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Sunday, 11 December, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Soe Win

YANGON, 10 Dec — At the invitation of Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar

General Soe Win left here by special flight for Kuala Lumpur this noon to attend the 11th ASEAN Summit, the Summit of 2nd Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam, the



Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Soe Win at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Prime Minister will attend the 11th ASEAN Summit, the Summit of 2nd Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam, the ASEAN+3 Summit, the Summit of ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, the ASEAN-India Summit, the ASEAN-Russia Summit and the 1st East Asia Summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur.



Prime Minister General Soe Win being seen off at the airport to attend 11th ASEAN Summit and Summits in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.— MNA

ASEAN+3 Summit, the Summit of ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, the ASEAN-India Summit, the ASEAN-Russia Summit and the 1st East Asia Summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Soe Win was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 December, 2005

Nurture highly qualified intellectuals and technocrats

In the present world, the development of science and technology is wielding a great influence on every field. A glance at the international arena will reveal that the big nations with a technological and wealthy edge are expanding their influence over the small ones.

At such a time and in such a situation, the people of Myanmar need to be well educated, to be rational and to broaden the scope of their horizons. And it is required to build the reliable national forces who are imbued with patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Only then, will they be able to safeguard national prestige and integrity and national interests.

Therefore, the government in its efforts to build the nation into a modern and developed one has laid down and is implementing the national education promotion programmes stage by stage for human resources development and building a series of education infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein during his tour of Mandalay Division visited Kyaukse University and Meiktila Institute of Economics, where he inspected the construction work being carried out there.

At the briefing hall of Kyaukse University, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that a peaceful, modern and developed nation is to be built through the might of intellectuals and technocrats, and intellectuals and technocrats capable of distinguishing right from wrong or good from bad are imperative in the process of transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation and in the drive for constant flourishing of democracy.

The faculty members are to make relentless efforts in carrying out deeper and wider education tasks and in serving the interests of the State and the people.

At present, the government is building a number of universities and colleges complete with teaching and learning aids for human resources development. And it is incumbent upon all those responsible in the education sector to inculcate new generation students with good practice and spirit and to train them to abide by rules and regulations of the nation.

This being so, all the faculty members are required to train their students in such a way that they can become qualified and well-versed in their specialities and mentally mature.

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

176 low-grade utility jade lots to be sold



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint speaking at the meeting to organize Low-grade Utility Jade Sales for 2005. — MNA

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Central Committee for Organizing Low-grade Utility Jade Sales for 2005 held the coordination meeting at Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

The meeting approved the jade sales to be held from 11 to 15 December. Participants reported on invitation of gem merchants to attend the Low-grade

Utility Jade Sales, and preparations for the sales. The meeting ended with the remarks by the minister.

So far, 82 jade merchants of 22 companies from abroad have replied to attend the sales. It is estimated that over 300 jade merchants will attend the sales.

A total of 176 lots of low-grade utility jade will be sold at the sales through tender system.

MNA

Myanmar emerges champion in Sepak Takraw in XXIII SEA Games

YANGON, 9 Dec — Myanmar sports contingent stood in the seventh position at the medal standing table by grabbing 17 gold, 34 silver and 48 bronze, totalling 99 in the XXIII SEA Games held in the Philippines from 27 November to 5 December.

Position of the participant countries at the standing table were designated with the winning of gold medals. Likewise, champions of the sport event-wise were put on record. The country that secured the largest number of gold medals in the sports events concerned will be designated as champion of the respective sport event.

Hoop Takraw, regu and double regu events for men and women, totalling six games were included in the Sepak Takraw event. Hence, six gold medals were presented to the winners. Out of six gold medals, Myanmar snatched three gold, Thailand two gold and Malaysia one. Among them, Myanmar that bagged three gold medals emerged champion in the Sepak Takraw event.



Myanmar Men's Sepak Takraw Team celebrates its victory by holding up the trophies of prize. — MNA

Furthermore, the six events — one gold in the women's Hoop Takraw event, one gold in the men's Hoop Takraw, another one in the men's double regu event and one bronze in the men's regu event, one gold in the women's double regu event and one bronze in the women's regu event. — MNA

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှ အပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

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၂၉th Blood Donor's Day

Great thanks to -
Generosity and respectable characters of yours.
You make the difference between life and death.
on behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours.

National Blood Centre
Department of Health
Ministry of Health.

China, Russia prepare for large-scale cultural exchanges

BEIJING, 9 Dec — China and Russia held talks here Thursday on issues related to holding large-scale cultural activities in the coming two years, a move to strengthen bilateral strategic partnership.

The Russia Year in China scheduled for 2006 and the China Year in Russia for 2007 were declared in a joint statement during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to China last year.

The two goodwill programmes will cover a wide spectrum of areas including culture, education, economy,

political systems and traditional customs.

The China-Russia talks on the goodwill programmes were co-chaired by Chinese state councillors Tang Jiaxuan and Chen Zhili and visiting Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev, who is also president of the organizing committee of

the Russia Year in China.

"The two programmes demonstrate the high level of bilateral relations and are a major step to implement principles and spirits of the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation," said a Press release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ဖော်ပြောဆိုမှုများ



Workers prepare for the opening ceremony of the new shopping mall 'Siam Paragon' in Bangkok recently, the largest mall in Southeast Asia.—INTERNET

US Democratic Chief says new Iraq strategy needed

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — Democratic Party chief Howard Dean said on Thursday his comment that the United States could not win the war in Iraq was reported "a little out of context," but a new strategy would be needed to triumph there.

Dean was attacked by President George W. Bush and Republicans earlier this week for telling a Texas radio station that "the idea we're going to win this war is an idea that unfortunately is plain wrong."

"It was a little out of context. They kind of cherry-picked that one the same way the president cherry-picked the intelligence going into Iraq," Dean told CNN.

"We can only win the war, which we have to win, if we change our strategy dramatically," he said. "We can and we have to win the war on terror. We can't do it with this approach, with this leadership the president is showing."

Democrats have offered a range of ideas on Iraq, from quick withdrawal of

troops to a gradual drawdown to Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman's backing of Bush. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Dean's remarks reflected the Democratic Party's problem developing an approach to Iraq.

"You have a lot of disarray and disagreement within the Democratic Party," he said. While Bush emphasized a plan for victory, he said, Democrats emphasized "immediate withdrawal of troops or artificial timetables. That's a plan for defeat."

Dean said Democrats

were beginning to rally around a concept of strategic redeployment in Iraq. That plan would gradually phase out most US troops over the next two years, withdraw them from urban areas and bring home National Guard forces within six months.

MNA/Reuters

Nobel literature prize laureate blasts Bush, Blair

STOCKHOLM, 9 Dec — This year's Nobel literature prize laureate, British playwright Harold Pinter, has captured international headlines by blasting both American President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as war criminals for killing thousands of Iraqi civilians,

local media reported on Thursday.

Pinter described what he calls clever American hypocrisy — pretending to defend democracy while supporting brutal human rights violations in dictatorships in Nicaragua and many other countries, costing many thousands of

lives and bloodshed.

He added that the international community and mass media have ignored such developments as the torture of the prisoners in Guantanamo — afraid to criticize Washington as US military bases spread in nations around the world — with the exception of Sweden.

"The crimes of the United States have been systematic, constant, vicious, remorseless, but very few people have actually talked about them," Pinter said.

"You have to hand it to America. It has exercised a quite clinical manipulation of power worldwide while masquerading as a force for universal good. It's a brilliant, even witty, highly successful act of hypnosis," he added. Dying of cancer and bound to a wheel chair, Pinter, 75, is unable to come to Stockholm for his Nobel speech and for the prize ceremony this Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua



British servicemen patrol the streets in Basra, Iraq, on 9 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

UN staff shot by gunmen in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 9 Dec — A UN staff was badly injured Thursday morning after gunmen opened fire to him in Afghan southern province of Kandahar, a local official said.

"This morning in the Loya Wala area of northern Kandahar City, two gunmen in a motorcycle shot at a local UN staff in charge of UN guest house in Kandahar Assadullah when he was driving from his home to the office," Dr Sidiq, the deputy of UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Kandahar told. — MNA/Xinhua

Bomb in troubled Pakistani region kills 12

WANA (Pakistan), 9 Dec — At least 12 people were killed and dozens wounded when a bomb exploded on Thursday in a market in Pakistan's troubled tribal region near the Afghan border, officials said.

The blast hit a hotel and shops in Jandola Town, in South Waziristan, the latest violence in the lawless Waziristan region since authorities reported the death of a senior al-Qaeda figure there last week.

Intelligence officials said neighbouring shops selling guns and ammunition were razed by fire. They said the blast, which happened at 8 am (0300 GMT), killed at least 12 people and wounded at least 35. — MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh suicide bombs kill eight, hurt 50

DHAKA, 9 Dec — A suicide bomb attack killed at least eight people in Bangladesh and wounded more than 50 on Thursday in the latest in a series of deadly blasts blamed on militants seeking Islamic rule in the country. Police said two bombs exploded on a crowded street within the space of a few minutes during the morning rush hour in Netrokona, a town 360 kilometres (220 miles) north of the capital Dhaka. — MNA/Reuters

Two Iraqi soldiers killed in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Dec — Two soldiers were killed when gunmen ambushed an Iraqi Army convoy in western Baghdad on Thursday, an Iraqi Interior Ministry source said.

"Armed men opened fired at an Iraqi Army convoy in al-Iskan District, killing two soldiers," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The soldiers traded heavy gun fire with the militants who managed to flee the scene, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Preparations for upcoming ASEAN, related summits conclude

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Dec—Senior officials wrapped up preparatory meetings on Thursday for the 11th ASEAN Summit and related summits as well as the inaugural East Asia Summit (EAS), taking ASEAN and its dialogue partners a step closer to realizing greater cooperation in various fields.

With some fine-tuning left to be done in some areas, officials from ASEAN's 10 member countries, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and those from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea have almost finalized the agenda for the summits.

Ministers would take a look before coming up with the final agenda prior to the summits, scheduled for 12

to 14 December in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

The topics on the table for greater cooperation among ASEAN, ASEAN+3 (ASEAN plus China, Japan and South Korea), and the EAS (ASEAN+3 plus India, Australia and New Zealand) include terrorism, Avian flu, HIV/AIDS, the environment and the economy, said Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar. He told a Press conference here that

the meetings have been conducted "in a spirit of cooperation" and "the discussions have been very substantive". "We want to move toward a brighter, more peaceful and prosperous future in line with the summit's theme of one vision, one identity, one community," he said. Officials are still working on the finer points of several subjects, including free trade agreements (FTAs) which are to be signed by ASEAN with India and South Korea.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists walk to the world famous Angkor Wat temple in the late afternoon light in Siem Reap, 330 km's (220 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh on 9 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

US plans Iraq, Afghanistan troop deployment cuts

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—The US military has drawn up plans to cancel the deployment of two Army brigades to Iraq and one to Afghanistan next month in what could be the start of a reduction of US forces in those countries, defence officials said on Thursday.

But small groups from two brigades, which each include about 3,500 troops and hundreds of supporting soldiers, could be sent to help train Iraqi security forces, according to the officials, who asked not to be identified.

There are currently about 155,000 US troops in Iraq. President George W Bush and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld are under mounting pressure from some members of Congress to begin re-

ducing that force amid waning public support for the war.

Rumsfeld told reporters on Thursday that the United States planned to reduce its force in Iraq, recently bolstered to help protect elections there on 15 December, back down to the normal level of about 137,000 next year, but that going lower than that would be based on the security situation.

"I think that as we've said all along it's condi-

tion-based. And the reality is that the Iraqi security forces are improving in capability and experience every day, every week, every month," Rumsfeld said after meeting with members of Congress. "We've plussed-up (added) considerably from 137,000 ... up to about 160,000 to be helpful during the election period," he said. "And we certainly expect to go back down to 137,000. If conditions permit we can go below that.

But time will tell."

Defence officials have said that they are considering dropping the US force to about 100,000 by next summer, but stressed that no final decisions have been made.

MNA/Reuters

Vanuatu volcano continues to erupt

WELLINGTON, 9 Dec—Volcano in Vanuatu is continually erupting and might go on for another two weeks, New Zealand scientists keeping in touch with monitors on the island said on Thursday.

Massey University volcanologist Shane Cronin, who is keeping contact with scientists on the island three times a

day, said it is the Volcano's first full scale eruption since 1870.

He said the activity now is similar to that event, when lahars killed a number of people in valley areas. He expressed the hope that the emergency plan would avert fatalities this time.

Mt Ambae volcano erupted on 27 November in Ambae Island of Vanuatu. Local officials said 12 to 15 villages with a total population of about 5,000 have evacuated and no casualties have been reported. There are no damages to the houses except that they are covered with ash.

According to the Vanuatu official website, a national coordination team is monitoring the situation. The police and the mobile force are informing the community of the situation. —MNA/Xinhua

One rescued, six others trapped in N-E China coalmine flooding

CHANGCHUN, 9 Dec—One miner was rescued and lifted to ground after a coal mine flooding trapped seven miners in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province on Thursday morning. The miner, slightly injured, was lifted to the ground at noon on Thursday, and is receiving treatment in hospital. Local rescuers have spotted the positions of

two other miners trapped underground and are trying to rescue them. While another four are still missing.

The accident occurred at about 3:10 am on Thursday at Changling Coalmine in Shuangyang District of Changchun, according to sources with the provincial bureau of coal industry.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine floods kill two, affect thousands

MANILA, 9 Dec—Floods triggered by heavy rains in the Philippines have killed two and affected more than 100,000 people, relief officials said on Thursday as they appealed for food, water and blankets.

Water levels were rising after three days of continuous monsoon rain that has burst dykes and forced people in low-lying areas to flee homes and farms in three provinces south of the capital Manila, the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) said.

Two people were buried alive in a landslide in Pagbilao town, Quezon Province, disaster officials said. The OCD added about 60,000 people had been evacuated in Quezon, Camarines Norte and Mindoro Oriental Provinces. Officials said wide areas were affected by landslides and floods and that many homes, farms and businesses had been damaged. Calapan City on Mindoro Island was worst hit, they said.

Doy Leachon, an official in Calapan, told Reuters the dykes protecting the city

had been breached by swollen rivers.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi youth flashes a 'V' sign while a US military vehicle burns after it was hit by a roadside bomb in Ramadi, Iraq, on 9 Dec, 2005. A roadside bomb exploded at the city centre, targeting an American patrol, Al-Ramadi police said. —INTERNET

2135 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—As of Friday, 9 Dec, 2005, at least 2,135 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,676 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is three lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday. The British military has reported 98 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,996 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,567 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. —INTERNET

ASEAN, Russia to tap full potential of relationship

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Dec — Several documents to be inked between Russia and ASEAN within the next few days will enable both sides to tap the full potential of their relationship, a senior Russian official said on Thursday.

Russian Department of ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Regional Affairs Director, Alexander Ivanov, said these would lay the legal foundation for a new era of ASEAN-Russia cooperation. "We are sure that we have very important potentials not yet fully exploited in our relations," he told reporters at the end of the preparatory ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials Meeting here.

On Saturday, the

ASEAN-Russia ministerial meeting will be marked by the signing of an agreement on economic and development cooperation while the joint declaration on progressive and comprehensive partnership is scheduled to be inked at the inaugural ASEAN-Russia Summit.

The meetings are to be held in conjunction with the 11th ASEAN Summit starting on Monday. "We are sure that our leaders

will discuss areas of cooperation between both parties as well as important international and regional topics," Ivanov said.

Russia has been a dialogue partner of ASEAN since 1996. ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) groups Cambodia, Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

President says Iran will not halt drive for nuclear fuel

TEHERAN, 9 Dec — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday said Iran would not halt its drive to produce its own nuclear fuel because it did not trust the West to guarantee a supply to feed its planned atomic power reactors.

Speaking in Mecca, where he was attending an Islamic summit, Ahmadinejad said Iran's right to develop a full civilian nuclear programme was non-negotiable.

"We are not allowed to negotiate on the principle of having peaceful nuclear technology," Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted him as telling a news conference.

European Union leaders warned Iran on Wednesday not to pursue

work on machines able to make uranium fuel enriched to the grade used in nuclear bombs, saying such moves defied efforts to ease an international crisis over Teheran's atomic programme.

Iran has cold-shouldered an offer by the "EU3" powers — Britain, France and Germany — to resume dialogue this month based on Russia's proposal to process Iranian uranium as a joint venture to minimize the

risk of bomb-making by Teheran. The Islamic republic says its nuclear project aims only to produce electricity, not weapons as the West suspects.

Ahmadinejad said the West had no right to suspect Iran.

"Those who have many nuclear weapons and have used them in the past century against defenceless people ... are accusing Iran of deviating towards nuclear weapons," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Minister says hostile fire downed British plane in Iraq

LONDON, 9 Dec — Hostile ground-to-air fire brought down a British military aircraft which crashed in Iraq in January killing 10 soldiers, British Defence Minister John Reid said on Thursday.

The C130 Hercules transport plane crashed 30 kilometres (19 miles) northwest of Baghdad on 30 January causing the biggest single British loss of life in Iraq and there has been speculation that

guerillas had hit the plane with a missile.

"The board of inquiry has concluded that the aircraft crashed because it became uncontrollable after hostile ground-to-air fire caused the outboard

right-hand wing to explode and separate from the aircraft," Reid said.

"The crash was not survivable," he told Parliament, saying three factors had contributed to the crash. — MNA/Reuters

US miliary confirms soldier death in eastern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Dec — The US military confirmed on Thursday that one of its soldiers was killed in a roadside bomb blast near a US convoy in eastern Baghdad.

"A US soldier was killed Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded alongside an American convoy in eastern Baghdad," the military said in a statement.

The soldier was assigned to the Army's Task Force Baghdad, it added.

Earlier, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua that a roadside bomb struck a US Humvee at about 10:20 am (0720 GMT) on the al-Qanat Street in eastern Baghdad, killing a US soldier and

wounding two others.

The name of the killed soldier is being withheld

pending notification of next of kin, the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

Congress torn over Iraq endgame

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — Rep John Murtha's call for the withdrawal of US troops in Iraq is roiling both parties on the war and intensifying a debate that is rapidly moving beyond the capacity of party leaders to control.

The fracture lines are most acute for the Democrats. Their two House leaders are divided by Mr Murtha's proposal. And their party's chairman, Howard Dean, spurred controversy this week by suggesting that victory in Iraq is not possible. Some

Democrats fear that stand may undermine their party's claim to be strong on national defence — and weaken their prospects to make gains in next year's midterm elections.

"Until Murtha's statement, Democrats could hide

behind the 'we support the troops but deplore the war' rhetoric. By laying down this marker on the war, he's put Democrats in a very tough position," says Ross Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

But most Republicans, meanwhile, weren't rushing to President Bush's defense, as he rolled out two big speeches in as many weeks defending the administration's record on a war that polls suggest has lost the support of most voters.

Underneath the public (and private) rifts in both parties, there's a growing consensus in Congress that the White House must be more concrete in defining what constitutes victory in Iraq — and more forthcoming in the metrics needed to measure progress.

Internet

Rice quizzed at NATO on CIA prisons

BRUSSELS, 9 Dec — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice faced further questions over US treatment of detainees at a NATO meeting on Thursday, the final leg of a European trip dogged by criticism of US detention policies.

Despite Rice's efforts to defuse the issue, critics accuse the CIA of running secret prisons in eastern Europe and covertly transporting detainees in its war against terrorism. Rights groups say incommunicado detention often leads to torture.

Several countries raised the matter with Rice at a dinner for NATO and European Union foreign ministers on the eve of the meeting proper. Some emerged more satisfied after what one source described as a frank but respectful exchange.

"I think NATO and EU ministers were able to raise their concerns that we should not diverge from one another on the interpretation of international law," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters.

"Secretary Rice promised that international agreements are not interpreted any differently in the United States than they are in Europe. That, at least, is a good statement," he told reporters as he arrived for the meeting on Thursday.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot, who signalled earlier this week that the Netherlands would raise the matter during the talks, said he was "very satisfied" with Rice's responses.

MNA/Reuters



A villager stands on his roof after heavy rain caused floods in the southern Thai province of Yala, 1,084 km (672 miles) south of Bangkok, on 9 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET



An Iraqi soldier uses a GPS, left, while on a patrol with US Marines in Karabilah, Iraq, seven miles from Syria, on 9 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

ASEAN ministers sign three key economic documents

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Dec— The Economic Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed here on Friday three important economic documents including the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Agreement which is aimed at ensuring faster clearance of goods through the Single Window initiative.

ASEAN wants to cut Customs clearance time for any single transaction to 30 minutes from the current three to four day average through the quickly implementation of ASW Agree-

ment.

ASEAN officials remain concerned that most member countries may not be able to quickly implement the ASW Agreement.

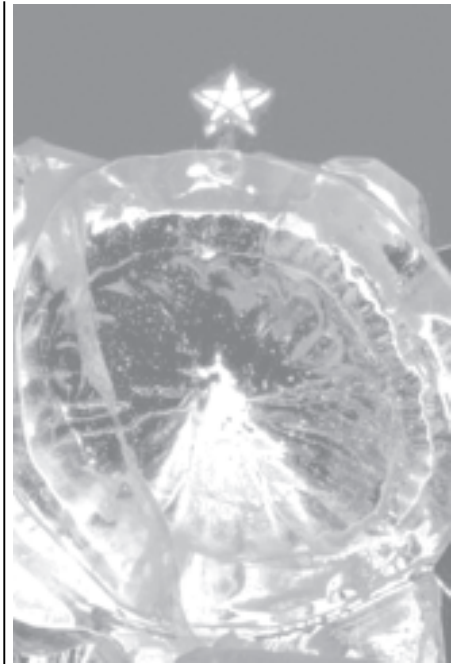
As a result, they agreed that the ASW

Agreement will serve as a statement of commitment from member countries to establish the ASEAN Single Window. The target date to establish the ASEAN Single Window is 2012. According

to a statement, the ASW will be fully implemented by 2008 at the latest for the ASEAN six (Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia) and by 2012 for ASEAN four (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam).

The Economic Ministers also signed two agreements on the ASEAN Harmonized Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulatory Regime and the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Engineering.

MNA/Xinhua



An illuminated Christmas tree is seen through an ice sculpture in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 9 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

S Korean President to visit Philippines

MANILA, 10 Dec — South Korea President Roh Moo-Hyun will be in the Philippines for a state visit from 14 to 16 December, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Friday.

The DFA statement said that President Roh's state visit would be an opportunity for both countries to further strengthen their political and economic ties, which currently could be described as very good.

During the state visit, agreements in social security, construction and road works, and mineral

resources between the two countries would be signed, the DFA said.

According to the Foreign Affairs Department, Roh will witness the inaugurations of the Northrail-Southern Linkage Project and the Information Technology Training Centre in Quezon City, both of which were financed by official development as-

sistance from South Korea. South Korea is the ninth largest trading partner of the Philippines and a major source of foreign direct investments, accounting for 36.5 per cent of the total in 2005.

Roh will fly to Manila from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after he attends the East Asia Summit there. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan to impose strict checks on US beef

Tokyo, 10 Dec— Japan will inspect all US beef entering the country for several months after a two-year ban on US beef imports is lifted, rather than rely on spot inspections as in the past, Health Minister Jiro Kawasaki said on Friday.

The ban, imposed after the discovery of mad cow disease in the United States, is widely expected to be officially lifted on Monday despite opposition from consumer groups.

"We will step up quarantine measures until 31 March," Kawasaki said a day after Japan's independent Food Safety Commission approved the easing of the ban.

The government, under increasing pressure from the United States, has said it will swiftly reopen its market to beef from young US cattle once the commission gave its formal approval.

Kawasaki said all US

beef would be inspected for the time being, although eventually only samples would be checked.

Officials from the health and farm ministries will soon be sent to the United States to ensure that agreed safety measures are being taken, he said.

"I think US beef is safe," he added.

Japan banned US beef and beef products in December 2003 after the United States discovered its first case of mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), halting annual trade worth about 1.4 billion dollars.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi policemen check a motorist along a highway in northern Iraqi city of Mosul, on 9 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Poland ready to cooperative with EU probe into alleged CIA prisons

WARSAW, 10 Dec — Poland will fully cooperate with an EU investigation into allegations that the Eastern European

country hosted secret CIA prisons, the Prime Minister said on Thursday.

"We are ready to show everything ... to guarantee that there are no (CIA) prisons or such places in Poland," Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz told a news conference.

The European Council has asked Swiss lawmaker Dick Marty to investigate the CIA's reported transportation of terrorist suspects through European airports to secret CIA jails.

Poland and Romania have been identified by a New York-based human rights group as countries hosting possible CIA prisons, but both have denied any involvement.

MNA/Xinhua

Former deputy police chief killed by gunmen in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec — Unidentified gunmen opened fire at the car of a former deputy police chief of Baghdad and his wife in western Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

"Armed men ambushed the car of Brigadier Khakid Sayhood Mohammed Ali and his wife at about 1:45 pm (1045 GMT) while they were on a main road in western Baghdad," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Ali retired from police service as deputy police chief of Baghdad four months ago, the source said.

Gunmen frequently target Iraqi security personnel in a bid to topple the current Iraqi government installed in late April. —MNA/Xinhua

China to return inferior US donations

BEIJING, 10 Dec— China will return a batch of donations from the United States to China, *Beijing Evening News* reported here Thursday.

The three containers of these donations entered China via Tianjin Port and were sent respectively to Anhui Province in east China, and Hebei Province and the national capital Beijing in north China.

One of the container arrived in Beijing on 4 November.

Some of the medical apparatuses and instruments could not be used past 1998 and some were found to have passed their probationary period after three checks in November by the State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China and Beijing Entry-Exit In-

spection and Quarantine Bureau, the paper said.

Dirty quilts and messy clothes were also included, the paper said. Meanwhile, the Anhui Provincial Charity Association disclosed that the donations to that province were also shoddy after inspections from 9 to 11 November. —MNA/Xinhua

Forestry sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of forestry in the time of the Tatmadaw government

More forest plantations established, natural forests conserved

Myanma forests not only help raise the socio-economic life of the citizens but also contribute much towards balancing of natural environment and bio-diversity and ecology. It is safe to say that all-round development of the forestry sector will surely ensure the long-term interests of the generations to come.

It can be said that the basic resources of a nation are its soil, water and climate. The deterioration of forest will lead to land and water damage and as a consequence the weather conditions will be abnormal. Therefore, all are to conserve forests.

With the increasing population, Myanmar's dependence on forests rises. As a result the problem of damaging forests and ecological system has to be encountered. According to forest surveys, in the past, over 500,000 acres of forests that is equivalent to 0.32 per cent of the total land area of the country depleted yearly.



Out of extended forest plantations for greening tasks, teak plantation in Bago Division being seen.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, emphasis is being placed on perpetuation of forest and minimizing forest depletion. In order to conserve and promote natural plants, forestry policy and objectives have been laid down and rules and regulations concerning the forestry sector issued.

Thanks to these efforts, forest-covered land area of the country has increased. According to satellite photos, 52.28 per cent of land are covered with forests in comparison with about 51 per cent in the past. Moreover, a statement issued by World Food and Agriculture Organization concerning conditions of world's forest acknowledges about 52 per cent of land in Myanmar is covered with forests.

These are the fruitful results of implementing projects of conserving natural forests and growing forest plantations throughout the country including the arid zone of Myanmar.

The table shows facts and figures on extended establishment of forest plantations and increasing natural forest conservation.

Establishment of forest plantations and conservation of natural forest

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Establishment of plantation (acre)	Nil	203,976	203,976
	- Acre of firewood plantation	Nil	92,340	92,340
	- Acre of watershed plantation	Nil	66,550	66,550
	- Acre of mountain range plantation	Nil	15,825	15,825
	- Acre of research plantation	Nil	416	416
	- Acre of other plantation	Nil	24,645	24,645
	- Acre of Thitseint plantation	Nil	4,200	4,200
2	Acres of natural forest conservation	Nil	1,079,431	1,079,431

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister...

(from page 1)

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Yangon Command Commander, the Ministers, the Senior Military Offi-

cial, Charge d' Affaires ai of the Embassy of Malaysia Mr Rizany Irwan Bin Muhamad Mazlan and embassy staff, departmental heads and officials.

Prime Minister General Soe Win was accompanied by Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Director-General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-

General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and departmental heads.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha left for Kuala Lumpur in advance on 8 December to attend the Ministerial Meetings of ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Economic Ministers that were held prior to the Summit.

MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win being seen off at the airport by Charge d' Affaires ai of the Embassy of Malaysia Mr Rizany Irwan Bin Muhamad Mazlan and embassy staff.
MNA

NCCC, Work and Management...

(from page 16)

On 6 and 7 December, the Panel of Chairmen read out the collections of the proposal papers by eight delegate groups at the previous convention regarding sharing of executive and judicial pow-

ers to be included in the State Constitution. On 8 and 9 December, Group-wise discussions of the delegates were held and the delegates discussed the collections of the panel of chairmen.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-

Gen Thein Sein discussed matters to be undertaken at the National Convention to be held on 12 December and arrangements for accommodation and meals of the delegates, excursion and health care services.

Secretary of the commission Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported on work done and to be done and administrative

matters. Next, those present made suggestions for success of the National Convention. The Secretary-1 took part in the discussions and the meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the Secretary-1.

MNA



Secretary of the NCC Commission Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.



Chairman of NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung.



Chairman of NCC Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe.

42nd photo contest of Myanmar Photographic Society to be held

YANGON, 9 Dec — The annual 42nd photo contest of Myanmar Photographic Society will be held at the end of January, 2006.

In the contest, there are five sectors: Monochrome Pictorial, Color Pictorial, Potraiture, Slide Pictorial and Digital Enhanced and K 100,000 for first prize, K 75,000 for second, K 50,000 for third, and K 35,000 and K 20,000 for consolation prizes, will be awarded to the winners of the contest.

The cash prizes are sponsored by Nikon Co, Accel Intl Co, Panasonic Co and Sony Co and the photos by Khwa Ni and Ko Wanna Khwa Ni. After participating in all contests, the prize of the best professional photographer will be awarded to the one who wins first in a contest at least and highest total marks in all contests, together with K 100,000, the honour prize of Yangon Mayor and K 300,000 of Nikon Co.

Not MPS members but those who are not members can take part in the contest and the detailed information can be obtained through No 27/29, 35th Street in Kyauktada Township, tel: 01-373167.

MNA

Implementation Committee for Myanmar Unicode Characters System meets

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Committee for Implementation of Myanmar Unicode Characters System held its second meeting at Myanmar Info-tech building this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the committee Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairmen member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe and members.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen

Thein Zaw called for timely completion of the tasks such as spelling check of Myanmar character and translation of

global languages by computer.

Next, the Working Group for Machine Translation and Recognition

Systems, Working Group for Myanmar Laxicon and Working Group for Natural Language Processing Standard and Applications

reported on their respective work. Later, the minister fulfilled the requirements and gave concluding remarks. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw makes a speech at the meeting of the Committee for Implementation of Myanmar Unicode Characters System.—MNA

Sanitation and greening tasks carried out in Women's Hospital

YANGON, 10 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo viewed the sanitation and greening tasks being carried out in Women's Hospital in South Okkalapa Township, organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation this morning.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspect sanitation tasks carried out in the compound of Women's Hospital in South Okkalapa Township. — MNA

Altogether 510 persons including members of MWAFF led by head of Administration Department of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, members of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization led by Patron Daw Khin Thein Htay, members of Yangon

Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and staff of YCDC carried out the sanitation and greening tasks in the hospital compound, where Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party encouraged the tasks.

At the cash donation ceremony that the commander and party attended, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe explained the donation. The health minister, the deputy minister and officials accepted K 2.06 million and dust bins and bags donated by the wellwishers who received the certificates of honour. — MNA

Indian delegation visits DSMA

YANGON, 10 Dec — The visiting Indian delegation led by Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Lieutenant-General RN Kapur together with officials arrived at Defence Services Medical Academy in Mingaladon Township this noon. Rector Brig-Gen Min Thein and senior

ior military officials welcomed them.

At the briefing hall, Rector Brig-Gen Min Thein extended greetings and explained about background history and academic matters of DSMA with the use of audio visual aids. Lieutenant-General RN Kapur spoke on the oc-

casation. Next, Lieutenant-General RN Kapur and the Rector exchanged souvenirs, and the guests viewed round the DSMA. Rector Brig-Gen Min Thein hosted a luncheon in honour of visiting Lieutenant-General RN Kupa and party at the academy. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint accepts cash donation made by Yangon Division WAO Patron Daw Khin Thein Htay. — MNA

AGM of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association held



U Kyaw Win (U Hton Goldsmith) reads out the annual report of MGEA. UMFFCI

YANGON, 10 Dec — Patron of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo attended the 3rd annual general meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association at Summit Parkview Hotel in Ahlon Township this afternoon.

It was also attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation, Managing Director U

Hla Thein of No 2 Mining Enterprise, the Deputy Director-General of Bureau of Special Investigation and the chairman, executives and members of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association and guests. Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gave instruction on the functions of



Indian delegation led by Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Lieutenant-General RN Kapur visits Defence Services Medical Academy. — MNA

Ministry of Industry-2 donates 40 bags of rice

YANGON, 10 Dec — Under the aegis of Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and wife Daw Moe Moe Myint, staff of the Ministry of Industry-2 held the ceremony to donate rice to the association. Secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association U Kyaw Win (U Hton Goldsmith) read out the annual report, and the meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by Chairman U Thu Taw. — MNA

Dharmethaka Nunnery in Mayangon Township this morning.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin paid homage to Buddha images at Thabyinnyu Stupa.

Next, the minister and wife presented 40 bags of rice to Nun Daw Dhammesi. Afterwards, the merit-sharing ceremony followed. After the ceremony, nuns from the nunnery were served with meals.

MNA

Employees walk round Kandawgyi Lake

YANGON, 10 Dec — A total of 240 employees led by the Managing Director and the General Manager of Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue participated in the walking race round Kandawgyi Lake here this morning.

MNA

Should democratization of Myanmar be hastily implemented?

Kyaw Myint Naing

The West bloc and the anti-government elements at home and abroad are demanding for a hasty democratization of Myanmar saying that delaying tactics was employed.

On 10 October this year, the Malaysian Foreign Minister on his return from Myanmar told journalists that the Myanmar Government had been cautiously taking steps in democratization process as it could encounter a similar fate of Iraq if the work is hastily done. According to BBC, Razali Ismail said Myanmar was not like Iraq and democratization should be carried out speedily.

The modern scientific political economy said that in a nation (a society) a new system could not be introduced at will; it could be made possible gradually after taking into consideration and dealing with the economic life one had passed through.

The parliamentary democracy which came into being with the regaining of national independence in 1948 lasted only 14 years and it ground to a halt. In connection with this, Dr Gannavaral remarked that according to the experiences of the democracy nations that came into being in the eastern, central and southern Europe, the democratization led them to dictatorship due to lack of political maturity.

The Union of Burma in 1948 was founded not because it had possessed productive forces. It was because the British imperialists had introduced the direct copy democracy in their colonies since they had to concentrate on putting their own house in order as they were devastated during the war. Since they were not in a position to take care of the colonies, they granted independence to the latter.

As a British colony, Myanmar had no chance to develop market economy, so productive forces of national entrepreneurs had not developed as much as they should. Moreover, the insignificant amount of productive forces were destroyed due to the Second World War and the fascist rule. So, it was a nation of poor and backward people producing raw materials based on agriculture and of junior capitalists.

Because of this kind of social class, there broke out multi-coloured insurrection about four months after regaining independence triggered by the influence of the leftist utopian opportunist socialists and because of anti-capitalist tendencies and the drive for democratization.

Lacking material requirements, the AFPFL government and the AFPFL itself split badly and were brought to an end.

In this connection, the-then Prime Minister U Nu himself admitted that although they had been able to set the people free from the sufferings that befell them for many years and lay the first foundation of the new administration for the people to be

able to live independently and stand tall in the world, they could not manage to complete the building, adding that they were in no position to make the people the length and breadth of the nation accept the new system with trust.

He went on to admit that leave alone the people, even the leadership themselves involved in the administration were unable to act in words and deeds virtuously. The nation was pushed to the brink of the abyss and the foundation of the Union was almost shattered due to the conceit, greed and the thirst for power of the senior and junior leaders.

He said they had misused the government's economic policy for the continued existence of the party and the well-being of the followers and henchmen of the leaders.

Concerning the external interference in the affairs of the country, U Nu disclosed in the Pyithu Hluttaw session on 25 September 1957 that if one looked at the whole Union one would see external attempts to raise minions among the national races employing different methods. He noted that similar attempts were quite common among the students, business world, government employees and political circles.

He added that the reason of raising the minions in all possible countries in the world was that the masters were going to get them carry out their orders in the respective countries. The external elements tried to keep their henchmen even in the government circles, the aliens would exploit the situation militarily, politically and economically with the use of government authority in the countries concerned. If they could not raise such followers in the government circles, they would do so in the opposition parties. By so doing they would try to prevent the government from siding economically, politically or militarily with their enemy countries. In the meantime, he said, they would help the henchmen to grasp every opportunity to topple the ruling government and seize power.

He went on to deal with the external masters. He said although they tried to raise henchmen at every opportunity in other countries, they would ruthlessly crush the similar minions in their countries raised by outside elements. Moreover, they launched propaganda war to see that the people disgusted such persons. He reminded the people of the Union to realize the situation.

Although the former prime minister U Nu openly criticized the external interference in the internal affairs, he himself got entangled with the foreign interference in a later period.

Facts stated above explain the fall of the parliamentary democracy of 1948.

Now over 50 years have passed. To what extent are the interferences and suppressions of the neo-

colonialists in the internal affairs and raising of minions in the political world today?

Things are no better, but even worse. The neo-colonialists are bolder and are more blatant than their predecessors in their acts of aggression, applying pressure and raising minions. It seems no end to describe their acts.

In brief, the neo-colonialists call for toppling of dictatorship and democratization describing the work to be the cause for democracy and independence. They judge a government considering whether it is an elected one or a civilian one, in disregard of what it has accomplished economically, politically and socially. If a government they do not support comes to power and if it is not elected one or if it is a military one, they would brand it a dictatorship, a tyrant or a country run by miscreants. So saying they would invade the country with the use of force, the way they have done to Iraq. They would openly encourage and support any acts of terrorism targeting a government in their disfavour, describing the destructionists to be democracy activists or freedom fighters.

They would raise the fugitives and runaways and make them launch activities from outside the country against the governments concerned in order to get the international community to misunderstand the ruling government. In the process, they secure places in the UN agencies and the labour unions for such elements who, in turn, get such organizations criticized the governments concerned.

The neo-colonialists offer financial assistance, titles and honours to the anti-government elements inside and outside the country thereby trying to impress those at home and abroad. Radio stations like RFA and DVB of expatriates led by Sein Win broadcast anti-government programmes replete with all kinds of falsehood and exaggerations.

They are inciting unrest in the country. They cause economic hardships by imposing sanctions on the country. They are waging propaganda war with intent to make the people believe that economic problems that have been in existence due to the historical background and the evil legacy as blunders of the present government. This is way they are trying to make the people misunderstand and hate the government. Basically, they intend to bring down the present government and instal their lackeys to power; they make this seem in the eyes of the public as democracy and freedom movement.

If one listens to the broadcasts of BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB these days, one will hear the programmes critical of the government.

Myanmar experienced the British colonial rule for 123 years. World War II and the fascist rule caused destruction to productive forces. Insurrection broke out in the aftermath of regaining independence. Next came a period of those in power and those without on one side and the entire people on the other. All the parties then came under the leftist extremist socialism. Under the Myanmar socialism, market economy and private productive instruments were nationalized in the move to do away with capitalism. For 26 years from 1962 to 1988, Myanmar society remained classless.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw government that assumed the State responsibilities and opened the market economy and allowed formation of political parties. In parallel, social strata were reborn in Myanmar society together with development of productive forces of democracy.

(See page 11)

The Union of Burma in 1948 was founded not because it had possessed productive forces. It was because the British imperialists had introduced the direct copy democracy in their colonies since they had to concentrate on putting their own house in order as they were devastated during the war. Since they were not in a position to take care of the colonies, they granted independence to the latter.

Should democratization of Myanmar be hastily implemented?

(from page 10)

After the 1990 elections, NLD refused to implement the election results through the writing of a constitution and opposed and caused the suspension of the National Convention by demanding a dialogue. It tried unilaterally to be able to rule the nation and the people at will without a constitution but through public riots and people's hardships. It called on the international community not to extend aid, not to invest in the country while discouraging tourists from visiting the country and inviting economic sanctions on the country.

The west bloc neo-colonialist nations that are thirst for governments ready to yield to them strongly and earnestly support the demands for economic sanctions of the anti-government elements at home and abroad. Under the circumstances, rapid development of economic infrastructures for democracy as in the case of the People's Republic of China did not take place. Instead, development towards that end is being hampered and there is slow progress.

This is the objective condition in the country these days.

Usually, an advanced and awakened political party of strict discipline and unity equipped with revolutionary ideology is indispensable for playing the pivotal role in the democratization process.

In 1949, the administrative machinery was reduced to the isolated Yangon government and the chief of staff was thus assigned to the position of the Deputy Prime Minister to cope with the deteriorating situation; when the AFPFL split into two in 1958, the caretaker government led by the chief of staff had to be formed to restore order and hold elections; in 1962 and also in 1988, the ruling governments were in no position to exercise their authority fully and in like manner any other political parties or political forces were unable to take control of the State power; under the circumstances, the Tatmadaw or the Armed Forces had to assume the State responsibilities acting as the Revolutionary Council and the State Law and Order Restoration Council respectively. These incidents served as historical evidences indicating that they are due to lack of an advanced and awakened political party of strict discipline; in other words it was because there was no political party capable of playing a leadership role in the democratization process.

Well, is there any such party in existence at present? Of course not. Why?

After the 1990 elections, there remain 10 political parties after the other parties which did not win any seat in the election were abolished. However, all the parties, except NLD, have not been carrying out any activities. They are just observers while the Tatmadaw and NLD have dealings.

The Tatmadaw addressed the chaotic situa-

tion in 1988; ended the centralized economic system and the single party system as desired by the people; and introduced the market economy and multi-party system. The NLD, however, sees such nation-building endeavours differently. It regards them to be a military takeover and the crushing of democracy movement.

The Tatmadaw government has been implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives. In the process, it is practising market economy to build economic democracy. At the same time, it has held elections and convened the National Convention to write the State Constitution to pave the way for political democracy. It is also engaged in providing higher standard of education and better health, smooth communications and urban and rural development. All these constructive efforts are seen by NLD from negative point of view. NLD sees the Tatmadaw government as a dictatorial government. Right from the beginning NLD has taken the confrontational course and carried out anti-Tatmadaw activities accepting them as the democracy movement.

After the 1990 elections, NLD opposed the drafting of the constitution and caused the suspension of the National Convention by calling for a dialogue. It clings to the wrong attitude that democracy would be achieved after the downfall of the dictatorship, that democracy is the birthright and so it can be practised equally anywhere. It accepts the direct copy of the democracy and advocates political changes to be made in the first step for the economic development. In an attempt to seize power through public unrest, it has conspired plots to get the nation and the people in economic downturn by prompting economic sanctions and at the same time it has persuaded the international circles to put pressure on Myanmar to isolate her by preventing her entry into the ASEAN and later to get her expulsion from the regional grouping. It has regarded such acts to be its programme to achieve democracy.

After regaining independence in 1948, the ruling party alone was not in a position to address the political crises in 1949 and 1958; so the Tatmadaw had to cooperate and helped it overcome them.

The political parties in power were unable to keep the situations under control in 1962 and 1988 and opposition parties also were unable to take over power and control the situation; under the circumstances the Tatmadaw had to intervene and control the situation.

In view of the fact that the required productive forces for democracy at present are weak in quality and quantity, and that a political party or a political force capable of doing the democratization job and maintaining it is not in existence, the point, for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State, was included to be discussed at the National Convention in 1993.

This point, according to the prevailing condi-

tions, is essential to realize the aim of building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing nation.

However, NLD and anti-government elements inside and outside the country have opposed this regarding it to be an attempt to prolong the dictatorship. Similarly, the neo-colonialists see the Tatmadaw's participation in the leadership role will serve as a stumbling block in their scheme to install a puppet government in the country and so they join hands with the anti-government elements.

The anti-government conspirators have come to realize that their hopes for seizing power through public riots are wearing thin day by day. Hence, they are demanding the handover of power to NLD in the absence of a constitution and the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and political prisoners. They are moving about in the world to incite the international circles to put pressure on the government and send Myanmar's internal affairs to the United Nations Security Council.

Quite a large number of national race groups who have made peace with the government wish to carry on working together with the government for the economic, political and social progress of their own national race groups while upholding non-disintegration of the Union and national reconsolidation.

Hence, the actual requirement at present is to achieve a general consensus at the National Convention after thorough and comprehensive deliberations taking sufficient time.

If priority is given to the speedy emergence of a constitution and things are taken lightly, similar flaws as in the 1947 constitution will be included. If so, there will again arise disagreements and conflicts harming national unity.

In Iraq today, the US and associates formed a provisional government under their influence comprising expatriate Shiite Arabs, who opposed Saddam Hussein when he was in power. It was an attempt to mislead the world into believing that the anti-Hussein government was a democratic one.

However, the US action went wrong from the start. Sunni and Shiite Arabs have taken the confrontational course. Sunni-Shiite-Kurd conflict is leading to a civil war before any result is achieved.

It is apparent the Tatmadaw Government has told the Malaysian Foreign Minister that a hasty move for democratization will make the nation follow the example of Iraq taking above points into account.

Hence, those urging or demanding a speedy democratization of the country have not studied the lessons from history, and they have not observed productive forces and the capable political parties required for the democratization process. They have wrongly viewed the Tatmadaw government as a dictatorial one. So, they have blindly demanded the Tatmadaw government to transfer power to the anti-government elements with the belief that if so Myanmar will become a democracy.

According to modern scientific democracy, a helmsman who cannot see rocks in front is not a good helmsman, and a leader is the one who sees the danger well. So, those demanding speedy democratization of the country are like the helmsman who cannot see the danger in front. These demands are made by those lacking leadership qualities.

Translation: AK

Myanma Alin: 10-12-2005

If priority is given to the speedy emergence of a constitution and things are taken lightly, similar flaws as in the 1947 constitution will be included. If so, there will again arise disagreements and conflicts harming national unity.

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisement in Burmese script, likely for a legal or financial service, mentioning 'ဧည့်သည်များ' (Guests) and 'အခမဲ့' (Free).

Guangdong Province smashes drug rings

BEIJING, 9 Dec— South China's Guangdong Province has cracked four major cross-border drug production and trafficking rings in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, local police said on Wednesday.

The police detained many suspects, including a Hong Kong permanent resident surnamed Lau who is suspected to be the leader of a drug gang, according to Thursday's China Daily.

A total of 263 kilograms of cocaine, 43 kilograms of ice or methamphetamine plus two pistols and many raw materials, were seized

from the groups last month.

An international drug trafficking channel formerly active in the southern Chinese region was believed to have been busted, according to Xiao Shengxian, a police officer from Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Public Security.

"The crackdown on the four drug-related cases further shows the successful cooperation among police from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and their firm determination in fighting cross-border crimes in recent years," Xiao was quoted as saying.

The special operation took place from November 1 to 30 to target cross-border crimes, in particular drug trafficking.

The month-long operation, codenamed "Winter Days", also smashed a total of six cross-border gangs and 17 triad groups, and detained six Hong Kong suspects that had been on the wanted lists of Hong Kong police for years. Four Taiwan residents were also arrested.

Kidnapping, cross-border prostitution, forged documents and computer network crimes were also targeted in the campaign.

Before the operation was launched, senior police officers from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao held several joint work conferences together to exchange information and suspect lists, Xiao told the newspaper Wednesday.

Police from the three regions also set up a 24-hour hotline to receive information, he said.

The operation took place in eight cities in the Pearl River Delta, which borders Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions. It dealt a heavy blow to local secret gangs and organized crime that used to be active in the three regions, according to Xiao.

"It has also helped ensure a good and sound social order for economic construction in the three regions," he was quoted as saying.

Guangzhou police also successfully busted a weapon sales gang, detaining 11 suspects and seizing 15 pistols during the campaign.

MNA/Xinhua

Cathay Pacific to launch daily flight linking HK, Rome

HONG KONG, 9 Dec— Hong Kong Cathay Pacific Airways announced Wednesday that it will offer daily flight service between Rome and Hong Kong beginning 27 March next year.

Increased from the current five flights a week, the new service will provide passengers greater flexibility for travel between Italy, Hong Kong and connecting points in Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

The airline also announced on 6 December the launch of two other new services to Moscow and Manchester in Britain, which will also start from 27 March.

The new services fol-

low Cathay Pacific's biggest order for new aircraft, intended to increase the frequency of flights, connections and add new destinations from its Hong Kong hub.

The airline ordered 16 Boeing 777-300ER long-range jets, with purchase rights for 20 more, plus three Airbus A330-300s for regional routes. Cathay Pacific currently operates 54 passenger services to five cities in Europe each week. It operates four flights a

day to London, plus daily services to Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Paris, and five weekly flights to Rome. The airline serves 92 destinations worldwide.

MNA/Xinhua

Laos targets 2020 for poverty free

BANGKOK, 9 Dec— The Laotian Government said that Thai-assisted micro-credit schemes would help it achieve its aim of getting rid of poverty by 2020, Thai newspaper the Nation Thursday reported.

The Community Organization Development Institute, a public agency under Thailand's Social Development Ministry, signed a memorandum of

understanding with the Lao Women's Union on Tuesday to provide 7.1 million baht (about 177,500 US dollars) to set up savings groups in five Lao provinces.

The cooperation initiative is the second phase of a two-phase operation, the first part of which ended in October after creating 89 savings groups in Vientiane's three districts and providing 22.8 million baht (about 570,000 US dollars) to members.

Lao Deputy Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, who oversees the Vientiane Government's economic and development affairs, said the authorities were struggling to beat household poverty in the country's 46 districts, where the average daily wage is just one US dollar.

After three decades of effort to develop the landlocked country, Laos is still gripped in poverty and is considered one of the least developed countries in the world.

Speaking at an international seminar on the establishment of savings groups for poverty reduction, Thongloun said local people could create their own sources of funds for investment and social welfare by grouping together with collective savings. He said villagers should not wait for the government to release them from poverty, they should try to lift their own living standards.

Grouping together to set up savings and credit groups to accumulate capital and build sources of funds is the least they can do, he said.

Hundreds of people from Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and India attended the Wednesday seminar in Vientiane to exchange views on savings and credit groups as well as micro-credit management.

Thailand's Social Development and Human Security Minister Wattana Muangsook told the seminar that it was the government's job to provide opportunities for people to access sources of funds, reduce their expenditure and increase income.

He cited the Bangkok government as an example, saying it was successful in its efforts to create village funds for local people so that they have a variety of sources of funds for investment and welfare. —MNA/Xinhua

S'pore joins "WHO's" Global Outbreak Alert, Response Network

SINGAPORE, 9 Dec— Singapore has joined the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), Channel NewsAsia report said on Wednesday.

The move is expected to help Singaporean experts learn from other countries' surveillance against outbreaks and contribute their knowledge and resources in such cases.

"By being a member, we gain expertise and understanding of how international regulations will be applied during a public health emergency, and also our input into how responses would be developed is added to the world's experience," Singapore Senior Minister of

State for Health Balaji Sadasivan was quoted as saying.

He added that Singapore's decision to join GOARN came from its experience in fighting against the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 when it had been receiving help.

A collaboration of some 140 existing institutions, GOARN was set up in 2000 with the aim of pooling technical and human resources for the

rapid identification, confirmation and response to international outbreaks.

It developed the Guiding Principles of International Outbreak Alert and Response as well as operational protocols, and has responded to more than 50 global events in the past five years.

The steering committee of GOARN is holding its sixth annual meeting here to address issues on responding to possible flu pandemic and bird flu outbreaks. —MNA/Xinhua

French EDF to cut 6,000 jobs

PARIS, 9 Dec— Electricite de France (EDF), the world's biggest nuclear power generator, will cut 6,000 to 6,500 jobs over the next two years by not replacing workers who retire, the company said.

Reports here said on Thursday that the company plans to replace "one in three or four depending on their occupations" of the 9,000 employees expected to leave the company through the end of 2007.

But the company stressed that the departures

would be voluntary and no one would be sacked.

Commenting on the decision, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin said the move was taken in response to "current global requirements" as the biggest provider of electricity in Europe "faced very real prob-

lems". EDF also plans to invest 40 billion euros (about 47 billion US dollars) over the next five years, more than half of which in France, to "install more than 5,000 megawatts on French territory, the equivalent of five existing nuclear reactors". —MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians make their way through the snow in New York on 9 Dec, 2005. An estimated three to six inches of snow fell in the New York metropolitan area.

INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

China successfully clones gazelles in goat's womb

JINAN, 9 Dec— Four cloned Mongolian gazelles, born out of goats' wombs, have survived in China, marking the world's first case of gazelle-goat cloning, Chinese scientists announced in eastern Shandong Province on Thursday.

No other countries have been able to clone Mongolian gazelles within goats, said Zeng Yitao, member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and one of the seven scientists who came to Linyi City of Shandong to appraise the cloning project.

Experts said the cloning provided a way to preserve the precious breeds in the animal circle. Mongolian gazelles are an improved breed of

goat living in China.

Zeng said scientists extracted the body cells of Mongolian gazelles and planted them into the follicle cells of the goats, after the goat's genes were taken away. Six out of the 26 goats got pregnant and bore six baby gazelles, only two of which stillborn, scientists said. The baby gazelles are doing well, running and hopping a lot, they said.

MNA/Xinhua



A salesperson displays a gold bar with a Chinese character meaning the family name Wang at a shop in Jinan, east china's Shandong Province on 9 Dec, 2005. The gold bar is made of 99.99% pure gold and weight 56 grams.—INTERNET

Night shift tied to risk of premature birth

NEW YORK, 9 Dec— Pregnant women who work the night shift may be more likely than those with traditional work hours to deliver prematurely, study findings suggest.

On the other hand — and contrary to some past research — the study also found that physical demands on the job — including standing for most of the day or lifting heavy objects — were not related to premature delivery or having a smaller-than-normal baby.

Dr Lisa A Pompeii and colleagues at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill report the findings in the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Previous studies into the pregnancy effects of on-the-job exertion have yielded conflicting results, according to the researchers. One reason, they note, may rest in differences in the ways the studies have defined and measured "exertion".

For their study, Pompeii and her colleagues used data on

more than 1,900 pregnant women in North Carolina who were interviewed about their work conditions through the seventh month of pregnancy. The women reported, among other things, how many hours per day they spent standing, and how many times per day they lifted an object that weighed 25 pounds or more.

The researchers found that women who spent many hours on their feet — more than 30 per week — were no more likely than their peers to have a premature delivery or a smaller-than-average newborn. The same was true of women who repeatedly lifted heavy objects, even in excess of 13 times per week.

Relatively few women regularly performed heavy lifting — 10 percent during the first trimester, and about 6 per cent later in pregnancy. About one-quarter spent most of the day standing while they were in the first trimester, and roughly 20 per cent did so during the second trimester and seventh month.— MNA/Reuters

China launches nationwide environmental safety inspection

BEIJING, 9 Dec— China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) said Thursday it was launching a nationwide environmental safety inspection targeting big- or medium-sized enterprises along rivers.

"Big- or medium-sized enterprises located along major rivers or their tributaries, especially the chemical plants at the upper reaches of drinking water sources, are major inspection spots," said an emergency circular issued by SEPA, requiring that

the inspection teams sent to ten provinces should wrap up their work by the end of next January.

The circular came after the toxic benzene spill into Songhua River caused by a chemical plant explosion in north China's Jilin Province. On

Monday, SEPA reported four recent environmental accidents in a bulletin shortly after their occurrences. The four incidents, all chemically contaminating the surroundings, have been dealt with immediately and no human deaths have been reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Two more fishermen saved in east China sea shipwreck

HANGZHOU, 9 Dec— Two more fishermen have been saved after a fishing boat capsized Wednesday night in seawater off Wenzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, bringing the number of survivors to four, the local maritime police said Thursday.

As of 10:00 am Thursday, the other 15 fishermen were still missing.— MNA/Xinhua

Dog saves three Germans from fire but burns to death

BERLIN, 9 Dec— A Belgian shepherd saved the lives of three people from a burning building by waking them up with loud barks but perished in the flames, apparently because he was afraid to jump out of the window, police said on Wednesday.

"The dog noticed the smoke and fire first and pulled the covers off one 42-year-old man sleeping on a couch and woke up a couple, aged 45 and 47, in the bedroom with loud barks," said police spokesman Hartmut Labahn of the blaze in a second-floor apartment in Zirchow on the Baltic Sea island of Usedom.

"The whole top floor apartment was on fire when they jumped out of the window, but the dog unfortunately didn't make it out and was burned to death," he said. "There was so much commotion that the people didn't realize the dog didn't jump with them. They kept shouting his name but he never made it out."

MNA/Reuters

Miss Russia wins beauty final in Miss World 2005

HAIKOU, 9 Dec— Yulia Ivanova, Miss Russia, won the Beach Beauty Final Tuesday night in China's southernmost coastal city of Sanya.

She, together with Miss American Virgin Islands, who was the winner of the Miss World Talent Show in November, would be granted the two guaranteed places in the Miss World 2005 Final.

Interestingly, the Beach Beauty Final was held in a banquet hall of the Sheraton Sanya Resort rather than on the beach, with intervening performances by contestants and an auction of tickets for VIP seats at the Miss World 2005 Final to be held on Saturday.

The stylish beachwear was designed exclusively by Wilnelia Merced, Miss World 1975. Nineteen

contestants were selected after the first round of the catwalk extravaganza. And Yulia Ivanova, Miss Russia, won the Beach Beauty Final at last, with her confidence and elegance, followed by Dafne Molina Lona from Mexico and Irina Dolovova from Moldova.

Yulia was born and raised in Novosibirsk, Siberia. She was a junior at the Novosibirsk State Pedagogic University and organizer of the student beauty contests. She also teaches a course on style in a model school.

Her ambition was to make a career as a television presenter.

MNA/Xinhua



Polar bear Sonja looks out of the water at the zoo in Gelsenkirchen, western Germany, on 9 Dec, 2005, where she lives together with 3 other bears.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Venezuela minister plans to shake up sport in 2006

CARACAS, 10 Dec—Aristobulo Isturiz, Venezuela's Education, Culture and Sport Minister, told reporters on Friday that his challenge for 2006 is to push through a law to radically change Venezuelan sport.

The law aims to change the structure of Venezuelan sport and look after the rights of athletes, the minister said from the state of Merida, where he was attending the 16th Andean Nations Games, which began on Wednesday.

The minister said that he had taken advantage of the games to receive new suggestions from people working in the sports world about what should be in the new law.

The law will be examined by the National Assembly, where all 167 deputies now support the government, but it is in the middle of a consultation process with sports federations, athletes, judges and coaches.

Isturiz said that the law was supported by the world's soccer body FIFA and other international sports organizations.

MNA/Xinhua



Hermann Maier of Austria speeds past a gate during the Men's World Cup Downhill ski training in Val d'Isere, France, on 9 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Rwanda, Ethiopia qualify for CECAFA final

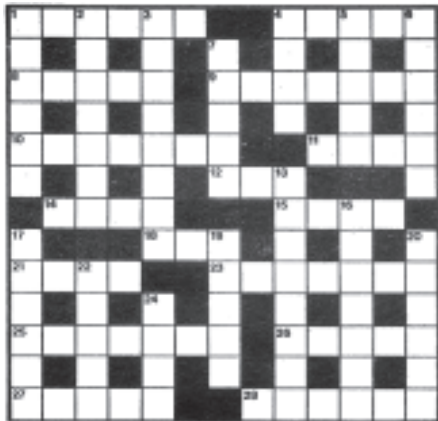
KAMPALA, 10 Dec—Rwanda and Ethiopia have qualified for final in the Council for East and Central Africa Football Association (CECAFA) Senior Challenge Cup in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, according to reports reaching here on Friday.

At the semifinals on Thursday, Rwanda beat Uganda 1-0 while Ethiopia won over Zanzibar 4-0.

Rwanda scored the goal in the 10th minute of extra time after the game had ended goalless in regular time.

Defending champion Ethiopia will play against Rwanda at the final on Saturday while Uganda and Zanzibar will fight for third place on Friday.—MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Church district
- 4 New growth of plant
- 8 Abandon
- 9 Idle talk
- 10 Schoolbag
- 11 French cheese
- 12 Excavate
- 14 Central European river
- 15 Impetuous
- 18 Domestic animal
- 21 A single thing
- 23 Fish
- 25 Infectious disease
- 26 Small and mischievous
- 27 Artificial silk
- 28 Tempestuous

DOWN

- 1 Sheen
- 2 Responded to stimulus
- 3 Pastor
- 4 Nine inches
- 5 Division of target
- 6 Small tower
- 7 Rebuke
- 13 Degree of slope
- 16 Hoaxer (sl)
- 17 Season
- 19 Spectre
- 20 Emaciated
- 22 European country
- 24 Design

Markus Siegler to conduct World Cup draw

LEIPZIG, 10 Dec—FIFA's chief of communications Markus Siegler will conduct the World Cup draw to be held on Friday after president Sepp Blatter and secretary-general Ur Linsi declined to oversee the ceremony.

Usually, the draw is conducted by FIFA's secretary-general and it has made Blatter known around the world since he conducted his first draw for the 1982 finals in Spain.

He led four more draws for the final and as many for the preliminary rounds before he was elected FIFA president in 1998.

"Blatter refused to get involved since he is the president," Siegler said.

When current secretary-general Urs Linsi, a laid-back figure, also declined, the task fell to the former Swiss journalist.

To guarantee the draw a success, Siegler will go through five dress rehearsals in all prior to the real thing on Friday night.

"We should not make a mistake," he said. "I hope things will work out."

MNA/Xinhua

Award for Best Young Player to be launched in 2006 World Cup

LEIPZIG, 10 Dec—The Best Young Player trophy will be introduced in the next year's World Cup tournament, FIFA announced on Thursday.

Fan votes will be collected after the semifinals and the top three will be joined by three more chosen by FIFA's Technical Study Group (TSG) to create a shortlist of six players.

The TSG, which is made up of coaches and analysts will choose the winner prior to the final.

Players aged 21 and under will be eligible for the Best Young Player award, which is being inaugurated by FIFA sponsor Gillette.

Lionel Messi, who led Argentina to the World Youth Championship this year, and England's Wayne Rooney, who had a spectacular Euro 2004, were born before the cut-off date of 1 January, 1985 and were tipped by FIFA as likely contenders.

Lothar Matthaeus, who helped Germany win the European Championship at the age of 19 in 1980 and who made his World Cup debut two years later is the patron of the award.

He also mentioned Germany's Lukas Podolski and Bastian Schweinsteiger as possible winners.

"They attracted a lot of attention at the Confederations Cup," he said. "But there is a long list of candidates. Let's start the games before we talk about who could win it."

The World Cup finals, which begin on 9 June in Munich, offers a number of other individual awards to players, including the Golden Shoe for the tournament's top scorer, the Golden Ball for the best player and the Yashin Award, named in honour of the late Russian goalkeeper Lev Yashin, for best keeper.

The draw for the finals takes place in Leipzig on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua



Syria's Mohammad Hazzory competes in the men's triple jump at the West Asian Games in Doha on 9 Dec, 2005. Hazzory won the gold medal followed by Qatar's Ibrahim Mohamdein with silver and Iran's Alireza Habibi with bronze.—INTERNET

World Cup finals draw in full



GROUP A

- Germany
- Costa Rica
- Poland
- Ecuador

GROUP B

- England
- Paraguay
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Sweden

GROUP C

- Argentina
- Ivory Coast
- Serbia & Montenegro
- Holland

GROUP D

- Mexico
- Iran
- Angola
- Portugal

GROUP E

- Italy
- Ghana
- USA
- Czech Republic

GROUP F

- Brazil
- Croatia
- Australia
- Japan

GROUP G

- France
- Switzerland
- South Korea
- Togo

GROUP H

- Spain
- Ukraine
- Tunisia
- Saudi Arabia



Germany's Kati Wilhelm celebrates in the finish area after winning the women's 7.5 kilometers biathlon World Cup race in Hochfilzen, Austria, on 9 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

UN agencies ask WTO to protect humanitarian food aid

GENEVA, 10 Dec — Three of the largest agencies of the United Nations called on Thursday upon negotiators at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to protect food aid donations through the United Nations to cope with emergencies and feed vulnerable groups.

Global food aid is already under threat and slipped dramatically last year, dropping to 7.5 million metric tons from 10.2 million metric tons in 2003, according to the World Food Programme, the UN refugee agency UNHCR and the UN Children's Fund.

believe reform of international agricultural trade is vital and can help overcome poverty in the developing world.

This may well include disciplines on some types of food aid. But reforms should be carefully designed to protect millions of the world's children, refugees

and malnourished people who count on donations of food aid for their survival, nutrition and health," heads of the three agencies, James Morris, Antonio Guterres and Ann Veneman, said in a joint statement.

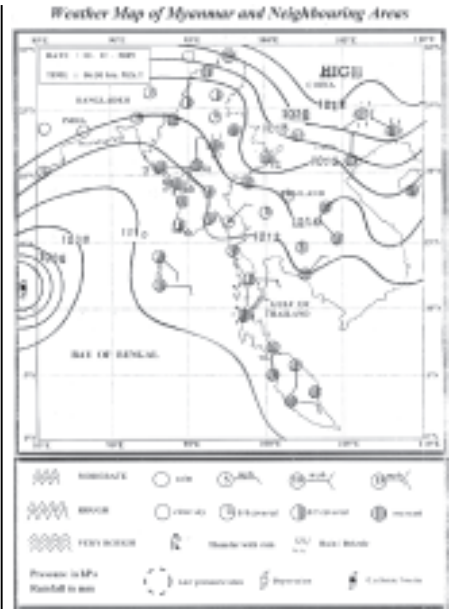
"We ask that WTO negotiations recognize the crucial role that United

Nations food aid plays in humanitarian operations and reaching out to the poorly nourished.

Undernutrition remains the greatest threat to health worldwide and there are chronic shortfalls in food rations for refugees, especially in Africa," they said.

Food aid donations have come under scrutiny at the WTO's Doha Round of trade talks. One proposal seeks to ban donations of food in kind or restrict them to major emergencies, allowing donor governments only to give cash for the purchase of food aid, even through the United Nations.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 10 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magwa Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpuy (2.48) inches, Namsam (0.51) inch, Meikhtila (0.16) inch, Myingyan and Minbu (0.11) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 9-12-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 10-12-2005 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 10-12-2005 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 9-12-2005 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 10-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (103.62) inches at Mingaladon, (102.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (107.44) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southeast (12:00) hours MST on 9-12-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's tropical storm 'Fanoos' over Southwest Bay has moved westwards and centred at about (40) miles South of Nagapattinam, India. It is forecast to cross Tamilnadu Coast, India near Nagapattinam within next few hours. Weather is cloudy in Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-12-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State and Tanimthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanimthayi Coasts. Surface wind speeds in strong wind may reach (30 to 35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-12-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

"Storm News"

(Issued at 19:00 hrs MST on 10-12-2005)
According to the observations at (18:30) hours MST today, yesterday's tropical storm 'Fanoos' over Southwest Bay has moved westwards and centred at about (40) miles Southeast of Nagapattinam, India.
It crossed Tamilnadu Coast, India near Nagapattinam.

Donor of pagoda, monk, ordination hall and religious plot Daw Mi Mi Khin (a) Daw Saw Wai (69) years Thiha Thudhamma Theingi, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation, Award winner of Excellent Performance in Social Field (First Class)

Beloved wife of (U Khin Maung Maung), Deputy Minister (Retd) for Industry-1 of No 53/A, Sagawa Road, East Ward of Pyay Road, Dagon Township, beloved mother of Ko Hla Myint (a) Ko Toe, Ko Thant Zin (a) Ko Soe, Ko Thit Oo (a) Ko Phyo + Ma Tin Sanda Aye, and Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han + Daw Moe Thida Aye, grandmother of Ma Khin Ingyin, Daw Mi Mi Khin (a) Daw Saw Wai passed away at Gleneagle Hospital in Singapore at 00:15 hour local time on 9-12-2005, and will be entombed at Yayway Cemetery through Yayway Mortuary at 10 am on 11-12-2005.

Bereaved Family

Sunday, 11 December
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ ဟောနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာဝဂ္ဂ ဝဂ္ဂ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာဝဂ္ဂမှ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ မွေဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိပိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်
- To be healthy exercise
- Morning news
- Nice and sweet song
- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာ
- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- ရွှေလောင်းတံတား

8:20 am

- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- International news
- Say it in English
- Martial song
- Round up of the week's international news
- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းဆွဲ "မေ့ခြင်းမေ့ခြင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
- Teletypes: "အရူးမပေးမဆုံးသေးပါ မသိတာ" (ဖြိုးဇေဇူး၊ မင်းသူ၊ နိုးမြတ်နုစွာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်မင်း)
- International news
- Martial song
- Song to uphold National Spirit
- Practice in reading
- သံသာမျိုးအေး (၃၈)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာတေး
- အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ တတ်ယူနစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

5:10 pm

- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- Song of national races
- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- Musical programme
- Agricultural source of Myanmar development
- Sing and enjoy
- Evening news
- Weather report
- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းဆွဲ "စိမ်းလွန်းစေတာကန်သယာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)
- အထူးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင် အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲမှ အောင်မြင်မှုများ (ရွတ်လျှော့၊ ဝိုက်ကျော်ခြင်း)
- News
- International news.
- Weather report.
- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းဆွဲ "ရွှေမိမြေဆီရင်" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 11 December

Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: -Power of love
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: -He's on the phone
8.50 am National news+Slogan
9.00 am Music: -I'm only sleeping
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Cultural Images of Myanmar
9.20 am Music: -Deepdown -A girl like you
1.30 pm News + Slogan
1.40 pm Children's delight -Story for children "Little Miss Frog" -Songs for children
9.00 pm Weekly news review
9.10 pm Article -Sealed with a kiss -Season in the sun
9.20 pm Music: -The most beautiful girl
9.45 pm News+Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

NCCC, Work and Management Committees hold coordination meeting



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at coordination meeting 10/2005 of NCCC, NCC Work Committee and NCC Management Committee.— MNA

YANGON, 10 Dec —The work coordination meeting 10/2005 of the National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee was held at the meeting hall of the commission in Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township yesterday with an address by Chairman of the Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Min-

ister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, Chairman of Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members, Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairmen Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence and Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and members.

Joint Secretary-2 of the commission Director-General of the Office of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Myint

Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

In his address Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the meeting was to discuss work done and to be done and administrative matters in connection with the National Convention which resumed on 5 December 2005. He said the National Convention Plenary Meeting on 5 December and he made an opening speech. Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained about the procedures on the National Convention.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

The west bloc neo-colonialist nations that are thirst for governments ready to yield to them strongly and earnestly support the demands for economic sanctions of the anti-government elements at home and abroad. Under the circumstances, rapid development infrastructures for democracy as in the case of the People's Republic of China did not take place. Instead, development towards that end is being hampered and there is slow progress.

PAGE 10-11

KYAW MYINT NAING

Highland farmland-1, Manmaw farm of North-East Command inspected

YANGON, 10 Dec — Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council, oversaw running of the harvester and power-tiller with the use of bio-fuel during his inspection tour of

cultivation of phisic nut in the highland farmland reclamation project No 1 of North-East Command area in Lashio on 8 December.

In Shan State (North), 144 acres of land are put under phisic nut and 2,000 acres of land under fence plantations.

At the 1,000-acre highland farmland, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on plans to extend cultivation of phisic nut and other crops by Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report on progress in cooperation of North-East Command's cultivation tasks in highland farmland reclamation project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed them to extend growing of phisic nut plantations in the highland farmland, and to help local growers engage in the cultivation.

Next, he heard reports on progress of the highland farmland reclamation project.

While at the project site, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected 25 acres of Hsinshweli sugarcane plantation. After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party looked into opium-substitute maize, sunflower, pigeon pea and sugarcane plantations, tasks of bee-keeping project, and 500-acre farm of Manmaw region.

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Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects phisic nuts produced from highland farmland of North-East Command.— MNA