

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 252

9th Waning of Nadaw 1367 ME

Saturday, 24 December, 2005

Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulatory message to Polish President

YANGON, 24 Dec— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Lech Kaczynski, who has been elected as President of the Federal Republic of Poland. — MNA

Tatmadaw is the one that always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

Tatmadaw not mercenary force, but a patriotic one Never hesitates to sacrifice lives whenever necessary

Being equipped with esprit de corps, Tatmadaw members are sacrificing lives for each other



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at the graduation parade of 8th Intake of DSTA. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Dec — The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the graduation parade of the 8th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy at DSTA in PyinOoLwin today.

Comrades,

Today on the occasion of the graduation ceremony of the 8th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy I would like to impart you what you should (See page 8)

Excerpts

- Strive to become reliable technicians capable of discharging national defence duties
- Make sustained efforts to promote the science and technology of the Tatmadaw and modernize the Tatmadaw
- Try best to become new generation leaders who preserve the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw even in the face of death threat
- Collectively participate in building a modern and developed nation, while raising the role of science and technology of the Tatmadaw

Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy

YANGON, 23 Dec — The graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 9 am today, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council (See page 5)



Cadet companies seen at graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 December, 2005

Run factories and mills at full capacity

The State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the strength of natural resources and human resources, is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Being an agro-based nation, Myanmar is relying on the agricultural sector in establishing the national economic life. Systematic steps are being taken for the development of national economy, making better use of land and water resources.

In the meantime, efforts are being made for development of the industrial sector, which plays a pivotal role in building the nation into a modern and developed one. At present, more factories and mills are being built while striving for the development of industries and industrial technology.

The High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory of Myanma Ceramics Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 was opened in Kyaukse factory area in Kyaukse Township on 21 December 2005, attended by Prime Minister General Soe Win.

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspected machines of the respective production sectors, production process, the Bicycle Factory (Kyaukse) and the Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaukse) and stressed the need for officials concerned to strive for meeting the production target, meeting the set standard and running the factories at full capacity.

Kyaukse brick factory is expected to produce 2,500 tons of high heat duty fire bricks per year. Danyingon fire brick factory is now producing 1,800 tons of high heat duty fire bricks per year. The two factories will be able to produce 4,300 tons of the bricks and provide the requirements of State-owned and private factories.

The purpose of opening the factory is to reduce brick imports and save foreign exchange by producing high heat duty fire bricks at home, to increase the number of local technicians for production of the bricks, to produce quality bricks similar to the ones used not only at cement factories but also at departments and enterprises and to generate jobs.

At a time when the government is making relentless efforts for the development of the industrial sector, it is incumbent upon the factories and mills to manufacture quality products in accordance with the requirements of the State.

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

Commander calls for development of local industries

YANGON, 23 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged industrialists to manufacture high-quality products meeting the international set standard in the hope of substituting the import materials and penetrating the foreign market.

Speaking at the 12th annual meeting of the Myanmar Industrialists Association held at Sedona Hotel here, he also called for development of small and medium industries in the nation.

Present at the meeting were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits booths of members of Myanmar Industrialists Association. — MIA

Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, deputy ministers and departmental officials, chairman and members of the association. At the meeting, industrialists contributed to K 12.9 million to the fund of the

association. According to the commander, out of 19 industrial zones in the country, four are established in Yangon Division. The number of the private industries reach over 80,000 and, small

and medium industries account for 95 per cent of the private industry.

The annual meeting ended with concluding remarks by the association's chairman U Myat Thin Aung.

MNA

Chinese guests visit National Defence College

YANGON, 23 Dec — Deputy Commander of Chengdu Military Area Command Lieutenant-General Gui Quanzhi and party arrived at National Defence College, here, this morning.

They were welcomed by Commandant of NDC Maj-Gen Moe Hein and senior military officers.

Commandant Maj-Gen Moe Hein extended greetings and explained the history and academic matters of the NDC.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development also briefed the guests on functions of their respective ministries.

Next, Lt-Gen Gui Quanzhi and Maj-Gen Moe Hein exchanged souvenirs. Later, the Chinese guests visited the National Defence College.

MNA

YMCA hosts X'mas dinner



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung extends greetings at X'mas dinner hosted by YMCA. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Dec — YMCA hosted a dinner to mark the Christmas Day at M-3 Food Centre in Bahan Township yesterday evening, with an address by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present at the dinner were Deputy

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, heads of department, the Chairman of YMCA and members of trusteeship board, Christians and guests.

YMCA Chairman Dr Tin Hla extended greetings, and Rev U Aung Myint Sein said prayers. — MNA

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

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

- ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးအပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့
(၂၅-၁၂-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့
- ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလအတွက်
(၈-၁-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၉-၁-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့



A man wades through a flooded street as the shops remain closed in downtown Alor Setar, Kedah, northern Malaysia, on 22 Dec, 2005. Peninsular Malaysia's northern states usually suffer floods during the monsoon season between November and March, but the flooding in Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Kelantan and Terengganu states this year has been deemed the worst in 30 years.—INTERNET

Pakistan, India agree to launch two bus services early next year

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec — Pakistan and India on Wednesday signed two agreements on the commencement of two bus services, one will be launched next month, according to a joint statement.

The statement, issued at the conclusion of the third round of India-Pakistan technical level talks, said that a bus service between the Indian city of Amritsar and the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore will begin on 20 January.

The bus, covering a 45-kilometre route, will link the two countries via their only international land crossing at Wahgah.

Another bus service between Amritsar and the

Pakistani city of Nankana Sahib in the Punjab Province will be launched in February with holding its trial on 27 January, 2006, the statement said.

The town of Nankana Sahib is the birth place of the founder of Sikh religion Baba Guru Nanak Devji Sahib.

Therefore, this bus service will facilitate thousands of Indian Sikhs to directly reach Nankana Sahib from Amritsar, the capital of Indian Punjab.

According to a joint statement, the first Pakistani bus would leave for Amritsar on 20 January, while from Amritsar Indian bus would leave for Lahore on 24 January, 2006.

The Pakistani bus would ply from Lahore to Amritsar on every Friday and return on Saturday while the Indian bus would

ply from Amritsar to Lahore on every Tuesday and return on Wednesday.

Regarding Amritsar-Nankana Sahib service, two sides decided that the trial run would take place from Amritsar on 27 January and from Nankana Sahib to Amritsar on 29 January, 2006.

Regular operation of the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service would commence within a month from the trial run.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Communication Muhammad Abbas led the Pakistani side at the talks in Lahore, some 300 kilometres south of Islamabad, while India was led by Joint Secretary of the Department of Road Transport and Highways Saroj Kumar Dash.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian FM warns against preconditions in nuke-talks

TEHRAN, 22 Dec — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki warned the European Union (EU) on Wednesday not to set preconditions to the ongoing nuclear negotiations, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"There could be no preconditions to Iran entering into nuclear talks with the European countries. Iran's stand has been well defined, and we do not want the talks just for the sake of holding talks," Mottaki was quoted as saying.

Negotiators of Iran and the EU kicked off a new round of one-day negotiations in Vienna, Austria, but diplomatic sources had expressed pessimism over the result, holding that it was hard for the two sides to reach agreement on Iran's sensitive uranium enrichment activities.

Mottaki said the nuclear talks were "quite serious" and should "follow a timetable", stressing that the topics were clear and the talks would proceed if the Europeans "were determined" to do so.

"Iran's position that its nuclear activities should not be distracted by pre-conceived allegations of intention and the Europeans should reaffirm Iran's right to obtain access to nuclear technology for peaceful ends are the two main points of the ongoing talks in Vienna," he stressed.

Mottaki also underlined the necessity of enrichment and completion of the nuclear fuel cycle in the Iranian territory, saying the nuclear technology "has become a local science" of Iran.

Iran's powerful Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called on the EU on Tues-

day to drop threats, referring to the EU leaders' warning on Saturday that time was running out for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear dispute.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb explodes near Spanish club

MADRID, 22 Dec — A bomb exploded outside a nightclub in northern Spain on Wednesday after a warning from Basque separatist group ETA, but caused no injuries, Spanish media reports said.

The telephone warning to a Basque newspaper and the Basque highway authority gave police time to evacuate the discotheque in the small town of Santesteban in the northern region of Navarre, newspaper *El Mundo's* Web site said.

Police in Navarre said they could not immediately confirm the report and government officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Europa Press news agency said the bomb exploded at the rear of the nightclub, damaging the building.

The bomb exploded a day before Spain is due to launch a special Christmas security plan, mobilizing 40,000 police officers to guard against attacks over the holiday.

ETA, branded a ter-

rorist organization by the European Union and the United States, has killed nearly 850 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France.—MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec — A US soldier was killed in a roadside bomb blast south of Baghdad on Monday, the US military said on Wednesday.

"A soldier assigned to Task Force Baghdad was killed when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle in south of Baghdad on 19 December," the military said in a statement. The name of the soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added. The death has brought to about 2,160 the number of US military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen shoot five in Mexico City on US border

NUEVO LAREDO (Mexico), 22 Dec — Gunmen shot dead five men in a vehicle workshop in this violent city on the US border in a brutal resurgence of suspected drug violence, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Hitmen toting pistols surprised the five men late on Monday night at the workshop in Nuevo Laredo, which lies over the Rio Grande from Laredo,

Texas, firing at least 15 shots at close range.

The city of 300,000 people is the front line of a war between traffickers from the western Mexican

state of Sinaloa and the local Gulf cartel for control of the lucrative cross-border trade in cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

At least 175 people have been murdered in the city this year and President Vicente Fox sent in hundreds of federal troops and police in June to try to restore order.

The latest killings occurred in the city's Anahuac District, which is notorious for drug dealing, and ended an 11-day stretch without a fatal shooting.

Witnesses said one man was shot several times in the face, usually a coded message signifying betrayal in the language of the warring cartels. Another victim attempted to hide beneath a truck in the workshop, but was shot regardless.—MNA/Reuters



Civil Guards block the road near the scene of a bomb blast outside of a nightclub in the Pyrenees village of Santesteban, Spain, on 21 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

St Paul police officer killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec — A St Paul police officer working for a private security company was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq on Thursday, his department and the company announced.

Officer Kyle M Kaszynski, 39, was working for Kroll Inc and was in a convoy that was escorting correctional advisers from Baghdad to Baquba for prison inspections when it was attacked on Thursday morning.—Internet



A man walks past trees amid thick fog in New Delhi, on 21 Dec, 2005. A thick blanket of fog enveloped India's capital early this morning, reducing visibility to as low as 200 metres, while cold conditions persisted with temperature hovering below five degrees Celsius in most parts of northern India. —INTERNET



Kikwete sworn in as Tanzanian President

DAE-ES-SALAAM, 22 Dec— Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was sworn in here on Wednesday as the fourth elected President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The hitherto Foreign Minister was sworn in by the country's Chief Justice Honorary Barnabas Samatta in the presence of outgoing Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa, Tanzanian National Assembly Speaker Pius

Msekwa, President of Zanzibar Amani Abeid Karume, the country's religious leaders and 12 heads of state from African countries.

The presence of the King of Lesotho and presidents from Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe made

Wednesday's inauguration as the one Tanzanian swear-in ceremony witnessed by most foreign dignitaries.

The African Union, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the World Bank as well as China, the United States, Egypt, Japan and South Korea sent their well-wishers.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll in US plane crash reaches twenty

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec— The death toll from a seaplane crash on Monday afternoon off the coast of Miami Beach, Florida, has risen to 20, including three children, officials said.

They were killed when the propeller seaplane broke apart in mid-flight and plunged into the Atlantic Ocean.

Nineteen bodies had been recovered and one was still missing when the Coast Guard halted its search late Monday, Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the US National Transportation and Safety Board, told reporters.

He said rescue crews hoped to raise the plane and recover its flight recorder on Tuesday.

Coast Guard officials said three infants were among the 18 passengers and two crew members aboard the seaplane.

The charter aircraft, which belonged to Chalk's Ocean Airways, crashed in shallow waters at the entrance to Biscayne Bay, which separates the cities of Miami and Miami Beach, soon after taking off Monday afternoon.

Reports said it is the 86-year-old company's "only crash with passengers".

Video footage broadcast on CNN showed what appeared to be the plane's right wing breaking off in flames as

the fuselage banked to the left and spiraled into the ocean.

Accident investigators said they were not ruling out any possible cause for the crash. Coast Guard divers plunged into the ocean but were unable to rescue any survivors.

The airplane, a 17-passenger Grumman G-73T Turbine Mallard and a twin-engine amphibious aircraft manufactured in 1947 capable of operating from water as well as land-

based airports, was upside-down under several feet (metres) of water and visible from the air.

The Chalk's web site said its fleet of G-73T planes "is undergoing an extensive refurbishment programme which includes complete mechanical overhaul and cosmetic renovation".

Coast Guard officials said earlier that there were survivors in the accident, but so far no sign of survivors had been found.

Witnesses said there was an explosion before the propeller-driven seaplane crashed, but the Coast Guard said the cause of the crash was not immediately known and that it could not confirm there had been an explosion. The National Transportation Safety Board said it would investigate into the accident, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had sent agents to assist in the probe. —MNA/Xinhua

Three bodies of kidnapped policemen found in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 Dec — Iraqi police found three bodies of policemen kidnapped earlier in western Baghdad on Tuesday, a police source said.

"We have found three of Iraqi policemen on the highway near the al-Bakriyah District," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

According to residents, unknown car threw the bullet-riddled bodies, Abdullah said, adding that the victims' jobs were guarding a facility of a Saudi company working in building barricades for US troops and Iraqi security forces. — MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow hits eastern Chinese cities

YANTAI, 22 Dec — School children in Yantai were told to stay home again on Wednesday as another heavy snow started to hit the city, already snow-covered, in eastern Shandong Province on Tuesday evening.

Yantai reported 5.8 millimetres of snowfall on Tuesday night and fallen snow on the ground has averaged 28 millimetres by Wednesday.

In the neighbouring city of Weihai, which was formerly a part of Yantai, the fallen snow has added up to 35 millimetres plus the 8.3 millimetres reported on Tuesday night.

The meteorological

bureaus of both cities have issued a "red" warning (the most severe in the local weather warning system) for the snow and another "red" warning for frozen road conditions.

The meteorological authorities have predicted moderate snowfall in both cities on Wednesday.

Yantai Meteorological Bureau officials said the snowy weather, starting on 3 December, has resulted in the heaviest snowfall in the city's history since 1961 when Yantai first had meteorological records.

The local education authority has called off classes in kindergartens, primary and middle schools in the downtown areas for Wednesday, resumption dependent on weather conditions.

MNA/Xinhua



A soldier and vehicles from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are seen near a blast site in Herat, Afghanistan, on 20 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Texas soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Dec—Army Staff Sgt Johnnie V Mason, 32, of Rio Vista, died on Monday in Iraq when a homemade bomb exploded near his military vehicle, officials said on Wednesday.

Mason was assigned to the 717th Ordnance Company, 184th Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Detachment), from Fort Campbell, Ky. Military officials on Wednesday also confirmed the death of a US Marine from South Texas.

Lance Cpl Samuel Tapia, 20, of San Benito was killed by small arms fire on Sunday while conducting operations in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. —Internet

Nigeria pipeline still blazing, output down

ASAGBA OKWAN ASARAMA (Nigeria), 22 Dec— Oil workers in boats and a helicopter circled a huge pipeline blaze in remote southern Nigeria on Wednesday, surveying the damage caused by a suspected dynamite attack that killed at least eight people.

Tuesday's attack by unknown gunmen on the

pipeline operated by Royal Dutch Shell, located in the Opobo Channel in the Niger Delta, caused a major slick and fire, cutting output by 170,000 barrels per day (bpd).

"The fire is still blazing. It's as high as a 10-storey building. There is thick black smoke billowing," a Reuters witness said.

A Shell spokesman said work was ongoing to determine the extent of the damage, and there was no estimate yet of how long the outage would last. It represents a 7-per-cent cut in output from the world's eighth biggest exporter of crude. The nearby community of Asagba Okwan Asarama was deserted. —MNA/Reuters

Border areas witness sustained progress

Development of border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Development in border areas

In striving for narrowing the development gap among states and divisions of the Union, emphasis is being placed on socio-economic progress of people living in border areas.

These endeavours are being made effectively in 22 border area development regions namely Kachin Special Region 1 and 2, Kokang, Wa, Shan, Kachin

North East, Palaung, Kengtung East, Homein, Monghtaw Monghta, Mawhpa, Pa-O, Kayah, Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing (Naga), Kabaw Valley, Kayin, Taninthayi, Mon regions including Yangon and Magway Divisions.

In these regions, roads and bridges are being built, hospitals, clinics and schools established, agricultural, forestry and water supply tasks carried out and

such services as electricity, post office, telegram and telephone provided as well as TV re-transmission stations opened. As a result, national people living in these areas are enjoying fruits of development.

Border areas lagged behind in development in the past but now peace and stability prevails in these areas and development infrastructures have been established well. This is

Development in border areas

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Earth road (mile)	-	3181	3181
2	Gravelled road (mile)	-	1995	1995
3	Tarred road (mile)	-	351	351
4	Maintenance of road (mile)	-	3295	3295
5	Large bridge	-	55	55
6	Small bridge	-	725	725
7	Suspension bridge	-	26	26
8	Hospital	-	79	79
9	Clinic	-	105	105
10	Rural Health Centre	-	58	58
11	Rural Health Centre (branch)	-	140	140

due to dispelling the misconception and reconsolidation of national unity and cooper-

ating with the State. As the national people have come to realize the genuine goodwill of the

Tatmadaw government, they are now taking part in regional development drives hand in hand with the government.

With marked development in border areas, the socio-economic life of national people have improved significantly. The table shows the development of roads and bridges and hospitals and clinics out of other developments in the border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.



Langkho Bridge built on Namhsan-Mongton-Monghsat Road in Langkho Township, Shan State (South).

Senior General Than Shwe addresses...

(from page 1)

General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung 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, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, U Aung Thuang, Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Col Thein Nyunt, Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, U Thuang, Dr Kyaw Myint and Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein

Htaik, Maj-Gen Kyi Win of the Ministry of Defence, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Directors Maj-Gen Mya Win, Maj-Gen Tin Soe, Maj-Gen Thein Tun, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tint, Maj-Gen Than Aung, Maj-Gen Tin Tun, Maj-Gen Sein Lin, Maj-Gen Aye Myint and senior military officers, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, departmental officials, PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, Rector of Defence Services Technological Academy Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials, parents and relatives of graduate cadets and guests.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe took the salute of the cadet companies.

Next, the cadet companies marched past the

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe presented Best Cadet Award to Cadet Sithu Hsan Maung, Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Kyaw Htin Lin and Excellence in Study Award to Cadet Zaw Myo Thu.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services delivered an address. (*Address of Senior General Than Shwe is reported separately.*)

Next, the Senior General left the parade ground.

After the graduation parade, Senior General Than Shwe met with three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the main building of DSTA.

National Convention for brighter future of the nation

Kaytu Nilar

After regaining independence in 1948, Myanmar exercised the 1947 Constitution. However, the parliamentary democracy system prescribed in the constitution could not be put into reality successfully. Under the pretext of exercising the right of states prescribed in the constitution to secede from the Union, some attempted to secede from the Union, and that was leading the Union to its collapse. The Tatmadaw had thus to take over the State duties on 2 March 1962, putting an end to the 1947 Constitution that prompted the federal movement, which later posed a grave danger to the Union.

It was followed by attempts to introduce the Socialism in the nation as aspired since the independence struggles. Therefore, the 1974 Constitution was adopted through a referendum to practise the one-party system. The constitution gave birth to the one-party system and the centralized economic system that could not contribute towards the national development, causing mass demonstrations in August 1988.

The people's discontent over the weaknesses and shortcomings of the political and economic sectors laid down by the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party was part of the incitement to the 1988 unrest. However, the instigation and intervention of the internal and external leftist and rightist groups and neo-colonialists brought the people's general dissatisfaction about the unrest.

In fact, certain persons, parties and organizations that are now shouting democracy and human rights and claiming themselves as democracy activists, exploited the people's desire with the intention of seizing the State power. In this way, they incited the rivalry for the State power or anarchistic massive destruction.

Looking back to the then situations, anarchy ruled 204 out of 314 townships across the nation. And the nation was hovering on the edge of abyss due to the anarchistic crimes such as violent murders, assaults of groups upon innocent people, lawless seizures and burning down of the banks, gas stations, jetties, administrative offices and buildings by the groups under names of various associations, provoking of Tatmadaw members, raiding police stations, and violently seizing arms from Tatmadaw members.

On 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties for ensuring perpetuation of independence that cost a lot of lives, blood and sweat of Tatmadaw members and public members, prevalence of law and order, non-disintegration of the Union and national solidarity.

Had the Tatmadaw not assumed State's duties and safeguarded the nation, surely, Myanmar would have been divided into various parts alongside blood baths and would have lost its independence. If asked whether such a situation was acceptable, the people would reply that the existence of the Tatmadaw Government was something they desired most.

Similarly, if an interim government had come into being at that time as demanded by some groups of politicians with different policies under the name of democracy activists or democracy leaders,

Myanmar would have been a nation under the protection of Blue Beret forces but covered by smoke of cordite, due to the rivalry among such opportunist politicians for State power.

The dutifulness of the Tatmadaw, the most strongest national force, guaranteed safety of the nation and the people. Just as it assumed State's responsibilities, the Tatmadaw dissolved the one-party system and transformed the nation from the centralized economic system into the market-oriented economic system.

It also declared and implemented the four immediate tasks — community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order; secure and smooth transport; public welfare and helping the private sector and cooperatives carry out their work; and holding of multi-party general elections.

It promulgated the laws necessary for successful holding of multi-party democracy general elections. On 21 September 1988, it prescribed the Multi-party Democracy General Elections Commission Law, and Political Parties Registration Law on 27 September. And it allowed political parties to exist legally in accord with the law for enabling them to take part in the elections on a wider scale. Altogether 235 parties got registered. On 27 May 1990, the multi-party democracy general election took place successfully.

Since prior to the elections in 1989, it had explained many times that after the election that it would hand over the State power to the winning party in accordance with the State Constitution. On 27 July 1990, it declared its stance on the drafting of an enduring State Constitution and future plans. On 29 August, with the Tatmadaw Government's attitude, it invited all political parties to participate in the tasks in accordance with the laws to ensure development in building a democratic nation.

Nevertheless, the National League for Democracy, the winning party, hastily claimed that the handing over of State power was the first priority, and the drafting of a State Constitution the second priority, demanded through Gandhi Declaration for convening of the Pyithu Hluttaw in September 1990, and for the handing over State power through a constitution drawn by itself.

Then, a clandestine meeting was held in Mandalay with the intention of forming a parallel government. A paper on three methods to seize State power and opposed the government was completed. Nine representatives-elect of the National League for Democracy including National Democracy Party chairman Sein Win on 18 December 1990 made a secret contact with insurgents and set up a government in exile and rose against the government.

A glance at some political groups that won the then election reveals that some religious extremists that had dominated some seats of Hluttaw delegates through their wealth resorted various means to secede for setting up a separate religious region, and they had schemed to mount armed insurgency if their conspiracy was unsuccessful. Certain parties that stuck to narrow racialism also plotted a scheme to secede from the Union. They planned to choose armed struggle line in collusion with insurgents if their scheme was not

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.

allowed. Some political parties with high hopes that they would come into power kept in touch with embassies of West bloc and foreign representatives of the West bloc in an overly familiar manner. They got ready to place too much reliance on the West bloc. The political parties under the domination of leftists made attempts to set up proletariat dictatorship. There were plots and schemes to break up the Tatmadaw such as to move the War Office to Inndaing from Yangon, to separately form army, navy and air force, to expel those with the ranks of lieutenant colonel and above, and to put on trial some of them. The above-mentioned facts were evil schemes designed to break up the nation and the people.

Nine political parties said that they would adopt the 1947 Constitution with some amendments. Their act was like rekindling the past's grave problems. Thirty-one parties on the other hand openly declared that a new constitution had to be drawn. Other 44 parties although not openly declaring their wish accepted the fact that a new constitution was a must. The remaining 11 parties were silent in this matter.

Because of the unbridled passions of the political parties, the adoption of a new constitution has become a national duty since then. The 1947 Constitution the nation had practised from 1948 to 1962 met its end due to its own weaknesses. And the nation has seen no reason to readopt the 1974 Constitution as its proclamation of the single party system has no longer suited the public wish. Hence, a new constitution has become a must. Since the time, the entire nation has firmly believed that a new constitution must be drawn without fail.

According to the national requirement, the Tatmadaw started preparations to draft a new constitution. First it strengthened the unity among the nationalities aiming at restoring the national consolidation a foundation to draft a constitution according to the wish of the entire nation. It initiated negotiations with national race armed groups in 1989, and since then 17 major armed groups and a number of minor armed groups have returned to the legal fold as they have come to understand the Tatmadaw government's sincere goodwill.

In 1989 alone, the government released 9,616 prisoners and another 18,837 persons from police confinement under Notification No 4/89. It issued the Notification No 11/92 on 24 April 1992, and freed 1,277 prisoners who were not harmful to State security. It suspended all military offensives against insurgents in the entire nation on 28 April 1992. The Notification No 11/92 also declared that the government would meet with leaders of the representatives-elect of the legal political parties and independent representatives-elect, within two months; and that

(See page 7)

The 1947 Constitution the nation had practised from 1948 to 1962 met its end due to its own weaknesses. And the nation has seen no reason to readopt the 1974 Constitution as its proclamation of the single party system has no longer suited the public wish. Hence, a new constitution has become a must. Since the time, the entire nation has firmly believed that a new constitution must be drawn without fail.

National Convention for brighter future of the nation

(from page 6)

after the meeting, the National Convention would be held within six months to lay down basic principles for a new constitution. The government laid the foundation to write a durable constitution based on the entire nation's wish.

It issued the Notification No 9/92 on 28 May 1992 to hold a coordination meeting on convening of the National Convention, and then the Notification No 39/92 to form the Steering Committee for Holding Coordination Meeting for Convening the National Convention.

On 23 June 1992, the government held the Coordination Meeting for Convening the National Convention in which members of the Steering Committee, leaders of the representatives-elect of political parties, independent representatives-elect were present. The delegates of the political parties to the meeting were:

- (1) Fifteen from National League for Democracy
- (2) Six from Shan National League for Democracy
- (3) Three from National Unity Party
- (4) One from Union Pa-O National Organization
- (5) One from from Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization
- (6) One from Kokang Democracy Party
- (7) One from Lahu National Development Party

The Steering Committee invited the persons concerned to discuss the matter in connection with the number of delegates from each organization, categorization of the delegate groups based on profession, number of delegates from people of different walks of life. At the same time, the Tatmadaw government announced its attitude, saying that the time was ripe for political parties to join hands with it with full trust.

The government obtained cooperation from some parties at the second meeting to convene the National Convention, held on 30 June 1992. Seven delegate leaders from political parties and one independent representative-elect openly declared their wish and held frank discussions at the meeting.

It can be said that four years of cool relations that began in 1988 had ended, and that sound foundations for mutual trust and cooperation emerged.

The third meeting was held on 10 July 1992,

during which the Steering Committee suggested the need to give priority to Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The leader delegates of political parties and the independent representative-elect proposed a suggestion to categorize the delegate groups to the National Convention as follows:

- (1) Delegate group of political parties
- (2) Delegate group of representatives-elect
- (3) Delegate group of national races
- (4) Delegate group of peasants
- (5) Delegate group of workers
- (6) Delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia
- (7) Delegate group of State service personnel
- (8) Other invited persons

After thorough discussions, the proposal was approved in principle.

The task of convening of the National Convention covering the wish of the entire nation is more comprehensive than the NLD's repeated demands for a dialogue, and also reflects the sovereignty of the nation and the essence of democracy.

At the end of the third meeting, State and Tatmadaw leaders headed by Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe cordially and warmly greeted the delegates to the meeting.

It can be said that the three meetings can be described the preliminary negotiations for a dialogue the NLD was demanding repeatedly. The task of convening of the National Convention covering the wish of the entire nation is more comprehensive than the NLD's repeated demands for a dialogue, and also reflects the sovereignty of the nation and the essence of democracy.

After holding the meetings successfully, the Steering Committee presented a report to the government on 7 August 1992. The government formed the 18-member National Convention Convening Commission under Order No 13/92 on 2 October 1992. The Order also prescribed the duties, functions and powers of the Commission and also to lay down basic princi-

ples for the constitution at the National Convention. The Commission formed the 27-member National Convention Convening Work Committee and the 36-member National Convention Convening Management Committee for work facilitation and efficiency.

With consensus, the meeting for convening the National Convention also laid down the following six objectives of the National Convention:

- (1) Non-disintegration of the Union
- (2) Non-disintegration of national solidarity
- (3) Perpetuation of sovereignty
- (4) Flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system
- (5) Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State
- (6) For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State.

The government issued the Notification No 14/92 to convene the National Convention on 9 January 1993. It invited 49 representatives from 10 legally existing political parties to attend the Convention.

The parties chose their own delegates to the Convention, who were approved by the Commission according to the list of the respective parties. The government also approved the lists presented by the respective parties in inviting 99 representatives-elect of six legally existing political parties. It also invited eight independent representatives-elect to the Convention.

The government also invited 215 national race delegates, 93 peasants delegates, 48 workers delegates, 92 State service personnel delegates, 41 intellectual and intelligentsia delegates, and 57 other invited persons. Other invited persons included 42 from armed groups that returned to the legal fold and 15 who had experience in political, economic and administrative and social affairs. A total 702 delegates were invited to the National Convention.

The National Convention, the most basic foundation of the national goal — peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation — successfully began on 9 January 1993 with the participation of delegates from all walks of life and of the national races. It was an objective situation in which the political parties and the nationalities including the Tatmadaw energetically convened the National Convention for the benefit of the future state.

(Translation: MS+TMT)

သတိပေးနူးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အား မြို့တော်အင်္ဂါရပ်နှင့် လျော်ညီစွာ သာယာလှပစေပြီး၊ ပြည်သူများ အပန်းဖြေအနားယူနိုင်ရန် ပန်းခြံများ၊ ကန်ပေါင်များ၊ သစ်ပင်များ၊ မြက်ခင်းများ၊ ပန်းအလှပင်များအား နိုင်ငံတော်ဘဏ္ဍာငွေမှ ငွေကြေးမြောက်များစွာ အကုန်အကျခံ၍ တည်ဆောက်ပေးလျက်ရှိပါသည်။
- ၂။ ပြည်သူများ စိတ်နှလုံးချမ်းမြေ့စွာ အပန်းဖြေအနားယူနိုင်ရန် ပန်းခြံများနှင့် ကန်ပေါင်များတွင် မြက်ခင်းများ၊ သစ်ပင်ပန်းခင်းများ၊ ထီးများ၊ ထိုင်ခုံများ၊ တံတားများ၊ မီးလုံးမီးဆိုင်များနှင့် အခြား လိုအပ်သော ပစ္စည်းများအား တစ်ဆင့်တောင်းပန်ပါသည်။
- ၃။ သို့ရာတွင်ပြည်သူများအပန်းဖြေရန်ပြုလုပ်ပေးထားသည့် ပစ္စည်းများအား စည်းကမ်းမဲ့သော ပြည်သူအချို့ကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခဲ့ရပြီး၊ ခရစ်စမတ်ပွဲတော်ကာလနှင့် နှစ်သစ်ကူးကာလရက်များအတွင်း အပျော်လွန်ကဲ၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ မူးယစ်ရမ်းကာ၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ အကြောင်းအမျိုးမျိုးကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခဲ့၍ ပြည်သူပိုင်ပစ္စည်းကာကွယ်ရေးဥပဒေပုဒ်မ-၆(၁)အရ ၂၀၀၃-၂၀၀၄ တွင် တရားခံ(၇)ဦးနှင့် ၂၀၀၄-၂၀၀၅ တွင် တရားခံ(၆)ဦးတို့အား ထိရောက်စွာစွဲစွဲစွဲစွဲ ချမှတ်၍ အရေးယူခဲ့ရပါသည်။
- ၄။ ထို့ကြောင့် ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် ခရစ်စမတ်ပွဲတော်ကာလနှင့် ၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆ နှစ်သစ်ကူးရက်များအတွင်း အင်းလျားကန်ပေါင်ရှိ ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်းဘက်ခြမ်းနှင့် ပြည်လမ်းဘက်ခြမ်းနေရာများ၊ ကန်တော်ကြီးဥယျာဉ်နှင့် ပြည်သူလူထု အပန်းဖြေရန် ဆောက်လုပ်ထားသည့် ဥယျာဉ်၊ ပန်းခြံများအား နေ့စဉ် နံနက်(၄)နာရီမှ ည(၉)နာရီအထိသာ အပန်းဖြေအနားယူခွင့်ပြုမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး၊ ကျန်အချိန်များ ပိတ်ထားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၅။ ထိုနည်းတူမြို့တော်သာယာလှပစေရေးအတွက် ပြည်သူများ အပန်းဖြေရန်နှင့် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ ပြုလုပ်နိုင်ရန် ဆောက်လုပ်ထားသည့် လမ်းများ၊ သစ်ပင်များ၊ မြက်ခင်းများ၊ ထီးများ၊ ထိုင်ခုံများ၊ မီးလုံးမီးဆိုင်များ၊ ဆိုင်ဘုတ်များ စသည်တို့အား ပျက်စီးမှု လွန်ကဲ၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ မူးယစ်ရမ်းကာ၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ အကြောင်းအမျိုးမျိုးကြောင့် သော်လည်းကောင်း ဖျက်ဆီးပါက ယခင်နှစ်များကဲ့သို့ တွဲ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူသွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနူးဆော်ဆော် ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

Flowers Arrangement Course concludes

YANGON, 23 Dec — The Flowers Arrangement Course 1/2005 of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) concluded at the meeting hall of MMCWA, attended by

President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win and CEC members, course instructors and trainees. CEC Member of MMCWA Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt gave a concluding speech and pre-

sented the completion certificates to the trainees. Next, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win presented cash of honour to course instructors. MNA

Fire breaks out in Myeik

YANGON, 23 Dec— A fire broke out from a noodle house on Pehsi Street in Tatpyin Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Division at 5.15 pm today, rendering 41 households of 36 houses homeless. There were no casualties. Chairman of Taninthayi Division

Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials, members of the division, district and townships fire brigades, officers and other ranks of the local battalions and units and members of Myanmar

Police Force rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire. The fire was put under control at 7.20 pm. Relief and security measures are under way for the fire victims who have been accommodated at the Shwedaung Monastery. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe takes salute of cadet company of DSTA.— MNA

Tatmadaw not mercenary...

(from page 1)

know in the Tatmadaw technological sector.

Comrades,

Today you are about to be commissioned as junior military engineers in the Tatmadaw. Today's battles are fought with the use of advancing science and technology. Military science and technology has become sophisticated as now is the age of revolution in military affairs. This is why the capabilities of you, military junior leaders, are required to



Senior General Than Shwe inspects graduating cadet company of DSTA.— MNA

improve as we are trying to build a modern Tatmadaw.

Moreover, your initiatives and innovations are necessary for our agro-based country that is striving to turn itself into an industrial one.

Comrades,

Thanks to the innovations of engineers, industrial sector has improved very significantly in the world today, benefiting the entire humanity. However, from the natural phenomenon point of view, everything has its pros and cons. The world and its all living things are now very much con-

Although we have oil reserves, petrol-powered cars are now being substituted and they will be outdated as the use of petrol and diesel is being objected. So our country has begun to convert petrol-powered cars into CNG ones, which emit little carbon dioxide.



cerned about environmental pollution. Greenhouse effect has become a critical condition due to heat-trapping gases including carbon dioxide emitted from factories, workshops and motor vehicles.

If the greenhouse effect is not kept under control in time, there would be climate changes such as floods and storms following the global warming. Consequently, icebergs from the North Pole would melt resulting in the rise of sea level.

Therefore, in 1992 global nations signed a UN Convention on climate change in a bid to get the developed nations reduce greenhouse gases.

and trees to dispose of MT volumes of their carbon emission. Otherwise, they will have to pay for services of those who undertake afforestation. That is why industrialists of today have to go to the countries with vast tracts of forests for carbon credit trading in order to show they have forests to cope with their carbon emission.

Comrades,

Now the age of petro-chemical is on the brink of extinction. So oil will hardly be used in energy sector soon and the use of fuel oil will be reduced in different ways. Cars, despite their small size, consume a greater amount of petrol, an energy product of oil. Although we have oil reserves, petrol-powered cars are now being substituted and they will be outdated as the use of petrol and diesel is being objected. So our country has begun to convert petrol-powered cars into CNG ones, which emit little carbon dioxide.

As engineers, you are urged to constantly learn the changing world and to make innovative ways to adapt to the changing situation of the world.

Comrades,

You are engineers as well as Tatmadaw members. Tatmadaw members must be duty-conscious whatever sectors they are assigned to. You shall have to discharge your duties not only in science and technological sector but also in State defence and security sectors. Tatmadaw history has it that military engineers by themselves participated in battles like infantry regiments. This is the good duty of soldiers. This is why you must be junior military officers who have good traditions of good soldiers.

Comrades,

A military leader has to get involved in a battle at risk to his life, while giving military

(See page 9)

Then Kyoto's binding follow-up agreement was concluded in 1997.

While seeking means and ways to reduce greenhouse gases, the world was able to establish a carbon credit trading. In particular, owners of factories, airplanes and cars are duty-bound to reduce carbon emission. Released carbon can be consumed only by plants and forests. So, those responsible firm owners have to grow required amount of plants

Owners of factories, airplanes and cars are duty-bound to reduce carbon emission. Released carbon can be consumed only by plants and forests. So, those responsible firm owners have to grow required amount of plants and trees to dispose of MT volumes of their carbon emission.



Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party attend graduation parade of 8th Intake of DSTA.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Sithu Hsan Maung.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Kyaw Htin Lin.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Excellence in Study Award to Cadet Zaw Myo Thu.—MNA

Tatmadaw not mercenary...

(from page 8)

commands to his subordinates. **The role a leader has to play is important because his subordinates must abide by his orders exactly without any fear and hesitation even if they know they are going to have to sacrifice their lives very soon.**

The conviction that only when a leader wins the trust and admiration of his subordinates, will they stand firmly by their leader to sacrifice their lives first, will immediately generate the spirit of sacrificing own lives in unison in the interests of the State. So, you must win the trust and admira-

hesitate to sacrifice our lives whenever necessary. Being equipped with esprit de corps, we Tatmadaw members are sacrificing lives for each other in the Tatmadaw that exists with patriotic spirit. So, our Tatmadaw has possessed fine traditions.

Only when you know the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, will you be able to be convinced of the 16 characteristics of leadership thoroughly. As a matter of fact, these characteristics are just primary qualities, and a leader has to enhance his military experience if he wishes to be a good leader. **Comrades,**

A military leader must be capable of building a force he leads to ensure its cohesion forever.

It is not just a policy that cultivates Union Spirit in the interests of the national races, but nationalistic spirit based on patriotic fervour, and a national policy that can shape the brighter future of our nation. So, I would like to exhort all of you to enhance your unity, while upholding Our Three Main National Causes, also national conviction and concept.

Comrades,

In conclusion, I would also like to urge you: — to strive to become reliable technicians capable of discharging national defence duties, — to make sustained efforts to promote the science and technology of the Tatmadaw and



Senior General Than Shwe meets the three outstanding cadets and their parents.—MNA

tion of your subordinates.

Comrades,

Since its birth, our Tatmadaw has not been a mercenary force, but a patriotic Tatmadaw that has been upholding the four oaths. As you know, we Tatmadaw members are the ones who do not regard any entitlements as privileges and do not care much whether we get salaries and ration or not. But, inspired by our patriotic fervour, we will never

The unity of a force must be built with conviction and concept, and only then, will it be strong. Our Tatmadaw is the one that always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

Our Three Main National Causes namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty bears testimony to historic necessities of our nation.

modernize the Tatmadaw,

— to try your best to become new generation leaders who preserve the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw even in the face of death threat, and — to collectively participate in building a modern and developed nation, while raising the role of science and technology of the Tatmadaw.—MNA



Dignitaries seen at the graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy.—MNA

Ngamoeyik Water Purifying...

(from page 16)
Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said Ngamoeyik Dam was completed in 1995 and since then it has irrigated the farmlands only. The plant will supply the safe drinking water to Yangon City after purifying water

Upon completion, the project is expected to supply 230 million gallons of water a day to the city. The State Peace and Development Council is striving for the development of the nation in order to keep abreast of other nations while making concerted efforts for improve-

one that can perform trade, monetary and banking services, education, health and social services to the dwellers. Furthermore, YCDC had laid down and is implementing the urban plans for the city dwellers. Supply of potable water plays a vital role in hygienic living status of the people.

Myanmar established advanced civilization over 2,000 years ago, and laid down the city plan facilitated with functions of water supply. In looking back the functions of water supply for Yangon City, wells and lakes including Kandawgyi Lake, were built in Yangon where only about 10,000 people were residing then.

In the colonial period, Inya Lake was built for water supply purpose.

Vice-Senior
General
Maung Aye
greets
Deputy
Commander of
Chengdu
Military
Area
Lt-Gen Gui
Quanzhi of
China at
Zeyathiri
Beikman.
(News on
Page 16)
MNA



Secretary-1
Lt-Gen
Thein Sein
addresses
opening
ceremony
of
Ngamoeyik
Water
Purifying
Plant.
MNA



from the dam. Therefore, people will enjoy the fruits of the efforts made by YCDC. A total of 95 million gallons of water—27 million from Gyobu Lake, 58 million from Phugyi and Hlawga lakes and 10 millions from tube wells — is supplied to Yangon City a day.

There are three phases in the project and as the first phase of the project, the water purifying plant will supply 45 million gallons of water to the city. Therefore, daily supply of water to Yangon City will reach 140 million gallons.

ment of the living standard of the people. Especially, civil plans are being implemented systematically not only for ensuring uplift of health and education standards of the people but also for enabling creation of hygienic environments.

In doing so, Yangon City Development Committee was assigned the duties so as to keep Yangon City pleasant and beautiful, having city characteristics of a modern and developed nation. YCDC is building Yangon City to become a modern

Later, Hlawga Lake was constructed to supply water to the city, and functions of the water supply were suspended at Kandawgyi and Inya Lakes. After that, Gyobu Reservoir was built. In 1973, Phugyi Reservoir was constructed for water supply purpose.

In 1988, 2.8 million of people lived in Yangon City measuring 133.643 square miles. However, about five million of people are residing in the city measuring 231.136 square miles, in 2005. Head of State Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe gave guidance that arrangements are to be made for supplying sufficient potable water to the rising city dwellers. Therefore, Ngamoeyik Dam was built during the period from 1992 to 1995.

In addition, the Head of State gave guidance that vegetable plantations and livestock breeding farms are to be set up around Yangon City for ensuring food sufficiency of the people in Yangon City. At present, vegetable

plantations in the various regions including Nyaungnapinkwin area have been established with the use of irrigation facilities from Ngamoeyik Dam through drains and channels. (See page 11)

There are three phases in the project and as the first phase of the project, the water purifying plant will supply 45 million gallons of water to the city. Therefore, daily supply of water to Yangon City will reach 140 million gallons. Upon completion, the project is expected to supply 230 million gallons of water a day to the city.



Ngamoeyik Water Purifying Plant. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo in front of the arch of Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying Plant.— MNA



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn formally open Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying Plant.— MNA

Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying...

(from page 10)
Nowadays, 140 million gallons of potable water from water supply projects including 45 million gallons of potable water from Ngamoeyeik Dam will be supplied daily to Yangon City for the first phase.

Among 45 million gallons of water from Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project for the first phase, 10 million gallons of water will be supplied to

Mingaladon, Insein, Ma-yangon, Hline, Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, Bahan, Yankin, Tamway, Mingala Taungnyunt, Pazundaung and Botahtaung Townships through Hlawga Lake, and 12 million gallons to Kamayut, Sangyoung, Kyimyindine and Ahlon Townships through Gyobu water pipeline and to Dagon, Latha, Lanmadaw, Pabedan and Kyauktada Townships through the

water tank at Shwedagon Pagoda. In addition, 18 million gallons of water will be added to the water supply functions of Mingaladon, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Thuwunna, Thakayta and Dawbon Townships through 36 inches diameter water pipeline from Padamy Myohit to the roundabout in North Okkalapa Township.

Furthermore, tasks

are to be undertaken for extending supply of five million gallons of water to Thakayta and Dawbon Townships and Thilawa Special Industrial Park. **On completion of the second and third phases of Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project, 230 million gallons of water will be supplied to Yangon City daily.**

The Secretary-1, on behalf of the Government, praised YCDC and Myanmar engineers, architects and geologists for

their performance in implementing the water supply project within over one year meeting the set standard. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 wished city dwellers peace of mind enjoying fruitful results of the Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project thanks to farsighted guidance given by the Head of State, genuine goodwill of the Government, concerted efforts of the YCDC Chairman and officials.

Mayor Brig-Gen

Aung Thein Linn presented gifts marking the opening ceremony to the Secretary-1 and party. Next, the Mayor gave away gifts to those who contributed to implementation of the project. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the documentary photos and the lay-out plan of the plant.

The Secretary-1 and party went to the plant and inspected functions and units of the station.

MNA

NC Delegate groups hold meetings

YANGON, 23 Dec — Meetings of Delegate Group of Political Parties, Delegate Group of representatives-elect, Delegate Group Peasants, Delegate of Group of Workers and Delegate Group of State Service Personnel were held at the designated places of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

The meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties took place at the meeting room-6 this morning.

U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party presided over the meeting together with Deputy Director U Khin Maung

Phyu of Working Group-3 of the National Convention Convening acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director U Khin Sein.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting under the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 27 out of 28 delegates or 96.43 per cent. The alternate chairman made a speech.

U Khun Sein Win of Union Pa-O National Organization, U Sein Tun of Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and U Khin Maung Aye of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party read out the proposals as to detailed basic principles for

legislative tasks of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in writing the State Constitution.

The meeting was adjourned with the concluding remarks by the alternate chairman at 9.30 am. Delegate Group of representatives-elect held its meeting at the room-2 this morning.

U Law Sin Kwam of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party and U

Maung Gyi of Union Pa-O National Organization. Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu of the Work Group-4 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director Daw Mi Mi Shein.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting under the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 12 out of 13 delegates or 92.30 per cent.

Alternate Chairman U Law Sin Kwam of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party made an opening speech.

U San Tha Aung of constituency-2 of Kyauktaw Township,

FM sends message of congratulations to Polish counterpart

YANGON, 24 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Stefan Meller, who has been appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Poland. — MNA

Rakhine State of Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Independent representatives-elect—Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency of Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency of Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namsan Township constituency of Shan State (North) read out the proposals akin to detailed

basic principles for legislative tasks of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in drafting the State Constitution.

The alternate chairman gave concluding remarks and the meeting was adjourned at 10.10 am.

(See page 15)



Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin speaking at meeting of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel.— MNA



U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party makes a speech at meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties.— MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (041)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (041) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

EU to open doors for skilled legal immigrants

BRUSSELS, 22 Dec— The European Commission on Wednesday presented a "road map" for economic legal migration which encourages skilled immigrants to work in the EU, where aging poses a huge challenge to long-term economic development.

"Europe is in competition with other countries in the world. We need therefore to put forward attractive conditions to encourage (people of) excellence to choose our continent," said Franco Frattini, commission vice president for justice, freedom and security.

The commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU), unveiled a policy plan for the following four years.

According to the plan, several proposals will be tabled by the commission as from 2007 to regulate economic migration.

Specific proposals will regulate the conditions of entry and residence of some key categories of third-country workers: highly skilled and seasonal workers, intra-corporate transferees and remunerated trainees, said Frattini.

"These are categories of workers that are needed in the EU economies and for which common rules are opportune," he said.

However, individual member states will be left with the right to determine

how many immigrants are wanted. "It will be up to each member state to decide the number of admissions but it will be up to Europe to decide common standards," he said.

The legal immigrants will either be allowed with intra-EU mobility or be issued an EU green card—a work/residence permit issued by one member state and valid throughout the EU, said Frattini.

A decline in the total EU population is expected by 2025 and in the working age population by 2011, said the commission. Some member states like Germany, Hungary, Italy

and Latvia are already experiencing a decline in the working age.

According to the commission, on 1 January, 2004, migrants represented around 3.5 per cent of the total population in the EU. In 2004 the total population increased by 2.3 million, mainly due to net migration of 1.85 million.

But a large number of the migrants were illegal. Current commission estimates put the number of work permit holders in 16 EU countries, including Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Spain, at just 0.33 per cent of a total workforce of over 191 million.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက်

လုပ်ငန်းသုံး ဝန်ထုပ်များ ဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး ဝန်ထုပ်များကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

- (က) 2-Channel Encoder with Fibre Interface 1 Set
- (ခ) F-5 16 Slots Modular Multichannel Main Unit (MPEG-2 4:2:0 SD Decoder) 1 Set
- (ဂ) F-5 16 Slots Modular Multichannel Main Unit (MPEG-2 4:2:0 SD Encoder) 1 Set
- (ဃ) SDH Add/Drop Multiplexer (SDM-1) Syncom 1 No
- (င) Rectifier (PMP 13-48 WIR) Power one 1 No
- (စ) TRVE/TRVD CARDS 2 Set

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂-၁-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။
၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက် စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်-

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ဝန်ထုပ်များ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ဝေရေးဈေးကော်မတီ

မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

ဖုန်း-၂၄၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၄၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၅

China hands over bird flu virus strains to WHO

BELING, 22 Dec— The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday handed over H5N1 human case isolates to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Two strains of bird flu isolated from human infections in China were forwarded to Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO western Pacific regional director, by Wang Yu, director of the Chinese CDC, along with relevant virus information on Chinese human cases.

Offered to the organization for further research, the strains will help trace the virus' mutation and develop anti-retroviral drugs. It is a major contribution made by China to the global fight against the epidemic, said Omi. Omi said good collaboration in the international community will be crucial in dealing

with the immense challenge posed by bird flu, and China, as one of the centres of the global fight, can play an important role in this regard.

Chinese experts will join in the WHO's research of these isolates.

On his visit to the Chinese National Influenza Centre, also on Tuesday, Omi was introduced to the monitoring, lab testing and

control of human bird flu.

China has announced six human cases of bird flu since 16 November, including at least two fatalities, according to the Ministry of Health.

Lab tests show that the genotype of H5N1 seen in human bird flu infections in China are different from those spotted in humans in Vietnam, indicating that the virus has mutated.

MNA/Xinhua

HK's biggest exhibition centre AsiaWorld-Expo opens

HONG KONG, 22 Dec— AsiaWorld-Expo, the Hong Kong's largest exhibition and events complex at the Hong Kong International Airport, opened Wednesday by Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Donald Tsang and representatives of the shareholding and management companies.

The 300-million-US-dollar state-of-the-art facility, which is one of the largest in the region, is designed to further enhance Hong Kong's position as a leading exhibition and events hub, and to give Hong Kong an opportunity to host world-class entertainment and special events with a truly regional reach, according to the Hong Kong Government.

At the opening ceremony, Tsang said that this new addition to Hong Kong's infrastructure was one of the many initiatives which the government had been spearheading in recent years.

"When we adopted the brandname 'Asia's World City' for Hong Kong a few years ago, it was intended

to be partly descriptive and partly aspirational. We have since been working hard to live up to the promise of being a premier city in the region and beyond. With the opening of AsiaWorld-Expo, we have turned another small part of our vision into reality," Tsang said.

The venue provides 70,000 square metres of rentable space, with 10 state-of-the-art ground level exhibition and events halls, including the 13,500-seat AsiaWorld-Arena, the biggest purpose-built indoor seated entertainment arena in Hong Kong.

"AsiaWorld-Expo has already established an impressive event calendar with more than 30 major international exhibitions

and events scheduled for 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Seal's fate unclear after eating lighter in Beijing restaurant

BELING, 22 Dec— A performing seal at a restaurant is in a poor condition after swallowing a cigarette lighter thrown by a customer.

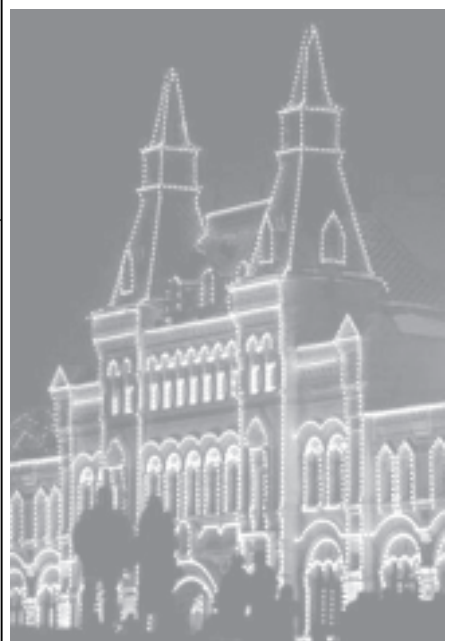
Bosses at Yugongyupo Restaurant in Beijing's Fengtai District, a seafood provider, say they are growing increasingly concerned over the welfare of the two-year-old male seal Huanhuan, according to Wednesday's China Daily.

They said they had fed Huanhuan with mustard

oil on the advice of experts after the incident on Monday, hoping the lighter would pass through its body naturally.

But on Tuesday the seal had not yet discharged the lighter and remained in a lethargic state on a platform in the restaurant's pool.

MNA/Xinhua



People are silhouetted against the illuminated Moscow State Department Store in Moscow's Red Square recently. The department store, built in the closing decade of the 19th century, was adorned with lights for the New Years and Christmas holidays. —INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

“Ariane” rocket launches satellites for India, Europe

Kourou(French Guiana), 22 Dec— A European Ariane-5 rocket sent satellites for India and Europe into orbit after a textbook launch from French Guiana late on Wednesday.

The rocket blasted-off from Europe's space base in Kourou, on the northeast coast of South America at 7.33 pm (2233 GMT).

It lit up the equatorial night sky but quickly disappeared behind thick clouds.

Twenty-nine minutes after launch, the rocket released into a preliminary orbit the INSAT 4A satellite for India's Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Designed for

telecommunications as well as monitoring natural resources, INSAT 4A weighed 3.1 metric tons (6,800 pounds) at launch and was built in India's high-tech capital Bangalore.

"India spreads across 1,875 miles and to reach each and every village satellite technology is the only possible way," Nair Madhavhan ISRO's President told Reuters after the launch.

"We will use these services to reach the most remote regions of India."

Madhavhan said INSAT 4A cost 50 million euros (59.43 million US dollars) to build, 20 per cent less than a comparable satellite built in the US or Europe. The second satellite, MSG-2 separated nine minutes after INSAT.—MNA/Xinhua



This photo provided by the National Zoo shows Tai Shan, the giant panda cub at the Smithsonian's National Zoo, above, with his mother Mei Xiang as he ventured outside for the first time this, on 22 Dec, 2005, at the zoo in Washington. —INTERNET

Japan to develop spacesuit for moon spacewalks

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Japan plans to produce a spacesuit, which may be worn by astronauts on their moon surface exploration, the Kyodo News reported on Wednesday, quoting officials from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency as saying. With the high-tech suits, Japan hopes to participate in a US project, which is designed to send astronauts to the moon in 2018. The agency aims to manufacture a spacesuit of about 20 kilos, down from around 120 kilos of the US-made outfit, and to upgrade the built-in life support mechanisms to enable continued use of the suit for up to one week, the officials say.

The agency plans to design a spacesuit for trial uses by 2008 and start after 2014 to make the gear that

could be used for US National Aeronautics and Space Administration's project to send astronauts to the moon. Currently, the United States and Russia have the technology to manufacture spacesuits for use outside of a spacecraft.—MNA/Xinhua

China makes policy to encourage low-emission economical cars

BEIJING, 22 Dec—China on Wednesday listed low-emission, economical cars as "encouraged" in a document, aiming to reduce the increasing oil consumption partly due to its soaring number of cars.

Liu Zhi, a senior official with the National Development and Research Centre (NDRC), made this announcement at a Press conference of the Information Office of the State Council, noting that cars using new energy, like

petroleum gas, are also on the same list.

The document, an attempt to guide the industrial restructuring, were released by the NDRC on Wednesday.

This document provides clear requirements for the encouraged, restricted or to-be-eliminated categories.

Investment projects are categorized largely

based on energy-consumption, he said, adding that those using less energy with high-technology are welcome.

According to the official, projects falling into the encouraged category enjoy preferential taxation and financial treatment.

New policies will be issued soon to cancel local restrictions on low-emission

cars to encourage higher economic efficiency, he told reporters early this November.

Small cars were hitherto not allowed to run in over 80 cities of the country despite Premier Wen Jiabao's call for cancelling restrictions on cars with low emission, low oil consumption and high efficiency this summer.—MNA/Xinhua

Russia launches communications, military satellites

Moscow, 22 Dec— Russia successfully put a communications and a military satellite into orbit Wednesday, the Space Troops said. A Cosmos-3M rocket, carrying the two satellites, blasted off from the Plesetsk space centre in northern Russia at 22:34 (1934 GMT) and has successfully put two spacecraft into orbit, Space Troops spokesman Alexei Kuznetsov was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying.

One of the satellites, the *Gonets-M*, can transmit digital, speech, text and video data and is designed to deliver urgent reports of environmental disasters, provide hot links in regions with inadequate infrastructure, exchange information between computers and collect environmental data.—MNA/Xinhua

Brazil's astronaut to do engineering, physics, biology tests in space

BRASILIA, 22 Dec— Brazil's first astronaut Marcos Cesar Pontes will do experiments in engineering, physics and biotechnology on Russia's Soyuz spacecraft next year, Brazilian Space Agency president Sergio Gaudenzi told the media on Tuesday.

The first space flight by a Brazilian is important, because he can perform experiments for eight days, much more than the few minutes Brazil normally has for experiments in test rockets, Gaudenzi said.

Pontes will spend eight days on the International Space Station, and he will be able to carry 15 kilos of material for experiments, of which only five kilogrammes can be returned to earth.

With Pontes, Brazil enters into the select club of nations that has sent men to space, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia sends cargo ship to "International Space Station"

Moscow, 22 Dec— A Russian cargo spaceship blasted off on Wednesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, starting a journey to bring supplies — and Christmas gifts — to the International Space Station, the Mission Control outside Moscow said.

The Progress M-55 ship lifted off at 21:39 (1739 GMT) on a Soyuz U rocket with 2.5 tons of fuel, water, food, equipment. The astronauts on the ISS, Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and US astronaut William McArthur, will also get a wooden Santa Claus, two red caps and gifts from their families.

Tokarev and McArthur have been working on the space station since October. The ship also carried new sensors for the European mannequin Mr Rando and Russia's Matreshka, devices that are designed for monitoring effects of space radiation on humans.

The Progress ship is scheduled to hook up with the orbiting space lab two days later.

MNA/Xinhua



Oscar and Kyala, the parents of three-month-old Jackass penguin Toga, are seen in this undated handout photo released by the Amazon World Zoo Park in the Isle of Wight, southern England, on 22 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Wenger warns Barcelona to show respect over Henry

LONDON, 23 Dec — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has told Barcelona to show respect if they are interested in signing striker Thierry Henry.

Wenger is upset by quotes attributed to Barcelona president Joan Laporta in English newspapers, particularly by his assertion that "we will do all we can to sign Henry." "I am worried about it," Wenger told a news conference on Thursday.

"If they want to sign him they have to call us up because he is under contract for another 18 months. I hope to do something about it because it is unfair and unsettling."

"It shows a lack of respect. I feel every chairman, be it from Barcelona or Doncaster, should respect the rules in football."

The French striker has delayed talks about a new contract until the end of the season, triggering concern among Arsenal fans that he wants to move clubs.

Wenger says no official complaint has been made by Arsenal and he is still uncertain about Laporta's intentions.

"I have to check if that (Laporta)

statement was really made. If so I feel it's not very respectful to Arsenal Football Club. But I must speak to my directors about it."

Henry joined Arsenal from Juventus in August 1999 and became the top scorer in the club's history this season.

He has, however, suffered injury problems over the past year and is struggling to be fit to face Charlton on 26 December.

"I don't know if he will play or not, he will be assessed on Saturday. He had a slight recurrence of Achilles pain, but there is no major problem. Ideally I want to play him," Wenger said.

Arsenal reached the League Cup semi-finals on Wednesday by beating Third Division Doncaster on penalties, ending a run of three successive defeats. They are now eighth in the Premier League, 20 points behind leaders and champions Chelsea. — MNA/Reuters

FIFA call for file on Di Canio after fascist salute

LONDON, 23 Dec — FIFA has asked the Italian federation to submit its file on Lazio's Paolo Di Canio who was banned for a game and fined 10,000 euros (11,800 US dollars) after a fascist salute in a match this month.

The 37-year-old striker made the raised-arm salute during the 2-1 Serie A defeat at Livorno on December 11. The gesture was criticized by politicians, players, fans and Jewish groups in Italy.

"FIFA now wishes to determine the extent to which Di Canio's racist gestures not only violated the FIFA code of ethics, which came into force in 2004, but also the relevant disciplinary procedures," world soccer's ruling body said in a statement on its website on Thursday.

At his end of year news conference on Tuesday, FIFA president Sepp Blatter called for a stricter and more unified procedure against racism in soccer.

MNA/Reuters

Ajax cruise into last eight of Dutch Cup

AMSTERDAM, 23 Dec — Ajax Amsterdam thrashed Second Division Eindhoven 6-1 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Dutch Cup.

The visitors struck four times in the opening 20 minutes through Angelos Charisteas, Wesley Sneijder, Frank Demouge (own goal) and Nourdin Boukhari.

Sneijder grabbed his second goal on the hour before Thomas Vermaelen completed the rout with nine minutes to go.

Sasa Stojanovic scored Eindhoven's consolation.

In the night's other tie, Groningen coasted past Volendam 3-0 with goals from Yuri Cornelisse, Danny Buijs and Glenn Salmon.

It was Groningen's final match in their 72-year-old Oosterpark Stadium before they move to their new Euroborg ground next month.

In Wednesday's matches, Roda JC Kerkrade defeated Feyenoord 1-0 while AZ Alkmaar overcame NEC Nijmegen 2-0. — MNA/Reuters

Adriano suffers no ill effects after head clash

ROME, 23 Dec — Italian soccer team Inter Milan star Adriano has suffered no ill effects from a violent clash of heads in Wednesday night's match against Empoli, doctors said in Milan on Thursday.

The accidental blow from an Empoli defender sent the Brazil striker to the ground unconscious, unmoving and apparently breathing shallowly.

The doctors at a Milan hospital have given the striker the all-clear after two sets of scans, ruling out any permanent damage. They said Adriano had only been temporarily concussed after Andrea Raggi rammed into him after unsuccessfully challenging for a cross into Empoli's penalty area.

Adriano was up, alert and smiling early Thursday morning, surrounded by friends and well-wishers, the local media reported.

As a pure precaution, doctors said, he had spent the night under observation.

Adriano was soon able to telephone his mother in Rio de Janeiro, as well as Inter owner Massimo Moratti, to let them know all was well, hospital sources said.

The incident came in the 14th minute of Inter's 4-1 win, after Adriano set the home side on its way to victory with a third-minute goal.

The win kept the Milanese team in the hunt for the scudetto two games ahead of the halfway stage in the Serie A season, eight points behind runaway leaders Juventus. — MNA/Xinhua



Sacramento Kings' Mike Bibby drives during the fourth quarter of the Kings' 105-95 loss to the Dallas Mavericks in an NBA basketball game, on 22 Dec, 2005, in Sacramento, Calif. Bibby scored 22 points. — INTERNET

Ayala out until march

Buenos Aires, 23 Dec — Argentina defender Roberto Ayala has had an operation on his right knee and should be able to play again in March, according to team doctor Donato Villani.

The 32-year-old centre back twisted his knee in training with Valencia last week. He had surgery on the same knee in August 2004 following the Athens Olympics. Villani said the surgery had gone well. "He should be able to play around mid-March," he told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

Stoichkov to coach Bulgarian national team for two more years

SOFIA, 23 Dec — football team for two more years, said the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) president Hristo Stoichkov will keep his job as the coach of the Bulgarian national president Borislav

Mihailov on Tuesday.

After the last meeting of the Executive Committee of BFU in 2005, Mihailov said that despite the "dissatisfying" results from the qualifications of the World Cup 2006, BFU would support Stoichkov to finish his job and to lead the team for Euro Cup 2008.

Former star of CSKA Sofia Krasimir Bezinski will step in as assistant coach after Petar Hubchev left earlier.

Meanwhile, Petar Miladinov, coach of the national youth team, would be fired after his contract expires at the end of the year. Aleksander Stankov will succeed him with two assistants — Petar Mihtarski and Liubomir Sheitanov. The general manager of the two national teams will be Dimitar Dimitrov-Hero. — MNA/Xinhua

Osasuna's victory turns up heat on Barcelona

MADRID, 23 Dec — Osasuna moved within two points of leaders Barcelona after a 2-1 comeback victory over Atletico Madrid in the final Primera Liga game of the year on Thursday.

Second-placed Osasuna's club record ninth home victory in a row gave them 38 points from 17 matches.

Champions Barcelona chalked up their 13th consecutive win in all competitions when they beat Celta Vigo 2-0 on Tuesday.

Valencia, on 32 points, overcame Real Mallorca 3-0 on Wednesday. Fourth-placed Villarreal have 30 points while strifetorn Real Madrid are fifth after their 2-1 defeat at home to Racing Santander the same night.

There was little to sepa-

rate Osasuna and Atletico in the opening minutes at a freezing El Sadar.

The Navarrans suffered an early setback when striker Savo Milosevic went off injured after a quarter of an hour but his replacement Bernardo Romeo went on to play a decisive role in the home side's victory.

The game sparked into life after 26 minutes when Atletico snatched the lead after a speculative shot from Gabi.

The midfielder's shot caught keeper Ricardo off guard as it skidded off the icy pitch, hit the post and

fell into the path of Martin Petrov who fired high into the net.

It took Osasuna three minutes to equalize, in-form midfielder Raul Garcia curling a shot past Atletico's stand-in keeper Roberto Jimenez after good work from Argentine striker Romeo.

Five minutes later they were in front, this time Romeo providing the finishing touch to a devastating counter-attack by dinking the ball over Jimenez after French winger Ludovic Delporte had curled a pass in from the left. — MNA/Reuters



Atletico Madrid's Juan Varela, right, jumps for the ball with Osasuna's player, Carlos Cuellar, back, during a Spanish soccer league match at El Sadar stadium in Pamplona, northern Spain, on 22 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

NC Delegate groups...

(from page 11)

The meeting of Delegate Group of Peasants was held at the room-4 this morning.

U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division presided over the meeting together with the members of panel of chairmen U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division and U Mya Aye of Yangon Division. Deputy Director U Myint Kyaing of the Working Group-6 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 89 out of 93 delegates or 95.07 per cent.

The meeting chairman delivered an opening speech.

U Min Lun Maung of Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State read out the proposal to be submitted by Delegate Group of Peasants related to detailed basic principles for legislative tasks of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting was adjourned with the concluding remarks by the alternate chairman at 9.45 am.

Delegate Group of Workers held its meeting at the room-5 this morning.

U Kyaw Myo Win of Bago Division presided over the meeting together with the members of panel of chairmen Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division and U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division. Deputy Director U Zaw Win of the Working Group-7 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director U Aung Win.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 47 out of 47 delegates or cent per cent.

The meeting chairman made a speech. U Nyein Maung of Lashio Township, Shan State (North), U Min Myint Mang Lay of Chaungson Township, Mon State, U Poe Yei Aung Thein of Loikaw Township, Kayah State and U Than Aye of Yanbye Township, Rakhine State read out the proposals to be submitted by Delegate of Workers Group concerning detailed basic principles for legislative tasks of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in drafting the State Constitution.

The delegates took part in the discussions and the meeting chairman gave concluding remarks.

The meeting of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel was held at the room-7 this morning.

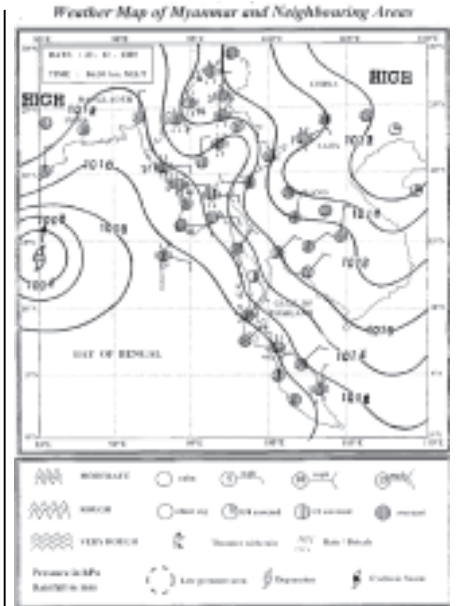
Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the Ministry of Health presided over the meeting together with the members of panel of chairmen U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs and U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce. Deputy Director U Htay Win of the Working Group-9 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director U Htein Min.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 108 out of 109 delegates or 99.08 per cent.

The alternate chairman delivered an opening speech.

U Ba Hein of the Ministry of Religious Affairs read out the proposal to be submitted by Delegate of State Service Personnel as to detailed basic principles for legislative tasks of region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in writing the State Constitution.

The delegates held discussions and the alternate chairman gave concluding remarks.—MNA



WEATHER

Friday, 23 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Weather has been partly cloudy in Ayeyawady Division, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in lower Sagaing Division and Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Rakhine and northern Shan States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Mindat (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Sittway and Coco Island (1.18) inches each, Mindat (0.95) inch, Homalin and Chauk (0.63) inch each, Kalay and Nyaung-U (0.52) inch each and Kalawa and Pakokku (0.39) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 22-12-2005 was 81°F. Minimum temperature on 23-12-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 23-12-2005 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 22-12-2005 was nil.

Rainfalls on 23-12-2005 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 (12) mph from East at (06:30) hours MST on 23-12-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's tropical depression over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay had moved North-Northeast wards and is centred at about (320) miles East-Northeast of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move North-Northeast wards slowly. Weather is cloudy in West Central and North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-12-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin and Kayah States and isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).


Weather outlook for last weekend of December 2005: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

"Storm Warning"


(Issued at (15:00) hrs MST on 23-12-2005)

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the tropical depression over West Central Bay had moved northeastwards and is centred over the sea at about (320) miles southwest of Thandwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar. It is forecast to move northeastwards and cross northern Rakhine State within next (24) hours commencing noon today. During crossing the coast, squalls with rough seas are often likely northern Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50) to (60) mph.

Under the influence of this depression, the height of storm surge may reach about (3) feet above normal tide along northern Rakhine coasts.



Saturday, 24 December
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:55 am</p> <p>5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>6. Musical programme</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>9. Grammar Made Easy</p> <p>11:00 am</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>11:15 am</p> <p>2. Musical programme</p>	<p>11:30 am</p> <p>3. Games for children</p> <p>11:55 am</p> <p>4. Round up of the week's TV local news</p> <p>1:30 pm</p> <p>5. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းလမ်းဆွဲ "နေပြည်တော်နေ့စဉ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> <p>6. ကြားမြင်သုတ ပြည်ဝေစရာ စာပဒေသာ</p> <p>2:10 pm</p> <p>7. "ညည်းတစ်လှိုင်းမှာ ဆားတစ်ဖျား" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ စော်စင်မောင်၊ လင်းစာနုညိုစော်၊ ဖုင့်) ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်စော်၊ နိုင်စိုး (၀/၁ ရန်ကုန်)</p> <p>2:20 pm</p> <p>8. Dance of National Races</p> <p>2:30 pm</p> <p>9. အပန်းဖြေလေ့လာ သဘာဝ ငှက် ဥယျာဉ်မှာ</p> <p>2:45 pm</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to Uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. English for everyday use</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. Musical programme</p>
<p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. အထေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ ပထမအပိုင်း (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု) (ရုပ်ပေး)</p> <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>7. "ချစ်လွန်းလို့" (နိုးဖြူ၊ ခင်နိုးပိုင်၊ မျိုးမျိုးနိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)</p> <p>5:25 pm</p> <p>8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>9. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတတ်</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>10. အပျိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:50 pm</p> <p>11. Games for children</p> <p>6:15 pm</p> <p>12. Musical programme</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>13. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>14. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>15. ရုပ်မြင်ရသ တေးစုကဏ္ဍ</p> <p>7:25 pm</p> <p>16. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>17. Musical programme</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>18. News</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>19. International news.</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>20. Weather report.</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>21. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းလမ်းဆွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၇)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>22. The next day's programme</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Saturday, 24 December Tune in today</p> <p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: - R o c k i n g around the X'mas tree</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -Jingle X'mas</p> <p>8:50 am National news+ 12 Objectives & People's Desire</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -Last X'mas</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music -I wish you a merry X'mas</p> <p>1:30 pm News & Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Music at your request -Blue X'mas -Love in our heart on X'mas -X'mas song</p> <p>9:00 pm ASEAN Review</p> <p>9:10 pm Article</p> <p>9:20 pm M y a n m a r Culture</p> <p>9:30 pm Souvinors</p> <p>9:35 pm News & Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Deputy Commander of Chengdu Military Area Command of PRC

YANGON, 23 Dec — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received the visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Commander of Chengdu Military Area Command Lieutenant-General Gui Quanzhi of the People's Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here, this morning.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Deputy Commander Lt-Gen Gui Quanzhi of Chengdu Military Area Command of China.—MNA

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Brig-Gen Zin Yaw of Mingaladon Air Base,

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong. — MNA

Prime Minister sends message of congratulations to Polish counterpart

YANGON, 24 Dec— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, who has been appointed as Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Federal Republic of Poland. — MNA

Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying Plant to supply 140m gallons of water to Yangon City daily for first phase

YANGON, 23 Dec — As a gesture of hailing the National Convention, Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying Plant constructed in Hmawby Township by Yangon City Development Committee-YCDC was inaugurated this

morning. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an opening address and unveiled the stone plaque of the plant. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace

and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn formally opened the plant. Under the guidance of the Head of State, the plant was con-

structed to be able to supply potable water to Yangon City and it will supply additional 45 million gallons of safe drinking water to Yangon City a day, said Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn at the opening ceremony.

Construction work of Yangon City water supply project began in May last year. The plant, a part of the project, was constructed at a cost of K 3628.5 million, he added. Thanks to the plant, supply of water to Yangon

City increases from 95 million gallons to 140 million gallons a day. On completion, the project will be able to supply 230 million gallons of safe drinking water to the city a day, he said. (See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveils stone plaque of Water Purifying Plant of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik).—MNA