

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVI, Number 246

8th Waning of Nadaw 1370 ME

Saturday, 20 December, 2008

Future Tatmadaw depends upon soldiers, who possess patriotism, perseverance, diligence, endeavour and efforts of the intellectuals and the intelligentsia

Basic foundation for the perpetuity of sovereignty of the nation where different national races are residing is national unity

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— *The following is the full text of the address delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the graduation parade of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin today.*

Comrades,

Today is the graduation day of the 11th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy. Since you will soon have to enter the practical

field of your profession and discharge your duties as junior leaders of military engineers, I would like to impart to you what you should know in all seriousness.

Comrades,

Since you are military personnel having been trained and nurtured to become brilliant engineering officers, you will have to discharge your

primary duty of defending the nation.

As you all have already studied the military science and technology and have undergone military training as a platoon commander, for the sake of national security and defence, you are to daringly discharge your duties in a battlefield when required, in maneuvering as infantry unit. In our Tatmadaw history, evidences show that there are instances in which battles were fought and won exclusively by Engineering Corps without infantry units. It is a fine tradition

of our Tatmadaw which possesses the qualities of a good tough soldier. Therefore, you, being gallant and having the characteristics of a good soldier must preserve this noble tradition at risk to your life. Moreover, to discharge your assigned duties successfully, every unit and every soldier should possess the Five Basic Qualities and Three Forevers.

Comrades,

Being young leaders of the Tatmadaw, you must lead your troops through correct leadership.

To take command

of your troops in accordance with leadership characteristics, you must possess the three capabilities, namely, military capabilities, persuasive capabilities and administrative capabilities. Moreover, as you are all technocrats, you must take the leading role in the technological field. Therefore, in order to have a sense of initiative and innovation more than your men, you need to study continuously. With regard to morale and discipline, (See page 8)



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at Graduation Parade of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy.—MNA

With the rapid advancement and progress in science and technology in the world today, we need a modern Tatmadaw for the total defence of the nation.



PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 20 December, 2008

Towards perpetual existence of self-reliant rural libraries

In its efforts to bring about rural development the government is fulfilling the requirements in economic, education, health and social sectors.

In that regard, more school buildings, affiliated basic education high schools, station hospitals, medical wards and rural health care centres are being opened in rural regions. As a result, more rural people have access to education and health care.

Likewise, altogether over 50,000 self-reliant libraries have been opened in villages of different regions in order to broaden the horizons of rural people.

The emergence of self-reliant libraries in rural regions helps the people cultivate the reading habit. This will also help those with reading habit and adult neo-literates continue studying different kinds of publications and further foster their reading habit.

In the meantime, continued efforts are to be made for perpetual existence and development of the already opened self-reliant libraries. And concerted and well-coordinated efforts need to be made for all the self-reliant rural libraries to be complete with own buildings, furniture, publications and librarians.

As the emergence of more libraries helps inculcate rural people with education and knowledge, it is incumbent upon local authorities, social organizations, well-wishers and local people to try their utmost for perpetual existence and development of the self-reliant rural libraries.

Golf Championship in Myitkyina 2-5 Jan

YANGON, 19 Dec—The Golf Championship, jointly organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and the Myanmar PGA, will be held at Northern Star Golf Club in Myitkyina from 2 to 5 January 2009.

Professional golfers and the amateur golfers (handicap 0-12) may take part in the championship. Altogether four golfers of the team are to participate in the team scratch event. One golfer must have handicap 0-12 and the remaining three players, handicap 0-18. The senior division for the golfers of above 55 years old will be held. The championship will be organized in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one scorers will be awarded deservingly.

Those wishing to compete in the competition may enlist at Myanmar Golf Training Range at 9th mile, Tel: 01-651374, 09-2037671 and 09-5017049 and at Northern Star Golf Club, not later than 2 pm on 31 December.—MNA

People's 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

Vocational training courses opened

YANGON, 18 Dec—The basic vocational training course No. 50 and tailoring course No. 25 of the vocational training school of the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs were opened at the school in Kengtung Township on 15 December.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo made an address. A total of 30 trainees are taking the course.

Hakha Township's vocational training school

opened women's basic vocational training course No. 39 and tailoring course No. 22 at the training school, with address by Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hon Ngai. Altogether 28 trainees are participating in the course.

Similarly, vocational training courses were opened in Lashio, Muse in Shan State (North) and Tachilek and Monghsat in Shan State (East), Falam, Tiddiam, Mindat, Matupi, and Kanpetlet in Chin State, Yinmarbin, Pale, Salingyi in Sagaing and Lashe, Lahel, Nanyon in Naga.

MNA



Minister U Soe Tha inspects building of village-to-village road and dredging of ditches in Twantay Township. — MNA

NPED Minister performs regional development tasks in Twantay Township

YANGON, 19 Dec — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha inspected construction of earth road linking Padan Yaykyaw village and Khattiya village and building of ditches at the northern part of Twantay on 15 December.

Next, the minister made an arrangement for use of public telephones at 13 villages in the township and met with local people at Pyawbwey village in the Township.

In meeting with townsenders, teachers and members of social organizations, the minister heard

reports and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister also met with local people at Khaloke village and Shansugyi village.

On 16 December, the minister looked into the chosen site for construction of dispensary at Hsukuluk Yaykyaw village and met with local people at Atwin Yaykyaw village and Basic Education High School (Branch), in Kayin Chaung model village in the township. He also inspected fish breeding in Toe river at Twantaywa village and pottery at Obo ward in Twantay. — MNA

Concrete laying tasks finalized at Yeywa hydropower project

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—A ceremony to finalize concrete laying tasks of Yeywa hydropower project that is being implemented by No. 2 Construction Group of Hydropower Implementation Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 was held at the project on 15 December.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myo Myint and heads of department under the ministry, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and members, responsible persons of the

companies and guests.

The deputy minister and party inspected progress in laying concrete of RCC main dam and then supervised to finalize concrete laying tasks by means of 2.5 ton Vibrating Roller.

Yeywa hydropower project is 2264 feet long and 433 feet high and it will generate 790 megawatt upon completion. It is RCC type concrete dam that is first being built in Myanmar and stands at ninth position on the fastest chart of RCC concrete laying.—MNA



Journalists crowd a table as they pick up their voting papers during the 18th Iraqi Journalist's Syndicate committee elections held in Baghdad in July 2008. Eleven journalists were killed in Iraq in 2008, making it the deadliest country in the world for the press for the sixth straight year, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Iraq—again—is deadliest place for journalists

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec—Iraq was the deadliest place for journalists in 2008, a respected media watchdog group said Thursday, putting the country atop the list for the sixth consecutive year.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said 11 journalists died in Iraq in 2008—a sharp drop from the 31 recorded for 2007, but still substantially higher than anywhere else.

The organization said

the second-deadliest country this year was Pakistan with five killed, followed by India, where four journalists died in civil strife. Three journalists were killed in Georgia during the war with Russia, which lasted only five days, and three died in civil unrest in Thailand.

CPJ said all the journalists who died in Iraq in 2008 were Iraqis working for local media. The organization said the

lower death toll appeared to reflect several factors, including the cease-fire declared by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr against US-led coalition forces, the declining presence of Western media and Sunni tribal leaders turning against al-Qaeda. Worldwide, 41 journalists were killed in connection with their work in the past year—28 of them murdered, the organization said.—Internet

Dutch soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec — A Dutch soldier was killed Friday in southern Afghanistan, the NATO command confirmed.

The soldier died in an improved explosive

device strike, according to a news release from NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

"Our sincere condolences and sympathies are with the

family and friends of this brave soldier, especially during this holiday season," said ISAF spokesman Capt Mark Windsor Royal Navy.

Internet

Missiles fired from Gaza as truce ends

JERUSALEM, 19 Dec—The Israeli military will respond to missile firings from Gaza with airstrikes now that a cease-fire expired, officials said Friday.

The expiration of the six-month truce between Hamas and Israel was followed by militants in

Gaza firing three missiles into Israel and engaging in sniper fire, reported Debkafile.com, a military intelligence Web site based in Jerusalem.

Shortly after the cease-fire ended, an Israeli army spokesman said, "Quiet will be met by quiet but we will not hesitate to

respond to missile offensives."

Defence officials said Israel would continue air strikes against missile cells and Hamas installations rather than engage in a large-scale military operation at this time.

Internet

US military's Iraq withdrawal plan differs from Obama's promise

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—The US military has drafted an initial plan to pull troops out of Iraq, which somehow differs from the promise of President-elect Barack Obama on the issue, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell told reporters the military briefed Obama and his national security team on the plan during a recent meeting.

The military's plan proposes removing all US combat troops from Iraq's urban areas in 2009, and all American troops from Iraq by 2011, in keeping with the recent Status of Forces Agreement

(SOFA), signed by the incumbent President George W Bush.

However, the plan will make the withdrawal at a slower pace than Obama promised during the campaign, when he called for all combat troops to be out within 16 months — by the summer of 2010.

Officials said Obama might seek to speed up the troop withdrawal once he was inaugurated.

Reuters reported that the United States has some 143,000 troops in Iraq. The Associate Press put the number at around 150,000.—Internet



South Korean soldiers of Zaytun and Daiman unit get off an airplane upon their arrival from Iraq at a military airport in Seongnam, near Seoul, on 19 Dec, 2008. South Korea, which once had the third-largest contingent of foreign soldiers in Iraq, ended its mission there on Friday by bringing home all of the troops it had deployed to the country.

INTERNET

Last S Korean troops leave Iraq

SEOUL, 19 Dec —South Korea has withdrawn the last of its troops from Iraq, ending what was once the third-largest mission there, after the US and UK deployments.

About 600 soldiers were greeted in Seoul after leaving their base near Irbil, in the north of Iraq. South Korea sent about 3,600 soldiers to Iraq in 2004 but later scaled back the force due to public opposition.

A number of countries have withdrawn from Iraq recently as a UN mandate authorising their presence expires.

The troops "have successfully accomplished their four-year and three-month long mission and have come back to Seoul," the South Korean military command said in a statement.

South Korea had originally sent troops at the request of its major ally, the United States. They were engaged mostly in construction work in the north of Iraq, in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

Internet



A woman looks at the wreckage of a vehicle used in bomb attacks in Baghdad's Nahdha neighbourhood on 17 Dec, 2008. Twin blasts killed 18 people and wounded 53 in central Baghdad on Wednesday as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made an unannounced visit to Iraq, police said.—INTERNET

Iraqi official says leader of women's group killed

SULAIMANIYAH, 19 Dec— Iraqi police say attackers have decapitated the leader of the women's league of the Kurdish Communist Party.

A police officer says gunmen on Thursday stormed the Kirkuk home of Nahla Hussein al-Shaly and shot and beheaded her. The city of Kirkuk lies 180 miles north of Baghdad. The officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Party spokesman Azad Gahareeb says the 37-year-old al-Shaly may have been targeted because she promoted women's rights. He says the married mother of two was alone in the house when she was attacked.

Internet



A police officer throws a bag of cocaine into an incinerator at a police base in Lima, Peru on 18 Dec, 2008. Police say they destroyed more than 4,000 kilograms (8,818 pounds) of drugs seized in 2008, including cocaine, marijuana and heroine.—INTERNET

Bolivia: Expel all US ambassadors

COSTA DO SAUIPE, 19 Dec—Latin American nations should expel US ambassadors until the United States lifts its embargo on Cuba, Bolivian President Evo Morales said Wednesday. But his remarks found little support from other regional leaders.

Morales made the demand during a summit of Latin American and Caribbean leaders in this beach resort in northeastern Brazil.

“I want to make a proposal that many are not

going to like: Set a time limit for the new US government to lift the economic blockade” against Cuba, Morales said, using the tough term for US sanctions that Cuba and its allies use.

“If the new government doesn’t lift the economic blockage, we are going to lift our ambassadors,” said Morales, who expelled the US ambassador to Bolivia in September over a different issue, accusing him of siding with violent opposition protests.

The Bolivian president’s demand did not receive much support from other leaders, many of whom have expressed hope that President-elect Barack Obama will have a friendlier approach to the left-leaning governments that now hold power in many Latin American nations.

The summit’s host, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the region should wait to see what policies the new US administration will follow.—*Internet*

Pentagon chief orders plan to shut down Guantanamo

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has ordered his staff to prepare a plan to shut down the prison at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said Gates’ instructions are based on President-elect Barack Obama’s declaration that closing Guantanamo is a priority.

Obama has asked Gates, who took office two years ago, to remain on his post.

Internet



TV broadcaster vehicles are parked in front of the Bank of Japan headquarters in Tokyo on 19 Dec, 2008. The central bank is weighing worries about a global downturn as its policy board ends a two-day meeting to decide on a benchmark interest rate on Friday.—INTERNET

Yemen kidnappers demand release of cleric in US

SAN’A, 19 Dec—Kidnappers holding three Germans in Yemen are demanding the release of a cleric jailed in the United States on terrorism charges, tribal mediators said Thursday.

The mediators said the kidnappers’ leader, Sheik Abed Rabbo Saleh al-Tam, told them he wants the release of Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad.

Al-Moayad was sentenced in 2005 in New York to 75 years in prison for supporting terrorism. In October, an appeals court overturned his conviction and ordered a retrial because of inflammatory testimony about unrelated terrorism cases in his first trial.—*Internet*

Brazil to boost troops in Amazon, weapons industry

BRASILIA, 19 Dec—Brazil will beef up troops in its vast Amazon rain forest, build nuclear and conventional submarines to protect offshore oil fields and modernize its weapons industry under a national defence plan outlined in a report Thursday.

Strategic Affairs Minister Roberto Mangabeira Unger said the plan calls for investments to modernize and equip the armed forces, create a rapid deployment force and update its weapons industry. Officials did not provide a cost estimate.

“The plan includes the restructuring of Brazil’s weapons industry to guarantee the supply of defence material without depending on foreign suppliers,” President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said at a ceremony to unveil the plan.

Defence Minister Nelson Jobim said the government will increase the number of troops in the Amazon from 17,000 to 25,000, though he did not offer a timetable.

The report says Brazil “will develop its capacity to design and manufacture conventional and nuclear submarines” to protect its coastline, as well as recently discovered offshore oil reserves that could hold up to 55 billion barrels of oil.

“Investments will be accelerated and partnerships established to execute the nuclear submarine project,” the report said.—*Internet*

Democrats’ budget plan to be vetoed

SACRAMENTO, 19 Dec—Democratic lawmakers on Thursday pushed through an \$18 billion package to reduce California’s burgeoning budget deficit, but Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would veto it because it didn’t meet his demands for an economic recovery plan.

Schwarzenegger said California will continue on a path toward “fiscal Armageddon” since Democrats sent him a “terrible budget” that didn’t make deep enough cuts or include the kind of stimulus

he wanted to boost the state’s ailing economy. California’s deficit is expected to hit \$42 billion in the next 18 months.

“This package that they are sending down does really only do one thing, and this is punish the people of California,” he said at a news conference shortly after the vote.

But Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, said the Democratic package included economic stimulus provisions and other measures that should have satisfied the Republican governor.

“I am frankly surprised how willing Gov Schwarzenegger is to push California over a cliff when he clearly is not fully aware of what the bills we passed today do,” Bass said. “The governor claims he wants to negotiate and then says things must be exactly as he wants. That is astonishing given the crisis we face.” Lawmakers adjourned for the holidays, even as the governor called on them to solve the problem before Christmas. He did not say when he would call them back into session.—*Internet*



Members of a kidnappers gang are shown to the media with their sized guns after being arrested by Mexican Army in Tijuana, Mexico, on 18 Dec, 2008. Mexican Army liberated three kidnapped men and arrested eleven gang members after an operation on 17 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Olmert says peace deal between Israel, Syria feasible

TEL AVIV, 19 Dec— Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Thursday evening that it was possible to negotiate a peace deal between Israel and Syria, days ahead of his visit to mediator Turkey to advance the indirect peace talks. “A peace treaty between Israel and Syria is feasible,” said Olmert at a conference of the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University.

“Syria does not necessarily want to be part of the axis of evil,” he said. “Syria wants to reconnect

with the West and the United States. Removing Syria from the axis of evil is an Israeli interest.”

An Israeli-Syrian peace deal will bring “substantial advantages” to the Jewish state, said the prime minister. “A peace treaty would lower the possibility of war, break the strategic ties between Damascus and Tehran, lead to the expulsion of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas headquarters from Syria and would stop the cash flow to Hezbollah,” said Olmert.

The prime minister stressed that though he

could not guarantee success of a peace process with Syria, it was important to try. “How will we know if we don’t try? How can we try if we are not prepared to take any risks?” he asked.

On the indirect Israeli-Syrian peace talks mediated by Turkey, Olmert said that the talks were important and could lead to direct negotiations.

The Turkey-brokered indirect talks with Syria are pivotal. They have proven that real negotiations are doable,” said the prime minister.

Xinhua



Sailors defend from pirates’ attacks on the deck of the Chinese ship “Zhenhua 4” in the Gulf of Aden, on 17 Dec, 2008. The Chinese ship escaped pirate hijack in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday, after the crew fought for four hours with the help of a multi-coalition force. No injuries or deaths were reported. Nine pirates armed with rocket launchers and heavy machine guns boarded the ship. The 30 crew members locked themselves in their accommodation area, using fire hydrants and firebombs to prevent the attackers from entering, said an official with China Maritime Search and Rescue Center (CMSRC).—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A cameraman films the remains of rockets that landed in Sderot at the police station in Sderot, southern Israel, on 18 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

Nicaragua, Russia sign cooperation agreements

MANAGUA, 19 Dec—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, currently on a visit to Russia, signed a series of cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding Thursday with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev to boost economic and political ties, local media reported.

The agreements cover areas such as agriculture, fishing, space research for peaceful uses, telecommunications and energy.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate in the field of education. President Medvedev said about 5,000 Nicaraguan students have so far graduated from Russian universities and institutions.

Calling Nicaragua a key and strategic partner of Russia in Latin America, Medvedev stressed Russia’s willingness to boost bilateral economic cooperation and trade, which is practically nil at the moment.

In a joint statement, both presidents made a call, among other things, to stand up against external pressures against Nicaragua.

The United States has threatened to cancel aid to Nicaragua over alleged election fraud during the November municipal elections.—Xinhua

DPRK top leader calls for pushing forward technical revolution

PYONGYANG, 19 Dec— Kim Jong Il, top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), has called for pushing forward the technical revolution throughout the country, state media said Friday.

He called on all the sectors of the national economy to realize modernization based on the latest scientific and technological achievements, the state media reported. Kim made the statement during a visit to the February General Steel Enterprise, a machine plant in the northern province of Jagang, the state media added.—Xinhua

Chinese Premier promises support to Hong Kong, Macao amid global financial crisis

BEIJING, 19 Dec— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Friday that the central government will “take measures” to ensure Hong Kong and Macao’s financial stability and economic development amid the global financial crisis.

The central government would help Hong Kong overcome challenges

brought by the world financial crisis by promoting financial cooperation between the mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), he said.

The central government would help Hong Kong upgrade infrastructure construction and grant favorable policies for

small and medium-sized HK enterprises, Wen said during a meeting with Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of HKSAR.

The mainland would also ensure stable food and natural resources supply for the region and further open of its service industry market to HKSAR, he said.

Xinhua

Strong earthquake shakes Chile

SANTIAGO, 19 Dec— A 6.3 Richter degrees earthquake shook on Thursday Chile’s coast near the city of Valparaiso, 148 kilometre away from Santiago, without damages reported, Chilean Emergency Bureau said. The US Geological Survey (USGS) said that earthquake struck at 6:19 pm local time (21:19 GMT), 70 kilometres north to Valparaiso, with a depth of 35 kilometers.

Head of the Chilean Emergency Office (ONEMI) Carmen Fernandez said that “there are not reports of damages due to the quake. It’s part of a normal seismic activity.”—Xinhua



Rescue workers sift through the wreckage after a light aircraft slammed into a suburban house in Sydney on 18 Dec. Two women were killed when two flying school planes collided, officials have said.—XINHUA

Worm infestation, and Maternal and Child Health

Professor Dr. Paing Soe

Helminthes or worm infestation refers to worms that live as parasites in the human body and are a fundamental cause of disease associated with health and nutrition problems beyond gastrointestinal tract disturbances. These parasites consume nutrients from children they infect, thus retarding their physical development. They destroy tissues and organs, cause abdominal pain, diarrhea, intestinal obstruction, anemia, ulcers and other health problems. Heavy or long-term intestinal worm infection frequently results in death if treatment is not given in time. All of these consequences of infection can slow cognitive development and thus impair learning in these children.

Globally, one-third of population is infected with intestinal worms, of which 2 billion are unknowingly facing the adverse effects of worm infestation. Among those infected, 1.47 billion are due to roundworm, 1.3 billion people due to hookworm and 1.05 billion due to whipworm. Hundreds of millions of people do not enjoy a healthy, productive life because they are debilitated and unable to achieve their full potential. Parasitic infections contribute significantly to this widespread deprivation. Parasitic infections are the hallmark of poverty and underdevelopment. Soil-transmitted worms infestation due to roundworm, whipworm and hookworm and water-transmitted Schistosomiasis occur all over the world. Pregnant women and school children aged 5-14 years suffer the highest infection rate and worm burden that attributes to poor sanitation and hygiene. About 400 million school-age children are infected with roundworm, whipworm and hookworm worldwide.

According to a study conducted in Thailand in 1996, common helminthes were hookworm (21.6%), whipworm (3.9%) and roundworm (1.9%). In Vietnam, a nationwide estimation on roundworm infection is about 60 million and hookworm is about 40 million in 2000. In one study conducted in Cambodia at 1997 showed that children were mostly infected by soil-transmitted worms.

Worm and maternal health

Anaemia is one of the main underlying causes of poor pregnancy outcomes in the developing world and is caused by general nutritional deficiencies and worm infestation. In developing countries, 75% of pregnant mothers are suffering from moderate to severe anemia. Women and adolescent girls bear a particular burden of losing blood due to hookworm infection resulting in iron deficiency anemia. Heavy infection with hookworm causes anemia among women, which is believed to be one of the factors contributing to maternal morbidity and mortality. In anemic women, the risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth is about 3.5 times higher than in non-anemic women.

A recent study conducted in Nepal showed that de-worming pregnant women could bring about much more advantage than expected. That study was conducted by John Hopkin's Bloomberg School of Public Health and found that 74 percent of pregnant women in Nepal were infected with hookworm and that 54 percent had moderate to severe anemia because of the worm. Most of the women in the study were given one pill of the drug albendazole in both the second and third trimester of pregnancy at (5th and 8th of pregnancy). When researchers checked on infants at six months, they found 14% fewer deaths among infants of mothers given one dose of the drug and 41%

fewer deaths of children whose mothers were given two doses.

Since anemia reduces resistance to blood loss, death may occur from bleeding associated with normal delivery. Association of anemia with worm infestation which can lead to adverse maternal outcome such as puerperal sepsis, antepartum hemorrhage, postpartum hemorrhage and maternal mortality is no longer a debatable issue. Presence of parasitic infestation and its relationship with anemia and fatal outcomes was also studied by Stratton and associates in the United States. They found that, there was a significant three-fold increase in the incidence of neonatal hyperbilirubinemia in mothers that had the presence of helminthes in the stool. Hook worm and ascariasis were the main causal parasites of anemia.

Worm and child health

Estimates have been made of the quantitative costs of worm infections to cognition and education by WHO. The total lost years of schooling due to worm-associated absenteeism amounts to over 200 million years; with almost all this loss occurring in developing countries. The average IQ loss per worm infection is 3.75 points. Feeding a child infected by worms is like filling a leaking bucket with water and such children always suffered from nutritional deficiencies. Worm infection weakens very young children in ways that increase their vulnerability to infectious diseases. One recent study indicated that worm infections disrupt the immune response in ways that could hasten the progression from HIV infection to AIDS. Anemia caused by worm infection worsens malaria. Recent studies conducted in areas where malaria is a major childhood killer showed that deworming and the resulting reductions in anemia improve the chances of surviving severe malaria. Deworming school children by anthelmintic drug treatment is a curative approach for expelling the heavy worm load. Deworming increases attendance at school not only because they are free from illness but also because their cognitive performance improves and they learn significantly better.

Treatment and Prevention

Anthelmintic treatment is recommended for all risk groups, adolescent girls, pregnant mothers, school-aged children and also recommended for children as young as 12 months because it improves their health. By reducing anemia, deworming drugs which can be safely administered during pregnancy, contribute directly to maternal survival. Abundant evidence shows that regular deworming reduces anemia in adolescent girls and women of childbearing age, thus preparing them for a healthier pregnancy. Deworming drugs should be taken 6 monthly (2 times a year). However, drug therapy alone is only a short-term measure of reducing worm infection and re-infection is frequent. Control measures through improved sanitation, hygiene and deworming are needed to prevent infection and re-infection.

A national survey performed in school-age children of Cambodia, dewormed using Mebendazole 500 mg indicated intestinal worms dropped to about one-third of the initial level, but re-infection occurs frequently because of a lack of access to adequate sanitation, safe water and unhygienic habits. A children's deworming programme has proven to be an effective entry point and educational tool to create the demand for household sanitary latrines, for use of safe water and improved hygiene behavior change in communities

based on some project experiences. One successful pilot project was implemented in ten villages in West Bengal, India, to promote a package that consisted of deworming young children, hygiene education, improved sanitation by building family toilets, and chlorination of drinking water at house level by housewives. On seeing worms coming out from their children bodies, parents were convinced of the need for a clean environment, for the use of sanitary toilets and for hand washing with soap. An 80% reduction of childhood diarrhea was achieved within 12 months of intervention and many households had built and used simple sanitary toilets.

The project proved that hygiene education alone would not lead to behavior change unless strengthened by the availability of safe drinking water and sanitary facilities in an enabling environment. UNICEF has supported many governments in this (and other) regions to assist in the provision of water supply and sanitary facilities and intensive hygiene education in many schools through the Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) programme. The UNICEF supported school sanitation and hygiene education (SSHE) programme, and other programmes that could effectively enhance behavior change in children to break the routes of worm transmission and other waterborne diseases.

Implementation of any helminth control programme at country level requires strong links with existing interventions that are already in place to reach women and children. e.g., deworming may hitch a lift from health care programme like immunization, vitamin A supplements, antenatal care. This intervention has been successful in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in several other counties. Today, control of these infections can be achieved through regular treatment with inexpensive, single-dose and highly effective drugs, so safe they can be given to all groups at risk.

Deworming improves not only health and development of individual but also development of the nation. Deworming is a particularly effective intervention because the capacity costs are negligible. It is an investment for future health and development and the small investment that can give a large profit. Periodic administration of anthelmintic tables to school-age children is now part of the policy of many well-designed school health programmes in endemic countries. This intervention is expanding all over the world towards the 75% global coverage target. WHO's target is regular treatment of at least 75% of all school-age children at risk of morbidity for schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections by 2010. There is evidence that anthelmintic treatment of women during pregnancy improves maternal health, increases birth weight and reduces infant mortality. Benefits for participating communities include increases in growth rates of children, better school attendance and performance, improved iron status, decline in anemia rates, healthier pregnancies and birth outcomes, and greater adult productivity leading to development of the nation. Therefore, let's promote maternal and child health by deworming with safe, effective and inexpensive anthelmintic drugs and by improving personal hygiene.

(see page 7)

Worm infestation, and Maternal...

(from page 6)

Benefits of deworming towards maternal and child health

- Anemia associated with worm infestation can lead to adverse maternal outcome such as puerperal sepsis, ante partum hemorrhage, postpartum hemorrhage and maternal mortality.
- There is a three-fold increase in the incidence of significant neonatal hyperbilirubinemia in the mothers that had the presence of helminthes in the stool.
- Deworming promotes maternal health and decreases maternal mortality and infant mortality rate.
- A child free from worm infections and lack of nutritional deficiencies has good immunity and cognitive performance with less school absenteeism.
- Worm infected child may suffer from the average IQ loss of 3.75 points than a normal, healthy child.
- Worm infections disrupt the immune response in ways that could hasten the progression from HIV infection to AIDS and worsen malaria.
- Malnutrition and anaemia, major problems that affects mother and children in developing countries, can be prevented and treated by regular deworming.
- Nowadays, inexpensive, single-dose and highly effective deworming drugs are available.
- Deworming drugs should be taken 6 monthly (2 times per year).
- It is safe to carry out deworming even during pregnancy (at 5th and 8th month of pregnancy).

Three lion cubs born

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — A female lion named Lonmei gave births to three baby lions in Zoological Gardens (Nay Pyi Taw) 7.22 p.m. yesterday. Her pregnancy period was 114 days.

The female lion arrived from Germany Zoological Gardens to Yangon Zoological Gardens on 17 August 2006. The mother lion has been at the Zoological Gardens (Nay Pyi Taw) since its opening.

MNA



Cash donated for respect paying of YTU and YIT students

YANGON, 19 Dec— Old engineering students of YIT and YTU held a ceremony to donate cash for holding 3rd respect paying ceremony to faculty members who discharged the part time and full time duties at the meeting hall of Myanmar Engineering Society on Yangon University (Hline Campus) on 13 December.

At the ceremony, chairman of the organizing committee U Ohn Kyaw, Vice-Chairman U Ko Ko Gyi and executive U Win Naing donated K200,000 for fund of Myanmar Engineering Society's Library to chairman U Than Myint of MES, CEC member U Myint Pe and U Myint Soe.

Afterwards, on behalf of civil engineering students graduated in 1995, U Myat Khaing Swe, Daw Aung May Oo and Daw Khin Thida doanted K 1,100,000 to Chairman U Ohn Kyaw and Daw Malar Swe, Daw Thin Thin Cho, Daw Hnin Nwe Aye and Daw Than Than Win, K 500,000 to Secretary U Kyaw Lin on behalf of civil engineering students graduated in 1982.

Key chains, sport shirts, photos and towels may be purchase at the ceremony day.—NLM

Donation for storm victims

YANGON, 19 Dec— Rice donation ceremony to the victims of three village-tracts in Bogale and Labutta Townships of Ayeyawady Division, funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of Japan and jointly organized by Settlement and Land

Record Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR), was held at Basic Education Primary School of Kyinechaunggyi model village in Bogale Township on 18 December.

At the ceremony,

Director-General U Win Kyi of the department delivered a speech. After that, general manager Dr Mulyo Sidik of EAERR explained facts about the donation. Afterwards, Dr Mulyo Sidik donated rice to Kyeinchaunggyi village-tract, the director-general to Dhniseik village-tract and Chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council to Tebinkine village-tract.

A total of 164 metric tons was donated to 13,120 storm victims in Bogale and Labutta Townships. East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) is being carried out as preliminary project for

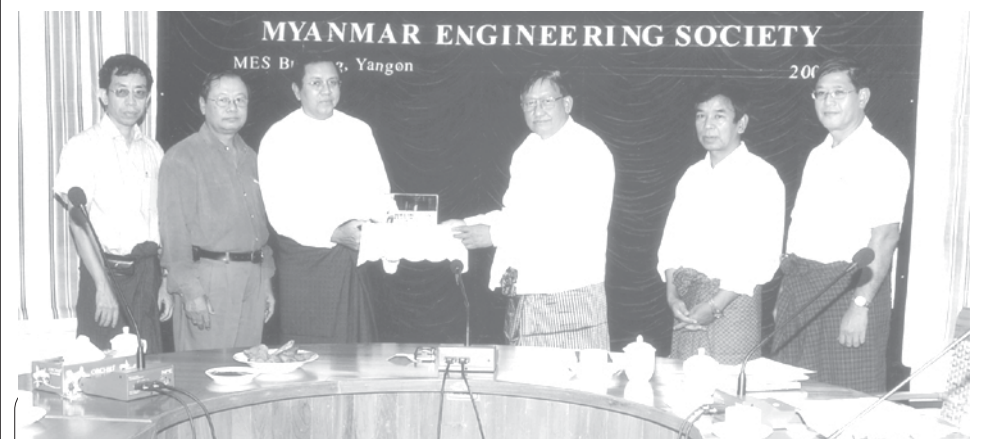
providing rice ration in the situation when natural disaster occur in ASEAN countries, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan.

MNA



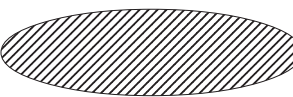
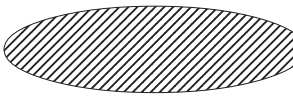
Director-General U Win Kyi presents bags of rice to Daniseik village PDC Chairman.

MNA



Old civil engineering students present cash donation to responsible persons of MES. —NLM




**Commander-in-Chief
of Defence Services
Senior General Than
Shwe meets three
outstanding cadets
and their parents.**
 MNA


Future Tatmadaw depends upon soldiers, who possess...

(from page 1)
everyone of you should be a model leading the life of a good soldier, and constantly striving for the betterment of your unit. As Tatmadaw is a firmly established organization, unit members should carry out their duties with team spirit in building unity within the Tatmadaw in taking the leadership role.

Comrades,

With the rapid advancement and progress in science and technology in the world today, we need a modern Tatmadaw for the total defence of the nation.

In building a modern Tatmadaw, all of you military engineers must perform duty vigorously. Nowadays, in modern warfare, advanced weaponry with pin-point accuracy, vehicles, armoury are being used together with the

combination of military sciences such as Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C-4), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and Military Strategy. In Science and Technology, we have come to the stage 'invent and utilize' from 'produce and make use', thus in order to handle them skillfully you all must study continuously. Moreover, all of you need to put all out effort to make innovations to become inventors yourselves. You all should believe that the future Tatmadaw depends upon you soldiers, who possess the patriotism, perseverance, diligence, endeavour and efforts of the intellectuals and the intelligentsia.

Comrades,

You all may be fully aware that today, countries

that possess highly advanced technology are interfering in the sovereignty of countries that have lower capacity. Moreover, it is clearly visible all-over the world that natural resources from under-developed countries are being exploited by various ways and means. Our country, basically is, endowed with plentiful of natural resources. In striving to build the country, rapid progress can be achieved if we can produce with modern tech-



In striving to build the country, rapid progress can be achieved if we can produce with modern technology without depending on others.

nology without depending on others. Since natural resources can be exhausted one day, we must acquire industrial technology by ourselves for the survival of mankind. Thus, in building a modern developed nation, we have laid down and implemented the Four Economic Objectives.

Since the industrial sector is mainly based on human resources, it is well known to all comrades that priority has been given to the education sector to bring up human resources in all regions of the country. Because of evil legacy of the colonialists, our country lagged behind in development of technology and I would, therefore, like to insist all of you to try your best to build our country to become a modern one which is able to keep abreast of the world.

Comrades,

Different national races have been residing together in our country since time immemorial. Even though they are enjoying different cultures in different places, they have similarities in having loving-kindness, simplicity, nationalism, helpfulness,

tolerance and the spirit of forgiveness. The basic foundation for the perpetuity of sovereignty of the nation where different national races are residing is national unity.

While taking the responsibilities of the State, the Tatmadaw, based on the historical experiences, laid down the national policy of "Our Three Main National Causes", and the 12 political, economic and social objectives have been implemented. As we have been implementing these objectives with the genuine "cetana" (goodwill), national unity has been regained throughout the country that has never been achieved before under any previous time. Consequently, regional development projects have been implemented with momentum.

As you are going to serve throughout the country time and again, you are required to strictly abide by the codes of conduct of the Tatmadawmen in order to gain the trust and confidence of the local people. Apart from that, it is also required to obey the dos and don'ts of the region.

(See page 9)



Dignitaries seen at graduation parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. —MNA

Future Tatmadaw depends upon soldiers, who possess...

(from page 8)

I wish to urge you to join hands with the local national brethren in implementation of the regional development projects and build a solidified and strengthened national unity.

Comrades,

Finally, I would like to urge you that in accordance with the motto of DSTA's Alma Mater "Technology for Military Might", it is incumbent upon all of you to try to establish yourselves as technocrats and to utilize effectively your know-how and ability in building a modern Tatmadaw. In striving to build an industrial nation, you all, to be a trusted technocrat, will have to study constantly the subjects on military science and technology that are advancing. I have a word that, all of you, wherever your assigned post may be, in achieving a firm and strong national solidarity must join hands with the local brethren in projects for their development. With this, I conclude my speech.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe takes the salute of graduating companies.— MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe presents Award for Excellent Performance in Training to Cadet Kyaw Zeyar Lin. —MNA

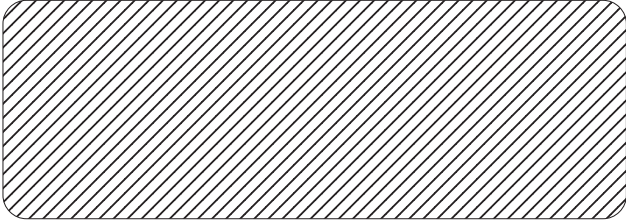


Distinguished guests at graduation parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. —MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe presents Award for Excellent Performance in Study to Cadet Phyo Kyaw Swa Pe.— MNA

Dignitaries seen at graduation parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. (News on Page 16)— MNA



Dignitaries seen at graduation parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. (News on Page 16)—MNA



Energy Minister inspects oil fields

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi looked into Kyauk-kwat, Latpanto oil fields in Myaing Township in Magway Division on 15 December.

The minister inspected installation of imported ZJ 70 L SR II drilling machine to be used in kyauk-kwat test well No.1. The minister urged the staff to try to be proficient in respective fields and called for carrying out work in time.

Out of 4 drilling machines imported , 3 sets of machine have arrived here while the remaining one will be delivered soon and preparations for drilling works are in progress.

The minister also looked into LPG plant in Magway Division.

MNA

Free medical treatment provided in Yenangyoung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — Under the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Health, Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Chandhadhika and lay persons and members of social organizations and Yenangyoung Township Association (Yangon), a ceremony to mark the successful completion of providing free health care to patients with eye complaints in Yenangyoung Township and surrounding townships was held at People's Hospital in Yenangyoung Township, Magway on 15 December.

It was attended by Sayadaw Ashin Chandhadhika, Head of Administration Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin

Hsan Nwe, eye specialists of the Ministry of Health, departmental officials, nurses, the medical superintendent of Yenangyoung Township People's Hospital and health staff, responsible persons of Yenangyoung Township Association (Yangon), members of social organizations, wellwishers and townselders.

The eye specialist team comprising 18 doctors, 10 nurses and one health staff from Alcom Co led by Eye Specialist Dr Kan Nyunt and Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe performed eye surgeries.

They provided free health care services to 4507 outpatients and 560 patients with eye complaints and presented glasses to 991 local

people. Sayadaw Ashin Chandhadhika and wellwishers, Yenangyoung Township Association (Yangon), five pharmaceutical companies provided medicines and cost for medical treatments and the medical superintendent of Yenangyoung Township People's Hospital and health staff, social organization members and local people gave helping hands to the eye specialist team.—MNA

Eye specialists providing free medical treatment to patients at Yenangyoung Township People's Hospital.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects installation of imported drilling machine to be used in Kyauk-kwat test well No. 1. —ENERGY



Bomb material found in Ore suspect's home

SALEM, 19 Dec— Authorities found bomb-making material at the rural home of a man accused along with his son of killing two law enforcement officers in an explosion at a bank, according to a court document released on Thursday.

Some of the material found at Bruce Turnidge's home matched that used in the bomb that killed the officers and critically injured a third 12 Dec, the probable cause statement

said. It also said some of the material was found in a nearby stream, with fresh foot and tire tracks leading to it.

The document said the search turned up two tubes of the explosive Tovex, which manufacturer Web sites say is a replacement for dynamite used in mining and excavating. Bruce Turnidge in the past has worked as an excavator.

Other items turned up in a search of Turnidge's

home and shop and the nearby stream were angle iron, sheet metal, metal grating, bolts, wiring and plywood with green spray paint matching the color of a metal box containing the bomb that exploded at the West Coast Bank in Woodburn, the document said. Several of the items matched materials used in the bomb, the document said, but aside from the paint it did not say which items matched.

Internet

Las Vegas gets record Dec snowfall, 3.6 inches

LAS VEGAS, 19 Dec— Flights resumed in and out of Las Vegas, but schools and highways were closed Thursday after a record-setting snowfall coated marquees on the Strip, weighed down palm trees and blanketed surrounding mountain areas. The city awoke to clear weather after a storm that left 3.6 inches at McCarran International Airport. It was biggest December snowfall on record there, and the worst for any month since a 7 1/2-inch

accumulation in January 1979, forecasters said.

The storm Wednesday and early Thursday also dumped snow or rain and snarled travel in other parts of Nevada, much of southern California and parts of northern Arizona.

"It looks like Whoville, all snowy, but with less joy and more extreme misery," said Calen Weiss, 19, who was stuck Wednesday when snow in the Cajon Pass east of Los Angeles disrupted travel on Interstate 15.

Cajon Pass and another leg of Interstate 15 near the Nevada line both reopened by midday Thursday, while Interstate 5, the major route between Northern and Southern California, partially reopened. In Washington state, Seattle got a rare 4-inch accumulation, and the 19.4 inches of snow that piled up at Spokane International Airport smashed the 24-hour record total of 13 inches set in 1950. And snow continued to fall.

Internet

Japan launches first solar cargo ship

TOKYO, 19 Dec— The world's first cargo ship partly propelled by solar power took to the seas on Friday in Japan, aiming to cut fuel costs and carbon emissions when auto-makers export their products.

Auriga Leader, a freighter developed by shipping line Nippon Yusen KK and oil distributor Nippon Oil Corp, took off from a shipyard in the western city of Kobe, officials of the two firms said.

The huge freighter capable of carrying 6,400 automobiles is equipped with 328 solar panels at a



The Toyota Vehicle Distribution Centre at the Port of Long Beach.—INTERNET

cost of 150 million yen (1.68 million dollars), the officials said.

The ship will initially transport vehicles being sent for sale overseas by Japan's top automaker

Toyota Motor Corp. The project was conceived before the global economic crisis, which has forced automakers to drastically cut production as sales dwindle.—Internet

First coal mine in Bangladesh built by Chinese highly lauded by both sides

DHAKA, 19 Dec— The first coal mine in Bangladesh built by the Chinese was highly lauded by both sides saying it is a model of successful cooperation between the two countries.

Balarpukulia Coal Mine, situated in north-western Bangladesh, is the first and the only coal mine

in the country.

The coal mine construction project agreement was signed in 1994 between China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC) and Petrobangla, the national oil, gas and mineral company of Bangladesh.

The construction started in 1996 and finished in 2005.

The signing ceremony for closing the construction project agreement was held here recently, marking the formal hand-over of the coal mine to Bangladesh.

Internet

Boy, 4, breaks into Texas store, plays with toys

Police called to a variety store by a burglar alarm overnight found a toddler inside, playing with the toys. Police said store surveillance video showed the unidentified boy trying to open one of the front doors to a Family Dollar store, only to find it locked. But the second door was unlocked and the child went inside.

That triggered the silent alarm.

Detective Randy Stevens said the child apparently unlocked a door at his nearby home, got out, then crossed a multilane street to reach the store.

A canvass of the neighborhood turned up a family member searching for the child.

CPS spokeswoman Shari Pulliam said Child Protective Services claimed oversight of a 4-year-old boy during a review of the incident. The boy will be allowed to stay with other relatives, not the parents, during the CPS review period.

Man accused of stealing fridge with urine samples

Authorities say a man was arrested for stealing a small refrigerator from a probation office used to store urine samples, including his own. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office said a 26-year-old man stole the fridge after testing positive for drug use. Police said he went to the office Sunday, shot out a window to get inside and removed the locked refrigerator.

Probation officers gave investigators a list of names of those whose drug samples were stored in the stolen fridge. Investigators tracked down the suspect at his home where they found shards of glass with blood on them.

The fridge is still missing, but the man was being held at the Alachua County jail. He's charged with arson, destroying evidence, burglary and larceny.



Sydney Olympics synchronized swimming silver medalist Miho Takeda (C) and swimmers perform in the water during a preview of the Muscle Musical at a Tokyo theater.



Vasan, a baby Tapir, explores with its mother Sayang the enclosure at Edinburg Zoo, Scotland. The birth or Vasan is a special event as it is the first time a Malayan Tapir has been born at the zoo and is also the first baby for this particular adult Tapir. Tapirs are hoofed mammals and are related to rhinos and horses.

Artist Jano Yang performs with soap bubbles in the 'Europapark' leisure park in Rust, southern Germany. A new "science house", which explains natural sciences to children, opens in Rust this spring.

NEWS ALBUM

Another Florida man accused of sandwich assault

Police said a Port St Lucie man was arrested for throwing a sandwich at his girlfriend, the second food attack that sent a man to jail in about a month. According to a police report released Monday, the 20-year-old man threw the sandwich at his girlfriend's face during an argument about auto insurance and then hit her head with his fist.

The man admitted to throwing the food but not hitting her. He was arrested Friday and faces a battery charge.

Last month, another man was arrested on a battery charge for hitting his girlfriend with a sandwich, knocking her glasses off and nearly causing a traffic crash.

Police reports did not what type of sandwich was used in either attack.



**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (121N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (121N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Moroccan jailed over
Madrid bombs**

RABAT, 19 Dec — A Moroccan man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for his part in the Madrid train bombings of 2004.

Abdelilah Ahriz was found guilty of being part of the criminal group that carried out the attack and of raising money for terrorist activities.

He denied the charges and his lawyer said he would appeal.

Nearly 200 people were killed and more than 1,800 injured in the commuter train bombings, which were carried out by a group linked to al-Qaeda.

Ahriz is the latest Moroccan to receive a heavy prison sentence for playing a role in the Madrid bombings.

Two weeks ago another Moroccan received a 10-year sentence over the attack.—Internet



Australian Andrew Hoods, 36, arrives at Bangkok's Criminal Court on 19 Dec, 2008. Hoods was arrested at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi international airport on Wednesday with 3kg of heroin strapped to his body.—INTERNET

Donate Blood

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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PIAGET

Reg. No. 5592/1996

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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Richemont
International SA
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 20 December 2008

A worker adjust a gas pump for gasoline price changes at a gas station in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 19 Dec, 2008.
INTERNET

China-EU joint work on biodiversity protection bears fruit

BEIJING, 19 Dec—The European Commission (EC) Delegation to China and the EU-China Biodiversity Conservation Program (ECBP) held a "Biodiversity Evening" here on Thursday to launch a book on biological diversity across China.

"Green Gold of China" has 500 images of the living situation of wild animals and plants. It covers the economic significance of protecting biological diversity.

Serge Abou, Ambassador of the EC

Delegation to China, said: "China has seen environmental deterioration and could learn from the experience of Europe, which also neglected biodiversity protection years ago."

"Conserving biodiversity is a fundamental part of development," he said. "China's exceptional biodiversity makes it even more relevant."

John Mackinnon, co-author of the book and director of the Visibility and Awareness Compo-

nent of ECBP, said: "Whether China can save its rare species and their natural habitats depends on the public's awareness of protection and their resolution to take action."

Wang Haibin, another co-author and a former State Forestry Administration employee on animal protection, said: "We hope this book not only helps adults become more aware of biodiversity protection, but also their children."

Internet



Australian Navy to rescue stricken French sailor

SYDNEY, 19 Dec—An Australian Navy ship is sailing into the Southern Ocean on Friday to rescue a stricken French round-the-world sailor who broke his leg when his yacht hit a large wave.

The HMAS Arunta frigate may take three days to reach 34-year-old Yann Elies on his 60-foot yacht, which is about 900 nautical miles south of Perth on Australia's west coast.

"But he's in a pretty dire situation with a broken leg and onboard a yacht by himself in the middle of the Southern Ocean," Stephen Langford, a doctor, told local radio from the Arunta.

Elies is competing in the Vendee Globe round-the-world solo yacht race. His yacht Generali was hit by a large wave on Thursday night as he changed sails, throwing him against the boat and breaking his thigh-bone.—Internet

Nicole Buffett, granddaughter of the world's richest man,

Warren Buffett, cut off

SYDNEY, 19 Dec—When your grandfather's the world's richest man, you'd hardly expect to have to worry about paying the bills.

But Nicole Buffett, the dreadlocked granddaughter of the notoriously frugal Nebraska mega-billionaire Warren Buffett, has lifted the veil on just how tough the so-called Oracle of Omaha makes life for his family.

In an interview published yesterday, the 32-year-old artist reveals that she has been financially cut off by her grandfather and lives on the money she makes selling her paintings.

In part because of her famous surname, she has made about \$US40,000 (\$57,000) in sales this year from her modest base in the hippie enclave of Berkeley, outside San Francisco.—Internet

Hamas declares end to ceasefire with Israel in Gaza

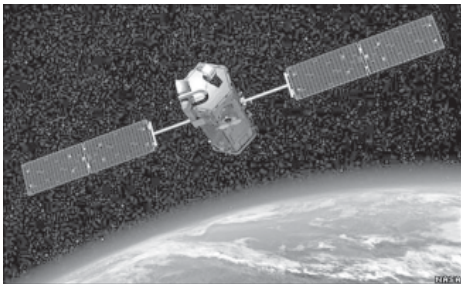
GAZA, 19 Dec — Hamas on Thursday declared an end to a six-month-old Egyptian-brokered cease-fire with Israel in the Gaza Strip, raising the prospect of an escalation in cross-border fighting.

"The calm is over," Hamas official Ayman Taha said in an announcement after concluding talks with Palestinian factions in the coastal enclave controlled by the Islamist group.

He said the cease-fire, which Hamas says was scheduled to expire on 19 December, would not be renewed "because the enemy did not abide by its obligations" to ease a crippling blockade of the Gaza Strip and halt all attacks.

Hamas stopped short of threatening an immediate escalation against Israel, which had hoped to extend the truce and appears wary of a confrontation that could cause heavy casualties on both sides.—Internet

NASA set to launch 'CO2 hunter'



The US space agency is set to launch a satellite that can map in detail where carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere. —INTERNET

HOUSTON, 19 Dec — The US space agency is set to launch a satellite that can map in detail where carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere.

NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) will pinpoint the key locations on the Earth's surface where CO2 is being emitted and absorbed.

CO2 from human activities is thought to be driving climate changes, but important facts about its movement through the atmosphere remain elusive.

The agency believes the technology

on OCO can end some of the mysteries.

Dr Crisp has been presenting details of the mission here at the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Fall Meeting.

As he did so, OCO's launch on a Taurus XL rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California was booked for 23 February. NASA already has a CO2 detection instrument on its Aqua satellite but this looks at the greenhouse gas some five to 10km above the surface.

OCO, on the other hand, will detail the concentration of carbon dioxide close to the ground where its warming effect is most keenly felt.

The observatory will be engaged in what amounts to carbon accountancy. Its fortnightly global maps of CO2 concentration will help the mission team work out where the gas is entering the atmosphere and where it is being absorbed by land plants and the oceans.

Scientists have calculated that nature cycles about 330 billion tonnes of carbon every year.

Internet

Secret sketches a da Vinci mystery

PARIS, 19 Dec — Drawings on the back of a Leonardo da Vinci painting may have been sketched by the Italian Renaissance artist, but only more tests by museum experts will tell.

The Department of Paintings at the Louvre Museum in Paris and restoration and research experts from the Museums of France discovered the images this year on the back of the painting "The Virgin and Child with St Anne," the Louvre said in a news release Thursday.

The style of the sketches resembles that of da Vinci, but the experts said closer examinations must be done to confirm they are his.

After the art experts began studying the circa 1500 painting, an oil on wood, a conservator from the Paintings Department discovered two barely visible drawings on the back of it — a horse's head and a partial skull.

Closer scrutiny also revealed another sketch showing the infant Jesus with a lamb.



Experts from the Louvre are carrying out tests on the painting. —INTERNET

The drawings, almost impossible to see with the human eye, were photographed with an infrared reflectographic camera, to reveal the underdrawings.

The technique intensifies the degree of absorption of certain pigments, such as those that are carbon-based, which was the preferred material used for preparatory drawings during da Vinci's era.

According to the experts, drawings on the back of paintings is "extremely rare," and none have been found so far that can be attributed to da Vinci. —Internet

Tumour in baby's brain contained a foot

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — A tumour removed from a baby's brain contained a foot and other partially formed body parts, a US paediatric neurosurgeon says. Dr Paul Grabb said Sam Esquibel had a microscopic tumour that was identified after an MRI scan.

He said he discovered a nearly perfect foot, the formation of another foot, a hand and a thigh which removing the tumour, the *Associated Press* reported. "It looked like the breach delivery of a baby,



Newborn ... the surgeon who operated on Sam Esquibel said the tumour containing a foot was "unheard of." —INTERNET

coming out of the brain," Dr Grabb said.

To find a perfectly formed structure (like this) is extremely unique, unusual,

borderline, unheard of." Dr Grabb said the growth may have been a type of congenital brain tumour, or the start of a twin forming within another. "But such cases rarely occur in the brain," Dr Grabb said. Manual and Tiffnie Esquibel said their son, only three days old when the October 3 operation took place, would have monthly blood tests to check for signs of cancer or regrowth, the *Associated Press* reported.

Internet

BA and Qantas scrap merger talks



BA and Qantas failed to resolve their differences. —INTERNET

SYDNEY, 19 Dec — British Airways and Qantas have ended talks after failing to reach a deal on a potential \$6.4bn (£4.1bn) merger.

Earlier this month the two airlines had said they were in talks about joining forces through a dual-listed company. In a joint statement the airlines said

that despite the "potential longer term benefits" they had "not been able to come to an agreement".

The two said they would continue to co-operate on their joint business between Australia and the UK. Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce had warned last week that the merger faced major hur-

dles and would only go ahead if Qantas could secure major revenue and cost benefits. He also said he regretted the fact that news of the talks had become public knowledge.

A tie-up between BA and Qantas faced several challenges, particularly over how ownership of the combined business would be divided between the two carriers.

The idea was for the two airlines to come together as a dual-listed company - in both the UK and Australia.

BA said in a statement on Thursday that it would not agree to Qantas owning more than 50% of the combined firm - even though Qantas is currently the larger company by market value. —Internet



One report said the bombs were packed with nails. —INTERNET

South Philippines blasts kill two

ILIGAN, 19 Dec — Two people have died in twin explosions at shops in the city of Iligan in the southern Philippines.

At least 47 people were injured — two critically — in the blasts, which went off minutes apart in two shops packed with Christmas shoppers.

Police have blamed "terrorists" for the bombs,

and Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Iligan is on the island of Mindanao, which has an active Muslim insurgency. There have been sporadic clashes between government troops and rebels fighting for self rule since August, when a court blocked a land deal

aimed at ending years of fighting.

The bombs appeared to be home-made, and one report said they were packed with nails.

They were placed at baggage counters close to the entrance of both stores where customers check their bags before shopping, police said.

Internet

SPORTS

Brazilian Gilberto on the way out at Tottenham

LONDON, 19 Dec — Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp revealed Brazilian Gilberto's time at White Hart Lane was about to be over following their 2-2 draw against Spartak Moscow in the UEFA Cup.

The result meant Spurs go into Friday's draw for the two-leg, round of 32 matches scheduled for next February.

It was Gilberto's error which conceded the first goal for Spartak though strikes by Luka Modric and Tom Huddlestone earned the north Londoners the draw they needed to progress.

"He (Gilberto) was quite happy to come off," Redknapp said. "There's



Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp, seen here, revealed Brazilian Gilberto's time at White Hart Lane was about to be over following their 2-2 draw against Spartak Moscow in the UEFA Cup.—INTERNET

not really a way back for him here. The boy doesn't want to play here. He's a nice guy but just doesn't feel confident playing here."—*Internet*

Man City's Robinho doubt for West Brom



Manchester City's star Brazilian striker Robinho.

LONDON, 19 Dec — Manchester City's star Brazilian striker Robinho is a doubt to play West Brom in Sunday's Premiership fixture after injuring his ankle in the 3-1 UEFA Cup defeat by Racing Santander.

The former Real Madrid front man was hampered by the injury when he was surprisingly named in the starting eleven by manager Mark Hughes though City had already qualified for next year's round of 32 knockout stage.

Hughes said: "Robinho was not able to continue so he is a big doubt for the weekend. It is his ankle again. We are staying here overnight so we will check everyone in the morning.

"He has made a great impression on everyone in

Manchester, scoring eight goals in the Premier League. We are delighted with his impact.

"In the last three games he has been struggling with an injury and that was a concern to him tonight. We are pleased with what he has produced."

Even though City's campaign in the group stages ended in disappointment, they advance to the knockout stages in top spot. That means they will face a third-placed side in one of the other groups when the draw is made on Friday.—*Internet*

De Ceglie signs Juve contract extension



Young midfielder Paolo De Ceglie, seen here in November 2008, has signed a contract extension at Juventus until 2013, the club said on Thursday.—INTERNET

ROME, 19 Dec — Young midfielder Paolo De Ceglie has signed a contract extension at Juventus until 2013, the club said on Thursday.

While not a first team regular, the 22-year-old, who spent last season on loan at Siena, has made seven starts and eight substitute appearances this season and provided the cross for one of Amauri's goals against AC Milan last weekend.

"This extension is an

important step in my career and the result of many years of sacrifice," said De Ceglie.

Internet

Ronaldo says I'm happy at United

YOKOHAMA, 19 Dec — Cristiano Ronaldo insists he is "very happy" at Manchester United after reports linking him with a move to Real Madrid at the end of the season infuriated Sir Alex Ferguson.

Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* reported that the two clubs had a gentleman's agreement to transfer Ronaldo to the Bernabeu next summer following a bitter tug-of-war for him this year.

"I don't care what people are saying," the Portuguese star, who has not hidden his desire to play in Spain one day, told reporters here, where Manchester United are playing in the Club World Cup.

Internet



Cristiano Ronaldo, seen here, insists he is "very happy" at Manchester United after reports linking him with a move to Real Madrid at the end of the season infuriated Sir Alex Ferguson.—INTERNET

Furyk shakes off rust at Woods' World Challenge

THOUSAND OAKS, 19 Dec — In what amounts to a one-week break from his four-month vacation, Jim Furyk surprised himself on Thursday with a 4-under 68 that gave him a two-shot lead after the first round of the Chevron World Challenge.

Furyk has not played a competitive round since winning the PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Bermuda on 15 Oct. After this week, he won't play again until beginning his 2009 season at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

"The goal was obviously to come in and play well and try to win the golf tournament," Furyk said, "but as little as I've been playing, I wanted to



Jim Furyk tees off on the third hole during the first round of the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament.—INTERNET

just kind of get my feet wet and little by little, chip away and try to put a good round together."

The entire 16-man field got its feet wet at Sherwood Country Club, which was soggy from a week of cold rain.—*Internet*

Fred asks for a termination of his Lyon contract

PARIS, 19 Dec — Lyon's Brazil international striker Fred has told club president Jean-Michel Aulas to terminate his contract which runs till June next year, the player told French radio on Thursday.

Fred, who has had several injuries during the past year, said he wanted to leave the seven-time French league champions because of lack of first team action.

"As I am not playing, I asked the president to terminate my contract," Fred told RTL radio station. "My aim is to play in the 2010 World Cup. At club level I want to play, to score goals and I think that is difficult here at Lyon.

"When I come on with 20 to 15 minutes to go, that is not enough time to



Lyon's Brazil international striker Fred.

express myself at 100 percent and I cannot give my all. Because of that I want to leave." Fred said he had already told Aulas and Lyon coach Claude Puel that he would not be extending his contract. "Even if I got very good terms financially, money is not everything in life and I need to play football which gives me so much pleasure."—*Internet*

Kinnear optimistic Owen will stay in Magpies' nest

LONDON, 19 Dec — Newcastle United manager Joe Kinnear is increasingly confident Michael Owen will stay at St James' Park after holding contract talks with the England striker.

Owen's current 103,000 pounds-a-week (153,969 dollars) deal expires at the end of the current season.

Kinnear said on Thursday that Owen had been

offered a new three-year contract and that, having initially been downbeat about holding onto the former Liverpool and Real Madrid forward, he was optimistic of keeping his highly-prized asset.

"I spent about an hour with him a couple of days ago," former Wimbledon manager Kinnear, 61, said on Thursday.

Internet

Gamba coach rues missed opportunities

YOKOHAMA, 19 Dec — Gamba Osaka coach Akira Nishino was left rue missed opportunities in their 5-3 loss to Manchester United at the Club World Cup, and he made clear he wasn't satisfied.

"People told me it was an exciting game, but for me, it's not exciting at all. When the teams score goals, it's

exciting for the spectators. I accept it if the score was reversed," he said of their semi-final on Thursday.

Nishino guided Japan to a historic victory over powerhouse Brazil in the Atlanta Olympics, the so-called "miracle in Miami," but his tactics of tight defence and counterattacks were criticized as boring.—*Internet*

Manchester United defender Nemanja Vidic (2nd right) heads the ball to score as Japanese club team Gamba Osaka goalkeeper Yosuke Fujigaya (2nd left) watches during the semi-final match of the FIFA Club World Cup 2008 in Yokohama.—INTERNET



ဦးသိန်းထွဋ်

အသက်(၅၁)နှစ်

စာတည်းမှူးချုပ်

မြန်မာ့သတင်းစဉ်(နိုင်ငံခြား)

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ကြည့်မြင်တိုင်မြို့နယ်၊ အောက်ကြည့်မြင်တိုင်လမ်းနေ (ဦးကျော်ငြိမ်း-ဒေါ်စောရီ) တို့၏သား၊ ဒေါ်အေးအေးရီ၊ ဒေါ်ခင်ရီတို့၏တူသား၊ ဒေါ်ယဉ်ယဉ်ကြည်၊ ဦးမြင့်မော် (MD, Shwe Thiri Transport Services Co., Ltd. Chairman MCBTBA) ဒေါ်သင်းသင်းဆွေ၊ ဦးကျော်လင်း (Director, Shwe Thiri Transport Services Co., Ltd.) တို့၏ညီ/မောင် ဦးသိန်းထွဋ်သည် ၁၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၈(သောကြာနေ့) နံနက် ၆ နာရီတွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါ၍ ၂၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၈ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) မွန်းတည့် ၁၂ နာရီတွင် ရေဝေးသုသာန်၌ မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း။

(နေအိမ်မှကားများ နံနက် ၁၀း၃၀ နာရီတွင် ထွက်ပါမည်။) ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

Three Russian warships visit Cold War ally Cuba

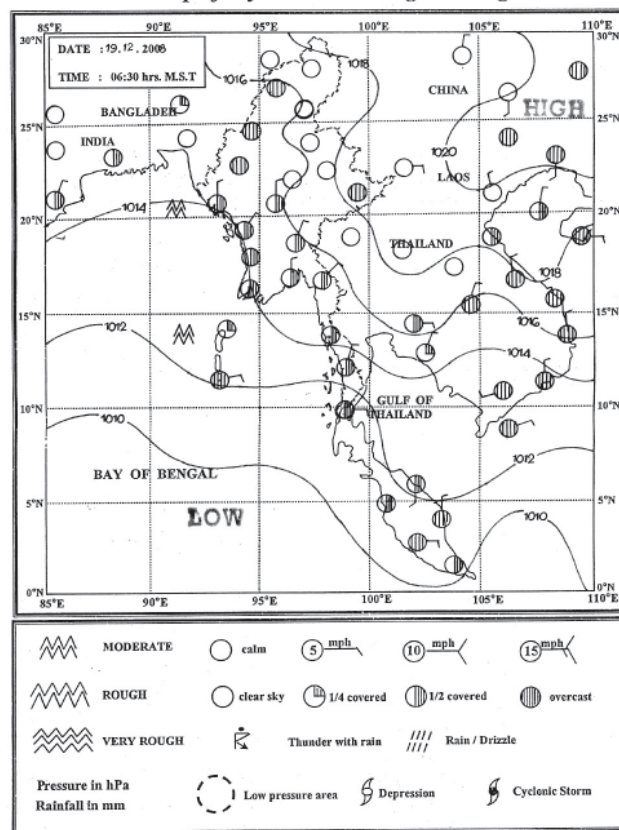
HAVANA, 19 Dec—A Russian anti-submarine destroyer and two logistical warships are entering waters off Cuba in a nonmilitary visit that's the first of its kind since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Admiral Chabanenko vessel is unfurling

black plumes of smoke as it chugs toward Havana Bay, flanked by two smaller boats. Closer to shore, a barge that routinely ferries food from the United States to the communist-run island is apparently moving to make room for the Russian boats. Washington's trade embargo allows direct sale of US agricultural products to Cuba. The Russian ships plan to moor on Friday in Havana in a show of increased cooperation between the two countries, though Cuba's government is not commenting.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 19 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Mon State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C) and Loilem (1°C).

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 19-12-2008 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-12-2008 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 18-12-2008 was (8.9) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 19-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (18:30) hours MST on 18-12-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20th December 2008: Weather will be generally fair in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and partly cloudy 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 weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of December 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Divisions, generally fair in Mandalay Division.



A snowboarder heads down a side street and past snowed-in cars in Seattle's Queen Anne neighbourhood during a snow storm on 18 Dec, 2008. The snow was a day late, but it arrived dramatically in Seattle on Thursday, swirling down amid lightning and thunder to snarl traffic and close schools for tens of thousands of students. Heavy snow fell on most of Washington, with the National Weather Service predicting frigid temperatures into next week, along with more snow possible by the weekend.—INTERNET

One dead, 15 injured in bridge collapse

ATLANTA, 19 Dec—One worker is dead and 15 other people injured after a bridge under construction collapsed at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Atlanta Fire Capt Gregory Shinkle says the bridge collapsed just after 9 am Friday. He says scaffolding being used to pour concrete for a new elevated bridge at the garden collapsed. About a dozen ambulances were on the scene at the park in Midtown Atlanta. Shinkle said some injured workers were taken out of the accident area on backboards.—INTERNET



Saturday, 20 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
 5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
- 8:05 am
 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
 7. နားဝင်ပီယံသူ့လက်သံ

- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 9. Musical programme
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am
 3. Yan can cook
- 11:45 am
 4. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:40 pm
 5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ" (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 1:25 pm
 6. ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ (Telematch)
- 2:30 pm
 7. "သာယာရွှေပြည်တို့နေပြည်" (ပြီးငွေစိုး၊ အောင်ရဲလင်း၊ ဇင်ဇင်ဇော်မြင့်၊ မောစို၊ ဗေလုဝ၊ ရှက်တယ်)

- (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်စောမောင်မောင်)
- 2:45 pm
 8. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
 2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:25 pm
 3. Dance of national races
- 4:30 pm
 4. Musical programme
- 4:45 pm
 5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနံပါတ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
- 5:00 pm
 6. Songs to uphold national spirit
- 5:05 pm
 7. "လှေကားသုံးထစ်ဆင်းတဲ့အခါ" (အရိုင်းမင်းသူ၊ အေးသီတာ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်(ဖီးနစ်)]
- 5:15 pm
 8. Games for children

- 5:35 pm
 9. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ
- 5:50 pm
 10. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm
 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 13. အလှူရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 6:50 pm
 14. ပဉ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်
- 7:10 pm
 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:00 pm
 16. News
- 8:05 pm
 17. International news
- 8:10 pm
 18. Weather report
- 8:15 pm
 19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စစ်ရှာဖွေခြင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 8:20 pm
 20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရုပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝ နာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Senior General Than Shwe addresses Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The Graduation Parade of 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 8.30 a.m. today, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present at the parade were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, SPDC Secretary-1 Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects graduating cadet companies of DSTA.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Thant Zaw Oo.—MNA

and Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htaik, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Defence Service Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Maj-Gen Maung Shein, Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, Com-

mander of Coastal Re- gion Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, U Aung Thaung, Maj-Gen Saw Tun, U Thaung, Col Zaw Min, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Dr Chan Nyein and Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Brig-Gen Thoe Htein, Directors Maj-Gen Mya Win, Maj-Gen Tin Soe, Brig-Gen Kyaw Nyunt, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Maj-Gen Khin

Maung Tint, Brig-Gen Nyan Tun, Maj-Gen Than Htay, Maj-Gen Sein Lin, Maj-Gen Aye Myint, senior military officers, PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, departmental officials, Commandant of the academy Brig-Gen Hsan Oo, officials, distinguished guests and parents and relatives of the graduate cadets.

Senior General Than Shwe took the salute of the cadet companies.

The Senior General inspected the graduating companies.

The cadet companies marched past the Com-

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Senior General presented Best Cadet Award to Cadet Thant Zaw Oo, Award for Excellent Performance in Training to Cadet Kyaw Zeyar Lin and Award for Excellent Performance in Study to Cadet Phyto Kyaw Swa Pe.

After delivering a speech to the cadet companies, the Senior-General left the parade ground.

After the graduation parade, Senior General Than Shwe received the three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of DSTA and spoke words of encouragement to them.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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