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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

Commander attends opening ceremony of Phaunggyi East Sanpya Village in Hlegu Township



Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win unveils the signboard of Phaunggyi East Sanpya Village in Hlegu Township.—MNA

YANGON, 25 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the opening ceremony of Phaunggyi East Sanpya Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon North District, on 24 December.

The commander formally unveiled the signboard of the village.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai formally opened the delivery room of Mingon Sanpya Village MCWA. The commander and his wife visited

the delivery room.

Next, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai formally opened the archway of the Sanpya Village.

The commander also attended the opening of Phaunggyi East Sanpya Village Tract Peace and Development Council Office and library.

The commander and wife presented 435 books of various kinds donated by Information and Public Relations Department and K 10,000 each for the library donated by Hlegu Township Peace and Development Council and Central Institute of Civil Service to the library in-charge. They visited veg-

etable plantation.

A ceremony to submit membership applications of MCWA was held in the village basic education primary school. Chairman of Hlegu Township Peace and Development Council U Phone Myat Thu reported on establishment of Sanpya village. The commander spoke on the occasion.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted the membership applications and presented K 100,000 each for MCWAs in Hlegu, Hmawby, Taikkyi, Htantabin and Shwepyitha Townships.

MNA

INSIDE

- * **Agriculture is a large production sector of the State as well as the livelihood of farmers and rural people.**
- * **Therefore, the government is taking all the necessary measures for the development of the agriculture sector.**

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Weather

Significant night temperatures on 24-12-2006

Namhsan (0°C)

Pinlaung (3°C)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 26 December, 2006

Greening of Meiktila Plain

Agriculture is a large production sector of the State as well as the livelihood of farmers and rural people. Therefore, the government is taking all the necessary measures for the development of the agriculture sector.

At present, tasks for the greening of Meiktila Plain and supply of water for irrigation are being carried out. Chaunggauk, Lunngin, Letkhokpin and Nyaunggon Dams and canals are being built to supply water to Meiktila Lake.

In the meantime, Kengkham and Zawgyi multi-purpose dam project in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South), Myogyi multi-purpose dam project in Ywangan Township and Shanmange (Mondaing supporting dam) dam project in Meiktila Township are being implemented to feed more water to Meiktila Lake.

On completion, the projects will be able to supply water for agricultural purpose thereby contributing much to improvement of socio-economic life of local people by means of extended cultivation of crops.

As the projects being implemented for the greening of Meiktila Plain and surrounding areas will benefit the local people all the more, departmental officials and local authorities are to strive together with farmers for successful realization of the project.



Gunkul Dhumrong Piyawnt and family of Gunkul Engineering Co Ltd donate K 200,000 to Hininzigon Home for the Aged through an executive of the Home recently. — H

PEOPLE'S VOICES

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

Commander calls for target supply of irrigation water



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win visits summer paddy plantation in Taikkyi Township. — MNA

YANGON, 25 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected Aikalaung River Water Pumping Project in Taikkyi Township on 22 December and called on officials concerned to seek means and ways to achieve the project's target supply of irrigation water in the region.

Efforts are to be made for the project's all-year-round supply of irrigation water which is the key to greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon, the commander said at the meeting with officials of the project.

He also urged officials concerned to make preparations for the rainfed cultivation of paddy in the region after the summer paddy cultivation and to encourage local farmers to use natural fertilizer on a large scale.

So far, 10,585 acres of crops including 4,323 acres of sunflower have been cultivated in Taikkyi Township and 4,528 acres of sunflower in Yangon North District.

At the briefing hall of Aikalaung River Water Pumping Project, responsible officials reported to Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win on facts of the project, supply of irrigation water and future tasks of

the project, agriculture, transportation and development tasks in the region.

On his inspection tour, the commander inspected the irrigation of the project and the 1,500 acres model cultivation of sunflower near Chaunghongwa Village in the township.

Before the inspection tour of the river water pumping project, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win went to Taikkyi Station on 22 December morning and visited the farm of the station where over 30,000 physic nut plants and pepper are cultivated.

During his tour, the commander also inspected the renovation of the Basic Education High School in Taikkyi and gave instructions.

In the afternoon, Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win proceeded to Aphyauk and inspected preparations for the prevention of erosion, and construction of embankment.

At Aphyauk Township Electrical Engineer's Office, the commander heard reports of supply of electricity to the town and called for improvement of the power supply system.

During the inspection tour, he provided assistance to farmers to make natural fertilizer and inspected onion cultivation. — MNA

Winners of education aid project competitions awarded

YANGON, 25 Dec — Winners of the 3rd education aid project competitions were awarded at the Myanmar Info-Tech Building in University of Hline Campus here today.

U Aung Myint of Vice-President of e-National Task Force delivered an address at the presentation ceremony.

The competitions was organized by Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientist Association and Myanmar Computer Industry Association.

U Aung Myint and responsible personnel presented awards to the winners. On behalf of winners, Daw Yin Yin Nwe of Education College spoke words of thanks. — MNA



U Thaug Tin, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Scientist Association, presents award to two winners of school website category. — NLM

Cuban Assembly ends session denouncing US position

HAVANA, 24 Dec—The Cuban National Assembly closed its year-ending session here on Friday denouncing US positions that are traditionally against the Cuban Revolution, the news agency *Prensa Latina* reported.

The one-day session was closed by Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly, who denounced in his speech the "historical interest of the United States in destroying the Cuban revolution".

The eight-hour assembly session reviewed Cuba's economic and social achievements in 2006, and approved the 2007 budget law.

According to Minister of Economy Jose Luis Rodriguez, Cuba's economy would increase by 12.5 per cent in 2006, the fastest growth in Latin America.

Earlier, the assembly's 10 commissions met to prepare the session's agenda, covering topics of housing and Cuba-United States relations.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro who has not been seen in public for four months after undergoing intestinal surgery, did not show up at the assembly.

Cuban National Assembly usually meets twice a year, but has extraordinary meetings sometimes, called by assembly president or the state's council.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



Revellers dance on Havana's Revolution Square on 23 Dec, 2006. Celebrations in Cuba have begun for the 48th anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution and to mark the end of the year. —INTERNET



Sand sculptor Christina Mija gives a finishing touch to a sculpture of Australian cricketer Shane Warne at Rye Beach, Victoria on 24 Dec, 2006 in celebration of Warne's 700th international test wicket. —INTERNET

US lawmakers want Bush to control war spending

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—Three key US congressional budget officials are urging US President George W Bush to rein in the rocketing war spending.

In a letter to Bush which is made public Friday, senators Judd Gregg and Kent Conrad, and congressman John Spratt, said using supplemental budgets to cover most of the costs of military operations "has skewed deficit projections, minimized the rational tradeoffs in the budget and obscured oversight of war costs".

They made it clear to the President that they want the 2008 defence budget to include the full costs of continuing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gregg is the current chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and Conrad will replace him in January.

Spratt, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, will be the House Budget Committee chairman in January.

The fact that the three

lawmakers agree about how to budget for continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is a sign of bipartisan concerns that the over 300 billion US dollars already spent on the wars through supplemental budgets is not something Congress wants to continue.

Another reason for

concern about using supplemental rather than regular budgets is that the Pentagon provides far less detail about how the money will be spent than it does about regular defence budgets and has more flexibility to divert the money to other purposes.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia ponders climate future

SYDNEY, 24 Dec—Parts of Australia are in the grip of the worst drought in memory. Rainfall in many eastern and southern regions has been at near

record lows. On top of that, the weather has been exceptionally warm.

The parched conditions have sparked an emotional debate about global

warming. Conservationists insist the "big dry" is almost certainly the result of climate change and warn that Australia is on the brink of environ-

mental disaster.

Other experts believe such hysteria is wildly misplaced and that the country shouldn't panic.

Internet



Indian tennis player Sania Mirza smiles as she is felicitated with a traditional Turban at a function in Hyderabad, India, on 24 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET



First-aid helicopter crashes in Romania, injures one

BUCHAREST, 24 Dec—A first-aid helicopter crashed Saturday afternoon in the Bistrita-Nasaud County in northern Romania, injuring the assistant pilot, the

Rompres news agency reported. Three others aboard—a doctor, a nurse, and the pilot — survived unharmed when the helicopter, which belonged

to a mobile first-aid centre, crashed at 13:30 local time on a rescue mission.

The Interior Ministry has ordered rescue efforts but has not located the exact site of the crash, as the survivors only said that they were surrounded by trees.

MNA/Xinhua

An express electric train heading to the Sentosa island resort passes the container port in Singapore recently.

INTERNET

Iran denounces UN resolution as illegal

TEHRAN, 24 Dec— Iran on Saturday condemned a UN Security Council resolution on Iran as an illegal measure, Iran's state television reported.

Iran considers the new UN Security Council resolution as "an illegal measure taken outside the framework of its duty and against the UN Charter," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali

Hosseini said in a statement.

The new resolution will not stop Iran's nuclear progress and it will push ahead with its peaceful nuclear programmes, he said, adding that Iran would carry out its plan to install 3,000 uranium enrichment centrifuges.

Iran will work to "make operational the 3,000 centrifuges in Natanz as a continuation of its

peaceful nuclear activities", he said.

The UN Security Council voted unanimously on Saturday to pass a resolution imposing sanctions against Iran over its controversial nuclear activities.

The resolution demanded that Iran "suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development," and "work

on all heavy water-related projects".

It also called on all countries to impose a ban on trade with Iran in goods related to its nuclear programmes and ballistic missile delivery systems.

Ordinary Iranians showed mixed feelings toward the resolution, with some considering it as "waging a war" and others shrugging it off as nothing serious.

"This is like waging a war against a nation which wants to be independent and make progress," said Ali Kazemi, who runs a small car repair shop in Teheran's central Imam Khomeini Avenue.

"Our officials should not tolerate such a humiliation," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad delivers a speech in Teheran on 24 Dec, 2006. He dismisses the newly-adopted UN Security Council resolution that imposes sanctions on Teheran as a piece of "trash paper."— XINHUA



ဝက်မွှေးအား ခေတ်ကျော်ဖွား



The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery exercise on Oxford street in London on Christmas Eve with some members in festive clothing on 24 Dec, 2006.— INTERNET

Czech astronomers discover Perseus star outburst

PRAGUE, 24 Dec— Czech astronomers have discovered a star outburst in the Perseus constellation, three quarters of a year earlier than expected, the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences said on Friday.

The astronomers found that the brightness of the star fluctuates in intervals of minutes to hours, Petr Sobotka from the institute said.

The star designated as GK Per outbursts once in three years, but the exact moment cannot be predicted, Sobotka noted.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police deaths hit 12,000

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec— Some 12,000 police officers in Iraq have died in the line of duty since the US-led invasion in 2003, Interior Minister Jawad Bolani said.

The figure is from a total force of about 190,000 officers, he said.

The announcement

Ballet dancer Maria Laura Matienzo of the Ballet Concierto dance company performs during a scene of 'El Quijote' at the municipal auditorium in Roquetas de Mar, southern Spain, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

follows a suicide bomb attack that killed seven policemen and wounded 20 others during a morning parade at a base north of Baghdad.

Correspondents say despite the risks, young Iraqi men see the security forces as one of the few sources of work.

The Interior Minister said 12,000 police officers have been killed since March 2003 — one death for every 16 officers.

Iraq's police are a frequent target for attacks, and are widely thought to

have been infiltrated by insurgents.

Sunday's suicide bombing happened at a police parade ground in Muqaddiya, about 90km (56 miles) north-east of Baghdad.

The bomber is reported to have detonated his explosive vest as the officers were assembling.

Escalating violence in Iraq has prompted the US to re-examine its military policy in the country.

Internet

A police officer, left, directs the cars driving through a flooded road leading to Pagoh, southern state of Johor, Malaysia, on 24 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET

Fire in Moscow yacht club kills one

MOSCOW, 24 Dec— A fire that broke out in a yacht club in the Moscow region on Friday evening killed one person, the regional Emergency Situations Ministry department said on Saturday.

A six-deck motor ship that was remade for an entertainment centre fully burnt out. One person died in the fire. His body was found near the place where there was a restaurant, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

A total of 350 people have been evacuated from

the yacht club Admiral which located on the Klyazma water reservoir in the Moscow region, the emergencies department said. Several banquets were held in the club to celebrate the coming New Year when the fire broke out.

According to certain information, the conflagration could have been caused by fireworks. However, specialists of a fire test laboratory will establish the exact cause of the fire.

MNA/Xinhua



Russia confident about state security against missiles

Moscow, 24 Dec — Russia is calm about US plans to set up a missile defence system in Europe, Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Friday.

“The implementation of these plans will not affect our security in any way, as the Russian missile system, *Topol-M*, could safely overcome any missile defence system,” Ivanov said at the opening

of a radar station in the Leningrad region, the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

“At the same time, we simply do not see any political, still less military, sense of it,” Ivanov said.

“I want to assure you that neither Iran nor the North Korea have intercontinental ballistic missiles, nor are they expected to,” he said.

Ivanov said a European missile defence system would be used against intercontinental ballistic and not medium-range missiles. He stressed that medium-range missile could not possibly reach Europe from Iran.

Ivanov said there was “no sense” in expanding the missile defence to Eastern Europe.

The United States sought to expand its missile defence system into Europe after North Korea test-fired long-range missiles.

In 1999, Washington proposed the missile defence system known as NMD (National Missile Defence), which aimed to develop a defence network against short and long-range missiles.

MNA/Xinhua



The ice sculptures in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, prior to the official launch of the annual ice and snow festival on 23 Dec, 2006. Over 2,000 pieces of ice and snow sculptures are displayed at the festival that boasts the largest of its kind in the world.

XINHUA

A man dressed as Santa Claus plays with Coati bear Diego at the zoo, on 22 Dec, 2006 in Hanover, northern Germany. As a Christmas gift for the bear, Santa Claus has hidden a grape underneath one of the hats.—XINHUA



Possible sighting of missing US mountain climbers in Sichuan

CHENGDU, 24 Dec — A possible sighting of two missing US mountain climbers was reported in southwest China's Sichuan Province on

Friday. Yue Penggui, an employee of the Chengdu branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told *Xinhua* Friday that

he saw two foreigners, a man and a woman, on 10 December on the Gazi Mountain highway in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan.

Yue, who saw pictures of the missing climbers in Thursday's newspapers, believes they were Charlie Fowler, 52, a well-known climber, guide and photographer, and Christine Boskoff, 39, a highly experienced female climber.

Yue said “the foreign man looked like an actor in an American film that I watched recently, so I remembered his face.”

He added that he was sure about the date since 9 December was his wife's birthday.

MNA/Xinhua



A little girl writes her wish on a piece of paper hung up on the 'make-wish wall' besides 1912 square in Nanjing, capital of west China's Jiangsu Province, on 23 Dec, 2006. Local citizens hung up the wish cards on the wall to hail the upcoming Christmas and new year.—XINHUA

High waves hit Thai southern coast

BANGKOK, 24 Dec — Strong waves as high as four metres continued to hit southern coastal provinces along the Gulf of Thailand Saturday, scattering and

sinking small fishing boats and leaving many villagers homeless, a *Thai News Agency* report said.

In Surat Thani Province, a seven-kilometre stretch of the Sai Kaew beach, a popular destination among foreign tourists, was swept by waves Friday, wiping out 30 fishermen's homes and two restaurants. Three fishing boats were destroyed and even coral reefs were damaged.

In Songkhla Province, villagers living along the seashore prepared to evacuate as

high waves continued to lash the coast. A number of houses were destroyed and the weather service warned of continuing strong waves in the Gulf for one or two more days, the report said.

Thailand's National Disaster Warning Centre chief Smith Tumsaroch said that the high waves were triggered by a cool air mass moving south from China, and that they were likely to continue until early January.

The hardest hit provinces are expected to be those along the southern coast.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria to construct \$2.4b power plant

LAGOS, 24 Dec — The Nigerian Government has commissioned the construction of a power plant of 2.4 billion US dollars to boost power supplies, the official *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) reported on Friday.

Sylvester Monye, executive secretary of the National Planning Commission (NPC), was quoted by NAN as saying that the power plant would be one of the biggest in the world.

Monye said the plant would be “completed and installed in two years”, adding that seven others were also being built across the country.

Nigeria's current power facilities had decayed, he said, adding that there was a need for a new power supply system.

The NPC boss regretted that in spite of huge sums of money spent on the improvement of Nigeria's power facilities, power supply had not improved in the country substantially as expected.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia expects to join WTO next year

Moscow, 24 Dec — Russia may complete all required procedures for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and join the trade body next year, Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref said on Saturday.

“Nine-tenths of the work to secure admission to the World Trade Organization has been accomplished,” Gref said in an interview on Russia’s Vesti news channel. “We have signed an unprecedented number of bilateral protocols, more than any other country that has ever joined the WTO. There are three countries

such protocols have not been signed with technically at the official level,” Gref said.

“As for Georgia, the Georgian leadership at a certain point declared it was revoking its signature from the protocol. That’s nonsense. And I am hoping that we shall finalize the position at negotiations with

Moldova,” Gref said.

Russia — the largest economy still outside the Geneva-based WTO — has been negotiating for membership since 1993. The US deal signed last month cleared the last major hurdle to Moscow’s longtime bid to join the world trade body.

MNA/Xinhua



Possible customers stop by a shop specializing in marine products like salted roe of salmon and cod, and crab at Ameyoko shopping area in Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Indian Oil Corporation resumes petrol supply to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 Dec — Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has resumed normal supply of petroleum products to Nepal, newspaper *The Kathmandu Post* reported on Saturday.

“India has said it would not curtail supply and would issue us with the quantity we demand,” Commerce Minister Hridayesh Tripathy was quoted as saying. “We talked with all the Indian officials concerned, and have started receiving normal supply from Friday,” he said.

The sole Indian supplier was curtailing supply by 20 per cent every month since the last

three months, according to the daily. It sparked a petrol shortage in the Nepali capital Kathmandu Valley on Friday.

“Worse, petrol stock at Thankot depot has touched the lowest possible level and we cannot pump out further fuel in the market from the depot from Friday,” Managing Director of Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) Bishwa Nath

Goyal told reporters.

“India has lowered the supply, urging NOC to pay outstanding dues that currently stands over 9 billion Nepali rupees (128 million US dollars),” he said.

The impact of short supply was first visible Thursday afternoon in the valley. It went on to build a long queue of consumers at major petrol pumps by the evening.

MNA/Xinhua



Flags from European nations as well as Australia and Thailand fly in the late afternoon breeze along Patong Beach on 24 Dec, 2006, in Phuket, Thailand. Tourists have returned to Thailand’s beaches in droves two years after a massive tsunami struck the area on 26 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Vietnamese Govt takes urgent anti-bird flu measures

HANOI, 24 Dec — The Vietnamese Government has required relevant ministries, sectors and localities nationwide to take drastic measures to battle and prevent bird flu outbreaks among fowls and humans, local newspaper *Youth* reported on Saturday.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on 22 December requested them to intensify surveillance of fowl farms to early spot new outbreaks, cull all affected poultry, disinfect and detoxify affected farms to stamp out the disease.

He also asked relevant agencies to implement vaccination for all fowls in high-risk areas, and tighten control of

transport, trade and slaughtering of poultry and related products. Cases of illegal import of fowls and related products must be strictly punished.

The government criticized the two southern

provinces of Bac Lieu and Ca Mau for their failure to timely detect and report the recurrence of bird flu, and asked them to complete the culling of all affected poultry on 23 December.

MNA/Xinhua



Rescue workers walk between cars after a pile up involving fifty vehicles on the French motorway in the direction of Bordeaux to Bayonne, south-western France on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Two British tourists attacked on Table Mountain, S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Dec — Two British tourists were robbed and stabbed on Table Mountain on Friday afternoon, according to South African police in Western Cape Province.

Two men armed with knives ordered the couple, both aged 55, to hand over their belongings, said spokeswoman Inspector

Bernadine Steyn.

A struggle occurred and the man was stabbed twice in the back, the woman once in the shoulder. The attackers fled on foot with their passports, bank cards, a digital camera and cash.

South African Press Association reported that the couple was airlifted off the mountain and taken to a local hospital.

They were in a stable condition.

“Shortly after the incident one of the suspects was arrested in Rondebosch,” said Steyn.

Local daily the *Star* reported on Friday that couples and single people would not be allowed to visit Table Mountain after 10 pm local time (2000 GMT) during the festive season.

Marriette du Toit, general manager of Cape Town Tourism, said: “It was in the best interest of those visiting Table Mountain that the decision to close the roads to individuals and couples was made.”

MNA/Xinhua

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opens library of Phaunggyi (East) Model Village in Hlegu Township.
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MNA



Chairperson of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Mar Mar Wai formally opens the delivery room of Mingon Model Village in Hlegu Township.
(News on Page-1)

MNA

Minister for Electric Power No 2 meets Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec— Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met General Manager Mr Zhang Yu and party of China Metallurgical Group Corporation (Mcc) at his office, here, on 20 December.

Also present were Director-General Dr Thein Tun Department of Electric Power, Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and officials.

MNA

Hotels and Tourism Minister inspects hotels in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec— Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected Innwa Hotel in Mandalay on 23 December.

He inspected internal and external decorations, service of the hotel staff and accommodation for the guests and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister met with the staff under the Ministry. The minister told them to be loyal to the State and to work hard. In the afternoon, the minister inspected Yupa Mandalar Hotel, Mandalay City Hotel and Sein Sein Hotel. — MNA

Final match of 42nd MPF DG's Shield football tournament held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — The final match of the 42nd Myanmar Police Force Director-General's Shield football tournament took place in Paunglaung sport ground in Pyinmana on 21 December evening. In the match Mandalay Division Police Force beat Magway Division Police Force 2-1.

Mandalay Division Police Force was awarded K 300,000 and Magway Division Police Force K 200,000. Cash awards were also presented to the players.

MNA



Police Brig-Gen Soe Win Myint presents shield to Mandalay Division Team which wins the championship of Myanmar Police Force Director-General's Shield football tournament. — MNA

District News

Crops in Dagon (Seikkan), (North) sprayed with pesticide



Officials of Yangon Division Agricultural Service inspect crops cultivation during their field trip. — KYEMON

YANGON, 25 Dec — Crops in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and Dagon (South) Townships were sprayed with pesticides on 14 December.

A group comprising farmers and officials of Yangon Division Agricultural Service went on field trip to the two townships and detected the fields.

During their trip, the group sprayed pesticide on the 15-acre of peas in a day and distributed pesticides to farmers to prevent the disease and pests.

Officials concerned have taken preventive measures against danger of pests and insects which destroy crops and disseminated knowledge on danger of pests.

Kyemon

Thabeikkyin DAD looks into water supply tasks



Officials of Thabeikkyin Townshi DAD inspect water supply facility in a ward in Thabeikkyin Township. — KYEMON

THABEIKKYIN, 25 Dec — Officials of Thabeikkyin Township Development Affairs Department inspected the supply of water to wards in Thabeikkyin on 28 November.

Water supply tasks to the township are funded by the township DAD. On the inspection tour, Executive of the township DAD U George Myo Myint and officials looked into the supply and use of water at grass-roots level.

Thabeikkyin Township DAD supplies water to the township through the river water pumping system.

Kyemon

YMCA holds Christmas Service plus dinner



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win speaks at Christmas Service of YMCA.

MNA

YANGON, 25 Dec—The Christmas Service conducted by Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was held in conjunction with a dinner at the M-3 Food Centre in Bahan Township here at 5:30 pm today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony and extended greetings on the occasion.

It was also attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Pro-

Rector (Admin) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi and officials, representatives of various religious and social organizations, the Chairman of YMCA and members, guests and others.

Chairman of YMCA Dr U Tin Hla made an introductory speech. Next, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win extended greetings. After that, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung spoke. This was followed by Christmas Service including saying prayers. Later, a dinner was hosted to those present on the occasion.

MNA

Vice-Mayor inspects regional development work in Dalla

YANGON, 24 Dec — Yangon Division In-Charge CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and responsible personnel arrived at Byamwadykwin Monastery in Myoma 3 Ward, Dalla Township, Yangon South District yesterday. The vice-mayor and party paid homage to Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bhaddanta Teja and offered alms to Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

At the monastery, the vice-mayor met with members of social organizations and townelders and held discussions on regional development tasks and attended to the needs.

Next, Yangon Division Acting Secretary U Aung Myint presented K 100,000 contributed by Yangon Division USDA through chairman of Dalla Township PDC U Myint

Aung to be spent on education activities of No 2 Basic Education High School. Afterwards, the vice-chairman and party viewed the procession of communal novitiation ceremony No 2 BEHS. Upon arrival at Dalla Township 25-bed hospital, the vice-mayor and party inspected the ward for the Sangha, outpatient ward, medical store, operation theatre ward and delivery room.

Next, the vice-mayor and party inspected

new concrete bridge linking Pyawbwegyi village and Shwehlay village. Afterwards, they paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ketu of Aungzabyushwe Monastery, met with townelders and held discussions on regional development tasks and inspected operation theatre, medical store and patient wards in Pyawbwegyi Station Hospital and presented cash assistance to the patients. — MNA



Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspects concrete bridge across Shwehlay Creek in Dalla Township. — MNA

State Ovadacariya Sayadaw passes away

YANGON, 25 Dec— Member of the State Ovadacariya, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Vithutaryarmika Shwepaukpin Monastery, Pakokku Township, Magway Division, Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Vepullasami aged 90, Vasa 70, passed away at noon on 24 December (Sunday), said the Religious Affairs Department. — MNA

Deputy Minister meets experts

YANGON, 24 Dec — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin met with the Deputy General Manager and officials, experts of State-owned factories and workshops and the Technological University and entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of Insein Locomotive Shed on 22 December.

The deputy general manager of the shed gave detailed explanations on functions of motor, generator and alternator and invited those present to make discussion on major maintenance and production.

Next, the experts and entrepreneurs participated in discussions. The deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

On 23 December morning, the deputy minister met with members of management committee of Industrial Zone No 2 and No 3 in Dagon Myothit (South) and inspected factories and workshops.

Later, the deputy minister attended the fourth coordination meeting of production of iron and steel development subcommittee held at Insein Locomotive Shed.

MNA

Deputy Minister Thura U Thaug Lwin visits the booth on machinery parts.

RAILWAYS



8th MOC's Sepak Takraw Championship opens

YANGON, 24 Dec—The 8th Myanmar Olympic Committee's Trophy Sepak Takraw Championship for 2006 kicked off yesterday at the indoor stadium of Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) here.

Director-General U Thung Hteik of Sports and Physical Education Department delivered an address and opened the competition which will end on 31 December.

At the opening ceremony, the athletes of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation entertained the audience with their skill demonstration.

There is no entrance fee to the competitions.

MNA

Seventh Day Adventist Church celebrates Christmas



Religious Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung speaks at Christmas Celebration of Seventh Day Adventist Church. — MNA

YANGON, 25 Dec — Christmas celebration of Seventh Day Adventist Church was held today at the church in Dagon Township.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Rev U Mular Kyaw of the Seventh

Day Adventist Church extended greetings at the celebration.

Treasurer of Myanmar Seventh Day Adventist Church U Nang Do Dal gave Christmas presents to the minister and guests. — MNA

USDA CEC member inspects regional development in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 25 Dec — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay together with Vice-Chairman Col Sein Myint of Bago Division Peace and Development Council attend the ceremony to present the membership applications of USDA at the agricultural school in Thayawady on 22 December.

It was also attended by secretaries, executives, members of division and district USDAs, students and others. The deputy minister gave an opening speech on the occasion.

Headmistress Daw Mya Mya Win presented 221 membership applications to the deputy minister who presented cash and kind to the school.

Next, the deputy minister accepted 550 membership applications at Thegon USDA office and presented cash and a computer set to the USDA office.

On 23 December, the USDA CEC member and the Vice-Chairman of Bago Division Peace and



Energy Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay accepts USDA membership applications. — ENERGY

Development Council attend the opening ceremony of Lawthaw Creek crossing bridge in Pyithaya Ward, Pyay.

After that, the USDA CEC member and the Vice-Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council attended the opening ceremony of a paddy husk-fired plant in Nwachangon Village-tract, Shwedaung Township and formally opened the plant.

Later, the deputy minister accepted 3,240 membership applications.

On 24 December, the deputy minister attended a ceremony to lay

the corner-stones for a building of Ariyarama Monastery held in Hthanthonpin Village, Myanaung Township.

He also attended the opening of a new building of BEMS in Hthanthonpin Village where he presented cash towards the funds of the school.

Next, he met the departmental officials and local authorities in Inpin Village-tract, Myanaung Township and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the deputy minister attended the ceremony to present the membership applications and presented cash for

Affiliated Basic Education Highschool in Letpankwun Village. — MNA



Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara U Soe Thein and wife donate cash to Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group of MAAF. — MNA

60th Anniversary Union Day Objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
- For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence;
- For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Myanmar traditional Htoke-see-toe competition contests

YANGON, 25 Dec — Organized by Working group for rehabilitation and reintegration of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation, Myanmar traditional Htoke-see-toe competition was held at Women's Development Centre here yesterday.

It was attended by Professor Dr Daw Than Nu Shwe of MAAF, deputy leader of working group for rehabilitation and reintegration, leaders and members of sub working groups, wellwisher and others.

After the competition, Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara U Soe Thein and wife Daw Khin Cho Own, Deputy Director of Attorney General Office donated K 815,000 to a responsible personnel. — MNA

Japan to promote exchanges with China to build bilateral ties

TOKYO, 25 Dec — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in a Japan-China friendship organization paper that Japan would promote exchanges with China in 2007 to build strategic bilateral ties for mutual benefit.

Next year marks the 35th anniversary of normalization of the Japan-China diplomatic relations, Abe said in a New Year address published Saturday in the organ paper of the Japan-China Friendship Association.

He noted that efforts would be made to boost the bilateral relations to a new level through activities surrounding "the cultural and sports exchange year".

"The destination of my first foreign visit as prime minister was China," Abe said in the paper named *Japan and China*. The realization of the visit

means that "both countries value the relations and acknowledge the necessity of frank dialogue and exchanges".

Abe also mentioned his later meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Hanoi, Vietnam, in which they reached agreement in promoting exchanges. Such dialogues and exchanges will be a great help for future relations, he said.

Since the normalization of the Japan-China diplomatic ties in 1972, the two neighbours have established unprecedented ties in economic areas and

personnel exchange, he said in the address.

Over 1,000 high school students from either country visited the other in 2006. The exchange between the youths, who carry the responsibilities for future, is very important for the development of bilateral ties and he would endeavour to offer support, the Premier added. — MNA/Xinhua



A young Thai girl dresses up for Christmas on Sunday, 24 Dec, 2006 near Patong Beach in Phuket, Thailand.—INTERNET

“Night at the Museum” tops box office over Christmas weekend

LOS ANGELES, 25 Dec — Family comedy "Night at the Museum" topped the box office in the United States and Canada over the Christmas holiday weekend, knocking out Rocky Balboa and Will Smith, according to box office estimates released Sunday.

"Museum," which stars Ben Stiller as a security guard at New York's Museum of National History where the displays come to life at night, raked in an estimated 30.8 million dollars, said box office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations Co Inc.

The film marks the second biggest opening for a Stiller vehicle, after "Meet the Fockers", which opened with 46.1 million dollars in 2004. Final figures for the Friday-to-Sunday holiday weekend are to be released Monday, when several movies will debut or go into wide release across the market, including horror film "Black Christmas" and the musical movie "Dreamgirls".

Last week's winner, Will Smith-starred "The Pursuit of Happiness" slipped to the number two spot this weekend with an estimated 15 million dollars. The film based on the true story of a homeless single father who eventually becomes a successful stockbroker has brought in some 53.3 million dollars since it debuted last week.— MNA/Xinhua



A girl poses and receives instructions from a coach during a lesson at a model training course for children in Beijing on 24 Dec, 2006. About 200 children aged 4 to 16 are taking part in this training course since it was founded in April. The children undergo physical training, stagecraft and various kinds of dances such as step dance and ballet during the courses, local media reported.—INTERNET

Beijing fulfils pre-set “blue sky” target ahead of schedule

BEIJING, 25 Dec — This Chinese national capital announced on Sunday that it had 238 days of good air quality so far this year, fulfilling the annual "blue sky" target.

The number of days with good air quality is four days more than the same period last year, according to Du Shaozhong, deputy director of the municipal bureau of environmental protection.

"In winter, numerous construction sites in Beijing served as the main source of

pollution. By late June, the days of fine air quality were 10 days fewer than that in the same period of last year," said Du. "With more days of fine air quality appeared in July and August, we eventually caught up and even outstripped the pre-set plan by late August, Du said.

MNA/Xinhua

Mild quake jolts northwest India

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec — A mild earthquake measuring 3.7 on Richter Scale rocked the northwest Indian state of Rajasthan early Sunday, New Delhi TV reported.

There were no reports of casualties or damage so far, said the TV report.

The quake hit at 4:13 am local time and lasted for nearly 30 seconds. It was felt most intensely in Sangarer and Mansarovar areas of the state.

It caused panic among local residents, who rushed out of their houses to open spaces.— MNA/Xinhua

UNGA approves assessment scale on UN budget

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Dec—The UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution late Friday night, leaving in place the main elements of the previous assessment scale for the following three years.

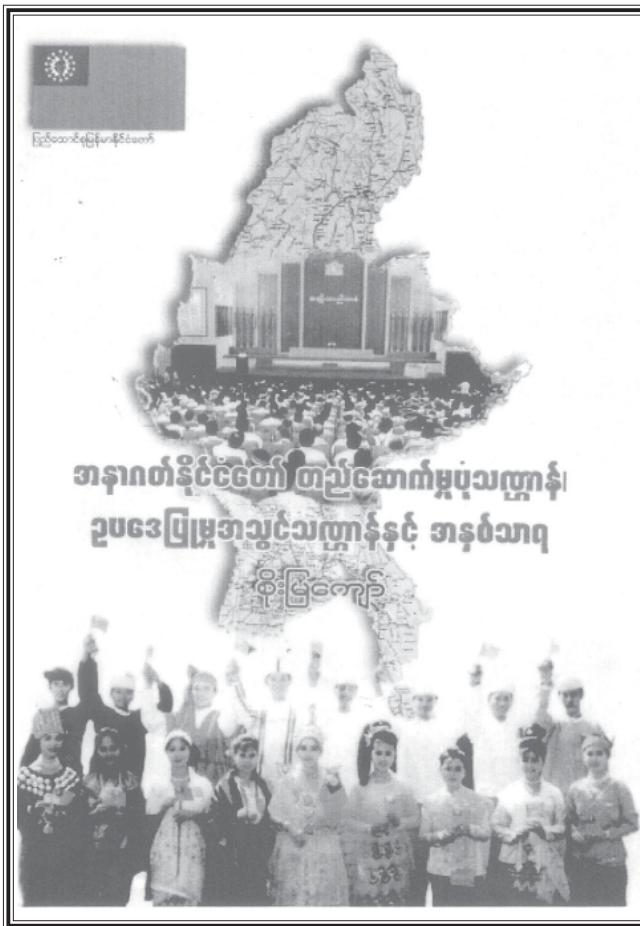
The current scale of assessments was adopted in 2000, when the Assembly based individual countries' assessments on their gross national income (GNI), with adjustments for external debt and low per capita income.

There were also minimum and maximum rates — so-called "floor" and "ceiling" — of assessment. One of the main features of the scale was a reduction of the ceiling from 25 to 22 per cent, which was then applied to the organization's main contributor — the United States.

Under the new formula, Japan's dues will drop from 19.4 per cent of the total UN budget to 16.6 per cent, while China's will edge up from 2.05 per cent to 2.66 per cent.— MNA/Xinhua



Shengtian Lake, the prime source of 900 hectares wetland, homing 238 species of bird and 52 varieties of fish, and a major stop for some migrant birds and an ideal winter shelter for some endangered wild animals, maintains unsoiled thanks to the local governmental measures including a lotus planting project in the area. —XINHUA



အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှုပုံသဏ္ဍာန်၊ ဥပဒေပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

စိုးမြကျော်

- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
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စိုးမြကျော် ၏

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- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အခန်း (၁) ခန်းနှင့် အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အပိုင်း (၁၃) ပိုင်းပါရှိသည်။
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- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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Nepal, India agree to finalize demarcating border

KATHMANDU, 25 Dec — Nepal and India have agreed to finalize drawing border demarcation line within the next six months, local *Kantipur* daily reported on Sunday.

The meeting of Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee (JTC) held in Kathmandu and completed on Friday, decided to finalize the task by June next year.

"For this, the committee has directed the government officials of the both sides to complete the task within the set deadline," a Press release issued by the Indian Embassy said.

The two sides have already completed about 98-per-cent task in this regard, according to the embassy. They have also agreed to hold another JTC meeting in New Delhi in March 2007. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China unveils anti-AIDS education project for students

BEIJING, 25 Dec — China unveiled here on Saturday a five-year anti-AIDS education project aimed at providing better sex and AIDS prevention education to 100 million middle school and college students.

The project, co-organized by China Charity Federation and the Chinese Society of Education, will raise 100 million yuan (12.5 million US dollars) to fund sex education and AIDS prevention activities in 10,000 schools all over the

country, and to aid children infected with HIV or orphaned by AIDS.

Xu Jialu, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), said the topics of healthy sex and AIDS prevention are closely linked. But in traditional China, people were reluctant to talk to young people about sex.

"It's good that the project attaches equal importance to the two subjects," Xu said.

Xu said that he hoped that society as a whole will pay attention to and contribute to the project.

China's Ministry of Health said that the number of people with HIV has risen 27.5 per cent since the beginning of this year. By

Annan hails approval of \$1.8b refurbishment of HQs

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Dec — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed on Saturday the approval by the UN General Assembly of 1.8-billion-US dollar renovation of the UN Headquarters in New York.

In a statement released by his spokesman, Annan welcomed the adoption of the resolution on the Capital Master Plan by the General Assembly, pointing out that the 1,876.7-million-dollar allocation over the period from 2007 and 2014 will

allow for repairs on buildings that have lacked essential upkeep since most of them were completed in the early 1950s.

"Through the Capital Master Plan, UN Headquarters will become a safer, healthier and more secure environment for staff, delegates, and visitors," he said in his statement, one of the last during his decade-long tenure at the helm of the world body before retiring at the end of next week.

MNA/Xinhua



Copperhead snakes slither at a snake farm in Vinh Son, northwest of Hanoi, on 20 Dec, 2006. About 70 percent of families in this village breed Copperhead snakes that are later sold to restaurants and medicine halls. Last year, the village exported 160,000 snakes. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း
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နေပြည်တော်။
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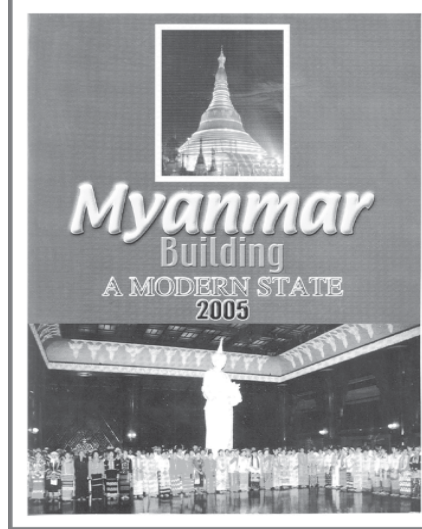
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ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။



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About 80 S
Korean students
injured in car
pileup accident

SEOUL, 24 Dec —
About 80 middle school
students were injured
during a pileup of 10
buses and sedans inside
a tunnel on an
expressway in South
Korea's central province
of Gyeonggido, local
media reported Friday.
The accident occurred
at 3:10 am when a driver
rear-ended a bus and
triggered a pileup near
Yongin City on the South-
East Highway.
According to the
police, the injured were
transferred to nearby
hospitals for treatment
while most of the
students had only slight
wounds and were later
released.—MNA/Xinhua

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Rich Stone Holdings Pte Ltd.
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patent will be dealt with
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Thein Aung B.Sc.R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon 26 December 2006



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
IFB NO. 1(T) CONST-MOGE/PPT (2006-2007) CAP
P.O BOX 1049, YANGON
FAX NO:095-01-222964/222965
INVITATION FOR BIDS

- 1. Sealed Bids are invited by the Myanma Oil and
Gas Enterprise, Yangon for the supply of:
ASSORTED SIZE OF ERW STEEL LINE
PIPES, BALL VALVES, PRESSURE GAUGE,
PIPE FITTINGS AND WELDING ELEC-
TRODES
2. Commencing from 22 December 2006 a com-
plete set of bidding document shall be available
at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, MYANMA
OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE, No 604, Mer-
chant street, Yangon, Myanmar during office
hour by payment to the order of Myanma Foreign
Trade Bank attesting remittance of US \$ 100.00
in favour of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (or)
FEC 100.00 to the above office for each set of
document.
3. Bids shall be accepted only from the Bidders who
officially purchased the bidding document.
4. The Bids received shall be opened in the pres-
ence of Bidders or Representatives who choose
to attend at 13:00 hours on 15 January 2007 at the
office of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No.6
Complex, NAY PYI TAW, Myanmar.
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

Eight dead, six injured
in N-W China road crash

LANZHOU, 24 Dec—Eight people died and six were
injured when a minibus and a truck collided on a
highway in northwest China's Gansu Province, local
police said Friday.
The minibus was carrying 15 people when it hit the
rear of the truck on a highway in Minle County at about
4:20 pm Thursday, said police.
Six people on the minibus died at the scene and two
others died on the way to hospital, the police said.
The injured, all passengers on the minibus, were out
of danger, but still being treated in hospital. The cause
of the accident is under investigation.
MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးပြင်ဆင်မှုနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးစနစ်များ တိုးတက်လာစေရန် နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



People celebrate Christmas Eve in front of the city-hall in Frankfurt, Germany, on 24 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Nigeria conducts feasibility study on coal as alternative fuel

ABUJA, 24 Dec — Nigeria has conducted a feasibility study on the potential of coal as part of its efforts to develop alternative power sources, according to a government document issued here on Friday.

The document issued by the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals showed that the study evaluated the available quantity of coal resources in the country in accordance with internationally-accepted definitions of resources.

The study determined the potential of developing an economically viable coal mining and power generating industry to supply electricity to the country's power grid. The study also developed the most effective strategies to revitalize the nation's coal industry.

According to the study, coal resources are available

across Enugu, Anambra, Kogi and Benue states in central and southern Nigeria which have remained largely unexploited and unexplored.

It stated that the Nigerian Government now plans to revitalize its

coal mining industry to expand power generation by attracting foreign companies to develop these coal resources and construct coal-fired power plants that would be connected to the country's electrical distribution

grid. Nigerian coal is the most suitable for the production of high calorific gas and the manufacturing of a wide range of chemicals like waxes, resins, adhesives and dyes.—MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian President signs Atlantic habitat protection law

BRASILIA, 24 Dec — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Friday approved a new

law to protect the Atlantic shore jungle, a habitat which is in danger of extinction.

“Nothing could be more symbolic, at the end of a year, to sign into a law a measure that pays a debt to our past,” said Lula at a signing ceremony at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia.

The jungle, which covered one million square metres when it was discovered, is diminishing at a speed of around 100,000 hectares a year, and only occupies 7 per cent of its original area at present.

During his speech, Lula listed the environmental progress achieved in the last four years, including the Public Forests Management Law and the reduction of the Amazon deforestation rate. The rate of deforestation had been reduced by 52 per cent in the past several years.

Brazil's Environment Minister Marina Silva noted that the new law provides incentives to recover the degraded forest and confine the economic exploitation of the jungle to sustainable development projects.

With help from the central government, a fund has been established to help regenerate areas that have been in danger, but not completely destroyed.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman hangs holiday decorations at her store in Manila, Philippines, on 23 Dec, 2006. Before Christmas, many Filipinos embraced the holiday season by hanging decorations.—INTERNET

FDI in China to remain steady this year

BEIJING, 24 Dec — Actualized foreign direct investment (FDI) in China this year will probably be the same as last year at around 60.3 billion US dollars, Xinhua learned from the Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

The preliminary statistics did not include investment in the banking, securities and insurance sectors. Last year, China saw a slight decline of 0.5 per cent in its FDI.

Sources with the Ministry of Commerce said China was facing increasingly fierce inter-

national competition for foreign investment.

In the year to November, contractual foreign capital totalled 167.46 billion US dollars, up only 0.15 per cent from the same period last year, while the amount of foreign capital actually used was 54.26 billion dollars, up 2.14 per cent.

The ministry said China would continue to be the top destination for foreign investment among developing countries, but the annual increment would stay around 60 billion US dollars in the next five years.

Experts warned a drastic rise was unlikely because production costs in China were rising as a result of stricter requirements on environmental protection and higher salary levels.

MNA/Xinhua

Zambia orders largest copper mine responsible for polluting river

LUSAKA, 24 Dec — The Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ) has completed the investigations into the pollution of Kafue River by the country's largest copper mine company and ordered it to take responsibility for their actions.

ECZ Director Edward Zulu said here on Friday that legal proceedings would be commenced against the Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), should the mining company fail to comply with provisions of law on

pollution. A KCM tailing pipeline burst on 6 November, causing pollution to the Kafue River and affecting normal water supplies to residents in the Copperbelt Province.

Several people fell sick after eating dead fish which were poisoned by the polluted water.

Zulu said the accident was a result of wear and tear of the firm's old pipeline due to the pumping of acidic tailings without neutralization.

MNA/Xinhua



Members of Hong Kong's Health Department participate in an influenza simulation exercise at the Hong Kong International Airport recently.

INTERNET

Donate blood

SPORTS

Pardew takes over at Charlton in replacement for Reed

LONDON, 25 Dec— Struggling English Premier League club Charlton Athletic parted company with manager Les Reed on Sunday and appointed former West Ham United manager Alan Pardew as a replacement.

Charlton, second from bottom in the 20-team division with only three wins from 19 games, said Reed had left by mutual consent after just eight matches in charge, six of which were defeats.

Pardew, sacked by West Ham on December 11 after a poor run of results, has signed a three-and-a-half year contract. His first game will be a London derby at home to Fulham on Wednesday.

Reed, a former FA technical director who joined Charlton's coaching staff in 1995, was promoted to head coach in mid-November after Iain Dowie was sacked.

But he failed to revive the club who suffered a humiliating loss in the League Cup quarterfinals last Tuesday when they were beaten 1-0 at home by Fourth Division side Wycombe Wanderers.—MNA/Xinhua



Atalanta's Massimo Donati, left, and Inter Milan's Patrick Vieira of France go for a high ball during an Italian major league soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Tokyo to give sports aid in Asia

TOKYO, 24 Dec— Tokyo plans to send sports assistance to other Asian countries from next year, to promote its bid to host the 2016 Olympics, a major Japanese newspaper reported Saturday.

Through the sports official development assistance, or "sports ODA", the Tokyo metropolitan government will extend athletic aids to Asian nations such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, mainly in the form of dispatching coaches and donating sports gear, the English-version of the *Asahi Shimbun* said.

Countries lacking sports infrastructure and experienced instructors will also receive help through the aid, which will come from part of a 20-billion-yen (about 170-million-US-dollar) fund for sports and culture promotion in fiscal 2007. However, the exact portion is still undecided, according to local officials.

MNA/Xinhua

David Hellebuyck (R) of Paris St Germain fights for the ball with Cedric Barbosa of Troyes during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Aube stadium in Troyes on 23 Dec, 2006. INTERNET



Colo Colo to sign Paraguayan forward Edison Gimenez

SANTIAGO, 25 Dec— Colo Colo are to sign Paraguayan forward Edison Gimenez, the Chilean champions said on Sunday.

Gimenez currently plays for Dos de Mayo, a team in Paraguay's First Division, and Colo Colo has paid 400,000 US dollars for his contract, said Raimondo Valenzuela, director of Blanco y Negro, the company that controls Colo Colo.

Gimenez last played in Chile on 15 November, scoring one goal in the Paraguay-Chile match held in

Vina del Mar, which ended 3-2 in favour of Chile.

Colo Colo, known as the cacique (the Indian chief), is Chile's most popular club. It won the local league for the 25th time on Saturday, defeating Audax Italiano in front of a full home stadium.

Local Press reported that the team wants to sign Chile's Manuel Neira, Argentina's Jose Luis Diaz and Colombia's Giovanni Hernandez. Meanwhile, several players, including Argentina's Miguel Caneo, Colombia's Andres Gonzalez and Chile's Rodrigo Melendez, are likely to leave.

MNA/Xinhua



AC Milan forward Kaka of Brazil, left, is challenged by Udinese's Guilherme Siqueira of Brazil during an Italian first division soccer match between Udinese and Milan, at the Friuli stadium in Udine, Italy, on 23 Dec, 2006. AC Milan won 3-0. INTERNET

Lehmann makes Arsenal admission

LONDON, 25 Dec— Lehmann is on his third one-year contract with the Gunners

Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann says he would prefer to sign a new deal with the Gunners but has not ruled out a move to Spain or back to Germany.

He is on his third one-year deal with Arsenal, who never offer players over 30 contracts of more than 12 months.

"In the talks about my future, Arsenal has top priority," the 37-year-old told the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper.

"But I'm not saying that there is a 100% chance I would stay in the event of an Arsenal offer."

Lehmann helped take Arsenal to the Champions League final last season then played a part in Germany's advance to the World Cup semi-finals. And he was to the fore on Saturday as Arsenal routed Blackburn 6-2.—INTERNET

Abramovich pledges spending cuts

LONDON, 24 Dec— Billionaire owner Roman Abramovich expects Chelsea's spending in the transfer market to be reduced once the benefits are reaped from its academy.

European governing body Uefa may make football more competitive by curbing investment by rich benefactors. Russian Abramovich has spent millions since taking over at Chelsea in 2003.

But he told *The Observer*: "Our strategy is to bring up our own players through the academy, which we have invested a lot in, and hope it gives results."

He added: "We will be spending less in the transfer market in future years."

Abramovich also denied that he had any involvement in picking the team.

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich

However, he did confirm that he does influence Chelsea's business in the transfer market, although he insisted that boss Jose Mourinho has the final say.

INTERNET

Showbiz at odds with sports in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec— President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Friday that, if necessary, he will issue an executive order so that sports and culture do not compete with each other for moneys provided by tax incentive laws in Brazil. "The fact that we want to help the sports does not oblige us to reduce our will to invest in culture. If it is necessary to issue another executive order, I will do it," stressed Lula.

The House of Representatives approved of a bill stating a tax incentive system that allows private companies to destine moneys to cultural and sports events, which they could use as a way to cut down on their taxes.

The cultural sector relies on the so-called Rouanet Law, which defined in 1991 ways of a company to reduce its tax charge by investing in artistic and entertainment activities. The new bill is aimed at coming up with a similar system for the sports sector. However, the bill established that the moneys would come from the same sources as the ones that sponsored show business, which will put the two sectors in an arena where they will have to fight with each other in order to prevent cannibalization of resources.

Earlier this week, representatives from both sectors gathered with the Federal Senate and reached an agreement, according to which each area would profit from sponsorships that would come from different sources. But the proposal was ignored by the federal representatives, who moved on with the original bill, which still needs to be approved of by the President.

MNA/Xinhua



AS Roma's Philippe Mexes of France, right, celebrates with teammate Daniele De Rossi at the end of the Italian first division soccer league match between AS Roma and Cagliari at Rome's Olympic stadium, on 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Ministers meet USDA members



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meeting with secretaries, executives and organizers of ward and village USDAs.— INDUSTRY-1

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo and Secretariat members U Aung Thuang and U Thein Zaw met secretaries and executives of division, district and township USDAs and organizers of ward and village USDAs at the office of Mandalay Division USDA on 23 December. Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Maung Oo reported on public welfare tasks being carried out in the division and future work. U Htay Oo and U Aung Thuang fulfilled the requirements.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang visited Cement Plant (Kyaukse) in Kyaukse factory region on 24 December morning where he was reported by the plant manager on production process and distribution tasks. Managing Director of Myanma Ceramics Industries U Soe Yi gave a supplementary report.

Next, the minister met with factory managers of Kyaukse factory region and visited the glass factory project site on Yinswe mountain. Later, he inspected the cement plant, plastic factory and asbestos factory in Kyaukse. — MNA

Minister visits No 1 Machine and Machine Tool Factory (Nyaungchedauk)

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin visited No 1 Machine and Machine Tool Factory (Nyaungchedauk) in Padaung Township, Bago Division (West) on 23 December afternoon. At the assembling workshop, General Manager U Thit Lwin Lay reported on packing of junior CNC lathe machines which had been sold, and assembling of column type drilling machines and junior DRO lathe machines. At the enamelled copper wire workshop, the general manager also reported to the minister on production of enamelled copper wires.

The minister stressed the need for systematic

transportation of the machines, production of quality items, conducting of research work, production of new items and measures to be taken for worksite safety.

On 24 December morning, the minister and party visited No 1 Farm Equipment Factory (Sinde) where he was reported by the general manger on assembling of KND5B pumps and Ayeya-1 power tillers and other machine parts.

The minister gave instructions on production of new items meeting the set standards and early distribution of products to the market. — MNA

Objectives of 59th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to join hands forever for safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty of the State;
- All the national people to collectively safeguard non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
- All the national people to make concerted efforts for the emergence of an enduring constitution and building of a new, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation; and
- All the national people to work in concert for the success of the seven-step Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit.

Minister visits Khaing Khaing Group in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 24 Dec— Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visited power testing centre in Ahlon Township on 19 December.

Executive engineer U Nyunt Than reported on testing and distribution of meters and installation.

Next, the minister inspected the centre and process of testing of meters. He proceeded to Khaing Khaing Group of Thadukan industrial zone (3/4) of Shwepyitha Township.

He inspected casting of iron for production of iron bars and fulfilled the requirements on power supply.

The minister visited warehouses in Ahlon Township where electrical equipment and related items are stored.—MNA



Yeywa Hydel Power Project under construction.—MNA