should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the State Seal, it reflects the history, culture and customs of the nation and national races.

Regarding the National Anthem, the present National Anthem has been used for more than half a century. One of the objectives of the National Convention of the State says "Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality. The State's objectives cover non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The present National Anthem reflects the tasks for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union that is the heritage handed down by ancestors, protection of the Union at risk to life, and harmoniously serving the interests of the Union.

Regarding the matters for designation of Nay Pyi Taw as the capital, Nay Pyi Taw is located in the centre of the nation, it is a region where the central offices of the government are based with smooth transportation. So, the points the Work Committee chairman explained are complete and appropriate. So, there is no need to make specific suggestions about them. And I would like to suggest that these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Transitory Provisions

Mr Chairman,

Now, I would like to discuss the detailed basic principles for the Chapter "Transitory Provisions" to be included in the State Constitution.

In formulating a State Constitution, the situation of a nation before the Constitution comes 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, executive and jurisdiction—and economic and social infrastructures during the transitional period.

So, it is required to prescribe transitory provisions in the State Constitution to ensure continuous exercise of State sovereign powers as well as charter, duties and responsibilities to be carried out during the transitional period.

After a State Constitution is drafted, only when the date, on which a Constitution comes into force, is mentioned, will the Constitution come into operation on that date.

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.

(See pag 8)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 1)

old age, the site chosen for construction of a new bridge in place of the old one for heavy trucks, kind of bridge, main bridge, approach bridge (on Mandalay bank), approach bridge (on Sagaing bank), construction work, progress of work and future tasks.

After hearing the report, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on inspecting of the durability and maintenance of the bridge before opening of it and compiling a record on the emergence of the bridge.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed tarring of the approach bridge (on Mandalay bank) and construction of the main bridge.

The main bridge of the 5,614 feet long Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is of steel frame type with 1140 feet long approach bridge on



Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) under construction.— MNA

the bank of Mandalay and 780 feet on the bank of Sagaing.

The bridge is a four-lane facility and it can bear 60 tons of loads.

Before looking into the strand road and

Taungthaman Lake ring road by car, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project site.

Later, they

viewed the tarring of the Yangon-Mandalay main road from the Tagundaing Bridge to Kanaung Minthagyi road of No 2 Industrial Zone being carried out by Mandalay City Development

Committee.

After that, they proceeded to No 1 Integrated Farm of MCDC and inspected the growing of 120 acres of physic nut plants, physic nut plantations, seasonal

and perennial crops plantations and breeding of pigs, fish, ducks and geese.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived back here by air this afternoon.— MNA

The State constitution...

(from page 7)

Mr Chairman,

The points the Work Committee chairman explained are based on suitable points from the State constitutions of many other countries and the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution of our nation. And they are designed to be in conformity with the forthcoming State constitution. So, the eight points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

General Provisions

Mr Chairman,

Now, I would like to deal with the points proposed for the Chapter "Transitory Provisions" to be included in the State constitution.

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.

So, I would say the adoption of the point "This State Constitution is the basic law of the laws of the State" is appropriate.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the Chapter "General Provisions", the National Convention has adopted the points—

1. Myanmar language is the official language.
2. The State fundamental principles are the guidelines to be followed by the legislative Hluttaws in enacting laws and interpreting provisions of the State Constitution and of other laws.

Myanmar language is used everywhere in the nation between the people and the government and between governmental departments. So, Myanmar language should be designated as the official language to ensure equality and smooth relations.

The State constitution is the guideline to be followed in defining the laws. So, the basic principles of the State are to be used by the legislative assemblies in enacting laws and in defining the provisions of the State constitution and other laws. So, these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

Unless an expression in a law of the State constitution is defined specifically, the expression-defining law, an existing law, should be used as reference when need arises to refer such a law to define another law.

The State constitution of a nation is the milestone of that nation. The State constitution should be harmonious with the nation's geographical features, culture, customs and traditions, history, and current political, economic and social conditions. So, it is the nation's historic evidence. And the manuscript of the constitution should be enrolled for record. The manuscript is the conclusive evidence of the provisions contained in the constitution.

Mr Chairman,

Now, detailed basic principles have been adopted under respective chapters for approval.

The points the Work Committee chairman explained to be adopted as detailed basic principles for the Chapter "General Provisions" such as "The State permits all economic forces such as the State itself, regional organizations, cooperative organizations, joint-venture organizations and private concerns, etc. to take part in economic activities for the development of the national economy", "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", and "Any proceedings relating to contracts or liabilities which might have been brought against the Government of the Union of Myanmar before this Constitution comes into force, may be brought against the Union Government" are appropriate.

Mr Chairman,

The detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted regarding the Chapter "General Provisions" cover the functions of the Constitutional Tribunal.

The functions of the Constitutional Tribunal are very formidable. Some of them are to define the provisions of the State Constitution if necessary, and resolve disputes on matters related to the State Constitution.

The detailed basic principles from No 10 to No 26 covering procedures for formation of a constitutional tribunal, designation of its membership including the chairman, designation of duties to the members, qualifications and responsibilities of the members, its term, and impeachment of a member if he has violated any of the provisions prescribed in the State constitution are appropriate.

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

In conclusion, we representatives of the Wa National Development Party suggest that the detailed basic principles the Work Committee chairman proposed for the Chapter "Amendment of the Constitution", Chapter "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital", Chapter "Transitory Provisions" and Chapter "General Provisions" to be included in the State Constitution should be adopted.— MNA

Yeywa Hydel Power Project...

(from page 16)
contribute to greening of Meiktila Plain and generating 6 megawatts.

The second project is the completed Zawgyi Multi-purpose Dam Project located on Zawgyi River near Indaw Village of Yaksawk Township. Kengkham Dam will supply water to Zawgyi Dam for greening Meiktila Plain. As the third dam project for greening tasks, Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam is being built on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township, lower part of Zawgyi Dam. Myogyi Dam will

completed. Shanmange Dam (Mondaing Supporting Dam) is being built as the fifth project on Shanmange Creek in Meiktila Township. On completion, these dams will contribute to the increase of the irrigated acres of Meiktila Lake.

The five projects are being implemented for greening Meiktila Plain. At present, completion of some projects feeds more water to Meiktila Lake. Efforts are being made for completion of the projects. Thanks to construction of the dam projects, farmlands in Meiktila Plain will be irrigated.

Myogyi Diversion Dam. Furthermore, all are to harmoniously carry out timely completion of Kengkham Multi-Purpose Dam Project and systematic utilization of Samon Dam.

In his instruction, General Thura Shwe Mann said that now tasks to supply water to Meiktila Lake have been completed nearly cent per cent for greening Meiktila Plain and irrigating farmlands. As water from the supporting irrigation facilities flow into Meiktila Lake, emphasis is to be placed on feeding more water to the farmlands.



General Thura Shwe Mann views scale model of Yeywa Hydel Power project.— MNA

use of water from Zawgyi River. The Government is striving not only for supplying water to Meiktila Plain but also for generat-

scheduled, with the least expenditure. If water flows into Meiktila Plain, greening tasks will contribute to uplift of living

Shwe Mann inspected tasks of the project.

The earth embankment of Myogyi Dam is 2,461 feet long and 258



General Thura Shwe Mann hears reports on construction of Myogyi Dam by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo.— MNA



supply water to Meiktila Plain through Myogyi Diversion Dam and Kinda feeder canal. The fourth project is to construct Chaungauk, Lunngin, Letkhokpin and Nyaunggon Dams and their canals. These construction tasks have been

Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to build Myogyi Diversion Dam while implementing Myogyi Dam Project at the same time. He stressed the need to make arrangements for supplying water to Meiktila Plain from

Likewise, arrangements are to be made for systematic utilization of water from small dams and lakes for greening Meiktila Plain. At present, Kengkham and Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Projects are being implemented for the systematic

ing hydel power with the use of water supplied from Kengkham, Zawgyi and Myogyi Dams. Hence, emphasis is to be placed on implementation of the multi-purpose dam projects. He stressed the need to complete the projects earlier than

standard of the local people in almost all the Anya region. Hence, all are to carry out these tasks with goodwill.

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to the site of Myogyi Dam Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township by Construction-7 of Irrigation Department.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on facts about the dam project, construction of the diaphragm wall, the main embankment, the diversion tunnel and the tunnel for hydel power station.

Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint submitted reports on construction of the diversion tunnel. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

After giving instructions, General Thura

feet high.

Myogyi Dam will irrigate Meiktila Plain through Kinda canals and generate 30 megawatts of hydel power.

In the afternoon, General Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented by No 2 Construction of Hydel Power Implementation Department on Myitnge River near Yeyaman Village, 31 miles from Mandalay.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min briefed the General on salient points of the project, completion of Dokhtawady Bridge (Yeywa), diversion tunnels and retaining walls, construction of the approach tunnel, power intake building, land preparations for the power station, and construction of the main embankment.

(see page 10)



Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam project.— MNA

Tipitakadara Tipitakakowvida Selection Examination commences

YANGON, 24 Dec — The opening ceremony of the 59th Tipitakadara Tipitakakowvida Selection Examination organized by Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning, attended by members of the Sangha led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and

member Sayadaws, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, officials and wellwishers.

The commander, the minister, the deputy minister and those present

received the Five Precepts from the Chairman Sayadaw of Ovadaçariya Committee.

Next, the Chairman of SSMNC delivered a sermon.

Later, the Commander and the Minister supplicated on religious affairs. The commander and the minister accepted K 1, 820, 000 donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

A total of 276 monks are now sitting the 59th Tipitakadara Tipitakakowvida Selection Examination which will last thirty-three days. —MNA

Home Affairs Minister and party arrive back

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec —The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo arrived back here by air this morning after paying goodwill visit to India from 17 to 22 December at the invitation of Minister for Home Affairs Mr Shivraj V Patil of the Republic of India.

They were welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw airport by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen

Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation and departmental officials.

Deputy Director-General of MPF Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Director U Kyin Lin of GAD, Director U Maung Maung Kyaw of BSI and Deputy Director Police Lt-Col Than Soe of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control also

arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

NC delegates visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 24 Dec — Accompanied by officials of the invitation and accommodation sub-committee of National Convention Convening Management Committee, delegates to National Convention at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. They offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to the pagoda.

Similarly, Christian delegates attended the service of St Georges Anglican church in Mingaladon Township.

MNA

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

The second best time is now.

Yeywa Hydel Power Project...

(from page 9)

The minister reported that Myanmar engineers are striving for construction of RCC concrete embankment of the project, in cooperation with foreign technicians. Emphasis is being placed on implementation of Yeywa Hydel Power Project meeting set standard as it is a heavy task. All are giving priority to building quality construction tasks. International organizations and experts observed construction tasks of the RCC main embankment of the dam. At present, the record on construction tasks have been compiled systematically.

Deputy Minister U Myo Myint presented reports on tests conducted in placing RCC concrete meeting set standard and construction of natural pozolan. Next, he reported that Yeywa RCC dam is

the third largest and the fifth highest irrigation facility in the world. Experts from abroad made trips to observe the Yeywa Project. Now, utmost efforts are being made for timely completion of the project.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann said that Yeywa Hydel Power Project is being implemented by modern heavy machinery, applying advanced technologies. It is a heavy project that will have the capacity to contribute much towards progress of socio-economic sector of the State. Hence, all are to undertake tasks of the project to the best of their ability.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann presented fruit baskets to officials of Colenco Power Engineering Co Ltd, China Gezhouba Water & Power Group Co Ltd and

No 2 Construction of Hydel Power Implementation Department. General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the scale model of Yeywa Hydel Power Project and inspection equipment to be used at construction of RCC main embankment.

The General and party viewed progress in building Dokhtawady Bridge (Yeywa) and oversaw the inspection gallery.

They also inspected construction of the power intake, placing of concrete at the stage 4B of RCC main embankment, building of the water tunnel and others.

Yeywa Hydel Power Project will generate 790 megawatts. Its main embankment is being built with RCC. So far, tasks of the project have been completed by 35 per cent. — MNA

Information Minister visits presses under Printing and Publishing Enterprise

YANGON, 24 Dec — Accompanied by officials, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visited the photolitho press in Bahan Township, GTC press in Aung San in Insein Township, Sarpay Beikman press and Aung San press this morning.

On arrival at the photolitho press of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, the minister was welcomed by PPE Managing Director U Aung Nyein and officials. Manager U Naing Aung Lwin reported on the location and area of the press, background history, organizational set-up and strength of the staff, condition of machinery, printing work, circulation of publications, use of raw materials, measures being taken for the security of worksite and growing of vegetables.

In response to the reports, the minister stressed the need to closely



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Aung San GTC press in Insein Township. — MNA

supervise the staff performing their tasks, to adopt the carrot and stick approach with the staff, to try to ensure the full operation of the press and to take measures for fire prevention and security at the press.

Next, he inspected the publishing of exercise books, flat room and raw materials storehouse.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to

Aung San GTC press in Insein Township. There he was briefed by the managers of GTC press, Aung San press and Sarpay Beikman press on facts about the presses and printing work and publishing of exercise books.

The minister stressed the need to carry out maintenance tasks for the new printing presses on a daily basis, to give

training to the staff, to try to operate the presses at full capacity, to reduce expenses of the printing presses, to try to earn more income, to take fire prevention measures and to extend cultivation of crops on vacant land.

Later, the minister inspected the presses, publishing of exercise books and raw materials storehouses.

MNA

Lab work to identify 2,800-year-old mummy of shaman

URUMQI, 23 Dec — Chinese scientists are conducting laboratory work hoping to identify a 2,800-year-old mummy presumably of a shaman in the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The well-preserved mummy of a seemingly Caucasian man with a Roman nose and deep-set eyes was unearthed from a cluster of ancient tombs in 2003 and research work has been going on ever since.

Archaeologists found the mummy most intriguing because a sack of marijuana leaves was found buried alongside the corpse. The mummy

remains intact in its original outfit despite the passage of time: leather hat, heavy coat and boots, huge earrings of copper and gold, a turquoise necklace, a copper laced stick in the right hand and a bronze ax in the left, according to Li Xiao, head of the heritage bureau in Turpan.

Inside the leather coat, the man was wearing a dainty brown and red

mantle, and his hands were crossed in front of his chest, said Li.

“From his outfit and the marijuana leaves, which have been confirmed by international specialists to be ingredients for narcotic, we assume the man had been a shaman and had been between 40 and 50 years old when he died,” said Li, a noted historian in Xinjiang.—MNA/Xinhua



A plane lands at Heathrow Airport in west London on 22 Dec, 2006. Thousands of travellers struggling to get home for Christmas faced another day of chaos and frustration on Friday as London's Heathrow Airport was blanketed in fog.—INTERNET

Moderate quake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Dec — A 5.6-magnitude earthquake hit Indonesia's eastern province of North Sulawesi on Friday, and no casualty and potential of tsunami were reported, said the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

The quake struck at 18:06 Jakarta Time (1106 GMT) at 206 kilometres northeast Manado, the capital city of the province with epicentre 160 kilometres under sea bed, said an official of the agency, named only Novita Hendriastuti.

Indonesian is laid on a vulnerable quake hit zone that called “the Pacific Rim of Fire”, where continental plates meet causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity. —MNA/Xinhua



A young girl walks between coconut palms on the coastline of Puil Island, Carteret Atoll, Papua New Guinea, on 10 Dec, 2006. Rising sea levels have eroded much of the coastlines of the low lying Carteret islands situated 80km or 50 miles from Bougainville Island, in the South Pacific.—XINHUA

Australia not to send extra troops to Iraq

CANBERRA, 23 Dec — Australian Prime Minister John Howard said on Friday that he has no plan to send more troops to Iraq nor to reduce the troop numbers in the war-torn Gulf country.

Howard's statements came following speculations the United States is planning to increase number of troops in Iraq.

“I don't have any plans at present to increase Australia's troop commitment, nor do I have any plans to reduce it,” Howard told the Nine Network television.

Howard said he would be notified if US President George W. Bush decided to send more troops, but it would not mean Australia would follow.

“What the situation is at the next election will depend on conditions in Iraq and the one thing we won't do is be part of any withdrawal which hands victory to the terrorists,” he said. Howard also acknowledged Australia relies on the United States and said it is important the alliance continues.

“People are critical of America and their President Bush, but in the end, our futures are linked and the strength and power of America is important to us especially in this part of the world,” he said.

Mysterious disease claims 12 lives in northern Kenya

NAIROBI, 23 Dec — At least 12 people have died from a highly contagious disease in northern Kenya, which was badly hit by severe drought followed by the worst floods, officials said on Thursday.

Kenyan official confirmed the deaths in the Ijara area, near the region's provincial capital Garissa, some 300 kilometres east of the capital

Nairobi.

“Most victims bleed through all body openings, leading to death in about 48 hours after infection,” said Tom Namasaka, a

spokesman for special programmes ministry.

He said the mysterious disease, which affects both livestock and human beings, was highly contagious and was already taking a high toll on the herdsmen in grazing fields, where the first case

was reported last week.

Garissa District Medical Officer of Health Abdullahi Abagira warned that the disease was probably spreading to human beings through consumption of animal products.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



A reveller speaks an incantation during the Winter Solstice at Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in southern England on 22 Dec, 2006. In the northern hemisphere, the Winter solstice is the shortest day of the year.—INTERNET

Three killed in Nigerian oil facility attack

LAGOS, 23 Dec — Three people were killed when armed militants on Thursday attacked an oil facility in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta, a police spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, the attack at an oil facility operated by France's Total occurred at around 3:30 am (0230GMT) in Nigeria's southern Rivers State. A well informed source said that the attack was carried out by masked men in speed boats. So far, no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Since the beginning of this year, militant groups in the Niger Delta have constantly attacked oil facilities and taken oil workers as hostages.

Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer and the sixth largest oil exporter in the world, has a daily crude oil output of 2.6 million barrels. —MNA/Xinhua

Germany praises outgoing UNSG

BERLIN, 23 Dec — Outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has “decisively shaped” the United Nations, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Friday.

“In the last ten years you have decisively shaped the UN and in particular the reform process,” the German Foreign Minister said in a letter to Annan.

Annan, 68, started his first term as UN Secretary-General on 1 January, 1997 to replace Boutros Boutros-Ghali, will be succeeded by South Korea’s top diplomat Ban Ki-Moon on 1 January, 2007.

“You stand like none other for the ideas of the UN, which are respected worldwide,” Steinmeier said. “The award of the Nobel peace prize stands

for the success and the reputation, which won the worldwide organization in its term of office straight also in the public.”

Annan, a Ghanaian diplomat, is the first person from a Black African nation to serve as UN Secretary-General. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.

“In the name of the Federal Government, I would like particularly to thank you for the close and extremely trusting cooperation, which connected Germany and the United Nations in your term of office,” Steinmeier said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Gasoline prices rise dramatically in S California

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec — Driven by refinery output problems, gasoline prices rose dramatically in Southern California this week, the Automobile Club of Southern California reported Friday.

The average price rose by almost 10 cents per gallon this week in the area, with the average price of a gallon of unleaded self-serve regular at 2.597 dollars a gallon in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area Friday, 9.7 cents higher than last week, 11 cents more than last month and 34 cents more than at this time last year, according to the Auto Club.

Prices have now risen

for two consecutive weeks.

The average price per gallon rose 3 cents from 8-15 December after falling 1.9 cents from 1-8 December and being unchanged from 22 November- 1 December. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam’s export earnings to surge in 2006-2007

HANOI, 23 Dec — Vietnam is forecast to make export revenues of 39.6 billion US dollars this year and some 46.8 billion dollars next year, up from 32.2 billion dollars last year, a local trade agency said on Friday.

Nine local items with this year’s export turnovers

surpassing the one billion dollar mark include crude oil (over 8.3 billion dollars), garment and textile (5.8 billion dollars), footwear (nearly 3.6 billion dollars), seafood (nearly 3.4 billion dollars), woodwork (1.9 billion dollars), electronics (roughly 1.8 billion dollars), rice (1.3 billion dollars), rubber (nearly 1.3 billion dollars), and coffee (1.1 billion dollars), said the Import-Export Department under the Trade Ministry.

The United States remains Vietnam’s biggest export market since it is estimated to spend 8 billion dollars importing Vietnamese goods this year, followed by the European Union with 6.8 billion dollars, the Association of South-East Asian Nations

(ASEAN) with nearly 6.6 billion dollars, Japan with 5.2 billion dollars, and China with 3.2 billion dollars.

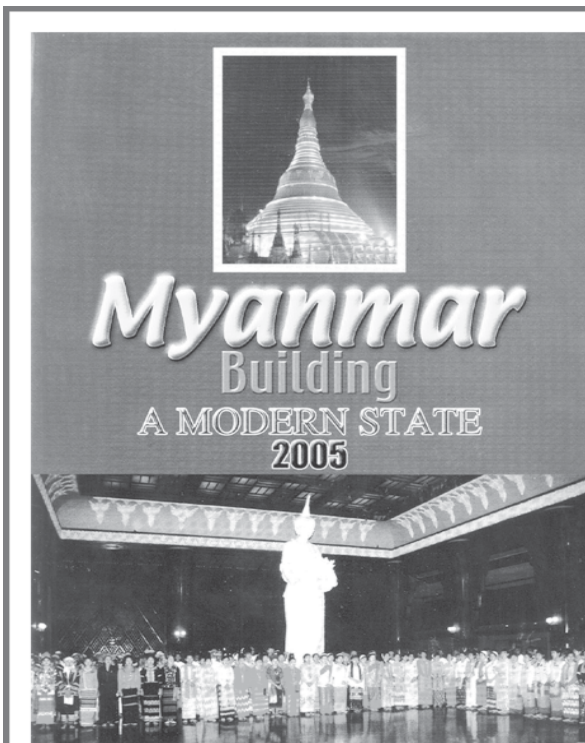
— *MNA/Xinhua*

Brazil’s Air Force to ferry stranded holiday travellers

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Dec — Brazil’s Air Force (FAB) announced on Friday that it will use eight of its airplanes to ferry passengers of the airline TAM in a bid to ease the pressures caused by holiday travellers.

Brazil’s Defence Minister Waldir Pires said that the Air Force’s move was in response to an order by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who personally requested FAB to offer the planes to help relieve crowded airports.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



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China’s steel export rises on stronger int’l demand

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China’s steel export rise has been mainly driven by stronger international demand instead of government subsidies to steel producers, said an official with the Ministry of Commerce.

The Chinese Government offers no subsidies to steel producers and has cut export tax rebates on steel products several times since last year, said Wang Shouwen, director of the Department of Foreign Trade with the ministry, at a forum on steel strategy and investment that closed here Thursday.

China exported 37.46 million tons of steel products from January to November, double that

of the same 2005 period.

The export hike has so far prompted 11 countries to launch 27 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations against Chinese steel producers, involving 900 million US dollars, said Wang.

Steel producers in the United States and the American Iron and Steel Institute appealed to US trade officials twice this year, demanding actions against China’s alleged subsidies to its steel manufacturers.

The ministry will work to solve trade disputes through active dialogues with foreign countries, Wang said.

As part of its efforts to curb the export and production of energy- and resource-intensive products, China has

slashed the export tax rebate rate of steel products three times since last year, from 15 per cent to 8 per cent. The country has also raised the tariff rates of pig iron and steel billets by 10 per cent.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Series of earthquakes hit El Salvador

MEXICO CITY, 23 Dec — A series of 820 small earthquakes jolted El Salvador this week, affecting 5,000 people and damaging 1,537 houses, according to news reaching here on Friday.

El Salvador’s National Territorial Studies Service said the earthquakes began on Sunday, with magnitudes between 2.3 and 4.6 on the Richter Scale, and a total of 130 of 820 quakes were easily felt by residents.

The on-off quakes mainly took place in Ahuchapan department, especially San Lorenzo, Atiquizaya, Apaneca, Juayua and Turin, areas with dense populations, triggering panic among citizens.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



A villager leaves after inspecting her ruined house in Padang village, Legazpi city, central Philippines on 23 Dec, 2006. — XINHUA

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Chinese Embassy in Egypt donates books to Cairo Library

CAIRO, 23 Dec — The Chinese Embassy in Egypt on Thursday donated more than 150 pieces of books and CDs about China to the Greater Cairo Public Library, which used these books to set up a special Chinese book shelf.

According to the Chinese Embassy, these books and CDs could offer information, knowledge and programmes in languages of Chinese, Arabic and English. Chinese poems, photo albums, information about China, and traditional Chinese cultures like painting and music were among the categories.

Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Wu Sike said that

the book-giving ceremony was not only one of a series of celebrating activities marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Egyptian diplomatic ties but also another concrete evidence of friendship and cooperative relations between China and Egypt.

The newly-established Chinese book-shelf will give Egyptian readers more information about China

and a better opportunity for Egyptians to know China, said Wu.

Mohamed Hamdy, Director of the Greater Cairo Public Library, said for his part that these books and CDs from China exhibited great achievements by a country with a long civilization and that they were best gift to the library.

MNA/Xinhua



A customer is listening to a robot saleswoman's introduction of perfume. A French perfume seller bought a robot as his saleswoman in his shop in Tokyo on 21 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

“Discovery” lands in Florida

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec — Space shuttle *Discovery* landed safely at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Friday, completing its 13-day mission in space.

Discovery and its seven-member crew touched down at 5:32 pm EST.

NASA (National Aeronautics Space Administration) Managers decided to land *Discovery* in Florida about two hours after they had scrubbed *Discovery*'s first chance at Kennedy Space Centre because of expected rain.

But the showers and clouds disappeared through the afternoon.

NASA had been pondering other landing sites the Edwards Air Force Base in California, where strong crosswinds



Space shuttle *Discovery* lands safely at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on 22 Dec, 2006 completing its 13-day mission in space.

XINHUA

“We think it’s going to be a great holiday.”

During its mission that began on 11 December, *Discovery* successfully completed its primary job to rewire the station’s power grid and to install a new piece of the outpost’s metal exterior truss.

Discovery extended its 12-day mission by a day to allow for an additional space walk to fold a stubborn solar array panel on the *International Space Station*.

That extension halved the shuttle’s two-day safety cushion for return to Earth: the spacecraft will only have one day’s supply of oxygen and electrical power left on Friday.

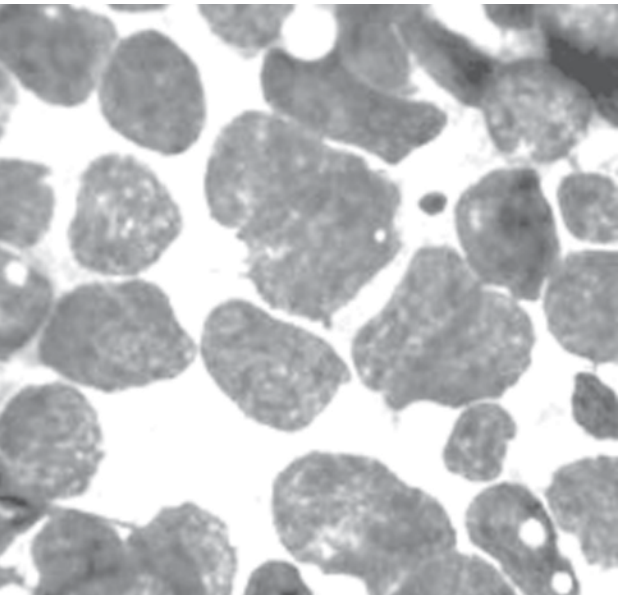
MNA/Xinhua

prohibited a landing, and White Sands Space Harbour in New Mexico, which has not been used for a shuttle landing in 24 years.

Kennedy was NASA’s first choice because it would spare the space

agency the cost of transporting *Discovery* back to its home in Florida.

“We’re just really proud of the NASA team that put it together,” said *Discovery* commander Mark Polansky.



A study published on 21 Dec, 2006 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reveals expensive blood tests to predict if a patient is going to have a heart attack or stroke are no better an indication than cholesterol levels, blood pressure and other conventional measurements.—INTERNET

India to showcase ancient treasures in China

BEIJING, 23 Dec — India’s Tourism and Culture Minister Ambika Soni will hold a grand exhibition of ancient Indian treasures during her visit to China this week to lead the celebrations marking the successful culmination of the first-

ever India-China Friendship Year.

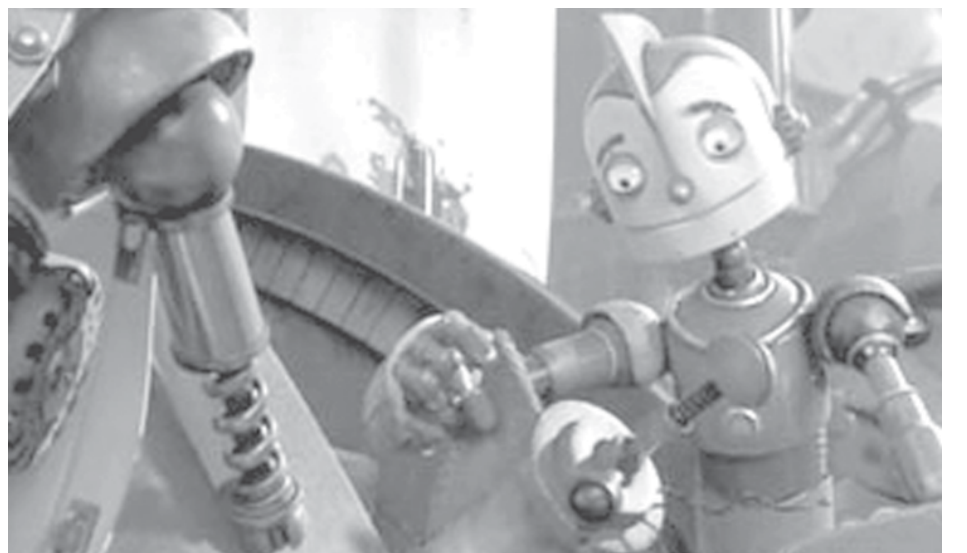
Some 80 per cent of the items that will be on display at the “Treasures of Ancient India: Exhibition of Indian Civilisation” from 26 December have never gone out of the country, sources said.

The display would be a grand finale to the successful joint commemoration of 2006 as the India-China Friendship Year. Apart from Beijing, the exhibition of rare specimens of ancient Indian art will also be staged in Guangzhou, Zhengzhou and Chengdu.—MNA/PTI

Singapore to operate Pakistan’s Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD, 23 Dec — Pakistan has decided to hand over the operation of the Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan to a Singaporean company, a Cabinet minister said Friday. According to the private GEO TV, the Port of Singapore will take the port operation of the Gwadar Port, located at the Gwadar City at the entrance of the Persian Gulf on the Arabian Sea, in the third week of January and the formal inauguration ceremony of the port operation will be held on 23 March. “The Prime Minister today gave approval to hand over the Gwadar Port operation,” Minister for Shipping and Ports Babar Ghauri said.

He said that the Pakistani Prime Minister had constituted a 15-member board to come with the final terms of the contract and the director general of the port and shipping would head the board.—MNA/Xinhua



Imagine being sued by a robot. That could happen if robots some day become smart enough to demand freedom from human owners and claim they deserve to be treated like citizens, according to a speculative paper released by the British government recently.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Al-Ahly take lead in Egyptian League with no loss

CAIRO, 24 Dec— Al-Ahly, which won FIFA Club World Cup bronze medal in Japan, took the lead back home in the Egyptian League with a 2-0 victory over Harras Al-Hodoud in the Egyptian League on Friday.

Emad Meteb scored both goals as wild celebrations marked Ahly's first domestic game after returning from Japan.

Ahly fans packed Al-Hodoud's venue in Egypt's Mediterranean port of Alexandria, waving red scarves and flags and chanting supporting slogans before and during the game.—MNA/Xinhua



Arsenal's Robin Van Persie, right, and Blackburn Rovers' Andre Ooijer fight for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at The Emirates Stadium, London, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Barclays Premiership Table

23 December 2006

		P	GD	PTS
1	Man Utd	19	31	47
2	Chelsea	19	20	45
3	Liverpool	19	13	34
4	Arsenal	19	18	33
5	Bolton	19	7	33
6	Portsmouth	19	11	32
7	Tottenham	19	-2	28
8	Everton	19	4	27
9	Reading	19	-5	26
10	Aston Villa	19	0	25
11	Newcastle	19	-1	25
12	Fulham	19	-10	24
13	Wigan	19	-4	22
14	Middlesbrough	19	-7	20
15	Man City	19	-9	20
16	Sheff Utd	19	-10	20
17	Blackburn	18	-10	19
18	West Ham	19	-13	18
19	Charlton	19	-20	12
20	Watford	18	-13	11

Internet

Chinese Malaysian players win Olympians titles

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Dec— Malaysia's titles for Olympians of the Year 2006 went to badminton pair Koo Kien Keat-Tan Boon Heong and woman bowler Esther Cheah, all Chinese Malaysian players, local Press reported Saturday.

Shuttlers Koo Kien Keat-Tan Boon Heong and bowler Esther Cheah were awarded the male and female Olympians of the Year by the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) Friday night here.

Koo, 21, and Tan, 19, went into the Doha Asian Games as a new combination but ended up in winning men's doubles gold, after defeating world champions Cai Yun-Fu Haifeng of China, and two Indonesian combinations.

As the biggest sweet surprise for Malaysian Doha delegation, their victory put an end to the country's 36-year-long wait for a badminton gold at the Asian Games.—MNA/Xinhua



Manchester United's Ji-Sung Park, right, battles for the ball with Aston Villa's Olof Mellberg, left, as Craig Gardner looks on during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Zambian soccer caretaker coach offered one-year contract

LUSAKA, 24 Dec— The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has offered the caretaker coach of the country's national team a one-year contract with a mandate to qualify the Chipolopolo Boys to 2008 African Cup of Nations finals in Ghana.

This follows the technical committee's recommendation that Patrick Phiri be offered a short-term contract as the football supreme governing body continues the search for an expatriate coach, according to Saturday Post.

MNA/Xinhua



Liverpool's Jamie Carragher, right, challenges Darius Henderson of Watford during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Indonesia IBF champ Rachman to defend title

JAKARTA, 24 Dec— IBF strawweight champion Muhammad Rachman of Indonesia will defend his title against Senjie Sorolla, whom he had beaten by unanimous decision in 2002. Rachman (60-5-5, 30 KOs), who turned 35 Saturday, said he would knock down the Filipino boxer in the fifth round, reported major national newspaper Kompas.—MNA/Xinhua

Serbian named Egypt's Zamalek new coach

CAIRO, 24 Dec— Zamalek, one of Egypt's best soccer clubs based in Cairo, announced that Zoran Filipovic has been named Zamalek new coach succeeding Portuguese Manuel Cajuda, local soccer news website filgoal.com reported on Saturday.

The Serbian arrived in Cairo on Friday to finalize the deal with Zamalek before returning to his country, said the report.

He will take charge of the team after their game against arch-rivals Al-Ahly, five-time African champions and FIFA Club World Cup bronze medallists, on 30 December.

Filipovic's first aid will be Mahmoud Saad, who will lead Zamalek in the Cairo derby, with Moatamed Gamal as second assistant and Ayman Taher as goalkeeping coach.

MNA/Xinhua



Newcastle's Giuseppe Rossi controls the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park, Newcastle, England, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

New Zealand to host 2007 World Netball Championships

WELLINGTON, 24 Dec— The International Netball Federation announced that New Zealand will host next year's World Championships, said Radio New Zealand on Sunday.

New Zealand, which last hosted the World Championships in 1999, will hold the tournament in November 2007. It was scheduled to take place in Fiji in July.

The 16 team tournament will run for two weeks.

MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	A	C	T	I	V	E				4	M	I	N	E	D		
	L	R		A			7	C	U	O					R		
6	C	L	I	N	G			9	O	U	T	C	O	M	E		
	O	C	R		V				E	S				A			
10	V	I	O	L	A	T	E				11	T	E	A	M		
	E	R			N			12	R	U		13	E		Y		
		14	K	N	O	T					15	L	I	S	T		
17	M						18	S	U		19	E		P	20	A	
21	A	I	D	A				23	D	E	V	I	O	U	S		
	S	R			24	S						A	R		S		
25	C	H	A	O	T	I	C				26	T	E	R	S	E	
	O		F		I		T					O	A		S		
27	T	U	T	O	R						28	U	R	A	N	U	S

Everton's Andy Johnson celebrates his goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Reading at the Madejski stadium, Reading, England, on 23 Dec, 2006. INTERNET



71 orders for China's short haul jet

CHENGDU, 24 Dec — The manufacturer of China's first locally developed short haul plane has received orders for 71 ARJ21 jets, according to a company manager.

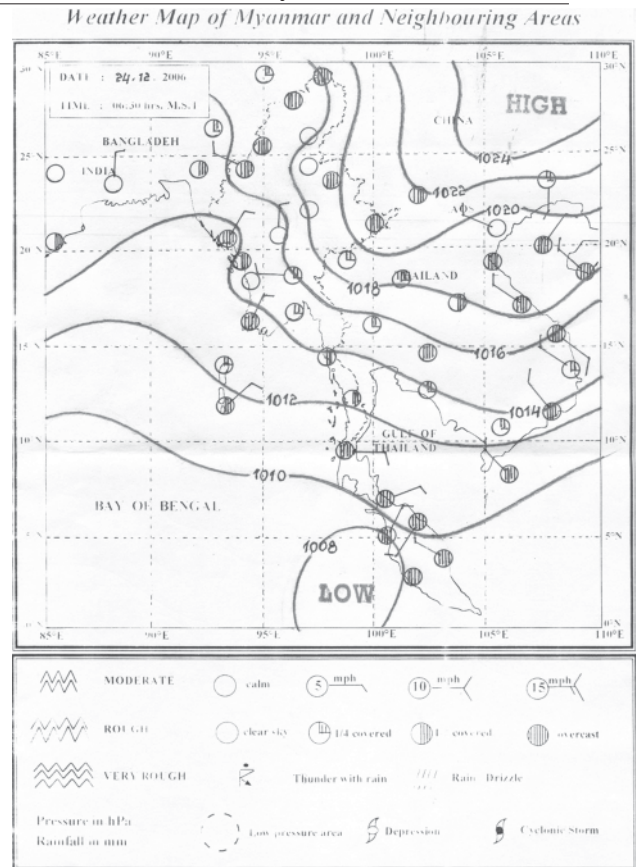
The orders were from domestic airline service firms including Shanghai Airlines, Shandong Airlines and Xiamen Airlines. The manufacturer completed the nose of the short haul jet in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, earlier this week, said Lin Zuoming, general manager

of the China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC), earlier this week.

The final assembly is scheduled for March next year in Shanghai. The jet is expected to take off for its maiden flight in 2008.

The ARJ21 jet, powered by turbofan engine, can carry 70 to 110 passengers, with a maximum flight distance of 2,000 nautical miles. The airframe is 3.143-meter wide and 2.06-metre high.

As the world's first plane tailored to China's natural environment, ARJ21 will be capable of landing and taking off at airports on western China's plateau in high temperatures. —MNA/Xinhua



China holds state-level anti-terrorist exercise


BEIJING, 24 Dec — China launched Saturday morning the country's third ever state-level anti-terrorist exercise, involving both military and civil departments.

The exercise, dubbed Great Wall No 3, began at 10 am in Qingdao City in east China's Shandong Province but was coordinated from Beijing. The exercise, based on terrorist attack scenarios, focused on the city's emergency response and its capacity to mobilize anti-terrorism forces. —MNA/Xinhua



A bride and a groom gesture during a traditional Zhou-style wedding ceremony in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province recently. The ritual took shape during the ancient Zhou Dynasty (1046 - 256 BC), and developed into the wedding ceremonies celebrated in the Chinese dynasties later on.

INTERNET



Monday, 25 December
Tune in today

<p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -We wish you a merry X'mas ... John Denver +The Puppies</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music:</p> <p>8:50 am National News/Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -Joy to the world ... Pat Boone</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music</p> <p>1:30 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Lunch time music -The X'mas song ... N'sync -When a child is born ... Johnny Mathis</p> <p>9:00 pm Spotlight on the star "Elvis Presley" -Silver Bells -Blue Christmas</p> <p>9:10 pm Article</p> <p>9:20 pm Drug! Women Affairs</p> <p>9:35 pm Vocal Gems -Running with the night ... Lionel Richie - Evergreen ... Will Young</p> <p>9:45 pm News / Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>	<p>8:30 am 8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. Practice in reading</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. အပေးသင်တန်းသို့ ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)</p> <p>4:55 pm 5. Dance variety</p> <p>5:05 pm 6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား</p> <p>5:10 pm 7. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာတေးဂီတ၊ ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ</p> <p>5:25 pm 8. "အားဆေး" (မိုးဒီ၊ ဇော်ထက်အောင်၊ ဆောင်းအိမ်မြို့ထွန်း)</p> <p>5:30 pm 9. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)</p>	<p>5:40 pm 10. (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>6:00 pm 11. Evening news.</p> <p>6:30 pm 12. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ တောတွင်းသားငယ်လေး (အပိုင်း-၃၆)</p> <p>6:55 pm 14. အလှူရှာမယ် လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်</p> <p>7:05 pm 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ညီမငယ်ပါသေး" (အပိုင်း-၁)</p> <p>7:50 pm 16. အချုပ်အခြားအာဏာ ရွန်. ၅ ညီကြာရီ င်မာစေမှု ဒို့. ရှေ့ရှု "ကိုယ်ထီးကိုယ်နန်းကိုယ်ကြွင့်နန်းဖြင့် ခမ်းနားထွန်းပေါ် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်"</p> <p>8:00 pm 17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)</p> <p>21. The next day's programme</p>
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WEATHER

Sunday, 24 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Heho (1°C), Namsam, Lashio and Panlaung (2°C) each and Mogok (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2006 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-12-2006 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 23-12-2006 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-12-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from North-east at 13:10 hours MST on 23-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-12-2006: Fair weather.

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Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Yeywa Hydel Power Project to contribute much towards development of socio-economic sector of the State

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects progress of greening tasks at Meiktila Plain, dam projects

NAY PYI TAW, 24 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 on the inspection tour of Mandalay Division, 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 (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, the Director-General of the SPDC Office and officials, flew from PyinOoLwin to Meiktila on 22 December morning.

The General and



General Thura Shwe Mann visits Yeywa Hydel Power Project.— MNA

party inspected aerial views of construction of Chaunggauk, Lunngin, Letkhokpin and Nyaunggon Dams and canals that will supply water to Meiktila Lake for greening Meiktila Plain.

At the briefing hall in Meiktila, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to the General that five projects are being implemented for greening Meiktila Plain. The first project is Kengkham Multi-purpose Dam Project located on Nam-et Creek near Kengkham Village in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South). On completion, the project will

(See page 9)

Tasks to supply water to Meiktila Lake have been completed nearly cent per cent for greening Meiktila Plain and irrigating farmlands.

