

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of DPRK Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — HE Mr Kim Sok Chol, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mr Kim Sok Chol in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Panama

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — HE Mr Eduardo A Real, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Panama to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10:30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Ambassador of the Republic of Panama Mr Eduardo A Real in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 8 December, 2007

North Yamar Supporting Dam irrigates vast farmland and generates electricity

North Yamar Supporting Dam built in Pale Township, Sagaing Division was opened on 28 November. It is the 205th of its kind in the nation and the 23rd of its kind in Sagaing Division.

The opening of the supporting dam has benefited 12,000 acres of farmland, and at the same time it will benefit more 10,000 acres of arable land that have already been reclaimed. Besides, it will be able to generate 250 kilowatts for rural regions.

Sagaing Division is blessed with a vast area of cultivable land where paddy, cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses and edible oil crops thrive. Being an arid zone, the division needs full water supply in order to be able to engage in extended cultivation of crops and in further greening the environs.

At present, there has been full water supply to irrigated land in Pale Township, and as a result, the township is able to cultivate monsoon paddy, summer paddy, pigeon pea, green pea, chick pea and edible oil crops all the year round.

The government is building dams and reservoirs across the nation while implementing the underground water tapping projects. This has changed the image of rural regions which are now fully supplied with irrigation and clean water.

The emergence of dams and reservoirs including North Yamar Supporting Dam in Sagaing Division is benefiting over 300,000 acres of arable land, thereby contributing to enhancing the socio-economic life of farmers, for they are able to engage in extended cultivation of multiple crops. And it is also supplying electricity to rural regions that are now green and developing.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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

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(၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

နှင့်

(၃၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

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



Minister for Mines
Brig-Gen Ohn
Myint receives
Ambassador of the
Democratic Peo-
ple's Republic of
Korea Mr Kim Sok
Chol on 7 Decem-
ber 2007. —MNA

Myanmar Youth Selected Cricket Team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanmar Youth Selected Cricket team led by Executive U Win Maw of Myanmar Cricket Federation left here by air to take part in the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup 2007 to be held in Thailand from 8 to 16 December.

The Myanmar youth team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Myanmar Cricket Federation President Actor U Nyunt Win, Vice-Presidents U Kyaw Kyaw and U Maung Maung and executives.

The cricket team



comprises Coach U Michael Musagyi and 14 players. — MNA

Myanmar Youth Selected Cricket Team poses for a group photo at Yangon International Airport before departure for Thailand. — MCF

International Trade Course Programme-1 concludes

YANGON, 6 Dec — The 6th International Trade Course Programme-1 or-

ganized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (UMFCCI) concluded today at UMFCCI Training Centre on Bo Sun Pat Street in Pabedan Township, here. General Secretary of the UMFCCI Chairman of the Educational Affairs Committee U Sein Win Hlaing and committee member U Aung Moe made speeches.

Three trainees recounted their experience of the course.

The chairman and trainers presented certificates to the trainees and the prizes to outstanding ones. A trainee on behalf of his colleagues expressed words of thanks.

MNA



General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing presents award to an outstanding trainee. — UMFCCI

Doyen literati invited to attend respect paying ceremony

YANGON, 7 Dec — The ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati, organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, will be held in the City Hall, here, at 9 am on 15 December in commemoration of the Myanmar Sasodaw Day in 1369 ME.

The chairmen and secretaries of Township WJAs may take out the invitation cards at MWJA Office on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman building at No 529, Merchant Street, here, beginning 10 December. — MNA



In this photo released by Greenpeace, a flotilla of fishing boats greet the Greenpeace SV Rainbow Warrior flagship as she sails into Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, on 7 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China defends Russia Parliament vote

BEIJING, 6 Dec—China has defended the integrity of the Russian election that gave President Vladimir Putin's party a large majority, saying on Tuesday that the result appeared to reflect the will of the Russian people.

The Chinese reaction was in marked contrast to that of the United States and European countries, which demanded that Russia investigate claims of abuse. Opposition parties said Sunday's vote had been marred by cheating to favour Putin's party. But China endorsed the vote.

"The election was held smoothly," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular news conference. "China believes this was the choice of the Russian people."

Putin has dismissed concerns about the election, saying the victory of his United

Russia Party, which took more than 64 per cent of the vote, was a legitimate expression of public trust.

Putin has vowed to use his party's victory to keep a hold over Russian politics after stepping down next year.

Ties between China and Russia, once Cold War foes, are deepening as gas and crude oil pipeline deals come onstream.

Bilateral trade is expected to be worth some 60 billion US dollars by 2010.

The two countries, both permanent members of the UN Security Council, also see eye to eye on the handling of the Iran nuclear issue, opposing sanctions that the West has been pushing and instead advocating more negotiations.

MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, rescue workers rush to the Rui Zhiyuan coal mine in Hongtong county near the city of Linfen in coal-rich Shanxi Province after a gas explosion on 6 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

US nuclear report opportunity for Iran

BRASILIA, 6 Dec—A US intelligence report saying Iran had halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003 offered Teheran a "window of opportunity" to resolve the crisis, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed El-Baradei, said on Wednesday. "It opens a window of opportunity for Iran now because Iran obviously has been somewhat vindicated in

saying they have not been working on a weapons programme at least for the last few years," El-Baradei told a news conference in the Brazilian capital Brasilia. The US intelligence report went against earlier Bush Administration assertions that Iran was building an atomic bomb. "The report gives me a sigh of relief because it is consistent with our assessment," El-Baradei said.

In response to the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) which said Iran halted a nuclear weapons programme in 2003, US President George W Bush said on Tuesday Iran remained a danger because it was mastering technology with a military use. The NIE report said Iran was continuing to develop the technical means that could be applied to producing weapons.

MNA/Reuters

BBC urged to improve its editorial integrity

LONDON, 7 Dec — Managers at the BBC are not doing enough to protect their employees from harm or to defend the corporation's editorial integrity, a parliamentary report concluded on Thursday.

The cross-party Committee of Public Accounts recommended the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) update its risk management for dangerous environments in the wake of the kidnapping of journalist Alan Johnston in Gaza.

It also urged better practice at the broadcaster to protect its editorial credibility and prevent any future faking programme scandals.

The broadcaster was hit earlier this year with an unprecedented fine for faking the choice of winner of a contest on its flagship children's programme Blue Peter. It also faked the outcome of a contest to name the show's pet cat.

The controller of the BBC's main television station BBC 1 was forced to quit this year after he unveiled footage from a documentary about Queen Elizabeth that was edited

to show falsely her appearing to storm out of a photo shoot.

The string of scandals have dented public trust in the venerable broadcaster.

The House of Commons report, entitled

"The BBC's management of Risk", found that senior managers were not doing enough to promote risk management effectively while staff training was also inadequate.

MNA/Reuters

US arrest 10 in major counterfeit goods bust

NEW YORK, 6 Dec—US authorities arrested 10 people on Wednesday on charges of smuggling 200 million US dollars worth of counterfeit goods from China, including false designer handbags and clothing.

A grand jury indictment accuses them of importing fake Nike shoes, Burberry and Chanel handbags and Polo Ralph Lauren and Baby Phat fashions that were sent directly to retail stores — not to the kind of sidewalk vendors, common in New York City, who might be expected to be dealing counterfeit goods.

From June 2006 until November 2007, the merchandise was smuggled in shipping containers through the port of Newark, New Jersey, disguised using fraudulent documentation, and delivered to stores in the New York area, the indictment alleges.

MNA/Reuters

Ancient wood, ropes discovered in Romania

BUCHAREST, 7 Dec—The Romanian archaeologists have discovered well-preserved wood and ropes of 3,000 years old at Beclean of Romania's northern Bistrita-Nasaud County, officials said on Wednesday.

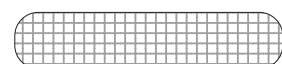
The objects, found in the bed of a highly salted river near Baile Figa, have been well preserved due to the salted mud, said Valeriu Kavruk, curator of the Museum of the Eastern Carpathians based in Sfantu Gheorghe, central Romania. —MNA/Reuters



A piglet covered in tiger-striped blankets rest under Saimai, a 6-year-old female Bengal tiger, at a zoo in

Thailand.

INTERNET



Wen Jiabao vows to boost ties with Australia

BEIJING, 6 Dec—China is willing to join hands with Australia and promote the further growth of their bilateral ties, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday in a phone conversation with his Australian counterpart Kevin Rudd.

Wen noted that as important countries in Asia-Pacific Region, China and Australia are close partners to each

other.

“The sound development of their bilateral relations is in the common interests of the two peoples and will contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and the world at large,” he said.

He reiterated China’s commitment to developing Sino-Australia relations from a strategic perspective and making continued joint efforts with

Australia to boost bilateral ties.

Rudd said Australia and China enjoy a sound relationship and this relationship is of great importance to his country.

He expressed his country’s hope to strengthen and broaden its cooperation with China. Rudd said he is quite optimistic about the future of the relations between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua



An extraordinary race between a Lamborghini Reventón and an A200-A Tornado aircraft has been held on a 3km-long runway at a military base near Brescia in Italy. —INTERNET

German police find five dead children in house

BERLIN, 6 Dec— Five children between the ages of three and nine were found dead in a house in the northern German village of Darry on Wednesday, police said.

Their 31-year-old mother has been detained on suspicion of involvement in the “violent” deaths of the children and has been placed in psychiatric care, a police statement said.

“Based on preliminary investigation the motive

appears to be a psychiatric illness of the woman,” police in the northern city of Kiel said.

Police said they were still investigating and declined to make any further comment. Darry, a town of 450 residents, is 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Kiel, near the Baltic Sea.

The mother had turned herself into police, the NDR 1 Welle Nord radio network reported, saying the victims were

five boys and that she had drugged them before suffocating them with plastic bags.

Teachers at the local school had notified the youth welfare office about the run-down appearance of two of the boys, who had come to school without coats, Spiegel Online reported.

It said workers from the local youth welfare office planned to visit the family on Wednesday.

In a separate crime earlier on Wednesday in another part of Germany, police said they found a third corpse of an infant girl wrapped in a plastic bag on the balcony of a 28-year-old woman arrested last week.

MNA/Reuters



A piece of broken roadway lies in a muddy river in rural Lewis County, on 6 Dec, 2007. Floodwaters were receding across southwestern Washington state on Thursday, rescue and evacuation work ended and lights were coming back on in thousands of homes and businesses. —INTERNET

Nine dead in Nebraska mall shooting

OMAHA (Nebraska), 6 Dec — A 19-year-old man killed eight people and then himself with a rifle at a busy mall in Omaha on Wednesday, sending terrified workers and Christmas shoppers scrambling for cover.

Five people were wounded in the early afternoon rampage at the upscale Westroads Mall, two of them critically, according to hospital spokesmen.

The shooting was the latest in a series of mass killings that have shocked the United States, where gun ownership is widespread and the right to bear arms is a hotly contested constitutional issue.

KETV identified the gunman as Robert Hawkins, 19, from Bellevue, Nebraska, who was living near Omaha in the community of Quail Creek.

Hawkins wrote a suicide note talking about his desire to become famous, which his mother gave to police, KETV said.

Most of the victims were shot inside the Von Maur department store near the children’s clothing area.

“We’re a family business. This is just devastating,” said Jim Von Maur, chief executive of the chain of 22 stores.

Police said the gunman died from a self-inflicted wound.

MNA/Reuters

China finds panda fossils on tropical island

BEIJING, 7 Dec— Chinese archaeologists have found fossils that prove pandas once roamed what is now the southern Chinese island of Hainan, state media said on Wednesday.

The 400,000-year-old fossils, mostly of teeth, showed the tropical island was once connected to the Chinese Mainland, the Xinhua news agency cited Huang Wanbo, a professor with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying. —MNA/Reuters

One killed, five injured in bomb explosion in Paris

PARIS, 6 Dec—At least one person was killed and five others were injured in a parcel bomb explosion in a central Paris building Thursday, the Interior Ministry said.

The explosion took place at a lawyer’s office in a building on Boulevard des Malesherbes in the west of the capital Paris, said a ministry statement.

The parcel bomb was mailed to a law firm run by the 60-year-old attorney Catherine



French police close off a road near the site of a parcel bomb in Paris, on 6 Dec, 2007. A parcel bomb explosion at a legal office in central Paris has killed a secretary and seriously injured a lawyer. —XINHUA

Gouet-Jenselme, police secretary was killed immediately after

opening the parcel. Five others were injured, including one seriously.

Several other people were suffering from shock, the ministry said.

President Nicolas Sarkozy once practiced as a lawyer on the first floor of the building, but the parcel exploded on the fourth floor, the public prosecutor’s office said.

The building also houses a foundation that does research on the Holocaust. — Internet

S Korea, DPRK hold talks on economic cooperations

SEOUL, 6 Dec— The deputy premiers of South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday launched a three-day talks on their joint economic programmes.

The talks were held in Seoul between DPRK Deputy Prime Minister Jon Sung-hun and his South Korean counterpart Kwon O-kyu. "The inter-Korean economic cooperation will sail smoothly if we pool our wisdom and strength," said Jon, who arrived in Seoul on a direct flight from Pyongyang early on the day.

South Korea hopes to create a framework in which economic cooperation can be extended to other areas, Kwon was quoted by South Korean officials as saying.

The South Korean Unification Ministry said the two sides had a plenary session in the afternoon but did not disclose details of the meeting. It was the first Deputy Prime Minister talks between the two sides since South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun held a summit meeting with DPRK top leader Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang in early October. The two deputy prime ministers are expected to discuss detailed measures to implement inter-Korean economic programmes agreed by Roh and Kim.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Russia ink \$1.2b tank deal

NEW DELHI, 6 Dec — India and Russia have signed a deal worth 1.237 billion US dollars for the additional supply of 347 T-90S main battle tanks (MBTs), local news agency Press Trust of India reported on Wednesday.

Part of these tanks will be assembled at Avadi Factory in Tamil Nadu in south India, from the kits to be supplied by Uralvagonzavod tank plant situated in Nizhny Tagil in the Urals in central Russia.

However, the report did not say when and where the deal was

signed.

According to the report, India currently has 310 T-90S MBTs of which 181 were assembled by the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi from the kits imported from Russia.

Under the Transfer of Technology (ToT) and licenced production deal inked in November 2006 India will indigenously produce 1,000 MBTs.

MNA/Xinhua



Gabbie the wedge-tailed eagle flies around during a flight show at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia, on 7 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

China likely to produce about 500 million mobile phones this year

BEIJING, 6 Dec— China is likely to produce nearly 500 million mobile phones in 2007, or more than 40 per cent of the world's total, sources with the economic restructuring and operation department of the Ministry of Information Industry predicted on Tuesday.

The forecast figure is 41-per-cent higher than the 2006 output.

Of the total production, around 400 million mobile phones will be exported, the sources added.

However, mobile phones made by Chinese producers saw their market share in China fall two percentage points

from the end of 2006 to 33.8 per cent in the first three quarters.

The 38 enterprises from the Chinese Mainland sold 78.71 million GSM (global system of mobile communication) mobile phones in the nine months, up 10 per cent on the same period of last year.

The figure made up 22.6 per cent of the

country's total.

The market share was equal to only 62.3 per cent of that of the Finland-based Nokia on the Mainland.

The sources said since a price war had broken out between domestic and foreign companies, the Chinese manufacturers began to lose their former advantages in price.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil firmer after OPEC keeps output unchanged

LONDON, 7 Dec— Oil retreated from session highs on Wednesday, after initially bounding higher when OPEC agreed to keep output unchanged

despite demands from consumer countries for more oil to dampen near-record prices.

Nigerian Oil Minister Odein Ajumogobia said OPEC, meeting in Abu Dhabi, had agreed to keep supplies unchanged and would review this again in February.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries stuck by its view that it is already producing enough oil to cope with winter fuel demand after an agreement in September to boost output.

MNA/Reuters



A model displays a creation for the Chanel 2007/2008 collection fashion show in central London, on 6 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS



Visitors look at a dollar sign made from ice during the opening day of the 2007 Luxury Show in Bucharest on 6 December, 2007.—INTERNET

Cambodia launches 2007 trade integration strategy

PHNOM PENH, 6 Dec— The Ministry of Commerce and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Cambodia on Wednesday launched Cambodia's 2007 Trade Integration Strategy, which is an effort by the Cambodian Government to embrace the country's economic challenges and provide direction for the development of its trade sector.

The strategy identifies

19 new and current goods and service sectors that provide strong opportunities for Cambodia to build a more diversified export sector, an UNDP Press release said.

The ability of Cambodian exporters to compete in world market on the basis of lower tariffs is fast eroding, the Press release said, adding that it is increasingly necessary for Cambodian exporters to compete globally by

meeting high international technical, sanitary and intellectual property standards, as demanded by consumers in importing countries.

Over the past 10 years, Cambodia has benefited from its integration into the world economy, it said.

The exports of goods and services contribute nearly two-thirds of Cambodia's GDP, up from 30 per cent in the late 1990s, it added. — MNA/Xinhua



Actors Andy Lau, Xu Jinglei, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Jet Li and director Peter Chan (from Left to Right) attend a press conference of the movie "The Warlords" premiered in Beijing, on 6 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA

Officials says Indonesia loses 24 islands by disasters, exploitation

JAKARTA, 6 Dec—Indonesia's Maritime and Fisheries Affairs Minister Fredy Numberi said on Wednesday Indonesia had lost 24 small islands because of tidal waves, tsunami, exploitation and abrasion.

Speaking on the sidelines of a function to observe the 27th World Food Day in Lampung Province on Sumatra Island, Fredy said earthquakes and other natural disasters had also

contributed to the loss of the islands. "Indonesia is prone to natural disasters and earthquakes," Fredy was quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying.

He has said earlier four islands disappeared when a massive tsunami devastated Aceh province on 26 December, 2004, while 20 others in Riau Province and in the Seribu Island group in Jakarta Bay had also vanished because of

unbridled exploitation and environmental damage.

Consequently, Fredy Numberi said, the total number of islands in the archipelagic nation Indonesia had declined to 17,480. "Scientists have even predicted that Indonesia could lose at least 2,000 islands by 2030 if the government fails to anticipate it and take preventive measures," the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bombs kill 23 in Iraq during Gates visit

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec — Car bombs killed 23 people in Baghdad and three other Iraqi cities on Wednesday but US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said a secure, stable country was within reach.

A car bomb near a Shiite mosque in central Baghdad killed 15 people and wounded 35 as they gathered for evening prayers, making it the

capital's deadliest bombing since September.

Gunfire could be heard and black smoke rose over the area after the blast in the mainly Shiite Karrada District, just across the Tigris River from where Gates met Iraqi officials in the heavily fortified "Green Zone" compound.

An al-Qaeda-

affiliated group warned this week of a renewed campaign of car bomb attacks.

Despite the day's bloodshed, overall attacks across Iraq have fallen to their lowest level in nearly two years, focusing attention on whether the Shiite-led government can reconcile with disaffected minority Sunni Arabs.

MNA/Ruters

Dancers perform with traditional conical hats during a ceremony held at Hanoi airport to welcome the four millionth foreign visitor to Vietnam this year. American Michael Magidson from Connecticut was the lucky tourist. INTERNET



Four mln Britons still paying for Christmas 2006

LONDON, 6 Dec—More than four million people are still paying for last Christmas, a report shows.

One in 10 of us, equal to 4.4 per cent of the adult population, are still carrying credit card debts from Christmas 2006, according to a poll of almost 2,000 people for financial comparison website MoneyExpert.com.

Chief executive Sean Gardner said: "It is not time to cancel Christmas,

but for millions of us it really is time to cancel some credit cards.

"We can all give into temptation at Christmas and put it on plastic, but if the debt lingers from year to year you're starting to get into trouble."

UK payments association APACS estimates that consumers will spend 53 billion pounds in December, with 11.7 billion pounds of that being on credit cards.

Lenders have been

tightening up in the wake of the global credit crunch, turning down a growing number of applicants.

But, for those who are accepted, there is still an array of attractive deals that could help borrowers cut their debts.

More than 70 per cent of standard credit cards offer 0 per cent interest on balance transfers, with the average introductory period lasting 10 months.

MNA/Reuters



Thai diving operators dressed in diving suits pose for a photo next to a picture of an Irrawaddy Dolphin Cambodia and the UN have launched a joint project aimed at saving endangered Irrawaddy dolphins from extinction, the international body's World Tourism Organization said Tuesday.—INTERNET

Germany outlines laws on reducing CO₂ emissions

BERLIN, 7 Dec—Germany outlined a legislation package on Wednesday aimed at reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, but environmental groups said it shirked problems with its record on climate protection.

Germany, the world's sixth largest emitter of greenhouse gases, aims to cut harmful carbon dioxide emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 compared with 1990 levels, Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel said at a news conference.

The bill, approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday, outlines 29 measures to reduce emissions, including a CO₂ tax for trucks, rules on traffic and tougher standards for new buildings and refurbishing

requirements.

"No other country in the world can go to Bali with such a concrete and ambitious programme," Gabriel said. But environmental groups said the bill, basic details of which have been available since

August, still leaves tricky questions unanswered.

"Much in this energy and climate programme sounds good," said Hubert Weiger, head of BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia's Lion Air orders 22 more "Boeing-737s"

JAKARTA, 6 Dec—Indonesia's budget carrier Lion Air has placed a new order for 22 brand-new Boeing 737-900ERs worth more than 1.7 billion US dollars, local Press reported on Tuesday, quoting remarks from the US aircraft-maker.

The new orders brought Lion's total orders of the same jetliners to 122, making it Boeing's biggest individual customer for that particular plane.

When the plane was introduced in July 2005, Lion placed 30 orders, and then another 30 a year later. Lion went further with 40 orders during this year's Paris Air Show, a Boeing statement was quoted by leading news website Detikcom. Since April, Lion has received its first seven 900ERs.—MNA/Xinhua

Hsinka Village has risen from poverty to prosperity

Chit Naing (Psychology)

Standing near the Kyaukpadaung-Yenangyaung Road, Hsinka Village is 10 miles from Chauk. Around the over-200-house village are plantations of beans and pulses, sesame and crops along with several groves of toddy palm. Hsinka Village is located about two miles south-east of Kyeeni Village, my native village. Whenever there was a pagoda festival at Kyeeni village, villagers from Hsinka Village visited it and watched Anyeint (non-dramatic show with dances and songs).

In the past, some of the people of our village visited Hsinka Village for cock fights, some for exchanging bulls, and some for drinking fermented toddy sap. Many people from Hsinka Village came to our village for sales of firewood. The majority of the people of Hsinka Villager were poor. They were engaged in farming, cutting trees for firewood, and tapping toddy sap. I had passed that village by car many times. The whole life of the villagers was a constant battle against poverty till around 1990.

However, Hsinka Village has risen from poverty to progress for about 20 years. Now, the progress of the village is gathering speed incredibly.

In the past, only a small number of households in the village had cows of their own. The villagers had to spend much of their time cutting down trees for firewood to earn their living. Moreover, the children were not in a position to pursue education. In consequence, they did not have much general knowledge.

Unlike in the past, some villagers now possess cars, TV sets and motorcycles in addition to brick houses and corrugated zinc sheet-roofed houses. The

Now, many youths of the village have got their degrees. The chairman of the Village Peace and Development Council is also a graduate. The leadership of educated villagers also contributes toward rapid development. Some young villagers are working in some Asian countries. They apply the knowledge they have gained from publications. So, the village's business is booming.

villagers can lead an easy life. The pagoda of the village was just one with coat of lime. Now, the village has glittering pagodas, a monastery, a public rest house, a prayer hall, a library, and a brick corrugated zinc sheet-roofed basic education school.

The village has now enjoyed unbelievable progress due to the hard work of its people. They distribute their products such as jaggery, bean paste, plum jam, and blankets to Taunggyi, Kalaw, Aungban, Lashio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw, Myitkyina, Katha, Bhamo, Muse, Namkham, Loilem, Kengtung and Tachilek. In their sale trips to other townships, they put up in one of the monasteries. They have broadened their horizons by travelling other regions.

Now, they have understood well that they can earn more money by travelling to various parts throughout the nation on trade, than working at their village. They have witnessed changes in the nation due to the practice of the market-oriented economic system. They read newspapers, listen to the radio, and share their knowledge and experiences about their business trips with other villagers. The youths of the village have

established a library at the village. They read while travelling. They bring the publications they read in their trips to the village. So, the number of the publications of the library and the villager readers is on the increase.

As a result, they have gained much knowledge about international affairs and neighbouring countries. The village's development results from the success of an individual villagers as well as that of the majority of the villagers.

The villagers are hardworking. They travel around the country to earn money. They have ventured into different areas. They earn money in an honest way.

So, they have reaped the harvest of their hard work in ten years with vehicles and fine houses.

Thanks to the tube-well the government has sunk in the village, they have enjoyed sufficient clean water, and the village has been free from trachoma and other diseases that occur due to water shortage. As a result of the economic growth, the village girls have a fair complexion with good looking. The village also has got electricity.

Now, many youths of the village have got their degrees. The chairman of the Village Peace and Development Council is also a graduate. The leadership of educated villagers also contributes toward rapid development. Some young villagers are working in some Asian countries. They apply the knowledge they have gained from publications. So, the village's business is booming.

The knowledge they have gained from the library has pulled the village out of poverty and created its prosperous future. It is indeed a model village.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 6-12-2007

Now, they have understood well that they can earn more money by travelling to various parts throughout the nation on trade, than working at their village. They have witnessed changes in the nation due to the practice of the market-oriented economic system. They read newspapers, listen to the radio, and share their knowledge and experiences about their business trips with other villagers. The youths of the village have established a library at the village. They read while travelling. They bring the publications they read in their trips to the village. So, the number of the publications of the library and the villager readers is on the increase.

**Senior General Than Shwe
receives Ambassador of the
Democratic People's Republic of
Korea Mr Kim Sok Chol in
Nay Pyi Taw.
(News on page 1)**

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe opens Art Exhibition Glory of Emotion



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views paintings displayed at Parkroyal Art Gallery and Art Exhibition Glory of Emotion. — MNA

YANGON, 7 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to launch the Parkroyal Art Gallery and Art Exhibition Glory of Emotion at Parkroyal Hotel in Dagon Township today and unveiled the signboard of the exhibition.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, arrived at the hotel where they were welcomed by 10 artists who are exhibiting their works at the show.

Before the opening ceremony, Patron of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon (Central) Artist U Lun Gywe and Vice-Chairman of MTA

(Central) U Than Sin (Artist Hla Tin Tun) briefed on the exhibition and General Manager Mr Teddy Chairm of the Parkroyal (Yangon) extended greetings.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard. Artist U Lun Gywe presented a painting to Lt-Gen Myint Swe, and Artist U Tin Oo (Roxy) presented a painting to Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win to mark the opening ceremony.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and guests viewed the great works of the ten artists and signed in visitors' book.

Altogether 87 paintings of ten artists will be exhibited at the show until 20 December and there is no entrance fee to the exhibition. During the

exhibition, six artists will demonstrate their skills.

Those who stage paintings at the exhibition are U Shein Tun, U Ba Win, U Tin Oo (Roxy), U Lun Gywe, U Thaug Han, U Soe Nyunt Lay, Star U Mya Than, U Naing Lay, U Kyi Win (Yankin) and U Maung Maung Thein (Pathein). —MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw manages development tasks in Thandwe

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, viewed gathering of rubber latex and nurturing of rubber saplings at Ngapali Rubber Farm in Thandwe Township on 4 December.

Myanma General and Maintenance Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 established the 953-acre Ngapali Rubber Farm. Of them, 310 acres of rubber plantation produces 112,750 pounds of rubber latex.

They attended the provisions donation ceremony at Myoma Weluwun Monastery in Thandwe. Wellwishers donated 135 bags of rice, 103 viss of edible oil, 250 viss of salt and 60 viss of gram.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and

party visited cold storage and ice factory of Thandwe Marine Product Co Ltd. At Dwarawady Hall in Thandwe, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw met departmental officials and local people. Speaking on the occasion, he urged the local farmers to extend edible oil crops for ensuring edible oil and fuel sufficiency in the region.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw viewed thriving 7.5-acre pepper plantation in Meneikwin Village-tract and instructed farmers to extend cultivation of pepper. After visiting Kyeintali People's Hospital, they presented cash assistance to the patients. Along Thandwe-Gwa Road, they viewed thriving rubber and physic nut plantations, road sections and bridges.

At the site for extension of the approach structure to Kyeintali Bridge, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave instructions on prevention of bank erosion and

maintenance of the bridge.

Kyeintali Bridge is 700 feet long and 30.5 feet wide. It has 24-foot motorway. At the hall of Gwa Station, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw met servicemen and family members of the station. —MNA

Myanmar men win, Myanmar women hold draw in football

YANGON, 7 Dec — The men's and women's football group matches of the XXIV SEA Games continued in Thailand today.

In the men's matches, Myanmar thrashed Cambodia 6-2. In the women's matches, Myanmar held 2-2 draw with Thailand. Myanmar women's football team trounced Malaysia 5-0 in the 5 December match. —MNA



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects Thandwe Cold Storage and Ice Factory. — MNA

Objectives of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day

- (a) All the national people to constantly join hands for safeguarding the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State;
- (b) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
- (c) To ensure emergence of an enduring constitution in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention that has been completed successfully;
- (d) All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation;
- (e) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit, patriotic spirit and the spirit of sacrifice.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye gives instructions to personnel, servicemen in Bokpyin



Maj-Gen Tha Aye visits Palm Oil Mill in Bokpyin Township. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 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 officials, viewed thriving oil palm plantations of Pokaung Co between Aungbar and Tawhmawwaing Villages along Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik Road on 1 December.

Managing Director U Aye Maung of Pokaung Co reported on 9,554 acres of oil palm and harvesting of oil palm fruits.

After inspecting Kawthoung-Bokpyin Road and bridges along it, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen and family members at Kyaukhtanaung Station hall.

At South Dagon Palm Oil Mill, they heard reports on cultivation of oil palm and production of fruits presented by Managing Director U Aung Htwe.

At the hall of Bokpyin Station, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party met with servicemen and family members of regiments and units and gave necessary instructions. In the evening, they donated alms to members of the Sangha at Dhammawizaya Pariyatti Monastery.

At the office of Bokpyin Township PDC, they met departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

Bokpyin Township has put 14,103 acres of land under monsoon paddy in 2007-08 and the township achieves 109.29 per cent food sufficiency. In the evening, they paid homage to Atula Adhipati Reclining Buddha Image and Razamuni Pagoda. — MNA

New building for Toungoo General Hospital opens

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — An opening ceremony of the newly-built Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Ward for Toungoo General Hospital took place in front of the new building of the hospital this morning.

Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association In-Charge of Bago Division (East) Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min formally opened the new building.

Next, the Commander, the ministers and



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Panama Mr Eduardo A Real in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Myanmar wins third in Wushu attack event

YANGON, 7 Dec — The Wushu event of the XXIV SEA Games is in progress at the designated place in Thailand.

Aung Si Thu and Myo Min Soe of Myanmar secured the third prize on 9.46 points in the doubles attack demonstration contest. The athletes of Thailand stood first on 9.52 points and those of Malaysia, second on 9.50 points.

The point standing of Myanmar Sports Contingent in the XXIV SEA Games up to 6 December was as follows:-

Sr.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Thailand	21	20	8	49
2.	Singapore	10	6	6	22
3.	Vietnam	7	6	16	29
4.	Myanmar	2	4	1	7
5.	Malaysia	2	3	6	11
6.	The Philippines	1	3	3	7
7.	Indonesia	0	1	5	6
8.	Brunei	0	0	0	0
9.	Cambodia	0	0	0	0
10.	Laos	0	0	0	0
11.	Timor Leste	0	0	0	0

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Ward of Toungoo General Hospital. — MNA



US troops kill 3 suspected insurgents in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec — The US military said on Thursday that its troops killed three suspected insurgents and detained 18 others in operations against al-Qaeda network across Iraq.

In an operation northwest of Khalis Town, some 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, US troops captured a wanted man believed to be involved in car bomb attacks, the military said in a statement.

During the operation, the troops killed an armed man and detained five others, including the wanted individual, in the targeted area”, the statement said.

In a separate operation, the troops captured two suspected al-Qaeda militants in the Yousifiyah area, 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, it said.

One of the detainees “reportedly has ties to foreign terrorists and senior al-Qaeda leaders operating in the Arab Jabour and southern Baghdad area,” the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

Gaza militants fire missiles into Israeli targets

GAZA, 7 Dec — Gaza-based Palestinian militants on Thursday fired rounds of mortar shells and home-made rockets into Israeli targets alongside the Gaza Strip.

Hamas military wing, al-Qassam Brigades, claimed responsibility for firing 11 mortars at Israeli Army vehicles which gathered behind the security fence to the east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the Popular Resistance Committee (PRC) said it had launched a home-made rocket into an Israeli settlement behind the border in eastern Gaza City.

The PRC added that it had also shelled Israeli targets at Karni crossing, in eastern Gaza, with three mortars.

The escalation came as Israel threatens to launch a large-scale offensive against the Hamas-run Gaza Strip in response to the continuation of the rocket firing.

On Wednesday night, a Hamas militant was killed while planting a bomb near the border in eastern Gaza Strip. The death apparently resulted from misusing the explosive device.

MNA/Xinhua

German court jails 3 for aiding al-Qaeda

DUESSELDORF (Germany), 7 Dec — A German court jailed three Middle Eastern men on Wednesday for supporting al-Qaeda plots to carry out suicide attacks and attempting to raise militant funds through dozens of false life insurance claims.

Ibrahim Mohamed Khalil, a 32-year-old who German authorities believe is Syrian, was sentenced to seven years in prison for membership of a terrorist organization and attempted insurance fraud.

Yasser Abu Shaweesh and his brother Ismael Abu Shaweesh were given lighter sentences of six years and 3-1/2 years respectively after being convicted of the same offences. The two men, described by German authorities as stateless Palestinians, are also in their early thirties.

The three men, who denied the charges, were arrested in 2005 after police carried out a large-scale surveillance operation at their homes.

MNA/Reuters



A photo released on 7 Dec, 2007, a fishing boat sails past a large iceberg at the mouth of the Jakobshavns ice fjord near Ilulissat, on 15 May, 2007.— INTERNET

Public census suspended in Hamas-controlled Gaza

RAMALLAH, 7 Dec — Public census is about to finish in West Bank while it has yet to start in the Hamas-controlled Gaza city, director of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) said on Thursday.

“More than half of the field works were accomplished in the West Bank but in Gaza, the offices of the PCBS are still closed and more than 2500 field workers are still in their houses waiting the work to resume,” said PCBS director Lu’ai Shabana.

Earlier, Hamas administration in Gaza attributed the suspension of the census to the rejection of the field workers to deal with the deposed Hamas Government. Hamas took over the territory by force in June.

Shabana said that a number of “national

personalities” are now mediating between Hamas Government and the PCBS in order to resume the counting process. He added the PCBS would carry on the census when it obtains guarantees that Hamas will not intervene

in the PCBS work.

The Palestinian law stipulates that a public census must be carried out in Gaza Strip and West Bank every 10 years. The last public survey was held in 1997.

MNA/Xinhua

Drivers attempt to dig their vehicles out of snow, in Omaha, Neb, on 6 Dec, 2007, as up to five inches of snow fell in the metro area.— INTERNET



Scientists identify gene that influences alcohol consumption

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — A variant of a gene involved in communication among brain cells has a direct influence on alcohol consumption in mice, a new study released by US scientists said on Wednesday.

If approved in human beings, the finding may lead to new opportunities for developing drugs to treat alcohol dependence.

Known as Grm7, the gene encodes a receptor subtype that inhibits the release of glutamate and other neurotransmitter molecules that brain cells use to communicate with one another.

Researchers led by Csaba Vadasz from the New York University identified a gene variant that reduces the abundance of Grm7 messenger RNA (mRNA) in brain tissue. mRNA is the molecular intermediate between a gene and its protein product.

Mice that possess this gene variant drink more alcohol than the mice with higher brain levels of Grm7 mRNA do. It is not known yet whether a similar gene variant, with a similar effect on alcohol consumption, exists in humans.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordan, Syria sign memo on water issues

AMMAN, 7 Dec — Jordan and Syria signed here on Wednesday a meeting memo of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee to invest Yarmouk River.

The memo was co-signed by Jordanian Minister of Water and Irrigation Raed Abu Saud and his visiting Syrian counterpart Nader Al Bunni, Jordan’s official news agency Petra reported.

Petra said that the two sides also agreed on the implementation phases of Al Wihda Dam and a future storage programme.

The Yarmouk River is a major tributary of Jordan River which was shared by Jordan and its neighbouring countries, namely Syria and Israel.

In 1955, an Arab League committee on water set Jordan’s annual share of the river’s water at 330 million cubic metres while that for Syria was 90 million cubic metres.

MNA/Xinhua

Images of the Day



A 13-day-old South China tiger cub, the newest addition to one of the world's rarest cat species, in Philipolis, South Africa.

INTERNET



Opening fireworks : Thai officials (R) look on as performers hold fireworks during the opening ceremony of the 24th Southeast Asian Games (SEA games) in Korat.—INTERNET



Mount Fuji soars behind thatched houses in Oshinohakkai, Japan.

INTERNET

Vietnamese fishermen start their morning fishing in Ha Long Bay in northern Quang Ninh Province. Starting in Jan 2009, a global poll will allow people worldwide to vote and select the seven natural wonders of the world.

INTERNET

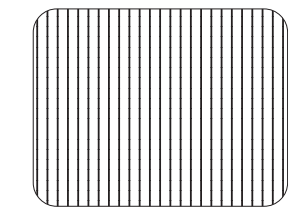
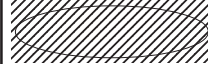
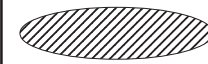


Photo taken on Dec 5, 2007 shows a view of the Dacheng palace (a place where Chinese emperors offered sacrifice to Confucius who was a great thinker, educator and philosopher in ancient China) at the Confucius Temple in Beijing, capital of China. —XINHUA



A piece of a throne found in an ancient Roman settlement near Naples is shown in a photo released on 4 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



Report says world faces food shortages, price rises

BEIJING, 6 Dec—The world is eating more than it produces and food prices may climb for years because of expansion of farming for fuel and climate change, risking social unrest, an expert and a new report said on Tuesday.

Biofuel expansions alone could push maize prices up over two-thirds by 2020 and increase oilseed costs by nearly half, with subsidies for the industry effectively constituting a tax on the poor, the International Food Policy Research Institute said.

Global cereal stocks, a key buffer used to fight famines around the world, have sunk to their lowest level since the 1980s due to reduced plantings and poor weather, said the institute's director

general, Joachim von Braun.

"The world eats more than it produces currently, and over the last five or six years that is reflected in the decline in stocks and storage levels. That cannot go on, and exhaustion of stocks will be reached soon," he told a conference in Beijing.

Countries such as Mexico have already experienced food riots over soaring prices, von Braun added in a report released at the same meeting, held by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

"The days of falling food prices may be over," said von Braun, lead author of the "World Food Situation" report.

MNA/Reuters

Asia-Pacific policy makers vow to increase safe drinking water

BEPPU (Japan), 6 Dec—Asia-Pacific government and organization leaders and other policy makers on Tuesday vowed to increase drinking water and basic sanitation in the region at the closing of a water summit.

The leaders pledged to cut the number of around 700 million people with no access to safe drinking water in the Asia-Pacific Region by half by 2015 through a closing message of the 1st Asia-Pacific Summit held in Beppu,

Oita Prefecture of southern Japan.

The government heads, ministers, leaders of international and regional organizations, as well as business figures from over 30 countries to the summit also hoped to provide all people in the region with safe drinking water access by 2025. Of the 1.9 billion people without basic sanitation in the region, the stakeholders also agreed to reduce the number by half in 2015 and to zero by 2025

"through the adoption of new and innovative sanitation systems that are not as water reliant as current methods", the closing message said.

The two-day summit also called for urgent action to prevent and control flood, drought and other water-related disasters. Statistics showed that Asia-Pacific Region is the most vulnerable with regard to water-related disasters. Between 1960 to 2006, over 600,000 casualties were recorded in the region, accounting for over 80% of world casualties in floods, droughts, tsunamis and other kinds of water-related disasters.

The closing message also identified climate change as a major challenge and called on adaptations and immediate efforts to tackle water issues under climate change in island states and other areas in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Three killed in bus, car collision in N-W China

URUMQI, 7 Dec—Three people died and two others were injured when a shuttle bus rammed into a car Wednesday in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, local police said.

At about 9:30 am, the bus, carrying 15 people, crashed head-on into a car at a section of the No 218 State Highway in the territory of Kurlu City, about 450 kilometres to the south of Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang.

Three people in the car, including the driver, died instantly.

The other two passengers were hospitalized, but doctors said that their injuries were not life-threatening.

The freeway, which links the northwestern city of Yining to Ruoqiang in southeastern Xinjiang, had been cleared by noon.

Investigators from the local government and work safety watchdog were trying to identify the victims and determine the cause of the accident.—MNA/Xinhua

Drought leaves 83,000 short of drinking water in C China

CHANGSHA, 7 Dec—About 83,000 people in central China's Hunan Province are facing drinking water shortages as a drought that has been plaguing the area for months continues.

As of Friday, 83,000 people in 31 counties in the province and 40,000 heads of livestock had been affected by the shortage, according to the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters.

The drought also affected 400,000 hectares

of cropland and dried up more than 1,500 reservoirs.

The water level of some stretches of the Xiangjiang River, the province's main waterway, is at a historical low. "This year, Hunan suffered drought both in summer and autumn," said Xiao Kuntao, an official with the headquarters. "The sustained drought has caused all-time lows in the water level of the Xiangjiang River."

Statistics with the provincial meteorological bureau showed the

province had 123 millimetres of rain from September to November, down nearly 50 per cent from normal years.

The headquarters said it had ordered reservoirs used to generate hydro-electric power to increase the volume of water discharged to ensure an adequate water supply for residents.—MNA/Xinhua

India has capability to send spacecraft to Mars

NEW DELHI, 6 Dec—India has the capability to send a spacecraft to Mars, local news agency *Press Trust of India* reported on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) of India, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office Prithviraj Chavan said sending a spacecraft to Mars would help in understanding the evolution of the planet by studying Martian atmosphere and ionosphere. It would also help in studying dust storms, interaction of solar radiation and particles with Mars, magnetic field and plasma environment around Mars, surface topography, composition and distribution of water-ice, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Spain arrests 154 drivers under tightened road safety laws

MADRID, 7 Dec—A total of 154 drivers were arrested in Spain on 2-3 December after Penal Code reforms regarding road safety and traffic, the General Traffic Department (DGT) reported on Wednesday.

Of the arrested drivers, 151 were caught with 0.6 milligrammes per litre of alcohol after a breath test or 1.2 grammes of alcohol per litre in a blood test. Three others were arrested for refusing to take the tests. News of the arrests has been publicized as the important Puente la Constitucion holiday begins, characterized by heavy highway traffic in Spain. The DGT estimated some six million cars would be on the road

during the holiday.

The road safety reform, approved in Congress on 22 November, upgraded

some of the traffic violations from minor to serious to combat reckless driving.—MNA/Xinhua

Spice girls appreciate fame more this time around

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec—Britain's Spice Girls, back together and nearly a decade older than they were during their last world tour, have a better appreciation for their success — and each other — than they did during their heyday as a late 1990s pop phenomenon, the singers said on Wednesday. The sassy quintet best known by their nicknames — Posh, Baby, Sporty, Ginger and Scary — are just days into a 40-day reunion tour that band member Melanie "Sporty" Chisholm said last month would be the group's "final bow". In Los Angeles on Wednesday, however, the band did not rule out making the reunion more permanent. "As long as our fans want us to do shows then we'll be there for them," Emma "Baby" Bunton said, but added that touring and scheduling was more complicated now that most of the women have children.—MNA/Reuters

A photo provided by the Chicago Zoological Society shows Hudson, right, a polar bear who will turn 1-year-old on 14 Dec getting a 'bear' hug from his mother, Arki, on 5 Dec, 2007, at the Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield, Ill.

INTERNET



Noisy toys may cause children hearing damage

BEIJING, 6 Dec—Some noisy toys may cause hearing damage if not used properly, researchers in US said on Thursday.

They found that the sound level of more than a third of the 17 musical and noise-making toys they examined reached 100 decibels or more — equivalent to the sound of a chain saw or subway train.”

“For some of the louder toys, if a child were to take that and hold it out against their ear for a matter of minutes, they could potentially do some long-term hearing damage,” said Jeff Carroll, of the University of

California, Irvine, who headed the research team. “What we’re trying to push here is not that the toys themselves are bad or shouldn’t be purchased or taken off the market or anything like that.

It’s more education and supervising your child and making sure they understand what’s safe and what’s not,” said Carroll.

He added that any of the toys, which were tested

at a short distance from a speaker, should be not be listened to at full volume closer than arm’s length from a child.

Internet

Halle Berry recently for different advertisements for the “A Diamond is Forever” ad campaign.
INTERNET



A Star Show is seen at the atrium of Time Warner Center in New York, the United States, on 4 Dec, 2007. The star matrix, comprised of twelve colorful stars, is the highlight of the shopping center’s sale attractions during the holiday season.—INTERNET

NASA delays shuttle Atlantis launch due to technical problems

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec—NASA has postponed space shuttle Atlantis’ Thursday launch by 24 hours due to technical problems, according to NASA TV.

Atlantis is originally scheduled to launch at 4:31 pm EST (2131 GMT) on Thursday. Just several hours prior to the target launch time, a fuel tank sensor glitch popped up, which prompted NASA shuttle managers to scrub Thursday’s launch attempt.

“We’re to try it again tomorrow,” NASA spokesperson Allard Beutel said. The shuttle is now set to launch at 4:09 pm EST (2109 GMT) on Friday.

Two of four fuel tank sensors at the bottom of the liquid hydrogen portion of Atlantis’ external tank appear to be malfunctioning. NASA flight rules only allow one sensor to fail without affecting a planned launch. NASA engineers are now studying the two faulty sensors. Atlantis’ STS-122 mission is NASA’s fourth and last shuttle flight in 2007, which will deliver the European-built Columbus laboratory to the International Space Station.

Internet

Storms knock out power in S Brazil, 35,000 affected

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Dec — Heavy downpours and hailstorms left at least 35,000 people without power in Brazil’s southern Rio Grande do Sul State, local Press said on Wednesday.

The storms descended upon the state overnight with six municipalities bearing the brunt, including Julio de Castilhos, Uruguaiana, Soledade, Sao Sepe, Quarai and Santa Maria.

Roofs and windows were damaged by the wind in the western region of the state, close to the border with Argentina. In Julio de Castilhos and Uruguaiana, six houses were destroyed.

MNA/Xinhua

Ex-top British traffic cop pleads guilty to speeding

LONDON, 7 Dec — Britain’s former top traffic policeman has been banned from driving after pleading guilty on Wednesday to speeding.

Meredydd Hughes, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and until recently the Association of Chief Police Officers’ (ACPO) lead on road policing, admitted driving at 90 mile per hour in a 60 miles per hour zone while on a family holiday.

He was banned from driving for 42 days and fined 350 pounds after a hearing, which he did not attend, at Wrexham magistrates court in north Wales.

MNA/Reuters

China’s largest freshwater lake nears lowest water level

NANCHANG, 6 Dec—The water level of Poyang Lake, China’s largest freshwater lake, is nearing its lowest record in history due to little rainfall in the past two months, local authorities said on Tuesday.

The water level at the Xingzi hydrological station, which represents that of the lake, was 7.89 metres at 8 am Tuesday, approaching the lowest 7.11 metres recorded in 2004, according to the Poyang Lake Hydrological Bureau in eastern Jiangxi Province.

The water level at the Duchang hydrological station was 8.57 metres on Tuesday, 0.05 metre below the recorded lowest level at this station, the bureau said.

The lake’s low water level has caused drinking water shortages for

residents near the lake and affected industrial production.

Local authorities are “taking all kinds of measures” to deal with the situation.

Jiangxi has seen the least rainfall from mid-September since 1960,

local meteorological station said.

The average rainfall in Jiangxi was just 37 millimetres from 15 September through the end of November, down 77 per cent from the same period in previous years.

MNA/Xinhua

Joey Bell Jr competes during the first go-round of steer wrestling at the National Finals Rodeo at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, on 6 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Riga says players distracted by Levante's payment problems

MADRID, 7 Dec — Levante's problems in paying their players are making it hard for them to focus on their job, according to leading striker Riga.

"It is very difficult to concentrate on playing football when you aren't being paid," the Ghanaian-born player was quoted as saying in sports daily *Marca* on Thursday.

"Every week there are new problems and that prevents us from performing at 100 per cent... I'm tired of receiving calls from the bank. All of us have families and we need the money."

Levante have run into financial problems because of increased expenses, lower than expected television revenues and bureaucratic delays to a plan to raise funds by selling their city-centre stadium.

As a result the Valencia-based club has fallen behind on its payments to players and staff, some of whom have denounced the club to the Spanish Players Union (AFE).— *MNA/Reuters*



Atlante's Federivo Vilar of Argentina (top) saves a ball against his compatriot Pumas' Esteban Solari during the first leg of the Mexican league championship final soccer match at the University stadium in Mexico City on 6 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET



Pumas' Leandro Augusto Oldoni (R) fouls Atlante's Jose Gonzalez during the first leg of their Mexican league championship soccer final at Mexico City's University stadium on 6 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Milan face tough period after fixtures rearranged

MILAN, 7 Dec — AC Milan face a tough period of fixtures early next year after the rearrangement of their abandoned match at Atalanta and the two games postponed this month because of their involvement in the Club World Cup.

Atalanta against Milan, suspended after seven minutes last month when angry fans tried to smash a fence, will take place on Wednesday January 23 while Reggina v Milan has been rearranged for January 30 and Milan v Livorno for Wednesday February 13.

The Italian league said in a statement on Thursday that the rescheduling

means Milan's Italian Cup fixtures would also need to be rearranged if they qualify from the last 16 after next month's second legs.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Empoli surprise Juventus in Italian Cup first leg

MILAN, 7 Dec — Serie A bottom side Empoli beat 10-man Juventus 2-1 at home in an Italian Cup last 16 first leg match on Thursday.

Juve, third in Serie A, fielded a much-changed side from their usual league lineup and paid the price when Empoli's Nicola Pozzi scored on 19 minutes when his header came down off the bar and just crossed the line.

Ignazio Abate extended the Tuscan side's lead six minutes into the second half before Juve's former Empoli midfielder Sergio Almiron was sent off for a foul and subsequent protest. Italy striker Vincenzo Iaquinta pulled one back for Juve 10 minutes from time to give the visitors hope of going through when Empoli go to Turin for the second leg on January 16.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Hanover agree to sign Frenchman Ismael from Bayern

BERLIN, 7 Dec — French defender Valerien Ismael will move from Bayern Munich to Bundesliga rivals Hanover 96 on January 1, Hanover announced on

Wednesday.

"We have reached agreement with Bayern," Hanover sports director Christian Hochstaetter said in a statement from the club.

Ismael, who joined Bayern from Werder Bremen in 2005, moves for an undisclosed fee, and will sign a contract running until 2010, Hanover said.

The 32-year-old helped Bayern to win a league and cup double in his first season but a badly broken leg meant he was limited to one fleeting league appearance last term. This season, coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has made Lucio and Martin Demichelis his first-choice centre-back partnership and Bayern manager Uli Hoeness told Ismael last month he could leave during the mid-season break.

— *MNA/Reuters*



Panionios Athen's Ioannis Maniatis (L) challenges Austria Vienna's Rubin Okotie during their UEFA Cup group H soccer match in Vienna on 6 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Australia name Dutchman Verbeek as new coach

SYDNEY, 7 Dec — Dutchman Pim Verbeek has been named as Australia's new head coach, Football Federation Australia (FFA) said on Thursday.

The 51-year-old Verbeek has agreed a contract to lead the Socceroos through to the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa. Verbeek quit as South Korea coach after taking the team to third place at this year's Asian Cup.

He previously worked with the Korean team as assistant to former Australia coach Guus Hiddink and has managed club sides in the Netherlands and Japan. The FFA turned to Verbeek after fellow Dutchman Dick Advocaat last month re-

neged on a contract to replace Graham Arnold as Socceroos coach.

Arnold has been coaching the team since Hiddink quit after leading Australia to the second round of last year's World Cup.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Romario gets Vasco job despite failed dope test

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Dec — Former Brazil striker Romario was named player-coach of Vasco da Gama on Thursday, two days after announcing he had failed a dope test while playing for the team in October.

Romario, who blamed

a hair loss treatment after testing positive for the banned substance finasteride, will be in charge of Vasco for the opening games of next season, club president Eurico Miranda told reporters.

The 1994 World Cup striker, still playing at the age of 41, has been provisionally suspended until December 18, when Brazil's disciplinary tribunal is due to hear the case.

Miranda said Romario's role would be restricted to coaching if the tribunal extends the ban.

Vasco are due to play two friendlies in Dubai in January before taking part in the Carioca championship, one of the regional tournaments which kick off the Brazilian season in

mid-January.

Romario replaces Valdir Espinosa, who quit after the 2007 season ended on Sunday.

— *MNA/Reuters*



Chinese shooter Xu Kun grabbed the gold of men's 50-meter pistol at the 11th Asian Shooting Championships on Thursday with 662.3 points.

— INTERNET



Spain's Carolina Ruiz Castillo speeds down the course during training for the women's World Cup Downhill ski race, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007 in Aspen, Colo. She had the sixth best time.

— INTERNET

Biofuel holds promise for Caribbean

MIAMI, 7 Dec — 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.

While the push for alternative fuels will probably not revive the failing centuries-old Caribbean sugar industry, countries like El Salvador have room to increase production, delegates to the Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin said this week.

Regional governments, however, need immediately to pass legislation mandating that gasoline be blended with ethanol so that farmers can feel confident that biofuels are the future, said Julio Arroyo of the Sugar Association of El Salvador.

“We have 60,000 hectares (148,300 acres) of sugar. We have 300,000 hectares (741,300 acres) that are not being used, so there is a lot of opportunity,” he said. “But without legislation, this industry is not going to develop.”

MNA/Reuters

Orbis airborne eye hospital visits Macao

MACAO, 7 Dec — The ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital Wednesday began its visit to Macao with a three-day Open Your Eyes Tour, which was designed to raise awareness of the hardships facing preventably blind people in the world.

“Thanks to the generosity of Macao International Airport and all of our donors in Macao,

ORBIS is able to carry out sight-saving missions around the world,” said Paul Forrest, the NGO’s Director of Global Development, at the ceremony. Edmund Ho, Chief Executive of Macao SAR also attended the ceremony.

With advanced eye surgical equipment and professional medical teams, the DC-10-jet-turned flying hospital is

able to provide ophthalmic surgery and extensive educational programmes for doctors in underdeveloped regions.

The plane houses a 48-seat classroom where local doctors, via a two-way visual and audio system, can watch and discuss the surgeries live broadcast in the operation room on board the plane.

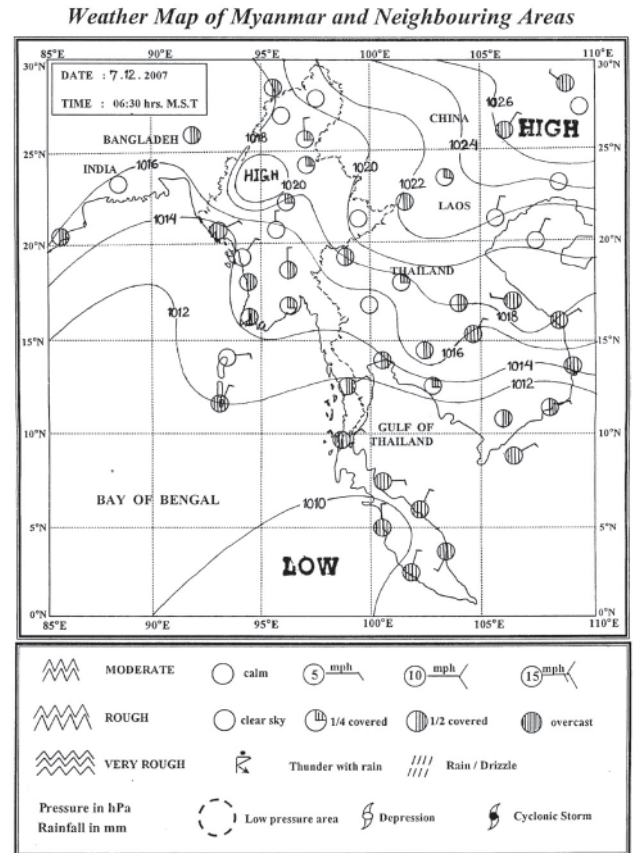
MNA Xinhua

DPRK slams US hardliners’ remarks

PYONGYANG, 7 Dec — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday slammed US hardliners for their remarks that Washington should implement a harder policy against Pyongyang, saying the DPRK would never give up its nuclear programme until the US abandons its stance.

The DPRK’s remarks came after the *Wall Street Journal* and John Bolton, former US ambassador to the United Nations, said that the Bush Administration should not soften the policy to Pyongyang.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Friday, 7 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Rakhine State, Magway and Yangon Divisions. (6°C) to (7°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-3°C), Pinlaung (4°C), Mindat and Namhsam (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 6-12-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 7-12-2007 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-12-2007 was 74%. Total sun shine hours on 6-12-2007 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.57) inches at Mingaladon, (141.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 6-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-12-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, Upper Sagaing Division and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong winds may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-12-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-12-2007: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for second weekend of December 2007:

During the coming weekend, Generally fair weather in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 8 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
-Uptown girl
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
-Every other time
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music:
-This kiss
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-My band
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Music at your request
-Where is to the love
-Take me to your heart
- 9:00pm ASEAN news
Exchange news from ASEAN member countries
- 9:20pm Myanma Culture...Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt
-Shwe Bon Thar Muni Pagoda
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
-Fountain of to love
-Who are we to say
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Saturday, 8 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရတနာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိကတိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တ သာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
 2. To be healthy exercise
 3. Morning news
 4. Nice and sweet song
 5. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ
 6. ကုန်စည်တိုးပွား တွဲတေးတံတား
 7. Musical programme
 8. International news
- 7:25 am
- 7:30 am
- 7:40 am
- 7:50 am
- 8:05 am
- 8:15 am
- 8:30 am
- 8:45 am
 9. Grammer made easy
 - 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
 2. Musical programme
 3. Games for children
 4. Round up of the week’s local news
 - 11:15 am
 - 11:30 am
 - 12:00 am
 5. လောကနိတိ(၅) “မေတ္တာအတိမ်အနက်ကို ရိုက်ဆက်၍ကြည့်သောအခါ” (ပိုင်ဇေရီထွန်းစည်သူတင်စိုး၊ လင်းဇာနည်ဇော်၊ ခင်ဇာမြည်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်)
 - 1:00am
 6. အောင်ပွဲရမြန်မာ့လက်ရွေးစင် သေနတ်ပစ်အားကစားအဖွဲ့ နှင့်တွေ့ဆုံခြင်း
 - 2:00 am
 7. Dance of national races
 - 2:05 am
 8. Musical programme
 - 2:30 am
 9. “ရေမြင့်-ကြာတင့်” မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်တက္ကသိုလ် ဝမ်းပုံမျိုးချိုးခိုင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
 - 2:45 am
 10. International news
 - 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
 - 4:15 pm
 2. Song for uphold national spirit
 - 4:30 pm
 3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (မြန်မာစာ အထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ)
 - 4:45 pm
 4. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
 - 5:00 pm
 5. Musical programme
 - 5:15 pm
 6. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့
 - 5:30 pm
 7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
 - 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
 - 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
 - 6:35 pm
 10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
 - 7:00 pm
 11. ကောင်းကင်ယံမှာဝဲကာ တောင်ကြီးမြို့မှမီးပုံးပျံ
 - 7:15 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နေပြည်စမ်းမှ” (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
 - 8:00 pm
 13. News
 14. International news
 15. Weather report
 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချိုမြိန်သောအချစ်နေ့” (အပိုင်း-၁)
 17. The next day’s programme

*R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of Katha-Bhamo railroad, No 3 district-to-district road

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and officials, viewed harvesting of monsoon paddy in Pyithaya Village-tract of Katha Township on 4 December.

At the hall of Katha-Bhamo railroad construction project site, they heard reports on selection of the axis for the railroad and land preparation tasks presented by officials.

At mile post No 203/2, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the carrying out of earth work for Katha-Bhamo railroad.

Private companies are carrying out land preparation tasks at respective sections of the railroad.

At the briefing hall near Mehin Village, officials reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on progress in construction of the No 3 district-to-district road in Katha Township.

At No 34 Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Minle Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs. The commander presented uniforms, sports gear and exercise books to members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and students.

After inspecting Katha Township Hospital (100-bed), they gave cash assistance to the patients.

At Eya Shweli Hall in Katha, Lt-Gen Ye Myint

met local authorities, departmental officials, social organization members and local people and gave necessary instructions.

Katha District had put 318,149 acres of land under monsoon paddy against the target of 315,000 acres in 2007-08. Hence, the district is 183.14 per cent food sufficiency and 345.50 per cent edible oil sufficiency in 2006-07. In addition, the district has so far grown 28,143.27 acres of physic nut against the target of 42,900 acres.

Next, they presented uniforms to members of Township USDA and War Veterans Organization.

At the local battalion in Katha, they met servicemen and family members of the local station. —MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint views harvesting at a model paddy field in Pyithaya Village-tract in Katha Township. — MNA

- ★ **RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies**
- ★ **RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!**
- ★ **The public be warned of
killers in the air waves —
RFA, VOA and BBC**