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Sunday, 18 December, 2005

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends graduation dinner of DSA 48th Intake

YANGON, 17 Dec — The graduation dinner of the 48th Intake of Defence Services Academy was held at the parade ground of Anawrahta Battalion of DSA in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, at 6 pm yesterday, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present at the dinner were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrive the graduation dinner of 48th Intake of DSA.— MNA

Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air)

Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin

Zaw, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and their wives, the min-

isters, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, the Mandalay Mayor, the PyinOoLwin Station

Commander, senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station and DSA, faculty members of DSA, graduate officers and their parents. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects National Kandawgyi Gardens, National Landmarks Garden in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 17 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at the National Landmarks Garden being undertaken by the Ministry of Forestry near the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin on

15 December morning.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials. At the briefing hall, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on construction tasks, allotment of plots to companies and implementation

of the tasks, growing of natural vegetation from States and Divisions and arrangements for public recreation being carried out in building the National Landmarks Garden in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

(see page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe visits the aviary of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 December, 2005

To preserve 12 fine traditions of Tatmadaw

The Tatmadawmen are the offspring of indigenous people. They are endowed with the 12 fine traditions as they are noble-minded and well-disciplined. This has also made them to abide by not only the military laws but also the civil laws.

The Myanmar people are imbued with prowess and knowledge and are ready to sacrifice lives in the cause of patriotism. This symbolises national prestige and integrity that to be preserved by new generation Tatmadawmen, who are the triumphant elites of the future.

The graduation parade of the 48th Intake of Defence Services Academy was held at the parade ground of DSA in PyinOoLwin on 16 December 2005 with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe stressed the need for junior leaders to show courage in facing the enemy with the motto 'Charge gallantly, Attack gallantly, Crush gallantly' when training duty is conducted to have effectiveness of three capabilities in fulfilling the training skills according to the Myanmar saying 'A Good Sword Needs To Be Sharpened, A Good Horse Needs To Be Fed'; and that when contribution of labour, they are to serve the interest of the people up to the satisfaction in accord with the ten codes of conduct in dealing with people residing in the region where they are assigned and regard the residents as their own parents.

As Tatmadawmen have given pledge to sacrifice their life for the national interest, they are totally belong to the State. The State not only possesses the whole life of individuals but also the entire life of Tatmadaw. Therefore, the three main tasks of Tatmadaw are to fulfil the defence duty, the training duty and contribution of labour for the benefit of the people.

The new generation junior leaders must have leadership quality in addition to being a good soldier. In the Tatmadaw, the leader and his subordinates are equal in military qualities. But the military leaders must take command and control to accomplish the mission assigned to them by combating in harmony with duty conscious subordinates.

Good planning can have progress and good leadership can achieve victory. Hence, junior leaders are to make constant efforts to be equipped with planning and leadership skills.

Therefore, new generation Tatmadawmen are to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, Union Spirit and the 12 fine traditions of Tatmadaw with political, economic and administrative outlooks.



CASH DONATED: Authorities of Insein Township, departmental personnel and local people donated robes, umbrellas, and alms worth K 18,000 to Buddha Pujaniya 9,900 Lights Group in Insein Township on 16-12-2005. Patron U Soe Win, Chairman U Bo Kyi and party of the group accept the donations.— H

People's Desire

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

Information Minister receives Correspondent of Washington Post

YANGON, 17 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Correspondent Mr Alan Sipress of Jakarta-based South-East Asian Bureau, Indonesia, of Washington Post at the ministry on Theinbyu Road yesterday afternoon.

It was also attended by departmental heads of departments and enterprises under the ministry and the Head of Office.
MNA



Mr Alan Sipress pays a call on Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. — MNA

Workshop for Myanmar Unicode Characters system (test-run) held



Director-General of Department of Myanmar Language Commission U San Lwin speaking at Workshop for Myanmar Unicode Characters system (test run).— MNA

YANGON, 16 Dec — The Committee for Implementation of Myanmar Unicode Characters system held its workshop at Myanmar Info-tech building, here this morning.

Director-General U San Lwin of the Depart-

ment of Myanmar Language Commission gave an introductory speech. Dr Daw Myint Myint Than of the Myanmar Computer Federation reported on the launch of Myanmar characters system into computer, U Hsan Tun of

Research Work Committee on insertion of Myanmar characters into computer and U Ngwe Tun of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association on use of Myanmar unicode characters system. Those present ex-

changed views on findings from the use of Myanmar unicode characters system. The Committee for Implementation of Myanmar Unicode Characters system assessed the discussions.

MNA

International Trade Course concludes

YANGON, 17 Dec — The International Trade Course Programme (2) No 4 organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry concluded at the training centre of the UMFCCI on Bo Sun Pak Street in Pabedan Township yesterday afternoon.

General Secretary of UMFCCI Chairman of Educational Work Com-

mittee U Sein Win Hlaing made a concluding speech and a trainee explained the experience during the course.

Next, the UMFCCI general secretary presented the completion certificates and gifts to the course instructors. Later, the prizes for presentation were awarded to the trainees and a trainee expressed thanks. —MNA



U Sein Win Hlaing of UMFCCI presents certificate to a trainee of International Trade Course.

UMFCCI

US military reportedly undermines LatAm governments

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 17 Dec — The US military is undermining civilian government in Latin America as it pushes for social problems to be treated as security issues, an analysis by US human rights groups says.

Youth gangs in Central America, populist unrest in Andean nations, crime and drug smuggling do not need a military response yet the Pentagon was trying to coax Latin American Armed Forces to tackle them, the study said.

"The lines separating military and civilian governance roles, firmly drawn by many Latin American governments after decades of conflict and military dictatorships, are being erased both in

US policy and in the region," it said.

The analysis, entitled "Erasing the Lines", was prepared by the Latin America Working Group Education Fund, the Centre for International Policy and the Washington Office on Latin America.

It also said the US defence sector was grabbing a bigger role in handling foreign aid programmes that the state or other civilian departments would

traditionally have managed.

Civilian oversight of military aid programmes such as training and equipment was diminishing as they increasingly became part of the defence budget. That meant important human rights and democracy conditions could be bypassed, it said.

US military aid to Latin America has shot up in the past several years and now almost equals economic and social aid.

The United States is slated to provide 1.03 billion US dollars in economic aid and at least 908 million US dollars in military aid to Latin America and the Caribbean next year, according to the report.

"This makes absolutely no sense for a region whose greatest challenge is overcoming poverty and inequality," said Adam Isacson of the Centre for International Policy. The thrust of the report echoes sentiments already expressed by some Latin American governments and non-governmental organizations.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in trips to the region, has urged Latin Americans to be more involved in the US war on terrorism.

But Brazil, for one, has said that is not a priority and that many of its social problems, such as crime, require social solutions. Brazil and others have also expressed concern over a US troop deployment in Paraguay, particularly in light of political instability in Bolivia. —MNA/Reuters



A giant Santa Claus stays seated on a shopping centre parking area in Batalha, central Portugal, on 15 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Many British councils don't give value for money

LONDON, 16 Dec — Britain's independent spending watchdog said on Thursday that many local government authorities in England were not doing enough to make sure they provide value for money to taxpayers.

The Audit Commission said almost half of all councils were either only just achieving the minimum requirements for value for money or were scoring below the minimum.

"It is widely agreed that council services must deliver good value for money and we are concerned that half of all councils are only achieving at or below what we consider the minimum acceptable level," said James Strachan, Chairman of the Audit Commission.

The Audit Commission ranked England's 150 councils on a score of 0 to 5 against several elements of the services they provide.

While 68 per cent of councils achieved an overall 3 or 4 rating —

demonstrating that they perform consistently well in all elements of the assessment that range from cultural services to housing — the Audit Commission said the "value for money" category had proved difficult for some councils to show progress.

"Improving value for

taxpayers' money is the real challenge for the year ahead," Strachan said in a statement.

The government said it was pleased with the overall performance of local authorities according to the Commission's report and called for further efforts to improve services. —MNA/Reuters

2,153 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec — As of Thursday, 15 Dec, 2005, at least 2,153 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 1,691 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is two fewer than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Thursday.

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 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,014 US military members have died, according to the count. That includes at least 1,582 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. —Internet

Poland threatens to veto British-proposed EU budget

WARSAW, 16 Dec — Poland Wednesday uttered an angry outcry and threatened to veto the British-proposed 2007-13 EU budget, soon after London unveiled a new version the same day.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski dismissed the offer as "not adequate". "In my opinion, the offer is not adequate," he said.

London revised its proposal ahead of a EU summit in a bid to break the impasse over the seven-year budget before Britain's EU presidency expires at the end of the year.

The revised budget plan proposes a total spending package of 849 billion euros (1.01 trillion US dollars), slightly higher than the December 5 offer of 847 billion euros

(993 billion dollars), but still entailing cuts in aid to newcomers, mainly from East Europe.

According to the European Commission, London in its new proposal offers Poland a little more than 57.3 billion euros (about 68.76 billion dollars), compared with 61.6 billion euros (73.92 billion dollars) suggested by the previous EU rotating presidency Luxembourg.

Meanwhile, Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz said Wednesday that he would veto the British proposal at the December 15-16 EU summit in Brussels, unless necessary changes were made.

Marcinkiewicz described Britain's offer as "a spoonful of solidarity" confronting "a barrel of national egoism".

He urged British Prime Minister Tony Blair to make two or three real steps forward instead of pretending to move.

Polish Minister for European Affairs, Jaroslaw Pietras, said that Luxembourg's proposal remained a reference point for Warsaw.

MNA/Xinhua



A US army Abrahams main battle tank secures an area in Barwana, Anbar Province, Iraq, on 15 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Soldier with Maine ties killed in Iraq

PORTLAND, 16 Dec — A 23-year-old soldier who grew up in Bath was killed by an improvised explosive device during his second tour in Iraq, officials said on Friday. Army Spc Joseph Alan Lucas was fatally wounded on Thursday while serving with an armoured squadron of the 3rd Infantry Division in Balad, about 40 miles north of Baghdad.

It's believed to be the first death of a soldier with ties to Maine since June, when a 2004 University of Maine graduate was killed.

Second Lt Matthew Coutu, who was the cadet commander of the Army ROTC battalion in his senior year in Orono, was killed in Baghdad when enemy forces engaged his convoy with small arms fire. He was from North Kingstown, R I.

Internet

Study says 1.1 million US adults illiterate in English

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec— An estimated 1.1 million US adults is illiterate in English and lack the skills to perform everyday tasks as a result, according to a governmental literacy study published on Thursday.

The study emerged from tests conducted by the National Centre for Education Statistics (NCES) and the results are based on a sample of more than 19,000 adults of 16 years' old and above, representing a population of 222 million adults.

The 11 million adults who are not literate in English include people who may be fluent in another language, such as Spanish, but are unable to comprehend text in English. The study also found that between 1992 and 2003, the nation's adults made no progress in their ability to read a newspaper, a book or any other prose arranged in sentences and paragraphs.

They also showed no improvement in compre-

hending documents such as bus schedules and prescription labels. However, the adult population did make gains in handling quantitative tasks, such as calculating numbers found on tax

forms or bank statements.

But even in that area of literacy, the typical adult showed only basic skills, only enough to perform simple daily activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Police put nail in coffin of drugs-in-hearse ring

PALERMO (Sicily), 16 Dec — Sicilian police said on Wednesday they had broken up a ring that smuggled drugs by hiding them in hearses carrying coffins.

They said four people were arrested, including the owner of a funeral home.

The gang moved the drugs around the Sicilian capital of Palermo by hiding them in false bottoms of hearses carrying coffins, either empty or full, they said. Police code-named the operation "Mahogany" after the type of wood usually used to make coffins in Italy.—MNA/Reuters



An artist makes sand sculptures at the Phoenix Island in Sanya city, south China's Hainan province, on 17 Dec, 2005. More than 100 artists from China and abroad made about 500 sand sculptures for the International Sand Sculpture Festival that will be open on 18 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Bangladesh achieves huge growth in "IT" export

DHAKA, 16 Dec— Bangladesh has witnessed 600-per-cent export growth in the information technology (IT)

sector during the last five years.

Local daily *The Financial Express* reported on Thursday that the total amount of IT exports increased from 2.24 million US dollars in fiscal 2000-01 (July 2000-June 2001) to 12.68 million dollars in fiscal 2004-05.

According to the daily, out of the 12.68 million dollars, 9.64 million dollars came from software export and rest of the amount came from data processing and computer consultancy.

President of the Bangladesh Association

of Software and Information Service (BASIS) Sarwar Alam was quoted as saying that he believed that such a growth rate would continue in the coming years.

He substantiated his point by saying that there had been a number of joint venture cooperation contacts between some Danish companies and Bangladeshi software firms for exporting software and IT services to the European market, which would keep the growth rate at present level.

A number of big software companies are in the process of opening up their own marketing office in North America and Europe, the daily said.

Besides, the local market-based companies are focusing on process and quality improvements in line with international requirements and a good number of e-governance and e-commerce based domestic work orders are also expected.

MNA/Xinhua

Four fatally shot in Boston home rap studio

BOSTON, 16 Dec — Four men were found fatally shot in a rap music studio in the basement of a Boston home, police said on Wednesday in the city's deadliest shooting in more than a decade.

The killings late on Tuesday in Boston's Dorchester neighbourhood pushed the city's murder rate to a 10-year-high of 71 and marked Boston's worst shooting since a massacre in a Chinatown social club that killed five people in 1991.

Police Superintendent Bobbie Johnson said the latest shootings in the basement music studio of a home did not appear to have been random and the area was not considered a trouble spot. Police said they did not have a motive for

the shooting. Three of the men were found dead on the scene and a fourth died in hospital, he said. Two were White and two Black. All were in their early 20s. Witnesses told police a heavy-set man fled the scene after the shooting. Boston has been shaken by a wave of gun violence. Shootings are up 34 per cent from a year ago. Firearm-related arrests have jumped 38 per cent in the 18-to-21 age bracket. Of the total murders this year, 46 involved guns.—MNA/Reuters

Bush accepts responsibility for flawed intelligence on Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec— US President George W Bush accepted responsibility on Wednesday for launching the Iraq war based on flawed intelligence. "It is true that much of the intelligence turned out to be wrong. As President, I am responsible for the decision to go into Iraq," Bush said in a speech at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington.

"And I'm also responsible for fixing what went wrong by reforming our intelligence capabilities. And we're doing just that," Bush

said. The Bush Administration launched the Iraq war in 2003 on claims that the Saddam Hussein regime had weapons of mass destruction and had ties with the al-Qaeda, but none of the claims have been proved correct. —MNA/Xinhua

Italy to cut its Iraq forces by 10% in Jan

ROME, 16 Dec— Italy will reduce its troop force in Iraq by 10 per cent in January as part of its phased withdrawal from the country, Defence Minister Antonio Martino said on Thursday.

Martino told reporters Italy would cut its military contingent to 2,600 soldiers by the end of January from 2,900. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said last month that all the troops would be withdrawn from Iraq by the end of 2006 in coordination with the Iraqi Government.

Italy, which has the fourth-largest foreign contingent in Iraq, faces a general election next April where the unpopular Iraq war might become an issue. Most

Italians and all opposition parties were opposed to the troop deployment.

The Italian Government started withdrawing its forces in September, pulling an initial 300 soldiers from Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi soldiers secure a road in the town of Al Amarah in British-patrolled southern Iraq, on 15 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Fireworks factory blasts in east China County, no casualty reported

NANJING, 16 Dec — A fireworks factory exploded on Thursday night in Jianhu County of east China's Jiangsu Province and no casualties are reported so far, said the local fire department.

The blast occurred at 9:30 pm on Thursday at a storage of half-processed fireworks of Huatai Fireworks Company in the county. It was triggered by a fire at 4:00 pm in another workshop.

At 10:00 pm the fire was brought under control and no people were found dead or injured. The cause of the explosion is now under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN, China play greater role in global development

JAKARTA, 16 Dec— The strategic partnership between China and ASEAN will have positive implications that go beyond the relationship between the two sides, according to a noted Indonesian expert.

“The partnership between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China will benefit the wider East Asian region and the world,” Jusuf Wanandi said in a commentary on *The Jakarta Post* daily Thursday.

“ASEAN and China will play an increasingly important role in global affairs. They also have a growing stake in global developments,” said Wanandi, a senior fellow at the re-

spected Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta.

To support his view, Wanandi said ASEAN countries and China are open economies and rapidly integrating into the global economy.

Their strong will to cooperate with each other will allow full integration into the global economy to proceed smoothly, without causing major dislocations within the global economy.

“The ASEAN countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — will continuously reform, restructure and integrate their economies toward the creation of a single market and production base in 2020.

“China, on its part, is making the same effort and is doing that at a remarkably rapid pace,” he said.—MNA/Xinhua



A general view of the P-52, one of the world's largest offshore platforms, at Keppel FELS in Singapore, on 16 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Venezuela destroys over two tons of cocaine

CARACAS, 16 Dec — Venezuela's National Guard (GN) burned 2.26 tons of high purity cocaine on Wednesday in a steel furnace in Barquisimeto in Lara State, western Venezuela.

The drugs were seized on November 18 at a military checkpoint at La Pastora in Carora, a town in Lara State, GN Brigadier Gilberto Velasco told local media on Wednesday.

He added that around four tons of cocaine have been seized in this region in 2005.

According to Venezuela's new drug laws, the seized narcotics should be destroyed within a month, Velasco said.

The destruction process was carried out by William Guerrero, public prosecutor and officials from the detective corps, prison service, forensic scientists and criminologists from the National Commission Against the Use of Illicit Drugs.

This is the second time Venezuela destroyed the seized drugs in this month.

On 2 December, the National Guard burned around 8.3 tons of cocaine, heroin and marijuana in Tachira State, western Venezuela.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt says US ignores offer to train Iraqi troops

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — Egypt has repeatedly offered to train tens of thousands of Iraqi forces but Washington ignored this offer and chose instead to criticize Cairo for not doing enough, Egypt's envoy to the United States said.

The United States has consistently accused Arab countries, including Egypt, of not doing enough to stabilize and rebuild Iraq, but Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Fahmy said on Thursday this criticism was unfounded.

“We have offered to train Iraqis for over two years,” he told reporters at a breakfast at his residence.

Fahmy said he offered Egypt's help in troop training during discussions with officials from the Penta-

gon, the State Department and members of Congress but they gave no response.

“It's got to the point that I have stopped begging,” he said. “It's mind-boggling,” he added. Asked to comment on Fahmy's complaint, a State Department official said Iraqi troop training was a bilateral issue between Egypt and Iraq and not the United States.

He added that the training of Iraqi forces would most likely not be cost-effi-

cient in Egypt. The Pentagon did not have any immediate comment. Fahmy said Egypt, which did not want to send its own forces into Iraq, had the capacity to train 3,000 Iraqi troops every three months at a school outside of Alexandria in Egypt. So far, he said Egypt had trained 146 Iraqi forces.

“Iraqis don't want Arab forces in Iraq and we are offering to train Iraqi forces and no one is listening,” he said.

Training Iraqi forces is one of the biggest challenges facing the United States and the ability of Iraqi security forces is key to when more than 150,000 US troops can return home.

Iraqis went to the polls on Thursday and Fahmy said if the election went well this should be applauded but the real test would be what happened in Iraq three to five years from now.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam flood toll rises to 15, rice crop damaged

HANOI, 16 Dec— Flash floods triggered by prolonged rains in central Vietnam have killed at least 15 people and damaged rice crops in central Vietnam, state media and officials said on Friday.

Rains which began in late November have inundated more than 30,000 hectares (74,130 acres) of newly-planted rice crops in the central provinces of Binh Dinh, Ninh Thuan and Quang Ngai, the Agriculture Ministry-run

Nong Nghiep newspaper reported.

Beside the 15 confirmed deaths in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai and Khanh Hoa, at least five others including three children remained missing after being washed away by flash floods in Quang Ngai

and Binh Dinh, state media reported. Heavy rains also triggered land slides in the central region damaging roads and disrupting traffic. Weather forecasters in the country's top coffee-growing province of Dak Lak told *Reuters* the rains had temporarily stopped on Friday but they expected more rains over the weekend.

MNA/Reuters

22 killed as fishing boat capsizes in English Channel

LONDON, 16 Dec— A Belgian-flagged fishing vessel has capsized in freezing waters in the English Channel killing two crew members and trapping another inside the hull, the British Coast Guard said on Wednesday.

The Coast Guard said one of the four-member crew had been rescued and two bodies recovered. All of the seafarers are thought to be Belgian nationals.

“A response has been received from inside the upturned hull, by rescuers banging on the outside. At this time it is believed there

is someone still alive inside,” the Coast Guard said.

The ship overturned 11 miles south of Beachy Head early on Wednesday.

A Royal Navy warship, Coast Guard helicopter, lifeboat and a merchant ship were assisting at the scene.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi soldiers patrol the streets on election day in the town of Baquba, 50km (30 miles) north of Baghdad, on 15 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Heavy snow hits northwestern Japan, five dead

TOKYO, 16 Dec— A spell of heavy snow starting from Wednesday in northwestern Japan has killed five people, according to *Kyoto News*.

The snowfall reached 150-centimetre depth in mountainous areas in Niigata and Fukui prefectures. Five people in Fukui, Niigata and Toyama prefectures died of accidents while attempting to remove the

snow. Traffic was disrupted and a number of trains connecting these areas with Osaka and Aichi prefectures were cancelled. Around 10,000 households suffered from blackouts.

The adverse weather condition is likely to continue until Friday morning in extensive regions in northern and western Japan, said the Japan Meteorological Agency.

MNA/Xinhua

What is a constitution?

Takkatho Myat Thu

International historians, political scientists and law experts have stated that there are four characteristics of a nation. They are population, territory, government and sovereignty.

Only when a nation possesses these characteristics will its identity of a State come into shape. Without its citizens or population, a country will be just a wild land. Without territory, it will be like one who has no home. Without government, anarchy will reign. Without sovereignty, the nation will be under subjugation.

As today's Myanmar is equipped with these characteristics, her identity of a State becomes complete. Myanmar has its own population, territory, government and sovereignty (Independence).

Sovereignty of the State is the rights of its people. The three branches of sovereignty are legislative power, executive power and judicial power. These three branches are also called State power. A government has to be formed to practise sovereign power representing the people. When the population of a country reaches tens or hundreds or thousands of million, a government representing the people comes into being.

About 600 BC before Christ, urban citizens such as Romans, Athenians and Spartans who could not stomach slavery, landlordism and monarchy introduced democrata or a government by the people. In those countries with only a population of hundreds of thousands each, mass meetings were held to discuss and decide security, executive and judicial affairs only with the participation of men aged 20 and above. It was called direct democracy.

However, direct democracy came to an end as a result of differences in class and areas of interest. After the world came under influence of feudalism, most human beings became slaves. With the advent of capitalism when goods were mass-produced and flow of commodities was easy in the world, the people became slaves in the factory.

Oppressed by feudalist kings, the capitalist bourgeoisie confronted the former and were able to demand freedom for capitalists in the 17th Century. The capitalists established a parliament (hluttaw) and exercised legislative, executive and judicial powers. They were able to produce and trade goods freely. Capitalist governments with the use of three branches of power colonized other countries to gain more wealth. With the practice of democracy, such capitalist governments encroached upon sovereignty, democracy and human rights of other global nations and exploited valuable resources and property.

Consequently, as many as a hundred small nations came under subjugation. They had to fight for their independence 50 to 100 years. In the aftermath of the Second World War most of the countries became independent. So did Myanmar after she had fought against colonialists. As of 4 January 1948, Myanmar has regained her independence and sovereignty.

Every free nation has to contemplate how three branches of power are to be distributed and

shared and to whom they are to be entrusted. Rules and regulations had to be prescribed. Laws had to be enacted. State constitutions emerged. Some constitutions are drawn properly while some are not but a collection or combination of laws. Thus they are called 'Written Law' and 'Unwritten Law' respectively. Britain's constitution is said to be called unwritten law.

Constitution prescribes the structure of a nation. Different nations have varying geographical conditions, traditions and cultures, history and views.

The State constitution is the base of all the laws of a nation. If expressions of the existing laws are defined, they are to be done so in accordance with the essence of the basic laws. Each and every definition shall not go against the Constitution. Therefore, the Constitution is also named as the basic law.

The successive political scientists defined the Constitution in different ways. Aristotle defined the Constitution to be sovereign powers. Lord Bryce defined the Constitution as the discipline of political bodies formed in accordance with the laws. Law expert Dicey defined the Constitution as the one that came into existence from sharing executive power and functions. Austin defined the Constitution as description of the structure of a ruling government.

Nowadays, there have emerged contradictions and conflicts due to meddling in internal affairs, dissension, instigation and various ideas and isms created by colonialists. When a government, by fair or foul means, comes to power, it usually draws the new constitution or amends the old one according to its wish. And the goal of the people is affected adversely. Therefore, whatever ism, party and group comes to power, an enduring State constitution will have to be promulgated in advance in order that it could not easily amend the constitution.

In line with the State constitution, a thorough discernment should be made to decide which form of nation or kind of nation is to be established. Some establish monarchy, constitutional monarchy, some oligarchy, some unitary system, and some union system according to their wishes.

The unitary system is a system in which sovereignty has been put in the hands of a central ruling government only. Under this system, there is only one government. There is only one legislative body. The power of the legislative body has been restricted (not to be shared with others). Only the central legislative body has the power to promulgate the law it wishes.

The union system is a system in which many states with common objectives have been formed. Under the system, powers are shared among the Central Government and state governments. There are weaknesses and strengths in the unitary system and the union system.

In the People's Republic of China, there are 55 ethnic groups including Han national race that is the majority. However, only the unitary system is practised there. Self-administered regions and ethnic regions have also been designated. The UK (United Kingdom) or Britain is made up of England, Wales,

Now, the delegates are holding discussions at the ongoing National Convention for the adoption of the basic principles and detailed basic principles in formulating the State Constitution. By studying these basic principles and detailed basic principles, one can envisage the future of the nation in form and essence. Articles on the National Convention will be inserted in the newspapers daily for enabling the people to visualize the future of the nation in form and essence.

Scotland and Northern Ireland. Although it is formed as a union, it comes under the name of a unitary system. Although its name is the United Kingdom inclusive of the word "United", it is not like the United States of America that comes under a union system. There are over 20 unions all over the world. Although the USA was made up of 13 states at first, it now comprises 50 states. There are 51 administrative bodies including Washington DC where the President's Office was set up. All the 50 states belong to white Americans.

Countries are different in legislation. There are unicameral system and bi-cameral system. There are also different systems in the division of legislative power. There are two systems—one is the three branches of State power has been centralized and distributed to lower bodies at different levels, and another is separation of the three branches of State power.

In the countries where parliamentary democracy is practised, the leader of a certain political party, of which over half its total candidates win the election, becomes the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will appoint the ministers according to his wishes and form a cabinet. He will promulgate the law according to his wishes as his MPs are in the majority in the Hluttaw. The justices could freely pass judgment in court. However, the minister of justice of the Prime Minister will wield his influence on the court. In this way, the three branches of State power have fallen into the hands of the Prime Minister.

In the separation of power, the President takes charge of administrative power. The legislative Hluttaw takes full responsibility for legislation. The supreme court is held responsible for legislative power. In the parliamentary system, the only Prime Minister holds the three branches of the State power. In the separation of power system, the President, the Hluttaw and the Supreme Court share the State powers.

The drafting of a Constitution by a certain person or party is not proper and complete. The Constitution that comes into existence out of the wishes of the people will be more enduring. There can also be the constitution that represents the people. In the Constitution, detailed basic principles on sharing of power, building of a nation, duties and rights of citizens, management of State-owned resources, executive, legislation, judiciary, rules and regulations, the State flag, the State emblem, national anthem and revision of law are to be laid down. In this regard, serious attention should be paid to adoption of the detailed basic principles.

(Translation: ST+TS)

In line with the State constitution, a thorough discernment should be made to decide which form of nation or kind of nation is to be established. Some establish monarchy, constitutional monarchy, some oligarchy, some unitary system, and some union system according to their wishes.

Transport sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of transport in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Emerging bridges across the Union

The Union of Myanmar is made up of plain and hilly regions. In the past, according to its geographical condition, border areas of the country lagged behind in development due to poor transport which was the evil legacy of the past.

Lack of stability in some states in the past had led the people living there to dire poverty. Moreover, construction tasks such as building of bridges and roads that would ensure smooth transportation could not be carried out.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, regional development tasks are being carried out with might and main for development of plain and hilly regions including border areas.

Thanks to the endeavours made by the Tatmadaw government, bridges large and small have emerged on rivers and creeks where boats and ferries were used to cross them in the past and people are now enjoying smooth transport.

There was only a bridge crossing the River Ayeyawady in the past, but now seven bridges spanning the river have emerged. In Mon State, people had to rely on ferries to cross Thanlwin River between Mottama and Mawlamyine. Nowadays, people are able to cross the river with peace of mind using the 11,575 feet long magnificent Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the biggest and longest one in Myanmar.

Emergence of good foundations in the transport sector throughout

180 feet and above bridges built across the Union

Sr	State/Division	1988	2005	Progress
1	Kachin	27	39	12
2	Kayin	8	13	5
3	Chin	2	6	4
4	Mon	3	9	6
5	Rakhine	11	44	33
6	Shan	24	41	17
7	Sagaing	17	36	19
8	Taninthayi	8	15	7
9	Bago	36	52	16
10	Magway	20	35	15
11	Mandalay	18	27	9
12	Yangon	7	32	25
13	Ayeyawady	11	52	41

the country at present will surely shape the brighter future for generations to come. The Tatmadaw government, giving priority to national interests and enlisting national forces, is making arrangements to build more roads and bridges for national development.

The table provides the readers with facts and figures on newly emerged bridges large and small in the time of the Tatmadaw government.



Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) across Thanlwin River in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State. The 11,575-foot-long (over two miles) bridge is a rail-cum-road facility.



Head of department Daw Kyi Kyi Win of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation views young women's learning of English. — MNA

MWAF Officials view Course of Communicative English for Women

YANGON, 17 Dec —Head of Department of Information Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Leader of Social Affairs and Culture Work Group Dr Sandar Aung and party of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, arrived at the Course of Communicative English for Women at Sangyoung No 2 BEHS this morning and viewed the learning of trainees.

Altogether 82 trainees are attending the 10-weeks course.

Myanmar some way exercising democracy through coordination between superiors and subordinates, and working out solutions by understanding each other's situations

Senior General holds discussions with high-ranking officials in Kachin State



Chairman of the SPDC Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental officials of Kachin State at meeting hall of Northern Command.—NLM

YANGON, 17 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe made an inspection tour of Kachin State on 14 December.

In his meeting with Kachin State level departmental personnel at the Northern Command in Myitkyina, Kachin State, in the morning, the Senior General, after asking facts

Tun, senior military officers, officials and departmental heads.

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint reported on the use of land in Kachin State, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, sufficiency of food and edible oil, cultivation of the 10 major crops, growing rubber, introducing new crops, GDP of the region, increase in per capita income, transport, education and health sec-

dertaken ministry-wise for the development of Kachin State.

General Thura Shwe Mann assessed the reports, saying that Kachin State is witnessing remarkable progress due to strenuous efforts along with harmonious cooperation under the leadership of the commander and work forces equipped with good volition.

Generally, the entire Kachin State has enjoyed

the people and to have good volition to the people in carrying out development tasks. Only then can the regions that lag behind development enjoy rapid development. The 12 objectives laid down for ensuring modernization and development of the entire nation are the ones the entire national people have to uphold and implement in concert practically. Respective tasks are to be put into motion in line with these objectives.

The Senior General gave guidance, saying that the commander had reported on salient points of Kachin State and the ministers had made further clarification to those points. State level dignitaries and he held discussions and coordinated with those in charge in every region they had toured. Holding discussions between superiors and their subordinates, the central level's understanding situations of the grassroots, and the grassroots' realizing the policies of the central level are characters and forms of democracy.

Now, Myanmar has not yet been able to practise parliamentary system that is common in the democratic nations. But, some way, it is exercising democracy through coor-

dination between superiors and subordinates, and working out solutions by understanding each other's situations.

By practising such fine traditions, the government has achieved in taking measures for the development of respective regions and the nation. As the nation will have to practise the Union system in future, the government is translating into reality the strategy for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. The implementation of the 24 special development regions project is a testament to the strategy.

He stressed the importance of effectively exploiting terrestrial and aquatic resources in carrying out the development tasks to make respective regions develop economically. Being rich in natural resources, Kachin State needs to seek better ways and means to effectively raise the agricultural and economic development. The use of farm machinery is to be extended if manpower is insufficient.

On the basis of her topography and climate, Myanmar should place emphasis on promotion of the agricultural sector for economic development. Simultaneously, it needs to establish more indus-

tries to become an industrialized nation. In other words, measures are to be taken for the development of the agricultural sector of the nation, while striving for industrial development in putting into reality the strategy of ensuring equitable development of all regions of the Union. Myanmar is rich in the resources needed for the industrial development, so the government is producing human resources well-versed in science and technology sector and expanding the horizon of electricity generation and oil exploration. Today, the world is facing the oil problem, so world nations are seeking ways to extend the use of bio-gas power as oil-substitute fuel. He called for extended growing of jatropha curcas in the states and divisions for extended production of bio-gas fuel. Only when the nation becomes an industrialized one, will it be a modern and developed one. So, Kachin State that has prospects for industrial development has to broaden the scope of industrial sector while strengthening its agricultural economy. Next, the Senior General met with officers and other ranks of Myitkyina Station, and left Myitkyina by air.—MNA

Holding discussions between superiors and their subordinates, the central level's understanding situations of the grassroots, and the grassroots' realizing the policies of the central level are characters and forms of democracy.

about the development of Kachin State, gave guidance on matters for transforming the nation into a modern and developed one.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, the ministers, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Commander of Myitkyina Air Base Headquarters Brig-Gen Zaw

tors, and programmes for community peace and stability and development of the region.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thauang and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein presented reports on tasks being un-

derstanding situations of the grassroots, and the grassroots' realizing the policies of the central level are characters and forms of democracy.

In the process, the State service personnel on their part are to disseminate methods to local farmers. Only with the understanding and cooperation of the people can all the tasks inclusive of regional development undertaking and departmental work be implemented in an effective way. He highlighted the importance of the departmental personnel to be one with

As the nation will have to practise the Union system in future, the government is translating into reality the strategy for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation.



Senior General Than Shwe inspects national landmark garden in National Kandawgyi Gardens.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects National Kandawgyi Gardens, National Landmarks Garden in PyinOoLwin...

(from page 1)

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that people will have the opportunities to observe replicas of natural landmarks of States and Divisions at the same venue. Furthermore, tasks are to extend construction of replicas of natural caves such as Pindaya Cave, Byadalin Cave,

Saddan Cave, Peikchinmyaung Cave in the gardens, and he stressed the need to keep the garden pleasant and presentable.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected replicas of Shwedagon Pagoda, Shitthaung Pagoda, Mawtinsun Pagoda, PhaungdawU Pagoda, Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace, Kanbawzathadi Palace,

Reed Lake, Chaungtha Beach, Inlay Lake, etc in the garden by car.

Afterwards, they oversaw breeding of various species of birds in the National Kandawgyi Gardens.

Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Secretariat Member Minister U Aung Thauang, and CEC member Minister Dr Chan Nyein who accompanied the Senior General met with district and township secretaries and ward organizers at PyinOoLwin District USDA Office, and called on them to actively participate in development tasks of the nation.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe attends the...

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Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the bronze plaque of the hospital.

Senior General Than Shwe sprinkled scented water on the bronze plaque.

General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint also sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

At the hall of the hospital, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint briefed the Senior General and party on construction of the hospital buildings meeting the set standards in accord with the guidance of the Head of State to build the hospital as health resort in the hill station for ensuring convenience of patients, and arrangements made for opening the general practice unit, the gynecological and obstetric unit, the cardiac unit, the urosurgical unit, the paediatric unit, the larynges otology unit, and the neurosurgical unit.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presented a gift in commemoration of the opening of the hospital to the Senior General. Next, the Senior General inspected the units, offices, patient wards and ICU of the hospital. Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Khin Saw Win and Chairman of Aung Kaung Kyaw Construction U Kyaw Wai reported on allotment of buildings in the compound



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at the opening of PyinOoLwin 200-bed Hospital.—MNA

of the hospital.

Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted the medical superintendent, specialists and health staff.

PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed) is complete with the main building measuring 140 feet by 48 feet, two buildings measuring 128 feet by 48 feet each, and

one building measuring 120 feet by 48 feet. Specialists of the general practice unit, the gynecological and obstetric unit, the urosurgical unit, the paediatric unit, the neurosurgical unit, and the cardiac unit at the hospital will provide health care services to patients.

MNA



Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint formally open the hospital.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann unveils the bronze plaque of PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed).— MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win attends...

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Republic of the Philippines Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsein Loong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong.

The Ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officers of ASEAN countries also observed the summit from Conference Hall-3 and Plenary Hall-1.

First, the Summit of 9th ASEAN Heads of State/Government and the Japanese Prime Minister was held at Conference Hall-2. Before the summit, ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi posed for the documentary photo. Next, the summit followed.

At the meeting, ASEAN leaders and the Japanese Prime Minister exchanged views on Initiative of ASEAN Integration, Japan's assistance for ASEAN development fund, financial assistance of Japan for establishment of early warning system on prevention of natural disaster, assistance for prevention against

Matters relating to high price of petroleum, sufficiency of energy, substitution of energy and seeking of renewable energy resources and Myanmar's decision to join ASEAN-Japan Centre discussed.

avian flu and development of Mekong valley development and ASEAN community (2020), promotion of trade, investment and tourism industry by Tokyo-based ASEAN-Japan Centre, exchange of visits of Japan-ASEAN youths and assistance for higher education of ASEAN nations in cooperation with Japan.

Prime Minister General Soe Win discussed high price of petroleum, sufficiency of energy, substitution of energy and seeking of renewable energy resources and Myanmar's decision to join ASEAN-Japan Centre.

Next, ASEAN leaders also discussed security of the sea, conducting research on substitute energy resources,

Prime Minister General Soe Win attends Gala Dinner hosted by Malaysian counterpart

YANGON, 17 Dec —Prime Minister General Soe Win attended Gala Dinner hosted by Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi at the Grand Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December.

Also present at the dinner were Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkia Muizzadin Waddaulah, queen and his consort, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, President of Indonesia Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Philippines Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsein Loong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Australia Mr John Howard and wife, Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh and wife, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro

Koizumi, President of the Republic of Korea Mr Roh Moo Hyun and wife, Prime Minister of New Zealand Mrs Hellen Clark and her husband, President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir V Putin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Datuk, Seri Najib Razak and wife, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Chairman of Civil Service and Selection Training Board U Than Nyun, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, the ministers of ASEAN nations, Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the Russian Federation, the deputy ministers, senior officers and their wives, ASEAN Secretary-General, members of ASEAN Charter Eminent Persons Group and guests.

At the dinner, Malaysian traditional and modern music troupes presented songs and dances of Malaysia, ASEAN nations and dialogue partners.

MNA

cooperation in private sector between ASEAN and Japan, investment in building of infrastructures and hydroelectric sector and transfer of technology.

The 9th summit of ASEAN Heads of State/Government and the President of the Republic of Korea was held.

It was attended by ASEAN Heads of State/



Prime Minister General Soe Win attends 9th ASEAN + Japan Summit.— MNA

Government, President of the Republic of Korea Mr Roh Moo Hyun and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Before the summit, ASEAN Heads of State/Government and the President of the Republic of Korea had the documentary photo taken.

Prime Minister General Soe Win who acted as Coordinator in relationship between ASEAN and the ROK discussed the matters related to the implementation on joint-declaration for cooperation of ASEAN-ROK, signing the agreement for economic

(See page 11)



ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Japanese Prime Minister pose for documentary photo at 9th ASEAN+Japan Summit.— MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win attends framework agreement together with heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and ROK. — MNA

Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and India discussed matters relating to timely implementation of peace and development work, fight against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, prevention of bird flu, assistance to be rendered by India for bio-technology and pharmacy, media-sharing, construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand railroad and highway links, establishment of English language centres in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, training of junior staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and launching of satellite network and telemedicine in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Prime Minister General Soe Win attends...

(from page 10)
cooperation and promoting the relationship between ASEAN and the ROK.

Afterwards, ASEAN leaders exchanged views on elimination of bird flu, Korean Peninsula affairs, fight against violence, ensuring energy sufficiency, sharing information technologies and production of low-cost computers and continued assistance of Korea in development of human resources.

After the summit, a ceremony to sign a

dia, Japan, New Zealand, and Russia at KL Convention Centre.

Present on the occasion were ASEAN Heads of State/Government, Prime Minister of Australia Mr John Howard, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi, President of the Republic of Korea Mr Roh Moo Hyun, Prime Minister of New Zealand Mr Helen Clark, President of the



Prime Minister General Soe Win poses together with heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and the Republic of Korea at the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit on 13-12-2005. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win attends the 4th ASEAN-India Summit together with heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and India. — MNA

weapons of mass destruction, prevention of bird flu, assistance to be rendered by India for bio-technology and pharmacy, media-sharing, construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand railroad and highway links, establishment of English language centres in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, training of junior staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and launching of satellite network and telemedicine in Cambo-

dia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. After the summit, Heads of State/Government posed for documentary photos.

Next, the Summit of ASEAN Heads of State/Government and President of the Russian Federation was held at Conference Hall-2. It was attended by ASEAN Heads of State/Government, President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir V Putin, and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

Before the summit, ASEAN Heads of State/Government and the President of the Russian Federation posed for the documentary photo.

They exchanged views on role of Russia in safety of energy sector and in solving crisis of the Middle East region, cooperation in industrial sector, tourism industry, power supply, elimination of infectious disease, education, transport, (See page 12)

Framework Agreement on the ASEAN-ROK Economic Cooperation took place at the Plenary Theatre. Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the ROK signed the agreement. Next, the Malaysian Prime Minister and the ROK President exchanged the documents. After that, the Malaysian Prime Minister handed over the documents to the ASEAN Secretary-General and those present had a documentary photo taken.

A luncheon was hosted in honor of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the ROK, Australia, the PRC, In-

Russian Federation Mr Vladimir V Putin.

After the luncheon, the 4th Summit of ASEAN Heads of State/Government and the Prime Minister of India was held at Conference Hall-2. It was attended by ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

At the meeting, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and India discussed matters relating to timely implementation of peace and development work, fight against terrorism and



Prime Minister General Soe Win poses together with heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and the Russian Federation at the ASEAN-Russian Federation Summit on 13-12-2005. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and Heads of State/Government attending the Summit. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and Heads of State/Government signing a joint declaration at the summit. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win attends...

(from page 11)

energy, science and technology, information and communication technology, and human resources devel-

opment sectors between ASEAN and Russia, cooperation in combating trans-national crimes, narcotic drugs, human trafficking, money laundering, international economic crimes and computer crimes.

After the summit, Prime Minister General Soe Win, ASEAN Heads of State/Government, and the President of the Russian Federation signed the

ASEAN-Russia Joint Declaration on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership at the Plenary Theatre.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and the President of Russian Federation exchanged the notes of the declaration. Later, the Malaysian Prime Minister handed over the notes of joint declaration to the ASEAN Secretary-General.— MNA



FM U Nyan Win being seen off at the airport on his departure for Bangladesh — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister leaves for Bangladesh

YANGON, 17 Dec —A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here this evening for Bangladesh to attend the Eight Ministerial Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to be held from 18 to 19 December 2005 in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh at the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr M Morshed Khan M P of People's Republic of Bangladesh.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and officials concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Counsellor Ms Sultana Laila Hossain of Bangladeshi embassy.

Minister U Nyan Win is accompanied by Assistant Director U Win Zeyar Tun of the Minister's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director-General U Win Mra of the International Organizations and Economic Department, Director-General U Soe Myint of Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy and Head of Branch-1 Daw Malar Than Htike of Economic Division, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs are attending the Tenth Senior Officials' Meeting of BIMSTEC from 17 to 18 December in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh. — MNA

Cooperation between Press Scrutiny and Registration Department and those from the literary world is indispensable



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the AGM of MPPA. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Dec— The Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association held the 14th Annual General Meeting for 2005 at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning with an address by Chairman of Central Supervisory Committee for Printers and Publishers Registration and Press Scrutiny and Publishing Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Supervisory Committee, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and members, the president of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and members, the chairman of Myanmar Publishers Association and executives, members and guests.

Chairman of Myanmar Printers and

Publishers Association U Maung Maung presided over the meeting.

First, the meeting chairman extended greetings.

Next, Chairman of the Central Supervisory Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made a speech. He said that the Press Scrutiny and Registration Department under the Ministry of Information has been taking systematic measures for development of literary and printing world. In this regard, it has laid down four objectives. In accord with the objectives, those from the literary world are to strive in the interest of the State and the people. It is known to all that there have been destructive acts, and the might of those from the literary world is imperative in stamping out those hideous acts.

In serving the national interest and their own, cooperation between Press Scrutiny and Registration Department and those from the literary world is indispensable. The literary industry is being undertaken in accord with the State policy and those from the literary world are to safeguard national prestige and integrity, he said.

Safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character is of utmost importance, and patriotism will lose in the absence of culture, resulting in the loss of races. Therefore, those from the literary world are to serve the national interest through the successful realization of the four objectives.

In the Knowledge Age today, printing industry is on the right path of development. In the same way, there are a number of media that are

challenging the printed media. Big nations with advancement in ICT are penetrating small nations. Myanmar is also witnessing the penetration. They are jeopardizing peace and stability in the nation with the use of ICT and multimedia.

Myanmar, being a developing nation, is facing the challenges of printed media, and steps are to be taken to be able to face those challenges.

(See page 15)



Myanmar Publishers Association Chairman U Maung Maung.

MNA

ADVERTISEMENT

နိုင်ငံခြားစက္ကူ (၄) မျိုး ဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား	လိုအပ်ချက်	ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ	မှတ်ချက်
၁။	Foreign Duplex Board (270 G.S.M) (31" x 43") (100 Sheets)	၁၇၂၈-ထုပ် (အထုပ်တစ်ထောင်း မှန်စရာနှစ်ဆယ်ရစ် တိတိ)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အထူးစီမံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၂၅၀-ထုပ် ၁၄၇၈-ထုပ်
၂။	Art Paper (85 G.S.M) (31" x 43") (250 Sheets)	၆၃၂-ထုပ် (အထုပ်ခြောက်ရာ သုံးဆယ်နှစ် တိတိ)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အထူးစီမံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၅၀၀-ထုပ် ၈၂-ထုပ်
၃။	Sticker Paper (21" x 30") (100 Sheets)	၂၄၀-ထုပ် (အထုပ်နှစ်ရာ လေးဆယ်တိတိ)	အလှကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံ အထူးစီမံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၅၀-ထုပ် ၂၄၀-ထုပ်
၄။	Woodfree Printing Paper (60 G.S.M) (31" x 43") (500 Sheets)	၂၀၀-ထုပ် (အထုပ်နှစ်ရာ တိတိ)	အထူးစီမံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်)	၂၀၀-ထုပ်

တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်။ (၂၃-၁၂-၂၀၀၅) (သောကြာ)နေ့ မွန်လွဲ (၁၄:၀၀) နာရီ။
မှတ်ချက်။ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ၊ ပစ္စည်းစီမံရေးဌာနတွင် ရှုချိန်အတွင်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်ကို ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၆၆၃၄၈၀)

စက်ရုံမှ
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

Annan urges nations to spend more on fight against "AIDS"

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Dec— The countries of the Middle East and North Africa have an unprecedented opportunity to help the international community in securing resources for the global fight against AIDS, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday.

"I call on the region's governments not only to review their domestic budgets devoted to AIDS, TB and malaria, but also to assess how their overseas development assistance can be mobilized to meet the global challenge posed by AIDS and other development issues," Annan said in a message to a meeting of the UN-backed Global Fund in Morocco. The Secretary-General

pointed out that HIV is spreading in the region, citing UN statistics indicating that 67,000 new infections are expected in the Middle East and North Africa this year. In his message, delivered by UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot, Annan urged participants to address not only funding needs but also the dangerous culture of shame surrounding the disease.—MNA/Xinhua

18 children die of dengue in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 Dec— At least 18 children have died of dengue fever which has been spreading in the Indonesian Province of East Kalimantan over the past eleven months, reports said on Thursday. Dengue has infected 1,040 people in the town of Balikpapan in the province, reported the *Antara* news agency, quoting a health official. In an effort to prevent the ailment from spreading further, the local health service had

conducted fogging campaign to kill mosquito. Dengue outbreak was declared as national catastrophe last year with the death toll from the outbreak approaching 200 in the whole country, mostly in Jakarta. MNA/Xinhua

China's regional jet "ARJ-21" to make maiden flight in 2008

SHANGHAI, 16 Dec— China's regional jet *ARJ-21* is expected to take to the sky in 2008 and begin commercial operation one year after that.

The remark was made by an official from the first Airplane Designing Institute with China Aviation Industry Corp. (AVIC I) who is in Shanghai attending an ongoing international aviation and space electronics and equipment fair held here. The first Airplane

Designing Institute with China Aviation Industry Corp. (AVIC I) designed the regional jet *ARJ-21*. Information from the international aviation and space electronics and equipment fair said three *ARJ-21* regional passenger plane models were displayed at the show, attracting hordes of

visitors. An official with AVIC I Commercial Aircraft Co. Ltd., the producer based in Xi'an, capital of north-west China's Shaanxi Province, said *ARJ-21* passenger planes commanded an advantage of adaptability for air routes and airports in west China. Manufacturing parts and components for the 78- to 90-seat aircraft began in late 2003. The international aviation and space electronics and equipment fair, the first of the kind ever held in Shanghai, began on Tuesday, with the participation of representatives from over 60 companies.—MNA/Xinhua

Vanuatu govt allocated funds for volcano evacuees

WELLINGTON, 16 Dec—Vanuatu Government has allocated relief funds for Ambae islanders displaced by a volcanic eruption, according to Thursday's reports from Port-Vila, capital of this South Pacific country.

Around 3,000 people are now being cared for in 15 relocation centres on the coastal fringe of Ambae Island, as Mt Manaro continues to erupt.

Another 7,000 people remain in their villages while the volcano continues to emit steam with periodic explosions tossing out ash.

Vanuatu's Prime Minister Ham Lini said Wednesday the volcano activity is still only at the "risky" level two, but the government has sent ships for potential evacuations, as well as food and water. The eruption started on 27 November. MNA/Xinhua

Three drug traffickers sentenced in Vietnam

HANOI, 16 Dec— A Vietnamese court passed death penalties to three local men in an inter-provincial drug trafficking ring sentence, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Thursday.

The People's Court of central Nghe An Province on Wednesday also handed down life sentences to six local people, and imprisonment sentences ranging from 13 years to 20 years to nine others.

The 18-membering led by HaSyQue, who received capital punishment, transported and traded 54 cakes of heroin weighing 18.9 kilos, and nearly 34.7 kilos of opium in the 2002-

2004 period in Nghe An and some northern provinces.

Last year, Vietnamese authorities reported 12,068 drug-related crimes, seized 239.4 kilos of heroin, and arrested 18,260 people involved. Under the country's laws, anyone possessing, trading or trafficking heroin of 600 grammes or above can be sentenced to death or life in prison.—MNA/Xinhua



Svetlana Zhurova, right, from Russia leads ahead of teammate Yulya Nemaya during the 500 meters sprint race at the speed skating world cup event in Inzell, southern Germany, on 17 Dec, 2005. Zhurova took the second place in the final ranking.—Internet

Third round of floods hits south Thailand

BANGKOK, 16 Dec—Continuing floods in the Thailand's southern provinces of Pattani and Songkhla forced nearly 70 schools in the two provinces to close, according to the *Thai News Agency* on Thursday.

After heavy downpours in Wednesday night, water levels in the Pattani River rose and flooded low-lying areas. Provincial authorities evacuated persons at risk areas to higher ground. Some 20 schools were forced to

close temporarily. Traffic on Phiphit road, the towns street, was congested, while many roads in the municipality are impassable, either submerged or blocked by debris. In Nongjik District, local residents

moved their belongings to higher ground and built sandbag embankments to prevent flooding. In Songkhla Province, incessant rain over the past two days caused flash floods, particularly in the area near Songkhla lake.

50 schools in five districts have been closed for a week due to the third round of flooding there. Damages incurred in earlier flooding is estimated at more than 700 million baht (17.5 million US dollars). MNA/Xinhua

Death toll mounts to 19 in India

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec— Four more people died of cold in north India's Uttar Pradesh, *New Delhi TV* (NDTV) reported on Thursday.

With this, the death toll has touched 19. Temperature plummeted to below zero degree Celsius in Wednesday night in many parts of north India.

Worse hit are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Indian-controlled Kashmir, with Srinagar recording a low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Blatter says Chelsea can be defeated

LONDON, 17 Dec— FIFA president Sepp Blatter has claimed that Chelsea, though with their seemingly unlimited resources, has not taken away the unpredictability of football.

Blatter dismissed fears that the Blues were spoiling the game by hoovering up the game's top players.

Chelsea are nine points clear at the top of the table and are odds on to win back-to-back league titles, as well as being among the favourites for the Champions League despite being paired with Barcelona in the last 16.

But Blatter believes results in Europe this season have already shown the Blues will not have things entirely their own way. "Even with money, you are not guaranteed supremacy," he said.

"Football is unpredictable. Chelsea are not so strong that in a four-team group in the Champions League, they were not first. Liverpool finished first."

Blatter's point about Chelsea's fallibility is backed up by an autumn dip in form.

They were knocked out of the Carling Cup by Charlton in late October, the first defeat at Stamford Bridge of Jose Mourinho's 18-month reign as boss.

A week later Chelsea suffered a shock loss away to Real Betis in their Champions League group, and then saw their 40-game unbeaten Premiership run shattered in a 1-0 reverse against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

While Blatter was keen to stress that other clubs should not throw in the towel, he praised the management structure at Chelsea, where Frank Arnesen was added to the technical staff in the summer.

MNA/Reuters

Benfica, Liverpool to fight it out in Champions' League soccer

LISBON, 17 Dec— Champions' League draw has picked Portuguese soccer club Benfica to face defending champion England's Liverpool, when the tournament begins in February, local media reported on Friday.

The first match will be on February 21 or February 22 in Lisbon, with the return match on March 7 or March 8 at the Anfield Road stadium in Liverpool.

After the draw, made in the Swiss city of Nyon, Benfica manager, Holland's Ronald Koeman, said that it would be a difficult match against the "powerful" Liverpool. Other interesting matches set

up by the draw include Chelsea confronting Barcelona, a match that will create mixed emotions for Chelsea's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho, who was a Barcelona player. Inter Milan, home to Portuguese international Luis Figo, will play Holland's Ajax, while AC Milan, home to Portugal's Rui Costa, will face Bayern Munich.—MNA/Xinhua

Lyon slump to first defeat in last match

PARIS, 17 Dec— Olympique Lyon slumped to their first league defeat of the season when they lost 3-1 at home to Lille in their last match of the year on Friday.

The four-time French champions, chasing an unprecedented fifth successive title, remain 12 points clear of second-placed Auxerre, who entertain Nancy on Saturday. Lille showed more initiative in the opening stages and were rewarded after nine minutes when Nigerian striker Peter Odemwingie opened the scoring from the edge of the box.

Lyon stepped up a gear after the break and had created several chances when midfielder Mathieu Debuchy doubled

Lille's advantage from a counter-attack in the 62nd minute.

Forward Sidney Govou reduced the arrears in the 68th with an angled shot from just outside the area but Lille soon restored a two-goal lead with a header from a free kick by midfielder and captain Stephane Dumont two minutes later.

Last season's surprise runners-up Lille climb eight places to fourth and are now 14 points off the pace heading into the winter break.—MNA/Reuters

Kenyon looks to buzz from contest between Chelsea, Barcelona

LONDON, 17 Dec— Peter Kenyon claimed on Friday that the last 16 matchup between Chelsea and Barcelona sums up all what is great about the UEFA Champions League.

Barca and Chelsea are the powerhouses in Spain and England respectively and produced two stirring games in last season's competition. The two clubs will be looking to put on a similar show, with Chelsea chief executive Kenyon looking for a repeat result.

"It is a big game, there were two fantastic games last year and at this stage

in the competition you are going to get a big team and they are as hot in Spain as us in the UK," Kenyon told Sky Sports News.

Ronaldinho-inspired Barcelona are one of the most feared attacking teams in world football, but Kenyon feels Jose Mourinho has the tools at his disposal to ward off the threat.

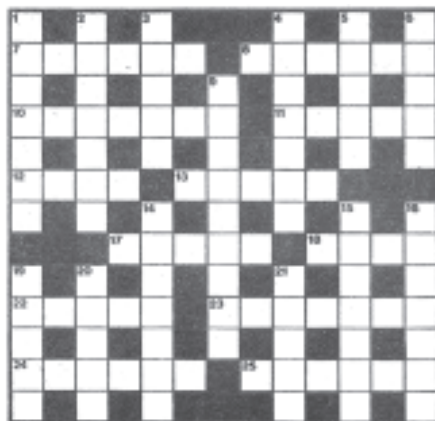
"We have got one of the best defences in Europe, so we are well equipped for that," he added. "And as I say, at this stage of the competition you expect a big team."

MNA/Xinhua



Moscow's synchronized swimming team perform their free routine during the Winter's Night Ball international sport show in Moscow, on 16 Dec, 2005. Athletes from the national Olympic teams of China, Italy, Russia and Spain performed late Friday in Moscow.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Sabbath
- 8 Honourable rank
- 10 Increase
- 11 Flaxen fabric
- 12 Duelling sword
- 13 Occurrence
- 17 Robust
- 18 Courageous
- 22 Subsequently
- 23 Regret
- 24 Powerful
- 25 Calm

DOWN

- 1 Got away
- 2 Suppressed laugh
- 3 Tag
- 4 A slight hint
- 5 Growing old
- 6 Period of duty
- 9 To deserve (anag.)
- 14 Tramp
- 15 Amend
- 16 Things to be added
- 19 Incline
- 20 Declare
- 21 Fish akin to the salmon

Eriksson, Dell'Olio want to replace bombs with balls

LONDON, 17 Dec— England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson and his partner Nancy Dell'Olio on Friday called for the world to mark International Peace Day by replacing conflict with soccer matches.

The couple's Truce International campaign is hoping the "kick a ball for peace" initiative will end up marking the United Nations annual peace day (September 21) with soccer instead of war. "Football is something very, very special," Eriksson told a media conference. "Everyone around the world knows who David Beckham and Zidane are. It's the biggest sport in the world. So to do something for peace is really important."

"It's a big, big aim but it's a beautiful aim," he added.

The Swede was speaking after an advance showing of a new film "Merry Christmas", which tells the story of a temporary truce in World War One when British, French and German troops fraternized and played soccer in no man's land on Christmas Day.

It was this story which inspired Dell'Olio and Eriksson to

set up Truce International with the aim of furthering peace through soccer by various means.

"Football is my life, like it or lump it," said Dell'Olio, a lawyer. "Since I've been involved I've seen the power of football and I don't think this power is used enough."

The couple also made a donation to the Peres Centre for Peace to help fund attempts to improve relations between Israelis and Palestinians through soccer. The donation will help build floodlights on a "Peace Pitch" in East Jerusalem and pay for a joint Palestinian and Israeli schools soccer programme.

"In 1914, football was how the soldiers communicated with each other," said actor Alex Ferns, who appears in "Merry Christmas".

"Perhaps now football can once again stop people killing each other for one day of the year."

MNA/Reuters



UEFA president Lennart Johansson is seen on a screen behind the Champions League trophy, during an awards presentation to representatives of the 21 soccer clubs who have won the European Champions Clubs Cup/UEFA Champions League so far, at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, on 16 Dec, 2005. The awards ceremony is part of the celebration of the 50 years of the European Club soccer competition.—INTERNET

Cooperation between Press Scrutiny and Registration...

(from page 12)

For the entire national people to have the reading habit and development of human resources, the Ministry of Information is making efforts to open self-reliant libraries across the nation. And those from literary world are to give a helping hand in this regard.

The ministry has granted permits in accord

with the wishes of printers and publishers. Likewise, Press Scrutiny and Registration Department has also granted permits to the publishers to freely engage in the industry.

The publishers are to make efforts for development of printing world with advanced printing techniques. In this connection, training courses, workshops and seminars

are to be conducted, and the ministry will provide all the necessary requirements. That is why the association is to try its utmost in the interest of the State and the nation through development of the literary world.

UMFCCI President U Win Myint gave a speech.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw

Hsan cordially greeted those present.

Vice-Chairman of the Association U Myint Maung read out the annual report of the executive committee and the financial statement and sought the approval.

Afterwards, five patrons and new executive committee led by Chairman U Maung Maung were re-elected.

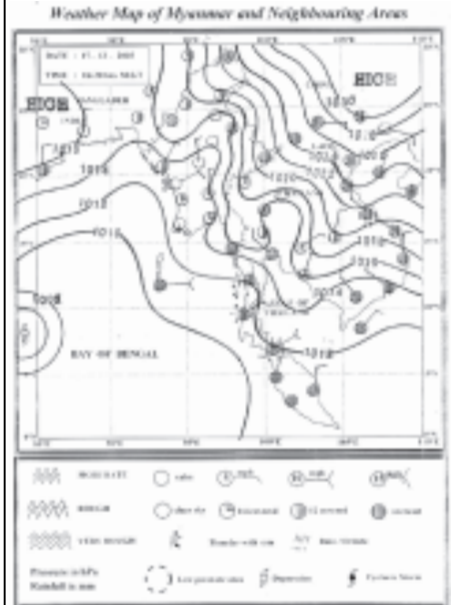
Next, Minister for Information for the funds of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donated K 100,000, U Win Myint of Shwe Nagamin Co K 500,000, U Aung Than Oo of Nine Sea Co Ltd, U Htay Myint of Yuzana Co Ltd, U Win Aung of Dagon International Co Ltd and U Nyo Min of Grand Press K 100,000 each, executives of MPPA K 630,000, MPP Co Ltd K 230,000, and book advertisers K 980,000, totalling K 2,750,000.

Later, the meeting chairman gave the concluding remarks. —MNA



Japanese figure skater Mao Asada (C), 15-year-old, shows off her gold medal with silver medallist Irina Slutskaya (L) of Russia and bronze medallist Yukari Nakano of Japan after winning the women's singles with 189.62 points in the ISU Figure Skating Grand Prix Final in Tokyo, on 17 Dec, 2005. Slutskaya placed second in 181.48 points and Nakano, 161.82 points for the bronze.

INTERNET



WEATHER

Saturday, 17 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, Rakhine, Mon and Shan States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Putao and Haka (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 16-12-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-12-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 16-12-2005 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-12-2005 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 (6) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 16-12-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southwest Bay had further intensified into a tropical depression and centered at about (360) miles Southeast of Nagapattinam (India). It is forecast to move West-Northwest wards slowly. Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-12-2005: Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-12-2005: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-12-2005: Fair weather.

Storm news

(Issued at (07:00) hrs MST on 17-12-2005)

According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southwest Bay has further intensified into a tropical depression and centred at about (360) miles Southeast of Nagapattinam (India). It is forecast to move West-Northwest wards slowly.



Sunday, 18 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayardaw U Oaktamathara
- 7:15 am
2. တီပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိဏ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာသမ္ဘိတာ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိန္ဓိရာတိ ဝံသ (ဆောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါသသန္တိ ပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercises
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
6. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ
- 7:55 am
7. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(ခုခံ)ဖြာ ဓက်လာ
- 8:05 am
8. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ

- 8:15 am
9. ဧရာဝတီ (မြို့လှ) ရေလှောင်တံခံ (ဝိဇ္ဇာတိုင်း)
- 8:25 am
10. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am
11. International news
- 8:45 am
12. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am
3. Round up of the week's International news
- 11:35 am
4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရေခြည်နွေးနွေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
- 2:50 pm
1. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် (၄၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် တစ်မတော်ကာကွယ်ရေးဦးစီးချုပ် ဖလား၊ တစ်မတော် (ကြည်း) ရေ(လေ)ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ဒုတိယအကြိမ်လှည့်)
- 4:45 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
3. အစားအသောက်သုံးစွဲခြင်း
- ၅ပုံမြိုင်သကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (စာတုပေးအထူးပြု) (စာတုပေး)
- 5:15 pm
4. Dance of national race
- 5:25 pm
5. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ
- 5:35 pm
6. Agricultural source of Myanmar development
- 5:45 pm
7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:30 pm
8. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
9. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
10. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မိမိ-လုံမေတ္တာကန်သယာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၃)
- 7:35 pm
11. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 pm
12. News
- 13. International news.
- 14. Weather report.
- 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုစမ်မြိုင်ရိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 16. The next day's programme



- Sunday, 18 December
Tune in today
- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Feel for your love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Someone you use
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -The eagle & the hawk
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: -When you kiss me
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight: -Story for children "Pardon me my friend" -Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music: -More like the movies -Never on Sunday
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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 attends the ceremony to put PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed) into service



Senior General Than Shwe inspects PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed). — MNA

YANGON, 17 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe joined the ceremony to put PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed) into service at 11 am yesterday after attending the graduation parade of the 48th Intake of Defence Services Academy at DSA in

PyinOoLwin.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed there by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, district and township level authorities, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Khin Saw Win and specialists, health staff, members of social organizations, students and local people.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the hospital.

(See page 9)

Prime Minister General Soe Win attends Summits of ASEAN and Japan, ROK, India and Russia

YANGON, 17 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win attended the Summits of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Countries and Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of India, and the Russian Federation at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 13 December.

Also present at the summit were Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzadin Waddaulah, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, President of Indonesia Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, President of the

INSIDE

In the separation of power, the President takes charge of administrative power. The legislative Hluttaw takes full responsibility for legislation. The supreme court is held responsible for legislative power. In the parliamentary system, the Prime Minister only holds the three branches of the State power.



ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Indian Prime Minister pose for documentary photo at 4th ASEAN+India Summit. — MNA