

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 26 December, 2005

## Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Construction Project

YANGON, 25 Dec — Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Serv-



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).—MNA



Construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) in progress.—MNA

ices Senior General Than Shwe left PyinOoLwin for Mandalay by car yesterday morning, and inspected progress of Myitnge-Htonbo-PyinOoLwin dual shortcut road.

The Senior General also oversaw the circular road of Taungthaman Lake by car.

On arrival at the project office of construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) on Mandalay bank, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials.

(See page 16)

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 26 December, 2005

**Produce potent traditional medicines**

The government is striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation through the might of the national forces.

The entire national people need to be healthy and fit in this regard. Therefore, the government has laid down and is implementing the objective calling for uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation as a national objective.

In an effort to enhance the standards of health care services of the people and medical science, research on health care services and producing of potent medicines plays a pivotal role.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 22 December inspected herbal plantations of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health and the Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1, and gave guidance to officials concerned.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that the medical research departments are to conduct research for production of reliable and potent traditional medicines for the people. In the process, the departments are to undertake research with respective own styles for achieving success.

The Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) was established under the guidance of the Head of State to be able to do research on addressing the health problems and diseases that are common in Upper Myanmar and to provide 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 medical research departments are to conduct research on dysentery, diarrhoea, hypertension, diabetes, malaria and TB that are common in Myanmar and other diseases such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiac disease, and to produce potent Myanma traditional medicines for those diseases.

In keeping records of a string 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 sort of diseases.

While inspecting the pharmaceutical factory, Senior General Than Shwe stressed the need for officials to maintain the quality of the products, to distribute them to the people directly and speedy production and distribution of the sorts of medicines handed over by the medical research departments.

This being so, officials of the respective ministries are to try their utmost to produce potent traditional medicines for improvement of health care services.

**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

**Three 'R' course for women opened**

YANGON, 24 Dec —The three 'R' course for women organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was opened at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, local authorities and guests.

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 1,600,070 donated by wellwishers.

Chairperson of Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Ni Ni Sein handed over 13,000 membership applications to Daw Khin Thet Htay.

The commander also presented K 640,000 to 64 students whose properties were lost in the fire that occurred in ward 13, Hline Township.

Daw Khin Thet Htay presented K 766,000 to seven matriculation and university students, and Daw Ni Ni Sein K 100,000 each to BEHS No 2, Sangyoung and BEHS 1, Lanmadaw where 64 students were camping.



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

Secretary of Yangon West District MCW Supervisory Committee Dr Pe Win reported on accomplishments of MMCWA in 2005.—MNA

**Dinner hosted to customers of YSL Int'l Co**



Chairman of Thai-Kobe Welding Co Ltd Mr Shunji Takei explains quality of welding equipment.—MNA

YANGON, 25 Dec — YSL International Co Ltd, which is sole agent and distributor of Kobe Steel Ltd in Japan, hosted a dinner to its customers including government departments and entrepreneurs at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here yesterday evening.

First, Mr Shunji Takei, Chairman of Thai-Kobe Welding Co Ltd, briefed them on the quality of Kobelco brand welding rods and accessories. Direc-

tor U Khin Maung Oo of YSL Int'l Co Ltd extended greetings and the dinner was hosted to the guests.

YSL Int'l Co Ltd is distributing Kobelco brand welding rods and accessories at reasonable prices and holding welding contests and welding seminars yearly with the technical help of Thai-Kobe Welding Co Ltd. — MNA

**Talks on intellectual properties held**

YANGON, 25 Dec — Sponsored by the Education Work Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, talks on intellectual properties were given at the office of Myanmar Music Asiayon in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township, yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were the chairman of Myanmar Music Asiayon, CEC members and others. MMA Chairman U Maung Maung Latt delivered a speech, and General Secretary of UMFCFI U Sein Win Hlaing explained the purpose of holding the talks. Lader talks were given to those present. — MNA



Talks on intellectual properties in progress at Office of Myanmar Music Asiayon. — H

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ပြန်ဟန်နိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်း ကျောင်းအားလုံး ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲမည်

**SCHOOL FAMILY DAY**  
(1-3 JANUARY 2006)

# Panda, brown bear join hands in logo of Russia Year in China

BEIJING, 24 Dec — A logo with cartoon images of a Chinese panda and a Russian brown bear joining their hands unveiled here on Friday for the Russia Year scheduled in 2006 in China.

Against the background of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing and the Church of Ascension in Moscow in the round logo, the two cartoon animals wear Chinese and Russian national flags respectively, walking together with hand in hand under the slogan of "Join hands and move forward" in both Chinese and Russian.

Li Hui, assistant to Chinese Foreign Minister, and Sergei Razov, Russian Ambassador to China unveiled the logo at a ceremony on Friday.

Li said the Russia Year in China in 2006 and China Year in Russia in 2007 are unprecedented events to promote bilateral relations, adding that they will help to strengthen the friendship between the people from the two countries.

Razov said the logo fully displays the friendship, mutual understanding and affection between the two nations.

The goodwill events will help further step up the strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

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# Malaysia wishes to woo 20m tourists in 2007

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Dec — Malaysia will launch a tourism promotion campaign on New Year's Eve with the target to woo 20 million tourists in the year 2007, tourism official said on Friday.

The "Visit Malaysia Year (VMY) 2007" campaign aims to aggressively promote this southeastern Asian nation as a major international tourism destination, Tourism Minister Leo

Michael Toyad said. Leo expressed his confidence that the campaign would boost tourist arrivals considerably, as the previous two programmes held in 1990 and 1994 had turned out to be successful.

"The government will work together with the private sectors to hold various promotion activities throughout the year," Leo said at a Press conference, adding that "in addition, Malaysia has already cooperated with airliners in other countries to provide more chartered flights, enabling tourists in some countries including Russia and Poland to flight directly to Malaysia".

When asked about the visa application process, Leo said the government will offer more convenient, efficient services for people who apply for tourist visas. The VMY 2007 will coincide with Malaysia's 50th anniversary of its independence.

MNA/Xinhua

# Four killed in south Afghanistan firefight

KABUL, 25 Dec — One policeman and three Taliban militants were killed Friday in a firefight between the two sides in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, a spokesperson of the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

"Last night at about 12 pm, a group of Taliban militants attacked a highway police checkpoint in Maiwand District. After the firefight between the two sides, one policeman and three Taliban militants were killed," Yusuf Stanizi told Xinhua. "Afghan police, after the firefight, also found four rocket launchers and one AK-47," he added. —MNA/Xinhua

# Six Sudanese kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Unidentified abductors in Iraq kidnapped six Sudanese, including a diplomat, on Friday in Baghdad, the Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported. The Sudanese were abducted after they attended a Muslim prayers ceremony, said al-Jazeera, adding the diplomat was Sudanese Embassy's second secretary.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry confirmed the kidnapping. A spokesman was quoted as saying that the embassy has received a call by an unidentified abductor

who claimed the kidnapping. On 9 November, gunmen shot dead a Sudanese driver at the country's embassy in Baghdad, two days after a Sudanese diplomat was slightly injured after being shot at in the Iraqi capital. —MNA/Xinhua

# More snowfalls expected in Japan

TOKYO, 24 Dec — More snow is expected to fall in central Japan along the Sea of Japan coasts through Saturday, the Meteorological Agency warned, as many parts of Japan has already been

covered by a record amount of snow.

Cold air will continue to flow over the archipelago and snowfalls are likely to continue through Saturday evening particularly on the Hokuriku area and other regions on the Sea of Japan coasts, the agency said on Saturday.

More than two metres of snow has accumulated in some mountainous areas. Tsunan, Niigata Prefecture, has 2.75 metres, while Shirakawa, Gifu Prefecture, is with 2.51 metres of snow as of Saturday morning.

Further snowfall of up to 60 centimetres are expected in 24 hours through 6 am Sunday in the Hokuriku area, the forecast said. Around Japan, 59 districts reported record snow accumulation for December, according to the Asahi Shinbun.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese boy walks through gates made of wood and corn cob at Jiangnan Park in Jilin city, northeast China's Jilin Province on 24 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

# Portugal seizes 45 kilos of cocaine

LISBON, 24 Dec — Portuguese Customs officials seized 45 kilos of cocaine smuggled from Venezuela at the Lisbon Airport on Thursday, the Portuguese Customs said in a statement on Friday.

This represented the largest amount of cocaine seized at Portuguese airports this year, the statement said.

The drugs were hidden in a trunk, which has been handed to the law enforcement police.

The statement did not mention the owner of the

trunk. So far this year, up to 600 kilos of cocaine has been seized at Portuguese airports. Customs officials captured 14.8 kilos of cocaine and detained a Brazilian at the Lisbon airport on 14 December.

Last month, law enforcement officials seized

in a warehouse near Lisbon 6.1 tons of cocaine from Colombia, the largest ever capture in Portugal and the biggest amount seized in Europe this year. According to the Portuguese police, international drug smuggling organizations have taken Portugal as a transfer station for smuggling from South America to European countries in recent years.

MNA/Xinhua

# 2,164 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — As of Saturday, 24 Dec, 2005, at least 2,164 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,696 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 98 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,025 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,587 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. —Internet



US soldiers and military vehicle are seen through holes in a sign at camp Vicotry in Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

## PM says Albania determined to deepen relations with China

**TIRANA, 24 Dec** — Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha on Friday vowed to uphold the one-China policy and deepen friendly ties with China.

Berisha made the overture in his meeting with visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui, according to a Press release from the Albanian Council of Ministers. He said Albania will firmly develop relations with China, hoping for the expansion of cooperation in the fields of politics, economy and trade, as well as infrastructure.

The two countries should also enhance coordination and cooperation in key issues in the region and the world, he said, adding that the Balkan country expects China to make its contribution to the

settlement of the Kosovo issue. Berisha welcomed investments from China in his country, especially in the energy and mining sectors.

The Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister said China and Albania have huge potential to develop ties as they enjoy good

foundations based on traditional friendship.

Zhang arrived here on Thursday for political consultations between the Chinese and Albanian foreign ministries. Earlier this week, he attended the first round of the China-EU strategic dialogue in London. —MNA/Xinhua

## Venezuela confiscates 21 drug trafficking estates

**CARACAS, 24 Dec** — Venezuelan Minister of Land and Agriculture Antonio Albarran said on Friday that the government had confiscated 21 country estates

linked to drug trafficking making them state property.

The properties are mostly in the western state of Tachira, which borders Colombia, he added.

The land will be incorporated into a government-promoted social programme to give land to small- and medium-sized farmers working in cooperatives, the minister said.

Venezuela has become one of the main transport routes for cocaine to the United States and Europe due to its large border with Colombia, the world's number one cocaine exporter.

MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier dies of wounds in northern Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 24 Dec** — A US soldier died on Saturday of wounds sustained from an earlier guerilla attack in northern Iraq, according to the US military.

The US soldier, assigned to the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade, was wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack targeting a US patrol near the northern Iraqi town of Hawijah, the military said in a statement, without revealing further details.

The death has brought to more than 2,160 the number of US military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Internet

## 23 killed as Azeri plane crashes after takeoff

**BAKU, 24 Dec** — Twenty-three people were killed when an Azeri passenger plane crashed on Friday soon after takeoff from the Caucasus state's capital Baku, officials said.

A reporter of the independent Azeri television channel Lider told Reuters by telephone from the scene of the crash that he saw medical teams removing bodies from the wreckage of the plane near the seashore at Nardaran, on the outskirts of Baku.

"Witnesses of the crash told us that before the plane crashed they saw it making slow circles as if the crew were trying to direct it away from residential areas," Mekham Mekhtiyev said.

The Antonov An-140 aircraft, bound for the Kazakh city of Aktau, disappeared from radar screens soon after take-off from Baku.

"The plane has crashed, 23 people on

board are dead," the duty officer at a local police branch, who identified himself as Kadykov, told Reuters by telephone. "The cause of the crash is unknown."

Azerbaijan, situated on the Caspian Sea, is a

former Soviet republic with a thriving oil and gas industry that has attracted large-scale foreign investment. It was not immediately known if any foreigners were among the dead.

MNA/Reuters



Azerbaijan's officials inspect the debris of Antonov An-140 aircraft at seashore at Nardaran, on the outskirts of Baku, on 24 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

## ဝက်မုခ်းအား ခေတ်တော်ပွား



People walk through a tunnel of illumination titled 'Tokyo Millenario' in Tokyo's Marunouchi business district on 24 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

## Capital shortage baffles Vietnam's textile industry

**HANOI, 24 Dec** — Vietnam's garment industry would find it difficult to meet an export turnover of 8 to 10 billion US dollars by 2010, as capital investment in the sector had come down over the past few years, according to the statistics from Vietnam Textile and Garment Corporation (Vinatex) Friday.

The capital shortage originally stemmed from difficulties in availing loans from commercial banks, according to the country's leading state-run corporation.

During the past five years, the sector received a total investment of 525 million dollars, 30 percent lower than the expectations, resulting in output falling by nearly 30 percent behind the set target, according to the Trade Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

## Light aircraft crash kills four in Colombia

**BOGOTA, 24 Dec** — Four people were killed on Friday when their light aircraft crashed in the mountainous Antioquia Region in northwestern Colombia, authorities told local media.

The aircraft plunged from the sky and crashed near the mountainous Jardin Municipality, killing the pilot, co-pilot and two soldiers onboard. Another soldier was wounded in the accident. Rescuers have reached the site of the accident, the cause of which is now under investigation. —MNA/Xinhua

## One killed, two injured in E China firecracker plant explosion

**HEFEL, 24 Dec** — A firecracker plant explosion killed one person and injured two others in Chaohu, a city in east China's Anhui Province on Thursday afternoon, sources with the local government said on Friday. The two injured are still under treatment in hospital.

According to the work safety watchdog of Juchao District of Chaohu City, the explosion occurred at Ruilong Firecracker Factory in Sanbing Township at 4:55 pm on Thursday. All firecracker factories in the district were required to suspend production for safety check. —MNA/Xinhua

## Two civilians killed in landmine explosion in eastern Nepal

**KATHMANDU, 24 Dec** — Two civilians were killed and two others critically injured in eastern Nepal in a landmine explosion on Friday, Nepali police office said. The deceased have been identified as Darinjen Sherpa and Phurba Sherpa of Dhunge Saandh Village in Taplejung District, some 300 kilometres east of Kathmandu, the police said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

## Train derails in Malaysia, no casualties

**KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Dec** — A train carrying 700 passengers derailed in Pahang State on Friday, but no one was injured or killed, local media reported.

The train, leaving from Tumpat, a city in Malaysia's northern state of Kelantan, to Kuala Lumpur, derailed in the early morning at a location between Mentakab Town and Mengkarak Town in Pahang State. All passengers continued their journey from Mentakab to Kuala Lumpur aboard dozens of buses provided by the train service operators.

MNA/Xinhua



Aerial view of Thailand's Phi Phi Don Island nearly a year after Indian Ocean tsunami on 24 Dec, 2005, which killed 5,395 in Thailand. Thousands of locals and foreigners have started to gather in southern Thailand to commemorate the one year anniversary of the tsunami, which will take place on 26 Dec. —INTERNET

## Official says over 9,000 missing in Pakistan's quake areas

ISLAMABAD, 24 Dec — Federal Relief Commissioner of Pakistan Major-General Farooq Ahmad Khan said on Friday that over 9,000 people were reportedly missing in the 8 October tragedy.

Most of them belonged to the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), Farooq told a news conference here on Friday.

He said that focus had now been shifted to ensuring provision of winterized shelters to the quake affectees living below 5,000 feet altitude.

Activities of building one-room shelter out of rubble have been continuing, he said, adding that so far over 200,000 winterized shelters have been provided to the earthquake survivors living above 5,000 feet

height. Farooq said that priority was being given to improving the ration stocks in the areas likely to become inaccessible in snows and ensuring

adequate medical support in the affected areas. He said that over 700,000 tents and over 4.9 million blankets and quilts had been provided to the earthquake victims.—MNA/Xinhua

## At least five Italians killed in Madeira bus crash

FUNCHAL (Portugal), 24 Dec—At least five Italian tourists died when their bus crashed on the Portuguese island of Madeira on Friday, authorities said.

Two other people among the 50 aboard were seriously hurt with a total of 14 remaining in hospital, said Manuel

Brito, director of Funchal Hospital.

Earlier an official had told Reuters six people had died.

The accident happened as the bus reached a roundabout and crashed into a wall.

"The magnitude of the accident determined that the driver be held for questioning by the public prosecutor," Madeira's regional police superintendent Pinto do Carmo told journalists.

The Italians were visiting Madeira on a cruise liner which was to have left the island for southern Spain on Friday afternoon.

MNA/Reuters

## China dumps chemicals to try to clean toxic river

BEIJING, 24 Dec— China is dumping chemicals into a southern river to try to neutralize a toxic spill and contain the second environmental disaster to hit the country in as many months, a local official and state media said on Friday.

The cadmium-containing slick, which has cut tap water for tens of thousands of people downstream for five days, was flushed into the North River running across Guangdong Province north to south from a Shaoguan zinc smelter last week.

The government has already lowered dam

gates at the Baishiyao hydropower plant near Yingde, 54 miles downstream from Shaoguan, to try to stall and dilute the pollutants.

Now it is to dump chemicals into the water, Yingde government spokesman Huang Zhensheng told Reuters by telephone.

"With only 1,200

tons of the chemicals, toxicity can be reduced by 30 per cent," the *Southern Metropolis News* quoted an expert as saying.

Cadmium, a metallic element widely used in batteries, can cause liver and kidney damage and lead to bone diseases. Compounds containing cadmium are also carcinogenic. In China's northeast, the front of a slick of benzene compounds that poisoned drinking water for millions after a chemical plant blast last month has crossed the Russian border through the frozen Amur River.

China apologized again to Russia on Thursday, while Russia's far east city of Khabarovsk readied alternative water supplies, though taps had not been turned off.

MNA/Reuters

## Second China Int'l Press Photo Contest to be held in Shenzhen

BEIJING, 24 Dec— The second China International Press Photo Contest (CHIPP) is to be held in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, from March to May 2006, the organizers said on Friday morning.

The contest, which

is organized by the Photojournalism Society of China (CPS) and sponsored by the Shenzhen Association for International Cultural Exchanges and Shenzhen Press Group, follows the same theme as this year's contest, which is "Peace & Development".

MNA/Xinhua

## Lawyer says journalist to go to trial in China

BEIJING, 24 Dec — China is sending a Chinese journalist working for the *New York Times* to trial charged with exposing state secrets, his lawyer said on Friday. Zhao Yan, who worked as a researcher for the paper before his arrest in September last year, won the Reporters Without Borders 2005 prize this month for journalists who have "shown a strong commitment to Press freedom".

"The way they have done this shows they know how controversial the charge is," lawyer Mo Shaoping told Reuters. He said the prosecution sent the case "back for reinvestigation twice and then waited until the last day to notify us".

The bill of indictment would probably be received by the court next week, Mo said. Once it had been received, the court would have between one and one-and-a-half months to hear the case.

Zhao faces a possible prison sentence of 10 years or longer after security officials charged him with telling the *New York Times* details about rivalry between China's outgoing Communist Party leader, Jiang Zemin, and new leader Hu Jintao.—MNA/Reuters

## US conducts monitoring of sites for radiation

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — The US Government has run a top secret programme to monitor radiation levels at over 100 sites in the Washington, DC, area and at least five other cities since the 11 September, 2001, attacks, the *US News and World Report* said on Friday.

The programme monitors, homes, businesses, and warehouses, plus similar sites in search of a terrorist nuclear bomb, a report of the magazine's online edition said.

In some cases, the monitoring required investigators to go on to the property under surveillance, without search warrants or court orders, and some participants were threatened with loss of their jobs when they questioned the legality of the operation, according to the report. The programme was confirmed by some government officials, the *Cable News Network* reported.

At its peak, the programme involved three vehicles in Washington, DC, monitoring 120 sites per day, drawn up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). For some 10 months, officials conducted daily monitoring, and they have resumed daily checks during periods of high threat, according to the *US News and World Report*.

The programme has also operated in at least five other cities when threat levels there have risen: Chicago, Detroit, Las Vegas, New York, and Seattle.

The revelation of the programme came following a report last week that the White House approved electronic surveillance of US targets by the National Security Agency without court orders. These and other developments suggested that the government's domestic spying programmes since 9/11 have been far broader than previously thought.

The nuclear surveillance programme began in early 2002 and has been run by the FBI and the Department of Energy's Nuclear Emergency Support Team, citing two individuals with knowledge of the programme. In up to 15 per cent of the cases the monitoring needed to take place on private property, such as on private driveways, but government officials familiar with the programme insisted it was legal. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police block the road by a shattered vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

# Myanma sugar industry with bright future

Article & photos by *Thaung Win Bo*



*Sugarcane plants in Kangyigon are as high as 13 feet.*

tion of these species in various regions, and we've also tested their resistance to insects to find out their reliability in the interests of the farmers," he said.

So far, the enterprise has imported 78 foreign species of sugarcane from the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Indonesia, the US, Malaysia, Thailand and India.

Pyinmana and Toungoo regions in Mandalay Division produce sugarcane most in Myanmar. To be exact, the sugarcane grown in Pyinmana, Lewe and Tatkon townships is categorized into Group (A) level and that grown in Yedashe, Pyu and Zeyawady townships into Group (B) level.

In an interview at

"The targeted yield is 30 tons an acre. On average, per acre yield will be 30.50 tons in Kangyigon and 30.15 tons in Sharbyin.

"Our department is allocating lands and rendering agricultural methods and giving educative talks to the farmers for boosting production. With the use of high-yield sugarcane strains, the output has reached more than 40 tons an acre. Now, the farmers have placed considerable reliance on such a profitable crop because it is durable and resistant to bad weather," he said.

It is learnt that a standard sugarcane plant is as high as 15 feet. The average height of the sugarcane plants I witnessed on 20 November in Kangyigon was about 13 feet. The plants being



*Big and succulent sugarcane plants.*

## Pyinmana and Toungoo regions in Mandalay Division produce sugarcane most in Myanmar.

The Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise is pursuing its three objectives — to cover domestic sugar consumption, to further supply raw materials for domestic sugar-based industries, and to export surplus sugar.

Asked about the enterprise in an interview, Managing Director U Ye Htut said that in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the enterprise is extending the growing of sugarcane in the department-owned areas to develop the sugar industry that can fetch a healthy amount of foreign exchange.

He said, "The enterprise has distributed quality species of sugarcane along with advanced agricultural methods to the farmers for the development of the Myanmar sugarcane and sugar industry. Since 1996, we have carried out research with the objectives we lay down annually as the project to produce quality species of



*Boilers of the Nawade Sugar Mill in Pyay.*

sugarcane based on the Pyinmana Sugarcane Research and Propagation Farm. In this regard, we have placed an emphasis on production of hybrid strains and selecting of suitable domestic and foreign species.

"Now, we're doing scientific research for production of hybrid species," he said, adding that "according to the results we have gained, 20 promising species have been selected. We've carried out experimental cultiva-

Kangyigon 200-acre sugarcane fields of the Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise near Pyay, Deputy General Manager (In-Charge of Pyay Zone) U Bo Yee said, "We've put into motion a plan to set up a 3000-acre sugarcane field each in Kangyigon and Sharbyin in Pyay Zone as department-owned ones since 2005-2006 sugarcane season. So, we'll have to take all necessary measures to reach the target in coming five years.

big and succulent, it is expected to exceed the targeted yield. The sugar produced by the Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise had been exported till 2001-2002, and the majority of it went to Tanzania, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

He said, "Now, production of import-substitute goods is making progress in our nation. So, we've sold sugar to local factories by foreign currency such as coffee mix factories, sweetened con-

densed milk factories and soft drink factories. The State-owned sugar mills have been able to manufacture international quality sugar and sold it to them as they wish. So, the Myanmar sugar industry can be said to be making progress in accordance with the objectives," he said.

It is required to coordinate to ensure harmony in growing, harvesting, purchasing, transport-

ing and milling sugarcane on schedule so as to develop the sugar industry, an agro-based industry.

With the 2000-ton sugar mills, the Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise has achieved remarkable success in earning foreign exchange and contributing towards the development of the sugar industry of the nation.

**Translation: MS**  
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*A bundle of sugarcane on its way to the crushing machine.*

# Border areas witness sustained progress

## Development of border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government

### Development of forestry and livestock breeding sectors in border areas

In the Union of Myanmar, regions which experienced evil legacy of colonialists most were border areas. Colonialists have intentionally created develop-

ment gap between the plain and the hilly regions to sow seeds of narrow-minded racism among national people.

Therefore, remote areas of the country

lagged behind in development after the plain. With the aim of totally wiping out these evil legacies, the Tatmadaw government has laid down the national policy— non-disintegra-



*Fish from the fish breeding ponds in Mongma region, Shan State (East) being sold to local people.*

### Development of forestry and livestock breeding sectors in border areas

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Reserved forest	-	11	11
2	Reserved forest under implementation	-	14	14
3	Forest nursery	-	14	14
4	Livestock breeding farm	-	19	19
5	Livestock breeding and Animal husbandry office	-	41	41
6	Distribution of animals (1=100,000)	-	111	111

tion of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—and is trying its best for ensuring stability of the State, strengthening national unity and narrowing development gap

among national brethren.

Thanks to these endeavours, border areas which have suffered evil legacy of colonialists have developed markedly. Development drives are being carried out systematically in 22 border area de-

velopment regions.

The table shows the development of forestry and livestock breeding sectors among others in border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MCBA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 25 Dec— The ninth annual meeting of Myanmar Customs Brokers Association took place at Lapyawun Plaza on Alanpya Phaya road in Dagon Township this

morning.

Chairman of the association U Myo Thant made an opening speech. Next, Director-General U Khin Maung Lin of Customs Department and

President U Win Myint of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry spoke on the occasion. The association members approved an-

nual reports and financial statements for the year 2004-2005.

Chairman U Myo Thant then gave concluding remarks.

MNA



*Chairman U Myo Thant speaking at the annual meeting of MCBA.—MNA*



*Family of U Tin Hlaing Ohn-Daw Cho Cho Myint, sons—Maung Pyi Aung Hlaing and Maung Zwe Phone Myint of No 82/83 on Myakantha street of 10th-mile in Insein Township donates K 100,000 to the Hninzigon Home for the aged through Prof Dr Daw May Win Maung, member of Management Board of the home for the aged.*

# Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Construction Project

(from page 16)

At present, construction tasks of the approach bridge on Mandalay bank have been completed by cent per cent, and similar tasks on Sagaing Bank completed nearly cent per cent. Furthermore, the iron arch frames have been installed at the main bridge between RP 5 and RP 6. So far, 824 metres of 1,126 metres of iron frames have been installed.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party oversaw development of Mandalay Kandawgyi Gardens and sanitation tasks along Thingaza Creek in a motorcade.

They also inspected Mandalay Zaygyodaw and its environs and progress of



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meets the secretary and executives of Mandalay Division USDA.—MNA

Mandalay.

Secretary-General

of the Union Solidarity and Development Association

U Htay Oo, Secretariat Members U Aung Thauung and U Thein Zaw, and CEC member U Thein Swe, who accompanied the Senior General, met with the

secretary of Mandalay Division USDA and executives, secretaries and executives of Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, Myingyan and Meiktila District USDAs, trainees

of Diploma in Leadership Enhancement Course and USDA members at Mandalay Division USDA Office on 73rd Street at 6 pm.

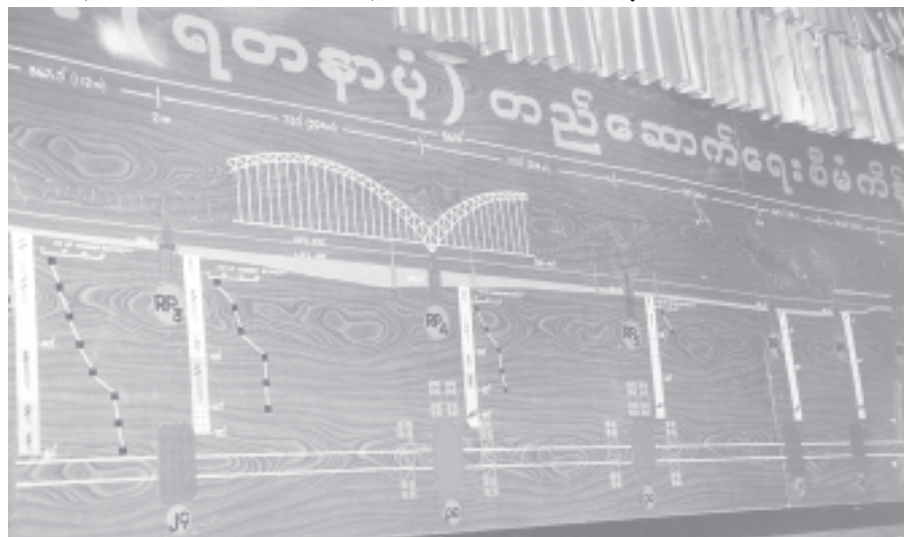
The Mandalay Di-

vision USDA Secretary and officials reported on organizational tasks of the division association and activities in education and social affairs.

Secretary-General U Htay Oo and Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw gave instructions on functions of the association at different levels, and greeted them cordially.

MNA

**Construction tasks of the approach bridge on Mandalay bank have been completed by cent per cent, and similar tasks on Sagaing Bank completed nearly cent per cent. Furthermore, the iron arch frames have been installed at the main bridge between RP 5 and RP 6. So far, 824 metres of 1,126 metres of iron frames have been installed.**



Charts showing construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).—MNA



### Three basic education schools in Hlinethaya...

(from page 16)  
The commander formally unveiled the signboard and they inspected the room, art studio and domestic science room.

Similarly, the multimedia classroom was opened at BEHS No 1.

The cash donation ceremony for multimedia classrooms was held at BEHS No 1.

In his address, the commander said there are 163 high schools, 246 middle schools and 2,256 primary schools in Yangon Divi-

sion. The multimedia classrooms were opened at 106 schools. Students had more learning opportunities and intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the State relies would turn out soon, he said.

He urged the teachers to nurture their students to possess high qualifications and patriotism and to value the Union Spirit and cultural heritage.

On behalf of the schoolheads, Headmistress of Hlinethaya No 1 BEHS Daw Aye Myint

briefed them on multimedia classrooms at the school and Hlinethaya Township Education Officer U Tin Maung Oo on efforts made for opening of multimedia classrooms.

Next, the commander, the minister, deputy minister and directors-general accepted total cash donations K 25,499,110 donated by wellwishers.

After Minister Dr Chan Nyein expressed thanks and the ceremony came to an end. — MNA



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donation from a wellwisher at the opening ceremonies of multimedia classrooms in Hlinethaya Township.— MNA

## Mandalay Mayor inspects sanitary arrangements in Mandalay City



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspects beautifying of Mandalay Kandawgyi Gardens.— MNA

YANGON, 25 Dec — Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han together with officials inspected Htonebo-Mytinge road section of Mandalay City circular road on 17 December and left instructions there.

The Mandalay mayor and party also inspected construction of

Taungthaman Lake circular road at the entrance of Yadanabon University and greening tasks. They then looked into earth works, extension and maintenance of Kyesun-Nyaung Kwe-Oh Bo road section of the city circular road and gave necessary instructions to the

officials. The mayor and party oversaw Mandalay moat and greening tasks carried out at the vicinity of the moat.

On 18 December morning, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and party sanitary arrangements being carried out in Aungmyathazan Township and at the

Mandalay city circular road. On arrival at Mandalay Kandawgyi, they inspected beautifying tasks being undertaken there and left instructions.— MNA

### Tatmadaw, departmental vehicles checked on dry day

YANGON, 25 Dec — Member of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee leader of the supervisory group Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe together with departmental heads, and leader of the supervisory group Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, deputy leader Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and departmental heads supervised functions of the dry day inspection teams at the main points in Yangon City this morning and afternoon.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles from 7 am to 5 pm today.

MNA

## NC delegates visit pagodas, churches in Yangon

YANGON, 25 Dec — Under the arrangements of Invitation and Accommodation Sub-committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee, National Convention delegates visited Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda and Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) yesterday, the holiday of the National Convention.

Similarly, Christians visited churches today, Christmas Day.

Yesterday morning, NC delegates, accompanied by officials of Invitation and Accommodation Sub-committee, arrived at Kaba Aye Pagoda, here. U Hla Min of the pagoda board of trustees extended greetings and explained the brief history of the pagoda.

After paying homage to the Buddha image, the delegates donated K 84,400 to the funds of the pagoda. The delegates visited the pagoda.

On arrival at Maha Pasana Cave, Adviser Daw Khin Nwe Han Kyi to the Religious Affairs Department and U Arnt Maung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs briefed the delegates on facts about the cave. The delegates viewed round the Archive of Sixth Buddhist Synod, and the Pitakat Taik.

The delegates proceeded to Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) and paid homage to the Tooth Relic Pagoda and nine Buddha images. Member of the pagoda board of trustees U Sein Han explained the brief history of the pagoda. The NC delegates made cash donation of K 88,730.

Likewise, Christian delegates of the National Convention visited Kayin Baptist Church in Taungthugon in Insein Township and Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) in East Gyogon.

In the afternoon, they went to X'mas celebration at Phasi Hall on Insein Station Road in Nanthagong Ward in Insein Township. NC delegate Neurosurgical Professor Dr Saw Hsai Mon Tha extended greetings, and NC delegate U Saw Htar Lon of Kayin State explained matters related to Phasi drum of Kayin national race, Kayin youth of Kayin literature and culture committee entertained the guests with Kayin don dance and Wah-hngat bamboo dance.

At Kwekabw (Zwegabin) special hospital, in-charge of the hospital Professor Dr Saw Hsai Mon Tha briefed the delegates on functions of the hospital and health care services.

MNA

## 2nd special sales to mark 150th anniversary of manufacturing Imperial Leather Soap, Cussons Baby Products held

YANGON, 25 Dec — Customers and buyers thronged the second special sales to mark the 150th anniversary of manufacturing Imperial Leather Soap, Cussons Baby Products and

Personal Goods by Cussons International Ltd at Excel Shopping Mall at Shwegondaing traffic light in Bahan Township today, X'mas day.

Excel Co Ltd distributes over 300 kinds

of personal products including Imperial Leather Soap and Cussons baby products in Myanmar. These products are favorite items in over 150 countries.

MNA



Second special sales to mark 150th anniversary of manufacturing Imperial Leather Soap and Cussons Baby Products in progress at Excel Shopping Mall.— MNA

### All this needs to be known

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

## 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



Security personnel from a Jakarta hotel dressed in Santa Claus outfits conduct a security check on a car before it enters a hotel area in Jakarta, on 23 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

## Production of quality tea increases in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 25 Dec — There has been a remarkable increase in production capacity of the Nepal Tea Development Corporation after its privatization.

### Moderate quake jolts western Turkey

ANKARA, 25 Dec — An earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter Scale shook western Turkey on Saturday, causing no casualties, the Kandilli Observatory said.

The quake occurred at 05:56 am (0356 GMT) and the epicentre was at the town of Akhisar in Manisa Province. The neighbouring towns of Akhisar and surrounding Izmir province also felt the quake.

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey. A strong quake hit western Turkey in 1999, killing more than 18,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua

According to statistics issued here by the corporation, one of the major tea producers in the country, on Saturday, the production rate of tea of seven tea estates in some districts in eastern parts of the country is reported to have increased threefold after they were privatized.

In its first five years of privatization, the corporation produced 500,000 kilos of tea annually. Presently, the production of quality tea has increased to 1,400,000 kilos, the corporation stated in a news release.

Earlier, they were under the ownership of the government. The corporation had to incur heavy losses every year due to frequent political interference, mismanagement of the estates and weak management, the news release said.

As per the government's policy to privatize

all corporations under its ownership, it handed over the management of tea estates in some districts to Tribeni Sanghai Group of India in the year 2000.

The workers of tea estates are happy as they are getting good salaries and facilities from the new management, said Amar Bahadur Mugrati, chairman of the Tea Workers' Association of Ilam District, some 500 kilometres east of Kathmandu.

Nepal's annual tea production has touched 14.55 million kilos. Of the total production, 98 per cent is exported to foreign countries, according to statistics issued by the Nepal Tea and Coffee Development Board.

Some 60,000 people are engaged in tea cultivation in 16,000 hectares of land in Nepal. About 40 of the 75 districts in the country engaged in tea cultivation.

MNA/Xinhua

## (၅၅) နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ပြည့်

- နေ့ရက် - ၃-၁-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၁-၁-၂၀၀၆
- အချိန် - နံနက် (၀၉၀၀) နာရီမှ ညနေ (၁၇၀၀) နာရီ
- နေရာ - တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ၊ ဦးစိစာရလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

(မည်သူမဆို အခမဲ့ လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။)

## Chinese version of Mercedes-Benz

### E-class sedans hit market

BEIJING, 25 Dec — Beijing Benz-DaimlerChrysler Automotive Corporation, a Sino-German joint venture, announced that Mercedes-Benz E-class sedans manufactured in Beijing were on sale as of Thursday and they were ac-

cepting orders beginning the same day.

On sale are E280 and E200K sedans, and retail prices are 620,000 yuan (76,449 US dollars) and 525,000 yuan (64,735 US dollars) each, respectively, said An Qingheng, chairman of

the board of the joint venture.

Beijing Benz-DaimlerChrysler is a new joint venture of DaimlerChrysler and Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Company (BAIC).

The joint venture has built a new plant in the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone at Yizhuang, southern Beijing.

DaimlerChrysler and BAIC each have a 50-per-cent stake in the joint venture, with a co-operation term of 30 years. The joint venture, which has a registered capital of 400 million US dollars, is responsible for production of Mercedes-Benz E- and C-Class sedans in China.

Production in the new plant began in mid-2005.

An predicted 900 Mercedes-Benz E-Class cars would be sold by the end of the year, and the volume of sale would amount to 500 million yuan (61.65 million US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesian Police link recent robberies with terrorism

JAKARTA, 25 Dec — The Indonesian Police have said they would step up their investigation into a string of recent robberies across the country amid fears the robberies were related to terrorism.

The police would investigate the robberies to determine whether they were carried out by terrorists to finance their operations in the country.

"According to information gathered by the police, Imam Samudra and his team members robbed banks and jewellery stores to raise the funds for the terrorist attack in Bali," National Police spokesman Senior Commander, Anton Bahrul Alam was quoted Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

He referred to the convicted mastermind of the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

There is concern that terrorists are again resorting to robberies to raise money for attacks, he said. This concern is heightened because of warnings that terrorists are planning actions during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

A string of robberies occurred in separate places this month, targeting bank customers and jewellery shops. At least three people were killed when trying to stop the robbers.

In a recent hearing with legislators, National Police Chief Sutanto said robbery is one of the ways terrorists raise funds. — MNA/Xinhua

Man and child walk out of a snowman model outside a shopping mall with Christmas decorations in downtown Singapore on 23 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET



## 18,000-km river routes in Bangladesh lose navigability

**DHAKA, 25 Dec**—Over 18,000 kilometres of river routes across Bangladesh have lost navigability because of continuous siltation since 1971, while another 2,200 kilometres of river routes have become risky for plying vessels.

Local daily *New Age* reported on Saturday that the total length of river ways was 24,000 kilometres in 1971, but it came down to 8,400 kilometres and 5,200 kilometres respectively during the rainy and dry seasons in 1984.

At present, the river ways shrank to 6,000 kilometres and 3,800 kilometres during the rainy and dry period.

Lack of dredging, reduction of stream flow, tidal volume, and cross-border flow, and siltation at off-takes (channels) are the main reasons for losing navigability of the rivers, experts said.

These are hampering smooth plying of inland water transports and vessels as well as irrigation facility and fish production, they said, adding that it will put an adverse impact on water

transportation and water resources, if the government does not take necessary steps to navigate the rivers properly.

The chairman of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, M Reaz Hasan Khondaker, was quoted as saying that now they have the capacity of dredging of only three million cubic meters per year as against the demand of nine million cubic metres.

Reaz said they are not in a position to dredge the rivers as per demand mainly due to shortage of dredgers and funds. "We get only 120 million taka (1.85 million US dollars) a year for maintenance and dredging as against the demand of 500 million taka (7.7 million dollars)."

"We think development means road

construction, and many times we construct road filling up rivers, canals, and wetlands, but we never think about its harm," said Abdur Rahim, Associate Professor of the Naval Architect and Marine Engineering Department at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

MNA/Xinhua



Children enjoy a luge ride on an ice slide temporarily set up in front of the French capital's city hall recently.

INTERNET

## Iranian Parl Speaker says seek substantial nuke-negotiations

**TEHERAN, 25 Dec**—The Iranian Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel said here on Saturday that Iran does not want to hold negotiations with the European Union (EU) over its nuclear case just for the sake of negotiations.

"Our policy during previous weeks showed that we are serious in opposition to wasting time and just holding negotiations," Adel was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying.

Adel urged the Europeans to "follow up future talks more seriously", saying the EU were "well aware of the will of the Iranian nation

and government on the restoration of their rights" on the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The speaker also said that Iran would not take initial moves until the next round of bilateral nuclear talks, stressing that Teheran was not pessimistic about the promise of diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

"We should wait to see what issues the Europeans will raise. There is no reason to express our pessimism beforehand," Adel added.

Based on the agreement reached at a round of tentative negotiations on Wednesday, Iran and the EU have decided to hold another round of substantial nuclear talks

on 18 January.

The EU, the longtime broker of the Iranian nuclear issue, is trying to defuse the Iranian nuclear crisis by pressing Teheran on an alleged Russian proposal, which allows Iran to conduct uranium conversion activities in exchange for the country's transfer of the enrichment process to Russia.

However, Iran has resolutely rejected the proposal, stressing repeatedly that the whole process of uranium enrichment must be conducted in its own territory and restricting the scope of further negotiations to a timetable over Iran's resumption of uranium enrichment work.

The bilateral nuclear negotiations between Iran and the EU, which started after Iran suspended the enrichment-related activities in November 2004, had been stranded since Iran defiantly resumed uranium conversion activities, a precursor to the enrichment, in early August.

The EU insists that Iran must halt all work for nuclear fuel cycle construction, including uranium enrichment, while Teheran defends it as a legal right enshrined by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

## Yemeni tribesmen free kidnapped Austrian tourists

**SANAA, 25 Dec**—Two Austrian tourists were freed on Saturday by kidnappers in Yemen who had seized them to press the government to release fellow tribesmen jailed for trying to go to Iraq to fight US forces, Yemeni officials said.

The Austrians were in good health and had been taken to a hotel in the mountainous Marib Province, where they were kidnapped on Wednesday by members of the Abidah tribe, said an Interior Ministry statement. "The two Austrians ... will continue their tourist programme in Yemen. Police are searching for the kidnappers," it said. Tribal sources said negotiators, including senior Abidah tribesmen, had succeeded in convincing the kidnappers that the government would look into their demands.

It was not clear if the jailed tribesmen were linked to Islamist groups such as al-Qaeda, which is involved in an insurgency in Iraq and has sympathisers in Yemen.—MNA/Reuters



US soldiers check a car while on patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Hawijah recently.—INTERNET

## 28 countries to attend commemoration of tsunami in Aceh

**JAKARTA, 25 Dec**—As many as 28 countries have expressed their readiness to join the first anniversary commemoration of the tsunami, which had ravaged Aceh, to be held in Banda Aceh on 26 December, according to media reports here Saturday.

Yuri Octavian Thamrin, spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Friday night that President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will attend the anniversary

ceremony. The ministry has sent invitations to 87 countries.

Until Friday, 28 countries including Timor Leste have pledged to attend the commemoration. Timor Leste President Xanana Gusmao will represent his country, Antara news agency Saturday quoted the spokesman as saying.

Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and South Korea will send their ministers while Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and Vietnam will send representatives of ministerial level. The other 23 countries will be represented by their ambassadors or heads of representatives in Indonesia. They are Austria, Belgium, China, France, India, Jordan,

Kuwait, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Russia and Sweden.

Yuri said that the ministry had also sent invitations to international organizations and Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan.

It was reported that Annan will be represented by his assistant for natural disasters affairs Margareta Whalstrom.

After attending Christmas celebrations with the people of Nias Island in North Sumatra, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is scheduled to attend the anniversary commemoration of the tsunami disaster in Aceh on 26 December.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

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၁။ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

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၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂-၁-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။

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**ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ စက်ပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ကုန်ရေးကော်မတီ**

**မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား**

အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

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**Roche grants Tamiflu licence to Indian firm**

**ZURICH, 24 Dec— Drug maker Roche Holding AG said on Friday it had granted a sub-licence to India’s Hetero Drugs to produce Tamiflu for developing nations, the second such deal to boost output of the scarce anti-viral drug.**

The agreement with Hetero covers India and other developing nations and allows the Indian firm to produce the flu treatment specifically for governments wishing to create emergency stores.

The decision to

outsource production of Tamiflu to other companies follows pressure on the Swiss drug maker to increase output as governments around the world stockpile the medicine as the best defence against a bird flu pandemic.

Roche said in a statement that the agreement with Hetero would have an immediate effect on availability of the drug, known generically as oseltamivir, in India and other developing countries.

MNA/Reuters

**Beijing to offer scholarship for overseas students, experts**

**BEIJING, 24 Dec — Overseas students and experts in Beijing are able to apply for scholarship from the municipal educational committee now, the educational authority announced Friday.**

With the establishment of the scholarship on Friday, overseas applicants are expected to get tuition fees in different amount if they pass the required examinations, according to Xian Lianping, deputy director with the committee.

Overseas post-graduate students for doctorate will get around 40,000 yuan (5,000 US dollars) every year,

postgraduates will receive some 30,000 yuan (3,750 US dollars) each year, while undergraduates can get an annual aid of 20,000 yuan (2,500 US dollars).

Senior overseas experts who make research in Beijing will enjoy a 20,000 yuan aid every semester and students studying language or other specific majors are also expected to get some scholarship.

The move is expected to attract more overseas students and experts, and maintain Beijing’s leadership in the education of overseas students, said Xian.

A management committee will conduct regular assessment on the distribution of the scholarship and decide whether the students or experts can continue to enjoy the aid in the next year.—MNA/Xinhua

**China’s new generation of trainer aircraft passes state appraisal**

**GUIYANG, 24 Dec— China’s new generation of trainer aircraft, the JL9, has passed appraisal by a state-level expert panel in Guiyang, southwest China’s Guizhou Province.**

The JL9 advanced trainer aircraft has proven very good performances at takeoffs, landings and during flight and can effectively perform pilot training mission, said Song

Wencong, an academican with the Chinese Academy of Engineering and head of the appraisal team.

“The aircraft is equipped with an advanced avionic system and its

cabin design is very similar to that of the third-generation fighter aircraft,” he said.

JL9 has multifunctional displays that make it easier for the pilot to acquire, access and use data, said Song.

The aircraft, designed and manufactured independently by Guizhou Aviation Industrial Group, had the first successful trial flight at the end of 2003.

The 18-month state appraisal test started in June 2004, and by the end of November, the two JL9 aircraft under test had flown for 300 hours and had 412 takeoffs and landings.—MNA/Xinhua

**EU-wide work permit proposed for foreign workers**

**LONDON, 24 Dec — The European Union (EU) has proposed to give foreign skilled workers employment permits in an effort to attract well-educated migrants such as engineers and software technicians.**

The European Commission put forward the idea on Wednesday amid concerns that much-needed migrants prefer working in the US, Canada and Australia instead of the EU.

It called for special rules to help migrants hold seasonal jobs legally in sectors such as agriculture and construction, the *Financial Times* reported on Thursday.

Such manual workers are vital to the industries and could be offered the right to work in the EU for several months each year for up to five years.

The Commission hopes this would discourage tens of thousands of farming and building workers from staying in the Union illegally each year and working on the black market.

Franco Frattini, EU justice commissioner, set out the plans as part of a broad package of migration measures that might lead to formal legislative proposals.

The plans suggest a work permit could be

issued by one country but be valid across the 25-member bloc.

Frattini also wants to make it easier for non-EU citizens working for European companies to travel between their employers’ European offices. The Commission says the EU must better manage the flow of migrants to the Union to overcome skills shortages, the problems of its aging population, illegal arrivals and growing pension bills.—MNA/Xinhua

**Demand for transport services likely to grow in Bangladesh**

**DHAKA, 24 Dec— The overall demand for transport services in Bangladesh is likely to grow strongly as the share of trade in the country’s GDP (gross domestic product) increases.**

Local daily, *The Independent*, quoted Bangladesh Integrated Transport Study as saying on Friday that a transport sector growth rate of 8.9 per cent is required to sustain GDP growth at 7 per cent per year as targeted in the Fifth Five-Year Plan as reported by World Bank.

According to the daily, it requires a national transport system that allows farmers and producers in the hinterland to ship products to major national markets and to major export hubs (ports and airports).

The daily quoted a World Bank report as saying that road density per square kilometre in Bangladesh is the highest in South Asia, yet the rural entrepreneurs lack access to reliable, timely, and year-round transportation services.

Transportation in Bangladesh relies on three main modes: road, which accounts for 73 per cent of passenger kilometres and 63 per cent of freight, transport rail (13 per cent/ 7 per cent) and inland waterways (14 per cent/ 30 per cent).

MNA/Xinhua



*Acehnese men build a new house at Lampuuk village in the outskirts of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on 24 Dec, 2005. A year after the devastating Asian tsunami, Acehnese are rebuilding their homes and lives, though they are marked by the sadness of losing hundreds of thousands of family members.—INTERNET*

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Deputy Director of Lahore Zoo Nasir Saleem holds a three-day old African lion cub who is named Fighter, born in Lahore Zoo, on 24 Dec, 2005 in Lahore, Pakistan. Fighter's mother Rani, an African lioness was also born in Lahore Zoo. INTERNET

# Russian supply vessel docks with "Space Station"

**Moscow, 24 Dec — A Russian cargo spaceship docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Friday after hurtling two days in space to bring supplies — and Christmas gifts — to the two-man crew on the orbiting lab, the Mission Control said.**

The Progress M-55 capsule, which lifted off on Wednesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, successfully hooked up with the station orbiting about 350 kilometres above Earth at 22:46 (1946 GMT), Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin said, quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency. The ship brought 2.5 tons of fuel, water, food

and equipment. Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and US astronaut William McArthur, who have been working on the station since October, will also get a wooden Santa Claus, two red holiday caps, chocolate and gifts from their families.

In a shift from past docking operations, the Progress M-55 docked with

the ISS while its predecessor, the Progress M-54, also stayed with the station. A Progress is usually undocked and deorbited shortly before the launch of the next Progress to free a docking port for the new arrival.

This time, Russian experts decided to keep the Progress M-54 because they wanted the remain-

ing oxygen and fuel on the vessel to be used up before letting it go and be burnt up during re-entry into the atmosphere.

Russia's space programme has been the Space Station's lifeline for nearly three years since US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated returning to Earth in February 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

## Experts say S Korean stem-cell case could taint science

**SEOUL, 24 Dec — News that results of a South Korean study on embryonic stem cells were fabricated did not just embarrass the country but also opened the door to increased criticism of a science already under scrutiny, experts said.**

An investigation panel at the university where renowned scientist Hwang Woo-suk had his laboratory said on Friday the results of a landmark 2005 paper from the team he led were intentionally fabricated.

Hwang's research was celebrated because he had given hope to many suffering from debilitating and deadly diseases.

It could fulfil one of the basic promises of embryonic stem cell research, namely growing genetic-specific tissue that could be transplanted to repair damaged body parts.

Embryonic stem cells are taken from days-old embryos called blastocysts and have the potential to produce any kind of cell or tissue in the human body.

Critics, including US President George W Bush, object to certain types of human embryonic stem cell research because they see it as tantamount to destroying human life.

"The idea of stem cells is still real. That is not a fraud," said Laurie Zoloth, a bioethics professor at Northwestern University, located in the Chicago area.

"Some of the basic optimism, enthusiasm and hopefulness will be tempered by this," she said by telephone.

Medical researchers in the United States have said they expect the scandal in South Korea will not cause a major setback for stem-

cell research, but they think it will be used by those opposed to the field to galvanize their positions. — MNA/Reuters

## Australia's Defence to manage only operational satellite

**CANBERRA, 24 Dec — Australia's Department of Defence will manage the country's only fully owned and operational satellite FedSat from January next year.**

Announcing the move, Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill said on Friday that defence will manage the satellite until December 2008, extending FedSat's useful life to the scientific community by three years. It may also be possible to continue operating the satellite beyond that time. Launched in 2002,

FedSat is a small low earth orbit satellite that follows a near polar sun-synchronous orbit. It carries six payloads performing a variety of scientific and engineering research functions.

Hill said space systems have an ever-increasing benefit for Australia, including precision navigation, global communi-

ties and weather information.

"I am pleased that Defence can ensure that FedSat will continue to be of use to Australia," Hill said in a statement. "It provides defence with an opportunity to broaden its knowledge of spacecraft control and space experimentation," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

of the Beijing Municipal Administration of Industry and Commerce.

It was reported that 34 clients had bought 49 acres of the "moon land" for the company, involving deals of more than 14,000 yuan (1,750 US dollars). The company has refunded all the clients except three who are now abroad and out of contact, according to Li Jie, CEO of the "Lunar Embassy".

Some clients had preferred keeping the land ownership certificates to getting refunded, so the company left the certi-

icates in their hands as souvenirs but refunded them all the same, said Li. Li said that he will appeal to the Beijing municipal government against the penalties imposed on his company on 6 December. Registered on September 5 this year, the so-called "Lunar Embassy" claimed that it was selling land on the moon at 298 yuan (37 US dollars) per acre. The sales formally began on October 19, but were ordered to stop in just three days.

MNA/Xinhua

## "Moon land owners" get full refund from "Lunar Embassy"

**BEIJING, 24 Dec — A Beijing-based company called "Lunar Embassy in China" was deprived of its business licence by Beijing's industrial and commercial watchdog for having allegedly sold "land on the moon".**

The "Lunar Embassy", whose "moon land" sale fell in the category of "speculation and profiteering", was also ordered to pay a fine up to 50,000 yuan (6,300 US dollars), according to the Chaoyang District Branch

of the Beijing Municipal Administration of Industry and Commerce.

It was reported that 34 clients had bought 49 acres of the "moon land" for the company, involving deals of more than 14,000 yuan (1,750 US dollars). The company has refunded all the clients except three who are now abroad and out of contact, according to Li Jie, CEO of the "Lunar Embassy".

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MNA/Xinhua

## Britain to become first country to monitor car journeys

**LONDON, 24 Dec — Britain is to become the first country in the world where the movements of all vehicles will be recorded for the police and security services enabling them to analyze any journey a driver has made over several years, the Independent reported on Thursday.**

Based on a network of cameras that can automatically read every passing number plate, the plan is to build a huge database of vehicle movements with a new national surveillance system expected to hold the records for at least two years.

The network, to be launched in 2006, will incorporate thousands of existing CCTV cameras which are being converted to read number plates automatically night and day to provide round-the-clock coverage of all motorways and main roads, as well as towns, cities, ports and petrol-station forecourts.

By next March, the paper said, a central database installed alongside the Police National Computer in Hendon, north London, will store the details of 35 million number-plate "reads" every day, which will include the time, date and precise location, with camera sites monitored by global positioning satellites. Already there are plans to extend the database by increasing the storage period to five years and by linking thousands of additional cameras, so that details of up to 100 million number plates can be fed each day into the central databank. — MNA/Xinhua



Visitors walk past an ice sculpture on the People Square in Urumchi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 24 Dec, 2005. The ice sculpture is made for the ongoing Silk Road Snow and Ice Festival that opened on 20 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

# SPORTS

## Brazil soccer star Kaka scores with bride

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 25 Dec— AC Milan star Kaka has married his girlfriend, 18-year-old socialite Caroline Celico, in a wedding in Sao Paulo attended by many of his teammates in the Brazil national soccer side.

The church choir sang a song especially written by Kaka, 23, for his bride, according to a guest who asked not to be identified.

The ceremony took place on Friday night at the evangelical Reborn in Christ Church in Sao Paulo — bride and groom are both evangelical Christians.

They then flew by helicopter to avoid the city traffic to a party at a posh hotel.

Among the 600 guests were Brazilian national coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, Ronaldo and Julio Baptista of Real

Madrid, and the groom's fellow AC Milan players, Dida and Cafu.

Caroline's guests included her teenage classmates from the St Paul's British School, which she attended until last year.

"She looked gorgeous," the guest told Reuters.

After the honeymoon, Kaka, whose real name is Ricardo Izecson Santos Leite, will rejoin AC Milan for a match against Parma on 8 January.

Kaka met Caroline, who comes from a wealthy Sao Paulo family, in 2002. Her mother represents fashion house Christian

Dior in Brazil.

The romance survived his transfer from Sao Paulo to Italy in 2003 while she was still at school. They will live together in Italy after the wedding.

MNA/Reuters

## Real Madrid great Di Stefano has heart attack

MADRID, 25 Dec— Real Madrid great Alfredo Di Stefano is in a stable condition in hospital in Sagunto near Valencia after suffering a heart attack in the early hours of Saturday morning.

"Alfredo Di Stefano was admitted to the hospital at 0045 GMT complaining of pains in his chest and tests have revealed that he had suffered an acute heart attack," doctor Victoria de la Cueva said in a statement. "He is in the intensive care unit at the moment.

His condition has improved and he is conscious. He is aware of what is going on, is stable and breathing well on his own." Doctor De la Cueva said the 79-year-old Argentine would remain under observation in the intensive care unit for at least 48 hours.

Di Stefano, Real's honorary president and record goalscorer, led the Spanish club to five consecutive European Cup triumphs between 1956 and 1960 and eight Spanish league titles.

He won the European Footballer of the Year award in 1957 and 1959.

Real president Florentino Perez and his Valencia counterpart Juan Soler said Di Stefano was in good spirits after they visited him in hospital. "I spoke to him and he was very philosophical about what had happened," Perez told reporters.

"He was even managing to have a joke with the doctors," said Soler. "He is a footballing legend and all lovers of the game hope this is no more than a scare and he will be back in action soon."

A versatile player, who could play in midfield or up front, Di Stefano began his career at River Plate in 1945 before joining Colombian club Millonarios four years later following a players' strike in Argentina.

MNA/Reuters

## Owen returns to play at Anfield for Newcastle for first time

LONDON, 25 Dec— Michael Owen scored his 158th and final goal for Liverpool the last time he played at Anfield against Newcastle.

When he returns on Monday, 19 months later, the Magpies striker will be out to end third-place Liverpool's seven-match winning streak in the English Premier League.

Newcastle bought Owen for 17 million pounds (30 million US dollars) in August, one year after Liverpool had sold him to Real Madrid for half that amount. He has scored seven goals in eight games for Newcastle — including a hat trick against West Ham last week — to continue his prolific form.

The 26-year-old has averaged about a goal every two games for England and Liverpool, while he netted 16 goals in 40 games for Madrid despite rarely making the starting team. — MNA/Xinhua



Yukari Nakano of Japan performs her short programme during the women's singles at Japan Figure Skating Championships 2005 in Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2005. Onda placed fifth at 61.46 points after the short programme in the qualifying event for the 2006 Turin Winter Olympic Games. —INTERNET

## Spartak Moscow defender Vidic wants to move to Man Utd

MOSCOW, 25 Dec— Spartak Moscow defender Nemanja Vidic wants to prove himself in English Premier League with Manchester United likely to be destination.

"Spartak is a great club but I want to play in a bigger and better league," the 24-year-old Serbian international was quoted as saying in Friday's Sport-Express newspaper.

Vidic, who joined Spartak from Red Star Belgrade in July 2004, has reportedly been the target of several top clubs, including United and European champions Liverpool. — MNA/Xinhua

## Berbatov wins Bulgarian Footballer of Year award

SOFIA, 25 Dec— Bayer Leverkusen striker Dimitar Berbatov was named Bulgaria's Player of the Year for the second time on Friday.

In a poll by sports writers, Berbatov, who has scored 26 goals in 51 games for Bulgaria, beat Celtic midfielder Stilian Petrov to second and Levski Sofia midfielder Daniel Borimirov third.

CSKA Sofia's Miodrag Jesic won the coach's award ahead of Stanimir Stoilov of Levski Sofia and Litex Lovech's Lupko Petrovich. — MNA/Xinhua

## Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

W	A	T	T	S	8	8	S	H	O	R	E	S
E	8	R	8	I	8	S	8	A	8	E	8	I
A	B	A	N	D	O	N	8	B	A	D	G	E
L	8	I	8	E	8	A	8	I	8	R	8	S
T	A	N	K	8	8	R	E	T	R	E	A	T
H	8	8	8	S	E	E	8	U	8	S	8	A
8	F	R	E	E	8	8	8	A	L	S	O	8
M	8	O	8	D	8	A	L	L	8	8	8	T
E	L	U	D	I	N	G	8	8	F	A	I	R
L	8	S	8	M	8	I	8	L	8	L	8	A
T	W	I	C	E	8	L	E	O	P	A	R	D
E	8	N	8	N	8	E	8	C	8	R	8	E
D	I	G	I	T	S	8	8	H	U	M	I	D

## Henson could miss whole of Six Nations

LONDON, 25 Dec— Wales coach Mike Ruddock is resigned to possibly doing without suspended centre Gavin Henson throughout the Six Nations championship.

Henson, handed a 10-week ban on Friday for deliberately elbowing an opponent in a Heineken Cup match, will miss the first three tournament games for the Grand Slam champions in February.

The Lions centre, who has already missed most of the season so far with a groin injury, is suspended until March 5 and could struggle for match fitness for the remaining two internationals against Italy and France.

"It's very unfortunate for him because we all want him to focus his energies on playing some really good rugby for the Ospreys," Ruddock told BBC Sport.

"He's been out for a long time and some continuity in his game would have been just what he and

Welsh rugby needed.

"A lack of rugby could create severe difficulties, but these are professional rugby players now...so I'm not committing to anything other than to say 'let's see how things are at that time'," he added. — MNA/Reuters



Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, left, of Germany, moves toward the basket while being guarded by Seattle SuperSonics' Reggie Evans during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game on 23 Dec, 2005, in Seattle. Nowitzki led all scorers with 34 points in the Mavericks 101-98 victory. —INTERNET

## "Prensa Latina" awards Cuba's Menendez, Brazil's Ronaldinho

HAVANA, 25 Dec— Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said in a statement on Friday it had awarded Cuban javelinist Osleidys Menendez and Brazilian footballer Ronaldinho Gaucha as sports people of the year for 2005.

The two lead the polls in the 135 news organizations surveyed by the agency. Menendez who won a gold medal and set a world record at Helsinki games was chosen best athlete by 84 news organizations, beating fellow Helsinki medal winner, Bahama's Tonique Williams-Darling, by 25 points.

Ronaldinho, who recently won the European golden ball award, won 93 votes versus 69 votes from Argentine basketball star Emanuel Ginobili, who plays for

the Detroit Pistons in the United States' National Basketball Association league.

The top ten included other eight athletes: Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell, Cuban 800 meters runner Zulia Calatayud, Ecuadorean walker Jefferson Perez, Colombian motorbiker Juan Pablo Montolla, Dominican major league baseball player Albert Pujols, Argentine football player Lionel Messi, Cuban judo champion Yurisel Laborde and Cuban cyclist Lisandra Guerra. — MNA/Xinhua

# Siem Reap Airport traffic records 1 mln passengers in year

PHNOM PENH, 25 Dec— Cambodia's Siem Reap International Airport on Thursday welcomed its first 1 millionth passenger in a single year, local newspaper reported on

Saturday. The airport's operator Societe Concessionaire des Aeroports (SCA) announced Friday that British women Harriet Crawford-Turner become the one millionth passenger.

Last year marked the first time that Phnom Penh International Airport reached the 1 million-passenger mark and there will be a slight increase at the capital's airport this year, *The Cambodia Daily* quoted

SCA spokesman Norinda Khek as saying. "Tourists are rediscovering Cambodia. Before they may have heard of Angkor Wat but now, more and more, they know it is in Cambodia.

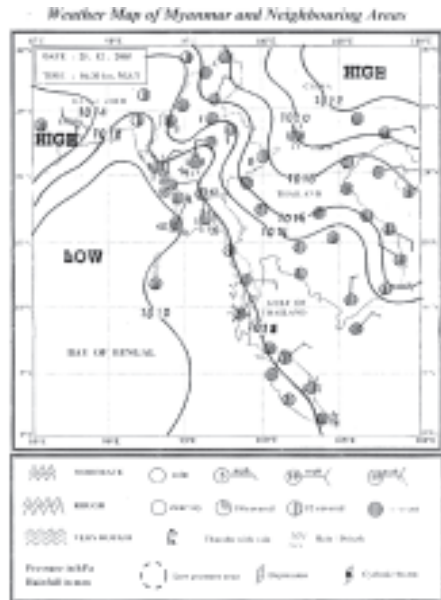
The government and others have done a good job on promotion this year," he said.

In 2004, 799,743 international and domestic passengers arrived in Siem Reap, compared to 551,344 in 2003, Norinda Khek said, adding that in mid-2006, a new international terminal will open at Siem Reap Airport and the current terminal will service domestic passengers exclusively.

MNA/Xinhua

## "Untimely Rainfall Warning" (Issued at (10:30) hrs MST on 25-12-2005)

According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, the remanant cloud clusters of the dissipated tropical depression over the East Central Bay are covering the country. Under the influence of these cloud clusters, scattered to widespread untimely rain or thundershowers are likely in Rakhine, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions within next (24) hrs commencing noon today.



## WEATHER

Sunday, 25 December, 2005

### Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Southern Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, (8°C) above normal in Northern Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Mindat (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (3.07) inches, Pyapon and Maubin (2.64) inches each, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.66) inches, Yangon (Central) (1.62) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.46) inches. Thayawady (1.42) inches, Kyaukpyu (1.38) inches, Yamethin (1.26) inches and Pynmana (0.63) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-12-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 25-12-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 25-12-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 24-12-2005 was (1.8) hours (approx).

Rainfalls on 25-12-2005 were (1.46) inches at Mingaladon, (1.66) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.62) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2005 were (105.08) inches at Mingaladon, (104.53) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.06) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (22:30) hours MST on 24-12-2005.

**Bay inference:** According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over East Central Bay become unimportant. Weather is cloudy in the Southeast Bay, Andaman Sea and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 26-12-2005:** Scattered to widespread rain or thundershowers are likely in Rakhine, Shan, Mon, Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated 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 to (40) mph.

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

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-12-2005:** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-12-2005:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



A postal employee shows a new stamp collection for sale to commemorate the first anniversary of the 26 Dec deadly tsunami, at the Post Office on 25 Dec, 2005 in Bangkok. INTERNET



## Monday, 26 December Tune in today

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: -Theme — (The Peach King)
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: -Heat of the nights (Aqua)
- 8.50 am** National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -Until the end of time (West Life)
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: -Born to make you happy (Britney Spear)
- 1:30 pm** News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music: -To the moon & back (Savage Garden)
- You're still the one (Shania Twain)
- What my heart wants to say (Garath Gates)
- 9:00 pm** Spotlight on the star
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Radiomagazine
- 9:35 pm** Vocal gems: -Loving every minutes (Jennifer Brown)
- Say a prayer (Jaylos Dayne)
- 9.45 pm** News & Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

**Monday, 26 December**  
View on today

**7:00 am**

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိ က၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ မွေဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Song of national races
- 8:05 am**
6. အတိ:ပြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:15 am**

7. Cute little dancers
- 8:25 am**
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးသံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရှုပေးအထူးပြု) (ရှုပေးပေး)
- 4:45 pm**
4. Dance variety
- 5:00 pm**
5. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာတေးဂီတလေးတော်တေးသံများ
- 5:15 pm**
6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတေး
- 5:30 pm**
7. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:45 pm**
8. Industrial achievement

**6:00 pm**

9. (၅၀)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:15 pm**
10. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရင်ဆော့ပြေးပုရွက်ဆိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၄၉)
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်လှေကားထစ်လေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)
- 7:35 pm**
14. အချစ်အမြင်အာတာ အခွန်ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်ငံစာစေ့ ဒီဂရီ "နှစ်ဆယ်လေးမည် ရောင် နုပွင့်လန်း အလှပန်း" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
- 16. International news.**
- 17. Weather report.**
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူလက်ဆောင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)**
- 19. The next day's programme**

**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

**Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) under construction**

(from page 1)

Senior General Than Shwe and party looked into installation of iron arch frames at the main section of the bridge. They also viewed the charts of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported to the Senior General on facts about the bridge, installation of iron frames, and use of existing old bridge.

In-charge of the construction tasks on Sagaing Bank Deputy Superintending Engineer U Hsan Win and in-charge of the construction tasks on Mandalay Bank Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint briefed the Senior General and party on progress in building the approach structures on Sagaing and Mandalay sides, construction of the approach sections of the bridge, installation of



Senior General Than Shwe views the charts of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).—MNA

iron arch frames at the main section of the bridge and progress of tasks.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that

construction of the bridge is gaining momentum and efforts are

to be made to complete the bridge meeting the set standard.

Engineers of Public Works are building four-lane Ayeyawady Bridge

(Yadanabon) measuring 5,614 feet long. (See page 8)

**Engineers of Public Works are building four-lane Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) measuring 5,614 feet long.**

**Three basic education schools in Hlinethaya get multimedia classrooms**

YANGON, 25 Dec —The multimedia classrooms were opened at basic education middle and high schools in Hlinethaya Township this morning.

A ceremony to open multimedia classroom was held at No 3 Basic Education Middle School on Tabinshwehti Road, Ward 5 in the township at 9 am. Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Head-

mistress Daw Yu Yu Tin and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Win Naung formally opened the multimedia classroom.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe formally unveiled the signboard. The commander, the minister and guests inspected the room, art studio and domestic science room.

A similar ceremony was held at No 5 BEMS on Bogyoke Street in Ward 1 in the township.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein, Headmaster U Myint Zaw and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Shwe Mann formally opened the multimedia classroom.

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Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe observes the study of the students of Hlinethaya Township No 5 BEMS with the aid of Multimedia classroom.—MNA

**INSIDE**

It is required to coordinate to ensure harmony in growing, harvesting, purchasing, transporting and milling sugarcane on schedule so as to develop the sugar industry, an agro-based industry. With the 2,000-ton sugar mills, the Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise has achieved remarkable success in earning foreign exchange and contributing towards the development of the sugar industry of the nation.