

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 253

10th Waning of Nadaw 1367 ME

Sunday, 25 December, 2005

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 8th intake DSTA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrive graduation dinner of 8th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy at DSTA in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Dec —Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the dinner to mark the 8th intake graduation of Defence Services Technological Academy held at the DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 6 pm on 23 December.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Aung

Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Mandalay Mayor, the commander and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, the rector of DSTA, officials, commandants, professors and heads of departments, teachers, cadets and their parents and relatives.

MNA

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More progress has been made in road transport now if compared with 1988. The Ministry of Transport has opened flights of jets and Fokker aircraft from Kengtung to Yangon-Mandalay-Taunggyi. Private-owned Air Bagan and Yangon Airways have also been established for better air transport.

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SAI THEIN (KENG TUNG)

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 December, 2005

Strive for building of a modern Tatmadaw

The government is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the process, it is trying its utmost for the emergence of a modern Tatmadaw that is in conformity with a modern and developed nation.

In the world, today science and technology is advancing with acceleration. 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. Therefore, the capabilities of new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are imperative in building a modern Tatmadaw.

The graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PynOoLwin on 23 December morning with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe said: You are engineers as well as Tatmadawmen. Tatmadawmen 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 sector. In the history of Tatmadaw, military engineers participated in battles like infantry men. This is the duty of soldiers. That is why you must be junior military officers who have fine traditions of good soldiers.

At a time when efforts are being made for transforming the nation into an industrial one, the new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are needed to lend themselves to the drive.

Thanks to the innovation of engineers, the industrial sector has made progress very significantly in the world today, benefiting the entire humanity.

Constantly learning the changing world, the new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are to make innovative ways to adapt to the changing situations of the world.

Since its birth, the Tatmadaw has not been a mercenary force but a patriotic Tatmadaw that has been upholding the four oaths. Being equipped with esprit de corps, the Tatmadaw members are sacrificing lives for each other in the Tatmadaw that has possessed fine traditions.

The Tatmadaw always upholds Our Three Main National Causes that 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 the State.

Therefore, the new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are to take part in the drive for building a modern and developed nation while striving for the emergence of a modern Tatmadaw.

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

People's Desire

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

Information Minister receives British Researcher, Chinese Cultural Attache separately

YANGON, 24 Dec — Myanmar Affairs Researcher Professor Mr Robert H Taylor from Britain called on Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the Ministry of Information at 2 pm today, and Chinese Cultural Attache Mr Wang Ruiqing of the Chinese Embassy called on the Minister at 3 pm today. Also present at the calls were heads of department, officials and the head of office of the Ministry. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Myanmar Affairs Researcher Professor Mr Robert H Taylor from Britain. — MNA

Prizes awarded to winners of snooker and billiards events

YANGON, 24 Dec — Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the prize-presenting ceremony of the 5th Inter-State/Division Billiards and Snooker Competitions on the 2nd floor of Asia Plaza, here this evening.

Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Maung Win presented prizes to Aung Phyo Kyaw of Mon State and Zaw Myo Naing Taninthayi Division who stood third and second in the individual snooker event, Director of SPED U Zaw Lin, Min Min Oo of Yangon Division and Sithu Tun of Mandalay Division who stood third and second in the individual billiards events, Deputy Director-General of SPED U Thein Aung, Shan State (South) and Mandalay Division that stood third

and second in the team snooker event and President of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Soe Myint, Yangon Division and Shan State (South) that stood third and second in the team billiard event.

Afterwards, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded prizes to Aye Min-1 of Mandalay Division and Moe Aung Thu of Yangon Division who stood first in the individual snooker and billiards events, and the first prize-winning Yangon and Mandalay Divisions Teams in the team snooker and billiards events.

Next, the minister made a speech and the ceremony ended.

MNA

MICB staff take part in December sports activities

YANGON, 24 Dec — As part of mass activities of December sports, 274 staff from Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue led by the Managing

Director and the General Manager took part in the walk this morning. They walked round Kandawgyi Lake, here.

MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ.

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

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



Staff of MICB participate in December sports activities. — H

China hopes to further pragmatic cooperation with Kyrgyzstan

BEIJING, 23 Dec — Chinese top political advisor Jia Qinglin said here Thursday that China highly values its ties with Kyrgyzstan and will make more efforts to boost China-Kyrgyzstan good-neighbourly friendship and cooperation.

"To develop the China-Kyrgyzstan cooperative relations is an established policy of China," Jia said in a meeting with Alikbek Jekshenkulov, Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said that China-Kyrgyzstan ties have developed smoothly and produced remarkable results over the past 14 years.

He said China and Kyrgyzstan have settled border disputes, which have laid a solid legal foundation for friendly ties.

He also expressed his delight with the effective cooperation between the two countries in the economic and trade areas.

"We have also maintained close cooperation in the United Nations and the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and made contributions to world peace and stability," Jia said.

Jia expressed China's appreciation for Kyrgyzstan's firm support for China on the issues including Taiwan, Tibet and the fight against the East Turkistan pro-independ-

ence groups.

"China will, as always, support Kyrgyzstan's efforts of maintaining national independence, sovereignty and stability," Jia said.

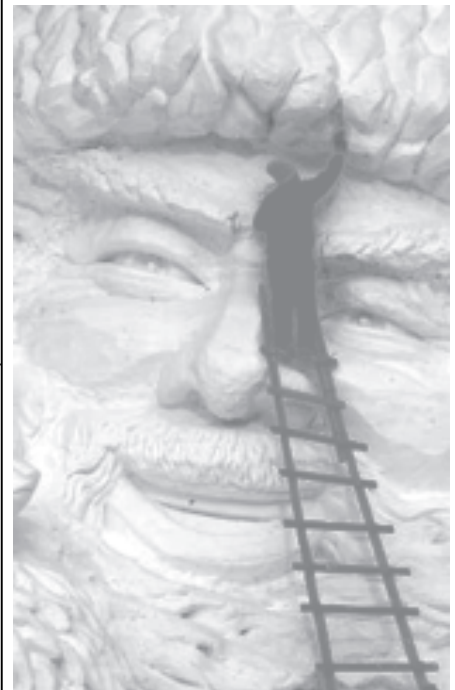
He said he hoped the two countries will take concrete measures to implement the agreement reached

between the leaders of the two countries and explore more cooperative channels.

Jekshenkulov said his country will strictly abide by the Kyrgyzstan-China good-neighbourly friendly and cooperative treaty to enhance pragmatic cooperation with China.

MNA/Xinhua

စုတိတန်ဆာသ တိုးမြှင့်



A Chinese artist carves a snow sculpture at a park in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 23 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

British Govt to improve safety of industrial sites

LONDON, 23 Dec — The British Government is considering to propose a set of measures to ensure the safety of large industrial sites, local newspapers reported on Friday.

The measures could include exclusion zones around oil storage or other potentially dangerous industrial sites such as chemical plants, *The Financial Times* said.

The report disclosed that even before the devastating blast at the Buncefield oil storage in the northwest of London on 11 December, the Cabinet Office had been thinking of reducing dangers at industrial sites.

More than 40 people were injured and thousands evacuated in the oil storage blast, which also polluted the air and led to a fire lasting for several days.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean southern areas hit by heavy snowfall

SEOUL, 23 Dec — South Korean southern regions suffered greatly from record snowfall that blanketed the regions recently, reported South Korean *Yonhap* news agency.

Heavy damages were reported in most of South Korea's southern coastal regions where up to a metre of snow has fallen in the past two weeks.

Sofar, three deaths have been reported due to the snow storm, said *Yonhap*.

The local government in Gwangju, a major city in the South Jeolla Province, said about 40 centimetres of snow had fallen overnight in the region.

About 1,200 schools in the affected regions temporarily shut down,

with some elementary schools starting their winter vacation earlier than scheduled, reported *Yonhap*.

Education officials in North Jeolla Province said 98 elementary schools will remain closed till Friday due to the heavy snow storm. Also 18 schools will commence their winter vacation earlier than expected.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy issues arrest warrants against CIA agents

ROME, 24 Dec — An Italian court on Friday issued arrest warrants for 22 alleged CIA agents suspected of kidnapping a Muslim cleric in Italy, prosecutors said.

The warrants were issued by a Milan court, they said.

Egyptian cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, whom Italian investigators have accused of ties to al-Qaeda and recruiting combatants for Iraq, was allegedly

kidnapped by 22 CIA agents in a Milan street in February 2003 and flown to Egypt for interrogation.

The former Imam, who is also known as Abu Omar, alleges he was tortured and beaten while being

questioned in prison in Egypt.

The Italian move means the American agents may be arrested in any of the European Union's 25 member states.

A European Union warrant, which was

agreed by the European Union in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001, is automatically valid across the European Union and does not require approval of any government.

Italy probes US Marine for murder of an Italian in Iraq

ROME, 23 Dec — Italian magistrates have placed a US Marine under official investigation for murder over the killing of an Italian agent in Iraq earlier this year, ju-

dicial sources said on Thursday.

Intelligence officer Nicola Calipari was shot dead at an improvised US checkpoint on a road near Baghdad in March

as he was accompanying an Italian hostage to safety.

Italy and the United States held a joint inquiry into the incident, but they failed to agree joint conclusions and instead issued conflicting reports.

While the US military exonerated its troops of any blame, Rome said nervous, inexperienced American soldiers and a badly executed road block were at the root of the shooting.

In the meantime, Italy's independent judiciary have pushed ahead with their own probe and have carried out forensic tests on the car Calipari was travelling in when he came under fire.

Placing someone under official investigation for an alleged crime does not imply guilt and does not mean the person will necessarily be charged. —MNA/Reuters

A recent report by the *Washington Post* alleges that the CIA agents had lied to Italy about the suspect's whereabouts and that they had briefed their Italian counterparts about his abduction.

MNA/Xinhua



Two US Army battle tanks block off a street in downtown Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 Dec, 2005, after an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated. —INTERNET

Eight policemen injured in car bombing attack in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — A car bomb detonated an Iraqi police patrol in southern Baghdad on Thursday, wounding eight policemen, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua*.

"A car bomb went off in Uwairyj area when a police patrol passed by, wounding eight policemen and damaging another," the source said on condition of anonymity.

US and Iraqi security force rushed to the scene and sealed off the area, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Thai Trade Fair opens to boost bilateral ties

BANGKOK, 23 Dec — The Fourth Sino-Thai Trade Exhibition Fair opened here on Thursday as Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusritapak vowed to upgrade the Sino-Thai relations into a “more-than-brotherhood level”.

Presiding over the fair held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-Thailand diplomatic ties, Somkid, also the Commerce Minister, said he was determined to make a visit to one province of China on a monthly basis to boost trade cooperation.

Somkid said Thailand and China had focussed relations on trade, investment and tourism in the past. In the future, he noted, the two countries would develop ties to a stage where they are close partners and play supporting role in boosting the regional economy.

“I’m 52 years old now. I don’t know how many years I will live in the rest of my life. But I have strong intention to achieve that goal and want to see the bilateral ties of the two countries develop into more than a brotherhood.”

“My name Somkid

means flying knife with no missing target. My nickname is Kuang which means cheerful whenever met with each other. So, I mean the two countries can make will be something more

than the brotherhood level,” he said.

The four-day fair was held by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Thai-Sino Business Committee of Thai-

land. Thousands of products from the two countries were being shown and several meetings which aim bilateral investment will be held during the expo.

MNA/Xinhua

Bruneian Govt encourages cultivation of herbal plants

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec — The Bruneian Government encourages systematic cultivation of herbal plants to meet the rising demands of local production of traditional medicines, news reports reaching here said on Thursday.

The Agriculture Department has taken steps to identify the botanical treasure, which has the potential to be used in medicines, pharmaceuticals and traditional flavourings in local cuisine.

This southeastern Asian nation boasts of some 5,000 species of native plants including herbs and trees, according to the report posted on the official website of the gov-

ernment. Among the over 350 species of herbs recorded by the Committee on Science and Technology of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), about 160 plants have been identified as usable.

To promote the development of traditional medicine industry in this country, the Agricultural Department also encourages entrepreneurs to en-

gage in this industry and tap both the domestic and overseas markets, added the report.

MNA/Xinhua



Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova watches as a Japanese boy hits a return during a tennis clinic in Tokyo on 23 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Gunmen attack Iraqi security checkpoint in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec—Gunmen attacked an Iraqi security checkpoint in southern Baghdad on Thursday, killing four policemen and wounding six others, a police source told Xinhua.

“Armed men opened fire at about 7:10 am (0410 GMT) at a police checkpoint erected under a bridge in Doura District,” Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police said.

“Four policemen were killed in the attack and six others were wounded,” he added. According to the source, the policemen were sleeping when the gunmen surprised them.

Guerillas frequently attack Iraqi Government employees and security forces, accusing them of collaboration with the US occupation forces.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier inspects the damage in a building in the village of Balad Ruz, Baqouba, Iraq, on 23 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Gunmen kidnap 3 women employed in Baghdad’s Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec— Gunmen kidnapped three Iraqi women working in Baghdad’s Green Zone on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“Unknown armed men in three BMW cars ambushed the car of three sisters working in the Green Zone, while they were leaving their house in al-Ilam District in southern Baghdad,” the source said. “The gunmen attacked the car and dragged the three women and the driver out of the car and took them away,” the source said.

The heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad is housing

government offices and US Embassy.

Guerillas frequently attack Iraqis working with the US forces and those

who work with the government, accusing them of collaboration with the US occupation of Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Hot air fans are selling like hot cakes, since this winter is forecast to be colder. In Quang Ninh, the fan is priced 22 US dollars, compared with 34.6 dollars for a similar South Korean product.

Vietnam is expected to see stronger flows of foreign electronics goods from 1 January, 2006

when their import taxes, under regional tariff reduction roadmaps, are to decrease to 0-5 per cent from current 15-30 per cent.

Foreign products, originating mainly from Thailand, Malaysia and

Indonesia, such as large-screen TV sets, DVD players, fridges, air-conditioners, washing machines and microwave ovens are also likely to sell well in Vietnam next year, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese electronics goods sell hot in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Dec — Chinese electronics and electrical appliances are selling very well in Vietnam’s northern provinces, local newspaper Youth reported Thursday.

More and more Vietnamese people, in the last weeks of this year, have been going to markets in the provinces bordering China like Quang Ninh to buy such Chinese goods as VCD and DVD players, magnetic cookers, and fans which blow hot

air.

Foreign products, originating mainly from Thailand, Malaysia and

Indonesia, such as large-screen TV sets, DVD players, fridges, air-conditioners, washing machines and microwave ovens are also likely to sell well in Vietnam next year, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian police crack int’l drug ring

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec — Malaysian police have crippled an international drug trafficking channel in separate raids here in the past two weeks, seizing a total of 170 kilos of ketamine and arresting at least five suspected traffickers, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

The contraband was worth of 15 million ringgit and believed bound for China, the News Strait Times said.

The latest success came when police raided a hotel over the weekend, capturing 15 kilos of ketamine and detaining the suspected traffickers, the daily said.

A few days earlier, police detained a couple who were attempting to

smuggle 3.4 kilos of ketamine out of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the newspaper said.

On December 10, police raided an unoccupied apartment after receiving a tip-off, seizing 150 kilos of ketamine, an anesthetic primarily used on animals, it added. Police declined further comment on the cases as investigations were underway.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong quake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Dec — An earthquake measuring 6.4 Richter Scale hit North Sulawesi Province Wednesday, but no casualties has reported so far, an official of Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

The quake occurred at 07:07 GMT, or 14:09 local time, with epicentre 0.1 degree South Latitude and 124.9 degree North Longitude, an official in charge named only Subagio told Xinhua in telephone.

The quake centre was in Maluku Sea, some 2,025 kilometres northeast Jakarta, south of Manado, the capital city of North Sulawesi Province.

MNA/Xinhua

CPC, Chinese Govt attach importance to Sino-Cuban ties

HAVANA, 22 Dec — The Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese Government attach great importance to the development of Sino-Cuban relations, a senior CPC official said.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro here on Tuesday evening.

Luo said China and Cuba are both socialist countries sharing the common ideal and are making efforts to explore socialist development paths with their own characteristics.

He said that in recent years, China-Cuba relations have entered a new period of overall development with more

exchanges and cooperation in politics, economy, trade, science and technology, culture and education.

He said this year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Cuba, noting that China is determined to implement the consensus reached between leaders of the two countries aiming to further develop the friendly and cooperative relationship of mutual benefit.

Luo also expressed his appreciation for Cuba's support to China on such

issues as Taiwan, Tibet and human rights.

Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, said bilateral relations have progressed smoothly in recent years with frequent exchanges of high-level visits and sound cooperation in

various fields.

Castro, also President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, said the Cuban side will further promote cooperation with China, especially in medical and health fields.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian tsunami survivor stands on a beach during the early morning in Devanampattinam village in Cuddalore, about 210 km (130 miles) from the southern Indian city of Chennai, on 23 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

Philippines urges for creation of lessons learned unit at UNSC

MANILA, 22 Dec—The Philippine Government called the UN Security Council to assess and improve itself as the country began winding up its two-year membership in the organ, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Wednesday.

According to the DFA report, Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Lauro Baja told the 751 Sanctions Committee on Somalia and the 1,566 Working Group on Terrorism, which he chairs, that there is a need for the Security Council to "assess itself and improve its structures and practices if it is to serve the interest of the international community".

The Philippines was elected as one of ten non-permanent members of the Security Council in 2003 and will end its term on 31 December, 2005.

Baja called for the creation of a Lessons Learned Unit that will

analyze and consider the effectiveness of the measures the Council implements and the practices and procedures it employs, particularly in the area of sanctions and the mandates of the sanctions committees and other subsidiary bodies.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico seeks int'l action against US migration plan

MEXICO CITY, 23 Dec—The Mexican Government is seeking a common strategy to fight the US anti-immigrant plan, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez told local media on Wednesday.

Colombia, the Dominican Republic and the Central American nations will be Mexico's allies, and the plan will be pushed at a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick next week, he said.

The US Senate is currently considering an anti-migrant bill, which will build 1,200 kilometres of new fencing on the 3,200-kilometre border between Mexico

and the United States. If approved, the new bill will intensify measures available to courts against undocumented migrants and make it more difficult for employers to hire undocumented workers.

The Republican party's initiative has been opposed by all the Latin American countries with substantial numbers of people in the United States, as well as by human rights groups that defend immigrants.

There is a possibility that the US Senate might reject the bill, because public opinion is against the plan, Derbez said.

Mexican President Vicente Fox described the bill as shameful, and added that he is sure it will eventually be rejected.

The Mexican Government has offered a migrant reform proposal that includes provisions to

transform illegal Mexican migrants into documented workers. Around 10 million Mexicans live in the United States, sending home 400 million dollars each year, according to Mexican Government statistics.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow causes Blackout in western Japan

TOKYO, 23 Dec—Blackout hit four prefectures in western Japan on Thursday morning because of heavy snow, the Kansai Electric Co Inc said.

The power line from a nuclear power station in the Fukui Prefecture was hit by snow storm, which led to the halt of electricity transmission for about 40 minutes from 8:50 am (GMT 2350 Wednesday) in prefectures of Osaka, Shiga, Kyoto and Nara.

More than 690,000 households were affected by the blackout in the region, the company said.

MNA/Xinhua

Cargo ship sinks in E China sea, leaving 13 missing

HANGZHOU, 23 Dec—A cargo ship carrying 3,400 tons of china clay sank in the Longkou Sea area in east China's Shandong Province at around 8 pm Wednesday, leaving 13 people missing.

The ship was trying to anchor at Longkou Port Wednesday evening when it was sheered by strong winds and tilted by huge wave, spilling all of the 14 people onboard into the sea. —MNA/Xinhua

Eight killed in van accident in Peru

LIMA, 23 Dec—At least eight people were killed and two others injured when a van plunged into a 300-metre ravine in the mountains near Lima on Wednesday.

The driver lost control of the vehicle at a turn while travelling from Huansa to Chosica, 50 kilometres east of Lima. In a similar accident on Tuesday, 17 passengers died and 28 others were injured when a bus fell into a ravine in Ancash, 400 kilometres northeast of Lima.

The Peruvian Government is failing to tackle the problem of traffic safety, with nine people being killed on the roads every day, said Peruvian transport expert Federico Battifora. —MNA/Xinhua

Van-lorry collision leaves 4 killed, 3 injured in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec—Four people were killed and three others seriously injured when a van collided with a lorry in northern Malaysia on Thursday.

The accident happened Thursday morning in the southern part of the Perak State, according to local media reports. The driver of the van was killed, and all other victims, either killed or injured, were passengers in the van.

A seven-year-old girl was among the dead while a 19-month-old baby was injured. One of the injured passengers was still in a coma in a local hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen wound senior official in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec—Gunmen attacked the car of a senior Iraqi official in the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad's western district on Wednesday, wounding him and killing his driver, police source said.

"Unknown armed men opened fire at about 8:15 am (0515 GMT) at the car of Hamid Muhammed Jawad, director general in the Agriculture Ministry, near the Nafaq al-Shurta," Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police told.

MNA/Xinhua



US troops unload a wounded Iraqi soldier from a US Army blackhawk air ambulance at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Developing transport and communications sector in east of Thanlwin

Sai Thein (Kengtung)

It was nearly noon when I returned from office of Shan State (East) Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. The purpose of my visit to Shan State (East) was to learn the progress in communication services in the area.

On arrival at the apartment where I was staying, I received a phone call from a National Convention delegate from Ayeyawady Division. Over the phone, he said he gained knowledge from my article in Pyi Myanmar journal featuring a network of roads in Shan State. And he urged me to write progress in communication services including air transport.

In this context, I would like to write about the area in the east of Thanlwin with attractive characteristics. Kengtung region of Shan State (East) is in the eastern Myanmar.

Besides, geographically, it shares 217 miles of borderline with the People's Republic of China in the north-east, 155 miles of borderline with Laos in the east and 182 miles of borderline with Thailand in the south-east.

Shan plateau, hills and mountain ranges are part of the topographical features of Shan State (East). Creeks and streams called in various local names flow and the area is covered with thick forests.

Economists have recognized that the thick forests of Shan State (East) are proof of wealth of Myanmar valuable teak.

It is learnt that diverse ethnic groups with various religions live in such significant area in the

east of Thanlwin, Shan State (East). I also write this article in honour of those ethnic groups such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Akha, Lahu and Wa.

In late 1988-89, local nationals came to cooperate with the government for all-round development of Shan State (East).

More progress has been made in road transport now if compared with 1988. The Ministry of Transport has opened flights of jets and Fokker aircraft from Kengtung to Yangon-Mandalay-Taunggyi. Private-owned Air Bagan and Yangon Airways have also been established for better air transport.

I would also like to present progress in communication services in 2005 compared with that in 1988. In 1988, there were only two communications stations in Kengtung and Tachilek. However, nine communications stations have been opened in Kengtung district, five in Tachilek district, seven in Monghsat district and five in Mongphyat district so far totalling 26. Although there were only two telegraph offices in Kengtung and Tachilek, now six offices have been opened in Kengtung district, four in Tachilek district, seven in Monghsat district and four in Mongphyat district numbering 21.

Thanks to the efforts of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, two auto telephone exchanges have been established in Kengtung district and one each in Tachilek district, Mongphyat district and Monghsat district.

The number of manual telephone exchanges

has reached 14 in Kengtung district, six in Tachilek district, three in Mongphyat district and eight in Monghsat district.

As for the improvement of modern communications, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has launched satellite communication system in Mongla, Mongton and Mongyawn. Two telephone carrier board offices have also been opened in Kengtung district. In addition, four microwave stations have been opened in Kengtung district, two in Tachilek district, five in Monghsat district and one in Mongphyat district.

The following table shows the development of communications stations of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

Sr	Subject	1988	2005
1	post office	2	26
2	telegraph office	2	22
3	auto phone exchange	-	5
4	manual phone exchange	2	31
5	phone carrier board offices	-	2
6	microwave station	-	12

The above-mentioned stations and offices have been extended up to the townships of the areas in the east of Thanlwin. So local nationals can make local as well as overseas phone calls at any time.

All in all, the State is building infrastructures to develop all regions across the Union and to improve living standards of all national people. That is why realizing the goodwill of the State, I write this article about the developing transport and communications sector in Shan State (East).

(Translation: ST)

Kyemon: 24-12-2005

More progress has been made in road transport now if compared with 1988. The Ministry of Transport has opened flights of jets and Fokker aircraft from Kengtung to Yangon-Mandalay-Taunggyi. Private-owned Air Bagan and Yangon Airways have also been established for better air transport.



In memory of late U Kyan and Daw Nyunt Yon, Daw Khin Htwe Mu of Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township presents K 100,000 for three-storey hospital for the aged to Hninzingon Home for the Aged Administrative Board member U Chit Myaing.—H

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အား မြို့တော်အင်္ဂါရပ်နှင့် လျော်ညီစွာ သာယာလှပစေပြီး၊ ပြည်သူများ အပန်းဖြေ အနားယူနိုင်ရန် ပန်းခြံများ၊ ကန်ပေါင်များ၊ သစ်ပင်များ၊ မြက်ခင်းများ၊ ပန်းအလှပင်များအား နိုင်ငံတော်ဘဏ္ဍာငွေမှ ငွေကြေးမြောက်များစွာ အကုန်အကျခံ၍ တည်ဆောက်ပေးလျက်ရှိပါသည်။
- ၂။ ပြည်သူများ စိတ်နှလုံးချမ်းမြေ့စွာ အပန်းဖြေအနားယူနိုင်ရန် ပန်းခြံများနှင့် ကန်ပေါင်များတွင် မြက်ခင်းများ၊ သစ်ပင်ပန်းခင်းများ၊ ထီးများ၊ ထိုင်ခုံများ၊ တံတားများ၊ မီးလုံးမီးဆိုင်များနှင့် အခြား လိုအပ်သော ပစ္စည်းများအား တပ်ဆင်ထားရှိပါသည်။
- ၃။ သို့ရာတွင်ပြည်သူများအပန်းဖြေရန်ပြုလုပ်ပေးထားသည့် ပစ္စည်းများအားစည်းကမ်းမဲ့သော ပြည်သူ အချို့ကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခဲ့ရပြီး၊ ခရစ်စမတ်ပွဲတော်ကာလနှင့် နှစ်သစ်ကူးကာလရက်များအတွင်း အပျော် လွန်ကျဲသော်လည်းကောင်း၊ မူးယစ်ရမ်းကား၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ အကြောင်း အချို့မျိုးကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခဲ့၍ ပြည်သူပိုင်ပစ္စည်းကာကွယ်ရေးဥပဒေပုဒ်မ-၆(၁)အရ ၂၀၀၃-၂၀၀၄ တွင် တရားခံ(၇)ဦးနှင့် ၂၀၀၄-၂၀၀၅ တွင် တရားခံ(၆)ဦးတို့အား ထိရောက်ပြစ်ဒဏ် ချမှတ်၍ အရေးယူခဲ့ရပါသည်။
- ၄။ ထို့ကြောင့် ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်၊ ခရစ်စမတ်ပွဲတော်ကာလနှင့် ၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆ နှစ်သစ်ကူးရက်များအတွင်း အင်းလျားကန်ပေါင်ရှိ ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်းဘက်ခြမ်းနှင့် ပြည်လမ်းဘက်ခြမ်းနေရာများ၊ ကန်တော်ကြီး ဥယျာဉ်နှင့် ပြည်သူလူထု အပန်းဖြေရန် ဆောက်လုပ်ထားသည့် ဥယျာဉ်၊ ပန်းခြံများအား နေ့စဉ် နံနက်(၄)နာရီမှ ည(၉)နာရီအထိသာ အပန်းဖြေအနားယူခွင့်ပြုမိမိဖြစ်ပြီး၊ ကျန်အချိန်များတွင် ဝိတ်ထား မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၅။ ထိုနည်းတူမြို့တော်သာယာလှပစေရေးအတွက် ပြည်သူများ အပန်းဖြေရန်နှင့် ကျန်းမာရေးလျှော့ခန်းများ ပြုလုပ်နိုင်ရန် ဆောင်ရွက်ထားသည့် လမ်းများ၊ သစ်ပင်များ၊ မြက်ခင်းများ၊ ထီးများ၊ ထိုင်ခုံများ၊ မီးလုံးမီးဆိုင်များ၊ ဆိုင်းဘုတ်များ စသည်တို့အား ပျော်ရွှင်မှု လွန်ကျဲသော်လည်းကောင်း၊ မူးယစ်ရမ်းကား၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ အကြောင်းအချို့မျိုးကြောင့် သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ ပျက်စီးပါက ယခင်နှစ်များနည်းတူ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူသွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ် ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

Border areas witness sustained progress

Development of border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Emerging schools and agricultural development in border areas

Prevalence of peace and stability in border areas is the contributing factor for development of remote areas of the Union of Myanmar.

With stability and peace in the respective regions, mutual friendship, understanding, mutual assistance, cooperation and coordination have taken root among national brethren.

The Tatmadaw government, placing emphasis on serving the interests of national brethren, is implementing border area development projects in each and every region as well as in remote areas.

Thanks to the endeavours made by the government in 22 border area development regions, these areas have developed rapidly and markedly.

The table shows the development of schools, agricultural camps and dams and reservoirs among others in the border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Development in border areas

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Primary school	-	852	852
2	Middle school	-	90	90
3	High school	-	92	92
4	Agricultural office	-	31	31
5	Agricultural camp	-	117	117
6	Dam completed and under construction	-	46	46
7	Dam to be built	-	17	17
8	Canal	-	5	5
9	Tractor station	-	11	11

Mongla Basic Education High School in Shan State (East).



Bangladesh exports up 12.47% in July-October

DHAKA, 24 Dec — Bangladesh earned 3,346 billion US dollars by exporting goods in the first four months of the current fiscal showing a 12.47-per-cent growth over the same period of last year, official sources said.

Increased export of knitwear and positive growth of woven garments contributed to the growth in exports during the period, local daily, The Independent, quoted Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) sources as saying on Friday.

The knitwear export grew 26 per cent to 1.23 billion dollars exceeding the growth target by 3 per cent set for the first four months of the current fiscal (July 2005-

June 2006).

EPB officials said export of woven garments increased by 0.18 per cent earning 1.286 billion dollars in July-October period. The country earned 13 million dollars in exports of textile fabrics during the period, registering the highest growth of 217 per cent among the different export items.

The higher growth in export earnings was mainly due to the volume of export increased by 16

per cent both in primary products and manufactured goods although price index fell by 3.89 per cent.

Export of primary products in terms of price decreased by 10.97 per cent and volume increased by 17.15 per cent in the first four months on a month-to-month basis.

Export of manufactured goods fell by 3.31 per cent in terms of price but increased by 16.33 per cent in volume.

MNA/Xinhua

Water supply enough in S China cities

GUANGZHOU, 24 Dec — Local officials said on Thursday the potable water supply is enough in the southern cities of Guangzhou, Foshan and Yingde, despite a water crisis caused by smeltery waste.

The toxic slick, resultant from excessive cadmium discharges from a smelting works in Shaoguan City on December 15, has polluted the Beijiang River in Guangdong Province. The downstream cities of Guangzhou and Foshan have launched emergency plans to ensure safe drinking water supplies to their residents as a toxic slick approaches.

Besides Beijiang, Guangzhou, provincial capital of Guangdong with a population of over 10 million, also use water from the rivers of Dongjiang and Liuxi, said an official with the city's work team to deal with the water crisis, who declined to give his name.

"Only one waterworks sources from Beijiang in Guangzhou. Even if it is closed, the daily water supply will be

little affected," said the official.

However, he noted, Guangzhou has ordered all its waterworks to increase storage and prepared backup bottled water and water carriers.

The urban district of Yingde City, which is about 90 kilometres from Shaoguan, began tapping water from a nearby reservoir through a 1.4-kilometre-long water pipe linking the city's waterworks and the reservoir that was built on early Thursday morning.

The city has stopped taking water from Beijiang River since Wednesday night. The reservoir can provide up to 48,000 tons of water by the pipe daily, which is enough for the use of 100,000 residents in the district, according to local government.— MNA/Xinhua



Senior General Than Shwe inspects new models of sewing machines manufactured by Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaukse). — MNA

Objectives of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity
- All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation
- All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit
- All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Strive to do research...

(from page 16)

In response, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that there was a single department of medical research, and now there has been a department of medical research each in Lower Myanmar, Central Myanmar, and Upper Myanmar.

The departments are to make efforts to do research for production of reliable and potent traditional medicines. In the process, the department concerned is to

carry out research with respective own styles for achieving success.

He stressed the importance of categorizing research work — major research, normal research, and special research — to manufacture Myanmar traditional medicines in accord with the standards set to cure such major diseases as cancer, HIV/AIDS, and cardiac disease apart from the six common major diseases in Myanmar — dysentery, diarrhoea, hypertension,

diabetes, malaria and tuberculosis.

He said in keeping records of a variety of herbal plants it is required to do research region-wise, based on salient points of which kind of herbal plant has strengths in curing what sorts of diseases.

Next, the Senior General observed the herbal plantations. He also inspected the stockpiling of herbal plants that can cure the six common major diseases.

The minister and officials conducted the Senior General round the

The Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) was established under the guidance of the Head of State to do research on a wider scale on the diseases and health problems that are common in Upper Myanmar with the aim of providing equal health care for the people in Lower Myanmar and those in Upper Myanmar. So far, the department has stockpiled 412 kinds of herbal plants.

herbal plantations that can cure renal disease, uterine disease, oral disease, neurosis disease, osteitis disease and many other diseases. The Senior General gave guidance, assessing the reports.

It is learnt that the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) was established under the guidance of the Head of State

to do research on a wider scale on the diseases and health problems that are common in Upper Myanmar with the aim of providing equal health care for the people in Lower Myanmar and those in Upper Myanmar. So far, the department has stockpiled 412 kinds of herbal plants.

The Senior General proceeded to the phar-

maceutical factory (PyinOoLwin), where Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and officials welcomed him.

The minister and officials conducted the Senior General round the factory. The minister reported on progress of installation of modern machines in the factory (PyinOoLwin) for the first stage, production of (See page 9)

The pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) was on test run in March 2005 and it is now producing pills and tablets. And it will manufacture injections, fluids, lotions and powders around December 2006 in the second stage.



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint briefs Senior General Than Shwe on progress in construction of the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar). — MNA

Strive to do research...

(from page 8)

pills and tablets, arrangements being made in accord with the guidance for production of quality products and distribution of them at reasonable prices, and preparations for production of injections, fluids, lotions, and powder in the second stage.

The Senior General gave guidance on maintaining the quality of the products, seeking better ways to distribute the products to the people directly, and speedy production and distribution of the sorts of medicines handed over by the departments of medical research after achieving success in doing research.

The minister also reported on the new models of sewing machines innovated from the old ones of the Sewing Machine (Kyaukse). Next, the Senior General inspected the buildings under construction in the compound of the factory.



Senior General Than Shwe inspects herbel garden of Medical Research Department in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

The pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) was on test run in March 2005 and it is now producing pills and tablets. And it will manufacture injections, fluids, lotions and powders around December 2006 in the second stage. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs back from China

YANGON, 25 Dec — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air yesterday after attending the diplomatic consultation held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China from 18 to 24 December 2005 at the invitation of Mr Wu Dawei, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC.

The deputy minister and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and embassy staff.

While in China, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxing, and held diplomatic consultation with Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Wu Dawei. They discussed matters concerning the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations, cooperation in the ASEAN-China programmes, exchange of visits of foreign service personnel and exchange of students from foreign ministries for diplomacy and language training and cooperation in eradication of narcotic drugs between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China as well as international and regional issues.

U Kyaw Thu also held discussion with Assistant Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Tang Lili in Kunming on matters concerning bilateral security and economic cooperation at the border areas.

Along with the Deputy Foreign Minister, members of the Myanmar delegation Deputy Director-General of Political Department Daw Than Than Htay and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back.

MNA

Seventh annual general meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Federation held

YANGON, 25 Dec —The seventh annual general meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Federation was held at Thiri Annawa Hall of MFF in Insein Township yesterday, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, departmental officials, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Htay Myint, officials of prawn, fish and crabs breeders associations and other associations, officials of state, division and district fisheries associations and guests.

In his address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said Myanmar Fisheries Federation was formed on 1



Commander, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and ministers view the booths displayed at the 7th annual general meeting of MFF. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein accepts cash donations to the federation from a well-wisher. — MNA

December 1998. Being a productive and national force, the association contributes towards the development of the nation and national economy.

He said fisheries is an important production sector and also a major foreign exchange earner. Realizing the objectives of the State, the MFF is to make efforts for boosting production of fish and prawn, protection of environment and ecology, applying modern methods and cooperating with all entrepreneurs.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Chairman of MFF U Htay Myint also spoke.

Ministers Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thin and Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein accepted K 9.4 million donated by well-wishers.

The commander and party inspected booths on the ground floor.—MNA

Paragu Shantiniketan Library put into service

YANGON, 24 Dec — Paragu Shantiniketan Library established by Writer Paragu who won Life-Long National Literary Award and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-Long Literary Award was put into service at 998/990, U Pon Nya Road, Ward 16, Shwe Paukkan Myothit in North Okkalapa Township this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. Director-General U

Chit Naing of IPRD formally opened the library. The minister and party viewed rare books displayed at the Paragu Shantiniketan Library. Buddhism treatises in Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit versions, Pitakat literature, books in Hindi version including Ramayana treatise, copies of Encyclopaedia in English, dictionaries, English-Myanmar law books, books on psychology,

Myanmar classic literature, books written by Writer Saya Paragu, totalling over 10,000 are kept at the library for public and researchers. Also present on the occasion Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Radio and Television, Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Pub-

lishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, Adviser to the Ministry of Information U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), Chief Editor Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), departmental personnel, local authorities and guests. MNA



IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing cuts the ribbon to open Paragu Shantiniketan Library.— MNA

Classical Songs Scrutinizing and Music Note Compilation Committee holds 10th Anniversary Ceremony

(from page 16) certificates of honour and cash to U Min Kyi (musical note writer), U Myo Nyunt (Lecturer), U Kyi Thwin (musician), Daw Tin Tin Mya (Assistant Director), Daw Thin Thin Myat (musician), Daw Yi Yi Thant

(musician), Daw Sein Htay (musician), U Tin (musician), U Zaw Htay (Director-Production), U Yi Nwe (Lecturer-Music), and U Sein Hla Myaing (Myanmar Thabin Asiyon).

Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung handed over certificates and cash to families of late artistes Brig-Gen Khin Ohn (Retd), Thanlyin U Mya Oo, Pianist U Hla Htut, Harpist U Khin Myint, Harpist U Myint Maung, and Pantaya U Kyaw Nyunt.

Member of Myanmar Language Commission Saw Mon Nyin expressed gratitude.

After the ceremony, all the participants were served with dinner. —MNA

Anniversary ceremony of E Emperor Media Group held

YANGON, 24 Dec — E Emperor Media Group organized its anniversary at Seinlan Sopyay restaurant in Inya Road, here, yesterday evening. Chief Executive Officer U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-YIT) extended greetings, and presented prizes and

medals to Editor U Kyaw Swa Min of Flower News journal who won the best staff award, and Assistant Editor Daw Kyaw Hsu Mon of the Yangon Times journal who secured the best newperson award, and prizes to other employees. On behalf of the

guests, U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thauk Kyar) gave a speech. Later, the dinner was hosted to the guests. E Emperor Media Group publishes the Yangon Times, Flower News and the Tech-Digest journals. MNA



Anniversary of E Emperor Media Group in progress.— MNA

Ceremonies in support of National Convention held in Natogyi, Taungtha, Ngazun

YANGON, 24 Dec — A ceremony hailing the National Convention was held at the town hall in Natogyi Township on 18 December morning. It was attended by 1,200 people from five columns of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization and townsenders.

Townelder U Bi made a speech. Joint Secretary of Township USDA U Soe Myint tabled a motion in support of the National Convention. Secretary of Township WVO U Khin Maung Htwe, townsenders U Win Aung and U Thein Naing Tun, member of Township WAO Daw Than Than Maw and Permanent member of MCWA Daw Than Than Htein seconded the motions.

All the participants approved the motion in support of the National Convention, and the ceremony ended with the chanting of the slogans.

Similarly, a ceremony to unveil the billboard in support of the National Convention was held near the town hall in Taungtha Township on 18 December, attended by over 750 members of social organizations, departmental personnel and local people.

Chairman of Township PDC U Saw Thant Swe and Township USDA Secretary U Thaug Swe unveiled the billboard.

On 19 December, the ceremony to support the National Convention followed at the same venue in Taungtha Township, attended by 1,500 locals. Townselder U Bo Byu made an opening speech. U Maung Maung-1 of Township USDA tabled a motion in support of the National Convention. Three members of USDA and two townsenders seconded the motions. The chairman of the ceremony approved

the motion. In Ngazun, a ceremony to unveil the billboard hailing the National Convention was held at Basic Education High School on 19 December. Representatives of social organizations, departmental personnel and locals attended it. Chairman of Township PDC U Myint Ko Than and Township USDA Secretary U Myat Thu unveiled the billboard.

On 20 December, social organizations, departmental personnel and locals totalling 1,200 attended the ceremony to support the National Convention at Ngazun BEHS. Townselder U Tin Hein made an opening speech. USDA Township Secretary U Myat Thu tabled a motion hailing the National Convention, and three USDA members and two townsenders seconded the motion. All the participants approved the motion. —MNA

(၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ပြည့်

- နေ့ရက် - ၃-၁-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၁-၁-၂၀၀၆
- အချိန် - နံနက် (၀၉၀၀) နာရီမှ ညနေ (၁၃၀၀) နာရီ
- နေရာ - တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ၊ ဦးဝိစာရလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

(မည်သူမဆို အမဲ လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။)

DONATE BLOOD

China vows to enhance cooperation with OPEC

BELING, 24 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan said here on Thursday that China will increase dialogue with the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) in order to contribute to the stability of the world oil market.

In a meeting with OPEC President and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ahmed Fahd al Sabah, Zeng said China has maintained good relations with the OPEC members and will increase communication and dialogue with the im-

portant oil producer union.

As a big oil and gas consumer, China is ready to cooperate with oil-rich Kuwait on oil exploitation and development, oil refining, petrochemical engineering and oil trading, Zeng said.

Zeng hoped China and Kuwait could deepen energy cooperation to achieve a mutually beneficial, win-win outcome. The two countries have established good cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and sports fields, said Zeng.—MNA/Xinhua



Motorist speed along the Patong beach road in Phuket, Thailand, on 23 Dec, 2005. Foreigners and Thais alike are set to gather in Phuket, Khao Lak and other beach areas in Thailand on 26 Dec, 2005, to observe the first anniversary of the Asian Tsunami. —INTERNET

Vietnam to invest heavily in power industry in 2006

HANOI, 24 Dec — Vietnam will spend nearly 37.56 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (over 2.36 billion US dollars) on developing power projects next year to meet its increasing demand for electricity.

The Electricity of Vietnam (EVN), the state-owned power monopoly, will pour the money mainly into completing the construction and upgrading of four power plants, building seven new plants, and accelerating the implementation of 32 major power generation and transmission projects, local newspaper *Investment* reported on Friday.

Early this month, the EVN started to build Southeast Asia's largest hydroelectric plant with capacity of 2,400 megawatt in the northern province of Son La. The plant's first turbine is scheduled

to go into operational in late 2010, the corporation said, noting that all of its six turbines will annually generate an average of 10 billion kilowatt hour.

Power demand has annually increased 13-15 per cent in recent years in Vietnam, where 60 per cent of the electricity output comes

from hydroelectricity.

Vietnam's demand for electricity is estimated at 53 billion kilowatt hour next year, up around 17 per cent against this year. Now, 96 per cent of communes in Vietnam have access to the national power grid, the EVN said.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia says to honour Iran arms deal despite US objection

Moscow, 24 Dec — Russia will fully comply with a deal with Iran to supply it with the *Tor-M1* air defence systems despite US objections, a senior Defence Ministry official said Friday.

The Russian side, despite objections from the United States, will honour its contract with Iran for the supply of the upgraded version of the *Tor* system," the official was

quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

The official said delivery of the 30 *Tor-M1* systems will begin in January and be completed by the end of next year.

The deal is believed to be worth 1.4 billion US dollars and is the biggest ever arms deal between Russia and Iran.

The *Tor-M1* system is capable of identifying up to 48 targets and tracking and firing at two targets simultaneously at a

height of up to 6,100 metres. US officials have called the deal a source of concern and said the United States strongly opposed the missile sale. Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov earlier confirmed and defended the deal saying Russia did not violate any international obligations in signing the deal because Iran is subject to any international sanction. "That was an absolutely legal deal, like it or not," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Top Iranian cleric vows to defend nuke rights to last drop of blood

TEHERAN, 24 Dec—A top Iranian cleric vowed here Friday that Iran would not give up its right to get access to peaceful nuclear technology, saying the nation prepares to defend the right "to the last drop of blood".

Ahmad Khatami, Teheran's substitute Friday Prayers Leader, made the remarks in a speech to

thousands of worshippers, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Khatami was quoted as saying that all parties and political wings in the country were unanimous over the government's efforts to defend Iran's nuclear rights.

"Westerners should know that in the case of Iran's nuclear energy, they are not facing a party and wing, rather they are encountered by a nation which has risen up to de-

fend its inalienable rights to the last drop of its blood," Khatami told the worshippers.

Khatami's comments came two days after Iran and the European Union (EU), the longtime broker of the Iranian nuclear issue, agreed to hold further negotiations in January 2006 in a round of preparatory talks in Vienna, Austria.

The bilateral nuclear negotiations were stranded since Iran defiantly resumed uranium conversion activities, a precursor to the enrichment, in early August.

Teheran is endeavouring to secure its right to build nuclear fuel cycle, which necessitates uranium enrichment, a process also able to produce material used for atomic bombs. The EU insists that Iran must halt all work for nuclear fuel cycle construction, trying to press Iran on an alleged Russian proposal, which allows Iran to conduct uranium conversion activities in exchange for the country's transfer of enrichment process to Russia.—MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Two US soldiers were killed in Baghdad on Friday, said the US military in a statement.

The soldiers, assigned to Task Force Baghdad, died when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, the statement said.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin and the incident is under investigation, it added.

MNA/Xinhua



British soldiers patrol a road after a bomb exploded in Iraq city of Basra, 550 km (341 miles) south of Baghdad, on 23 Dec, 2005. INTERNET

Expert suggests gene bank for wildlif be built in Tibet

BELING, 24 Dec—An expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggested a gene bank of rare animal species be built in Tibet.

"Their genes should be collected for molecular biological studies," he said. Tibet is home to many drought-resistant and cold-resistant plants and animals.

Zhang said ecotourism in Tibet should be given national priority as the region is home to many species like the Tibetan ante-

lope which lives at an elevation of 5,000 metres.

He also wants outdated and labour-intensive agriculture production stopped, stressing "we should rationally develop ecological, mineral and tourist resources in Tibet". He added that "this place has huge potential to develop ecotourism".

MNA/Xinhua

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerillas in Adhaim. —MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအဖွဲ့က

လုပ်ငန်းသုံး စက်ပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအဖွဲ့က အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး ပစ္စည်းများကို 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
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- (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 ပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ

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အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

ဖုန်း-၂၅၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၅၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၅၅၆၄၅

INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed bids are invited under International Competitive Bidding Procedures, the Turnkey Basis for establishing of A 60 tpd Caustic Soda (as 100%) Plant, 65 tpd Calcium Carbide Plant and 50 tpd Poly Vinyl Chloride Plant Project (Nyaungdon) to be built at Nyaungdon Area in Ayeyawaddy Division, Myanmar.

Tender documents are available at the Office of the Planning Department Myanmar paper and Chemical Industries of the Ministry of Industry (1), No 16 (B), Thukhawaddy Road, Yankin Township, Yangon commencing on (28-12-2005), on payment of ks 5000 per set. For further information, please contact Phone 559236.

Tenders will be accepted only from Tenderer who purchased Tender Documents officially.

Managing Director

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Home-made films reach new records in China

BEIJING, 23 Dec — As the Chinese film industry celebrated its centennial anniversary, both film production and box office records were set in 2005, the *People's Daily* said here Wednesday.

This year 260 indigenous films made it into China's cinema's, 48 more than last year. Box office revenue was up 30 per cent bringing in two billion yuan (125 million US dollars), according to statistics from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT).

SARFT says the film industry, including spin-offs from T-shirts to soundtrack CD's, generated the total revenue of 4.8 billion yuan (600 million US dollars), up 1.2 billion yuan over the previous year.

A number of hits were traditional movies such as "For the Victory", "On the Taihang Mountain" and "Ren Changxia" which commemorated the 60th anniversary of war against Japan.

Almost 50 films used advanced digital effects in post production including the blockbusters "The Myth", "The Promise" and "Walking Along for a Thousand Miles", the paper said.

For the second consecutive year, revenue from the home-made movies exceeded those of imported blockbusters.

Some 50 new modern cinemas equipped with advanced projection systems helped bring more people to movie theatres.—MNA/Xinhua

Four boats of illegal immigrants intercepted in southern Italy

ROME, 23 Dec— After a lull lasting several weeks, over 500 illegal immigrants in four boats were reported to be heading towards Sicily of Italy on Wednesday.

The boats crammed with immigrants on Wednesday were believed to be the first since early December. Bad weather in recent weeks is thought to have discouraged would-be immigrants in North Africa from taking to sea.

A boat with 177 immigrants on board was spotted during the night a

mile and a half off Lampedusa, which is about 150 miles southwest of Sicily and 100 miles from the coast of North Africa.

Two Coast Guard boats were immediately dispatched to intercept it and tow it to Sicily or Lampedusa, where there are illegal immigrant holding centres used to

check ID and handle asylum claims.

Later, a commercial liner reported sighting two other boats carrying a total of 330 people about 40 miles south of Lampedusa.

On Wednesday afternoon, Italian Coast Guards were towing one of the boats towards Lampedusa and assisting the other as it began to list

in worsening weather.

A fourth boat, with 150 immigrants on board, was intercepted between Lampedusa and Sicily.

Human rights' groups estimate that at least 10,000 people have died in the past ten years attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach European countries. At least 600 are known to have died so far this year.

Immigrants from North Africa, who often see Italy as a gateway to Europe, pay traffickers 1,500 dollars or more for their passage across the sea.

Italian Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said recently that Italy and Libya were facing unprecedented pressure from illegal migrants trying to reach Europe from Africa. —MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in bank robbery in eastern Uganda

KAMPALA, 23 Dec— Two private security guards escorting a bullion bank were gunned down by police in the eastern district of Kumi on Tuesday when they attempt to steal the cash backfired.

The two guards, Bra Arch Angelo and Moses Okello of Securicor Gray, were aboard the van from the Mbale branch to Kotido via Moroto in eastern Uganda, local Press reported on Thursday.

A third guard, Jackson Akol, slipped away in the gunfight in Kanyumu sub-county and the police are hunting for him.

The report said, the guards were cornered in the thicket where they had fled with sacks of money after diverting the bullion van off the Kumi-Soroti Road.

The police has recovered 900 million shillings (488,000 dollars).

This was the second time since this year that Stanbic Bank of South Africa had its money stolen while transit.

On February 7, three

guards stole 700 million shillings (380,000 dollars) they were transporting from Mbale to Iganga in the eastern part of the country. —MNA/Xinhua



Visitors watch the sunset from the beach in Khao Lak, 110 km (68 miles) north of the Thai resort island of Phuket on 23 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပုံနှိပ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Human Ice Age prints found in dry Australian lake

SYDNEY, 23 Dec— Hundreds of human footprints dating back 20,000 years to the Ice Age have been discovered in a dry lake bed in Australia, scientists said on Thursday.

University of Melbourne archaeologist Matthew Cupper told Australian radio they were the earliest footprint fossils found in the country.

"It's really quite a remarkable find. It's a little snapshot in time. The possibilities are endless in terms of getting a window into past aboriginal society."

They were left by adults, teenagers and children walking or and running across moist clay flats near Willandra Lakes, southwest of Sydney, the university archaeologists who made the discovery said.

The prints, ranging in size from 5.1 to 11.8 inches provide an insight into the anatomy and behaviour of the people who left them, they said in an on-line report in the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

"The size of the prints and the pace lengths in most trackways indicate tall individuals who were able to achieve high run-

ning speeds."

Some of the people appeared to be hunting, with emu and kangaroo footprints also in the area and what appeared to be spear holes in the ground, they said.

One man, estimated at two metres (six feet) tall, appeared to be sprinting at about 12-mile-per-

hour.

Australia's oldest human remains are 40,000 years old and were found in Lake Mungo in Mungo National Park, where the footprints were discovered.

The on-line report said 457 footprints, "the largest collection of Pleistocene human foot-

prints in the world", had been discovered since the first were found in 2003.

The Pleistocene period is from around 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago and includes the most recent Ice Age. The footprints were dated at between 19,000 and 23,000 years old.

MNA/Reuters



A stolen marble head statue, representing Roman emperor Traiano and dating to 1500, is displayed during a news conference in Rome on 23 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

Atrocities being planned by terrorists in Britain

LONDON, 23 Dec — Terrorist groups are "currently planning atrocities in the United Kingdom", Metropolitan Police Chief Commissioner Sir Ian Blair warned on Thursday.

The police chief told a BBC programme that he knew this was the case because "we are listening to some of them, and we are watching some of them".

The key question, he said, was whether they were tracking "all of them".

Sir Ian said three plots had been disrupted since July, adding: "The threat is real. It's present with us."

He told the BBC that police were "carrying out 75 per cent more" anti-terror operations than before the 7 July attacks in London which killed 52 and injured 700. Unlike bombers of the 1970s and 1980s, groups were capable of "mass atrocities without warning", he added.

"There are people in the United Kingdom who are currently planning atrocities in the United Kingdom... It doesn't mean that they will get through but it does mean that we are facing a new morality," said Sir Ian.

The four culprits of the aborted bombings in London on 21 July remain "on the loose". — MNA/Xinhua

Russia tests new ballistic missile

Moscow, 23 Dec— Russia test-launched a newly developed long-range ballistic missile on Wednesday, sending it streaking almost the length of the country from the White Sea to

Kamchatka Peninsula in the far east, the Navy said.

Naval spokesman Igor Dygalo told Ekho Moskvy radio station that the *Bulava* missile was fired from the submerged nuclear submarine, *Dmitry Donskoi*, and hit its target at the Kura site on Kamchatka.

Dygalo said it was only the second time the new generation of *Bulava* missile had been fired and the first time from a location under water.

MNA/Reuters



This picture released on 23 Dec, 2005, by the European Space Agency and dated on 21 Dec, 2005, shows the Ariane-5 space rocket lifting off from the Kourou Space Centre, French Guiana. —INTERNET

Fire guts palace near Russia's St Petersburg

ST PETERSBURG, 23 Dec — Fire gutted one of the buildings at Russia's world-famous Peterhof Palace complex on Thursday, emergency officials said.

Peterhof, on a bluff above the Finnish Gulf outside Russia's second city of St Petersburg, is a magnet for tourists from around the world who flock to see its ornate palaces and giant golden cascade of fountains.

The fire brigade took four hours to subdue the fire in the so-called Farmer's Palace, a 19th Century outlying building at the complex, which was founded in the early 18th Century by Russian Tsar Peter the Great.

"Around 1,200 square metres (12,900 square feet) of the Farmer's Palace was burned. This is more than half of the ground floor, around a third of the first floor and around a third of the attic," said a spokesman for the Emergencies Ministry.

The palace had been undergoing restoration and local media suggested an electoral fault could have started the blaze.

It was the fourth major fire in a St Petersburg historical building in the last 2-1/2 years. A major library, an ancient woodyard and the workshops of the Marinsky Theatre — known abroad as the Kirov — have also been gutted.

MNA/Reuters

Stolen British war medal found on Australian beach

CANBERRA, 23 Dec — A valuable British war medal discovered on an Australian beach has been traced to a London family who reported the treasured piece of history stolen nearly two decades ago.

The George's Cross medal, valued at about 15,000 pounds (35,700 US dollars), was found on a beach in Queensland State in February and police were able to present it to the British Consulate in Brisbane on Thursday so it could be returned to its owners.

Australian Associated Press reported that the medal had been awarded to Flying Officer Anthony Tollemache in 1940 after his plane crashed during an exercise in England and he risked his life to save a passenger.

The medal was one of several stolen from the Tollemache family home in London in 1988.

It remains a mystery as to how the medal ended up on the other side of the world. "I was trying to find the person responsible for the offence but in the end I

was just happy to find the heir," Queensland State police officer Brendan Laverty said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Earthquake hits Ecaudor

QUITO, 23 Dec — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale rocked the centre of Ecaudor and shook buildings in Quito, Ecaudor's capital city in the north of the country.

Ecaudor's Geophysical

Institute said on Friday. The earthquake occurred at 16:47 local time (21:47 GMT). The epicenter was close to Puyo, capital of Pastaza Province, 161 km southeast of Quito. Only people at the top of tall buildings felt the quake,

which caused scant damage. The institute said that a collision between the Bazca ocean plate with the Ecuadorian continental plate caused the quake, forcing a noisy phenomenon called subduction. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Chile's Universidad Catolica's players run to celebrate their championship after they defeated, in penalties, Universidad de Chile's team during their final game of a national soccer league match in Santiago, Chile, on 22 Dec, 2005, played at National stadium.—INTERNET

Benitez says Liverpool priced out of Owen bidding

LIVERPOOL (England), 24 Dec—Rafael Benitez says Newcastle's 16-million-pound (27.83-million-US-dollar) bid for Michael Owen made it impossible for Liverpool to bring him back to Anfield.

Benitez was keen on signing Owen in August, just 12 months after letting him join Real Madrid for 8.5 million pounds.

He held talks with the England forward, who was keen to sign for Liverpool, but was unable to match Newcastle's transfer bid and Owen moved to St James' Park instead.

"I tried to sign him and he knows I tried to sign him, like he's said in the past few days," Benitez told reporters on Friday. "It even went to the last day of the deadline.

"In the end it was just impossible for us as an-

other club bid a large amount of money for him."

Owen returns to Liverpool for the first time since leaving for Spain in August 2004 when Newcastle travel there on Monday at the beginning of a busy holiday programme.

Owen has scored seven goals in eight games for his new club, including a hat-trick against West Ham United on Saturday, but Benitez is backing

Owen's good friend, Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher, to stop him embarrassing his former employers.

"It's a special situation for Carra (Carragher) to be playing against Michael and I hope to see Carra win," he said.

"Owen is a very good player and he can be dangerous for us so we will try not to let him score.

MNA/Reuters

Bayern chairman believes Ballack to leave at end of season

BERLIN, 24 Dec—German First Division soccer powerhouse Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge believes Germany captain Michael Ballack will leave at the end of the season.

"I think he will go. If you can't extend your contract inside six months, then you also won't manage to do so afterwards. That's my experience. We've been speaking to Ballack from May to November," Rummenigge told Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper on Friday.

Ballack says he has not yet decided whether he will remain at Bayern after the 2005-06 season.

The playmaker's agent has fuelled speculation of a possible move on a free transfer to a top club in Spain, Italy or England next season after his Munich contract expires. Real Madrid are favourites to sign him.

MNA/Xinhua

Dinamo Bucharest coach Andone resigns

BUCHAREST, 24 Dec—Dinamo Bucharest coach Ioan Andone resigned on Friday even though his team lead the Romanian First Division soccer league.

"I'm really sad to leave my team but I have to do it now because I don't want to be fired," Andone told Reuters without elaborating on his surprising decision.

Local media reported that there has been rising tension between Andone and club executive president Ioan Becali.

Andone, chosen by several dailies as the best Romanian coach of the year, led Dinamo to the 2004 title. During his three years at the club, Andone won three Romanian cups and a Super Cup.

MNA/Xinhua

Real Madrid name former coach Floro as director of football

MADRID, 24 Dec—Spanish soccer powerhouse Real Madrid named its former coach Benito Floro as the club's director of football on Friday.

Floro, 53, who coached Real between 1992 and 1994, will work alongside coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro who took charge of the team when Vanderlei Luxemburgo was sacked at the start of the month.

Former Italy and AC Milan Arrigo Sacchi quit as director of football on December 6, a year after joining Real.

Real have not won a major trophy since June 2003 and have made a disappointing start to this season. They lie fifth, 11 points behind league leaders and arch-rivals Barcelona.

Floro made his name as a coach when he steered Albacete from the third to the First Division in the space of three seasons in the early 1990s.

He was snapped up by Real Madrid in 1992 and guided them to victory in the 1993 King's Cup. They lost the league championship on the final day of the season and he was fired during the following campaign after a string of poor results.—MNA/Xinhua

Brazil defender Cicinho joins Real in five-year deal

MADRID, 24 Dec—Real Madrid have bought Brazil defender Cicinho from world club champions Sao Paulo, the Spanish side announced on Friday.

Real said the 25-year-old attacking right back had signed a five-year deal and would begin training with his new team on December 29 when they returned from their Christmas break.

Cicinho, who has an Italian passport and so will not take up one of the three berths permitted for non-European Union players, is the fifth Brazilian international in the squad.

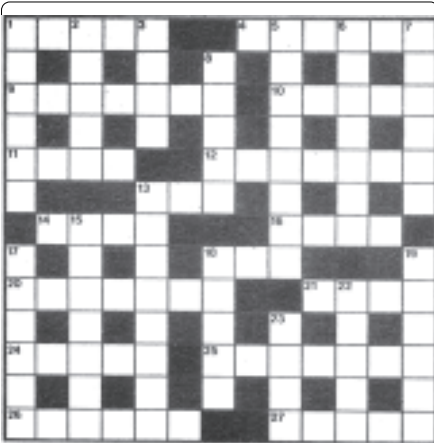
He joins Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Julio Baptista and Robinho at the Primera Liga club who sacked former Brazil coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo earlier this month.

Spanish media reported that the defender, who was part of the Brazil side that crushed Argentina 4-1 to win the Confederations Cup in June, had signed for a fee of around four million euros (4.75 million US dollars).

Cicinho played in the Sao Paulo team that beat Liverpool 1-0 to win FIFA's Club World Championship last Sunday.

Real now have a surfeit of right-sided defenders with Spanish internationals Michel Salgado and Sergio Ramos and Uruguay's Carlos Diogo all competing for a slot in the back four.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Units of power
- 4 Coastlines
- 9 Desert
- 10 Emblem
- 11 Armoured fighting vehicle
- 12 Go back
- 13 Bishop's realm
- 14 At liberty
- 16 As well as
- 18 Every one
- 20 Avoiding
- 21 Just
- 24 Two times
- 25 Spotted beast
- 26 Fingers
- 27 Damp

DOWN

- 1 Riches
- 2 Retinue
- 3 Flank
- 5 Customary
- 6 Readjust
- 7 Afternoon nap
- 8 Trap
- 13 Lees
- 15 Awakening
- 17 Dissolved
- 18 Nimble
- 19 Carried on business
- 22 Warning sound
- 23 Scottish lake

Charlton blames Manchester United players

LONDON, 24 Dec—Bobby Charlton urged Manchester United players to play to their full on Friday by blaming the Red Devils' Champions League exit on their lack of commitment.

United failed to even gain a place in the UEFA Cup after finishing bottom of their group.

The Old Trafford director said: "United do not have a divine right to qualify and hopefully the players will learn from the experience."

"They will look back at this season and remember what can happen if you don't give one hundred per cent."

United are in the semifinals of the Carling Cup but find themselves nine points behind runaway Premiership leaders Chelsea.

But Charlton is adamant manager Sir Alex Ferguson will find the solutions that mean such a European demise will not be repeated.—MNA/Xinhua



Thailand's Poonsawat Kratingdaeng-gym, right, throws a right to the face of Venezuela's Leo Gamez during their WBA interim bantamweight boxing bout at Rajadamnern stadium in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 Dec, 2005. Poonsawat won the bout on point.—INTERNET

Industrial new orders slightly down in euro-zone

BRUSSELS, 24 Dec — The euro-zone industrial new orders index fell by 0.5 per cent in October 2005 — in contrast to a 1.6-per-cent rise in September, said Eurostat, the statistical service of the European Union (EU), on Thursday.

In October 2005 compared to October 2004, industrial new orders increased by 4.4 per cent in the euro-zone and 4.9 per cent among the 25 members of the EU.

New orders remained stable EU-wide in October, after rises of 0.7 per cent in September and 0.2 per cent in August.

In October 2005 compared to September 2005, machinery and equipment grew by 2.1 per cent in the euro-zone and by 3.1 per cent in the whole EU.

Manufacturing of textiles and textile products increased by 0.4 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively.

Transport equipment fell by 0.8 per cent in the euro-zone and by 2.7 per cent EU-wide. Chemicals and chemical products declined by 1.2 per cent in the euro-zone but increased by 0.3 per cent EU-wide.

Basic metals and fabricated metal products decreased by 1.5 per cent in both zones. Electrical and electronic equipment dropped by 2.8 per cent in the euro-zone and by 0.4 per cent in the whole EU.

On a monthly basis, the highest increases of total manufacturing working on orders were recorded in Latvia (27.9 per cent), Denmark (8.8 per cent), Sweden (8.4 per cent) and Germany (2.6 per cent). The largest decreases were registered in Malta (7.6 per cent), Ireland (6.0 per cent), the Netherlands (4.2 per cent), Estonia and Portugal (both 4.0 per cent).

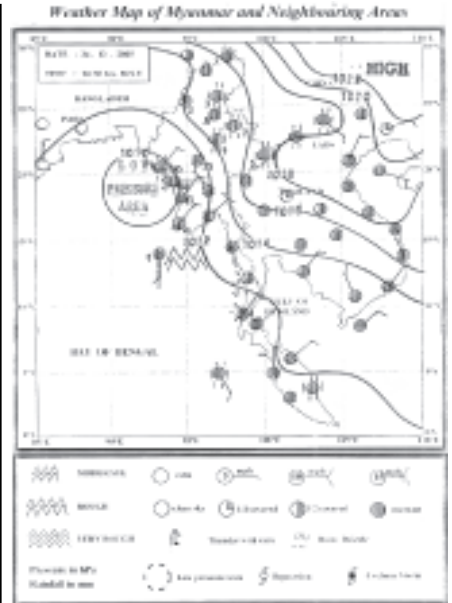
On a yearly basis, machinery and equipment grew by 10.3 per cent in the euro-zone and by 10.7 per cent EU-wide. Manufacturing of electrical and electronic equipment rose by 6.5 per cent and 8.9 per cent

respectively. Transport equipment increased by 5.7 per cent in the euro-zone and by 6.0 per cent in the whole EU. Manufacturing of basic metals and fabricated metal products gained 3.5 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively. Chemicals and chemical products grew by 1.9 per cent in the euro-zone and by 2.4 per cent in the whole EU. Manufacturing of textiles and textile products decreased by 3.4 per cent

and 3.8 per cent respectively.

Again on a yearly basis, the highest increases in industrial new orders were registered in Latvia (40.7 per cent), Hungary (24.8 per cent), Denmark (13.5 per cent), Sweden (13.4 per cent) and Lithuania (11.0 per cent). The only falls were recorded in Malta (35.8 per cent), Belgium (4.2 per cent) and Ireland (2.4 per cent).

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 24 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and Yangon Division, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Mindat (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpadaung (1.73) inches, Sittwe (1.58) inches, Mindat (1.49) inches, Meiktila (1.45) inches, Magway (1.34) inches, Minbu and Pyaw (1.30) inches each and Yamethin (1.02) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2005 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 24-12-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 23-12-2005 was (4.5) hours (approx).

Rainfalls on 24-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (103.62) inches at Mingaladon, (102.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (107.44) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 23-12-2005.

Bay inference: Yesterday's tropical depression over East Central Bay is crossing north Rakhine coast between Sittwe and Kyaukpadaung by early morning today and according to be observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, it has weakened into a low pressure area. It is expected the low pressure area will weaken within next (12) hours. Weather is cloudy in East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-12-2005: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, northern Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. 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) mph.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

“Storm Warning”
(Issued at (07:00) hrs MST on 24-12-2005)

Yesterday's tropical depression over East Central Bay is crossing north Rakhine coast between Sittwe and Kyaukpadaung by early morning today and according to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, it has weakened into a low pressure area. It is expected the low pressure area will weaken within next (12) hours.

Under the influence of the low pressure area, isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers will be in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions within next (24) hours commencing this morning.

Sunday, 25 December
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံသရာ ဟောနာယကအဖွဲ့အင်္ဂါတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟောရဋ္ဌ ဝုရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဓေတဝီက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercises

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈)ပြာမဂ်က

8:20 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Say it in english

<p>11:00 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Martial song <p>11:10 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Round up of the week's International News <p>11:25 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ “နေပြည်တော်-နေ့” (အပိုင်း-၁၇) <p>12:05 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar movie: “အမေ့နီဖိုး” (ကျော်သူ၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာ၊ ရှိန်၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ လှနီ၊ သာဌာနယ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်သူ) <p>2:45 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> International news <p>4:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Martial song <p>4:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Song to Uphold National Spirit <p>4:30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> English for Everyday Use <p>4:45 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈)ပြာမဂ်က <p>5:00 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ <p>5:05 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> အထေသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝတ္ထုရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ 	<p>ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု (ရုက္ခဗေဒ))</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Song of National Races <p>5:35 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ <p>5:45 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural source of Myanmar Development <p>5:55 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sing and enjoy <p>6:30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evening news <p>7:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Weather report <p>7:05 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> နိုင်ငံ့ပုထိုးဆောင် ရွတ်ဆိုပညာပြပွဲ ဖြစ်စေ၊ မသန်စွမ်းအားကစားအဖွဲ့နှင့် လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့များ <p>7:20 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (၅၈)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့၊ ပုထိုးပြအစီအစဉ် <p>7:35 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ အဖွဲ့နဲ့ ရည်ကြာ နိုင်စာစေ့မှု ခိုရွှေမှု “ကိုယ်တော် ကိုယ်နန်း ကိုယ်ကြည့်နိမ့်မြင့် ခမ်းနားထွန်းပေါ် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်” <p>8:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> News <p>8:05 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> International news. <p>8:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Weather report. <p>8:20 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်မိပြုဆိုရင်” (အပိုင်း-၈) <p>8:25 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The next day's programme
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Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 25 December
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -X'mas country style

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -My X'mas love

8:50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music: -X'mas holiday

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Cultural Images of Myanmar

9:20 am Music: -X'mas is the best of all

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Children's Delight

-Story for -Children

-Songs for -Children

9:00 pm Weekly News Review

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Let's improve English through songs

-Jingle bell

Rock

-To love is to give

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Strive to do research for production of reliable and potent traditional medicines

Senior General Than Shwe visits Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin



Senior General Than Shwe inspects the herbal plant farm of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected the herbal plant farm of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health, and the pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) of the Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 in PyinOoLwin on 22 December morning.

Together with Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and party, and officials, the Senior General arrived at the Department of Medical Research at 10.30 am. They were welcomed there by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials.

The minister gave an account of progress in implementing the guidance given on 23 December 2004 by the Senior General during his inspection tour of the Department of Medical Research.

Director-General of the department Dr Thein Tun reported on the sending of experts and staff abroad for further studies, the holding of seminars and workshops on traditional medicines, research work, and the growing of herbal plants.

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Senior General Than Shwe inspects the production line at the pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin).—MNA

Classical Songs Scrutinizing and Music Note Compilation Committee holds 10th Anniversary Ceremony

YANGON, 24 Dec — The ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of Classical Songs scrutinizing and Music Note Compilation Committee of the Ministry of Culture was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

Before the ceremony, vocalists entertained the guests with classic songs.

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivered an opening address. Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung made a speech.

Director-General U Ngwe Tun of the Fine Arts Department reported on accomplishments of the committee during the 10 years period.

Afterwards, the commander presented certificates of honour and cash to committee members U Myint Kyi (Myanmarsar Professor-Retd), Saw Mon Nyin (member of Myanmar Language Commission), Bogale Tint Aung (Musician), Gitalulin U Ko Ko (Musician), and U Maung Maung Latt (Naung) (Musical note writer).

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung also gave away certificates of honour and cash to U Khin Maung Tin (Retd), U Aung Ba Than (Bago) (Musician), U Thwin (Violinist), U Thein Han Gyi (Harpist), and U Mya Gyi (Oboist).

Likewise, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin presented

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Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents a certificate of honour to an artiste. — MNA