



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Senior General Than Shwe receives Vice President of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received the visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Vice President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman here at 11:45 am today.

Present together with Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for

Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to the PRC U Thein Lwin and departmental heads. Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo and embassy staff.

The two sides exchanged views on fortifying bilateral friendly relations, cooperation for mutual interest, and matters to which the two neighbouring countries should pay serious attention.

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Senior General Than Shwe shaking hands with Vice President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.

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Senior General Than Shwe receives Chinese goodwill delegation led by Vice President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.—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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 21 December, 2009

Improve traditional Myanmar medicine to reach international level

Myanmar, a land resource-rich country, has high coverage of forests and vegetation in many regions. In the nation's large woodlands are a wide variety of species of invaluable, rare herbs, from which traditional medicines can be manufactured to improve the health of human beings.

Being compounded of herbs, tubers and bulbs that are available in many regions across the nation, traditional Myanmar medicines have only few side effects and are good for the health of the people.

Today, there has been a great change in lifestyles and cooking methods around the world, thus culminating in many new diseases. In some cases, traditional medicines are more effective than western ones.

Combined therapies of traditional and modern medicines can make such diseases as tuberculosis, malaria, diabetes, diarrhea, and dysentery go away.

Originally, traditional medicines are potent with fewer side effects. So, some countries have turned to research on traditional medicine to produce traditional medicines on a broader scale in place of modern drugs.

So, all are to maintain methods of compounding effective traditional medicines and to conserve the sources of herbs and medicinal components. And those responsible are to improve the traditional Myanmar medicine and nurture the youth for greater development of human resources for ensuring flourishing of traditional medicine.

Today, many other countries have recognized the effectiveness of traditional Myanmar medicines. Therefore, traditional Myanmar medicines will establish a foothold in the international drug market if traditional Myanmar medicines, a legacy left by our forefathers, are produced with modern methods of the international standard.

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

3rd week December mass walk held in Yangon

Commander Maj-Gen Win Myint taking part in mass walk together with people.
MNA



YANGON, 20 Dec—The third week December mass walk was held at the Aung San Stadium, here, yesterday morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin with people took part in the activity.

The commander, the mayor, division level departmental, personnel, students, members of social organizations and locals started to walk from Aung San Stadium and took physical exercises together.

After that, the commander and the mayor ar-

rived at office of Thakayta Township Development Affairs Committee where they heard reports on progress in keeping environment clean by the officials.

They gave necessary instructions to them and inspected preventive measures against dengue fever, and the drainage system.

The commander then met with personnel who will discharge their duties in Cocogyun Township, and passengers at the passenger lounge of Myanmar Five Star Line in Thakayta Township and provided cash assistance to the personnel.

MNA

UMFCCI President meets Thai delegation

YANGON, 20 Dec—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin and U Tun Aung, Secretary-General Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint Secretary-General Dr Pwint Hsan, CEC members and executives met a 12-member delegation led by Mr



UMFCCI President U Win Myint meets Mr Sumet Saengnimnual, Governor of Chiang Rai of Thailand and party.—MNA

Sumet Saengnimnual, Governor of Chiang Rai of Thailand, at the headquarters of the federation on 18 December.

They discussed promotion of bilateral trade and businesses, participation of Myanmar entrepreneurs in GMS Trade Fair

& Cultural Show to be held in Chiang Rai of Thailand from 16 to 23 January 2010 and meetings for respective businesses.—MNA

Sales promotion of LUCKY BIRD Group

YANGON, 19 Dec—LUCKY BIRD Group of Companies will launch sale for Toshiba brand Notebooks, projectors and copiers, Remaco brand projection screens and USA brand infocus projector at special price.

Those wishing to enjoy special sale may contact LUCKY BIRD Group of Companies No. 103, Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon (Ph: 248167, 379875, 399011), LUCKY BIRD Group of Companies

Mandalay No. 5, 26th Street between 78th and 79th Streets and LUCKY BIRD Group of Companies Nay Pyi Taw, at the corner of southwest Thabyaygon Market, Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067-414113).

MNA



Laptops and projectors on display at the special sales of Lucky Bird Group of Companies.—MNA

Iran, Iraq seek diplomatic end to border dispute

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec — Teheran and Baghdad pledged on Saturday to pursue a diplomatic solution to a border dispute over accusations that Iranian troops seized an oil well inside Iraq.

The Iranian flag was flying over the disputed oil well in a remote desert area southeast of Baghdad early on Saturday and an

Iranian military tent was pitched nearby.

“We call for calm and for a peaceful solution to this matter, far from any military escalation,” Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh told *Reuters Television* in Baghdad.

Iran, which has oil wells nearby, maintains it owns the well in question. Iran’s Arabic-language al Alam state television channel quoted a military statement as saying: “Iran’s army denied that Iranian troops seized an oil well inside Iraq.”

Oil prices rose on Friday on reports about the commandeered well at

Fakka oilfield in Maysan Province, where border disputes test the two countries’ ties more than 20 years after they ended an eight-year war in which an estimated 1 million people died.

Iraq has demanded an immediate withdrawal of about a dozen Iranian troops it says captured the well, but has tempered its demands with assurances that it is not looking for a fight.

Internet



Stranded passengers wait at London St Pancras Eurostar terminal after lengthy delays inside the tunnel caused by adverse weather conditions in London.—INTERNET

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Dec—British defence officials say a British soldier has died in an explosion in Afghanistan. Officials say the soldier was killed while on foot patrol in volatile Helmand Province. He was from the 2nd Battalion of The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment.

His family was told of his death hours after it occurred this morning. His name has not yet been released. The soldier’s death brings the British military death toll in Afghanistan to 103 for this year.

Internet



A view of the construction site of the stadium of Benguela in September 2009, one of the four stadiums to host the African Nation’s Cup (CAN). One of the four stadiums built for the African Cup of Nations (CAN) in Angola was officially handed over to the public works minister, state news agency ANGOP reported on Saturday.—INTERNET

Eurostar services cancelled after travellers stranded

LONDON, 20 Dec—Eurostar passengers faced more chaos as the company axed its services for Sunday, causing fresh turmoil for train travellers after more than 2,000 spent a night trapped in the Channel Tunnel.

The decision followed dramatic scenes overnight into Saturday, when hundreds on the service linking Britain to France spent a desperate night stranded under the sea on the pre-Christmas weekend, one of the busiest of

the year. Angry passengers have accused the train operator of being woefully unprepared to deal with the breakdowns sparked by freezing weather, with one describing the handling of the emergency as “catastrophic.”

The trains began breaking down late Friday, unable to cope with the change in temperature as they moved from the freezing conditions in northeastern France to the warm air in the tunnel.

Internet

Egypt boosts security at Gaza border after firing

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 20 Dec — Egypt is stepping up security on its border with the Gaza Strip after earth moving equipment came under fire from the Palestinian side for three days, a security source said on Saturday.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz said Egypt was installing an underground metal barrier between 20 and 30 meters (70 and 100 feet) deep along the short border strip where Palestinians have dug tunnels to circumvent an Israeli

blockade of Gaza.

Egyptian officials say authorities have been installing steel tubes in the ground at several points on the border, but their purpose has not been specified.

Egypt had stationed about 200 policemen and increased armored vehicle patrols along the length of the border and in areas where excavating is under way, the security source said.

“We have sent new forces from the police to the border with Gaza after repeated shooting from the Palestinian side,” the source told *Reuters*.

Shots had been fired from the Palestinian side of the border at equipment in the area since Thursday, the source said. No injuries were reported.

Internet

An Egyptian soldier stands guard near the border between Egypt and Gaza Strip 19 December, 2009 INTERNET



10 Taleban militants killed in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 20 Dec—Afghan National Army (ANA) backed by NATO-led forces eliminated 10 Taleban militants during a cleanup operation in Taleban’s former stronghold Helmand Province, spokesman for local administration said on Saturday.

“During the joint operation launched on Friday in west of provincial capital Lashkargah, 10 rebels have been killed and six others got injured,” Daud Ahmadi told *Xinhua*.

He also stressed that there were no casualties on the troops.—*Xinhua*

Blast rocks Afghan capital, causing panic

KABUL, 20 Dec — A blast rocked Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday, causing panic among the war-weary people.

The blast which shocked the diplomat enclave Wazir Akhbar Khan district and heard in adjoining areas caused panic among war-weary citizens.

However, official with the press department of Interior Ministry who declined to be named told *Xinhua* that a construction company exploded explosive materials in eastern part of the city, but did not identify the firm.

In the post-Taleban country, which is the most mine contaminated nation in the world, de-mining agencies often collect and detonate explosive devices in deserts and isolated areas as part of efforts to clean the country from mines.—*Xinhua*

China's third largest oilfield expects 24% growth in output this year

XI'AN, 20 Dec—China's third largest oilfield, Changqing, is expected to post an annual growth of 24 percent in oil and gas output this year, the company said on Sunday.

By 19 Dec, the oil and gas equivalent production at Changqing had exceeded 30 million tonnes, and the figure would reach 31 million by the

end of this year, or 6 million more than last year, said Peng Xufeng, a company spokesman.

Changqing, a subsidiary of PetroChina, is the country's third largest oilfield, after Daqing and Shengli.

But Peng said he believes Changqing has overtaken Shengli as the second largest oilfield in

China, as the annual oil and gas equivalent production at Shengli is less than 30 million tonnes over recent years.

"We are targeting 50 million tonnes by 2015, thus becoming another 'Daqing'," he said.

Daqing is also a subsidiary of PetroChina, and Shengli is owned by its rival Sinopec.

Changqing is located in north China's Ordos Basin, and the company is headquartered in Xi'an, capital of northwestern Shaanxi Province.

It has a total area of 370,000 square km for exploration, and reports 8.5 billion tonnes of oil resources and 10.7 trillion cubic meters of natural gas.

So far, it has proven more than 2 billion tonnes of oil reserves and 2.7 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves. —Xinhua



A volunteer teaches disabled children to make dumplings, or jiaozi in Chinese, at Xi'an Xinxin Kindergarten in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 19 Dec, 2009. With the advent of winter solstice, over 30 volunteers came to Xi'an Xinxin Kindergarten on Saturday and made dumplings with the disabled children there.—XINHUA

Full repayment of Dubai debt still option

DUBAI, 20 Dec—Dubai, set to ask creditors for a standstill on restructuring some \$22 billion in debt linked to troubled conglomerate Dubai World (DBWLD.UL), may still repay lenders in full, a local newspaper said on Sunday, citing unnamed sources.

The *National* daily said two top Dubai officials, on a confidence-building mission to Britain and the United States in recent days, told financial leaders in London that repaying all bank loans in full "was discussed as a medium-term possibility."

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al Maktoum, head of Dubai's Supreme Fiscal Committee and the uncle of Dubai's ruler, and Mohammed al Shaibani, deputy head of the committee, met officials in London last Thursday before traveling to the US.

"They made clear there were a number of options the government of Dubai saw as feasible and desirable for Dubai World and repayment in full was one of them," the newspaper quoted a person who attended the talks.

Internet



India is grappling with rising food prices.—INTERNET

India food prices hit 10-year high

NEW DELHI, 20 Dec—Food prices in India have risen to a high of nearly 20% over last year, the highest rate in a decade.

The federal Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said the government was planning to import food to ease prices.

A short supply of food due to lower farm produce following drought and floods has led to the

rising prices.

Overall inflation in India has risen to 4.78% in November, up from 1.34% in October. Economists say this could trigger a rise in interest rates.

Correspondents say that the price rises are bound to increase concerns that poorer people in the country may be more exposed to food shortages and malnourishment.

Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee said that the food prices were an "area of concern."

"We have to take appropriate measures to see what best could be done by augmenting the supply through imports," he was quoted as saying by the *Press Trust of India* news agency.

Reports say that despite easing of import restrictions to bolster food supplies, food inflation had soared to nearly 20%.

The prices of pulses, milk, wheat and rice and vegetables like potatoes - have risen sharply.

Potato prices have gone up by 136% and pulses have risen by over 40% over last year.—Internet

EU adopts bigger budget for 2010

LONDON, 20 Dec—The European Parliament has approved a 122.9bn euro (£110bn) EU budget for 2010 nearly half of which is to go to agriculture and natural resources.

It is a 6% increase on the 2009 budget, which was worth 116bn euros.

Next year the EU is due to conduct a major review of the budget. The UK wants to see a cut in farm subsidies.

In 2010 an extra 2.4bn euros will go towards economic recovery projects, with the energy sector and broadband development the priorities.

Internet

S Korea, China agree 400-million-dollar auto deal

SEOUL, 20 Dec—South Korea's top automaker Hyundai Motor said on Sunday it and China's Baotou Bei Ben Heavy-Duty Truck had agreed to launch a 400-million-dollar joint venture in China next year.

The evenly-invested joint venture will take over the Chinese firm's large truck manufacturing sector under the deal signed in Seoul on Saturday, it said.

The combined unit will increase production from the current 40,000 units a year to 100,000 units a year by 2014, Hyundai Motor said in a statement.

Hyundai said the deal would help it better meet customers' demand in the world's largest and fastest-growing market for

commercial vehicles. "Entering China's commercial vehicle market is essential in establishing Hyundai's reputation as the most comprehensive car manufacturer in the world's largest auto market," said Hyundai Motor Vice Chairman Choi Han-Young.—Internet

South Korea's top automaker Hyundai Motor said on Sunday it and China's Baotou Bei Ben Heavy-Duty Truck had agreed to launch a 400-million-dollar joint venture in China next year.—INTERNET



“One country, two systems” successful in Macao

MACAO, 20 Dec— President Hu Jintao said on Sunday the practice of “one country, two systems” was successful in Macao, vowing to stick to the “correct road.”

In a meeting with representatives of different circles in Macao, Hu said the development and progress since Macao’s return to the motherland ten years ago showed

Macao compatriots had the wisdom and ability to manage and develop Macao.

Hu attributed Macao’s development to concerted efforts made by all the Macao people.

He said he hoped the Macao people would make joint efforts to support the chief executive and government of the Special Administrative

Region, push forward the development of local economy, and maintain social harmony and stability.—Xinhua

Chinese President Hu Jintao shakes hands with representatives from various walks of life in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) of south China on 20 Dec, 2009.

XINHUA



Some members of China’s expedition team sets out from the Zhongshan station, Antarctica, on 18 Dec, 2009. China’s expedition team sent two teams to the inland of Antarctica on Friday. One team headed to China’s Kunlun Station, the other one went to the Grove Mountains.—XINHUA

Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan to establish common economic space before 2012

ALMATY, 20 Dec— The leaders of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan announced on Saturday that a common economic space would be established among the three countries before 2012 to further enhance cooperation.

“We will further deepen the process of in-

tegration under the framework of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC). A common economic space will be established before 1 Jan, 2012,” said Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev in a

joint statement at an informal meeting of leaders from ex-Soviet nations held here. On 27 Nov, the three leaders signed a package of documents setting up a single customs union effective from 1 Jan, 2010 in a bid to seek joint accession to the World Trade Organization.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Russia supports China-Central Asia pipeline project

ALMATY, 20 Dec— Russia supports the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline project, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov said here on Saturday.

Shuvalov, who was accompanying President

Dmitry Medvedev for an informal meeting of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders, said that Russia is working with some partners to expand the energy delivery system itself. With the energy infrastructure in this region more diversi-

fied and improved, he said, CIS countries will make greater contribution to global energy security.

The China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline stretches 1,833 km from the Turkmen-Uzbek border to China’s northwest region of Xinjiang, crossing central Uzbekistan and southern Kazakhstan. The pipeline was put into operation last week after two years of construction.

Xinhua

Nepal expresses discontentment over Copenhagen climate change conference

KATHMANDU, 20 Dec— Nepal, a Himalayan Kingdom, on Saturday expressed its discontentment over the recently held global meeting on climate change in Copenhagen.

Nepal, having organized campaigns against climate change and its adverse effects on melting Himalayas in national and international arena, termed “15th conference of the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen” a failure to come to a consensus.

“It is highly disappointing that countries which are responsible for climate change are not taking corrective measures even at this last stage,” said Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal on Saturday.

“None of the polluting

countries signed any legally binding agreement to reduce the level of carbon emission, nor is it clear that the how and which mechanism developed countries will support a goal of mobilizing fund to address the needs of developing countries,” Manandhar said talking to Xinhua.

It’s a setback for Nepal in particular and people living in the drainage system of the Himalayas in general, being one of the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change, according to him.

Xinhua

Auto accident kills 65 in central Nigeria state

LAGOS, 20 Dec— Up to 65 people were confirmed killed in an auto accident in central Nigeria’s Kogi state when a truck heavily loaded with fertilizer lost control and ran into a market, local media reported on Sunday.

An eye witness said 38 people were fatally injured and are receiving treatment at the Ayingba Specialist Hospital in Kogi state.

He said the driver of the trailer lost control on the hill of Allo River on Friday evening. Without any form of restraint, the vehicle speed from the hill, destroying and killing motor vehicle occupants.

The fuel in vehicles flattened by the trailer cause fire outbreaks at each and every point where it hit cars, trucks and motorcycles.

The vehicle rammed into the village’s market finally, which was full of people.

The sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Yomi Asaniyan, confirmed the accident.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 19 Dec, 2009 shows the icicle scene at the Hukou Waterfall, northwest China’s Shaanxi Province. Crowds of visitors and photographers came to the Hukou Waterfall to admire the icicle scene recently.—XINHUA

Colombia to build new military base on Venezuelan border

BOGOTA, 20 Dec — Colombia has announced it will build a new military base near its border with Venezuela, in a move likely to further strain its tense ties with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Defence Minister Gabriel Silva said on Friday that the base, located on the Guajira peninsula near the city of Nazaret, would have up to 1,000 troops. Two air battalions would also be

activated at other border areas.

"It is a strategic point from a defence point of view," Silva said.

The 1.5-million-dollar facility, paid for with Colombian tax funds, would also have a care facility for indigenous Wayuu people who live in the area, he added.

Army Commander General Oscar Gonzalez meanwhile announced on Saturday that six air battalions

were being activated, including two on the border with Venezuela.

Tensions between Venezuela and Colombia have been spurred by a US deal with Bogota allowing US forces to run anti-drug operations from Colombian bases.

Venezuela suspended diplomatic relations with Colombia on 28 July in response to the US-Colombian military base deal.

Internet

Lockerbie bomber Megrahi's health deteriorates

TRIPOLI, 20 Dec — The condition of Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi, the Libyan sentenced to life imprisonment for the Lockerbie bombing and repatriated in August, has deteriorated and the cancer that afflicts him has spread through his body, a medical bulletin said early on Sunday.

"A scan has shown a worsening of the disease which has spread more than before," said the bulletin from the Tripoli Medical Centre where Megrahi is being treated for terminal cancer.

The bulletin received by AFP said Megrahi, 57, arrived at the hospital on Saturday coughing and vomiting.

He was also suffering from "secondary effects of the sessions of chemotherapy"

that he has been undergoing, including a weight gain, high blood pressure and sugar in the blood along with muscular fatigue.

"His condition was examined on Saturday by a team of European experts who agreed on the continuation of chemotherapy sessions while also administering other medicaments to treat the disease," the hospital said in its first bulletin released since Megrahi's return in August.—*Internet*



Freed Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi is pictured at a hospital in Tripoli in September 2009. — INTERNET

OPEC expects to hold supply steady

LUANDA, 20 Dec — The OPEC cartel of oil producing countries expects to keep output unchanged when it meets in Luanda next week, Angolan Oil Minister Jose Botelho de Vasconcelos said on Friday. Angola currently holds the presidency of the 12-member group.

"We will keep with the decisions that we have taken in the past on production quotas and leave our goals unchanged," Vacon-celos told Radio Ecclesia about the OPEC meeting set for Tuesday. "If by then the prices are stable at between 75 and 80 dollars, it is likely that the situation will remain as it is," he was also quoted as saying by Angolan business magazine Exame.—*Internet*

Bahamian investigators search for jet wreckage

NASSAU, 20 Dec — Bahamian investigators are searching for more wreckage of a small plane that crashed on the southernmost island of the archipelago.

Two US pilots were the only people aboard the small jet when it crashed on Thursday night in an unpopulated area of Great Inagua shortly after taking off from the Dominican Republic en route to Miami, police inspector Dennis Brown said on Saturday.

The pilots are presumed dead but their bodies have not been found.

Authorities in the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic have declined to disclose the pilots' identities or their hometowns.

Small bits of debris from the *Jet Falcon N-28 RK* were found scattered about 15 miles (24 kilometers) from the remote Bahamian island's only settlement, Matthew Town. Investigators plan to examine a sprawling area of dense vegetation on Sunday, Brown said.—*Internet*



Palestinians enjoy massage before bathing at "Hamam Alshefa", the traditional Turkish bath in the West Bank city of Nablus. The Turkish bath, built about 400 years ago during the Ottoman rule, opens 24 hours a day and has separate days for men and women.

Woman plans to be a graduate, bride on same day

A 34-year-old Florida woman plans to be a graduate and bride on the same day in Iowa. Tricia Giordano said she has always been the kind of person who loves to stay busy. She was scheduled to get her degree on Saturday afternoon at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa. Shortly after that, she planned to head across campus to the chapel and swap her cap and gown for a wedding dress.

Giordano is from Tampa, Fla., and she said it would have been too difficult for her and her fiancé, Rich Munsey, to get all the relatives from different states together.

But the graduation in Iowa seemed to work for everyone. The couple plans to move back to Florida.

6-year-old Malaysian boy sets feat record of pulling car

A new item was added to the Malaysia Book of Records when a six-year-old boy pulled a Mercedes Benz E class car with four people in it for 120 metres.

New Straits Times, a local daily, reported here on Tuesday that T Santosperumal, who weighs only 35 kilograms, pulled an estimated 1,990-kilogram car and "passengers" in less than five minutes.

The boy's feat made him the "youngest to pull a car", as recognized by the Malaysia Book of Records.

Interestingly, Malaysian Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department T Murugiah was one of his "passengers".

The boy was later presented a certificate by Malaysia Book of Records official Josephine Intachat.

US intruder arrested while taking bath

Texas Police arrested a 25-year-old man who was suspected of breaking into an east Texas house when he was taking a bath in of the house, according to media reports.

The incident happened early Sunday morning in a blue-collar neighbourhood of northwest Tyler of Texas.

Local police said they received a call from a resident saying someone had kicked in the front of the house. While en route, officers were advised the resident had left the house but the intruder remained inside.

Big bird gets talon caught in DC Metro escalator

Every so often in the Washington Metro subway system, a foot gets caught in an escalator. Usually, the culprit is a shoe lace or a flip-flop. On Monday, it was a bird's talon. DC fire department spokesman Pete Piringer says rescuers were called to the Benning Road station in northeast Washington shortly after 8 am Monday. A large bird of prey — possibly a hawk or a falcon — had its foot stuck in the escalator.

Metro employees shut off the power, and a passer-by held the bird to keep it from injuring itself more. When firefighters arrived, they removed a portion of the escalator to free the bird.



This undated image provided by the Monterey Bay Aquarium, shows the endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon. As efforts falter to save this largest freshwater fish — a toothless beast left over from the days of dinosaurs — officials hope to stave off extinction by sending more water hurtling down a river so the fish can spawn in the wild.

Man accused of rifle attack after drunk ride

Police arrested a 51-year-old man accused of attacking a relative with a rifle after driving home drunk on a snowmachine. The Tundra Drums reported that Hooper Bay police responded to a complaint of a man shooting a rifle inside a home Saturday night.

Police determined that the man had grabbed the loaded weapon and swung it at one of three people inside the house. Hill then fired a shot into the floor.

NEWS ALBUM



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping inspecting Guard of Honour.
(News on page 16)
MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts luncheon in honour of Chinese goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping at Zeyathiri Beikman here at 12.55 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Thein Lwin and heads of department, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo and officials.

The State orchestra played the national anthems of the two countries.

Before and during the luncheon, vocalists presented variety songs to the accompaniment of the modern music band of Myanma Radio and Television, and artistes from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, with dances including dances to mark China-Myanmar friendly relations.

After the luncheon, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented the photo album of the Chinese goodwill



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts luncheon to Chinese delegation headed by Vice President Mr Xi Jinping at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

delegation's visit to Myanmar to Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping.

Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping presented a flower basket to artistes and cordially greeted them.—MNA

Energy Minister receives Chinese guests



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives President Mr Li Ruogu of the Exim Bank of China.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received President Mr Li Ruogu of the Exim Bank

of the People's Republic of China and party at the Ministry of Energy here at 5 pm yesterday.

The cordially

discussed the matter on reciprocal cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector.

MNA

CONCORDIA to launch special sales programme in Electronics & Lifestyle 2009 Exhibition

YANGON, 20 Dec—CONCORDIA Int'l Co Ltd will exhibit its products in Electronics & Lifestyle 2009 Exhibition to be held from 24 to 27 December at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here.

Fujixerox brand hi-tech photocopiers, colour photocopiers, laser printers, Japan made Topoon brand Differential GPS (RTK), Garmin brand GPS, and hospital and laboratory equipment such as DC-7

(Ultrasound), DP-1100 Plus (Portable Ultrasound), ECG, Omnitest Plus, Complian (Newzealand) will be on display.

During the exhibition, Fujixerox brand photocopiers, laser printers will be on sale at special discount and special programmes like A 4 colour laser printer or A4 multifunction laser fax present for every A 3 photocopier buyer, 7% discount on GPS and 10% discount for departments.

The contact address is Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road during the show, Shwegon Plaza, Bahan Township here, Ph: 544199 and 558170, 951544824, between 77th and 78th Street, Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay, Ph: 02-36478, 09-5067172 and 69303, and No.144, Thiri Yadana Market in Nay Pyi Taw, Ph: 067-420819 and 421362.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets PRC Vice President Mr Xi Jinping

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met the visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping at Zeyathiri Beikman here at 9:50 am today.

Present at the call together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 General Thiha



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping hold discussions in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping view scale model of oil and gas pipeline project (Myanmar section).—MNA

Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National

Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Electric Power .1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein

Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U

Thein Lwin and departmental heads. Together with the goodwill delegation led by Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping were Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo

and embassy staff.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to further improvement of the friendship between the two countries, bilateral cooperation in agriculture, road transport, transportation, energy, electricity and communications sectors, deeper cooperation in the important sectors, cooperation in the regional and international fields and the two countries' stand on global climate change and exchanged their views.

After the meeting, a ceremony to sign bilateral agreements followed, attended by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party and the Chinese Vice President and delegation members.

After the ceremony, officials of the two countries signed 16 MoUs and agreements such as

five agreements on development of trade, economy, transport infrastructures, technological cooperation and purchase of machinery; seven financial agreements, three agreements on hydro-electric power and one agreement on energy sector and oil and natural gas pipeline.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping viewed the scale model of the project of Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline (Myanmar section) to link Kyaukpyu of Myanmar and Yunnan Province of China. Vice General Manager Mr Liao Yongyuan of China National Petroleum Corporation reported on facts about the project.

MNA



Officials of Myanmar and the PRC sign MoU and agreements.—MNA



Delegation led by Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping at Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Vice President of PRC and party arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 20 Dec—At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Vice President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China arrived in Yangon at 2.20 pm yesterday to pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The Vice President of the PRC and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin,

Ambassador of the PRC Mr Ye Dabo and embassy officials and Chinese in Yangon waving State Flags of the two countries.

Accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Chinese Ambassador Mr Ye Dabo, the Vice President and party of the PRC visited the Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Officials conducted them round the emporium.

On arrival at Shwedagon Pagoda, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees welcomed the Chinese guests. The Chinese Vice

President signed in the visitors' book and presented cash to the funds for all-round renovation of the pagoda. Next, the Vice President and party went round the pagoda.

In the evening, the Vice President and party of the PRC arrived at Yangon International Airport and left for Nay Pyi Taw by special flight. They were seen off at the airport by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials and responsible persons of the PRC Embassy in Yangon.

MNA

Myanmar Distribution Group holds dinner in honour of sale agents

YANGON, 20 Dec—Myanmar Distribution Group Co., Ltd held a dinner in honour of sale agents (lower Myanmar) and 2009 fare ware at Sedona Hotel here on 18 December. Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein of Myanmar Distribution Group Co., Ltd extended greetings and made presentation on packing design of Gold Roast Coffee mix to be distributed to the market soon.

Singers and dance troupe entertained to the accompaniment of Trees music band. Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein and wife Dr Daw Moe Myat Win selected one first prize (K 1 million) and three second prizes (K 500,000) and sale and marketing consultant U Min Tala Nyan, six third prizes (K 200,000) and forty fourth prizes (K 50,000) and National sale manager U Myo Htet, Actors Ye

Htaik, Wut Hmon Shwe Yi and guests, others prizes.

Myanmar National-owned Myanmar Distribution Group Co., Ltd has been distributing Gold Roast Coffeemix, Ben Cafe Coffeemix, Cafe 21 Coffeemix, Calsome cereal, Royal Myanmar Teamix, Fresh Up Lemon tea starting from 1997. The products produced by the company are popular not only at home but also abroad.—MNA

Officials from Myanmar and China sign MoU and agreements. (News on page 8)

MNA



Vice President of PRC concludes visit

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Vice President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China left Nay Pyi Taw

Airport by China Airline this evening.

The Chinese goodwill delegation was seen off there by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Foreign

Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Thein Lwin, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo, officials of embassy and Chinese people in Myanmar.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin sees off delegation led by Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA

2nd round of Tatmadaw Football Tourney (2009) continues

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—The second round robin matches of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at designated places today.

In No.1 Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Command beat Eastern Command 1-0. In Paunglong Sports Ground, Tatmadaw (Navy) won over No. 11 LID 1-0.

MNA

MMA to hold Annual General Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon) will hold its annual general meeting at Auditorium-B of MMA on 26 December.

The association has invited executive members and members to attend the meeting without fail.

MNA



Coco Island in Myanmar waters

Byline & Photos: Yan Naing Win (Hline)

Cocogyun Township in southern Yangon Division is difficult of access because it is located between the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, 260 miles southwest of Yangon. Being composed of 12 islands, the township is bounded by Kyet Island on the east; Andaman Island on the west; Phinat Island and Zabwe Island on the north; and Jerry Island and Cocolay Island on the south.

In the township, low plains lie in the northeastern part. The ground is even in the southern part. The slope on the beach is rocky with many alluvial flood plains.

The seawater is transparent as deep as about 40 feet. Around the Coco Island are coral reefs and rock masses in high quantity. Mountain ranges stretch between north and south in the township. There, the highest mountain is 366 feet high.

Being situated in the sea, it has a temperate climate pattern. Its average annual rainfall is about 95 inches, and average temperature is 28 degree centigrade. It does not have any steams that flow all year round. So, Cocogyun Dam with a water storage capacity of 49 million gallons was constructed in 1991, and the



The beach of Coco Island and the wooden landing stage.

generator. Now, the 14 miles and three furlongs long bypass is in the process of being upgraded into a 12-foot-wide gravel road.

It has a 1193 feet long landing stage, plus a wooden landing stage. In the education sector, it has

opens a pre-primary school. Cocogyun Township Hospital was opened in 1989, and it has been upgraded to a 25-bed facility with a doctor, a dentist, two nurses, one assistant nurse, five general workers, and a clerk.

Staff member Daw Htay Yee Win of the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications said that with four IP Stars and 50 exchange phones, the township could contact any other place around the world.

Cocogyun Township has a fire service station. In 2005, it got a fire engine. The fire service station is constituted with an officer, five other ranks, and 50 auxiliary fire brigade members.

The township has a police station, a township court, a township law office, Immigration and National Registration Department, and Information and Public Relations Department.

The IPRD has opened a library and a Myawady and MRTV retransmitting station there to broaden the horizons of the township dwellers.

Interesting places in the region are Jinanarajin Pagoda, Dipa Pagoda, the plain and Kywet island in the eastern part of the township, Jerry Island in the southern part, and the lighthouse on Mingalar Island.

Therefore, it is fair to say that the existence of Coco Island lends interest to the Myanmar's waters.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 27-11-2009



Cocogyun Township People's Hospital (25-bed).

project was completed in 1993. The earthen type dam is some 800 feet from the sea. About 30,000 gallons of freshwater are pumped to the town a day with the use of a 52 HP waterworks.

It grows coconut, mango, guava, banana and fruit trees of many other species, landscaping plants, and shade trees. It also grows paddy just for local consumption. It has a 10-acre farmland of seasonal crops. It raises several species of farm animals such as cow, chicken and duck, especially goat. Its major businesses are coconut farming, production of mangrove tree trunks, and fishing.

The majority of its population is Bamar, and other races are Mon, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin. It has 180 households or a population of about 1000—service personnel, fishermen, sculptors, bead makers, livestock breeders, and fishery entrepreneurs.

Since 1 June 1992, the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise has supplied electric power to the town from 6 pm to 11 pm daily with the use of 150 KVA

a basic education high school furnished with three computer sets and a printer, and 25 teachers and over 200 students. Now, the principal and teachers are trying to improve the education of the township. It



The pre-primary school of Cocogyun Township Social Welfare Department.

Climate talks yielded 'positive' results

BEIJING, 20 Dec — China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, lauded on Sunday the outcome of a historic UN climate conference that ended with a non-binding agreement that urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts — but does not require it.

The international climate talks that brought more than 110 leaders together in Copenhagen produced "significant and positive" results, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said.

Disputes between rich and poor countries and between the world's biggest carbon polluters — China and the United States — dominated the two-week conference. Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets to demand action to cool an overheating planet.

The meeting ended on Saturday after a 31-hour negotiating marathon, with delegates accepting a US-brokered compromise. The so-called Copenhagen Accord gives billions of dollars in climate aid to poor nations but does not require the world's major polluters to make deeper cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions.

Yang said the positive outcomes of the conference were that it upheld the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" recognized by the Kyoto Protocol, and made a step forward in promoting binding emissions cuts for developed countries and voluntary mitigating actions by developing countries.—Internet

Yong said the positive outcomes of the conference were that it upheld the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" recognized by the Kyoto Protocol, and made a step forward in promoting binding emissions cuts for developed countries and voluntary mitigating actions by developing countries.—Internet



The Loch Ness monster made out of snow on Brighton beach. Two London airports closed by heavy snowfall have reopened, but forecasters are warning of a repeat of the bad weather that caused traffic chaos and closed schools across the southeast.—INTERNET

Philippine volcano close to major eruption

LEGASPI (Philippines), 20 Dec — Volcanic activity is building up inside Mount Mayon in the Philippines and an explosive eruption is expected within two weeks, a government volcanologist warned on Sunday.

The warning came as civil defence officials tried to convince the last residents still living within the volcano's shadow to evacuate their homes.

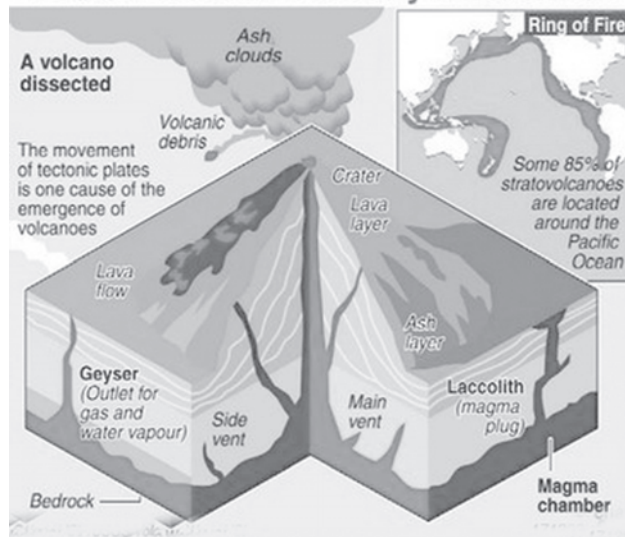
"Up to now, the activity continues to increase. Most probably if this would further accelerate, an explosive eruption would occur within two weeks," said July Sabit, part of the government team monitoring the mountain.

He said at least 222 volcanic quakes were detected from Saturday morning to Sunday morning compared to 197 quakes in the previous 24-hour period.

Sabit told AFP that an explosion could be expected sometime around January 1, adding that it would likely shoot a column of ash about 10 kilometres (six miles) into the sky.—Internet

Graphic showing a cutaway view of a volcano. Seismologists indicate that the 2,460 metre (8,070 feet) Mayon volcano in the Philippines is preparing for a major eruption.—INTERNET

Pacific Ocean's deadly volcanoes



Lebanon's Hariri on landmark Syria visit

DAMASCUS, 20 Dec — Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri began a landmark visit to his country's former powerbroker Syria on Saturday, on a two-day mission aimed at rebuilding ties between the two Arab neighbours.

It was Hariri's first trip to Damascus since the 2005 assassination of his father, ex-prime minister Rafiq Hariri — a killing that he and his US-backed allies in Beirut blamed on Syria.

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad gave Hariri a warm welcome at the capital's Tishrin palace, where the two young leaders shook hands and embraced before going into one-on-one talks.

They met for three hours, stressing the need to set up "privileged and strategic ties" between the two countries to overcome years of tensions, officials said.

The meeting between Assad and Hariri, who became Lebanon's Premier last month, helped to "dispel the past (differences)," Syrian presidential adviser Bouthaina Shaaban told reporters after the talks.

"There is no doubt that the ice has been broken between the two sides," she said.

Shaaban also noted that Syria "broke with protocol" by inviting Hariri to stay at the Tishrin guest palace which is usually reserved for visiting monarchs and heads of state.—Internet

Airlines eye 'contact-less' travel

GENEVA, 20 Dec — Airlines are trying to shrug off a financially-plagued decade by promising passengers more low fares as well as a seamless, paperless and even "contact-less" travel experience, industry executives said.

After electronic ticketing and check-in booths, Dutch carrier KLM is trying out automated bag drop machines, while the International Air Transport Association is promising queue-skipping mobile phone boarding passes, ID scans and "self boarding."

"The travel experience is going to change, that's for sure," Philippe Bruyere, global head of passenger services, said at IATA's annual end-of-year media day, "self service is what passengers

want." "And by self service we don't mean a kiosk, that's where we began the conversation two years ago. We mean new web-based services, more things you can do at home instead of in an airport line."

"In some cases we are facilitating contact-less travel," he added.

While airlines are trying to woo passengers they are also scrambling to cut costs after they haemorrhaged nearly 50 billion dollars in 2000-2009.—Internet

Lifesavers and an emergency reponse team member seen on a beach near Sydney. An Australian man was in hospital on Sunday after surviving a shark attack while diving off the country's northeast coast, officials said. INTERNET



Shark bites diver in Australia

SYDNEY, 20 Dec — An Australian man was in hospital on Sunday after surviving a shark attack while diving off the country's northeast coast, officials said.

The 19-year-old was diving at Lamont Reef, off central Queensland's Herron Island, when he was bitten on the arm, the Royal Flying Doctor Service said after taking him to the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

"He was in a stable condition when our doctor left him at the hospital there," a spokesman for the Royal Flying Doctor Service told AFP.

"Any kind of shark bite is serious. But I believe his condition is stable, it's not life-threatening."

Sharks are a common feature of Australian waters but fatal attacks are rare.

In December 2008, a snorkeller died after being attacked by a large shark off the Western Australian coast.—Internet

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
MYANMA RADIO AND TELEVISION
INVITATION TO TENDER**

1. Sealed tenders are invited for Myanma Radio and Television for the following equipment:
 - (1) 3KW UHF TV Transmitter System (Dual Cast) 2 Sets
-Dual Power Amplifier (Analogue/ Digital)
-Output Coaxial Equipment & Channel Combiner
-Programme Input and Monitoring Equipment & Audio/ Video Power & RF Cabling Material
 - (2) Antenna System for 3 KW TV.TX & RF Feeder Cable 2 Sets
 - (3) 100 Metre Guyed Tower Complete Set 1 Lot
 - (4) Automatic Voltage Regulator & Power Distribution Board for TV.TX 2 Nos
 - (5) Generator (Diesel Open type, 3ø, 65KVA, 380 V.50 Hz) 2 Nos
 - (6) Supervision Commissioning and site training 2 Lots
2. Tender closing date/time will be on 30.12.2009 at 16:30 hrs.
3. Tender documents are available at the below mentioned address.

**Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise
No.28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street,
Bahan Township, Yangon
Ph: 534574, 536029**



File photo, provided by the Korea Coast Guard, shows a rescue vessel close to a submerged ship off the country's coast. Five fishermen have been reported missing after their boat sank off South Korea's southeastern port of Busan, officials have said.—INTERNET

Five missing after boat sinks off S Korea

SEOUL, 20 Dec—Five fishermen were reported missing on Sunday after their boat sank off South Korea's southeastern port of Busan, officials said.

The five — three South Koreans and two Indonesians — were among 25 crew aboard a 129-tonne boat, Geumyang, which sank early on Sunday while operating in waters around 65 kilometres (40 miles) east of Busan, the coast guard said.

The other 20 crew were rescued by other fishing boats nearby.

Three coast guard ships, backed by a helicopter, from South Korea and another three patrol boats from Japan were searching the area for the missing crew, a coast guard official in Busan told *AFP*.

High waves and strong winds hampered the search, the official said, adding that investigations were under way to determine the cause of the accident.

Internet

China's Sichuan Province sees 180 artificially-bred pandas survive in recent decade

CHENGDU, 20 Dec—Altogether 180 giant pandas, an endangered species, were born through artificial breeding and survived in the past decade in southwest China's Sichuan Province, government statistics show. That brings the number of pandas raised in captivity to 241 in the province, accounting for 83 percent of the country's total, according to the Sichuan Provincial Forestry Department.

Meanwhile, 1,206 pandas are living in the wild in Sichuan, or 76 percent of the country's total.

Giant pandas, known for being sexually inactive, are among the world's most endangered animals due to shrinking habitat.

There are about 1,590 pandas living in the wild in the country, mostly in Sichuan and the northwestern provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu. —*Xinhua*



Yemeni NGO workers give newly arrived Somali migrants water on the beach of Hasn Beleid village, 230 kms east of the Red Sea port of Aden in October 2008. The number of migrants fleeing the unstable Horn of Africa and arriving in Yemen rose by 50 percent this year, reaching a record high of 74,000, the UN refugee agency said on Friday.—INTERNET

Yemen airstrike kills al Qaeda deputy

SANAA, 20 Dec—An airstrike in Yemen earlier this week killed a leading al Qaeda figure there, a Yemeni government official said on Friday.

The official, who is not named because he is not authorized to speak to the media, told *CNN* that Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Ali Al-Kazemi was killed in an airstrike in the southern province of Abyan on Thursday, along with "scores of operatives."

Al-Kazemi, also known as AbuSaleh Aljadwe, was a deputy in an al Qaeda cell in Abyan, the official said.

The airstrike was accompanied by raids in Abyan and in Yemen's capital Sanaa, state news agency *SABA* reported on Thursday.

"This was the most large scale and substantial attack carried out against al Qaeda in Yemen this year," the

official said.

The airstrike targeted a training camp with tents. Yemeni forces surrounded the camp and captured some of the injured and other operatives escaped through the mountainous terrain, the official said.

On Thursday, *SABA* reported that security forces had killed 34 suspected terrorists and arrested 17 who were linked to al Qaeda.

Believed to be in his late 30s, Al-Kazemi was on a Yemeni most wanted list of 154 al Qaeda-linked militants, the official said.

Internet

In this 25 Nov, 2009 photo, police officers escort a suspected drug dealer after his arrest in downtown Tijuana, Mexico.—INTERNET

Mexico catches cartel suspect linked to 109 deaths

MEXICO CITY, 20 Dec—Mexican police say they have captured a suspected lieutenant of the Beltran Leyva drug cartel linked to more than 109 execution-style killings.

The Public Safety department says Jesus Basilio Araujo is also known by the nickname "The Chicken."

It said on Sunday in a statement that Araujo allegedly worked for an aide to drug lord Arturo Beltran Leyva, who died on Wednesday in a shootout with Navy personnel.

The statement did not say if Araujo's detention on Friday was linked to the gunbattle. He was arrested in a town near where the clash occurred.

Araujo was allegedly responsible for a series of killings of rival traffickers and others. Many of the bodies bore messages referring to "The Boss of Bosses," Beltran Leyva's nickname.—*Internet*





Guy Hachey, president and COO of Bombardier Aerospace poses with a model of the new CSeries jet before the groundbreaking ceremony for the CSeries assembly plant on 15 Sept, 2009 in Mirabel, Quebec north of Montreal.—INTERNET

Koalas show some changes from ancestors

SYDNEY, 20 Dec—Pre-historic Australian koalas were as lazy as their modern counterparts and used the same loud belting to attract mates, a new study shows.

But an article published on Saturday in *The Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* says the koalas from 5 million years ago did not have the same kind of specialized eucalyptus leaf diet as the modern koala.

The shift to eucalyptus diet was probably caused, the article says, by the drift north of the Australian continent, causing a retreat of its rain forests and dominance of eucalyptus trees.

Coping with the new diet caused adaptive changes in the digestive and anatomical structure of the koalas. When scientists measured skulls

of ancient and modern animals, they noticed dramatic differences in the facial skeleton, which they noted were probably due to the change to a tougher diet of eucalyptus leaves.

And the low nutrition levels of eucalyptus leaves caused the animals to develop a more sedentary, energy-conserving lifestyle, they said.

"In order to accommodate both the mechanical demands of their new diet, as well as maintaining their auditory sophistication, the koala underwent substantial changes to its cranial anatomy, in particular that of the facial skeleton," says Dr Julien Louys of University of New South Wales's School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Internet



(L-R) Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, actor Amitabh Bachchan, actor Shah Rukh Khan and director Karan Johar pose at the annual police show in Mumbai on 19 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

Flying telescope in milestone test flight

LANCASTER, 20 Dec—An airborne telescope scientists hope will help uncover the origins of the universe completed a milestone test flight in California, officials said.

The modified 747 jet, named the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, flew for more than an hour at Edwards Air Force base,

NASA announced on Saturday. It marked the first flight with the doors covering the telescope fully opened.

"Today we opened the telescope cavity door, the first time we have fully exposed the telescope," said Bob Meyer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Dryden Flight Research

Centre.

"This is a significant step toward certifying NASA's next great observatory for future study of the universe."

Two more test flights are scheduled for early 2010 to prepare the telescope assembly for the first flight with the telescope operating.

Internet

Fog discovered on Saturn's largest moon Titan

LOS ANGELES, 20 Dec—US scientists have discovered fog moving across the south pole of Saturn's largest moon, Titan.

Titan looks to be the only place in the solar system aside from Earth to have copious quantities of liquid (largely, liquid methane and ethane) sitting on its surface.

The new discovery suggests that Earth and Titan share yet another feature, which is inextricably linked with that sur-

face liquid: common fog, according to researchers at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

The presence of fog provides the first direct evidence for the exchange of material between the surface and the atmosphere, and thus of an active hydrological cycle, which previously had only been known to exist on Earth, the researchers said in a paper published in the latest issue of *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

Titan's south pole is spotted "more or less everywhere" with puddles of methane that give rise to sporadic layers of fog, said planetary astronomer Mike Brown of Caltech.

The researchers made their discovery using data from the Visual and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIMS) onboard the Cassini spacecraft, which has been observing Saturn's system for the past five years.

Xinhua

Minor earthquake hits NE China county

BEIJING, 20 Dec—An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale struck Jidong County in China's northeastern Heilongjiang Province at 21:26 (Beijing time) Saturday, the China Earthquake Networks Centre reported. The epicenter was at 45.2 degrees north latitude and 131.3 degrees east longitude with a depth of 10 kilometers.

Xinhua

A Sri Lankan farmer sprays pesticide at his rice farm at Piliyandala on the outskirts of Colombo on 8 December. Sri Lanka's economic growth accelerated at its fastest pace this year after the end of civil war in May, helped by new investment, official data released on Friday showed.—INTERNET

Two Italians kidnapped in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT, 20 Dec — Two Italians were kidnapped in the West African desert nation of Mauritania, a police chief and a security official said on Saturday.

The Mauritanian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media on the subject, said the hostages were taken by gunmen on Friday night from their 4-wheel drive vehicle.

The security official said that one hostage was an Italian man and the other was his wife, originally from Burkina Faso. He said their vehicle was found empty and with bullet marks near the village of Kobeni in southern Mauritania.

Italian officials could not be reached to confirm the report.

Mauritania, once known as a predominantly moderate Muslim nation on Africa's western coast, has been rocked by attacks by the North African group known as al-Qaeda of the Maghreb. This kidnapping comes nearly three weeks after three Spanish aid workers were kidnapped in Mauritania. While there have been no official claims of responsibility for this abduction, Spanish officials have said they fear the hostages were taken by al-Qaeda of the Maghreb.—*Internet*



SPORTS

Bordeaux surge clear as Janot thwarts OM

PARIS, 20 Dec—A double by former Manchester United striker David Bellion inspired Bordeaux to a 4-1 home win over Lorient on Saturday that stretched their lead at the top of the French first division to eight points.

Second-placed Marseille could have cut the gap to six points but they were held to a 0-0 draw at Saint-Etienne in the late game despite the hosts having to play with 10 men for over 80 minutes. Greek defender Efstathios Tavaridis was dismissed in the eighth minute for a last-man foul on Bakary Kone but a bravura performance from goalkeeper Jeremie Janot enabled Les Verts to earn a point that takes them out of the relegation zone.—*Internet*



Bordeaux's forward David Bellion (R) fights for the ball with Lorient's defender Laurent Koscielny (L) during their French L1 football match at Chaban Delmas stadium in Bordeaux. A double by Bellion inspired Bordeaux to a 4-1 home win over Lorient on Saturday that stretched their lead at the top of the French first division to nine points.—INTERNET

Cacau, Khedira gives Stuttgart's Gross first league win

BERLIN, 20 Dec—Germany squad members Cacau and Sami Khedira hit second-half goals to seal Stuttgart's 3-1 win over Hoffenheim on Saturday to pull their side out of the bottom three.

Brazil-born Cacau gave his side the lead just seven minutes after coming off the bench before Khedira put the result beyond doubt with time running out.

This was Stuttgart's first win under coach Christian Gross who took over from Markus Babel on December 6 and this was their first success in ten league games since their last victory against Eintracht Frankfurt on 26 September.

It was also a timely confidence boost for a team due to tackle mighty Barcelona in the Champions League knockout round in February.

"It is our first win for nearly three months and that is a long time to go without a victory," said Khedira who made his Germany debut in the 2-0 win over South Africa in September.—*Internet*

Stuttgart's defender Christian Traesch (R) and Hoffenheim's striker Chinedu Obasi fight for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match in the southern German city of Stuttgart. Stuttgart won 3-1.—INTERNET



Wenger tells Gunners to shoot for title

LONDON, 20 Dec—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is convinced his side are contenders for the most open Premier League title race since he came to England more than a decade ago.

The Gunners moved to within two points of second-place Manchester United, who lost at Fulham, thanks to a 3-0 win over Hull City at the Emirates Stadium here on Saturday.

Arsenal, who also have a game in hand, beat Liverpool last weekend but dropped points by drawing at Burnley a few days later.

But with no side, including leaders Chelsea, looking invincible, Wenger argued the destiny of the trophy must remain unknown for a while.

Internet



Arsenal's striker Eduardo da Silva (L) fights for the ball with Hull City's Geovanni during their English Premier League football match at the Emirates stadium in north London. Arsenal won 3-0.—INTERNET

Ferguson fearful after Fulham run riot

LONDON, 20 Dec—Manchester United's resources may have made them the envy of world football but Sir Alex Ferguson has admitted a lack of defensive depth may cost them a fourth straight English Premier League title.

United are struggling to cope with a crippling injury list which has deprived them of six senior defenders in recent weeks - a scenario which, even for a club with their swollen bank account, has proved untenable. Having already slumped to a surprise defeat at home to Aston Villa this month, United's makeshift backline crumpled again on Saturday, as they were beaten 3-0 by Fulham at Craven Cottage.—*Internet*



Fulham's midfielder Danny Murphy (L) fights for the ball with Manchester United's Anderson (R) during their English Premier League football match at Craven Cottage in London. Manchester United's English Premier League title ambitions suffered a setback as they slumped to an abject 3-0 defeat by Fulham.

INTERNET



Real Madrid's defender Marcelo (R) jumps over a challenge from Zaragoza's defender Roberto Ayala during their Spanish League football match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. Real Madrid sent out a message of intent to all-conquering champions Barcelona with a 6-0 demolition of Real Zaragoza.—INTERNET

Six-goal Real Madrid hand Barcelona winter warning

MADRID, 20 Dec—Real Madrid sent out a message of intent to all-conquering champions Barcelona with a 6-0 demolition of Real Zaragoza on Saturday.

While Barcelona were away in Abu Dhabi winning the Club World Cup, their sixth trophy this year, Real closed the gap at the top of La Liga to just two points after tearing apart sorry Zaragoza. It was always going to be a tough challenge for Zaragoza's caretaker coach Jose Gay who took charge this week and it quickly turned into a nightmare with Gonzalo Higuain scoring after just three minutes.

A double for Rafael Van der Vaart then followed and Higuain volleyed in a delightful shot still before half time.—*Internet*

Redknapp impressed as Tottenham get back in party spirit

BLACKBURN, 20 Dec—Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp praised his team's new-found grit as they kept up their push for the Champions League places with a 2-0 win at Blackburn.

Redknapp has had a difficult week after discovering his players had defied his orders by holding a secret Christmas party in Dublin and then learning that he has been charged by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs over unpaid tax.

But Redknapp was pleased with the response of his team to a difficult game at Ewood Park on Saturday and he insisted their performance had nothing to do with wanting to do well after their trip to Ireland.

And the Spurs boss feels that the game would have been one his team might have lost in the past, which is a measure of the progress his team is making.

Internet

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | R | I | D | L | E | S | 5 | W | H | E | A | T |
| | E | N | U | | P | | | | I | L | O | | |
| 8 | N | E | V | E | R | 9 | R | A | N | C | O | U | R |
| | C | A | E | A | | | | | D | P | M | | |
| 10 | H | O | L | I | D | A | Y | 11 | S | W | E | D | E |
| | | | | | | | | | I | S | O | | N |
| 12 | P | E | D | L | A | R | 14 | E | R | R | A | N | T |
| | E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | R | O | G | U | E | 19 | R | A | G | T | I | M | E |
| | F | R | T | A | | | | L | T | J | | | |
| 22 | E | L | E | C | T | E | D | 23 | A | M | A | Z | E |
| | C | B | E | E | | | | S | T | C | | | |
| 24 | T | R | E | N | D | 25 | R | E | S | P | E | C | T |

Benitez defiant despite Pompey defeat



Portsmouth's striker Frederic Piquionne (L) clashes with Liverpool's midfielder Javier Mascherano during their English Premier League football match at Fratton Park in Portsmouth.—INTERNET

PORTSMOUTH, 20 Dec—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez insisted he does not fear the sack despite seeing his team suffer their seventh Premier League defeat of an increasingly poor season at bottom club Portsmouth.

Midfielder Javier Mascherano was sent-off for the third time in his Liverpool career as the visitors' fading title hopes were all but extinguished in a 2-0 loss at Fratton Park.

The sorry Reds have now won just four of their last 12 league games and are struggling even to secure a top four finish and a place in next season's Champions League.

When asked if he was worried for his job, Benitez replied: "I am only worried about the next game (against Wolves).—*Internet*



A UN conference has rammed through a battle plan against climate change forged by US President Barack Obama and other top leaders, sidelining smaller states which lashed the deal as a betrayal.—INTERNET

Small iPhone developer Tapulous sees big success

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Dec—iPhone app developer Tapulous says its sales have approached \$1 million a month, providing fresh evidence of the growing success of start-ups designing programs for Apple Inc's mobile device.

Tapulous — with a mere 20 employees — said its "Tap Tap Revenge" game series has now been installed more than 20 million times, with more than 600 million total games played. Earlier this year, research group comScore said the game had been installed by one-third of Apple app users.

The company says it's profitable, but it won't reveal precise sales data. Tapulous' chief executive said he expects it to ride a wave of exponential growth in mobile app commerce in the next two years, similar to that seen recently by social gaming companies like Zynga, Playfish and Playdom. Playfish was recently acquired by Electronic Arts for \$275 million in cash.

"It's going to be big and all of a sudden people are going to say, 'holy cow, where did those guys come from?'" said CEO Bart Decrem. The install base for app developers is growing fast. Apple has sold more than 50 million iPhones and iPod touches, which use the same software.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (21-12-2009) (Monday)

| Transmissions | Times |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Local | - (09:00am ~ 10:00am)MST |
| Europe | - (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm)MST |
| North America | - (23:30pm ~ 07:30am)MST |

Local Transmission

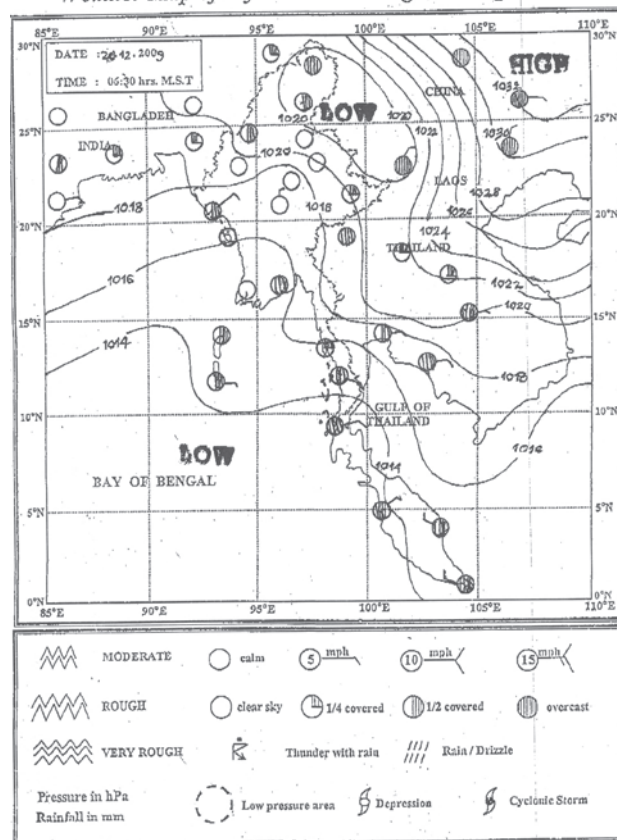
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * The Folk Art of making Ornaments with Leaves
- * Wheat Handicraft Toys
- * Do You want a chair that'll be comfortable
- * Traditional Pagoda Festivals of Mrauk U
- * Songs On Screen
- * Innovative Skills Of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-Two)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * The Folk Art of making Ornaments with Leaves
- * Wheat Handicraft Toys
- * Do You want a chair that'll be comfortable
- * Culture Stage
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Innovative Skills Of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-Two)
- * Song On Screen
- * Coconut Jaggery
- * Votaries of Emotions
- * The Source of The River Ayeyawaddy
- * Culture Stage
- * Extensive use of Farm Equipment in Agriculture
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars! (Vincent Min Lwin)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 20th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing Division, (5°C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C) , Namhsam (5°C) and Lashio, Pinlaung and Heho (6°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.12) inch, Kawthoung (0.07) inch and Machanbaw (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-12-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 20-12-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-12-2009 was 69%. Total sun shine hours on 19-12-2009 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 20-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 19-12-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21st December 2009: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-12-2009: Generally fair.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-12-2009: Partly cloudy.



Monday, 21 December View on today

- 7:00 am
 - မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
 - To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am
 - Morning News
- 7:40 am
 - မြတ်ဂုဏ်တော်သခင်

- (သန်းမြတ်စိုး၊တေးရေး-မောင်မောင်လတ်)
- 7:50 am
 - Nice & Sweet Song
 - 8:00 am
 - အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
 - 8:10 am
 - Cute Little Dancers
 - 8:20 am
 - "ဆည်ရေလျှံလျှံကန်ဒေါင့် ရေလှောင်တမံ"
 - 8:30 am
 - Musical Programme
 - 8:40 am
 - International News
 - 8:45 am
 - "စက်မှုတပ်ဆင်လုပ်ငန်းတွင်"
 - 8:50 am
 - Song Of National Races
 - 4:00 pm
 - Martial Song
 - 4:10 pm
 - Dance Variety

- 4:20 pm
 - အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:35 pm
 - ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်ဆောင်ရွက်လျှင် အန္တရာယ်ကင်းစင်မွေးမိခင်"
- 4:45 pm
 - Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Music Troupe)
- 4:55 pm
 - အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
- 5:10 pm
 - Songs For Uphold National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
 - မြန်မာစာ၊မြန်မာစကား
- 5:30 pm
 - Musical Programme
- 5:40 pm
 -

- 6:00 pm
 - စုပေါင်းသံရှင်ရွေးချယ်ပွဲ
- 6:15 pm
 - Evening News
- 6:20 pm
 - Weather Report
- 7:00 pm
 - Sing & Enjoy
- 8:00 pm
 - နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အဆိပ်သင့်တဲ့အချစ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 8:00 pm
 - News
- 8:00 pm
 - International News
- 8:00 pm
 - Weather Report
- 8:00 pm
 - နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဆူးလွမ်းသောချစ်နှင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၉)

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
- By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—Visiting Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping received a red carpet welcome by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye in front of Zeyathiri Beikman here at 9.30 am today.

Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping left Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in a motorcade for Zeyathiri Beikman, where he received a warm welcome from Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the Chinese

Vice President took position on the dais to take the salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, the State Band played the National Anthems of the two countries.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping inspected the Guard of Honour.

Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping presented his entourage to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye also presented Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann,

Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Thein Lwin and departmental heads to the Chinese Vice President.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping take salute of the Guard of Honour.—MNA