

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into construction of bridge, production of sugar mills, ethanol plants in Sagaing Division

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC

Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe inspected 2.5

acres of physic nut plantation of Forestry Department in Madaya Township on 3 December morning.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Latpanhla

Bridge Construction Project being implemented by Bridge Construction Special Group-14, they heard the report by officials on bridge construction plans. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed preparations for placing of concrete floor of the bridge.

In Kyitaukpauk Village of Singu Township, they inspected the construction of a hospital. They also looked into the station hospital in Tagoung and developments of the town.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to No 2 Great Wall Sugar Mill of Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd at Maungkon Village in Htigyaing Township and heard the report

by Managing Director U Tin Maung on construction of an ethanol plant along with the sugar mill in production of not only sugar but also ethanol from sugarcane and tapioca, the target production and the process of production of ethanol.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed production process at the sugar mill and progress of the ethanol plant. Production target was set to manufacture 120 tons of ethanol per day and concerted efforts are being made to run the plant in January 2008.

In Myataung Village, they looked into BEHS (Branch) and Myataung Station Hospital. Upon arrival at Special Teak Plantation of

Honda Myanmar Co Ltd in Htigyaing Township, they inspected thriving 500,000 teak plants on 1,000 acres of land against the target of 10,000 acres.

They proceeded to Tonlon village where they viewed 10,000 acres of land put under plantation of sugarcane and tapioca of Good Brothers Co Ltd.

In Tonlon Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected sugarcane and tapioca plantations of Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd. They viewed ethanol and sugar mill construction project of Shweli Energy Co Ltd at Pyinhtaunglay Village. At Nga-O Station Hospital, they looked into the operation theatre. —MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Great Wall Sugar Mill No 2 in Htigyaing Township. — MNA

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Nature of tourism industry

Tourists are responsible for abiding by the laws of the host nation. If they want to visit natural disaster-hit regions, they should extend a helping hand, but should not disturb.

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CHIT SWE MYINT



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 7 December, 2007

Prevent anti-government groups from instigating unrest

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held press conference 2/2007 at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December.

At the conference, officials made clarification on the incidents that took place in August and September in the nation, and relevant photos, materials and documents were displayed.

The protest marches that occurred in some states and divisions in September were due to the instigation launched as a mass movement under the pretext of the fuel price rises by a handful of people, who wanted to disrupt prevalence of law and order, and community peace, in complicity with the '88' generation student group, some political parties and some young artless people.

Behind the protests were the notorious western country, and anti-government groups at home and abroad. The attempt was part of their scheme to devastate the nation and oust the government.

Certain foreign countries including the western super power conducted courses and provided funds for anti-government groups in exile in their bid to incite unrest and violence throughout the nation. Anti-government groups at home organized the people, students and workers to create public panic.

Now, the National Convention has been held successfully, and the democratic process is moving ahead step by step in line with the State's seven-step Road Map. And plans are under way to draft the State Constitution. Therefore, the entire national people are responsible for crushing any schemes of local and foreign anti-government elements with nationalistic fervour.



U Kyaw Thant and Daw Khin Thuzar Nyein donated FEC 120 to International Institute of Abhidhamma at Thadukaryi Dhammayon on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township recently to be spent on tasks for propagation of Abhidhamma across the world. Pro-Rector and Chairman of the management committee of the institute U Mya Than accepts the donation. — H

People's Desire

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

Monsoon paddy harvested in model plots in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Monsoon paddy in the model plots at Paywetsaikkon Village in Thitlaylon Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinana Township, and at Ywethit Village in Elar Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township was harvested this morning.

At the harvesting ceremony held at the three-acre model monsoon paddy field of U Zaw Myint of Paywetsaikkon Village, managers of the district and township Myanma Agriculture Service reported to Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin on different life-spans and yields of the paddy species.

The commander viewed the harvesting and winnowing of paddy by employees of the Myanma Agriculture Service and local farmers, and elaborated on



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin views harvesting at field of Farmer U Zaw Myint in Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinana Township. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Maung Maung Win as Rector of University of Medicine (Magway), Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

MNA

measures to be taken for boosting production.

The per acre yield of Hsin Thwe Lat species paddy in the field was 159.81 baskets.

At the harvesting of paddy in the 5.2-acre field of Daw Sein Pu at Ywethit Village, the commander called for boosting production of all crops. The per acre yield of Manaw Thukha species paddy in the field was 118.72 baskets.

MNA

KOICA provides Equipment for Medical Research in Myanmar

YANGON, 6 Dec — Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Myanmar Office and Department of Medical Research (DMR) of Ministry of Health held a hand-over ceremony at the Auditorium of DMR today for the KOICA-provided nutritional research apparatus and electronic and electrical devices, worth US\$ 25,000 to be used for upgrading of DMR's research capabilities. At the ceremony, Resident Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office, Director-General of DMR, 4 KOICA volunteers and other officials from DMR were present.

Since 1998, KOICA has sent about 80 KOVs to Myanmar to

work together with Myanmar staff at host ministries and organizations. Currently, 18 KOVs are serving in the fields of Korean language, Computer educa-

tion, agriculture, sports, health and IT sector at various host departments of Ministries concerned.

Along with his volunteer program, KOICA's department as-

sistance programs not only contribute to the economic and social development of Myanmar but also strengthen the relationship between the two countries in various sectors. —H



Responsible personnel pose for a group photo at signing and hand-over ceremony to provide equipment for medical research in Myanmar.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

On Iran, Bush faces questions of what he knew when

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—President George W Bush faced questions on Tuesday about whether he knew of intelligence that Iran had ended its nuclear arms programme when he warned in October that Teheran could trigger World War III.

“Can’t you be accused of hyping this threat?” Bush was asked at a news conference a day after his Administration released a new National Intelligence Estimate concluding that Iran halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003. “I was made aware of the NIE last week,” Bush replied.

But it was his next remark that drew attention from Democrats, the

news media and intelligence experts: “In August, I think it was (US intelligence chief) Mike McConnell came in and said, ‘We have some new information.’ He didn’t tell me what the information was.”

Increasingly strident US rhetoric over Iran’s nuclear programme reached a peak on 17 October when Bush warned that a nuclear-armed Iran could lead to World War III.

A day later, Vice-President Dick Cheney announced his own warning of “serious consequences” for Iran if it refused to abandon its nuclear activities.

The comments stirred fears of a possible US

military confrontation with Iran and helped send world oil prices soaring toward the 100 US dollars a barrel mark.

On Tuesday, some former intelligence officers said Bush and other top White House officials were probably briefed about the intelligence findings long before the NIE was published.

“I can’t imagine that McConnell ... would tell the President about this and not tell him what the information actually said,” remarked Flynt Leverett, a former member of Bush’s National Security Council.

MNA/Reuters



Residents use a makeshift raft to travel to their flooded house in West Jakarta on 5 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Iraq orphanage boss to face court in abuse case

BAGHDAD, 5 Dec—The manager of a Baghdad orphanage where US forces found children naked and malnourished in June will face court, a government official said on Monday.

Hamid al-Zaidi, general inspector of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry, said a government inquiry had found the manager, two childcare workers and the guard of the orphanage of Dar Al-Hanan—Arabic

for the Home of Tenderness — guilty of negligence.

He said the two childcare workers were on the run.

“An arrest warrant was issued for them,” he told Reuters.

Under Iraqi law, an investigative judge will review evidence and decide whether to send the case to a three-member court for trial.

US and Iraqi forces were led to the orphanage by members of a neighbourhood council and found 24 abused boys. Many had been tied to their beds and were too weak to stand.

After the incident, the boy’s section of the orphanage in central Baghdad was closed and the boys were moved to a nearby building where orphaned girls were housed.

MNA/Reuters



Nintendo’s portable video game console. A new survey shows Japanese children sinking in academic scores and those seeking science careers placing last in international rankings, shocking a nation long proud of its technological prowess.—INTERNET

Iran dismisses US comments about nuclear danger

TEHERAN, 5 Dec—Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator on Wednesday brushed off US comments that Teheran was still a danger and said he hoped any future US intelligence report would say Teheran’s nuclear plans had always been peaceful.

The US National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Monday surprised US friends and foes by saying Iran halted an atomic weapons programme in 2003, contradicting charges by the Bush Administration that Teheran was actively

working on an atom bomb.

Teheran welcomed the report although it insists its nuclear programme has never had any military goals.

“In the report they said that Iran’s nuclear activity was peaceful after 2003 and I hope they say in their next report that all Iran’s activity was peaceful since the beginning,” top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili said after visiting Russia.

The NIE report, how-

ever, said Iran was continuing to develop the technical means that could be applied to producing weapons. US President George W Bush said Iran remained a danger if it mastered the knowledge to make a nuclear weapon.

Jalili responded: “Bush’s remarks were not new. What is important is their official organizations admitted that Iran did not have non-peaceful activities.”

MNA/Reuters

Afghan police set on fire 1.7 tons of illicit drugs

KABUL, 5 Dec—Afghan police destroyed nearly 1.7 tons of illicit drug including 286 kilos of heroin on Monday, a Press release of Afghan Interior Ministry said. “Police on Monday in the northeastern Takhar Province burned 1,789 kilos of narcotics including 286 kilos of heroin and 227 kilos of opium poppy,” the

Press release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy head of the Interior Ministry’s Narcotics department Mohammad Daud said the government is determined to eliminate opium poppy from the country.

The Interior Ministry also said police had destroyed 300 acres of

poppy-cultivated field in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand Province on Sunday. Afghanistan with an estimated output of 8,200 tons of opium poppy in 2007 has topped poppy growing nations in supplying raw material used in manufacturing heroin in the world.

MNA/Xinhua



Young Chinese athletes exercise at a gymnastics hall at the Shichahai sports school in Beijing on 5 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

IAEA says US report on Iran supports its findings

VIENNA, 5 Dec— The United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday that the latest US intelligence report on Iran's nuclear weapons programme backed up the findings of IAEA inspectors over the past few years.

"This validates the repeated assessment of the director general that the inspectors' findings

represented no clear and present danger and that there was ample time for negotiations," a senior official at the International Atomic Energy Agency told Reuters.

"This is in sync with IAEA statements over the past few years that we had no evidence nor had been given any intelligence information of an undeclared nuclear weapons

programme anywhere," the official added.

The US National Intelligence Estimate released on Monday said Iran had halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003.

Teheran says it has never had plans to build atomic bombs and wants only to generate electricity.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing's population exceeds 17.4 million

BEIJING, 5 Dec — The total population of Beijing has exceeded 17.4 million, according to a municipal population official.

Speaking at a population forum hosted by Fengtai District on Monday, Zhang Yunli, deputy chief of the Beijing municipal commission of population and family planning, said

there were 12.03 million permanent, registered residents and 5.4 million transients in the capital.

Of the total permanent population, 91,000 were born in the first 10 months of this year, with 40,475 migrant babies born during the same period, said Zhang.

The gender ratio for permanent residents (female vs male births) is

100:108, the highest level that can be considered a natural distribution of births, while the ratio for transients is 100:120, which is highly skewed towards males.

According to Zhang, innercity areas are the most densely populated, with the number of residents being 60 times as many as outlying suburbs. — MNA/Xinhua

Blast hits NATO convoy near Kabul Airport, eight wounded

KABUL, 5 Dec— A suicide bomber rammed a car into a convoy of NATO forces close to the airport in the Afghan capital on Tuesday, wounding eight Afghan civilians, a police official said.

A spokesman for the Taliban said the militant Islamic group carried out the attack to "welcome" US Defence Secretary Robert Gates who arrived in Kabul on Monday evening. There were no casualties among NATO troops in the attack which happened during the

morning rush hour on a road just outside Kabul's International Airport, an alliance spokesman said.

The spokesman for NATO, which runs a force separate to the US military in Afghanistan, said that one of its vehicles was damaged in the blast.

Foreign and Afghan troops sealed off the site of the blast and smoke could be seen rising from the area. Tuesday's attack reflected a rising level of violence in the past two years in Afghanistan, the bloodiest period since the

Taliban's removal from power in 2001.

Gates is to gauge the needs of military commanders as they face a resurgent Taliban and signs that al-Qaeda is regrouping in the country.

More than six years after a US-led invasion drove the Taliban from power, Gates said on Monday he was concerned about the increasing violence but he did not think Afghanistan was moving backwards.

"I'm not worried about a back slide as much as I am how we continue the momentum going forward," the Pentagon chief told reporters.

"I think that one of the clear concerns that we all have is that (in) the last two or three years there has been a continuing increase in the overall level of violence."

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber kills six, wounds 25 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 Dec— A suicide bomber killed six people and wounded 25 when he blew himself up outside a police station in Iraq's Diyala Province on Tuesday, police said.

The bomber struck in the town of Jalawla, 110 kilometres (70 miles) north of Baghdad in the Diyala River valley.

Police earlier said a suicide car bomber caused the attack, but they later said it was a militant wearing a vest packed with explosives. The attack took place near a popular market. Among those killed were two policemen. Diyala is an ethnically and religiously mixed area that has seen some of the worst fighting between US forces and militants over the past several months.

MNA/Reuters



NASA workers are seen near Space Shuttle Atlantis' external tank and one of the rocket solid boosters at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Wednesday Dec. 5, 2007.

INTERNET

Iraq group holding Britons demands UK withdrawal

DUBAI, 5 Dec— Kidnappers holding five Britons seized in Iraq in May threatened to kill one hostage in 10 days as a "first warning" unless Britain withdraws from Iraq, in a video aired by Al Arabiya television on Tuesday.

The video, dated 18 November, showed a hostage sitting on the floor flanked by masked gunmen pointing assault rifles at him.

A statement said that if Britain failed to leave Iraq within 10 days after it was broadcast, "this hostage will be killed as a first warning, which would be followed with details that you would not want to know".

Britain has not disclosed the names of the five Britons — a computer consultant and his four bodyguards — who were snatched from a Finance Ministry data processing centre by gunmen wearing police commando uniforms in May. "My name is Jason. Today is 18 November. I have been here now 173 days and I feel we've been forgotten," said the hostage on the video as he sat in front of a banner of the Shiite Islamic Resistance in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

HIV, tuberculosis jointly kill 300 Peruvians every year

LIMA, 5 Dec — Around 300 Peruvians die every year of tuberculosis worsened by acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (AIDS), a senior Health Ministry official said Monday.

Tuberculosis speeds the process that turns human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection into full-blown AIDS, said Cesar Bonilla, the coordinator of tuberculosis prevention and control at the ministry.

"It is important to have an early diagnosis for people who are suffering from tuberculosis or infected with HIV," said Bonilla, noting some 50 per cent of those who died of tuberculosis in Peru were also infected with HIV.

Every year Peru reports

nearly 36,000 tuberculosis cases. Official figures estimate 30,000 people are infected with HIV in Peru, but non-governmental organizations put the figure at nearly 100,000.

MNA/Xinhua



The home page of Nokia's social networking site called Mosh is seen on a mobile phone in Stockholm. INTERNET

China, India vow to expand financial cooperation

BEIJING, 5 Dec—China and India signed here on Tuesday a joint statement that pledges to expand financial cooperation between the world's two largest developing countries.

In the statement signed at the second China-India Financial Dialogue in Beijing, the two countries vowed to boost exchanges and cooperation on bond markets development, capital markets opening and financial supervision.

Both sides agreed to develop bond markets and expand channels for direct financing, gradually open domestic capital markets and boost financial supervision to guard against risks brought about by short-term cross-border capital flows.

The two countries also

pledged to improve macro-economic controls, promote renewable and clean energy development and usher in more sustainable resources-saving and environment-friendly production and consumption models. Li Yong, Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance, and Indian Financial Secretary Dr D Subbarao co-chaired the meeting.

Li acknowledged that

China and India face similar challenges brought about by fast economic growth. The statement says that both sides have realized that the spreading subprime crisis, high oil and commodity prices, global economic imbalance and rising trade protectionism pose potential threats to global economic growth.

MNA/Xinhua



Swan boats along West Lake in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 5 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnam's farm product export to surge 20% this year

HANOI, 5 Dec—Vietnam is estimated to earn at least 10.5 billion US dollars from exporting agriculture, forestry and seafood

products in 2007, up 20 per cent over 2006, according to a local agriculture agency on Monday.

The country exported nearly 4.5 million tons of rice worth over 1.4 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of this year, down 3.4 per cent in volume but up 14 per cent in value against the same period of last year, said the Planning

Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Meanwhile, Vietnam sold overseas roughly 1.1 million tons of coffee totalling 1.7 billion dollars, posting respective year-on-year rises of 35.5 per cent and 72.7 per cent; 648,000 tons of rubber worth 1.2 billion dollars, up 1.6 per cent and 5.3 per cent; 2.1 billion dollars worth of woodwork, up 23.7 per cent; and more than 3.4 billion worth of seafood, up 11.9 per cent.

Vietnam is centering on boosting production of items with big export advantages, establishing largescale production zones attached to processing establishments and markets, and developing husbandry industry.

MNA/Xinhua

A machine produces ethanol made from rice in Shinanomachi, central Japan. Small Caribbean nations see big biofuel opportunities in ethanol produced from traditional sugar crops and biodiesel from promising African palm and jatropha trees, delegates to a conference in Miami said.

INTERNET



Oil hits five-week low below \$88, US economy weighs

NEW YORK, 5 Dec—Oil prices plumbed five-week lows below 88 US dollars a barrel on Monday as concerns about the health of the US economy extended losses that have cut 10 per cent from crude prices over the past two weeks.

US crude was down 81 cents at 87.90 US dollars a barrel at 1720 GMT, after trading down to 87.14 US dollars earlier, well off the record high of 99.29 US

dollars a barrel hit on November 21. Brent crude traded down 30 cents at 87.96 US dollars.

Oil's record rally was clipped by worries over the weakening economy in the United States and the restart of the giant Canada-US Enbridge pipeline, which carries 10 per cent of the world's top consumer's crude imports, following a fire last week.

The slide comes as the Organization of Pe-

troleum-Exporting Countries gathers in Abu Dhabi to decide on output policy.

"The market will be very focused on Wednesday's OPEC meeting, but we believe they are unlikely to do anything," said Mike Wittner of Societe Generale. "They have the same concerns as the market—the possibility of weakening economic growth led by the United States."—MNA/Reuters

Gulf Arab nations announce establishment of common market

DOHA, 5 Dec—Abdul Rahman al-Attiya, secretary general of the six oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, announced the establishment of a common market at the closing session of the GCC summit here on Tuesday.

The Vasco da Gama striker, who has played sporadically since scoring what he claimed to be the 1,000th goal of his career in May, said he had tested positive for finasteride after the game against Palmeiras on 28 October.

"I'm losing some hair and I have been taking this product for a while," the 41-year-old told a news conference.

Brazil's disciplinary tribunal has not said when it would rule on the case.

The 1994 World Cup winner said he planned to keep playing until early next year and did not expect a stiff punishment.

"I don't think it's going to disrupt my career," he said. "It's not really doping. As far as I'm concerned, it's something which has never influenced my performance. It isn't the first time I've used it."

"If I had known it wasn't allowed, I would never have used it."

In an upbeat mood, he added: "I'm going to go a little balder. The few hairs I still have are going to fall out. "Some bald guys who had been taking it told me it was good. And it really worked, as you can see."

Romario has kept his career going over the last few years, defying those who said he should retire.

MNA/Reuters



A woman looks at the upper part of a goblet, made in 1611 by Nikolaus Pfaff, shown in the exhibition "Emperor Rudolf II in Dresden" at Dresden's New Green Vault.—INTERNET



In this undated image provided by the New Victory Theater, performers of the New Shanghai Circus are shown on stage at the New Victory Theater in New York, where a cast of weightless and rubberized contortionists, acrobats, dancers and assorted risk takers stage a smiling face-off with gravity and other laws of science. The New Shanghai Circus runs through on 6 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Britain's party funding scandal flares up again

LONDON, 5 Dec — A financing scandal engulfing Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Labour Party flared up again on Monday when a Cabinet minister disclosed he had failed to declare donations to Britain's elections watchdog.

The disclosure was a setback to Brown, who has been struggling to regain control of the political agenda after his party was blown off course by a storm over illegal donations.

The row has damaged Brown's standing and Labour trails the opposition Conservatives by up to 11 points in opinion polls.

Work and Pensions

Secretary Peter Hain admitted last week he had failed to register a 5,000-pound (10,000-US-dollar) donation to his unsuccessful campaign this year to become the Labour Party's deputy leader because of an administrative error.

He announced on Monday that further donations had not been

registered with the Electoral Commission, Parliament's elections and funding watchdog, as required by law.

He said he had been to see the Electoral Commission and was preparing a full declaration for the watchdog. "This is extremely regrettable and I apologize," he said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Six kilos of cocaine found on aircraft at Sydney airport

CANBERRA, 5 Dec — Nearly six kilos of cocaine with an estimated street value of 660,000 Australian dollars (580,000 US dollars) has been found in an aircraft toilet cubicle at Sydney airport.

Australian Associated Press reported Tuesday that the Boeing 747 was searched by Australian Customs officers Sunday morning after arriving in Sydney from Los

Angeles.

Officers and specialist dog teams found 12 blocks of shrink-wrapped white powder in a garbage bin in one of the toilet cubicles. The powder was later confirmed as 5.7 kilos of cocaine.

Australian Customs Manager Gayle Brown said the drugs had been handed over to

the Australian Federal Police.

"It's pretty obvious that whoever planned to import these drugs got cold feet at some stage," she said in a statement.

She said Customs officers focus on checking passengers but also regularly search international aircraft.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to build third Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

BANGKOK, 5 Dec — The Thai Cabinet Tuesday approved a draft agreement on the construction of the third Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River.

The pact between the two countries is expected to be signed by the end of December 2007, with financing to be provided by the Thai Government,

according to Thai News Agency.

The new bridge will connect Thailand's Nakhon Phanom Province on the northeast border and the Lao province of Khammoune.

The Thai Ministry of Commerce recorded that from January through

September 2007, Thailand's imported goods from Laos was worth almost 1.5 billion baht (some 44.8 million US dollars) and Thailand's exports to Laos valued at more than 30 billion baht (896 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Police detain 18 suspected of creating uproar in Bali

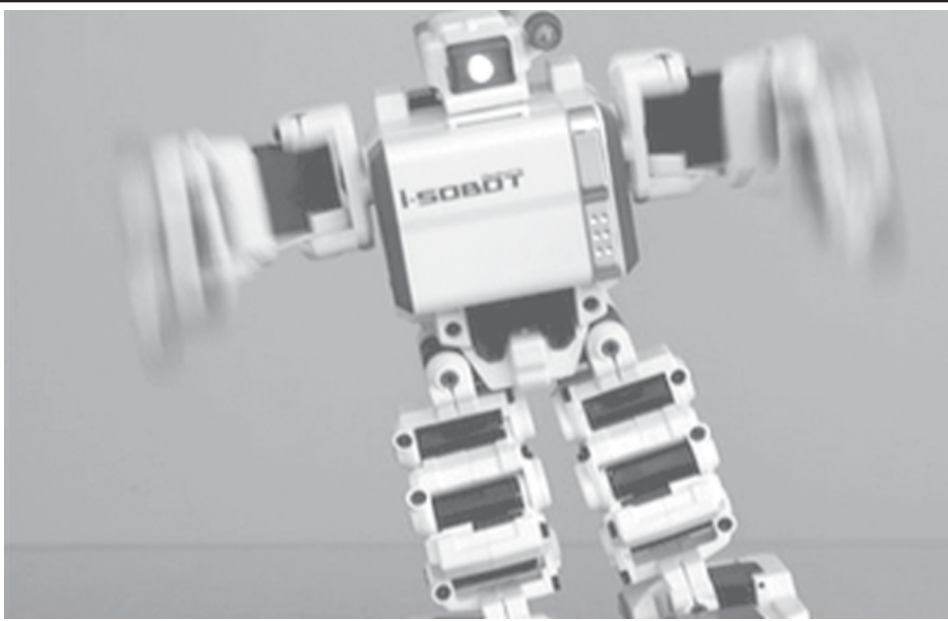
BALI (Indonesia), 5 Dec — Indonesian police on Monday detained 18 youths suspected of trying to create uproar during the ongoing United Nations climate change conference in Bali.

The people were detained aboard a boat sailing the waters off the Bali southern coast en route to Padangbai Port

in Karangasem District, Bali, a spokesman of the water police directorate at the provincial police said.

Chief of the Bali Provincial Police's Information Service Snr Comm AS Reniban said the 18 youths were detained following a clue that they would come to Bali to stage a rally in connection with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

MNA/Xinhua



An i-Sobot performs in Tokyo, Japan, on 15 Nov, 2007. Recognized by Guinness World Records as the smallest humanoid robot in commercial production, i-Sobot went on sale in Japan, in white, and the US, in black, in recent weeks, and is set to arrive in European stores next year. It's designed for people 15 years or older.

INTERNET

Strong quake hits Indonesia's Sulawesi Island

JAKARTA, 5 Dec — An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale shook the northern part of Indonesia's Sulawesi Island on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, the meteorology agency said.

The undersea quake was at a depth of 35 kilometres (22 miles) and was centred 138 kilometres northeast of Bitung on the northern tip of Sulawesi Island. "We are still looking for damage and casualties from civilians. It was felt in Bitung,

Manado, and Ternate," said Suharjono, an official at the meteorology agency.

Indonesia, which is situated on a belt of intense seismic activity known as the "Pacific Ring of Fire", has had a series of earthquakes in recent weeks, but experts say that

this activity is normal.

A huge earthquake in December 2004 triggered a devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean which killed more than 230,000 people in the region, including 170,000 Indonesians.

MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 2 Nov, 2007 shows a view of the Swakopmund beach resort, western Namibia. The unique coastal desert and safari parks are great tourism attractions in Namibia. Tourism is one of the mainstay industries of Namibia.—INTERNET



Nature of tourism industry

Chit Swe Myint

Tourism is said to be very sensitive, like a tender flower. To nurture a flowering plant requires air, water, sunshine and soil, however, it is needed to keep a balance, in this regard.

Indeed, tourism is a business of providing services with care. In other words, it is the sale of products plus care. So, tourism industry can boom only if it wins customer satisfaction.

Suppose a tourist attraction faces natural disasters such as heavy rain, strong wind, flooding and earthquake, or epidemics such as SARS, bird flu, and plague, or dangerous situations such as armed conflicts, unrest, strict security measures, and domination of terrorists, the tourist arrivals to such a region drop sharply.

If so, the officials concerned are responsible for revitalizing the region's tourism industry.

In the tourism field, the expression "crisis" represents natural disasters, epidemics, and man-made military and political problems endangering public life and security.

And the expression "crisis management" means remedying tourism crisis. The processes to remedy tourism crisis include meetings such as seminars, forums and dialogues, presentation and symposiums, educative talks, clarification, and tourism festivals.

As part of the crisis management, local and foreign news agencies issue news about programmes directly or indirectly. Sometimes, global celebrities, worldwide famous travel operators, travel agents and journalists are invited to and conducted around the tourist destinations.

In the tourism industry, measures are taken to create alternative job opportunities for the people of the tourist destinations and to promote sales of the local products. And local administrative bodies,

Some foreigners attempted to tarnish the image of Myanmar by posting in the Websites the photos of the protest walks that took place along Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon in the last week of September. Similarly, some nationals took photos of the protest marches and sold them to foreign news agencies at low prices. Therefore, it cost a long haul for the government and responsible persons to tackle the incidents to fulfil the people's desire and wishes of leading a peaceful life and support the forthcoming State constitution.

NGOs, entrepreneurs and stakeholders contribute towards the programmes through coordination.

A nation is responsible for security of its citizens who are visiting another country, imposing restrictions or dissuading its people from visiting unsafe destinations, and persuading and providing local people to visit niche destinations abroad. Host countries have to take responsibilities for providing data and information and designating dangerous zones for the security of the tourists, and suggesting to visit safe destinations.

Tourists are responsible for abiding by the laws of the host nation. If they want to visit natural disaster-hit regions, they should extend a helping hand, but should not disturb.

In addition, they shall not release the photos they have taken. Some cameramen make use of advanced technologies to release the photos. Photos show the images but they do not explain the details of the reasons. Genuine tourists shall not mislead international community into misunderstanding the host nations by releasing photos. If a tourist face dangers while he is in

a place where unrest and violence are occurring, at an inopportune time, he is liable for what he has faced.

Some foreigners attempted to tarnish the image of Myanmar by posting in the Websites the photos of the protest walks that took place along Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon in the last week of September. Similarly, some nationals took photos of the protest marches and sold them to foreign news agencies at low prices. Therefore, it cost a long haul for the government and responsible persons to tackle the incidents to fulfil the people's desire and wishes of leading a peaceful life and support the forthcoming State constitution.

The photos and news on Sule Pagoda Road had a strong negative impact on the nation's tourism industry. Some people want to frequent other countries at will but they do not want foreigners to enter their countries at will.

The ministries concerned, relevant departments, private stakeholders and the news agencies that have goodwill towards tourists are working together for tourists to visit Myanmar. Those engaged in the tourism industry are now making renewed efforts for the nation's tourism industry to recover.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is seeking new ways and means in cooperation with the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the convenience of tourists. It also gives encouragement to the people through travel entrepreneurs. Airlines, hotels and travel agents are coordinating to work out solutions to the issues. The nation has yet to hold grand-scale festivals and sales promotion exhibitions and invite experts and travelogue writers. All the ongoing programmes are designed to serve the interests of the people. So, the people are duty-bound to do their bit in the campaign for tourism promotion.

Translation: MS

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Maj-Gen Khin Zaw meets with departmental officials, inspects Paddy-husk-Fired Power Plant

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Maung Shein arrived at Kyaukpyu on 3 December.

At Yamawady Hall, they met with departmental officials and townsenders and Chairman U Tin Maung Saw of Kyaukpyu Township PDC briefed them on regional development tasks.

After hearing the reports, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw called for cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy to meet the targeted yield and extended growing of edible oil crops for ensuring sufficiency of edible oil.

Kyaukpyu Township has so far cultivated monsoon paddy on 61047



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects storage of medicine at the hospital in Kyaukpyu District. — MNA

acres of farmland accounting for 124.66 per cent, edible oil crops on 584 acres, physic nut plants on 868 acres and perennial crops on 462 acres.

Upon arrival at Kyaukpyu People's Hospital, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected medical store, surgical

rooms, X-ray room and patient wards and provided cash assistance to warded patients.

After overseeing physic nut and rubber saplings at the nursery of Kyaukpyu District PDC, they proceeded to Kyaukpyu Education College, donated cash for school funds and viewed

lecture halls round the college.

At the 25-bed Tatmadaw Hospital, they presented cash assistance to warded patients. Upon arrival at Taungup Township Electrical Engineer Office, District Officer U Win Oo briefed them on progress of power supply and the

commander gave a supplementary report.

Regarding the reports on generation of power by the use of paddy-husk presented by Chairman U Soe Tint Aung of Myanmar Inventors Cooperative Limited, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw called for extended power supply and inspected paddy-husk

fired power plant. Two-generator-installed power plant produces 400 kilowatt and supplies power four hours a day. Thandwe District has cultivated rubber on 8033 acres and a total of 22,109 acres of rubber have been grown in the whole Rakhine State.

MNA

Progress of Kyeohn-Kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam project supervised

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo made a field trip to Kyeohn-Kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam Project near Wunlo Village of Pwintbyu Township on 29 November.

The minister inspected construction of the reinforced concrete spillway measuring 1,100 feet by 326 feet at the dam. He also viewed preparations for installation of the pre-stressed steel pipelines and construction of the power plant.

Accompanied by departmental officials, the minister looked into diversion canal that carries water from Mone Creek. The minister viewed progress in

construction of the main embankment measuring 3,280 feet by 164 feet. Officials of the Irrigation Department reported on process of implementing the dam project.

Kyeohn-Kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented to store water from Mone Creek Dam and other places for generating 74 megawatts. In addition, the Kyeohn-Kyeewa Dam will supply water to 96,777 acres of farmland through Mezali Dam, five miles downstream of it. Moreover, Mezali dam will irrigate over 70,000 acres of summer paddy for ensuring food sufficiency of Magway Division. —MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Kyeohn-Kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam project. — A & I

Myanmar men's and women's teams stand second in Hoop Takraw contests

YANGON, 6 Dec — The men's and women's Hoop Takraw events of the XXIV Sea Games continued in Thailand.

This afternoon, Myanmar Women's Team secured the second prize in the women's Hoop Takraw event on 590 points, while Thailand stood first on 630 points and the Philippines, third on 550 points.

In the men's Hoop Takraw contest, Myanmar team stood second on 760 points, Thailand, first on 930 points and Indonesia third on 650 points.

MNA

CEC members to be elected to MFF

YANGON, 6 Dec — Myanmar Fisheries Federation will elect members of Central Executive Committee for the period 2008-2010 in the last week of December 2007.

Candidates for the Central Executive Committee of MFF are to submit their names to MFF at the corner of Bayintnaung Road and Sethmu Saywah Street in West Gyogon, Insein Township not later than 4 pm on 20 December.

MNA

MMCWA marks World AIDS Day



President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin delivers an address at a ceremony to mark World AIDS Day. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association conducted a ceremony to mark World AIDS Day at the office of the association in South Okkalapa Township here today.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Khin Win, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin, the resident representatives of UN agencies and others.

First, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe and President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin delivered addresses.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented first, second and third prizes to winners who participated in the extempore talks to mark World AIDS Day.

Next, the president of MMCWA presented gift to Assistant Director Dr Htin Aung who presided over the extempore talks. After the presentation, the commander and party browsed documentary photos on activities of the association.— MNA



President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin presents prize to a winner of the extempore talks held to mark World AIDS Day. — MNA

Secretariat Member oversees regional development tasks in Taungtha

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of rural health care centre in Yonezingyi village, Taungtha Township on 2 December.

Upon arrival at the centre, they inspected the chosen place to build the station hospital and gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

The minister paid homage to Kanswekyang Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandawbasain Yonezinlay village and donated robes and alms to the Sayadaw. At Yonezinlay village Basic Education Primary School, the minister met with local people and gave instructions on cooperative measures to be taken in the public welfare tasks.

On arrival at Htanpinkan village, the minister met with rural people and presented K 3 million towards the funds of Zayetgyi village Basic

Education Middle School (Branch). Next, he attended the 5th Kathina robes offering ceremony held at Sasana Waiponlayama Kyarkan Kyaungtaik in Taungtha Township.

Afterwards, the minister watched the final match of Five-Township Football Tournament. After the final match, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing presented K 100,000 and medals to runner-up team and Minister U Aung Thaung, K 200,000 and medals to champion team. — MNA

Personnel urged to carry out regional ...

(from page 16)

Later, they inspected production processes of oil palm plantation project of Yuzana Co Ltd. At the briefing hall of the project, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met national entrepreneurs. Officials reported on extended cultivation of oil palm in 2007-08, use of insecticide and matters related to technology and the commander made a supplementary report.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye urged them to strive for ensuring food surplus and stressed the need for growing 500,000 acres of palm oil in the division.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected oil palm plantations along Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik Road on a motorcade.

So far, 228,928 acres of oil palm plantation have been cultivated and 51,855 acres harvested in the division. — MNA

Secretary of AHF Relations Committee leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 6 Dec — Secretary of the Relations Committee of the Asian Hockey Federation and member of AHF/FIH Hockey Development Committee U Kyaw Naing left here by air this morning for Thailand to discharge duties as Jury of Appeal in the Hockey Tournaments at the XXIV SEA Games to be held from 6 to 14 December in Thailand.

AHF assigned duties to him as technical officer at the Asian Hockey Championship to be held in Singapore in June 2008.



U Kyaw Naing.

MNA

In the XXIV SEA Games, Myanmar Men's Hockey Team will play against Malaysia on 8 December, host Thailand on 9 December and Singapore on 11 December.—MNA

Fires break out

YANGON, 6 Dec — A fire damaged Finished-Wood Product Factory at No 4, Kyun Shwe Wah Street, Sanpya Village in Mingaladon Township, here at about 11 on 4 December and the fire started due to overheated sawdust machine.

Another fire destroyed nine houses and left 37 people homeless in Kaingnge village, Mindon Township, Thayet District in Magway Division on 4 December. The fire started from the kitchen. — MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

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US teen births tilt up, unmarried rate hits record

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec —The birth rate for teenagers increased in 2006 in the United States for the first time since 1991, while childbearing among unmarried women surged to the highest level on record, health officials said on Wednesday.

Across-the-board increases in birth rates for women ages 15 to 44 drove the total US fertility rate — the estimated average number of births for women in their lifetimes — to its highest mark since 1971, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report.

The birth rate for females aged 15 to 19 rose

by 3 per cent in 2006 from the previous year, to 41.9 live births per 1,000 from 40.5 in 2005. This ends 14 years of declines during which the teen birth rate dropped by 34 per cent from a peak of 61.8 births per 1,000 in 1991.

The increases were largest among Black teens, whose birth rate climbed 5 per cent in 2006 from the prior year. The rate was up 3 per cent for White and 2 per cent for Hispanic teens.

“It could be a new trend, but it’s just really too soon to say,” Stephanie Ventura, who heads the CDC’s Reproductive Statistics Branch, said in a telephone interview.

The reasons for the rise in the teenage birth rate are unclear, Ventura said, but she noted there is early evidence that declines in US teen sexual activity have levelled off.

“I don’t know if the use of contraception among teens has changed. We just don’t know what’s happening,” Ventura said.

The CDC said the birth rate among the youngest girls — ages 10 to 14 — declined last year.

Births to unmarried girls and women reached their highest levels in 2006 since the government began tracking such statistics in 1940, Ventura said.

MNA/Reuters



Teenagers surf the Web at an Internet cafe. Young Europeans prefer the Internet over television, and nearly half say they watch less TV because of surfing the web, a poll of 10 European countries showed on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Nokia predicts 10% growth in mobile phone market

HELSINKI, 6 Dec—Nokia, the world’s largest mobile phone producer, predicted that the mobile phone market would grow by 10 per cent next year to more than 1.2 billion units.

Nokia said on Tuesday that it was now targeting a one to two-year group operating margin (the proportion of revenue after production costs are subtracted) of 16-17 per cent, up from its previous target of 15 per cent.

It also predicted that the worldwide market for internet services would reach 100 billion euros (145 billion US dollars) by 2010, and announced the acquisition of Avvenu, a US-based company that specializes in online services and access to PCs and handsets.

In a note timed to coincide with an investors’ meeting in Amsterdam, Nokia said it expected industry handset unit sales to grow by around 10 per cent in 2008 from the anticipated 1.1 billion units this year.

Overall sales next year are expected to increase more than 15 per cent in the Asia-Pacific Region, China, the Middle East and Africa and less than 10 per cent in North America and Europe, Nokia said.—MNA/Xinhua

ECOWAS holds meeting in Togo

LOME, 6 Dec—About thirty representatives from 11 West African countries are attending a seminar here aimed at reviewing the implementation of a common policy on traditional medicine in the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS)’s sub-region.

The participants are expected to review the harmonized regulatory framework policy on traditional medicine in the sub-region, and come up with a plan of action with a view to adopting a law or a code of ethics for traditional health practitioners, sources said Monday.

The envisaged plan of action will serve as a working framework document for the relevant traditional medicine authorities and ministries in the sub-region.

The meeting in the Togolese capital of Lome is a follow-up to the previous deliberations held in May 2007 in Burkina Faso and in June 2007 in Ghana.

It is aimed at proposing a working framework document to governments which could be used to ratify the practice of traditional medicine in the ECOWAS sub-region.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to seek world heritage aid for Sundarbans

DHAKA, 6 Dec — Bangladesh will seek emergency funds from the World Heritage Centre to restore the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Sundarban mangrove forest, badly mauled by last month’s killer cyclone, officials said on Wednesday.

Cyclone Sidr, which struck the Bangladesh coast on November 15

with winds of 250 kilos per hour (155 miles per hour), killed around 3,500 people, made millions homeless and destroyed a large part of the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Forest officials said they had found two dead tigers and several deer following the cyclone, the

worst to hit Bangladesh since 1991 when a storm killed around 143,000 people.

Officials said better preparedness and an advance warning system had helped save many people this time, but the vast mangrove forest had also largely offset the impact of the cyclone, which triggered a five-metre water surge from the Bay of Bengal.

MNA/Reuters

Finnish parents help their adult children more

HELSINKI, 6 Dec — A survey by the Academy of Finland shows that parents

in their mid fifties in the Scandinavian country offer more help to their adult children than those in other European countries.

Finland was followed by Sweden, Austria, Greece and Germany. Parents in Spain, Switzerland, Italy and Belgium offered the least support, Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE reported on Tuesday.

Researchers say the reason is partly that children in Nordic countries tend to move away from home at an earlier age than those in southern Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Shoppers at NYC shopping mall speak in 150 languages

NEW YORK, 6 Dec — Shoppers at the Queens Center Mall, a shopping mall located in the New York borough of Queens, speak in 150 languages, and merchants are recruiting translators to help them, according to *New York Daily News* on Tuesday.

So far, Queens Center is the only city megamall that offers translation services with a core of full-time multilingualists and the ability to draw on dozens of mall employees who speak other languages, the paper said.

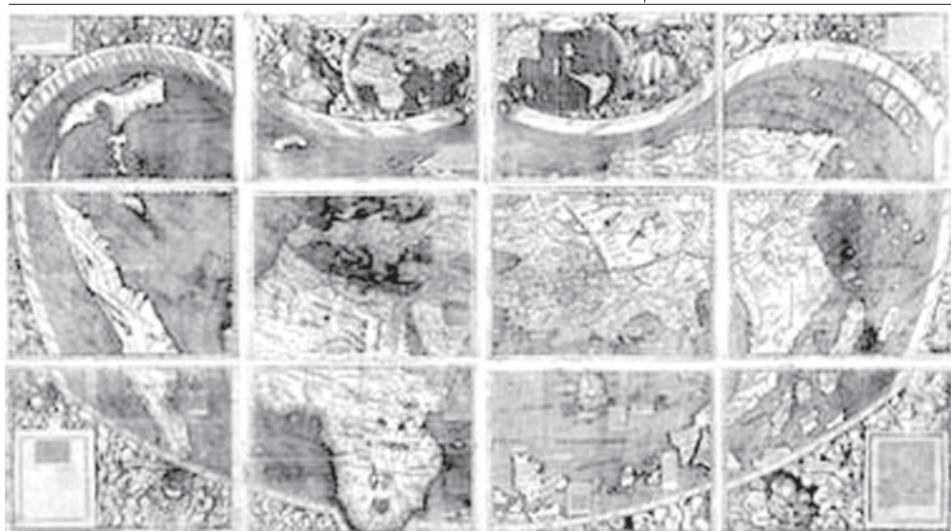
“It’s important and very much needed,

especially because of the cultural diversity of Queens,” the paper quoted Dawn Simon, the mall’s marketing director, as saying.

“Over 150 languages are spoken here. What better way to connect with shoppers than to speak their language?”

The shopping mall launched the Foreign Language Assistance Programme more than 10 years ago. It also maintains a directory of multilingual employees at the 70 shops, whose owners have okayed to translate for visitors with questions about the mall.

MNA/Xinhua



The 1507 Waldseemüller map in an image courtesy of the Library of Congress. The only surviving copy of the 500-year-old map that first used the name America goes on permanent display this month at the Library of Congress, but even as it prepares for its debut, the map remains a puzzle for researchers.—INTERNET

Images of the Day

Undated photo made available by the Italian Culture Ministry in Rome, on 4 Dec, 2007 showing the area where a wooden throne was dug out between October and November in the ancient southern Italian city of Herculaneum, near Pompeii, one of the Roman cities buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the year 79.



INTERNET

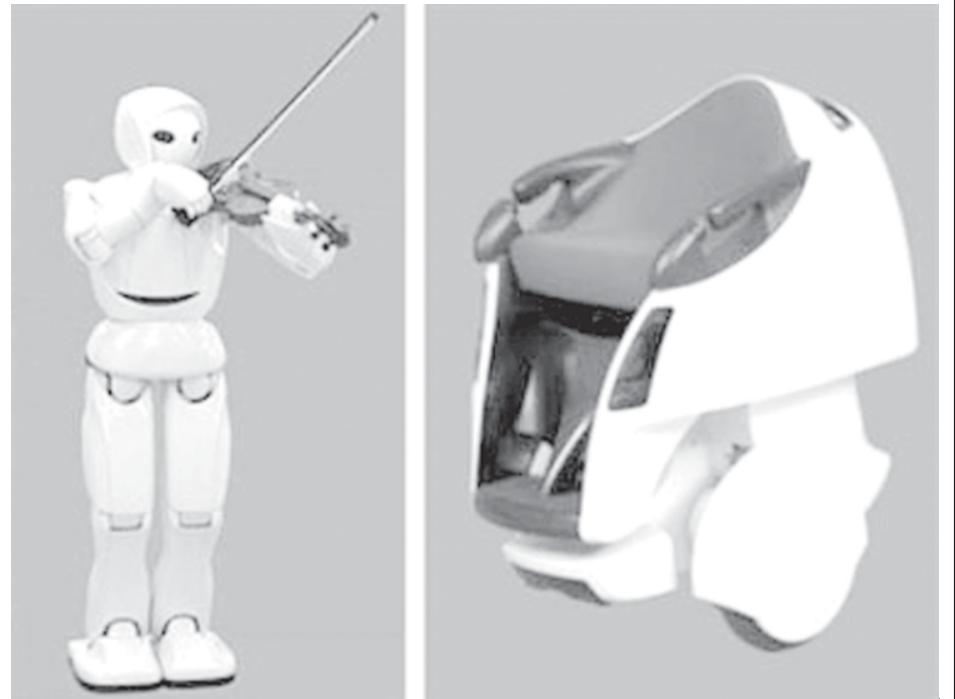


This handout image from 24 Oct, 2006, shows the world's most premature living baby, Amillia Sonja Taylor's, feet held in contrast with adult hands, just after her birth at Baptist Children's Hospital in Miami, Florida. Taylor, only slightly longer than a ballpoint pen at birth was due to be sent home in the coming days from a Florida hospital after four months of neonatal intensive care, the hospital said on 20 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET



A type of artificial heart known as the Jarvik 2000, displayed at a hospital in 2005. A Briton who was given the world's first permanent artificial heart has died, seven years after the ground-breaking operation.

INTERNET



A combination of handout images showing Toyota's violin-playing (L) and mobility robots, both released on 6 Dec, 2007. Toyota Motor Corp said on Thursday it aims to put its humanoid and other advanced robots to practical use soon after 2010 to help people in factories, hospitals, homes and around town. — INTERNET



A female Kangaroo and her baby near Brisbane. A 25-million-year-old fossil has revealed that a predecessor of Australia's iconic hopping kangaroo once galloped on all fours, had dog-like fangs and possibly climbed trees, scientists have reported.

INTERNET

Heavy equipment rolls through Point Sate Park as work filling up the moats in front of the bastion walls from the historic fort at the confluence of the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio Rivers in Pittsburgh, in this file photo from 4 Jan, 2007.

INTERNET



ADVERTISEMENT

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7065)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7065) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**TRADE MARK
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NOTICE**

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Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun

B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)

P.O.Box 109,

Ph: 723043

(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 7 December 2007

**Carbon monoxide
leak seven miners
in Shanxi**

TAIYUAN, 5 Dec—Seven miners were killed on Monday when they were poisoned by carbon monoxide at a small private coal mine in Hequ, a county on the Yellow River inside Shanxi Province, according to a local source.

The accident took place at 10:50 am at Xinwang Coal Mine when 10 miners who were working inside the shaft broke into a deserted area. This caused a sudden leak of carbon monoxide, the Shanxi Provincial Bureau of Work Safety said in a statement.

Only three of the 10 miners made their way back to the surface. The cause of the accident was under investigation.

Dubbed a "sea of coal", Shanxi is the country's largest coal producing area with a reserve of more than 260 billion tons. It produces 580 million tons annually.—MNA/Xinhua

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED(TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER. IFB No. 04/ Oversea/2007

Supply of General Items, Tyre, Electrical, Pipe & Fittings, (37 lots) are invited by CIF Yangon Basis, Singapore \$ or Euro Currency by LC Term. CLOSING DATE will be on **21st December 2007.**

Tender documents are available at the following addresses:

Yangon: 70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7; Fax: (95) 1 514208; Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm

Site: Tel: (95) 71 22225/6; Fax: (95) 71 22522; Email: supply@miccl.com.mm

Bids are to be reached the above offices on or before the closing date.

Queries can be done between 10am to 4pm at Supply Department; Tel: (95) 71 22225/6;

Email: supply@miccl.com.mm before the Tender Closing Date.

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED(TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER. IFB No. 03/ Oversea/2007)

Supply of Caterpillar Spares, (13 lots) are invited by CIF Yangon Basis, US\$, Singapore \$ or Euro Currency by LC Term. CLOSING DATE will be on **21st December 2007.**

Tender documents are available at the following addresses:

Yangon: 70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7; Fax: (95) 1 514208; Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm

Site: Tel: (95) 71 22225/6; Fax: (95) 71 22522; Email: supply@miccl.com.mm

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Email: supply@miccl.com.mm before the Tender Closing Date.

INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the Supply of Pharmaceuticals.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, No.57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Commencing from (7.12.2007).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (21.12.2007) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/ telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores)
Phone No.371284,372362.

Central Medical Store Depot
Department of Health

**Five questioned by police after
mine blast in S-W China**

KUNMING, 5 Dec—Five people are being questioned by police following a lethal coal mine gas blast in southwest China's Yunnan Province on Sunday morning that killed nine miners.

The five are Zhang Hua, manager of the mine, Gan

Jiahuan, deputy manager, and three other safety workers, according to a statement released by the Zhenxiong county government.

They have been ordered to cooperate with police inquiries and prevented from leaving the county.

**Researcher says al-Qaeda-linked
websites number 5,600**

RIYADH, 5 Dec—There are now about 5,600 websites spreading al-Qaeda's ideology worldwide, and 900 more are appearing each year, a Saudi researcher told a national security conference on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has identified the Internet as a key battlefield with militants who launched a campaign to topple the US-allied ruling

royal family in 2003.

"Research shows there are more than 5,600 sites on the Internet promoting the ideology of al-Qaeda," Khaled al-Faram told the Information Technology and National Security conference in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

"There are some 900 news sites appearing every year, and despite the retreat of some media outlets specifically run by al-Qaeda, extremist websites are constantly on the rise."

He said it was difficult to track most of the sites, though hardcore al-Qaeda sites often change addresses to avoid detection or

start up again elsewhere once infiltrated.

Faram was addressing a conference organized by the Saudi intelligence agency to encourage the public to cooperate more with the government and share expertise on how to survey the Internet for militant activity.

This week the Saudi intelligence agency launched a website in an effort to open up to the public and change the negative perceptions of security services. People can send information anonymously to the site about any suspicious activity.

MNA/Reuters

An explosion occurred at 8:30 am on Sunday in the Shizishan coal mine in Zhenxiong when 52 miners were working underground.

Thirty-six, whose working sites were un-affected by the blast, were evacuated unharmed. In another working site containing 16 miners, eight were killed at the scene and one died in hospital. Seven were injured, two of whom are in a critical condition.

All coal mines in the county were ordered to suspend operations on Monday to prepare for safety inspections.

The privately owned Shizishan mine had an approved production capacity of 90,000 tons a year.—MNA/Xinhua

Suicide attack on Army bus kills 12 in Kabul

KABUL, 6 Dec — A suicide bomber driving a car exploded himself near a mini-bus of Afghan National Army on Wednesday morning in Afghan capital, killing at least six soldiers and six civilians, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

In an earlier talk to Xinhua, Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman Tahir Azimi said that the explosion took place at around 06:50 am local time.

However, a local radio, Noorin, quoted government officials as saying

that eight personnel from Defence Ministry who were in the bus and some 12 nearby local civilians including some shopkeepers were killed.

Taliban purported spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed told Xinhua via phone from an unknown location said that his outfit took the responsibility and a man from eastern Afghan Khost Province carried out the attack against Afghan National Army, killing some 40 persons.—MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.



The bank of Yangtze River in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province on 2 Dec, 2007. Yangtze River Administration under the Ministry of Transportation issued an emergency warning on 5 Dec to remind cargo ships on the longest river in China to avoid being stranded in the low water due to the lingering dry season. —XINHUA

Uganda says suspected Ebola cases rise to 75

KAMPALA, 5 Dec— At least 75 Ugandans are now suspected to have contracted a previously unknown strain of the lethal Ebola virus, although the death toll in the east African country remains at 18, an official said on Tuesday.

Uganda confirmed on Sunday it had 58 cases of the virus, which causes symptoms including fever, vomiting, diarrhoea

and bleeding. The infected include medical staff looking after Ebola patients, Deputy Health Minister Dr Emmanuel Otaala said.

“Since the outbreak started back in August, we have registered 75 suspected cases,” he told reporters.

Otaala said all patients were in Uganda’s western Bundibugyo District, bordering Democratic

Republic of Congo, except one nurse being treated in the Ugandan capital Kampala who contracted it in Bundibugyo.

Otaala denied claims in the local Press that the government knew of the outbreak but concealed it to avoid putting off the 53 heads of government and thousands of delegates — including Britain’s Queen Elizabeth — who came to Kampala 11 days ago for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

The government announced the Ebola outbreak four days after the summit ended, fuelling speculation of a cover-up.

MNA/Reuters

Tourist arrivals to Nepal increase by 17.6% in November

KATHMANDU, 5 Dec— Encouraging trend of tourist arrivals to Nepal has continued for yet another month, as November witnessed a growth of 17.6 per cent tourist arrivals compared to the same period last year, *The Himalayan Times* reported Tuesday.

The total tourist arrivals in November by air reached 34,580, an increment by 17.6 per cent from 29,407 visitors last year, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation stated, quoting the data provided by Immigration Office at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.

Although the Indian tourist arrivals posted a negative growth, tourists from other countries registered a healthy growth of 28.7 per cent.

A total of 29,129 tourists from different countries came to the country during the month, while the Indian arrivals dropped to 5,451. One of the major reasons for decline in arrival from India is lack of air seats, as most of the seats are now being filled by European visitors coming to Nepal via India. Another major reason is infrequent service of Nepal Airlines Corporation, the national flag carrier on Indian routes due to technical hitch. Tourists from countries other than India for the same month last year stood at 22,639 and the Indian arrivals were at 6,768.

The arrivals from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation as a whole recorded a decline due to the fall in arrivals from a major market — India by 19.8 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua



Three-month-old twin pandas Aihin and Meihin play at Adventure World in Shirahama town, central Japan, on 14 April, 2007.—XINHUA

Childhood obesity increases adulthood heart disease risk

BEIJING, 6 Dec—A new study found that obesity in childhood will substantially increase future risk of heart attack and other cardiac events, media reported Thursday.

The study published in

the New England Journal of Medicine showed that the greater the increase in the children’s weight, the higher their risk of suffering heart disease in their future life.

The study also said that the obesity ratio would increase by 5 to 12 percent for the boys who are overweight now and 2 to 12 percent for the girls by 2020 in the United States, which means more heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure at a younger age. “If we don’t take steps to reverse course, the children of each successive generation seem destined to be fatter and sicker than their parents,” said David Ludwig of Children’s Hospital Boston in a commentary in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Internet

Britons spend billions on unwanted gifts every Christmas

LONDON, 5 Dec— Britons waste 2.3 billion pounds every year on unwanted Christmas presents, and almost a third of them wind up being sold online after the festive season.

More than three-quarters of 1,400 adults surveyed for charity World Vision said they waste up to 50 pounds on unwanted gifts every Christmas.

Of the hundreds of thousands of unwanted gifts received each year, 39 per cent gather dust in a cupboard and 28 per cent are later sold on the Internet.

A quarter of the population spends up to 300 pounds on gifts for friends and family each year, the survey shows.

But almost 60 per cent

who waste money on unwanted Christmas presents said they would rather spend that money on themselves than give it to charity.

The research also shows that more than a quarter of Britons cannot remember what anyone bought them for Christmas last year.

Half of men and 43 per cent of women could not even recall what their partners gave them.

World Vision undertook the research to coincide with the launch of its catalogue selling gifts that aim to help people in poverty around the world.

They include a mosquito net for five pounds and a toilet for 34 pounds.

MNA/Reuters



A woman gave birth to Indonesia’s heaviest ever baby, a boy weighing 6.9kg (15.2lbs), in Indonesian capital Jakarta, on 5 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA

SPORTS



Argentina's Arsenal's Ezequiel Andrizzi, right, scores as Mexico America's Duilio Davino looks on during the Copa Sudamericana final soccer match in Buenos Aires, on 5 Dec, 2007. The match ended 4-4 on aggregate and Arsenal won on away goals. —INTERNET

McCarthy turns down South Korea job

LONDON, 6 Dec — Former Ireland manager Mick McCarthy has turned down the job of coaching South Korea, his club Wolverhampton Wanderers said on Wednesday.

McCarthy and Gerard Houllier were named earlier on Wednesday in Seoul by the Korea Football Association (KFA) as their two candidates and they would make their appointment by the end of the week. However, *Sky Sports News* reported in London that Houllier had also ruled himself out of the running although there was no official confirmation from the Frenchman.

Wolves, who play in the English Championship (Second Division), announced that McCarthy was staying on as manager in a statement on their website (www.wolvespremiumtv.co.uk). They said McCarthy

was flattered by the approach from the KFA "but has this afternoon re-affirmed his commitment to the Molineux club".

McCarthy, 48, was quoted as saying: "I was very flattered to be contacted and to be considered a candidate alongside someone of the calibre of Gerard Houllier.

"But I have always been committed to the job at Wolves."

The KFA has been in talks with several coaches since Pim Verbeek's resignation in July after the Asian Cup, narrowing the choice down to the two high-profile figures. Houllier, 60, is a former coach of France who also managed Liverpool and Olympique Lyon.

McCarthy steered Ireland to the second round of the 2002 World Cup held in South Korea and Japan. — MNA/Reuters

Late goal earns Nancy draw at 10-man Toulouse

PARIS, 6 Dec — Second-placed Nancy needed a last-minute Chris Malonga goal to snatch a 1-1 draw at Toulouse who played half the Ligue 1 match with 10 men on Wednesday.

The home side were 1-0 up when their goalkeeper Nicolas Douchez was sent off for pulling Nancy striker Marc-Antoine Fortune's shirt outside the box after 46 minutes.

Sweden striker Johan Elmander had put the south westerners ahead from close range with his seventh goal of the season in the 17th minute.

Toulouse fought bravely and held onto their lead until substitute forward Malonga equalized with a few seconds remaining.

Easterners Nancy hold onto second place but are five points behind six-times champions Olympique Lyon, who have 37 from 16 matches, and no longer have a game in hand.

Toulouse stay fourth from bottom on 18 points.

MNA/Reuters



Oklahoma's Courtney Paris (3) drives around Illinois' Jenna Smith (13) during the first half of a basketball game in Champaign, Ill., on 5 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

Iran to respond to FIFA, AFC demands in two days

BANGKOK, 6 Dec — Iranian soccer officials will respond in two days to demands by FIFA and the Asian Football Federation (AFC) to stop its politicians interfering in the sport, AFC officials said on Wednesday.

After a lengthy meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, a delegation from the Iranian Football Federation (IFF) and the government's Physical Education Organization (PEO) agreed to return to the Malaysian capital in 48 hours with a decision as to how to end the impasse, the AFC said in a statement.

Soccer's top bodies and the IFF have been at loggerheads over Iranian body's refusal to bar members of the PEO, which has run all sport in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, from running

in its presidential elections.

FIFA and the AFC agreed on Tuesday to allow officials from the PEO to become members of the IFF's general assembly but voiced strong objections to them becoming president, an AFC spokesman said. — MNA/Reuters



Vancouver Canucks center Trevor Linden (R) and Chicago Blackhawks defenseman James Wisniewski battle for the puck in the third period of their NHL game in Chicago on 5 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) shoots over the defense of the Philadelphia 76ers center Samuel Dalembert (1) during the first quarter of their NBA basketball action in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 5 Dec, 2007. INTERNET



Sevilla end losing streak with 1-1 draw at Osasuna

MADRID, 6 Dec — Sevilla earned their first point in four matches when they came from behind to draw 1-1 away to Osasuna in a rearranged Primera Liga match on Wednesday. The game was originally scheduled to be played in early September, but was postponed following the death of Sevilla midfielder Antonio Puerta after his collapse in the opening game of the season.

Sevilla, who have shone in the Champions League but struggled in domestic competition this season, fell behind midway through the first half when Czech striker Jaroslav Plasil nipped in front of two defenders to clip home from close range.

The Andalucians looked to be in further trouble when Osasuna were awarded a penalty after Patxi Punal fell in the area, but Andres Palop produced a brilliant diving save to turn the midfielder's penalty around the post. — MNA/Reuters

Mitroglou spares Olympiakos' blushes in Greek Cup

ATHENS, 6 Dec — Two second half goals from Greece Under-19 international Costas Mitroglou helped Olympiakos Piraeus come from a goal down to beat Third Division Diagoras 2-1 in their fourth round Greek Cup tie in Rhodes on Wednesday. The 19-year-old Mitroglou equalized in the 66th minute and headed

the winner a minute from time after Tassos Triantafyllou had put the underdogs ahead with a penalty on the hour.

In a match played in pouring rain, Olympiakos missed the chance to take a first-half lead when Diagoras goalkeeper Markos Vellidis saved Michalis Konstantinou's penalty. — MNA/Reuters

Luxemburgo says Brazilian talent is draining away

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Dec — Former Real Madrid and Brazil coach Vandelei Luxemburgo has called on the Brazilian Government to take action to slow the exodus of young players to foreign clubs.

Luxemburgo, whose Santos side finished second in this year's Brazilian championship, complained that the competition had stopped unveiling new talents.

He said Sao Paulo

goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni had been voted the competition's top player for the last two years and that Argentina's Carlos Tevez won the award the year before that.

"Three years ago, the best player in the Brazilian championship was Tevez, and for the last two years it has been a goalkeeper," he told delegates at an international soccer forum.

"We don't have the players we did before and

the last three years have been a clear indication that we are short of quality in Brazilian football.

"The last generation was (in 2002) at Santos with Diego, Robinho, Renato. Since then, we haven't seen a great new talent."

Luxemburgo said he wanted the government to introduce legislation that would tie players to their clubs until they reached the age of 23.

MNA/Reuters

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

Personnel urged to carry out regional development tasks in cooperation with local people

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and departmental heads, looked into Kawthoung-Maliwan-Khamaukkyi road and oil palm plantations along both sides of the road by car on 1 December.



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects Yuzana Oil Palm cultivation project. — MNA

At the hall of Khamaukkyi station, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen and their families and instructed them to strive for regional development.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye visited Aye Mya Thida Park of Khamaukkyi Development Affairs Committee and gave necessary instructions.

Then, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met departmental officials and local people at the office of

Khamaukkyi General Administration Department. Head of Khamaukkyi GAD U Aung Moe reported on development matters and implementation of five rural development tasks in Khamaukkyi. Speaking on the occasion, Maj-Gen Tha Aye urged them to carry out the regional development tasks in cooperation with the local people and to strive for ensur-

ing food sufficiency in the region.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party went to Khamaukkyi Basic Education High School and viewed the learning of students in Language Lab and Computer Room.

They proceeded to Khamaukkyi People's Hospital and presented cash assistance to the patients and comforted them.

(See page 9)

Five piglets covered in tiger-striped blankets rest on top of Saimai, a 6-year-old female Bengal tiger, at a zoo in Thailand.



The tigress nurses the piglets because when she was a cub, she was looked after by a pig. INTERNET

- ★ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
- ★ BBC lying
- ★ VOA deceiving
- ★ RFA setting up hostilities
- ★ Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers