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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

Delegate groups almost finished compiling proposal papers and will submit them to National Convention Plenary session soon

National Convention Convening Commission holds meeting 10/2005



Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaks at the National Convention Convening Commission meeting 10/2005.—MNA

YANGON, 27 Dec — The meeting No 10/2005 of the National Convention Convening Commission was held at the commission office in Nyaungnabin camp in Hmawby Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of the commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and

Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Vice-Chairmen of the commission Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary of the commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and mem-

bers.

Joint Secretary-2 of the commission Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the National Convention has been in progress for nearly a month and the

tasks and functions of the National Convention are successful due to systematic management of NCCC, National Convention Convening Work Committee and National Convention Convening Management Committee and cooperation of the delegates with national outlook.

He said the eight delegate groups are compiling, reading and discussing proposal papers regarding the findings of the Chairman of the Work Committee for communication among the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region and

State Hluttaw to be included in legislation sector in drafting the State Constitution. The delegate groups have almost finished compiling their proposal papers and they will submit them to the National Convention Plenary session soon, he said.

He said the commission is to coordinate the matters in connection with the formulation of the basic principles and detailed basic principles for the State Constitution in accord with the objectives of the National Convention. Rallies to hail the National Convention are being

held in states and divisions.

He said Management Committee and sub-committees are carrying out their tasks smoothly. He urged NCCC, Work Committee, Management Committees and sub-committees to continue to discharge their respective duties until the successful conclusion of National Convention.

Next, members of the commission discussed papers presented by Work Committee to the commission. The Secretary-1 took part in the discussions and the meeting came to a close at 11.50 am. —MNA

Commission is to coordinate the matters in connection with the formulation of the basic principles and detailed basic principles for the State Constitution in accord with the objectives of the National Convention.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 28 December, 2005

Try to be able to produce machines of high quality

The government is trying to build a peaceful and modern nation with the active participation of the national peoples. In doing so, priority is being given to the development of the industrial sector, the key to modernizing the nation. Now new factories and workshops are being built and new industrial zones established wherever possible. Moreover, innovations are being made for the technological development and increased production.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by responsible personnel, visited 11 towns in Kachin State and Mandalay and Magway Divisions from 11 to 26 December, inspecting the work on human resources development, construction of airports and bridges and regional development, hotel and tourism industry, health care services, preservation of ancient cultural heritage and conservation of environment, dam projects and industrial development work.

In his meeting with responsible personnel during his visit to the Mandalay Industrial Zone (2) on 25 December, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on shifting the production of spare parts to that of advanced machines.

The government and private industrialists are making concerted efforts for the development of the industrial sector. All the necessary assistance is being rendered to industrial zones so that they can boost production quantitatively and qualitatively by using modern high-tech machinery. Of the industrial zones established with the assistance of the government, the Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya Industrial Zones have now begun producing spare parts of machines and agricultural implements.

Now, industries that can support the agricultural sector, industries based on agricultural produce, automobile industries and plastic industries are developing. Special efforts should be made for factories and workshops to operate to its full capacity, to boost production and to produce import-substitute machines and spare parts.

At a time when the government is establishing new factories, workshops and industrial zones in the interests of the nation and the people, we would like to call on all those responsible and technicians of industrial zones to try their best to be able to produce machines of high quality.



U Aung Than Oo-Daw Khin Pyone and family of Room No 6, Building-1, Bago Club Yeiktha,, Dagon Township, recently donates K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged to mark the birthday of U Aung Than Oo through Joint-Secretary U Tin Maung Win. — MNA

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

Talks on reproductive health given in Hlegu township



CEC member of MMCWA Daw Aye Aye delivers an address at the talks on reproductive health. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Dec — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) held talks on reproductive health at Hlegu township MCWA, Yangon North District, this morning. Present on the occasion were MMCWA CEC member Daw Aye Aye and members, Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay and members.

Daw Aye Aye briefed on arrangements being made for improvement of health knowledge of pregnant women and their babies by drawing the 10 future work programmes by the MMCWA (Central); Daw Khin Thet Htay on dissemination of knowledge about

reproductive health, behavioural changes and conducting of teachership and multiplier courses on reproductive health; Hlegu township MCWA Daw Hla Hla Win on arrangements being made by the association for reproductive health knowledge.

MMCWA (Central) Joint-Secretary Dr Daw May Mar Lar explained facts about exam questions for reproductive health and behavioural changes.

Next, trainees who completed the teachership courses answered the questions.

Similar talks were given at Ngasutaung Village Basic Education High School in Hlegu township. — MNA

Fourth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour opened

YANGON, 27 Dec— The fourth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour 2005-2006 organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd opened today at Bagan Resort Golf Club in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division.

At the opening ceremony, the golfers took their place at Tee-1 and President of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Teza and President of Air Bagan Ltd U Teza opened the first day events.

After the 18-hole events, Hla Myo of Srixon and Zaw Zin Win of Srixon shared the lead with 68 strokes in Professional Golfers event. The runner up was Soe Kyaw Naing of Srixon. Than Naing of Srixon, Aye Lwin of Srixon, Zaw Zaw Latt of Srixon, Zaw Paing Oo of Srixon and Myint Thuang of KM Golf Centre followed the runner up with 72 strokes each.



Aung Htay led the Amateur events with 73 strokes, Naing Naing Lin and Aung Win (Monywa) shared the second with 75 strokes and Kyaw Thiha the third with 76 strokes.

The main sponsor of the Golf Tour is Air Bagan and official bank is KBZ Bank Ltd. The co-sponsors are Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Jade Land Myanmar Co.Ltd, Kachin Golfers Group, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, London, Imperial Jade Drinking Water and Bagan Resort Golf Club and Han Event Management. The Golf Tour continues tomorrow at the same venue.—MNA

NyaungU District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Teza tees off at the fourth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour. — MNA

AGM of MTEA at IBC on 5 Jan

YANGON, 27 Dec— The 12th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association will be held at International Business Centre (IBC) on Pyay Road here on 5 January at 5 pm instead of 31 December at Tawwin Hall of the Forestry Department. Members are invited to attend the meeting without fail. — MNA

52nd conference of MMA from 18 to 24 Jan

YANGON, 27 Dec— Myanmar Medical Association will hold its 52nd conference at the auditorium of MMA on Theinbyu road, here, from 18 to 24 January. Doctors are invited to attend the conference. — MNA

US spy agency collects more data than acknowledged

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec— The US National Security Agency (NSA) has traced and analyzed a larger volume of telephone and Internet communications flowing into and out of the United States as part of a domestic eavesdropping programme than the Bush Administration has acknowledged, *The New York Times* reported on Saturday.

The volume of information harvested from telecommunication data and voice networks, without court-approved warrants, was collected tapping directly into some of the American telecommunication system's main arteries, the newspaper quoted current and former government as saying.

As part of the programme, approved by President George W Bush after the 11 September, 2001, attacks for domestic surveillance without warrants to hunt for evidence of terrorist activity, the NSA has gained cooperation of US telecommunications companies to obtain backdoor access to streams of domestic and interna-

tional communications, the officials said.

The government's collection and analysis of phone and Internet traffic have raised questions among some law enforcement and judicial officials familiar with the programme. One issue of concern to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which has reviewed some separate warrant applications growing out of the NSA's surveillance programme, is whether the court has legal authority over calls outside the United States that happen to pass through the US-based telephonic "switches", according to the report.

Since the disclosure last week of the NSA's

secret domestic surveillance programme, Bush and his senior aides have stressed that his executive order allowing eavesdropping without warrants was limited to the monitoring of international phone and e-mail communications involving people with known links to al-Qaeda.

MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks from China light up the sky at the scenic Manila Bay at the opening of the five-day 'Pyro Olympics' competition, the first in the Philippines, on 26 Dec, 2005 in Manila.—INTERNET

Plane crash in Sudan kills two

KHARTOUM, 26 Dec— A plane used by the African Union (AU) crashed in Sudan's conflict-torn Darfur Region on Saturday evening, killing the two pilots on board, the AU said in a statement on Sunday.

The Russian-made Antonov 28 was taking off from the town of Zalinge in West Darfur state and heading towards the region's main town of El-Fasher when it crashed, killing both pilots, one Ukrainian and another Moldovan. There were no other people on the plane, the AU said.

It was the first crash since the organization deployed its 6,000 peacekeepers in the war-torn region in 2004 and used planes for personnel transportation.

Investigators are now trying to establish the cause of the incident. The official *Sudan News Agency* quoted an unnamed AU official blaming the crash on a "technical breakdown" that took place shortly after takeoff. Around 6,000 AU troops are now deployed as peacekeepers in the vast Darfur Region of western Sudan, where at least 180,000 people have died and two million lost their homes since ethnic African rebels began to fight against the government in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria to provide free AIDS drugs from 2006

LAGOS, 26 Dec — Nigeria will start providing AIDS drugs for free next year, the government agency in charge of fighting AIDS said on Saturday, scrapping fees aid workers say deny access to treatment for poor patients.

Nigeria has 3.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, the third-highest number in the world after India and South Africa, and at the moment it has an estimated 40,000 people on subsidized anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs).

"Up until now we provided ARVs at a subsidized rate and patients had to pay 1,000 naira (8 US dollars) per month. They will not have to pay that anymore," said Babatunde Osotimehin, chairman of the National Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (NACA).

Nigeria's goal is to get 250,000 people on ARVs by the end of next year, and Osotimehin said providing the drugs for free would help meet that target by encouraging more people to come forward for treatment. Funding for the free drugs will come from extra government money approved by President Olusegun Obasanjo, as well as from major donors, including the World Bank, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and the US Government.

MNA/Reuters

Seven killed in fire outbreak in eastern Uganda

KAMPALA, 26 Dec—An entire family of seven were killed on Sunday morning in a fire outbreak at Camp Swahili, Soroi District in eastern Uganda, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) reported.

The UBC quoted sources as saying that the incident took place at around 2 am (23 GMT, Saturday) on Sunday.

Local police said the accident was caused by the generator which setting the house a blaze and reducing all occupants to ash.

The report described the accident as "a wrong start" of the Christmas festival.—MNA/Xinhua



Six-year-old Karar Ali peers out from his hospital bed with shrapnel injuries to his chest from a mortar attack, as his mother stands by his bed, rear left, at al-Hakim hospital in Baghdad, on 26 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Heavy snow kills five in Japan

TOKYO, 26 Dec — Heavy snow killed five people in Japan at the weekend, disrupted holiday traffic and left thousands of households without electricity. A severe snowstorm warning was issued in the area, police said. In the western prefecture of Fukui, where snow has piled up to more than 200 cm (78 inches) in some areas, a factory building collapsed, killing a 72-year-old man, police said.

Those who died were mostly the elderly, including a 78-year-old man who fell from a ladder while trying to remove snow from the roof of his home in northern Akita prefecture, police said.

Some of the heaviest snowfall on record for December has hit the country since last week, even in some southern prefectures that rarely see snow, but Tokyo has been spared.

In the northern prefecture of Niigata, where as many as 650,000 homes and businesses suffered a blackout last week, about 1,100 households were left without electricity on Sunday due to the snow, *Kyodo* said. The snow has also snarled operations of the high-speed bullet trains, used by many Japanese to spend the holiday season with their families.— MNA/Reuters

Moderate aftershock jolts Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 Dec — A moderate aftershock of 5.2 intensity jolted the Pakistani capital of Islamabad and some northern cities on Sunday.

Tremors lasting a few seconds were felt at 01:02 pm (2002 GMT) in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, as well as Peshawar, Mansehra, Balakot and Abbotabad, the cities hit by the October 8 devastating earthquake which had killed more than 73,000 people.

"It was an aftershock measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale," Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, director-general of the department told the official Pakistani PTV. He

said the epicentre was located near Mansehra, some 80 kilometres northeast of Islamabad, in the North-West Frontier Province.

He said that more than 1,500 aftershocks with intensity of more than 3 on the Richter Scale had been recorded since the powerful quake on 8 October.

Chaudhry said such aftershocks would be felt for two months, adding that aftershocks were routine matters after a major earthquake.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker paints a new house beside the ruins of a damaged house in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on 25 Dec, 2005. Construction spending in Aceh, devastated by last year's tsunami, will soon reach \$2 billion a year, the United Nations Development Programme said. —INTERNET

One in five tsunami survivors suffers PTSD

BANGKOK, 25 Dec— One in five Thai tsunami survivors are still suffering effects of last year's tsunami — that in a few minutes one year ago forever changed the physical, social and psychological landscape of some areas in Thailand.

According to clinical studies and interviews, an average of 20 per cent of Thai tsunami survivors are now still suffering the post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with some having symptoms of depression, reported the *Thai News Agency* on Saturday.

Phang-nga, with the greatest prevalence on

cases, has suffered twice the PTSD rate of Phuket, which has the lowest rate of PTSD.

The Thai tsunami PTSD studies were conducted by the Thailand Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS) and the Department of Mental Health, the Ministry of Public Health, on 3,141 survivors of Thailand's 26 December "Boxing Day" tsunami, which physically devastated the country's six southern Andaman Sea provinces of Phuket, Phang-nga Trang, Krabi, Ranong and Satun and devastated families, broke hearts and the economy for thousands of others

throughout the country.

PTSD is prevalent in 33.6 per cent of survivors in Phang-nga, 26.7 per cent in Krabi, 21.5 per cent in Ranong, 19.5 per cent in Trang, 17.3 per cent in Satun and 16.4 per cent in Phuket itself, according to TCELS executive Komjorn Palangura.

Komjorn said on Friday that some surveyed survivors have symptoms of depression, one of major mental health problems suffered by those experiencing tragic disasters. The study has also found a significant difference among survivors, regarding their gender and marital status.

MNA/Xinhua

Another move to combat terrorist activities in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 25 Dec— As part of the current move to curb terrorists in the country, the government of Bangladesh has decided to take another action in the financial sector under which all commercial banks have to report any transactions above 500,000 taka (7,700 US dollars) to the central bank.

Bangladesh Bank ordered the commercial banks through a notification on Thursday to comply with the decision without any failure and in case of violation of the order, the central bank will punish the commercial banks, a senior official of the bank said Saturday.

The official, demanding anonymity, said Bangladesh Bank has directed the commercial banks to provide the information with effect from the first day of the new year on any transaction amounting to 500,000 taka and above, otherwise they will have to face punishment.

The action of Bangladesh Bank is directed to the government's bids to curb terrorists, who killed at least 20 persons and injured hundreds others in the last four weeks through suicide bombings.

The official said commercial banks were earlier asked to send reports to the central bank on suspected terrorism to prevent money laundering. There are allegations that some banks are still allowing themselves to be used for illegal transactions, which has prompted the central bank to take the latest action.

MNA/Xinhua

Women share significant part of Malaysian workforce

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Dec— Women constituted a significant component of workforce in Malaysia nowadays, especially in the public sector, although men outnumbered them, according to the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry.

Of the 1.04 million workforce in the public sector, 40.2 per cent were women, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said in a report recently.

Of the 6.4 million workforce in the private sector in the country, 36.4 per cent were women, while of the 1.7 million self-employed workers in the country, 26.2 per cent were women, the official said.

However, the country saw a relative large number of housewives, some 157,000, while 351,000 women were housewives. — MNA/Xinhua

Toxic substance released into S African river

JOHANNESBURG, 25 Dec— South African authorities Friday alerted the public not to use borehole or ground water between Brits and the Roodekopjes dam about 120 kilometres northwest

of Johannesburg after a large release of a toxic substance into the Crocodile River.

Petrus Venter, the deputy regional director for Water Resource Management in the North-West Province, said there was a large release of toxic chromium-6 into the Crocodile River below Brits around 8 and 9 December. The polluted water was bright yellow in colour, according to a report by *South African Press Association*.

"While the river itself is now largely washed clean, the toxic Cr-6 pollution plume may have contaminated shallow ground water aquifers immediately adjacent to the Crocodile River between Brits and the Roodekopjes dam," Venter said. "Users of groundwater should not drink groundwater from boreholes adjacent to the river if the water is bright yellow in colour," he said. Stock watering with discoloured yellow water should also be avoided, he said. He said the spillage "almost certainly" came from the African Chrome industry, which belongs to the Industrial Development Corporation.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis inspect the wreckage of two cars at the site of a mortar shell attack in Baghdad, on 25 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Mortar round kills citizen in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Dec — A mortar round landed on Saturday morning on a house in western Baghdad district and Iraqi police discovered seven bodies in southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua*.

"A mortar round landed on a house in al-Khadra'a District, killing a civilian and badly damaging his house," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Guerrillas frequently attack an Iraqi police commando base in the area, said the source, adding the mortar round apparently missed its target.

Meanwhile, Iraqi police discovered seven bodies in execution style in Rustamiyah area in southern Baghdad, he said, adding police are trying to know identities of the victims. —MNA/Xinhua

Kathmandu Valley sees 151 traffic accidents in a month

KATHMANDU, 25 Dec — Nine persons were killed and 52 injured in 151 road accidents that took place in the Kathmandu Valley in a month from 15 November to 15 December, the valley police office said on Sunday. In a statement, the police office said 114 motorcycles, 16 taxis, two trucks and public buses met with the accidents during the period.

It also noted that the traffic police penalized over 100 drivers in the same period.

Traffic police are searching for a car and four motorcycles for hitting pedestrians in different places in the valley, the police added.

Though the accidents were attributed mostly to drivers' negligence, poor road structures and geometry cannot be ruled out, said Devendra Dhar Pradhananga, a road engineer for the last 40 years.

The mishap rate in Nepal tops that of the whole South Asian region. One major cause of road accidents is defects in road environment, such as poor alignment, lack of proper road signs, dangerous speed breakers and other obstacles, according to Pradhananga.

MNA/Xinhua



The children of Phi Phi perform during a candlelight vigil ceremony marking the one-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami on Thailand's island of Phi Phi on 26 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Sri Lankan Tamil legislator shot dead

COLOMBO, 26 Dec—A leading legislator from Sri Lanka's Tamil party Tamil National Alliance (TNA) was shot dead at a midnight mass in the Eastern Province, police said on Sunday.

The 71-year-old Joseph Pararajasingham was shot at about 1:20 am (1920 GMT) at close range by unidentified gunmen at St Mary's co-cathedral church at Batticaloa, about 303 kilometres east of the capital Colombo. The senior parliamentarian was attending the mass on Christmas Eve when the assassin reached near him and shot at him. His armed

security opened fire at the suspected assassins who were fleeing the scene.

Eight others, including Pararajasingham's wife were injured at the midnight mass, said the police.

No organization had claimed responsibility for the assassination and no arrests had been made, the police said. However, the police suspected the loyalists of the LTTE renegade Karuna alias Vinayagamurthi Muralitharan for the assassi-

nation.

Pararajasingham entered Parliament in 1990 and had been a legislator since then. The TNA, with 22 seats in the 225-member national Parliament, is a proxy of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Elsewhere in the Eastern Province, the LTTE was blamed for two murders on Saturday, one in the port town of Trincomalee and the other in Eravur.

MNA/Xinhua

Guerillas kill 10 Iraqi security force members

BAQUBA, 27 Dec — Guerillas killed 10 members of the Iraqi security forces in separate attacks north of Baghdad on Monday, officials said.

In an early morning attack in Buhriz, about 37 miles from Baghdad, guerillas opened fire on a checkpoint, killing five Iraqi policemen and wounding three others, police said. They said six guerillas were killed when police officers returned fire. In the village of Dhabab, some 62 miles from Baghdad, five soldiers were killed by gunmen while leaving for work or during their morning routine, the army said.

Violence in Iraq has surged in the past few days after a lull in attacks earlier this month during parliamentary elections, partly due to an informal truce by some Sunni Arab guerilla groups and strict security measures at the time. — MNA/Reuters

Beijing residents pay more for vegetables due to price hikes

BEIJING, 27 Dec—Residents in China's capital have paid 74.1 per cent more for 40 out of 54 varieties of vegetables this year as a result of price hikes due partly to declining land sown to vegetables and yield reduction in typhoon-

ravaged regions.

The price of Chinese cabbage, a traditional staple vegetable for Beijing residents, rose 170.59 per cent from last year as supply decreased by 5.1 per cent to 76 million kilograms, Monday's Beijing Times reported.

According to the newspaper, two cold currents in early and mid December and frequent typhoons in summer and fall contributed significantly to the decline in the production of vegetables such as including eggplant, cucumber, tomato and sweet bellpepper.

Meanwhile, increasing export of garlic due to price rises on the international market also contributed to the high price level at home.

MNA/Xinhua

Airbus wants to expand cooperation with China

BEIJING, 26 Dec—Airbus will expand its overall cooperation with China to an "unprecedentedly" large scale next year, including supply of full-range airplanes and industrial and technological cooperation, according to a company executive. Laurence Barron, Airbus senior vice-president and Airbus China president, said earlier this week that a new joint venture will be set up by Airbus and China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC) I and

AVIC II next year in Beijing.

With the establishment of the Beijing engineering and technology centre, China will participate in the designing and manufacturing of 5 per cent of the body of the all-new A350 aircraft. The engineering centre plans to recruit 100 Chinese engineers by 2006 and the new office building will also break the ground.

In 2006, Airbus will continue to work closely with the State Development and Reform Commission to carry out a feasibility study of establishing a final assembly line for Airbus single aisle aircraft in China, Barron added.

MNA/Xinhua

Four rebels killed in north Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 26 Dec—Four Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in an exchange of fire with the government troops in Jaffna City in north Sri Lanka, defence officials said here on Saturday.

The clash took place around 6:15 pm local time (1215 GMT) in the Jaffna City.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels had fired at a military officer and a soldier and the Army retaliated resulting in the killing of the four rebels, military officials said, adding that the two Army personnel suffered injuries with one of them serious. The skirmish occurred a few hours after the ambassadors of the European Union, Norway and Japan visited the LTTE headquarters in Kilinochchi to discuss with its political leadership the growing fears of resumption of hostilities between the government and the rebels. — MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill six in separate attacks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec—Unknown gunmen shot dead six Iraqis in separate attacks in Baghdad on Saturday, a police source told Xinhua.

"Armed men opened fire at a car carrying employees of the Health Ministry in Baghdad's southern Doura District, killing three of them," Captain Ahmed Abdullah said. In a separate

incident, gunmen opened fire and killed an Iraqi Army captain in Amil District in southwestern Baghdad, Abdullah said. A third attack took place in 14 Ramadhan Street in Mansur District in western Baghdad, where armed men riddled a shop with bullets, killing two persons, the source added.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll rises to 44 in S-W China gas explosion

CHENGDU, 26 Dec—Forty-four people were confirmed dead and 11 others injured in the gas explosion at a road construction site in Sichuan Province as of Saturday, according to the provincial work safety watchdog.

The blast occurred at 2 pm on Thursday in a tunnel of a highway under construction between

Dujiangyan and Wenchuan cities in the province. Most of the victims were construction workers.

Two bodies were discovered on Saturday, bringing the death toll to 44. The 11 injured were hospitalized, and two of them in critical condition are out of life danger.

MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese PM makes surprise visit to Afghanistan

LISBON, 26 Dec—Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates made an unannounced visit to Afghanistan Saturday to meet Portugal's peacekeepers in the country, local media reports quoted a government official as saying.

Socrates was being accompanied by Defence Minister Luis Amado and top military officers on his first visit to the country, said the reports.

He dined with Portuguese troops responsible for running Kabul's airport. Socrates is also scheduled to hold talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The first batch of Portuguese troops arrived in the war-torn Asian country in 2002. Portugal currently has 156 troops with the 10,500-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier walks past burning vehicles following a car bomb in the Waziriyah District of Baghdad on 26 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Thaksin lays foundation stone for Tsunami Memorial

PHANGNGA (Thailand), 27 Dec — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday attended the one-year in memory of tsunami ceremony in Thailand's southern Phangnga Province and laid foundation stone for the Tsunami Memorial.

In his opening address at the ceremony in Khao Lak-Lamru National Park, Thaksin said the tsunami catastrophe which took place on 26 December last year was the worst natural disaster that the present generation of Thai people have ever encountered.

He said to cope with such an unacquainted disaster as tsunami, people should compile the knowledge, understanding and lessons learned from it.

"It is hoped that the memorial will serve as a learning centre concerning this natural disaster as well as a monument that will forever stand in remembrance of all those who lost their lives in last year's tragedy," said the Prime Minister.

On Monday morning,

Thaksin arrived at Phangnga, the worst hit coastal province in last year's giant waves, and visited venues of the events, talking with tsunami survivors and relatives of those perished.

The official memorial services were held at seven venues in four provinces along the Andaman coast. Participants, including government and local authorities, survivors, as well as relatives and friends of the victims, laid wreaths, flowers and mementos to those perished at different memorial sites.

Most of the foreign visitors are from Sweden, followed by Britain, Australia, Germany, France and Greece. Princess Ubonrattana, who lost her only son Khun Poom

Jensen in the disaster, will chair an Interfaith Memorial Service in the evening.

Thailand's six southern coastal provinces, namely Phuket, Phangnga, Krabi, Trang, Ranong and Satun, were battered by last year's tsunami, leaving 5,395 people dead, 2,817 injured and more than 2,000 still missing, most of whom were holidaymakers.

MNA/Xinhua



Commuters cross an intersection in downtown Tokyo on 27 Dec, 2005. Japan's population declined by 19,000 in 2005, the government said in an annual report on Tuesday. —INTERNET

India-Bangladesh railway cargo service under study

DHAKA, 27 Dec — Bangladesh is actively examining an Indian proposal — introduction of direct railway cargo service — to cut the cost of trade between the two neighbours, local daily *The Financial Express* reported on Monday.

India has proposed the use of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge in north-western Bangladesh for the movement of containerized cargoes, the daily said.

The Ministry of Communications has already held a number of meetings with the different government agencies, including the Bangladesh Railway (BR), and discussed the Indian proposal submitted in May, the daily quoted a senior official as saying.

"The proposal being a politically sensitive one is likely to be referred to the Cabinet committee," the official said. According to the daily, the BR

wants a decision of the government first before its taking up actions for building necessary infrastructures to facilitate movement of the Indian container trains.

The BR suggested setting up of scanners at the entry point of the border and weighbridge at Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge for ensuring security of the country's one of the most important key point installations.

It also proposed construction of a transshipment yard in between Iswardi and Sirajganj in western Bangladesh, so that the containers can be transferred to metre gauge from the broad gauge. The

BR will also need handling equipment.

The Container Corporation of India (CCI) Ltd has agreed to bear the cost of installation of a weighbridge at the one end of the Jamuna Bridge.

In a letter sent in September, the CCI Ltd requested BR to consider its proposal and also conduct a trial run of container train between India and Bangladesh.

Many businessmen, particularly who import goods in bulk, said the direct containers service between India and Bangladesh will benefit them.

India is among the top ten sources of Bangladesh imports. — MNA/Xinhua

Three killed, 26 wounded in Baghdad market bombing

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — Three Iraqi civilians were killed and 26 others wounded in a busy market in northern Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua*.

"A booby-trapped bike left in the al-Naser popular market in the al-Shula District went off, killing three Iraqis and wounding 26 others," the source said.

The blast followed four car bomb attacks in the Iraqi capital earlier this day, which left several Iraqis killed or wounded.

MNA/Xinhua

Warner Brothers unveils plan to build digital cinema in Beijing

BEIJING, 27 Dec — The United States-based film firm — Warner Brothers Inc plans to build a digital cinema in Beijing in June next year, the first of its kind in the capital city.

Warner Brothers has unveiled its future plan to expand business in China in Shanghai, a remarkable step to great China's centennial anniversary for the film industry in 2005. Under the new plan, the US film giant plans to increase its digital projection halls in China to 170 by the end of 2007.

As China opened its digital cinema market to overseas investors in July this year, Warner Brothers accelerated its steps to open more digital cinemas in China. In June 2006, Warner

Brothers will open a high-standard digital cinema in Beijing, the Beijing News quoted a senior official with the Warner Brothers as saying on Saturday. The new cinema, to be located in Beijing's "silica valley" — the Zhongguancun District, will have seven digital projection halls with 1,100 seats, said the official.

According to the official, the new cinema in Beijing was jointly invested by Warner Brothers and the Guangzhou-Based Quanyi firm company. —MNA/Xinhua

Expert says earthquake, tsunami might repeat in Sumatran region

SINGAPORE, 27 Dec — Geological expert James Rice of Harvard University said that another major earthquake and an even

bigger tsunami than the one which occurred a year ago in the Indian Ocean are a very real possibility in Sumatran region.

According to Channel NewsAsia report on Monday, this could happen anytime in the next 400 years with the average repeat time of such an earthquake being 200 to 300 years.

"It's very unlikely now that anyone living now in that area which experienced the big tsunami will experience another big tsunami in their lifetime," Rice was quoted as saying.

The professor added that Singapore and South Malaysia would feel considerable ground shaking should such an earthquake happen. —MNA/Xinhua

More Chinese suffer from losing hairs

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Over 16 million Chinese are suffering from trichomadesis or losing hairs, an insider said here on Sunday.

A healthy adult has about 100,000 hairs and loses 50 to 100 hairs daily, Shao Guoyun, an insider with the Shanghai Master Biology Gene Science and Technology Development Company said.

"If you lose more than 100 hairs a day, you should consult doctors," Shao said.

China's coastal and developed areas have more people suffering from losing hairs with those higher salary earners in particular, Shao said.

In Hong Kong, five to six people in every ten have the problem of hair losing currently but only two to three ten years ago, Lin Shuling, an expert in Hong

Kong said.

"Nowadays, unbalanced diet, job pressure, environmental pollution, TV or computer's radiation are the main reasons for hair losing," she said.

Lin especially opposed those people who frequently dyed or permed their hairs, "it is extremely harmful to one's hairs," she said.

Shao also pointed out that with more people losing hair, the market for hair regrowth liniment is also quite huge in China.

"The Chinese market is filled with fake hair regrowth liniment at present," Shao warned.

MNA/Xinhua



Spent bullet casings litter the road as firefighters douse a fire after gunmen attacked and killed five officers at a police checkpoint near Buhriz, Iraq, 45 miles (30 miles) north of Baghdad, a morgue official in Baqouba said on 26 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Border areas witness sustained progress

Development of border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government

TV transmission progress in border areas

After ensuring national reconsolidation in the Union of Myanmar, national race groups are actively taking part in border area development undertakings hand in hand with the government and now fruitful results have been achieved.

In the past, national brethren were far from realizing the true situation of the nation and

doubts grew among them due to instability in their region and colonialists' and aliens' attempts to incite racial hatred.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, priority has been given to regional stability and border area development projects. Thus, national people have come to realize and accept the genuine goodwill of the government and objective condi-

tions of the country.

To disseminate knowledge among national brethren, the Tatmadaw government has been building TV retransmission stations in farflung areas of the country.

The table shows increase in the number of TV retransmission stations in border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Increasing TV retransmission in border areas

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	TV retransmission station (10 watt)	-	62	62
2	TV retransmission station (50 watt)	-	36	36
3	TV retransmission station (100 watt)	-	13	13



TV relay station in Hakha, Chin State.

Philippines to charge four US soldiers for rape

OLONGAPO CITY (Philippines), 27 Dec — Philippine prosecutors were set to file rape charges on Tuesday against four US Marines, while clearing two other soldiers accused of assaulting a 22-year-old Filipino woman in early November. In affidavits, five of the Marines had disputed allegations that the woman was gang-raped in a van at a former US Navy

base at Subic Bay, suggesting there was consensual sex. The sixth soldier, who had also taken part in two-week military exercises with Philippine troops in October, did not submit an affidavit. The Filipino driver of the van, initially considered to be a witness, was to be charged as an accomplice, according to documents to be submitted to a court in Olongapo City,

northwest of Manila.

"We are happy the girl is going to get some kind of justice," said Katrina Legarda, a lawyer for the complainant. In the charge sheet seen by reporters, Olongapo City chief prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni said evidence suggested the two soldiers to be cleared were not in the van at the time of the alleged rape.

MNA/Reuters

Bush hails Indonesian President for post-tsunami efforts

BANDA ACEH (Indonesia), 27 Dec — US President George Walker Bush hailed his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday for his "steady leadership" in a time of crisis that put the lives of Aceh people back on track after last year's tsunami.

"We can see signs of hope and new life throughout the region,"

Bush said in a taped message broadcast to commemorate the 2004 tsunami in the Aceh capital of Banda Aceh.

"One year ago, the most powerful earthquake in decades shook the island of Sumatra and set off a violent tsunami in the Indian Ocean. From Thailand to the Horn of Africa, the storm left an arc of destruction and inflicted enormous loss and grief,

Bush said in his message which was aired during the commemoration led by Susilo.

"When the water receded, more than 200,000 innocent lives had been taken.

A year later, we remember those days of sorrow, and we also recall the acts of courage and kindness that made us proud," Bush added.

MNA/Xinhua

Implementing the seven-point Road Map for the future nation

Kaytu Nilar

The drive to build a new democratic state of the future, that is the goal of the entire people, faces hindrances and obstructions and does not make progress as expected because of the irresponsible acts of an individual person towards the national cause and the person's acceptance of alien influence and misuse of authority together with wrong political stance, personality cult and lack of democratic practice within the party.

In reality, giving greater priority to national interest than individual and party interest in solving a national problem is the performance of a national duty well. And it is the noble tradition of the persons and organizations that continuously serve the national cause.

On the other hand, the National League for Democracy and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have ignored the national cause, turning their back to the National Convention, while opposing the work of drafting a new constitution which is designed to serve the interest of the entire nation.

Despite the NLD's words and announcements advocating democracy, in practice the party even rejected the most basic democratic principle and attempted to transform the National Convention into its own conference. As the scheme of the NLD's western masters to dominate Myanmar has failed, NLD is opposing and slandering the National Convention from the negative point of view.

Actually, the National Convention reflects and is based on the wish of the people. It serves the national interest and represents the entire nation as it is a nation-building endeavour. At the Convention are the representatives of the national races, people from all walks of life and political parties laying the foundation of the future state through discussions and suggestions.

Not any individual or organization can stop the progress of the Convention as it is the national political developing trend that will go down in the annals of the history. If someone tries to hinder the progress, he will be punished by history and his acts will be left as a black mark.

Hence, the people of the whole nation opposed the irresponsible acts of the NLD hindering the emergence of a new constitution, the common interest of the entire nation. The four-point People's Desire has been thus announced. It is natural that the ones trying to harm the interest of the people will

become the people's common enemy.

In his address delivered at the Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, held on 15 September 1996, USDA patron, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, "We must firmly establish solidarity of our national brethren and national races based on stability, peace and the rule of law. There must be a constitution which all the national races must strictly follow if the nation's path leading to the future is to be straight, resulting in prevalence of peace and continued progress. So efforts must be made for the emergence of an enduring constitution. Successful convening of the National Convention is the main reason for the emergence of the constitution. The constitution will not emerge if obstructions are made to delay or disturb the National Convention; and the present form of administration will stay on if hindrances and obstructions are imposed to delay and disturb the economic progress of the nation causing backwardness in economy."

However, the NLD has been knowingly ignoring and slandering the Tatmadaw government's political, economic and social endeavours from the negative angle. It made an announcement dated 23 June 1998 demanding for the convening of the Hluttaw within two months. Foreign radio stations under the influence of the neo-colonialists aired the NLD's demand. It issued the announcement No 58 (9/98) and declared the formation of Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Committee of representatives-elect in the 1990 multi-party generation election.

The NLD was so inconsiderate politically and legally that it even issued the announcement No 1 of the Committee. The wordings and the usage in the announcement showed how much the NLD was deviating from the international political science and legal affairs.

Such a Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Committee can be formed only by the Pyithu Hluttaw itself in accordance with the law, bylaws, rules and regulations introduced according to the constitution to carry out the task on behalf of the Pyithu Hluttaw. As Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Committee formed by the NLD was representing the Pyithu Hluttaw that had not been in existence, it was illegal. So the Committee was like a parallel government challenging and opposing the State.

The sub para (a) of the para 9 of the announce-

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

ment said that the representatives-elect of the 1990 election shall not resign or be dismissed by any law, bylaw or authority or of own volition. It in reality was a violation against the law and the individual rights. Are the Pyithu Hluttaw members exempt from punishment according to the law or not? If they are privileged in accord with the NLD way of democracy, it will be totally against the essence of democracy which highlights equality, the rights of the citizens, and the rule of law. A Pyithu Hluttaw member is free to resign. Thus, it can be seen that the so-called Pyithu Hluttaw representative committee was violating the individual democratic rights and inborn rights of the people.

Witnessing the state of the affairs, national people came to abhor and oppose the destructive acts of the persons and parties who were perpetrating incitement to disrupt the good foundations built in the political, economic and social sectors, in which the former were enjoying fruitful results.

Various historic changes and developments were leading the nation to its national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline, thereby inspiring the national people to play an active role in the drive hand in hand with the Tatmadaw, a strong national force.

The Tatmadaw Government never let the nation lose sight of the drive for building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation in line with the aspiration of the national people. Even though the political developments had to be suspended temporarily, it was putting its unremitting efforts into the tasks for economic and social development. It was also taking measures for moral development of the people and the development of human resources, while building all necessary infrastructures for national development.

After it had fulfilled almost all the requirements for democratic transition, the government laid down and declared the State's seven-point Road Map in August 2003. The seven-point Road Map helps implement two of the four political objectives the Tatmadaw Government is putting into practice —

(See page 9)

Actually, the National Convention reflects and is based on the wish of the people. It serves the national interest and represents the entire nation as it is a nation-building endeavour. At the Convention are the representatives of the national races, people from all walks of life and political parties laying the foundation of the future state through discussions and suggestions.

Implementing the seven-point Road Map for the future nation

(from page 8)

emergence of a new enduring State Constitution, and building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution.

The State's seven-point Road Map is as follows:

(1) Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.

(2) After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.

(3) Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

(4) Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.

(5) Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.

(6) Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution.

(7) Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw; and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

According to the prevailing situation of the nation, except the seven-point Road Map, any other policies cannot be exercised to shape the brighter future of the nation. And according to the nation's political changes and developments, the State's future trend must be in conformity with the seven-point Road Map.

Indeed, the Road Map was laid down by the State Peace and Development Council through coordination under the guidance of the Head of State, not by a person alone. The successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map is the national duty conceived in the present period of Myanmar. The entire national people held mass rallies in various regions across the nation and made a unanimous resolution that the government, the people and the Tatmadaw would have to see to it.

In implementing the first stage of the seven-point Road Map, the National Convention that had to be adjourned in 1996 resumed on 17 May 2004 and went on till 9 July. In resuming the National Convention, the government invited all the 10 political parties including the National League for Democracy that had attended the National Convention since 1993.

In reality, NLD representatives turned their back to the previous sessions of the National Convention of their own volition. So, the National Convention Convening Commission had to decide whether it should allow NLD to attend the resumed NC or not, only if NLD made a request. However, the government showed its benevolent attitude to NLD and invited it so as to ensure national reconsolidation and coordination of all parties and delegate groups.

According to the prevailing situation of the nation, except the seven-point Road Map, any other policies cannot be exercised to shape the brighter future of the nation. And according to the nation's political changes and developments, the State's future trend must be in conformity with the seven-point Road Map.

In response, NLD said it would attend the NC and made demands for an increase in the number of its representatives to the NC and invitation of the representatives they proposed. The government complied with NLD's demands but the latter again turned its back on the NC of its own accord. Similarly, the Shan National League for Democracy and Kokang Democratic Party that were under the domination of NLD failed to attend the NC.

However, all the political parties, representatives-elect, and delegate groups attended the National Convention (2004). Being imbued with Union Spirit and giving priority to the interests of the nation and the people rather than to that of the party or the race concerned, the delegates coordinated with each other in cohesion in holding discussions, enabling the National Convention to continue successfully.

The delegates of the National Convention (2004) were as follows:

(a) delegates of political parties	29
(b) representatives-elect delegates	13
(c) delegates of national races	633
(d) delegates of peasants	93
(e) delegates of workers	48
(f) delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia	56
(g) delegates of State service personnel	109
(h) delegates of 17 national race armed groups that returned to legal fold and other organizations	115
Total	1086

The National Convention (2005) resumed on 17 February 2005. The government invited the delegates that were in the list of the National Convention (2004). All the delegates, except five representatives of other invited persons from SSA of Shan State (North) Special Region (3), attended the NC. They applied to the NC for exemption from attending the Convention because of the internal affairs of their group, not because of prohibition or pressure of the government and the National Convention Convening Commission. So, a total of 1081 delegates from eight delegate groups carried out the tasks on the Convention.

The National Convention was adjourned on 31 March 2005 to avert long-term delay of the farming, trade and businesses of the delegates to the NC and because it was in the hot season.

And the NC resumed on 5 December 2005. The same delegates invited to the NC held from 17 February 2005 to 31 March 2005 were invited to the National

Convention. The representatives from SSA of Shan State (North) Special Region (3), who could not attend the Convention held in February 2005, are present at this Convention.

The ongoing National Convention has adopted the detailed basic principles for the distribution of executive and judicial powers. And the delegates are now holding discussions for adoption of the detailed basic principles for carrying out the functions between Hluttaws.

Internal and external destructive elements have resorted to various means with the intention of disrupting the progress of the Convention, but their acts are not working. So, they are manufacturing a wide range of irresponsible fabrications such as the National Convention is not in conformity with the wishes of the people, that the government is manipulating the NC with their handpicked delegates, and that the majority of the delegates do not know anything about the Convention and they are just yes-men. Certain broadcasting stations under the domination of the neo-colonialists are entertaining such groundless accusations on a wider scale.

In reality, witnessing the progress of the National Convention in total contrast to their expectations, the destructive elements are making baseless accusations in a frenzy. Of the over 1,000 NC delegates, 99 have completed post-graduate courses, and 514 are graduates numbering 613, accounting for 56.34 per cent. And 980 delegates have completed post-graduate courses, or are graduates, or have high or middle school education, accounting for 90.07 per cent. Such an improper criticism made without knowing the educational qualifications of the delegates depicts too much conceit and selfishness of isolated groups.

At the National Convention, the delegates are holding frank and cordial discussions in groups or individually. And through the assessment of the matters discussed, they are compiling proposals, and reading out and submitting them. They are, indeed, carrying out the functions democratically.

So far, the National Convention has completed about 70 per cent of its functions to draft an enduring State Constitution. The above-mentioned facts represent that various national races, people from all strata of life and political parties upholding the national interests are shaping the brighter future of the nation hand in hand with the government, the people, the Tatmadaw.

Translation: TMT + MS

Meetings of National Convention delegate groups held

YANGON, 27 Dec— Meetings of National Convention delegate groups took place in the designated meeting halls at the Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township here this morning.

Delegate group of peasants

The meeting of delegate group of peasants was held at the meeting hall-4. U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division presided over the meeting together with U Mya Aye of Yangon Division and U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State. Deputy Director U Myint Kyaing of Work Group-6 of National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein as co-MC.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as 93 delegates out of 93 delegates attended it, accounting for cent per cent.

Next, U Kyi Tint made an opening speech.

At the meeting, U Saw Lin Aung of Bago Division and U Myint Kyaw of Mandalay Division read their parties' proposal papers on legislative matters of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region or State Hluttaw that



Alternate Chairman U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division addresses the meeting of the delegate group of peasants. — MNA

will be included in the drafting of the State constitution.

Afterwards, U Kyi Tint sought approval on the proposal paper of delegate group of peasants to be presented at the plenary meeting of National Convention and approved it.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate group of State service personnel

The meeting of delegate group of State service personnel was held at the meeting hall-7 this morning.

Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence presided over the meeting together with Dr

Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the Ministry of Health and U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Deputy Director U Htay Win of Work Group-9 of National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Htein Min as co-MC.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as 107 delegates out of 109 were present, accounting for 98.17 per cent.

Next, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence made an opening speech.

After that, U Than Tun of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myint

Thein of the Ministry of Transport and U Thein Lwin of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue read their parties' proposal papers on legislative matters of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region or State Hluttaw that will be included in the drafting of the State constitution.

Next, the meeting chairman sought approval on the proposal papers of delegate group of State service personnel to be presented at the plenary meeting of National Convention and approved them.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence.—MNA



Alternate Chairman Maj-Gen Aung Thein delivers an introductory speech at the meeting of the delegate group of State service personnel. — MNA

Chinese delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda, Gems Emporium

YANGON, 27 Dec— Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Commander Lt-Gen Gui Quanzhi of Chengdu Military Area Command of the People's Republic of China, this morning visited Shwedagon Pagoda and Myanmar Gems Emporium.

First, they went to Shwedagon Pagoda and paid homage to Buddha Image at the southern prayer hall of the pagoda. They also made cash donation at the pagoda.

Afterwards, they proceeded to the Myanmar Gems Emporium where officials concerned con-

ducted them around the emporium. — MNA

Deputy Commander Lt-Gen Gui Quanzhi visits the Myanmar Gems Emporium.

MNA



Convention that will see victory

Convention that is striving, writing

For the awakening

Of the national interest.

A democracy state that'll be set up

As envisaged by

By our eight brethren groups.

Good basic principles to be decided

By our nationals

In good harmony.

Convention that will

Serve the interests of

All citizens who are

The nation's internal strength.

Convention that is being

Unitedly supported

By the entire citizens.

Convention that will see victory

Due to firm resolve

No matter who may attempt to destroy it.

Tekkatho Tin Kha (Trs)

Service personnel of Ministry of Energy offer 'soon' to members of Sangha

YANGON, 27 Dec —Service personnel of the Ministry of Energy offered *soon* to members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok Soonsarhsaung on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Deputy Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandhavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Ottama administered the Five Precepts.

Daw Khin Mar Aye, wife of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, presented offertories to the members of the Sayadaw.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay presented K 220,000 for a day's meal.

MNA



Objectives of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day

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

(၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ပြည့်

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

(မည်သူမဆို အခမဲ့ လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။)

Test well-Yanbye 19-1-1 drilled in Yanbye township, Rakhine State

YANGON, 27 Dec — CNOOC Myanmar Ltd of the People's Republic of China, which is cooperating with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy in exploration and production of oil and natural gas, held a ceremony to drill test well-Yanbye 19-1-1 on block-M near Thayetcho village, Yanbye township, Rakhine State, this morning.

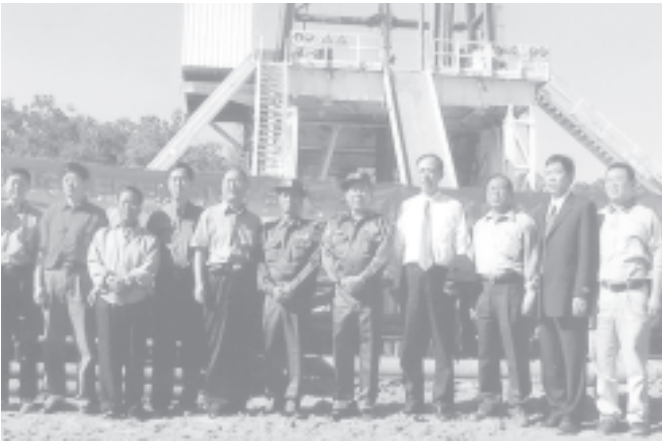
The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu, Economic and Commercial Counsellor Mr Tang Hai and officials of the ministry.

CNOOC Myanmar Ltd Chairman Mr Xu Fa explained the prospects of the block-M and arrangements for exploration of oil from the test well. Next, the minister presented a basket of fruits to foreign technicians and Myanmar staff.

The commander, the minister and officials of

CNOOC had a documentary photo taken. The minister urged the engineers and staff to strive for timely completion of the project.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and party pose for a photo at the test-oil well.

ENERGY

Paper reading session held



Daw Khin Khin Lay extends greetings in the paper reading session. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Dec— The working group of legal affairs under the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held a paper reading session on legal affairs for women at the federation office on Thanlwin Street in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Leader of the work group Daw Khin Khin Lay extended greetings and explained the purpose of the session.

Secretary of the work group Deputy Director of the Attorney-General's Office Daw Myint Swe, member Deputy Law Officer of Yangon Division Law Office Daw Khin Mar Mar, and Deputy Leader Head of Law Department of Yangon University Professor Daw Than Nwe read the papers.

Present on the occasion were members of the panel of patrons of

MWAF, the chairperson, vice-chairperson, heads of department, leaders and members of work groups, regional organizers, members of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, Division Women's Affairs Organization, and Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association numbering about 200.

MNA

Home Affairs Minister receives Israeli Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Dec— Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Israeli Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mrs Ruth Schatz at his office at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Bureau of Special Investigation Director General U Aung Saw Win, Deputy Director General of General

Administration Department Col Khin Maung Thein, Head of Transnational Crime Department Police Col Sit Aye and head of office of the ministry U Kyaw San.

MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min presents gift to Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. (News on page 16)— MNA

ပညာရေးရုံညီပွဲတော်

(၁-၃ ဇန်နဝါရီလ၊ ၂၀၀၆)

ပြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်း ကျောင်းအားလုံး ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲဖို့



SCHOOL FAMILY DAY
(1-3 JANUARY 2006)

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 Dated: 28 December, 2005.

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 30th December (Friday), Kayin New Year Day 2005, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Central Bank of Myanmar

Export of foreign-funded enterprises in China's Gansu rises

LANZHOU, 26 Dec—Exports from foreign-funded enterprises in northwestern China's Gansu Province gained a sharp rise in the first 11 months this year.

According to statistics from the provincial Customs, exports from the enterprises climbed to 168 million US dollars, up 65.2 per cent year on year.

Their exports and imports reached to 208 million US dollars in value, making up 8.7 per cent of the total in the province, said the customs.

Meanwhile, the state-owned enterprises registered a foreign trade volume of 1.897 billion US dollars, 79.6 per cent of the total, up 66.5 per cent from the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BRILLIANT PESCADORES VOY NO (8)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BRILLIANT PESCADORES VOY NO (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER
 SINGAPORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (5115W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (5115W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: M/S CONTAINER SERVICES
 AND SHIPPING AGENCY CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

UNICEF says millions of children suffer exploitation

LUSAKA, 26 Dec—United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said right before Christmas hundreds of millions of children in the world are still suffering from severe exploitation and discrimination and have become virtually invisible to the world.

In a Press release on Saturday it said not only do these children endure abuse, most are shut out from school, healthcare and other vital services they need to grow and thrive. UNICEF

said other children, such as street children, live in plain sight but are excluded from fundamental services and protections.

The publication warned that without focused attention, they will remain trapped and forgotten in childhood of neglect and abuse, with devastating consequences for their long-term well-being and the development of nations.

"These children are growing up beyond the reach of development campaigns

TRADEMARK CAUTION
 We, **KAGOME CO., LTD.**, a Corporation organized under the laws of Japan, Manufacturers and Merchants of No.14-15, 3-chome, Nishi, Naka-ku, Nagoya, Japan; hereby give notice that we are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade-Mark :-



KAGOME

The said trade mark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say -
 "Worcester sauce, ketchup, mayonnaise sauce and other seasonings, tomato juice and other vegetable juice and fruit juice".
 Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Hsin Lin Co (LLS) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM for
DEPENNING & DEPENNING
 Patent and Trade-Mark Agents
 10, Government Place East
 Kolkata 700 069
 Intellectual Property House
 31 South Bank Road
 Chennai- 600 028
 Akasaka Building
 16 Nippon Sea Road
 Mumbai- 400 036
 MA-01 Moulteni Road
 DLF Phase-III
 National Capital Region-120002
 India. 28 December 2005

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားနှင့် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားနှင့် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း အတွက်အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

- (က) မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား စက်ပစ္စည်းအုပ်စု (၁)
- (၁) Non Linear Editing System 2 Sets
 - (၂) DV Cam Camera 1/3"CCD 24 Sets
 - (၃) Digital Archiving & Noise cleaning 1 Set
 - (၄) DV Cam Recorder 2 Nos
 - (၅) 300 W TV Transmitter 1 Set
 - (၆) 100 W TV Transmitter 2 Sets
 - (၇) 50 W TV Transmitter 2 Sets

- စက်ပစ္စည်းအုပ်စု (၂)
- (၁) Maintenance Equipment For (9) Regional Zone 1 Lot
 - (၂) 15 KVA UPS Battery 12V, 24 AH 34 Nos
 - (၃) A3 Printer (HP-5100 TN) 2 Nos
 - (၄) Digital Satellite Receiver (C-Band) 25 Nos
 - (၅) A4 Printer (HP-1020) 7 Nos
 - (၆) A4 Printer (EPSON 65) 2 Nos
 - (၇) Plain Paper Copier (A3) (Cannon NP-3300 M/Konica 7216 2 Nos
 - (၈) A4 Scanner [HP - 2400] (or) HP-3770] 2 Nos
 - (၉) 80 KVA UPS Battery 12V, 100 AH 34 Nos

- စက်ပစ္စည်းအုပ်စု (၃)
- (၁) 100 W TV Transmitter 2 Sets
 - (၂) 50 W TV Transmitter 3 Sets
 - (၃) 40 Ton Aircon 1 Set
 - (၄) 20 Ton Aircon Compressor 1 Set

- ၂။ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း
- (၁) Air Conditioner (Split Type, 1.5 HP) 3 Nos
 - (၂) Digital Camera DSC-R1 (10.3 Mega Pixel, 5x Optical Zoom, 10x Precision Zoom, 2" LCD) 2 Nos
 - (၃) Computer eMac 4 Nos
 - (၄) Computer Pentium IV 4 Nos
 - (၅) Laser Printer A3 2 Nos
 - (၆) Laser Printer A4 3 Nos
 - (၇) Plain Paper Copier 2 Nos

၂။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းမူဝါဒ (၁၃-၁-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့ (၁၆-၃၀) နာရီတွင် စိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်-

ပြည်တွင်းပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထွဲကုန်ရေးဆောင်မှုတို့ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန အမှတ် ၂၂၀ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
 ဖုန်း - ၂၄၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၄၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၅

Int'l solar energy promotion centre to be built in N-W China

LANZHOU, 26 Dec—An international centre for promotion and transfer of solar energy will be built in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, with financial support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The projected centre will be established on the basis of the existing Natural Energy Institute of Gansu, and the UNIDO will pump up 300,000 US dollars as a fund for startup, said Xi Wen-hua, vice president of the Gansu Provincial Academy of Sciences and

also head of the Natural Energy Institute.

The Chinese Government will input 150 million yuan (about 18.5 million US dollars) to cover the costs for land acquisition and expenses needed in building a mansion for the new centre, said Xi.

MNA/Xinhua



Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh, right, sits with Ferrari Formula One team manager Jean Todt upon arrival at the Tsunami, one year on photographic journey exhibition organized by Force of Nature aid Foundation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 26 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Underground line to connect two railway stations in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Dec— An underground railway, stretching for about nine kilometres, will connect two major railway stations in Beijing in 2007.

The project was launched on Saturday in a bid to provide conveniences for passengers who need to transfer between the two stations, Beijing Railway Station and Beijing West Railway Station, according to Beijing Railway Department. The project is also expected to relieve the stressed ground traffic situation in urban Beijing.

Millions passengers transfer trains between the two stations annually. It would take them at least half an hour's ride to travel between the two stations.

The project involves about 2.3 billion yuan (288 million US dollars) and is expected to be completed and put into operation in 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Asia marks tsunami anniversary with prayers, silence

BANDA ACEH (Indonesia), 26 Dec — Mourners across the world gathered on Monday along ravaged Indian Ocean coastlines on Monday to remember more than 231,000 people who died in last year's tsunami.

A year on, a huge reconstruction operation has brought hope to hundreds of thousands living in temporary shelters, but the sorrow and pain from one of nature's most ferocious episodes remains strong — and fears that monster waves could come again.

In a flattened coastal suburb of Banda Aceh, capital of Indonesia's Aceh Province, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said: "In this wide open space ... under the blue sky, we stand together as God's children. It was under the same blue sky exactly a year ago that mother earth unleashed the most destructive power among us."

The tsunami left more than 231,000 dead or missing in 13 Indian

Ocean countries — nearly three quarters of them in Aceh, on the northern tip of Sumatra.

The tsunami also made 1.8 million homeless.

While remembering the dead, Yudhoyono said it was also time to look toward the future.

"Today, tomorrow and the day after will not be about suffering because we are here also to honour those who survived... they all want to rebuild their lives. You will see the tsunami survivors everywhere."

The leader of the world's fourth most populous nation thanked the international community for its help, but said "there is still much more to be done".

Public and private aid pledges totalled 13.6 billion

US dollars, according to the United Nations, making it the most generously funded humanitarian effort in history.

In Sri Lanka's southern town of Peraliya, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist and Muslim priests chanted blessings at the site where 1,000 people died when their train was bowled over by the tsunami.

MNA/Reuters



A heron rests on a tree at a zoo on 26 Dec, 2005 in Shanghai, China. China plans to produce 1 billion doses of a new bird flu vaccine for animals that is designed to make an effort to inoculate the country's billions of farm birds faster and cheaper, state media reported on Monday.—INTERNET

MC6 shows HK civil service's efficiency

HONG KONG, 26 Dec—The success of the WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference (MC6) has reinforced Hong Kong's image in the international arena as Asia's World City and enhanced the city's civil service's reputation as one of the most efficient in the world, Hong Kong Secretary for the Civil Service Joseph Wong said on Saturday.

In his letter to all civil servants on Saturday, Wong said that throughout the conference, police showed diligence and professionalism in maintaining law and order and in taking measured and robust action against the sometimes violent protesters.

"Our world-class police force has demonstrated once again their outstanding performance in handling a crisis situation. At the same

time, thousands of civil service colleagues from other bureaus and departments also worked tirelessly round the clock in support of the conference.

"Planning for this mammoth exercise started many months ago and involved many bureaus and departments also worked tirelessly round the clock in support of the conference."

Describing their contribution as instrumen-

tal to the success of the conference, he said, "I am sure our civil service will continue with the fine tradition of serving the community with dedication and commitment."

Hong Kong hosted the MC6 between December 13 and 18, and about 11,000 delegates, non-government organization representatives and correspondents attended the conference.

MNA/Xinhua

Lightning kills six at South African Christmas Party

JOHANNESBURG, 26 Dec — Six South African men were killed when lightning hit a hut packed with Christmas Eve revellers in central Kwazulu-Natal Province, police said on Sunday.

Police spokesman Vusi Mbatha said the incident occurred on Saturday in Nongoma when lightning struck a traditional thatched-roof hut, setting it alight. "It was burned and collapsed over them."

MNA/Reuters

Website on human resources launched in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Dec— A website on human resources research was launched on Friday in Beijing to provide professional human resources services for the municipal government and the public.

The website was sponsored by Beijing Municipal Human Resources Research Centre, an institution on human resources development and management under the Organization Department of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians stroll the paths on the meadows along the banks of the River Elbe in Dresden, eastern Germany, after overnight snow falls and at sub-zero temperatures on 26 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Zambia's biggest power station shut down due to heavy rains

LUSAKA, 26 Dec—Zambia's biggest power station on the Kafue River has been shut down due to Saturday night's heavy rains that damaged some parts of the equipment, local media reported on Sunday.

Rodney Sisala, managing director of Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO), the power station's operator, was cited by Zambia's official news agency as saying the heavy rains in the area caused landslides which led to water, mud, trees, rocks and other debris to gush into the power station through the emergency access tunnel.

Sisala said the station drainage system could not divert the water away from the power station due

to the magnitude and weight of the sediment loads from the landslides.

He said ZESCO has contracted a South African company ESKOM and ZESA of Zimbabwe to supply the country with 300 megawatts of power in a bid to minimize the impact of the shutdown.

The Kafue George Power Station generates about 900 megawatts out of the country's 1,750 megawatts of installed capacity.

This is in addition to the 525 megawatts being

generated by Kariba North Bank Power Station and Victoria Falls Power Station which are operating at their maximum capacities.

Sisala assured the nation that the company's engineers were working around the clock to restore the generation plant as soon as possible.

In the meantime, he has appealed to the public to conserve power during the period by switching off non-essential loads, particularly during the peak time.

MNA/Xinhua

EU says Libyan Court's HIV ruling is good news

BRUSSELS, 26 Dec—The European Union welcomed the Libyan Supreme Court's order to retry five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor sentenced to death for allegedly infecting Libyan children with the HIV virus.

"It is good news that death sentences against the medical workers have not been confirmed. We hope today's decision can lead to a rapid and fair settlement to all concerned," said Emma Udwin, the European Commission's external relations spokeswoman.—MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Manchester United's Ji-sung Park, left, is tackled by West Bromwich Albion's Zoltan Gera during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 26 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

China expects three golds from "water sports" in 2008

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Rowing, canoeing and sailing are called "water sports" in China and governed by Wei Di, director of the Chinese Water Sports Administration Centre.

China won its first ever water sports gold medal in the Athens Olympics as Meng Guoliang and Yang Wenjuan triumphed in the men's canoeing C2 500m (metres) final.

One will not be enough as Beijing hosts the 2008 Olympics. Three is a realistic goal.

Recruitment of foreign coaches is a key to China's success in the water sports.

The Chinese canoeing team is headed by Josef Capousek, who had helped as a coach for the German team to win 17 Olympic gold medals. Another foreign recruit Marek Ploch is the man behind China's historic win in Athens.

The first gold medal in 2008 for China in water events should justifiably come from canoe and kayak. Besides the men's C2 500m, the men's C2 1000m and women's k4 500m also have gold chances.

Since December last year, a new canoeing team was set up for the Beijing Games. After months of training in the Qiandaohu Lake and Yunnan Chenggong Plateau, the team went on to compete in three World Cups and the world championships, winning three titles in all.

Chinese rowing is expected to end its Olympic gold drought in 2008 since win-

Reyes ends Arsenal goal drought in 1-0 win over Charlton

LONDON, 27 Dec — Jose Antonio Reyes scored just before the hour to give Arsenal their first win and goal in four Premier League matches in a 1-0 victory at Charlton Athletic on Monday.

The Spanish international struck his second league goal of the season with a shot inside the near post after goalkeeper Thomas Myhre had parried Thierry Henry's shot from the right.

Charlton were down to 10 men for the last 18 minutes after midfielder Danny Murphy was sent off for dissent.

MNA/Reuters

ning three World Cup events in 2005.

Canoeing slalom may become China's another gold point although this event came to China only five years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

Crespo goal gives Chelsea 3-2 win over Fulham

LONDON, 27 Dec — A superb Hernan Crespo volley in the 74th minute gave Chelsea a 3-2 win over Fulham on Monday that maintained their 100 percent home record in the Premier League and opened a 12-point lead over Manchester United.

Chelsea went two goals up in 24 minutes through defender William Gallas and midfielder Frank Lampard but Fulham came back into the game with a knock in from Brian McBride before the half hour following keeper Petr Cech's blunder at a free kick.

Fulham equalized in the 56th minute with a penalty converted by Heidar Helguson after Joe Cole had fouled US striker McBride.

Cole made amends with the right cross from which Crespo, who minutes earlier had been denied by a superb save from Fulham keeper Mark Crossley, volleyed a brilliant winner for his fifth goal in 13 league appearances this season.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, referring to his team's reaction to Fulham's



John Terry (top) of Chelsea vies for the ball with Heidar Helguson of Fulham during a premierships match at Stamford Bridge in west London. Chelsea won the match 3-2.—INTERNET

Rangers held by basement club Dunfermline

GLASGOW, 27 Dec — Champions Rangers had to settle for a 3-3 draw after Darren Young slotted home a penalty in the final minute for basement club Dunfermline Athletic in the Scottish Premier League on Monday.

Leaders Celtic did not allow a power cut, which delayed their kick off by 45 minutes, to distract them and secured a 2-1 win over Livingston.

Celtic have 48 points, four more than Hearts, who romped to a 5-0 win over 10-man Falkirk, while Rangers are in fifth place on 31.

Dunfermline went ahead with a header from Andy Tod in the 16th minute before Danish forward Peter Lovenkrands drew Rangers level five minutes later.

Ex-Celtic player Mark Burchill put Dunfermline 2-1 ahead but Rangers stormed back after the break.

Lovenkrands hammered home a penalty in the 65th minute after Dunfermline's Lee Makel handled a Marvin Andrews header and was sent off.

Rangers appeared have tied up the points two minutes later when Chris Burke found the back of the net.

However, when Greek defender Sotirios Kyrgiakos was sent off for a second yellow card and conceded a last-minute penalty, Young ensured Dun-

fermline had a share of the points.

A power failure in the east end of Glasgow forced back the start of Celtic's match against Livingston 1545 GMT.

Shaun Maloney handed Celtic the lead in the first half from a spot kick.

Although Livingston's Paul Dalglish equalized soon after the interval with a shot from the edge of the penalty area, Japanese international midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura fired Celtic's winner from 18 metres in 87th minute.

Hibernian held on to third place with 37 points despite losing 2-0 at Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Kilmarnock beat Dundee United 2-1 to leapfrog champions Rangers into fourth place with 32 points, while Motherwell beat Aberdeen 3-1 at home.

MNA/Reuters



Aston Villa's Juan Pablo Angel, right, celebrates after scoring with Milan Barros during their English Premier League match against Everton at Villa Park, Birmingham, England on 26 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

English Premier League match reports

LONDON, 27 Dec — Brief reports of English Premier League matches on Monday:

Tottenham Hotspur 2 — Birmingham City 0

Robbie Keane scored Spurs' first from the penalty spot in the 58th minute after he was fouled by defender Matthew Upson and eight minutes later City were down to 10 men with the sending off of Muzzy Izzet for a second bookable offence.

Jermain Defoe scored the second two minutes into injury time as City stayed one from bottom.

Liverpool 2 — Newcastle United 0

Michael Owen's first match at Anfield since he left Liverpool for Real Madrid last year was an unhappy homecoming and included a melee involving most of the players after Newcastle midfielder Lee Bowyer's ugly challenge on Xabi Alonso.

Bowyer was sent off with 24 minutes remaining and Newcastle were two goals down by then as Liverpool cruised to their eighth league win on the trot to stay third.

Steven Gerrard drove in the opener after a quarter of an hour and two minutes before halftime Peter Crouch's shot hit the post and went in off the prostrate keeper

Shay Given's head for an own goal.

Manchester United 3 — West Bromwich Albion 0

Paul Scholes opened the scoring for dominant United minutes after the visitors lost defender Paul Robinson, who had to be carried off after a clash of heads with a team mate as they both went to clear a corner.

Rio Ferdinand headed home Ryan Giggs's corner in first-half stoppage time for his second goal for the club and second in four games.

Ruud van Nistelrooy headed the third from substitute Alan Smith's cross just past the hour as United stayed nine points behind leaders Chelsea.

Middlesbrough 0 — Blackburn Rovers 2

A double from in-form Shefki Kuqi either side of the break earned pitched Boro into the bottom half of the table.

Kuqi nodded in the first from a Brett Emerton cross after 38 minutes and he finished the hosts off 11 minutes from time, drilling home after keeper Mark Schwarzer had parried Craig Bellamy's drive.

MNA/Reuters

Maj-Gen Aung Hlaing

BC/11462

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Defence
D.Sc (Eng), B.E. (Mech.), MEM: ASME (USA)
MEM: ASEAN Eng, A.M.I (Mar).E. (Lon)
60 years

Eldest son of U Tin Hlaing and Daw Than Yi, son-in-law of (U Hla and Daw Ma Ma Gyi), beloved husband of Daw Khin Win Nwe of No-120 Alone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, father of Daw Khaing Khaing Soe-Maj Kyaw Swa Win (Retd), Ko Soe San and Ko Tin Htet, beloved grandfather of Ma Khaing Thazin Kyaw passed away on 27-12-2005 at 4.26 am local time in Singapore. The remains will be sent from morgue of Military Hospital (Mingaladon) to Mingaladon Military Cemetery in a military parade on 29-12-2005 at 1 pm. (Cars will leave the above-mentioned house at 11 am.)

Bereaved family

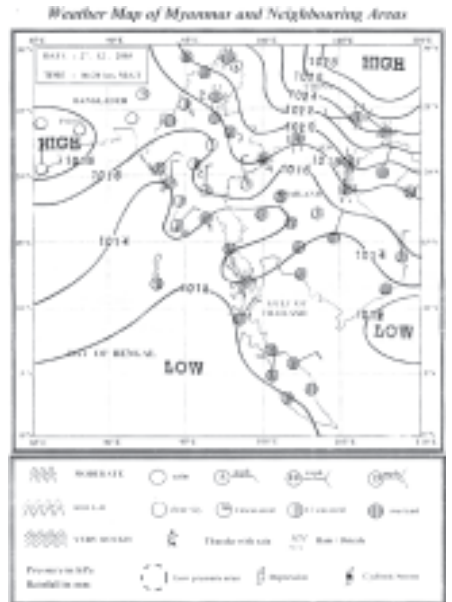
Maj-Gen Aung Hlaing (Charles Hlaing)

BC/11462

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Eldest son of U Tin Hlaing and Daw Than Yi, son-in-law of (U Hla and Daw Ma Ma Gyi), beloved elder brother of Daw Kyi Kyi Hlaing-U Maung Maung Aye, Dr Aye Aye Hlaing-Dr Tin Htay, (U Maung Maung Hlaing)-Daw Nu Nu Tin; beloved younger brother of U Htin Kyaw-Daw Nyunt Nyunt Yi, Col Myo Min (Retd)-Daw Khin Myo Swe, U Thein Kyaw-Daw Khin Oo Maw, Daw Win May, U Myo Thant Hla-Daw Khin Myint Mu passed away on 27-12-2005 at 4.26 am local time in Singapore. The remains will be sent from morgue of Military Hospital (Mingaladon) to Mingaladon Military Cemetery in a military parade on 29-12-2005 at 1 pm. (Cars will leave the above-mentioned house at 11 am.)

Bereaved family



WEATHER

Tuesday, 27 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and scattered in Kachin and Shan States, isolated in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeiawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (7°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) above normal in Shan State, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C), Mindat and Mogok (3°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (1.18) inches, Machanbaw (1.10) inches, Thaton (0.94) inch, and Hpa-an (0.91) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-12-2005 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 27-12-2005 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-12-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 26-12-2005 was (1.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (106.14) inches at Mingaladon, (105.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.92) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from East at (11:50) hours MST on 26-12-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-12-2005: Isolated rain are likely in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-12-2005: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-12-2005:** Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

- အချိန်အခါပွဲ ရွာသွန်းမှီးနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ ကြိုတင်တောင်းသုများသို့ နှိုးဆော်ချက်
(က) စိုက်ထယ်ရေ ရရှိ စေရန် မှီ ရွာရွာခြေအားဖြင့် ပြတ်သည့်နံရံပေါ်၌ အထပ်အကျပ် ဝါးတန်းပြင်ပေးရန်။
(ခ) ကြိုတင်ဖြိုးစေရန် ကမ္ဘာ့မြေအောက် အောက်ပိုင်း အောက်ပိုင်း အောက်ပိုင်း ဝါးတန်း ပေးပို့ပေးရန်။
(ဂ) အပင်ပေါက်ကြီးကြီးများ မှီးရွာရွာခြေအားဖြင့် ပြတ်သည့်နံရံပေါ်၌ အထပ်အကျပ် ဝါးတန်း ပေးပို့ပေးရန်။
(ဃ) ကြိုတင်ပေါက်များ အား မှုတ်ခြေမြေပြုစစ်ဆေး၍ ချက်ခြင်းပင်သေပင်ပျောက်စေပေးရန်။

Radio Myanmar
Wednesday, 28 December
Tune in today
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: There will be the day-Holly
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Come as you are -Nervanna
8.50 am National news & Slogan
9:00 am Music: Take it so hard -Keith Richards
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: That don't impress me much-Shania Twain
1:30 pm News & Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
One sweet day -Mariah Carey
Now I can dance -Tina Arena
I can love you like that -All 4 one
One heart -Celine Dion
"Variations on a tune" Words (Bee Gees, Boy Zone, Instrumental)
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Music at your request -We've got it going on-BSB
Close to you -Fun Factory
9.45 pm News & Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar
Wednesday, 28 December
View on today
7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနယကအစွဲအကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး အဘိဓမ္မာရဟန်းဂုဏ် အဘိဓမ္မာရဟန်းဂုဏ် အဘိဓမ္မာရဟန်းဂုဏ် အဘိဓမ္မာရဟန်းဂုဏ်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. အတိတ်မြင့်ပွဲ
7:55 am
6. ခြားဖြားကြည့်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအစ
8:10 am
7. အရေးကြီးပွဲ
8:20 am
8. စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း ပုထိုးလုံးတံတား
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Let's Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4:30 am
3. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း အဖွဲ့အစည်း အဖွဲ့အစည်း
4:45 pm
4. Song of National Races
5:05 pm
5. အထက်မြင့်ပွဲ
5:15 pm
6. Classical song
5:30 pm
7. နွယ်ဖုံလင်အားအိမ်အစဉ်
5:40 pm
8. မြန်မာ့အသံရတနာပွဲ
6:05 pm
9. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွန့်ပွဲ
6:30 pm
10. Evening news
7:00 pm
11. Weather report
7:05 pm
12. ကြားဖြင့် သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပေအသံ
7:20 pm
13. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ် ရွှေတောင်ပိုင်းမှာ အထွတ်ထွေးစွာ စိုက်ပျိုးစေရန် (အပိုင်း - ခ)
7:30 pm
14. (ရှမ်း) နှစ်ခြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေး နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
7:45 pm
15. အချုပ်အခြာ အာဏာ ဖွင့်ရန် ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်စေရန် နှိုးဆော်ပေးရန် "ယနေ့ကျန်းမာရေး တိုးတက် မြှင့်တင်ရန်အတွက်"
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news.
18. Weather report.
19. Myanmar Video Feature: "ခါး" ကျော် သူ့နေ့ထက်လင် ; မေသာန်းနု (ခါးစိုက်တာ-ခင်စောမျိုး) (အပိုင်း-၁)
20. The next day's programme

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win sees off PRC goodwill delegation

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Commander Lt-Gen Gui Quanzhi of Chengdu Military Area Command of the People's Republic of China this afternoon left here for home.

The guests were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers, Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar and military attaché and officials.

Before their departure, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented a documentary video tape on the visit and a photo album.

MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win sees off Chinese delegation at the airport before their departure for the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Tasks for upgrading of Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Com-

mittee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspected the tasks for upgrading of Yangon City

this morning.

They inspected the laying of asphalt along the ring road of the forest zone

in the Kandawgyi Gardens, the unblocking of the drains along U Chit Maung Road in Bahan

Township, the dredging of Khunhnapiinle Creek between Wards 15 and 16, expansion of Panglong Street between Bayintnaung and Sittoung Roads in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, laying of box culverts on both sides of Thumingalar Street in South Okkalapa Township, and reconstruction of Shukhintha Street in Thakayta Township.

During their inspection tour, the commander and the mayor gave instructions and provided assistance for the tasks.

MNA



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspect tasks for proper drainage in Bahan Township. — MNA

Indian locomotive, coaches run on Yangon-Pyinmana route

YANGON, 27 Dec — As part of an effort to improve rail transportation, Myanmar Railways launched Indian locomotives and coaches on Yangon-Pyinmana route yesterday evening.

In an attempt to meet the needs of rail transportation, Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation assembled coaches at home and imported locomotives and coaches, said Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min at the launching ceremony held at Yangon Central Railway Station.

Moreover, in conformity with the guidance of the Head of State, Myanmar Railways up-

graded and built railroads for better transportation, the minister said.

According to the minister, Myanmar Railways purchased 11 diesel locomotives, 12 upper

class coaches, 22 ordinary class coaches, two other coaches and spare parts of locomotives worth US \$ 28 million from India. A 1,350 HP locomotive costs US \$ 1.6 million. At

the launching ceremony, General Manager Mr RP Singh of M/S Rites Ltd of India handed over documents related to a locomotive and coaches to General Manager U Soe

Win of Myanma Railways.

An upper-class coach worth over US \$ 200,000 has a seating capacity of 30 and an ordinary-class coach worth

over US \$ 200,000 has 62.

The up-train to Pyinmana leaves at 9.30 pm and the down-train to Yangon leaves at 8.30 pm daily.

MNA



Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials see off the passengers at the launching ceremony of Indian locomotive and coaches. — MNA