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Monday, 5 December, 2005

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to King of Thailand

YANGON, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. — MNA

Government is striving with might and main for prevalence of peace and stability and development in all aspects of the nation.

Modern and developed nation can be built with strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein on inspection tour of development tasks in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 4 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected construction tasks for regional development in Mandalay Division on 2 December.

After attending the closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course for Faculty Members held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper

Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, the Secretary-1, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor and party,

arrived at the construction site of Myitnge-Htonbo (PyinOoLwin) Parallel Road later in the morning.

Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials reported to the Secretary-1 on construction tasks.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of Thazi bypass carried out by Myanma Railways at Thazi-Kungyanyoe road section. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 5 December, 2005

Produce potent medicines for public health care services

The State Peace and Development Council with the participation of the entire national people is making all-out efforts for the nation to keep abreast of countries of the world.

In this regard, it is taking systematic steps for uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

Producing potent medicines and carrying out research on them play a pivotal role in an effort to enhance the standards of medical science and public health care services.

Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein on 1 December inspected Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health in Pyin Oo Lwin.

In his inspection tour, the Secretary-1 spoke of the need for officials to make constant efforts for realization of the guidance given by the Head of State, to carry out research on potent medicines for six major diseases—malaria, TB, hypertension, diabetes, diarrhoea and dysentery—and widely distribute them in cooperation with private entrepreneurs, and to conduct research on potency and side-effects of traditional and foreign medicines and make them public in time.

The Secretary-1 during the trip also inspected extended cultivation of herbal plants of MRD (Upper Myanmar), buildings of Pyin Oo Lwin Pharmaceutical Factory (Project) of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries, quality control unit, supply of power and water and progress of greening tasks and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The project is located on 363.65 acres of land on Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin Road in Pyin Oo Lwin Township. Tasks of the project started in October 2003.

The project will produce tablets and capsules for the first phase, and vaccine, lotion, injection and intravenous fluids for the second phase.

At present, the factory has been installed with machinery capable of producing 1,050 million tablets and capsules yearly and another machinery capable of producing 500 million tablets and capsules.

For the second phase, construction of the factory buildings and installation of machinery are being carried out. Plan is well under way for the factory to produce medicines in December of 2006.

All in all, we would like to call upon officials concerned to strive for producing potent medicines and conducting research work in order to enhance the standard of public health care services.



Headmaster U Tint Lwin presents prize to Maung Nyan Min Htut who stood first in the first standard (B) at the annual meeting of South Okkalapa BEPS No 29 on 27 November. — H

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

Minister inspects Khanaungto Creek, Twantay Canal



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects Seikkyi-Khanaungto retaining walls and light signal. — TRANSPORT

YANGON, 4 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected the retaining walls in Seikkyi-Khanaungto and light signal yesterday.

Managing Director of Myanma Port Authority U Thein Htay and officials reported on functions.

The minister and party inspected Minye Kyawthu wharf in Hsapachaung, Dalla and construction of

jetty at the confluence of Twantay Canal and Khanaungto Creek.

They also inspected construction of the retaining walls that prevent from bank erosion by Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, collecting of tax for those vessels passing the Twantay Canal.

MNA

Education Minister goes on inspection tour of Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 4 Dec — Accompanied by Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin, Deputy Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department U Myo Nyunt and officials, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein went on an inspection tour of Nguphyulay Basic Education High School (Branch) in Thayawady Township, Bago Division (West) yesterday morning.

On their arrival at the school, the minister and party inspected the school building, its computer room and laboratory and attended to the needs.

Upon arrival at Pyay University, the minister and party met with its rector, the pro-rector and professors and held discussions on education matters with them. While visiting the museum of Pyay University, the minister instructed officials to supervise systematic keeping of artefacts and prevention against loss and wastage.

Next, the minister met with educational staff at Pyay BEHS No 1, and held discussions on education promotion programme to be carried out. The minister viewed teaching aids, laboratories and e-education learning centre round the school. — MNA

Talks on contract farming held

YANGON, 3 Dec — Co-organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar Agriculture Entrepreneurs Association, the talks on contract farming between the national entrepreneurs and those who are engaged in farming and livestock breeding, took place at Yuzana Garden Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 2 December morning.

First, UMFCCI President U Win Myint, Chairman of MAEA U Win Aung and Myanmar

Fisheries Federation President U Htay Myint made speeches.

Next, Vice-Chairman of MAEA U Sai Ba Nyan, Myanmar Rice Entrepreneurs Association Central Executive

Committee member U Aung Tin Tun, Vice-Chairman of Rubber Entrepreneurs Association U Myo Thant, Myanmar Sugarcane Dealers Association Secretary U Soe Lin, Vice-Chairman of

Myanmar Livestock and Breeding Federation U Win Sein and MFF CEC member U Tin Maung Than read out the papers on joint venture tasks sectorwise.

MNA



UMFCCI President U Win Myint speaking at the talks on contract farming. — UMFCCI

Timor Leste wishes to join ASEAN in five years

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Dec — Timor Leste hopes to join the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in five years, a Timor Leste official said here on Friday.

Timor Leste currently is just accorded guest status, but it hopes to become an observer very soon, and then a member, said Marcos da Costa, Timor Leste Charge d'Affaires in Malaysia.

To become a member of ASEAN, Timor Leste have to fulfil certain criteria, including setting up embassies in all the ASEAN member coun-

tries. Costa said that this was something quite impossible for the country right now due to lack of financial and human resources.

Timor Leste would strive to open embassies in ASEAN countries one by one in the coming five years and reach its target to join the group during the period, he added.

Currently, Timor Leste,

with a population of less than one million, just has embassies in two ASEAN countries—Indonesia and Malaysia.

It is expected to open a third one in Thailand soon.

ASEAN held some 500 meetings each year and this was a heavy financial burden for Timor Leste, which has a per capita income of 550 US dollars,

to attend all of them, Costa said. Timor Leste, like some other less developed ASEAN member countries, would benefit a lot by joining ASEAN through various socio-economic programmes, he said.

The region is becoming a big market force and investment centre and Timor Leste can also share these economic benefits, he was quoted by Malaysia's national news agency *Bernama* as saying.

Timor Leste, formerly known as East Timor, mainly exports coffee and marble and it also has potential for oil and gas exports.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents walk across the frozen Songhua River at Jiamusi, in China's northeast Heilongjiang Province on 4 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Iran owes escape from nuclear referral to resistance against pressure

TEHERAN, 3 Dec — A senior Iranian official here Friday owed the country's recent escape from a referral of its nuclear case to the UN Security Council to its resistance against foreign pressure, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

The Western countries' retreat from their position on Iran's nuclear case was a result of Teheran's resistance against their pressure, said Ahmad Jannati, Chairman of the election and legislation supervising

Guardian Council.

The Iranian people had shown they were ready to "confront with the Western countries' bullying", Jannati was quoted as saying.

The Iranian chief supervisor also praised a recent bill passed by the country's Majlis (Parliament) on 20 November, saying the approval "shows if the Western countries want to ignore the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) and its obligations and regulations, the Iranian

Government won't have the duty to implement its voluntary obligations".

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh PM assures people of safety after bombs

DHAKA, 3 Dec — Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for political unity to fight militants and sought to assure Bangladeshis, rattled by a wave of suicide bombings, that they will be safe.

At least 13 people were killed and nearly 100 wounded in a series of blasts at court buildings in two cities this week.

Khaleda, criticized by opposition politicians for failing to stop the attacks by Islamist bombers, told

a public rally in the western district of Kushtia that the militants behind the blasts would be "found, arrested and punished" at all costs.

"This would not be possible unless all political parties cooperated with the government and law enforcing agencies," she said late on Thursday.

Khaleda's ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and the main opposition Awami League led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina have found it hard to agree on any issue and blame each other for the problems of the impoverished country.

Junior Home Minister Lutfuzzaman Babar told

reporters late on Thursday that the government was doing all it could to stop the bombings by militants who are fighting to turn the mainly Muslim democracy into a sharia-based Islamic state.

He had earlier said that the bombers were part of

a 2,000-strong suicide squad set up by two outlawed militant groups — Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh.

The Awami League almost immediately rejected Khaleda's call.

MNA/Reuters

US base under fire; 11 Iraqi soldiers killed

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec — A US military base came under fire in Iraq on Saturday and 11 Iraqi troops were killed in a roadside bombing and ambush.

The base at Mosul's airport came under mortar or rocket fire with several detonations shaking the installation, the US military said. Two soldiers were killed.

The attack against the Iraqi soldiers took place about 60 miles north of Baghdad. Following the bomb blast, the Iraqi convoy came under intense small arms fire. On Saturday's attack comes on the heels of ten US Marine deaths in an explosion on Thursday —the deadliest attack against American forces in four months.—*Internet*



A frame grab taken from a video claimed to be shot by an Iraqi militant group and aired on Al Jazeera television, shows what is claimed to be a US patrol before an explosion near Fallujah, Iraq on 1 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Study shows car deaths 400 times greater than terrorism

LONDON, 3 Dec— Deaths from car crashes in developed countries are nearly 400 times greater than those resulting from international terrorism, according to a study published on Thursday.

As many people die every 26 days on US roads as were killed in the 11 September, 2001, attacks, and politicians should bear this in mind when allocating resources

to combat two "avoidable" causes of death, researchers said.

Their report, published in the journal *Injury Prevention*, compared the number of deaths from international terrorism with car crashes between 1994 and 2003 in 29 countries from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Overall it found that the annual average death rate from road deaths was 390 times that from terrorism, which had caused 3,064 deaths in 33 attacks in 10 of the OECD countries.

Of the countries suffering attacks, the United States had the lowest annual ratio of road to terrorism deaths at 142 times higher, while in Poland the car death rate was 55,300 times greater.—*MNA/Reuters*

Two earthquakes jolt Japan

TOKYO, 3 Dec — Two earthquakes hit eastern and northeastern Japan on Friday, but no damage has been reported.

The first quake at 9:54 pm had a preliminary magnitude of 4.3 and jolted extensive areas of the Kanto Region, including the Tokyo Metropolitan area, while the second quake, which struck at 10:13 pm with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4, affected mainly the Tohoku Region, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami warnings were issued. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damages from the two quakes.

The first quake registered 3 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in some points in Ibaraki and Saitama prefectures, while the second one registered 3 in many parts of northeastern and eastern Japan from Aomori to Ibaraki and Tochigi prefectures, the agency said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Malaysia to propose ways to curb haze at ASEAN Summit

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Dec — Malaysia will propose several alternatives to the existing burning method of forest clearing, which was blamed for causing the annual haze in ASEAN countries, during the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur from 12 to 14 December.

Malaysian Natural Resources and Environment Minister Adenan Satem said on Friday that one proposal was to use the latest technology in farming.

The countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) needed to work together to prevent haze which had caused severe environmental pollution and losses to regional economies, Adenan told an interna-

tional environmental meeting held in Malaysia.

Malaysia was also prepared to give assistance to any ASEAN country that might need technical aid to overcome the haze problem.

The haze problem tortured some ASEAN countries each year. The Malaysian Government was forced to declare a haze emergency on 11 August this year in two areas in

Klang Valley as the haze, which was brought by wind from Indonesia due to the burning for forest clearing, threatened the health of people.—MNA/Xinhua

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Cuba's GDP jumps up 15% with new formula

HAVANA, 3 Dec — Cuba's decision to include free health care and other social services in calculating gross domestic product has resulted in a

15-per-cent jump in the size of the country's economy, according to restated figures released this week.

While the government

first announced the change in 2003, not until this week was any data available to see by how much the Cuban formula, called the socially sustainable gross domestic product, increased GDP value.

The annual statistical abstract for 2004, released this week, adjusts previously reported GDP figures by more than 15 per cent.

Output in 2000 at current prices is now reported at 32.685 billion pesos instead of 28.206 billion pesos in previous abstracts, a more than 15 per cent difference.

The GDP figure for 2001 is now 33.820 billion pesos and for 2002 it changed to 36.089 billion pesos, compared with 29.557 billion pesos and 30.680 billion pesos respectively.

MNA/Reuters



Judith Tellez, 13, left, and Gustavo Salazar, 16, paint *The Gueguense*, part of a commemorative mural for the Day International of the people with some incapacity, in Managua, Nicaragua, on 3 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Mexican volcano emits giant column of smoke

MEXICO CITY, 3 Dec — In the last 24 hours, the volcano Popocatepetl, located 64 kilometres outside Mexico City, has had 70 low intensity eruptions and emitted a giant column of smoke, a Mexican civil defence body said on Friday.

The volcano became more active after Thursday morning's giant column of smoke, which rose 4.5 kilometres into the sky and caused alarm among local residents.

A Press release from the National Centre for the Prevention of Disasters

(Cenapred) said that "during the last 24 hours there were 70 small eruptions... with occasional small quantities of ash".

It said the volcano alert is now Yellow Phase I and the public is barred within 12 kilometres of the crater.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia vows to continue fight against HIV/AIDS

PHNOM PENH, 3 Dec — Cambodia on Thursday marked the 18th World AIDS Day, aimed at pre-

venting HIV/AIDS spread in Cambodia.

Cambodia is one of three countries in the world that have reduced the spread of HIV/AIDS effectively, according to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in June.

Cambodia's HIV/AIDS transmission rate has reduced from 3.3 per cent in 1997 to 1.9 per cent in 2003 thanks to the efforts of the government, society and the help of international community.

However, "HIV/AIDS issue is still severe, and is menacing housewives and children at a high level; and it has been already catastrophic," warned Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Council of Ministers, at a gathering attended by more than 3,000 people. The transmission rate from husband to wife amongst new cases is 42 per cent, according to Hong Sun Hout, senior minister and chairman of National AIDS Authority.—MNA/Xinhua

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Ambush kills 19 Iraqi soldiers

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec — Guerillas killed 19 Iraqi soldiers and wounded four others in a coordinated ambush northeast of Baghdad just two days after the deadliest attack against US Marines in four months.

The bloodshed confirmed US and Iraqi warnings of a surge in guerrilla attacks ahead of national elections set for 15 Dec.

A total of 14 US service members have died so far this month, 10 of them in a huge bombing on Thursday near Fallujah.

The Saturday attack occurred as an Iraqi army unit was on patrol near Adhaim, about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Survivors said guerillas triggered a roadside bomb and then showered

the patrol with rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire.

Earlier this week, President George W Bush outlined his strategy for victory in Iraq, with a key point calling for Iraqi forces to eventually replace US troops in the fight against guerillas.

Elsewhere, the US base at the airport in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, came under mortar or rocket fire on Saturday, wounding two American soldiers, the US military said.

Internet

Albania floods kill two, cut power supplies

TIRANA, 3 Dec — Heavy rain caused flooding in Albania on Friday, killing at least two people and cutting electricity supplies in a country already plagued by power shortages.

Local television reported that a husband and wife drowned in the central town of Elbasan. He had tried to save her after she plunged into a swollen stream following a row.

With rivers bursting their banks, hundreds of homes were flooded in rural areas and many roads blocked. Divers were searching for a woman whose car veered into a river in the north of the country.

While disrupting the south, the rain was welcomed in the north where Albania's three main hydropower stations saw water levels rise after dipping dangerously low in November.

The country has suffered a month of half-day power cuts caused by a

drought that stopped hydroelectric generators and insufficient imports to meet the seasonal rise in demand.—MNA/Reuters



A US Marine stares at Iraqi men, who stare back while working to repair a school previously wrecked by a car bomb in Karabilah, Iraq, near the Syrian border, on 3 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Two girls seriously injured after falling from roller-coaster in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 3 Dec — Two girls fell from an indoor roller-coaster ride and were seriously injured at the Escape Theme Park in Singapore on Friday, *Channel NewsAsia* reported on Friday.

The two girls, aged nine and 11 years, were thrown off the ride from some three metres above the ground at around 11:30 am, reported to be caused by a faulty safety bar. They suffered serious injuries on their backs and are in critical condition, the report said, adding that the police are investigating the incident. — MNA/Xinhua

Merkel says Germany-Russia ties no threat to Poland

WARSAW, 3 Dec— Germany's warm ties with Russia will not come at the expense of Poland, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said ahead of a visit to Warsaw on Friday aimed at improving relations with the European Union's largest newcomer.

Poland's relations with Germany were cool under Merkel's predecessor Gerhard Schroeder, seen as keener on ties with Russia and France.

"Our ties with Poland, within the EU and NATO, are closer than ever before in the history of our nations," Merkel told top selling tabloid *Fakt* in an interview.

"This means that we will jointly agree on all important issues for us both. Our good relations with Russia will not be formulated in a way that would harm Poland."

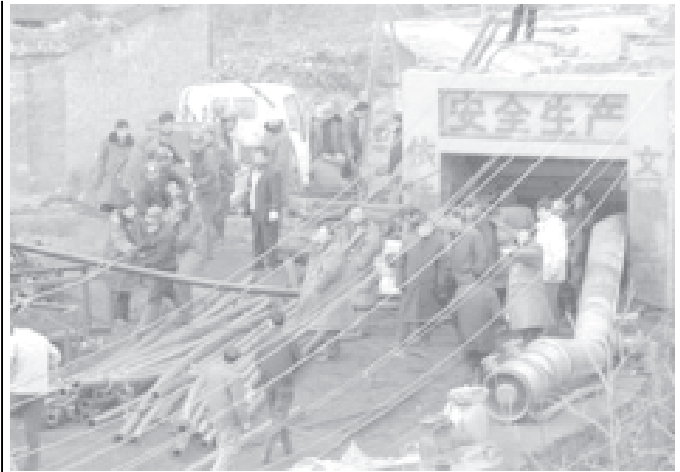
Merkel's visit follows elections in both Poland and Germany that brought to power centre-right, Christian parties, giving both sides a chance to make a fresh start. Poland and other ex-Communist EU new-

comers are counting on Merkel to fulfil her promise to shift Schroeder's foreign policy towards friendlier ties with smaller EU nations. They have also welcomed her promise to repair relations with the United States, seen by Central Europeans as a close ally and the pillar of European and global security.

The EU newcomers

backed the US-led invasion of Iraq and contributed troops to forces stationed there, irking war-critics France and Germany. Speaking in Parliament this week, Merkel said she wanted to balance Germany's strong ties with France by forging a close partnership with its second largest neighbour.

MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, rescue workers install pipe lines for pumping at a coal mine that was flooded in Xin'an County, central China's Henan Province, on 3 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Annan, EU reject US proposals on new UN budget

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Dec— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned on Friday that US proposals for a short-term UN budget until the cost of reform proposals are tallied would result in a "financial crunch".

British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, current head of the European Union, agrees with the United States on most

reform proposals but said Washington's idea of a three-or-four-month interim budget was "more likely to lead to a train wreck than it is to progress".

Annan, who cancelled a trip to Asia next week because of the budget, fears a cash-flow crisis could arise because governments will have trouble determining what their dues will be.

Facing opposition from developing nations, US Ambassador John Bolton has insisted several

reforms be instituted before the 2006-2007 administrative budget of 3.9 billion US dollars is adopted in full.

The United States pays 22 per cent of the budget, Japan 19 per cent, and the 25 EU members, about 35 per cent.

"There has been suggestion by some governments, or a government, that we should not be given the two-year budget, but maybe a temporary three-month or so budget,"

Annan told UN staff. "This doesn't work for the United Nations."

"You are going to run into a financial crunch," he said.

But he said he cancelled his Asian trip because "there is a political problem to deal with. There is a budgetary problem, and of course there is the question of effective reform."

Bolton told reporters he feared that "bean-counting business as usual" would "defeat the reform process."

He suggested the United Nations could manage to function in early 2006 with the late 300 million US dollars dues payment the United States was about to submit for 2005.—MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts North Sumatra

JAKARTA, 3 Dec— An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale rocked Indonesia's North Sumatra Province on Friday, but there were still no reports on fatalities or damage caused by the quake.

The quake took place at 10:08 a.m. local time with its epicentre at about 3.5 degrees Northern Latitude and 94.5 degrees Eastern Longitude. *Antara* news agency quoted the head of Tanjung Perak Surabaya Maritime Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) Eddy Waluyo as saying.

Indonesia is located on the Pacific Rim of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes highly volcanic and seismic activity.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Russia jointly monitor pollution in Songhua River

BEIJING, 3 Dec— China and Russia started to jointly monitor pollution in northeast China's Songhua River on Friday, China's environmental watchdog said.

Technicians from China and Russia will take river-water samples from a depth of half a metre in Mulan County of Heilongjiang Province, said the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) in a statement.

"The water samples will be analyzed jointly in accordance with China's national standards," said the SEPA.

Both sides will also jointly monitor the

pollution in Tongjiang, where the Songhua and Heilongjiang rivers intersect, it said. The Heilongjiang River is the Amur River in Russia.

The pollution in the Songhua River was caused by an explosion at a petrochemical plant in the upper reaches of the river early last month. It is estimated that about 100 tons of benzene had spilled into the river.

MNA/Xinhua

German hostage's family begs kidnappers for mercy

BERLIN, 3 Dec— The mother and sister of a German woman taken hostage in Iraq have called on her kidnappers to show mercy and release her in an appeal shown on the Arabic television station Al Jazeera on Friday.

"We beg of you — be merciful and graceful with my daughter and release her and her escort as soon as possible," Ingrid Hala, mother of kidnapped Susanne Osthoff, said in the appeal.

Osthoff, a 43-year-old archaeologist, disappeared a week ago. Earlier this week, her kidnappers said in a videotaped message that they would kill her if Germany did not end all support for the Iraqi Government. Germany helps train Iraqi forces outside Iraq but has ruled out sending troops there.

An image from the tape, delivered to Germany's ARD public television in Baghdad, showed what appeared to be Osthoff and her driver sitting on the ground surrounded by three armed, masked men.

MNA/Reuters

CIA flights made at least two stopovers in France

PARIS, 3 Dec— US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) flights suspected of transporting war-on-terror captives have made at least two stopovers in France in 2002 and this year, the daily *Le Figaro* said on Friday.

The two flights landed at French airports on 31 March, 2002 and 20 July, 2005 respectively, the newspaper said.

The first flight was that of a *Learjet* which made a stopover in Brest, a port city in northwestern France, en route from Iceland's Keflavik to Turkey, while the second one landed at Le Bourget Airport in Paris from Oslo, the Norwegian capital. The plane was a *Gulfstream III*.

Allegations the CIA has secret prisons in some European countries and secret flights carrying terror suspects have caused uproar both in the United States and Europe.

On Thursday, Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern said in Washington that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will make a statement addressing the issue of reportedly secret CIA prisons in her next week's visit to Europe.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers engage in a joint Iraqi-US raid on the house of Sheik Ismail Attallah in Ramadi, Iraq, on 2 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Putao in Kachin State attracts adventurers thirsty for natural beauties

Maung Maung Than (Kawhmu)



Glaciers in Putao

I arrived in Putao which is situated in the northernmost of Myanmar on 14 November 2005 on departmental duties. The town is surrounded by huge mountain ranges. It is accessible by air or land. The climate of Putao is cold all year round. At this time of the year, the climate of the region is getting colder and colder and snow-covered mountains can be seen from a distance.

The mountain ranges close to Putao will soon become icy ones. The groves had turned reddish.

In November-December, it is so cold that water starts to freeze. The frozen water is about five feet in mass in December and January. The freezing-point remains up to April and May.

Putao is complete with natural beauties. Local national races residing there are frank and friendly. The national races are Kachin, Jinhaw, Rawan, Lihsu and others. Putao of Myanmar is popular among tourist destinations that are complete with snow-capped mountains in the world. At present, foreign tourists begin to flood into Putao.

Tourists who arrive in Putao can enjoy the scenic beauties of the region, mountain ranges with a height of over 10,000 feet, cliffs, waterfalls, blue pine trees and coniferous trees, tree rhododendron (*rhododendron arboreum*) and potent herbal plants. The tourists can also witness the honest disposition of local people, and study bio-diversity, a variety of mammals including takins, red pandas and musk deer, bird species such as Himalayan Monal, Sclater's Monal, Blyth's Tragopan and others, Mountainaccantor, reptiles, butterflies and orchids.

I happened to meet with German nationals Mr Patrick Schulev and Ms Pia Schulev who are tourists of Myanmar Himalaya Trekking and Culture Co Ltd at the Putao Airport on 17 November 2005. They said with pleasure that the tour of Putao was their first trip to the town; that there was smooth and secure transport along the route; that they had exciting experiences while traveling in the region; that they had an opportunity to observe traditions and culture of local national races and enjoy the scenic splendours of snow-covered mountain ranges, cliffs and waterfalls in the region situated in the far east of Himalaya; that one could travel to the top of Mt Khakaborazi, the highest mountain of Myanmar and enjoy the ecosystem complete with biological diversity and local flora and fauna; that they would convey the information about the visit to friends in Germany and return to Putao again; and that they liked Putao region most among tourist destinations they had ever enjoyed.

Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountain is very close to Putao and popular among local and foreign tourists. It is about 53 miles from Putao situated at an altitude of 11,920 feet.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, officials concerned are now building the Putao-Upper Hsangaung-Wahsadam road and Phonkanrazi road that leads to the snow-capped mountain.

There are 13 wooden bridges including Dhashiza river crossing suspension bridge on Putao-Upper Hsangaung road section and the 142 feet long Namkhamhti wooden bridge. With those transport facilities, one can travel from Putao to Upper Hsangaung



Construction work between 13/4 mile post and 14/0 mile post

by car all year round.

The altitude of Upper Hsangaung is 1,485 feet. The trip from Putao to Upper Hsangaung is 12 miles and two furlongs. It takes about four hours on foot and about 45 minutes by car.

The trip from Upper Hsangaung to Wahsadam is about 12 miles. It is 2,954 feet above sea level. It will take about eight hours on foot since motor road is under construction. One can travel on foot from Wahsadam to Ziyadam and the 11-mile trip will take him about five hours. It is 3,492 feet above sea level.

It is about 20 miles from Ziyadam-Chaung Camp-Thitpingyi Camp-Khantauck River Camp to the area adjacent to Phonkanrazi snow-covered mountain. The trip from that area to the top of Mt Phonkanrazi is about two miles.

Construction of an earth road leading to Chaung



Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspect construction of the earth road leading to Putao-Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountain.

It is about 40 miles away from Putao to Chaung Camp while it is about 13 miles from Chaung Camp to Razi Snow-capped mountain. According to geographical condition, construction of an earth road linking Chaung Camp and Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountain is impossible. This being the case, those who are adventurous and thirsty for geographical knowledge have to rely on themselves to enjoy the trip that is to be covered on foot.

Camp close to Mt Phonkanrazi in Putao region, Kachin State will soon be completed.

It is about 40 miles away from Putao to Chaung Camp while it is about 13 miles from Chaung Camp to Razi Snow-capped mountain. According to geographical condition, construction of an earth road linking Chaung Camp and Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountain is impossible. This being the case, those who are adventurous and thirsty for geographical knowledge have to rely on themselves to enjoy the trip that is to be covered on foot.

Nowadays, hoteliers, construction entrepreneurs and tour operators are making arrangements to build hotels of international class and buildings along the road leading to Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountain and to enable visitors to enjoy skating along the slopes of the mountain.

Therefore, Putao region situated in the northernmost of Myanmar and complete with ecosystem will become a popular tourist destination in the very near future.

Translation: TS

Agriculture sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of agriculture in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Endeavours to supply water for agricultural purpose

Using the abundant land and water resources in the country through various ways and means, the Union of Myanmar is taking systematic measures for agricultural development.

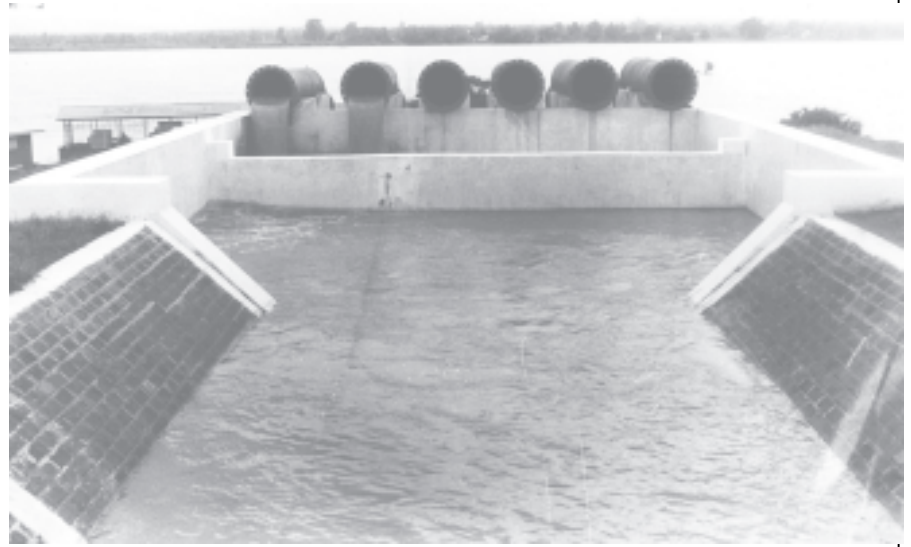
As water is essential for thriving of crops dams, diversion weirs, sluice gates are being built, river water pumping projects implemented and underground water tapped and as a result, arable land throughout the country has increased year by year.

Water supply projects are being implemented with the rate of a dam per month and now 180 dams have emerged in states and divisions and these facilities benefit 2.4 million acres of land.

Out of 870 million cubic feet of water flowing in the rivers and creeks of the country, only 6 per cent of it has been tapped for agricultural purpose. Therefore, river water pumping projects have been implemented and now altogether 293 river water pumping stations benefit over 200,000 acres of land.

In rural areas, artesian wells and tube wells have been sunk to supply water to about 100,000 acres of land and the wells also supply potable water to over 16 million rural people.

The table shows increase in dams, river water pumping stations, tube wells and benefited acres in the time of the Tatmadaw government.



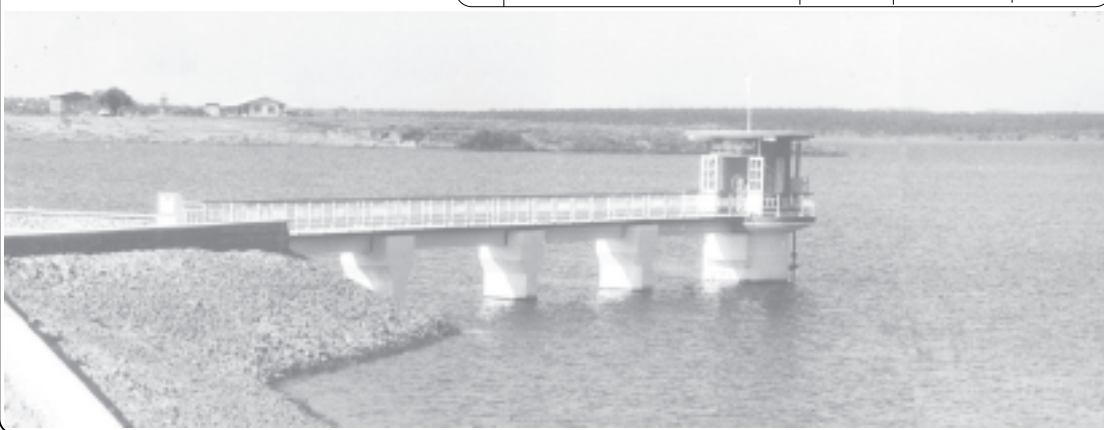
Arrangements made to supply water for agricultural purpose

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Dam completed	138	318	180
2	Dam under construction	-	23	23
3	River water pumping project (Completed)	-	293	293
4	River water pumping project (Under construction)	-	34	34
5	Damming creeks	-	1240	1240
6	Tube wells	-	7535	7535
7	Total benefited acres (million)	4.4	7.2	2.8

Indaw river water pumping project in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division supplies water to farmland.

Water supply projects are being implemented with the rate of a dam per month and now 180 dams have emerged in states and divisions and these facilities benefit 2.4 million acres of land.

Alaingni Dam built near Kyankhun Village of Bago Township benefits 22,000 acres of farmland.



Talks on intellectual property rights given

YANGON, 4 Dec— Talks on intellectual property rights organized by Education Work Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held in conjunction with a presentation on measures to be taken for disseminating knowledge on intellectual property

rights at the training hall of the UMFCCI on 29 November.

First, committee chairman UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing delivered an opening speech.

Lawyer U Maung Maung Win of the Supreme Court explained facts about intellectual property rights and

UMFCCI member trainee of DL-101 U Aung Naing briefed on measures to be taken for development of intellectual property rights.

Later, officials answered the queries raised by those present and the committee chairman gave concluding remarks.

MNA



Victorious Myanmar Track & Field Team arrives back at the airport. (News reported)— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein looks into progress in extension of Myitnge-Htonebo (Pyin-Oo-Lwin) road. —MNA

Modern and developed nation can be built with...

(from page 1)

The construction of the dual road started in July 2005. On completion of the earth work, the construction of the 24-foot-wide tarred-road will continue.

The Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Kyaukse University. Pro-Rector U Khin Maung Kyaw briefed them on construction tasks. Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 met with faculty members. In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the modern and developed nation can be built with the strength of the intellectuals and intelligentsia. Likewise, the role of the intellectuals and intelligentsia is very important in the functions to transform into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation as well as to flourish the democracy system. Hence, faculty members are to constantly learn education for uplift of self-efficiency as well as to turn out pupils to become qualified outstanding students.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed round construction tasks at Kyaukse University and greening tasks at its environs.

At the city hall in Kyaukse, the Secretary-1 heard reports on the opening of Kyaukse City Hall by Chairman of Kyaukse PDC Lt-Col Tin Ohn, and gave necessary instructions.

The city hall, 174 feet long, 90 feet wide and 28 feet high, was built in November 2003, and opened on 19 February 2005.

ing on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the Government is striving with might and main for prevalence of peace and stability and development in all aspects of the nation. After taking responsibility of the state, the Tatmadaw Government has laid down and is implementing the political, economic and social objectives.

He noted that the Government requires enough intellectuals and intelligentsia in building the modern and developed nation. Hence, the Government



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially meets with faculty members at Meiktila Institute of Economics. —MNA

The faculty members are to participate in dissemination of knowledge to the people for transformation into the democratic nation that the people long for.

On arrival at Meiktila Institute of Economics, they oversaw progress in construction of the buildings at the institute and greening tasks. At the briefing hall, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and Engineer U Thaug Htaik explained matters related to the construction tasks.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Secretary-1 met with faculty members of the institute. Speak-

is implementing the national education promotion programmes step by step for ensuring development of human resources. The Head of State has given guidance that it is necessary to ensure modernization of curricula, constant learning of faculty members for the uplift of self-efficiency, and upgrading of universities and colleges and installation of

(See page 9)



Meiktila Institute of Economics. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with faculty members of Kyaukse University. — MNA

Modern and developed nation can be built with...

(from page 8)

modern teaching aids for turning out qualified human resources. Furthermore, the Head of State has given guidance on teaching students to become

State, and to have the Union Spirit that plays a vital role in perpetual existence of the Union of Myanmar.

As the faculty members who train their pupils to become well-qualified citizens play a significant role of the nation. In addition, the faculty members are to participate in dissemination of knowledge to the people for transformation into the democratic

of the State.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Thazi-Kwangyanyoe section measuring 3.9 miles at the construction of new Yangon-Thazi-Meiktila-Myingyan Railroad being undertaken by Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than reported on finding of the axis for the new railroad section, and progress of the tasks.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min briefed the Secretary-1 on timely completion of the railroad section within three months in February 2006, and arrangements for running of the train added with more coaches on Yangon-Myingyan section.

The Secretary-1 attended to the needs and gave instructions. They oversaw earth works of the Thazi-Kwangyanyoe sector with the use of heavy machinery and matters related to the axis.

Due to the construction of Thazi-Kwangyanyoe new railroad section, the Yangon-Myingyan train can run through Yangon-Thazi-Meiktila-Myingyan railroad. — MNA



City Hall of Kyaukse.— MNA

outstanding persons in their respective fields, train them to become the citizens who have good practices of abiding by school and civil disciplines as well as laws, rules and regulations adopted by the

nation that the people long for, and in the flourishing of democracy. The faculty members are to produce the intellectuals and intelligentsia after realizing that they are discharging important duties

Government requires enough intellectuals and intelligentsia in building the modern and developed nation. Hence, the Government is implementing the national education promotion programmes step by step for ensuring development of human resources.



Opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms of Hlegu BEHS held

YANGON, 4 Dec—The opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms of Hlegu Basic Education High School was held at the school this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, headmistress Daw Tin Tin Sein, school board of trustees chairman U Aung Khin formally opened the classrooms.

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe then unveiled the signboard of the classrooms. The commander and party also observed studying of the students with the aid of the multimedia classrooms, painting room and domestic science room.

Speaking at the cash donation ceremony, the commander said that it was bound to successfully implement the State's education programmes thanks to opening the



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe views multimedia classrooms of Hlegu BEHS. —MNA

multimedia classrooms and the students today have more chance to access of modern learning methods. The government has been striving its utmost to narrow down the gap between rural and urban areas in education sector. As a result, there have been many intellectuals and intelligentsia who serve the interests of the State and the people throughout the nation. The teachers need to train the students to become ones who

safeguard the nation and national cultural heritage and the commander stressed the need for maintenance of durability of the classrooms as well.

The headmistress explained matters related to opening the multimedia classrooms.

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the minister, the deputy minister, and officials accepted K 2.87 million donated by the well-wishers.

Minister Dr Chan

Nyein spoke words of thanks and the ceremony ended.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, the directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Education, Indaing Station Commander Col Bo Lwin, No 1 military region command commander Col Myat Thu, officials of Yangon Division PDC, wellwishers and others.

MNA

HIV/AIDS Quiz held in Yangon East District

YANGON, 4 Dec—Jointly-organized by Working Group of Social, Culture and Health of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization, a HIV/AIDS quiz was held at the hall of Yankin Education College this morning.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division WAO Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay, Leader of Working Group for Social and Culture of MAAF Dr Daw Sandar Aung and members, Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Myo Thu and members, the patron of Yangon Division East WAO and members, members of District and Township WAOs, contestants from 14 townships in the district, members of board of judges and townsenders. First, member of Organizing HIV/AIDS Quiz leader of Prevention Against Trafficking in Persons Daw Phyu Phyu Shwe explained about the purpose of the holding the quiz.

After the quiz, Dr Daw Sandar Aung presented souvenirs to the contestants. Daw Khin Thet Htay gave away first prize to Ma Ei Mon San in Thaketa Township, second to Ma Moe Myint Myat Zaw in North Okkalapa Township and third to Ma Tha Zin Khin Maung Tint in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, souvenirs to nine consolation prize winners, members of board of judges and officials concerned.

Similar HIV/AIDS quizzes were held in Ahlon Township of Yangon Division West District, Kyauktan Township in Yangon South District and Hlinethaya Township in Yangon North District. —MNA



Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay presents prize to a girl. —MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win sends message of felicitations to Thai counterpart

YANGON, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency Dr Kantathai Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

MNA

Literary award presentation ceremony to be held on 11 December

YANGON, 4 Dec — A prize presentation ceremony for 2005 Life-Long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Literary Award, and 16th National Motto Literary

and Photo Contests will be held on 11 December (Sunday) at 1 pm at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street.

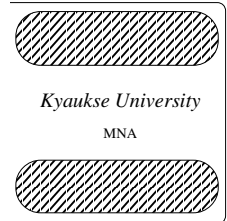
Those who won the National Literary Award and Sarpay

Beikman Manuscript Award are to participate without fail at the

rehearsal ceremony to be held on 9 December (Friday) at 1 pm at the National Theatre, they are to contact the Chief Editor (Serpay Beikman) Ph:252560 or the Head of Branch (Administration) Ph: 381449, not later than 8 December in person or by telephone.

Those who secured the awards at 16th National Motto Literary and Photo Contests are to contact the Secretary of Organizing Committee for the Contests (MRTV), not later than 8 December in person.

MNA



German President calls peace between Israel, Palestine

BERLIN, 4 Dec — German President Horst Koehler called on Israel and Palestine on Saturday to finally reach a peace agreement.

"It's now a question of genuinely finding and following a peaceful path," he told a two-day conference on the Europe-Israel dialogue.

"After more than six decades of war and conflicts, another opportunity on the road to peace must not be wasted," Koehler said in a written keynote

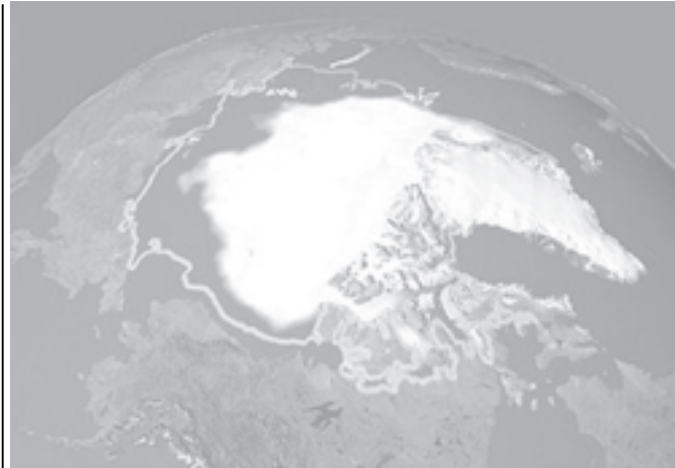
speech. The German President also called on the European countries and the United States to give more attention to the peace between Palestine and Israel.

Germany recognizes the right of Palestinians to their own state, which has to be politically and economically viable, he

said. Meanwhile, Koehler indicated that Israel must be able to live within internationally recognized borders "free of fear and terrorism".

When talking about Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas, he said, "I regard Abbas as a man who wants peace."

MNA/Xinxua



This NASA handout satellite image obtained on 3 December shows the minimum concentration of Arctic sea ice that occurred in September 2005, when the sea ice extent dropped to 2.05 million sq. miles. — INTERNET

Fire hits US Embassy in Manila

MANILA, 4 Dec — A fire broke out at an office inside the United States Embassy in Manila during a heavy downpour Saturday afternoon, said police.

Fire investigators said the fire hit an office of the embassy compound located at the elegant Roxas seafront boulevard by the side of Manila Bay.

Fire fighters initially could not enter the premises of the embassy to put out the fire prior to security clearance proce-

dures of the most heavily guarded embassy in Manila.

The embassy said it would conduct its own investigation on the incident.

Security around the embassy has always been kept high because of reported threats of attack by al-Qaeda-linked Southeast

Asia-based Jemaah Islamiya group.

The streets near the embassy became recently venue of numerous protests against the alleged rape of a Filipino woman by six US Marines at the Subic Bay former US Navy base early last month.

MNA/Xinxua

"Epsilon" becomes 14th hurricane of Atlantic season

MIAMI, 4 Dec — Tropical Storm Epsilon strengthened into the 14th hurricane of a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season on Friday, but was not expected to retain its intensity for long or threaten land, US forecasters said.

Hurricane Epsilon bore maximum sustained winds of 75 miles per hour

at 4 pm EST (2100 GMT), just 1 mph over the threshold at which tropical storms are categorized as hurricanes, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The 26th named storm of the season was 1,165 miles west of Portugal's Azores Islands and moving toward the northeast, away from the wealthy mid-Atlantic British territory of Bermuda, at 12 mph.

While the six-month-long 2005 Atlantic hurricane season officially ended on Wednesday, the

Miami-based hurricane centre said it was not unprecedented for hurricanes to form in December.

Epsilon was the sixth hurricane to occur in December since records began in 1851, the centre said. The last time a hurricane formed in December was Hurricane Nicole in 1998.

Epsilon appeared to be travelling along a narrow ridge of warm water and was expected to start weakening steadily within 12 to 18 hours after hitting much cooler waters.

MNA/Reuters

No deal on export of natural gas to US via Egypt

GAZA, 3 Dec — A senior Palestinian official said on Thursday that there are talks over exporting natural gas to the United States via Egypt by 2009 between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Egypt, but no deal has been reached. Energy Minister Azam al-Shawa told Xinhua that the British gas company responsible for exploring natural gas in the Gaza Strip did not inform the PNA officially that natural gas will be exported from the Gaza Strip to the United States via Egypt.

MNA/Xinhua

Reports say 437 CIA flights over Germany

BERLIN, 4 Dec — The German authorities have received reports of 437 flights by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) through Germany in recent years, the German magazine Der Spiegel reported Saturday.

Two aircraft, registered to private companies but to carry out CIA work, passed through German airspace or touched down on German soil 137 times in 2002 and 146 times in 2003, according to the report.

The airplanes stopped

in Berlin, Frankfurt and the US Ramstein Air Force Base.

However, the list, compiled by the national air traffic control service in response to a question from the Left Party, gave no indication what was aboard the planes, the re-

port said.

European and American reports had said that the CIA secretly transported terrorist suspects to locations in Central and Eastern Europe for interrogation via European airports.

MNA/Xinhua

Police raid Amazon to protect uncontacted Indians

BRASILIA (Brazil), 3 Dec — Brazilian police have arrested a gang of illegal land speculators

accused of killing and displacing one of the Amazon's few remaining isolated Indian tribes, offi-

cials said on Friday.

Federal police detained 29 people and expelled squatters who illegally occupied, logged and sold land inhabited by an unidentified Indian group near the River Aripuana on the border between the northwestern states of Mato Grosso and Amazonas. "There are no more intruders in the region," Marcos Antonio Farias, Federal Police chief in the Mato Grosso capital Cuiaba, told Reuters. Those arrested belonged to an association of landowners seeking to develop the area known as Rio Pardo into farmland. The territory has been earmarked but not officially declared an Indian reservation by the government.

MNA/Reuters

US military admits planting paid propaganda in Iraqi media

BAGHDAD, 4 Dec — The US military command in Baghdad on Saturday admitted planting paid propaganda in Iraqi media, defending it as an "essential tool to give Iraqis reliable information".

A statement issued by the US military command in Baghdad said the information from the battlefield in Iraq was contested and filled with misinformation and propaganda by the guerilla groups to discredit the Iraqi Government and the US troops in a bid to intimidate the Iraqi people.

"Information operation is an essential tool for commanders to ensure the Iraqi population has current, truthful and reliable information," it said.

"As part of our operations, we have offered articles for publication to Iraqi newspapers, and in some cases, articles have been accepted and pub-

lished as a function of buying advertising and opinion/editorial space, as is customary in Iraq," the statement added.

"The procedures for doing so undergo policy and legal review to ensure compliance with the law and regulations," it said. "Information operations are powerful and essential to military success," the statement concluded.

On Thursday, the *New York Times* newspaper reported that the US military was waging a multimillion-dollar campaign to plant paid propaganda in the Iraqi media for political gains.

MNA/Xinhua



People pass through floodwaters near Basin Bridge on the outskirts of Madras, India, on 3 Dec, 2005. Many parts of southern India have been inundated after heavy rains due to low depression in Bay of Bengal. —INTERNET

Russia annoyed at Poland missile shield plan

WARSAW, 3 Dec—Russia is annoyed at Poland's plans to host a US anti-missile system, a top Moscow general told a Polish newspaper, adding that such a space umbrella in central Europe would only make sense in a conflict with Russia.

In what critics said was a diplomatic lapse, Warsaw's new conservative government said last month that it was considering hosting the US anti-missile system, making public what had previously been a subject of discreet talks with Washington.

"Of course (such a system) would be aimed against us," General Yuri Baluyevsky, chief of Russia's general staff, told *Gazeta Wyborcza* in an interview published on Friday. "Rockets from other states would never fly to the West over Polish soil."

"Including Central Europe in the US anti-missile

system would strengthen it in case of a conflict with Moscow ... I don't expect a nuclear conflict between Russia and the West."

The United States is investing tens of billions of dollars to develop the Missile Defence Initiative (MDI), which would use rockets to shoot down ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear, chemical or bacteriological warheads.

Poland's ruling conservatives, who won September's general elections, regard the United States as the guarantor of security for Poland and want the NATO and European Un-

ion member to continue its close military cooperation with Washington.

A former Polish Foreign Minister said Washington had asked Warsaw to remain discreet about the shield plans to soothe Russian concerns that the move would be aimed against Moscow.

The debate about the missile shield coincided with Russia's decisions to ban the import of most Polish food products after reported irregularities in health standards and certificates. Warsaw officials say the trade row may be politically motivated.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to export more farm, forest products next year

HANOI, 3 Dec—Vietnam has targeted to reap agro-forestry product export turnovers of 5.6 billion US dollars in 2006, compared with estimated five billion US dollars this year.

To meet the target, the country will focus on building brands, registering product trademarks, improving quality and seeking outlets, according to the Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on Friday.

The ministry will work with the Trade Ministry to introduce local products to more trade fairs abroad, including those in Europe and China. Besides, it will intensify trade promotion to further exploit traditional

markets such as China, the United States, Japan, and the European Union, and seek more new outlets.

MARD will also urge local producers and exporters to pay due attention to ensure products quality in all circles from production to sale.

Vietnam earned roughly 4.9 billion dollars from exporting agricultural and forestry products to over 100 countries and regions in the first 10 months of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 17 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

N Carolina carries out 1,000th US execution

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec—A North Carolina man convicted of double murder on Friday became the 1,000th person executed in the United States since capital punishment was reintroduced in 1976.

Kenneth Lee Boyd, 57, died at 2:15 a.m. local time in the death chamber of Central Prison in North Carolina's state capital, Raleigh, spokeswoman Pamela Walker of the Department of Corrections said. Boyd was strapped to a gurney and injected with a fatal mix of three drugs.

The Vietnam war veteran with a history of alcohol abuse was sentenced to death for the murder in 1988 of his wife and father-in-law committed in front of two of his children.

Russia-Austria trade breaks records

Moscow, 3 Dec—Trade between Russia and Austria reached a record high this year, it emerged, as leaders of both countries met to focus on Russia's relationship with European Union (EU) members.

During the meeting in Moscow on Friday between Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradov and Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, it was revealed that the latest figures showed both countries had traded goods worth more than 3 billion euros (3.51 billion US dollars) in 2005.

The statistics were released by the Russian Government's Press service.

Ahead of the talks, Schuessel, who takes over the EU's rotating presidency from British Prime Minister Tony Blair in one month, said he would discuss a range of issues with his Russian counterpart. These include bilat-

eral cooperation and the partnership and cooperation agreement signed by Russia and the EU which is to expire in a year.

Schuessel said Russia was an important partner of the EU, adding that this document should be filled with substance and given a new lease of life and new dynamics.

In response to Schuessel's remark, Fradov said, "We are set for a constructive dialogue and the broadening of practical cooperation in all directions."

Fradkov added that

Moscow advocated strengthening the relations between Russia and the EU, "and we consider the Republic of Austria among countries that are the most important and promising partners of Russia in Europe".

The two leaders also discussed the prospect of working on an intergovernmental economic cooperation commission and emphasized the significance of intensive political contacts maintained on a regular basis, including top level meetings. — MNA/Xinhua

China to sell another 20,000 tons of copper

BEIJING, 3 Dec — To show its determination to bring down the prices of copper, China's State Reserves Bureau (SRB), which manages strategic metals, announced it would sell another 20,000 tons of copper on 7 December, *Beijing Daily* reported on Friday.

This will be the bureau's fourth time to auction coppers.

SRB under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) first auctioned 20,000 tons of copper on November 16 in a bid to lower the runaway copper prices, which, spurred by large demand, have jumped from 1,779 US dollars per ton in 2003 to 3,328 dollars per ton in the first half of this year.

It sold another 20,000 tons of copper on November 23. The latest auction, also 20,000 tons, came on Thursday.

However, SRB said that copper dealers and trading firms would not be allowed to take part in the auction scheduled next Wednesday. Only domestic copper producing and processing enterprises will be invited to attend.

The soaring copper prices, which have increased profit margin in the copper smelting industry, have led the government to introduce a slew of measures to rein in the investment in the copper smelting for fear of an investment bubble.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand aims to penetrate local brand to world market

BANGKOK, 3 Dec—Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Somkid Jatusripitak on Friday set a target to make products with Made-in-Thailand brand the spearhead to penetrate global market.

Presiding over the opening of the 2005 Made-in-Thailand Product Exhibition Fair held on December 2-11, Somkid said he hoped the Made-in-Thailand brand to be a logo of quality products recognized worldwide.

He said the event would encourage Thai people to use products made in Thailand, which could help solve trade deficit, promote domestic production and reduce imports.

Under the government's recently-adopted "One Global Market" policy, private enterprises

are encouraged to propel towards the global community, shifting the country's focus from merely export to international business to generate greater income for the country.

In 2006, the ministry will lead a delegation of businessmen to introduce their products into such major markets as China, Japan, Europe and the United States by counting on a common brand name of "Thai Ness To The World".

Somkid said he had asked the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) to

set up the Innovation Fund next year to follow up the invention and development of Thai products to ensure their quality meets international standards.

Speaking of automobile industry, Somkid said Thailand produced at least one million cars in 2005 and it is expected that 1.8 million units could be manufactured in the following three to four years. The annual "Made in Thailand 2005" fair, the 16th of its kind, features a comprehensive range of Thai quality export products at special prices.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists canoe on the Mekong River in Laos capital Vientiane on 2 Dec, 2005. The jungle-clad communist southeast Asian nation is gradually opening up to outsiders, and is becoming one of the more popular stop-offs on the tourist trail of southeast Asia.

INTERNET

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Chinese say goodbye to etiquette telegrams

HEFEI, 3 Dec— Chinese has bidden farewell to etiquette telegram services after they were abolished due to lack of customers.

China Telecom Corporation Limited and China Network Communications Corporation jointly decided to stop the public etiquette telegram service and the flower etiquette telegram service starting from Thursday, saying that alternative and advanced ways of

communication, such as telephone, mobile phone and Internet, have been replacing traditional telegraphy services.

Etiquette telegrams were sent to addressees with cards of greetings, condolences and so on, also with flowers if paid.

"Our customers are

decreasing rapidly. We had dozens of customers every month several years ago, now the number has dropped to one digit," said Li Bin, an employee in Hefei Telecom who has been in the telegraphy department for three decades.

"We started the public etiquette telegram service in February, 1988, and that was the golden time of telegraphy. The flower service was introduced in September, 1993," he said.

Only one etiquette telegram of condolences was sent from Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on Wednesday, becoming the last etiquette telegram of Hefei.

Nowadays, people living in the less developed areas are still communicating by telegrams, while most people have easy access to telephone, mobile phone and Internet that outdate telegraphy.

MNA/Xinhua

World population to grow by 800 million in next decade

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Dec— The world's population will increase by 800 million in the next decade, with the highest growth in Asia and Africa, local media reported on Friday.

"The world population stands at 6.4 billion this year. It is expected to shoot up to 7.2 billion by 2015," the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative to Malaysia Richard Leete was quoted as saying by *The Star*.

The majority of the 800 million people will be found in the southern part of Asia and Africa as well as the sub-Saharan region,

the UN official said, adding that those countries with a high population growth rate are mostly under tremendous pressure in terms of sustaining their resources.

Leete said there arose the greater need to deal with social, economic and environmental issues "as one" and not separately, as they were increasingly intertwined.

MNA/Xinhua

China to set up monitoring stations to prevent wildlife epidemic

BEIJING, 3 Dec— China plans to set up at least 300 monitoring stations at state level across the country to prevent a possible epidemic in wildlife, including bird flu from migratory birds, a senior forestry official has said.

"We have, so far, set up

150 of such stations across China along with 402 local ones at provincial level," Zhao Xuemin, deputy director of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), was quoted as saying by Friday's *China Daily*.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, US experts complete repair work on ancient mural paintings

LANZHOU, 3 Dec— Chinese and American experts have completed repair work on ancient mural paintings in a Mogao grotto in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province.

The joint repair work was launched in 1999 in the 85th grotto, one with a huge collection of valuable mural paintings. Plagued by dry weather, strong gales and sand storms from the surrounding desert and Gobi, some paintings were in bad shape and needed restoration.

The Chinese and US experts have worked together to tackle difficulties in Mogao grottoes protection, an official with the Dunhuang Academy told *Xinhua*. "The repair work has been a success and the experience they have acquired will prove worthy in other heritage preservation efforts worldwide, including many other grottoes and ancient sites along the Silk Road," he said without giving his name.

Experts will start renovating the painted

sculptures in the 85th grotto next year, after scaffolds for the current repair work are removed.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel's test of anti-missile system successful

JERUSALEM, 3 Dec— Israel carried out a successful test of its Arrow anti-missile system on Friday morning, the *Ha'aretz* daily reported on its website.

The test enemy missile resembling Iranian *Shihab-3*, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, was fired from an airplane over the Mediterranean Sea, from the west, and the *Arrow* missile was fired from an Air Force base in central Israel, the report said.

It said Friday's test was the 14th test of the *Arrow* system and the ninth test of the missile itself following a failed test in the summer.

Meanwhile, Russian *Vedomosti* Daily reported

terrain of the southern continent.

The Venezuelans will face temperatures below 50 below zero in summer, when the strong winds that cross the gigantic desert-like continent mostly blow in the opposite direction to their travel.

According to first estimates, the Project Cumbre team, whose members reached the summit of Qomolangma in May 2001, will reach their goal at latitude 90 of the South Pole between the 15th and 25th of January next year.

MNA/Xinhua



A man walks in front of a painting from the Contemporary Fine Arts of Berlin during the Art Basel international art show in Miami Beach, Florida, on 1 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Venezuelans complete first 100km of journey to South Pole

CARACAS, 3 Dec— The Project Cumbre group of Venezuelan explorers has travelled more than 100 kilometres in the first six days of its planned 1,200-kilometre journey to the South Pole, local media said on Friday.

The travellers set out on 21 November and reached the 100 kilometres point after travelling more than 16 kilometres on Thursday in temperatures of between 15 and 20 degrees below zero.

With more than 12 years of experience the Venezuelan team is made

up of Marco Cayuso, Carlos Castillo, Marcus Tobia, Martin Etchevarria and Carlos Calderas.

In 11 days, the group has twice halted its hike for more than 24 hours, due to fierce windstorms that run in the opposite direction to the journey and also due to poor visibility on the frozen



Miss Languedoc Alexandra Rosenfeld, right, crowned Miss France 2006, is congratulated by her predecessor Cindy Fabre, in Cannes, southern France, on 3 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

on Friday that Iran is to buy 29 *TOR-M1* systems designed to bring down aircraft and guided missiles at low altitudes. The report said the deal is the biggest sale of Russian defence hardware to Iran for about five years, without revealing value of the deal. Teheran is under intense international pressure after failing to convince the United States that its nuclear scientists are working on nuclear fuel for power stations rather than bombs.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Crouch ends goaldrought as Liverpool beat Wigan

LONDON, 4 Dec—Peter Crouch ended his Liverpool goal drought in a 3-0 Premier League win over Wigan Athletic on Saturday — but will probably have to settle for one goal after initially being credited with a double-strike.

Crouch, scoreless since his seven-million-pound (12.11 million US-dollar) move from Southampton in July, was initially credited with a 19th minute strike — only to have it later given as an own goal by keeper Mike Pollitt.

The striker's shot from outside the area cannoned high into the air off Wigan's Dutch defender Adrian de Zeeuw and was then palmed into net in a miscued swipe by Pollitt.

His effort could be considered by the Premier League's dubious goals committee.

There were no doubts about his second, though, as he ran on to a long ball from defender Steve Finnan and hooked it deftly over the advancing Pollitt just before halftime.

Midfielder Luis Garcia chested in Liverpool's third in the 70th minute after fellow Spaniard Fernando Morientes had met Steven

Gerrard's corner with a powerful header. Crouch had no such doubts about either of his strikes.

"The first one took a big slice of luck obviously but that's what I've been missing recently," he told Sky Sports News. "To get the goals today was great...I'm pleased I can move on now, hopefully."

Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez fully backed his striker's view, saying "I'm pleased for Peter to get his two goals and he deserved them. The first goal is his."

"I was at a manager's meeting in Geneva recently with FIFA and we agreed that when a striker has a shot and it's deflected then it's the striker's goal."

Liverpool's sixth consecutive league win, all without conceding a goal, hoisted them into provisional second place behind Chelsea before the rest of the day's games.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy, centre, scores past Portsmouth goalkeeper Jamie Ashdown, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 3 Dec, 2005. Manchester United won the match 3-0.—INTERNET

Auxerre keep up chase of runaway leaders Lyon

PARIS, 4 Dec — In-form AJ Auxerre kept up their chase of runaway leaders Olympique Lyon when they demolished Nantes 4-0 in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Unbeaten Lyon maintained their 11-point lead over Auxerre with a 2-0 home win over Paris St. Germain. Lyon have 43 points and second-placed Auxerre 32 after 17 matches.

A first half double by striker Peguy Luyindula and a goal by midfielder Luigi Pieroni before the break secured the Burgundy club's victory with Bruno Cheyrou completed the rout in injury time.

Girondins Bordeaux laboured to a 1-0 victory over improving Lille to remain in third place on 31 points.

Lyon once again looked in a class of their own dominating from the start to smother the Parisian side at Gerland Stadium.—MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

G	E	N	O	A	S	R	E	A	S	O	N
R	Y	R	S	X	H	I					
I	L	L	I	C	I	T	P	R	O	N	G
E	O	H	A	L	W	G					
V	A	N	E	O	T	R	I	V	I	A	L
E			W	E	E	O	C	N	E		
E	T	C	H	E	T	I	A	G	O		
T	A	I	W	J	E	T				K	
E	X	P	U	N	G	E	E	A	B	L	E
M	E	C	R	D	E	N					
P	A	R	C	H	K	R	E	M	L	I	N
T	E	A	Y	F	O	E					
S	E	D	A	T	E	D	T	O	W	E	L

Arsenal lose at Bolton, Chelsea win again

LONDON, 4 Dec—Arsenal slipped 14 points off the Premier League pace on Saturday when they lost 2-0 at Bolton Wanderers while champions Chelsea were beating Middlesbrough 1-0 at Stamford Bridge.

John Terry headed his first league goal for a year after 62 minutes to take Chelsea to 40 points and keep them firmly on course to retain their title.

Arsenal and Bolton both have 26, first-half goals by Abdoulaye Faye and Stelios Giannakopoulos having given Bolton their eighth straight

home win in all competitions.

Middlesbrough produced a spirited performance at Stamford Bridge, defending well and breaking dangerously to create more chances than the champions in the first hour.

But, as so often before this season, Chelsea maintained their composure and

got the breakthrough after 62 minutes when Terry headed home a Damien Duff corner. Boro continued to threaten but Chelsea were able to deal with the threat to make it eight home league wins in a row this season.

"Today was a difficult game, they have a difficult shape," Jose Mourinho told Sky Sports News.

"It wasn't a beautiful game but in the end we deserved the three point and it's one more match gone." Arsenal have found Reebok Stadium an inhospitable venue in recent seasons. They drew there in 2002/2003, a result that just about ended their title hopes, drew again the following season and lost 1-0 last season.

They fell behind after 20 minutes on Saturday when Faye headed Bolton into the lead and the second came after Gilberto Silva was caught in possession and Giannakopoulos, who got the winner last season, doubled the advantage after 32.

Thierry Henry hit a post two minutes later but Arsenal were below their best and, with less than half the season gone, they can already give up any realistic hope of regaining the title.

Tottenham had to work desperately hard to get past Sunderland, who led with a long-range Dean Whitehead shot after 16 minutes. Mido and Robbie Keane put Spurs ahead, Anthony Le Tallec equalized past the hour and after Sunderland keeper Ben Alnwich saved a Keane penalty, Michael Carrick struck the winner 13 minutes from time.—MNA/Reuters

Real survive Beckham red card to beat Getafe 1-0

MADRID, 4 Dec — Real Madrid held on to beat an attack-minded Getafe 1-0 in the Primera Liga on Saturday, despite having England captain David Beckham sent off 11 minutes into the second half.

Ronaldo returned from injury to put Real in front after just 18 minutes, but it was Real's city rivals who dominated in the Bernabeu.

Real were forced further back after the break when Beckham's rash challenge from behind on Getafe striker Riki earned him his fourth dismissal since joining Real in

2003.

The win moves Real up to fourth in the Primera Liga with 25 points, three behind leaders Barcelona who travel to Villarreal on Sunday. Second-placed Osasuna visit Malaga.

Earlier on Saturday, Celta Vigo climbed to third on 26 points after beating struggling Real Betis 2-1 at home.

Uruguayan midfielder Fabian Canobbio put Celta ahead after five minutes, and Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano doubled the lead with a header in the 20th minute.

The visitors pulled a goal back in the last minute with a header from Brazilian forward Edu just before their defender Oscar Lopez was sent off.

Llorenç Serra Ferrer's side, who have not won away from home in the league this season, remain second from bottom with 11 points. Later on Saturday, bottom club Athletic Bilbao can push Betis to the foot of the table with a draw at home to Atletico Madrid.

MNA/Reuters



Alexandra Meissnitzer of Austria skis past the gate during the season's second World Cup downhill race in Lake Louise. Meissnitzer finished with a time of 1:49.69 to place fourth in the run.

INTERNET

Milan's Serie A hopes dented by Chievo

MILAN, 4 Dec — AC Milan's pursuit of Serie A leaders Juventus suffered a major setback when they lost 2-1 at Chievo Verona on Saturday. Kakha Kaladze gave Milan the lead at Verona's Bentodogli Stadium midway through the first half, but goals by strikers Sergio Pellissier and Simone Tiribocchi earned Chievo an unexpected victory.

The result left Milan second in the standings with 31 points from 14 matches, five points behind Juventus who play third-placed Fiorentina on Sunday (kickoff 1400 GMT). Chievo climbed to fifth on 24 points.

The defeat comes at the start of a vital week for Milan who face Germany's Schalke 04 in a decisive Champions League game on Tuesday and then take on Inter in the derby on 11 December.

"We can't stop and think too much about this game," said Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti, "We have to prepare ourselves for the match against Schalke on Tuesday. "But we certainly could have controlled our lead much better. Chievo were much more decisive and showed greater desire than we did. We suffered and didn't play very well for an hour of the game, we need to improve in terms of our character," he added.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's captain John Terry, No 26, scores against Middlesbrough during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in southern London, on 3 Dec, 2005. Chelsea won the match at 1-0.—INTERNET

Japan to set up panel on crime by foreigners

Tokyo, 4 Dec—Japan plans to set up a panel to discuss measures to prevent crime by foreigners after the arrest of a Peruvian suspected of killing a 7-year-old girl on her way home from school, Justice Minister Seiken Sugiura said on Friday.

Concern about crime committed by foreigners has been growing in Japan, and media coverage of such incidents has made Japanese wary of welcoming more foreign residents despite the prospect of a shrinking

work force as the population ages.

The arrest of a Peruvian of Japanese descent, Juan Carlos Pizarro Yagi, in connection with the murder of Airi Kinoshita has stirred concern about

an upswing in anti-foreigner sentiment.

"If there is any problem in allowing foreigners into the country, we should let a working group headed by the senior vice-minister study the issue carefully,"

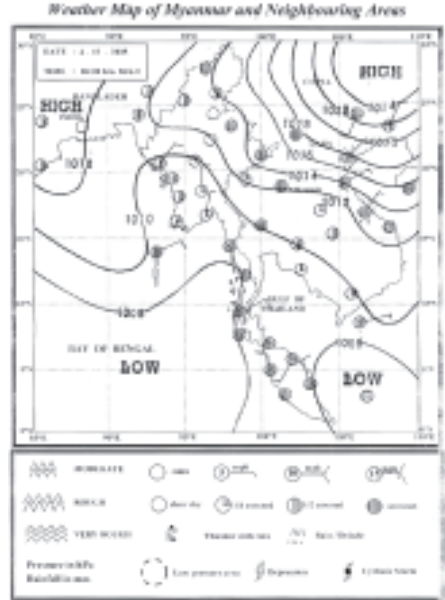
The *Asahi* newspaper, however, said in an editorial that care should be taken not to automatically associate foreigners with crime.

"In this criminal act, the suspect just happened to be a foreigner," it said on Thursday.

"Discrimination toward foreigner...who lead serious lives in various places, should not be allowed to swell by illogically linking them to this incident," the paper said, noting that 800,000 foreign workers were in Japan at the end of last year.—MNA/Reuters



Chinese residents look at a lotus root placed on a platform for bidding during a Lotus Root Festival in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, on 3 Dec, 2005. The 163.5-centimetre (64 inches) long lotus root weighs 6.04 kilogrammes (13 pounds) and was bought by a local company for \$7400.—INTERNAT



WEATHER

Sunday, 4 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Hakha (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 3-12-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 4-12-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 4-12-2005 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 3-12-2005 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 4-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (102.60) inches at Mingaladon, (101.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (106.46) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (11:30) hours MST on 3-12-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-12-2005: Except for isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-12-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-12-2005: Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 22:30 hrs MST today)

An earthquake of slight intensity 3.0 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about 35 miles west of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 22 hrs 05 min 09 sec MST on 4th December, 2005.



- Monday, 5 December**
Tune in today
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
 -Sweet dreams
 ...Labouche
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
 -Let's get loud
 ...Jennifer lopez
8.50 am National news & Slogan
9:00 am Music:
 Sad eyes
 ...Trisha Yearwood
 To be you
 ...Kim Luka
9:05 am International news
1:30 pm News & Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch Time Music
 -Don't wanna love you
 ...Lionel Richie
 -Send me the pillow
 ...Cynthia Schlos
 -Another day in paradise
 ...Phil Collins
9.00 pm Spot light on the star
9.15 pm Article
9.25 pm Drugs
 Elimination
9.35 pm Golden Land's Melody
 -Blessed Myanmar
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Monday, 5 December
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:55 am 5. Song of national races</p> <p>8:05 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:10 am 7. Cute little dancers</p> <p>8:20 am 8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:25 am 9. အဆိုရှောင်းတံတား</p> <p>8:30 am 10. International news</p>	<p>8:45 am 11. Grammar Made Easy</p> <p>4:00 am 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading</p> <p>4:45 pm 4. Musical programme</p> <p>4:55 pm 5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာတတ်လှနှစ် (စာတုမေးအထူးပြု) (စာတုမေး)</p> <p>5:05 pm 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:10 pm 7. Dance variety</p> <p>5:25 pm 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:30 pm 9. တောလေ့ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ</p> <p>5:35 pm 10. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)</p> <p>5:45 pm 11. Industrial achievement</p> <p>5:55 pm 12. မြန်မာ့စာ၊ မြန်မာ့ကဏ္ဍ</p>	<p>6:10 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရယ်ရယ်ဆော့ပြေး ပုရွတ်ဆိတ်လေး” (အပိုင်း-၄၃)</p> <p>6:30 pm 14. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm 15. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်လှေကားထစ်လေးများ” (အပိုင်း-၁၈)</p> <p>7:35 pm 17. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:40 pm 18. (၂၃)ကြိမ်ခြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲတွင် ရွတ်ဆိတ်ဆုများအောင်ပွဲခံ</p> <p>7:50 pm 19. Musical programme</p> <p>8:00 pm 20. News</p> <p>21. International news.</p> <p>22. Weather report.</p> <p>23. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သူလက်ဆောင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၅)</p> <p>24. The next day's programme</p>
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Prime Minister General Soe Win sends message of felicitations to Thai Prime Minister

YANGON, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2005, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. — MNA

The Government is fulfilling requirements of agriculture, livestock breeding, power and water supply, better transport and telecommunications at Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone.

Entrepreneurs urged to make efforts for achieving more success in agricultural and livestock breeding tasks

Commander tours Hlegu, Hmawby and Taikkyi Townships

YANGON, 4 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected agricultural and regional development tasks in Hlegu, Hmawby and Taikkyi Townships this morning.

The Government is fulfilling requirements of agriculture, livestock breeding, power and water supply, better transport and telecommunications at Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said on his inspection tour of the zone in Hmawby Township.

After looking into the site of Ngamoeyeik river water pumping project (8,000-acre) near



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects thriving vegetable plantations at Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone. — MNA

Moksae Nyaungbin Village in Hlegu Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe went to the special zone and inspected thriving vegetable plantations, the area for extending 500 acres of cultivable land, and breeding of 40,000 layers at the poultry farm of U Sai Saw

Lwin. He urged agricultural and livestock breeding entrepreneurs to make efforts for achievement of more success in their tasks.

At the meeting, officials reported to the commander on production of 28 items of vegetables, and breeding of poultry and

fish, matters related to the zones and supply of power and water.

Afterwards, the commander and party oversaw thriving BPM-24 strain rubber plantations on 1,171.40 acres of grower U Aung Moe Kyaw in the Wanetchaung

reserved forest in Taikkyi Township. They also viewed production of rubber sap and rubber plates.

While in Taikkyi, Lt-Gen Myint Swe paid homage to Saddhama Jotikadhaja Pantapwint Hill Missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasara.

The commander also inspected nurturing of 450,000 BPM-24 strain rubber saplings at the rub-

ber nursery and 2,000 acres of rubber plantation of Myanmar War Veterans Organization in Taungthaing Yoma Reserved Forest.

Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into the site for construction of Wanetchaung station hospital (16-bed) near Wanetchaung Village-tract in Hmawby Township. — MNA

Myanmar bag four more gold

YANGON, 4 Dec — Myanmar bagged four more gold, 10 silver and eight bronze in the XXIII SEA Games being held in the Philippines today.

Four gold medalists were Mya Sanda Oo in women's 75-kilo weightlifting event; Aung Cho Myint and Maung Maung in men's doubles Sepak Takraw event; Phone Myint Teza in men's single canoeing event; Khin Mar Oo, Naw

Ahle Lashe, Thein Htay and Aye Mi Khaing in women's four-oar canoeing event.

Ten silver medalists were Khin Mar Oo and Aye Mi Khaing in women's tow-oar canoeing event; Naw Ahle Lashe for women's single canoeing event; Khin Myo Thu in women's 78-kilo judo event, the team in men's traditional boat race (20-ore); the team in men's traditional boat race (20-

ore); the team in women's traditional boat race (20-ore); Zaw Wan in 55-kilo body-building event; Aung Khaing Win in 65-kilo body-building event, Min Zaw Oo in 80-kilo body-building; and Nyein Nyein Aung in Pancek Silat 45-50 kilo women's event.

Eight bronze medalists were two women in women's doubles Sepak Takraw event; Aung Lin and Win Htaik

in men's doubles Kayak event; Pa Pa in women's marathan event; the team in men's compound archery event; the team in women's compound archery event; the team in women's recurve archery event; Aung Tun Kyaw in men's 55-kilo judo event; and the team in men's golf event. So far, Myanmar sports contingent has won 17 gold, 34 silver and 46 bronze totalling 97 medals. —

Live coverage of programme of concluding XXIII SEA Games to be aired

YANGON, 4 Dec — The programme of the XXIII SEA Games concluding ceremony to be held in Manila, the Philippines, will be aired live at 4.30 pm tomorrow through 5-Sports Channel of MRTV-4. — MNA

XXIII SEA Games Medal Standing

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
PHILIPPINES	113	76	85	274
THAILAND	75	77	107	259
VIETNAM	64	62	81	207
MALAYSIA	56	47	60	163
INDONESIA	48	73	83	204
SINGAPORE	40	31	53	124
MYANMAR	17	34	46	97
LAOS	3	4	12	19
BRUNEI	0	2	2	4
CAMBODIA	0	1	8	9
EAST TIMOR	0	0	3	3



Phone Myint Tayzar. — SPED



Maung Maung. — SPED



Aung Cho Myint. — SPED



Mya Sanda Oo. — SPED