

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 inspects progress of No 3 district-to-district road, Shwebo-Myitkyina road



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence views cultivation of sunflower in Kokkagon Village of Kawlin Township. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 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, inspected sugarcane and sesame plantations in Nyaungchedauk Village in Katha Township on 5 December.

On arrival at Thanbayagan Village, they inspected construction of the district-to-district road.

At Htigyaing People's Hospital, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the operation theatre, the medical store, the X-ray room and physic nut and vegetable plantations.

They inspected construction of No 3 district-to-district road in Htigyaing Township, reconstruction of Mezachaung wooden bridge (Doebin) and water supply tasks of the township.

In Marathein Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the launching ceremony of MPT Satellite Terminal exchange of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

At Kyaukpahtoe Gold Refinery in Kawlin Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on mining task and gold refinery presented by Chairman U Maung Ko of Htawara Mining Co Ltd. Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited the gold refinery.

On arrival at Kyauktan junction of Shwebo-Myitkyina road, officials Sagaing Division Public Works reported on tasks of the road and future tasks. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on efforts to be made for ensuring smooth transportation.

In Kokkagon Village of Kawlin Township, they attended a demonstration on cultivation of sunflower. They inspected installation of steel frame at Zaw Creek Bridge. They later visited Kanbalu Township Forest Department. In Kanbalu Township, 10,500 acres of land has been put under teak since 1988.

MNA

Make preparations for the future

INSIDE What the neo-colonialists want regarding Myanmar affairs is not to help practise democracy and enjoy human rights fully. Their real intention is to make sure that national consolidation will not be built, weaken the nation, and install a puppet dictatorial government in the nation. They are desirous of a puppet military leader or a dictator in power in the nation of their liking. Apparently all the countries that deal with them feel uneasy. Our people should realize this.

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KO PHYAUNT

Opening ceremony of Yadanabon Teleport, Myanmar ICT Week on 14-20 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Opening ceremony of Yadanabon Teleport and the 6th Myanmar ICT Week 2007 will be held at Yadanabon Teleport (PwinOoLwin) in PwinOoLwin Township, Mandalay from 14 to 20 December. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 9 December, 2007

Control AIDS and provide assistance for victims

Today, AIDS is spreading as epidemic throughout the world. So far, more than 33 million people have been infected with AIDS. This year, about two million people have died.

Most people aged between 15 and 49 years in the world have died of AIDS. About 46 per cent of HIV positive persons are women. So, all world nations are paying special attention to combat the scourge.

In Myanmar, the government is taking systematic measures to control TB and malaria in addition to AIDS as a national duty, realizing that those diseases can pose a grave danger to the public health. The Central Committee for Control and Elimination of AIDS was formed in 1989. In like manner, the work committees at state, division, district and township levels have been formed for successful realization of the task.

As part of the project for control of AIDS and venereal diseases, efforts are being made on a large scale for giving educative talks on AIDS and effective treatment of contagious diseases. Work is well under way for ensuring safe blood transfusion in 106 townships and for preventing the spread of HIV from mother to foetus at 37 hospitals.

Myanmar is participating actively in the strategies on preventive measures in cooperation with UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations. AIDS has a negative impact not only on the public health but also on the social, economic and development works. So, the entire people have to care the victims while taking part in the AIDS control movements.

Health Department donates medicines to Myanmar Correctional Department

YANGON, 8 Dec — The Health Department under the Ministry of Health donated 14 kinds of medicines worth K 2 million to Myanmar Correctional Department for children of female inmates, expectant mothers and youth inmates to receive medical treatments at the jails, at the 50-bed hospital of Insein Central Jail, here, yesterday morning.

Director-General of the Myanmar Correctional Department U Zaw Win, Chief Medical Officer Dr Tun Myint, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Myint Thein, officer-in-charge U Myo Khin, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, Deputy Head of Division Health Department Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn, member of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Khin Thet Myaing and officials were present.

They visited the pre-primary school of Myanmar Correctional Department's Maternal and Child Welfare Association (branch) and donated K 10,000 for serving diet foods to the children. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Health care provided to patients

YANGON, 8 Dec — Under the supervision of Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Bahan Township MCWA organized a ceremony to provide community-based health care services to HIV, AIDS, TB and other patients at the hall of Bahan Township Peace and Development Council yesterday morning.

After speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted K 1.25 million from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Secretary of the Yangon Division MCWSC Dr Hla Myint reported on community-based health care services for HIV, AIDS, TB and

other chronic patients and Chairperson Daw Naing Naing Aung of the Township MCWA on tasks of the township association.

Later, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and party provided cash assistance and medicines to chronic patients residing in Bahan Township.

MNA

Transport Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received Vice-President Mr Wang Bo of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd and party at the ministry here yesterday afternoon. They discussed cooperation in development of airport tasks between Myanmar and China.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department of Civil Aviation and officials. — MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Vice-President Mr Wang Bo and party of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd. — MNA



USDA Joint Secretary-General meets members in Pakokku District

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Zaw Min together with Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe met secretaries, executives and members of Seikpyu and Chauk Township USDAs and local people at the office of Seikpyu Township USDA in Pakokku District on 2 December.

After hearing reports, the Joint Secretary-General fulfilled the requirements and urged them to carry out regional development tasks.

At the meeting hall of Supervisory Commit-

tee for Yenangyoung Industrial Zone, In-charge of the Yenangyoung Industrial Zone Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min and Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe met entrepreneurs and gave necessary instructions. Next, they inspected Golden Dragon Motorbike Assembling Factory and attended to the needs.

They also looked into production processes of Shwe Wah Myay Motorbike Assembling Factory and Ngwe Sekkyar Automobile Assembling Factory and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

5th AGM of MGEA held

YANGON, 8 Dec — The fifth Annual Gen-



Vice-President U Zaw Min Win of UMFCFI speaking at 5th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association. — UMFCFI

eral Meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association was held at Panda Hotel in Lanmadaw Township, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of the association U Thu Taw and Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win delivered addresses. Next, Secretary of the association U Kyaw Win read out the report and financial statement of the executive committee, and Vice-Chairman of the association U Kyaw Myint made concluding remarks. — MNA

India's aerobatic team to strengthen Malaysia-India ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Dec — The participation of India's prestigious "Surya Kiran" aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force at the ongoing Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) 2007 exhibition in Malaysia will strengthen the good relations between Malaysia and India in the field of defence.

Additional General Manager of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)

Rajiv Kumar made the remarks at the Mahsuri International exhibition Centre (MIRC) in Langkawi on Friday.

The participation of nine *Kiran MK II* aircraft, produced by the company, at LIMA since Monday proved India's commitment to make the air show a success, he said.

"It will strengthen bilateral ties between both countries. I feel very proud every time they

perform the aerobatic display," Malaysian national news agency Bernama quoted Rajiv as saying.

The Surya Kiran team is performing for the first time at LIMA.

The team uses nine *Kiran MK II* basic jet trainers, manufactured by HAL in 1960, with seven of the aircraft flying during each session of the show, which ends on Saturday.—MNA/Xinhua



A woman pours hot water to make green tea at a traditional tea house in Boseong, about 397 km (246 miles) south of Seoul. An extract of green tea wards off colorectal cancer, animal experiments show.—INTERNET

UN cuts tours as guides stay away in protest

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Dec — Tours of the United Nations headquarters in New York were drastically cut back on Thursday after tour guides stayed away from work as part of a dispute with management, the world body said.

UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said only people who had made advance reservations were able to tour the building after 22 guides called in sick. She said this was apparently related to issues they had raised with management in recent weeks.

UN Staff Council officers said the guides were protesting over their

medical and other benefits.

The United Nations normally offers tours of the UN building, including the Security Council chamber and General Assembly hall, in English and up to 12 other languages. The cost is 13 US dollars for adults and seven US dollars for children. A notice at the

tour desk said no tours were available, adding: "Sorry for the inconvenience".

Several would-be tourists loitered in the UN lobby. "At least I had a look at the buildings," said one, Frenchman Michel Muller, as he studied a guide-book of New York.

MNA/Reuters



Sole Indonesian military chief candidate gets House approval

JAKARTA, 7 Dec — The Indonesian House of Representatives has endorsed the nomination of Army Chief of Staff General Djoko Santoso as the new Armed Forces commander after conducting a lengthy hearing, the local Ressa said on Thursday.

Santoso was the sole candidate to replace the outgoing chief Air Marshal Djoko Suyanto, reported national newspaper *The Jakarta Post's* website.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono proposed him for the position of the military chief to the House on 28 November. — MNA/Xinhua

Swiss teacher Louis Palmer drives his solar-powered car into the venue of the UN Climate Change conference in Nusa Dua, Bali on 5 Dec, 2007. Palmer, who set off from Lucerne in July, is having a stop-off in Bali, Indonesia, could make history as the first solar-powered car to drive around the world.—INTERNET

Beijing mulls special allowance for skilled workers

BEIJING, 7 Dec — Skilled workers in Beijing will soon receive a government stipend, a benefit formerly reserved for outstanding experts and scholars, a local

government official said on Tuesday.

The allowance will be given to 100 outstanding skilled workers selected every two years from enterprises in the capital, Yang Decheng, a municipal government official, said.

He gave no details of how much the allowance would be.

Other preferential policies, such as citizenship registration priority, would be given to technicians in high-tech industry, construction and manufacture and other pillar industries, he said.

"This measure is expected to relieve a shortage of skilled workers in the city and enhance technical skills and productivity," Yang said.—MNA/Xinhua

Villagers transport their neighbours to higher ground during a flood in Malaysia's village of Lubok Batu in southern state of Johor on 7 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Earthquake jolts Japan island, felt in Tokyo

TOKYO, 7 Dec — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6 jolted a tiny island about 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of Tokyo on Friday, a Japanese Government agency said.

The quake, at 9:57 am (0057 GMT), was felt in the capital and areas further north.

The epicentre of the tremor was near the island of Torishima and its depth about 50 kilometres (30 miles), the Japan Meteorological Agency said on its website (<http://www.jma.go.jp>). There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning was issued. — MNA/Reuters



Team Asia captain, Se Ri Pak, of South Korea, encounters some kangaroos near the lie of her ball on the 10th fairway during the Lexus Cup at The Vines Golf Course in Perth, western Australia, on 7 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Moscow criticizes US think-tank over debate

Moscow, 8 Dec — Russia accused a US think-tank on Friday of spreading anti-Russian propaganda by hosting a debate on violence in the turbulent Ingushetia region neighbouring Chechnya.

The Foreign Ministry said Russia was surprised the United States, with

whom relations have deteriorated this year, had let the debate go ahead last week in Washington.

The Jamestown Foundation publishes reports on international conflicts and monitors unrest in Russia's North Caucasus area. Its weekly newsletter is largely

critical of Russian policy.

The ministry said the sole aim of last week's debate had been to misinform the US public about Russian policy in the north Caucasus.

“Organizers again and again resorted to deliberately spreading slander about the situation in Chechnya and other republics of the Russian north Caucasus using the services of supporters of terrorists and pseudo-experts,” the ministry said.

“Speakers were given carte blanche to spread extremist propaganda, incite ethnic and inter-religious discord.”

The think-tank said Russia was trying to intimidate it. “It shows that they feel threatened by us,” Foundation president Glen Howard said in a telephone interview. “They’re intimidated by the power of the free word and this goes against the state manipulation of the media in Russia.”—MNA/Reuters

Workers at the Bega Lagoon Resort in Fiji Islands putting up sheets of plywood as they prepare for Tropical Cyclone Daman. —INTERNET



British government plans big new prisons

LONDON, 7 Dec — Justice Secretary Jack Straw said on Wednesday the government would spend 1.2 billion pounds to create 10,500 extra jail places by 2014 to help tackle a crisis of overcrowding in prisons.

He said this would increase jail capacity to 96,000 places from around 81,500 now.

Reporting on a review of prisons by life peer Lord Carter, Straw said the government would close some older jails and build up to three large “Titan” prisons housing up to 2,500 inmates each.

“The measures I have announced ... will fulfil our commitment to provide a modernised

prison system which protects the public from the most serious offenders,” Straw said.

Legislation on indeterminate sentences — blamed for adding to the overcrowding problem — would be altered so that they could not be given for tariffs of less than two years, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Death toll jumps to 105 in N China coal mine gas blast

TAIYUAN, 7 Dec — Rescuers found 26 additional bodies in the shaft of the Xinyao Coal Mine on Friday morning, bringing the death toll to 105, following a gas explosion in the mine in Shanxi

Province on Wednesday. The explosion happened at 11:15 pm Wednesday inside the Xinyao Coal Mine, a village-run coal mining venture in Hongtong County, Linfen. Exact figures for the

number of staff in the mine at the time of the accident were still being established. Rescue officials on Friday said that at least 120 miners, instead of the previously reported 111, were inside the shaft when the accident took place. The latest information on survivors was that 15 workers either escaped or were rescued later.

The cause of the accident has yet to be determined. There was a delay of about six hours in reporting the explosion to the local authorities, who did not learn of it until 5:00 am Thursday. The authorities said that they believed the colliery managers delayed in reporting the accident while they tried to mount their own operations, which meant that a crucial window of time for rescue passed and casualties probably increased.

MNA/Xinhua

Uganda says suspected Ebola cases rise to 93, 22 dead

KAMPALA, 7 Dec — A new strain of the deadly Ebola virus is thought to have infected 93 people and killed at least 22 in Uganda, including a doctor and three other medical staff looking after patients, a health official said on Thursday.

Dr Sam Zaramba, the government's director of health services, told Reuters the doctor had died in Kampala's Mulago Hospital after looking after a patient in

its isolation ward.

Besides the two, all other cases and deaths had occurred where the outbreak started in Uganda's western Bundibugyo district, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo, he said.

“The total number of suspected cases is now 93 that fit the definition,” he said. “Twenty two have died. Out of them, four (are) health workers, one a doctor. He died in Mulago.”—MNA/Reuters

Pilot killed in air crash in Philippines

MANILA, 7 Dec — A pilot was killed following a plane crash early Thursday morning in the southern Philippine province of Compostela Valley, local media reported.

At about 7:50 am local time Thursday (2350 GMT Wednesday), a Turbo Thrush aircraft (PRC-R2827) operated by Air Track Aviation Corp. crashed in Compostela Town, said Philippine TV network ABS-CBN News, citing a report prepared by a local police chief named Anselmo Simeon Pinili.

MNA/Xinhua



Girls chant slogans during a protest in Baghdad's Sadr City on 7 Dec, 2007. About 1000 protesters took to the streets of Sadr City denouncing the attack of suspected al-Qaeda insurgents in a village in Diyala Province on Saturday that killed 12 civilians and abducted dozen others.—INTERNET

Vietnam to host ASEAN Tourism Forum 2009

HANOI, 7 Dec — Vietnam has agreed to organize the 28th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Tourism Forum (ATF) in capital Hanoi in 2009, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on Thursday.

During the ATF 2009, meetings of ASEAN

Tourism Ministers and industry associations, travelling conferences and exhibitions will be held.

The ATF 2007 was organized in Singapore, and the next edition will take place in Thailand. The ASEAN has 10 member nations: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the

Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Vietnam welcomed nearly 3.6 million foreign visitors, mainly those from China, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, North America, Western Europe and Eastern Europe, in 2006, up from nearly 3.5 million in 2005, the ministry said.—MNA/Xinhua

AirAsia joins big league of Airbus “A320” clients

PARIS, 8 Dec — Southeast Asia’s largest budget carrier by fleet size, AirAsia, has made a firm order to buy an additional 25 medium-haul Airbus A320, becoming the latest member of leading A320 clients, the European plane-maker has said.

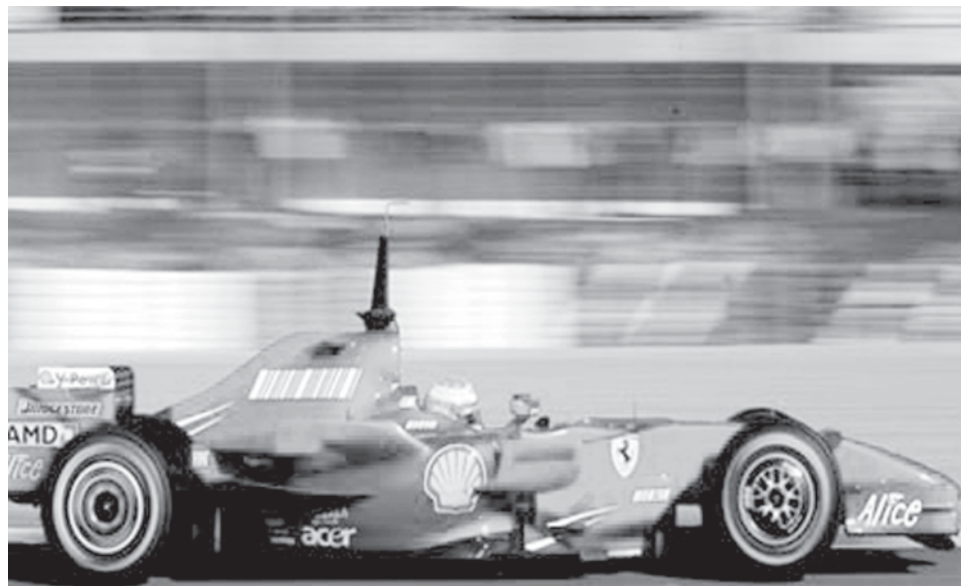
AirAsia and Airbus signed the contract worth 1.2 billion euros (1.8 billion US dollars) for purchase of the aircrafts during the Langkawi Airshow in Malaysia, making the airline become a major A320 client with a total of 175 such aircrafts, according to a statement issued Wednesday by Airbus.

“This order falls within the framework of our

future plans for a sustained expansion. This transaction also proves our commitment to develop AirAsia network by acquiring the most

advanced and most profitable aircraft in the market today,” said Datuk Tony Fernandes, AirAsia chief executive officer.

MNA/Xinhua



British F1 star Lewis Hamilton beat seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher (pictured) during a test session at the Jerez racetrack in southern Spain.—INTERNET

People walk inside the business class section of Air India’s new Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft at Mumbai airport recently.
INTERNET

Five Indian Cos to jointly buy coal mines abroad

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — Five Indian public sector companies have joined hands to acquire coal mines abroad, local news agency Press Trust of India reported on Wednesday.

Five Indian state-owned Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) companies have decided on an initial investment of 35 billion Indian rupees (around 885 million US dollars) to meet the demand of steel industry, power sector and others.

The five companies included India’s largest integrated iron and steel producer Steel Authority Of India Limited (SAIL), steel producer Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), India’s largest thermal power generating company NTPC Limited, Coal India Limited (CIL) which contributes around 85 per cent of coal production in India, and India’s single largest iron ore producer and exporter NMDC.—MNA/Xinhua



Brazil’s Petrobras claims new natural gas reserve

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 Dec — Brazil’s state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras on Friday claimed the discovery of an offshore natural gas reserve in the southeastern state of Espirito Santo.

The company said a well in the reserve, 3,378 metres deep in the Camarupim field and 37 kilometres away from the coast, was drilled in the BM-ES-5 area, in which Petrobras holds a 65-per-cent stake, while the US

company El Paso owns the remaining 35 per cent.

The company also announced the presence of good quality oil at a depth of 2,461 metres in the same field. The finding confirms that the Espirito Santo basin has more natural gas than initially estimated, possibly making it one of the top gas providers in the country by 2009, abreast with the Campos Basin in the state of Rio de Janeiro, according to the company.—MNA/Xinhua

265 East 66 Street in New York, the centre building, is seen after an accident where a window washer was killed and his brother seriously injured when their scaffold fell 40 stories from the building, on 7 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Shanghai suspends exports from canned meat manufacturer

SHANGHAI, 8 Dec — Exports from a Shanghai-based food producer has been suspended as of Thursday after Hong Kong hygiene authority detected chemical contents in its canned meat.

Shanghai Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau on Thursday ordered an export suspension of all food products, including canned meat, seafood, fruits and vegetables, from Shanghai Maling Aquarius Co Ltd., a listing company on the

Shanghai Bourse.

In order to ensure food safety, exports must be suspended and the company must recall all canned meat before the investigation is finished, the bureau ordered.

The Food and Environment Hygiene Department of Hong Kong announced on Monday that low level of nitrofurans metabolite has been found in a kind of less sodium pork luncheon canned meat made by Maling.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare held in Vietnam

HANOI, 7 Dec — The 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development opened here on Thursday, focusing its discussion on assisting disabled people, promoting social welfare role in development, *Vietnam News Agency* reported.

Addressing at the opening ceremony, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem said ASEAN members will cooperate in dealing

with issues relating to social welfare and development, using economic development achievement in settling social issues, and creating opportunities for disabled people to participate in activities of social life.

Delegates to the meeting should discuss measures to strengthen cooperation and share experience in the field of social sponsor, especially helping disabled people, toward a stable de-

velopment in the region, he noted.

ASEAN members, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, consider social welfare and development an important part in their socioeconomic development strategies, and an important factor in the state development, Khiem said.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman hangs clothes on the world's longest washing line in Toluca on 7 Dec, 2007. The youth culture department at the local municipality in the city of Toluca have decided to break the world record by setting a new mark of 40km, using 80,000 pieces of clothing. —INTERNET

Indian interceptor missile test successfully conducted

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — India on Thursday conducted an advanced air defence missile test, where an incoming hostile missile was successfully intercepted 15 kilometres above the earth, according to local media.

The test was conducted in the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Wheeler Island in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Orissa, around 1,500 kilometres east of capital New Delhi.

The hostile ballistic missile was a modified version of India's *Prithvi* missile and the interceptor was a new generation indigenous missile.

The critical detection radar is a modified version

of an Israeli system, according to local TV channel NDTV.

On Sunday, the scientists had conducted a mock trial of the new high-speed missile by using an electronic target fired from the ITR, local TV channel Zeenews reported.

As a precaution, the Orissa government on Wednesday asked the fishermen in the coastal districts of Balasore and Bhadrak not to venture into the Bay of Bengal as precautionary measure due to the missile test.

MNA/Xinhua



Smoke rises after a explosive device exploded beneath the strategic oil pipe in al-Fatha, east of Beiji, in northern Iraq, on 7 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Two roadside bombs in Baghdad wound 11 civilians

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec — Two roadside bomb explosions rocked the Iraqi capital on Thursday morning, leaving 11 civilians injured, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb detonated near a marketplace in the Jisr Diyala area in southeastern Baghdad, wounding six civilians and damaging several nearby civilian cars, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Another roadside bomb went off in the Hammad Shihab intersection near the Shaab football stadium in eastern

Baghdad, injuring five civilians, the source said. All the wounded were transported to hospitals for treatment, the source added.

Violence continues in Iraq as US Defence Secretary Robert Gates paid a visit to the country on Wednesday to assess whether the recent drop of violence in parts of the country can be sustained.

"A secure, stable Iraq is within reach," he said during a joint news conference with his Iraqi counterpart.

However, Gates stressed that there is much more to be done to quell violence and ensure Iraqi forces are ready to take over more responsibilities from the US military. "We need to be patient," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to set up 40,000 telecentres by 2011

DHAKA, 7 Dec — Bangladesh will set up 40,000 telecentres all over Bangladesh by 2011, raising the number from existing 800, private news agency *UNB* reported Thursday.

This was the aim of a so-called Mission 2011 on which a launching programme was held here Thursday, organized by Bangladesh Telecenter Network (BTN).

The theme of the mission 2011 is "Building a Sustainable ICT-based Information and Know-

ledge System for the Poor and Marginalized".

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed of the Bangladesh caretaker government at the occasion called for empowering poor, disadvantaged and rural population through providing them with access to the information superhighway for building a prosperous Bangladesh.

Telecenter is a public place where people can access computers, internet and other technologies that help them gather information and com-

munications with others at the same time as they develop digital skill.

Telecenter exists in almost every country although they sometimes go by different names like village knowledge centre, infocenter, community technology centre, community multimedia centre, information kiosk.

In Bangladesh telecenter is called Community Multimedia Centre, Community Information Center, Rural Knowledge Centre and so on.

MNA/Xinhua

A police car sits in front of the Von Maur store at the Westrods Mall in Omaha, Nebraska. Authorities on Thursday searched for clues as to why a teenager, armed with a rifle, randomly opened fire on Christmas shoppers in a mall, killing at least eight before turning the gun on himself. —INTERNET



Make preparations for the future

Ko Phyaunt

What are the root causes of the present conflict in the internal affairs and slow economic growth of Myanmar? It can be clear to one only if one reviews the past incidents. In this regard, I would like to put some questions?

- **What is Federal System?**
- **What made it necessary for signing the Panglong Agreement?**
- **Do you know who was the main culprit behind the 19-7-1947 assassination of Myanmar leaders?**
- **Why did Myanmar's practice of the Parliamentary Democracy System in the post-independence period fail?**
- **Why did the Revolutionary Council government have to take power?**
- **Why did U Ne Win practise the closed-door economic system?**
- **Why does not Myanmar see a puppet government of super powers unlike some countries?**
- **What was behind economic sanctions imposed against Myanmar by certain major western countries?**

I wish only those who realize the correct answers to these questions engage in politics. Otherwise, they will face undesirable consequences however much they are spending their time and energy.

Any of the anti-government movements is associated with one political instigation or another. There is no secret that recent protest marches were due to the political instigation carried out at home and abroad that can make the people get into trouble.

I would like to urge those who consider themselves to have talents and qualifications to make brilliant performances in the international community instead of doing acts that can harm the interests of the nation and the people. Here I do not want to say how to do lest my suggestions might be deemed to belittle the

abilities of the people, and I believe that Myanmar people are endowed with abilities and mental faculty. I think anyone of such people should not make a comment: it is impossible. Each person has only one head. Without doubt if a person works hard with tenacity he will be able to make a good headway. Whether he dares to venture or not depends on him.

In Iraq, for example, many factions are engaged in clashes among themselves, and in consequence, that makes the nation weaker, the people have to deal with a wide range of problems. Some of the people in the nation dare to risk their dear lives. However, these activities are largely due to thoughtlessness. In fact, such activities do not bring any benefits to their country and people. They do not know who is their true enemy. They have failed to build national unity and to drive their common enemy out of their country.

Now, it is required of Myanmar people to weigh the prevailing situations as they really are. So, they have to be aware of and avert any situations in which a wedge is driven among the people, and the people are trapped and troubled. If they are not clever enough to realize these situations, they will face physical and mental sufferings. With this concept, they should review the past incidents.

What the neo-colonialists want regarding Myanmar affairs is not to help practise democracy and enjoy human rights fully. Their real intention is to make sure that national consolidation will not be built, weaken the nation, and install a puppet dictatorial government in the nation. They are desirous of a puppet military leader or a dictator in power in the nation of their liking. Apparently all the countries that deal with them feel uneasy. Our people should realize this.

Therefore, the people should review the situations, exerting patriotic spirit and nationalistic fervour. The nation will not make progress by just envying the success of other countries. I would like to suggest to innovate, work hard, and make preparations, and not to

hold negative attitude. All possible arrangements are to be made in advance for the forthcoming programmes. Now is the best time to do so. People should try their best to master in related fields, while pursuing education and doing business. Only then will it be possible for them to launch a quick start when opportune.

Myanmar people are fast learners with high intellectual power, and in this regard, they keep abreast of any other people. I dare say Myanmar people possess better qualifications than other peoples in politics due to the nation's historical background. Myanmar people somewhat lack self-confidence in their abilities and use their qualifications in unrelated fields. If the people start to learn necessary technologies, the nation will make progress in 30 to 40 years when today's youths rule the nation. So, the people should not waste invaluable time, building a castle in the air. The drive involves a broad spectrum of works that can serve the interests of those concerned. By nature, man is curious about strange things. So, such people should try things that are beneficial not only to them but also to others. A person cannot do all kinds of good things in his life.

If Myanmar people still lack knowledge and technologies, the nation will be left behind. If a person is skilled in the related field, he can be proud of his skills even if he is a follower. If he is well-versed in the field, he can lead others. There are a variety of ways and means to improve efficiency and understand what one wants to know. At least, people should study the map of Myanmar or the world, or an interested country, and draw a plan to do something in the military, economic, agricultural or transport sector. If so, they will get knowledge about ways to trade with suitable countries, and strengths and weaknesses of each country. I dare say, if so, the nation will achieve great benefits in future.

Only then will the youths be able to manage the plans and rule the nation for progress. One will be able to make sustainable progress only when one exerts diligence and tenacity without taking any short-cuts. The people should do what are due. Without studying the map of Myanmar, a person cannot become an officious person. Similarly, without studying the world map, a person cannot dominate the world. I wish Myanmar people a success in seeking good ways and means, with which a prosperous future of the nation can be created.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 8-12-2007

What the neo-colonialists want regarding Myanmar affairs is not to help practise democracy and enjoy human rights fully. Their real intention is to make sure that national consolidation will not be built, weaken the nation, and install a puppet dictatorial government in the nation.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw meets departmental officials, inspects maintenance task on Gwa-Ngathaingchaung road



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects thriving 50-acre ironwood plantation in Gwa Township. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein met with departmental officials at Gwa Station Yeiktha on 5 December.

After hearing reports on tasks to be undertaken by officials and a supplementary report of the commander, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw urged them to strive for ensuring regional development.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the commander

and party looked into thriving 25-acre physic nut plantation of Gwa Township service personnel and 50-acre ironwood plantation of Gwa Township Forest Department. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave instructions on extended cultivation of physic nut plants, teak and hardwood and conservation of forests.

Next, they inspected maintenance task on Gwa-Ngathaingchaung road at mile post 35/6.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Mass sports activities for 2nd week of December organized

YANGON, 7 Dec — As part of the mass sports activities in Yangon Division, the mass walk in the second week of December was organized today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin participated in the mass walk together with departmental officials, Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute U Khin Maung Kyaw and trainees, students of Yankin Education College and basic education schools and local people totalling over 17,000.

They walked along West Race Course Road from the junction of U Chit Maung Road and West Race Course Road.



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win taking part in mass sports activities for second week of December in Yangon. —MNA

Next, they took part in the physical exercises and sports activities at Kyaikkasan Grounds.

Likewise, the mass sports activities were held at Aung San Stadium with the participation of over 3,400 people and Youth Training Centre with over 1,700 people.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects development of Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected thriving late monsoon long stable cotton farm of Ngweche-6at Ingyinpinhla village-track in Salin Township on 28 November. In meeting with

office staffs, farmers and cotton cultivators, the minister stressed the need for them to extend cultivation and distribute high-yield seeds. Next, the minister viewed cotton purchased.

On 29 November at Mone Creek Dam Project

in Sedoktara Township, he also met with departmental officials and CEC members of USDA. He heard reports on development in economy and social sectors, local security, health care services, upgrading of education and participation of USDA members in social

activities. The minister fulfilled the requirement for all-around development in the region.

Later, the minister presented journals for libraries through the secretary of township USDA.

MNA

Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung...

(from page 16)

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the commander and party later inspected the people's hospital of Pyigyimandaing and comforted the patients and provided cash for them. Afterwards, they inspected Pyigyimandaing-Point 1020 road section near Nantaung village. Maj-Gen Tha Aye exhorted the officials concerned to constantly supervise road-works to Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin Union Highway for ensuring smooth and secure transportation and speedy commodity flow.

Thereafter, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party proceeded to Point-1020. They inspected oil palm plantations alongside Taninthayi road section.

At the briefing hall of oil palm cultivation project in Chaung Naukpyan region of Htoo Trading Company, Maj-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on cultivation and yield of oil palm. He called for extended cultivation of oil palm in the coming year to meet the targeted acres.

They proceeded to oil palm cultivation project of Shwe Kanbawza Co Ltd, which has grown 6064 acres of oil palm so far.

On arrival at Taninthayi, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders. He urged the staff to carry out tasks dutifully for further development of the region.

Later, they went to oil palm cultivation project of Asia World Co Ltd near Khonmaw village in Myeik and inspected thriving oil palm plantations of the company.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with rubber farmers of Myeik at Thayame village. He heard reports on arrangements for cultivation of rubber to meet targeted 200,000 acres and called upon the farmers to strive for more cultivation of rubber.—MNA

World AIDS Day 2007 observed in Mon State

YANGON, 8 Dec — A ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day 2007 organized by Mon State Health Department was held at the State Hall in Mawlamyine on 1 December, attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win.

The commander presented prizes to winners in essay, painting and cartoon contests to mark the World AIDS Day. Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the commander, and Head of Mon State Health Department Dr Htay Aung also awarded prizes to outstanding students. Next, the commander and party viewed the entertainment of students and educative booths of Mon State Health Department and social organizations.

MNA

Members of UHT Hospice (Cancer) Foundation hold AGM

YANGON, 8 Dec — The Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Members of U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Foundation was held at

the Dekhina Hall of Karaweik Palace, here, this morning, with an opening address by Chairman of the meeting Patron of the foundation

Brig-Gen Abel (Retd).

Chairman of the foundation Col Myo Nyunt delivered an address.

Next, those present held discussions on the report of the management committee of the foundation, financial statements, the annual audit report and election of new chairman to Mandalay Hospice Administration Committee and approved them.

The patron of the foundation accepted the cash donations for construction of memorial building to Founder U Hla Tun. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Patron Brig-Gen Abel (Retd).

MNA



Patron Brig-Gen Abel (Retd) of U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Foundation accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. —MNA

Industry-1 Minister meets DPRK Ambassador



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung receives Ambassador of DPRK Mr Kim Sok Chol. —INDUSTRY-1

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met with Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol and Consul Mr Kim Kwarg Chol of DPRK at the ministry here yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were heads of departments and officials.

They discussed bilateral economic cooperation.

MNA

Annual meetings of associations under Myanmar Fisheries Federation held



Patron of Myanmar Fisheries Federation Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein accepts cash donations for Myanmar Fishery Entrepreneurs Association. —MNA

YANGON, 8 Dec — The annual meetings of Myanmar Fishery Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Feedstuff Producers Association and Myanmar Fresh Water Entrepreneurs Association were held at the Thiri Annawa Hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Insein Township this afternoon.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered an opening address.

President of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Htay Myint reported on functions of the MFF.

Responsible persons of various associations spoke on the occasion.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Director-General of Fisheries Department U Khin Maung Aye and officials accepted K 5,600,000 for Myanmar Feedstuff Producers Association and K 9,815,000 for Myanmar Fishery Entrepreneurs Association.

Chairmen of the associations presented gifts to members of the patrons and members of the advisory board.

Next, the minister presented prize to Ma Yati Maung Maung Myint who stood sixth in the 2007 matriculation examination in the whole of Myanmar.—MNA

Mass walks to mark December mass sports activity in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—The mass walks to

mark the 2007 December mass sports activity took

place here this morning with the participation of

staff of the respective ministries and their families and staff of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone numbering over 9,000. At 6 am sharp, the participants led by officials of the Ministry of Sports started the walks from Myoma Market to Thabyegon Part-2 strolling along Taungnyo-Pyinmana road, and they walked back to the market.

Upon arrival at Myoma Market, the participants collectively took physical exercises, after which the mass walks came to an end.

MNA



Participation of departmental personnel and local people in mass sports activities in progress in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

No 1 BEPS (Baho) in Insein gets bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—A small bridge crossing Kathwe creek was opened in the compound of No 1 Basic Education Primary School (Baho) in Insein Township this morning.

The bridge, 30 feet long and 10 feet wide, was built across Kathwe creek with the contribution of K 450,000 by school teacher Daw Nilar Mya.

Headmaster U Maung

Maung Myint and Daw Nilar Mya formally opened the bridge. They presented related documents to the township education officer U Myo Swe.

School children can now walk on the bridge safely.

The township education officer and headmaster spoke. The school children entertained guests with variety of dances. The

officials presented prizes to outstanding students.

MNA

Wellwisher Daw Nilar Mya hands over commemorative pennant to officials at opening of the bridge at Insein BEPS No 1 (Baho).—H





Marine iguanas sunbathe on the volcanic rocks of Loberia Beach on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos Archipelago in this handout photo.

INTERNET

HK tanker spills 15,000 tons of crude near S Korea coast

SEOUL, 8 Dec — A 146,000 tons Hong Kong-registered tanker was hit by a crane while at anchor off the port of Taean, south of Seoul, causing a leak of 15,000 tons of crude oil, Seoul's Maritime Ministry said on Friday.

The tanker, *Hebei Sprint*, was anchoring near Taean to discharge crude brought from the Middle East at the port's unloading facilities, the ministry said.

Industry sources said the crude was being unloaded for South Korean refiner, Hyundai Oilbank, but the refiner was not immediately available for comment.

Hebei Sprint was hit by the crane early on Friday, a Coast Guard official said, adding the equipment was in transit after being used to build a bridge in Taean.

Friday's spillage is the largest in South Korean waters since a 5,000-ton-crude discharge in 1995 at Yeosu, south of Seoul.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese warship backs from Japan visit

ZHANJIANG, 8 Dec — The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's missile destroyer *Shenzhen* arrived at Zhanjiang military port on Friday, after the first visit to Japan by a Chinese warship since 1930s.

A welcoming ceremony was held at the port by the South China Sea Fleet of the PLA Navy at 10 am.

During the four-day visit starting on November 28, the Chinese naval officials met with Japanese officials from the Defence Ministry and the Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF), and the Chinese crew members toured Tokyo and held a variety of exchanges activities, including a soccer match, with their Japanese counterparts.

The warship visit is a significant and memorable event, which opened a new page in the history of Japan-China defence exchange and military communications, said Eiji Yoshikawa, chief of staff of the Japanese MSDF, at the welcoming ceremony held in Japan.

MNA/Xinhua

NATO acknowledges "challenging" phase with Russia

BRUSSELS, 8 Dec — NATO foreign ministers formally acknowledged on Friday growing difficulties in ties between the military alliance and Russia, but said they wanted to work to end disputes on Kosovo and arms control.

Alliance ministers meeting in Brussels issued a statement which made unusually explicit reference to divergences between the two former Cold War foes, which for 10 years have conducted regular discussions to improve ties.

"Ten years after the signing of the NATO-Russian Founding Act,

this partnership has entered a challenging phase," they said.

"We value and want to continue our constructive and frank dialogue with Russia, including on issues on which we disagree," they said after a meeting in Brussels.

As expected, ministers failed to narrow differences with Moscow over the future of the Serb province of Kosovo and Russia's suspension of a key European arms control pact in a brief meeting in Brussels with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

MNA/Reuters

Britain's "angel of death" freedom appeal quashed

LONDON, 8 Dec — A serial-killer nurse, dubbed the "angel of death" after she murdered four young patients and injured another nine, had her bid for early release thrown out at the High Court on Thursday. Beverly Allitt, now 39, was given 13 life sentences in 1993 for the killing spree on her child patients while she worked at the Grantham and Kesteven Hospital in Lincolnshire.

She had applied to be released on the grounds of mental illness but Mr Justice Stanley Burnton confirmed her minimum jail tariff at 30 years.

Referring to the victims' families,

two of whom were in court, the judge said they had "received a life sentence from which there is no remission (and) no release on licence".

"The impact of these offences does not require to be described and could not be exaggerated," he added. "Young lives were cut short at their inception. "The offences to the children took place in what should have been — and what their families must have believed to be — a place of safety (but) the offender made it into a place of extreme danger. "Each of the offences is an immense personal tragedy for the family concerned." — MNA/Reuters

New York City sued for harassing photographers

NEW YORK, 8 Dec — New York City police officers need better training to distinguish between law-abiding citizens who snap pictures of city landmarks and those suspected of plotting terrorism, a lawsuit filed on Thursday by the New York Civil Liberties Union said.

The lawsuit was filed against the city and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly on behalf of Arun Wiita, 26, a Columbia University graduate student of Indian descent who said he was handcuffed and detained after a police officer spotted him snapping pictures near a Manhattan subway station in July.

The civil liberties

union said the department has harassed photographers, "particularly those who fit Middle Eastern or South Asian racial and ethnic profiles," according to papers filed in federal court.

"There has been a

constant refrain that we've heard from the photography community for several years now," said Christopher Dunn, NYCLU associate legal director and the lead attorney on the case.

MNA/Reuters



New Fiat Cinquecento cars are displayed at the Bologna motor show car exposition in Bologna, on 5 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Peshmerga among 11 killed in Iraq gun battle

SULAIMANIYA (Iraq), 8 Dec — Eight Kurdish Peshmerga troops and three militant gunmen were killed in a battle northeast of Baghdad on Thursday, a spokesman for the Kurdish forces said.

Major-General Jabbar Yawar, spokesman for the Peshmerga units of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, said the fighting took place near the town of Khanaqin.

Khanaqin, 140 kilometres (85 miles) northeast of Baghdad, is in the volatile province of Diyala, near the border with the Kurdish Region and Iran.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts eastern Java

JAKARTA, 8 Dec — An earthquake with magnitude of 5.9 on the Richter Scale struck eastern part of Java Island of central Indonesia on Friday afternoon, no immediate report of damages or casualty, Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here.

The quake jolted at 17:45 Jakarta Time (1045 GMT) with the epicentre at 247 kilometres southwest Jember town of East Java Province and at 10 kilometres under sea bed, an official of the agency named Ajad Sudrajat told *Xinhua*.

The quake intensity was felt at 2 to 3 MMI (modified mercally intensity), a scale that can crack building at Denpasar the capital of Bali Province, the centre of Indonesian tourist industry which is conducting an international climate change talks.

The official said that the quake has no potential to trigger tsunami.

MNA/Xinhua

Palestinian killed near Gaza fence

GAZA, 8 Dec — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian near the border fence between Israel and the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip on Thursday, local medical officials said.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said troops had fired at two Palestinians who were suspected of placing an explosive device near the fence, hitting one of them.

The man's family said he was attempting to catch birds in the area. Local medical officials said the man was unarmed.

MNA/Reuters

Images of the Day



Carmen Laura Sanchez (2nd L) is crowned winner of the Miss Sevilla pageant in Seville, Spain on 7 Dec, 2007. The winner of the pageant will go on to compete in the Miss Spain beauty contest in 2008. —INTERNET



Keepers lead elephants as they walk from a railroad station along the centre of Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok, on 8 Dec, 2007. The elephants arrived from the Warsaw circus for performances in Vladivostok.

INTERNET



A two-faced cat was born in Arizona, US. It has two mouths, two noses and four eyes. The two eyes in the middle nearly connect to form one large eye.

INTERNET



German ice sculpture artist Christian Funk carves a polar bear out of 15 tons of ice near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, on 7 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (141)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (141) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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.

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**CIA says it made, destroyed
interrogation tapes**

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — The CIA acknowledged making videotapes to document interrogations of terrorism suspects that used techniques critics have denounced as torture, and said on Thursday it had destroyed the recordings.

Central Intelligence Agency Director Michael Hayden told employees in a letter that the videotapes were made in 2002 as part of a secret detention and interrogation programme that began with the arrest of suspected al-Qaeda Lieutenant Abu Zubaydah.

The taping was discontinued later that year and the tapes were destroyed in 2005, Hayden said.

"The tapes posed a serious security risk. Were they ever to leak, they would permit identification of your CIA colleagues who had served in the programme, exposing them and their families to retaliation from al-Qaeda and its sympathizers," Hayden said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Reuters*.

He said he was discussing the programme because of pending news reports on it. *The New York Times* published a story on the tapes on its website on Thursday.

The disclosure follows a separate instance last month involving a belated CIA acknowledgment that it possessed interrogation tapes sought in the trial of accused September 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui.

Democrats in both the Senate and House of Representatives called for congressional investigations.

MNA/Reuters

**South Asian
countries setting up
development fund**

KATHMANDU, 7 Dec — The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is setting up a fund with the objective of assisting in the regional development, reported local media houses' website nepalnews.com Thursday.

The SAARC ministerial meeting, which is starting in India's capital New Delhi from Friday, will take up two important issues including the formation of SAARC Development Fund and making efforts to enhance regional contacts, according to Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hira Bahadur Thapa.

Nepali Foreign Minister Sahana Pradhan on Thursday left for New Delhi to attend the meeting.—*MNA/Xinhua*

**Greek Coast Guard
rescues 200 immigrants**

ATHENS, 8 Dec — The Greek Coast Guard rescued about 200 illegal immigrants on Thursday from a ship wallowing in heavy seas south of the island of Crete, authorities said.

One man was found dead, possibly from an illness, and more than 190 others, including many children, were taken off the cargo vessel and transferred to Crete.

"At this moment, they

**Donors pledge extra \$406m
in bird flu funds**

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — Foreign donors have pledged 406 million US dollars in additional funds for efforts to combat bird flu, but another 800 million

US dollars is still needed and countries still need to be better prepared for any pandemic, officials said on Thursday.

The funds were

pledged on the final day of a three-day summit in New Delhi, India, of experts on avian influenza from across the world, aimed at coordinating strategies to combat the disease.

"Countries are much better prepared now than they were a year ago for a pandemic, however the preparedness is not as broad or deep as we would like it to be," David Nabarro, the United Nations influenza coordinator, told reporters.

"Although some countries have tested their preparedness in exercises ... there is still more testing to be done because when the pandemic does come it will be too late to prepare," he added.

Last year at a similar meeting around 475 million US dollars was pledged by donors, but experts played down the apparent shortfall in funding, saying they were confident further funds would be forthcoming.

MNA/Reuters

**Pakistan backs Iran's
right to use nuke
technology peacefully**

ISLAMBAD, 7 Dec — Pakistan said on Wednesday that it supported Iran's right to use nuclear technology peacefully.

"It has been Pakistan's principle stand that Iran has the right to peaceful nuclear technology," Foreign Office spokesman Muhammad Sadiq said at a weekly Press briefing.

As a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

(NPT), Iran has certain obligations but those do not prevent Iran from having a peaceful nuclear programme, Sadiq said.

Meanwhile, to questions about Bush's statement regarding direct action if al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Ladin was spotted in Pakistan, the spokesman said that foreign intervention inside Pakistani territory was unacceptable.

He said that Pakistan was part of the global fight against terrorism but would not allow any other country to take action inside the country.

MNA/Xinhua

**Carbon monoxide poisoning
kills 12 campers in China**

URUMQI, 8 Dec — Twelve farmers found dead in a plastic tent in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region were killed by carbon monoxide from wood burning, police said Thursday.

A total of 14 farmers were illegally digging licorice root, a medicinal herb used in traditional Chinese medicine, in Bachu County, local police said.

A resident found them lying in the tent with no movement around 4 pm Wednesday and alerted police.

Rescuers rushed to the site and found 12 dead and two other in a coma. The two survivors were receiving treatment at a local hospital and were out of critical condition.—*MNA/Xinhua*

**US Coast Guard says cocaine seizures
hit \$4.7b record**

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — The US Coast Guard on Thursday announced record annual cocaine seizures worth more than 4.7 billion US dollars and said trafficking in the illicit drug appears to be shifting from the Caribbean to the Pacific.

The Coast Guard said it captured 355,755 pounds (161,368 kilos) of cocaine in the past year. The largest seizure was 20 tons (18.1 metric tons) of

the narcotic discovered aboard a Panamanian vessel in March.

Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen said drug smugglers have resorted to riskier tactics to evade interdiction at sea including the practice of dissolving cocaine in diesel fuel. The Coast Guard, the leading US maritime law enforcement agency, said smugglers are also turning increasingly

to Pacific Ocean routes, including via the Galapagos Islands, due to aggressive enforcement efforts that it said have all but shut down major routes in the Caribbean Sea.

Colombia is the world's biggest producer of cocaine, followed by its Andean neighbours Peru and Bolivia, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

MNA/Reuters



Giant pandas eat at the China Panda Protection and Research Centre in Wolong, southwest China's Sichuan Province on 11 Sept, 2007. Chinese archaeologists have found fossils that prove pandas once roamed what is now the southern Chinese island of Hainan, state media said on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Study says older brains become less coordinated

CHICAGO, 7 Dec — Forgot where you put your keys? Or your car? If you are over 60, it may just be a normal part of aging, US researchers said on Wednesday in a study that suggests brain structures deteriorate with age in otherwise healthy people.

The study, published in the journal *Neuron*, is part of an effort by researchers at Harvard University to understand the difference between normal, age-related declines and clinical impairment.

“We’re trying to understand the edge of that boundary between normal aging and Alzheimer’s disease,” said Randy Buckner, a Harvard professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher who worked on the study. Buckner and colleagues took brain scans of 55 adults ages 60 and over, and 38 younger adults ages 35 and younger.

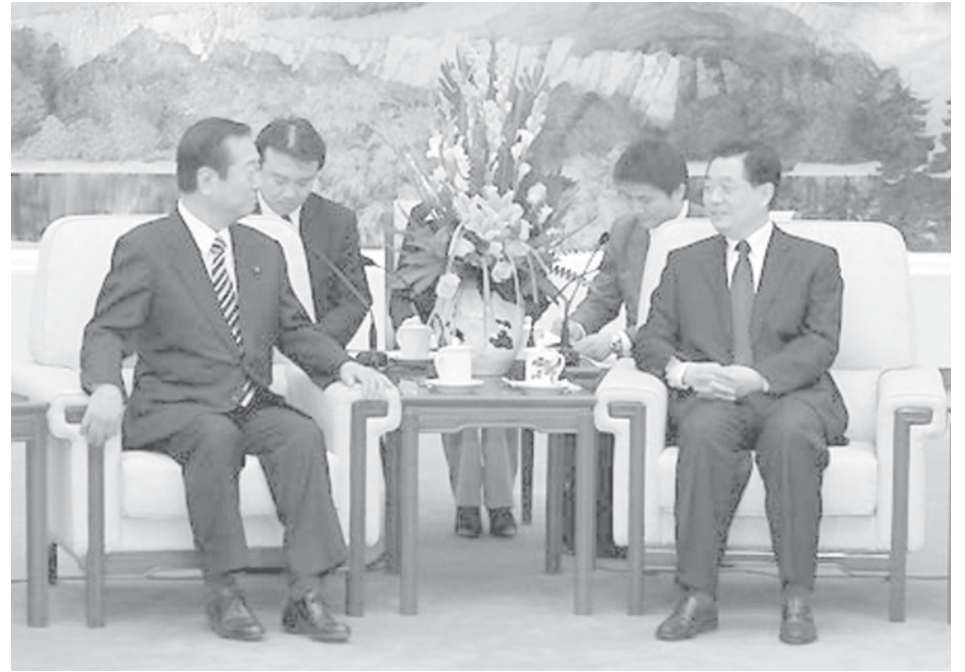
They used an imaging technique called PET to detect the presence of

amyloid, a chemical typically associated with Alzheimer’s disease, to rule out those whose memory declines were disease-related.

What they found is that some brain systems become less coordinated with age. “It looks like it is an effect of normal aging independent of Alzheimer’s disease,” Buckner said in a telephone interview. They found brain structures called white matter tracks, which

carry information between different regions of the brain, were deteriorating only in the older group.

“In young adults, the front of the brain was pretty well in sync with the back of the brain,” Jessica Andrews-Hanna, a graduate student in Buckner’s lab, said in a statement. “In older adults this was not the case. The regions became out of sync and they were less correlated with each other.”—MNA/Reuters



Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets Ichiro Ozawa, president of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) at the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing, capital of China, on 7 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

China launches TV AIDS awareness campaign

BEIJING, 7 Dec — China launched a large-scale television public service announcement campaign, produced by Oscar-winners and featuring superstars such

as Jackie Chan, on Thursday to promote safe sex and combat HIV/AIDS.

Hundreds of millions of members of the public will see the television

campaign on TV at home, on China Central Television, on the Internet, or on big screens at the airport, train stations and on buses, next year, with the help of commercial media outlets and advertisement sector partners.

The public service announcements, called “Life is Too Good”, feature Jackie Chan, Chinese renowned actor Pu Cunxin and one of the most famous Chinese sopranos Peng Liyuan. As an “ambitious AIDS awareness campaign”, the TV advertisements were created by Ruby Yang and Thomas Lennon (who together won Best Documentary Oscar 2006), with the Ministry of Health (MOH), and distributed by the United Nation’s Development Programme (UNDP).

MNA/Xinhua

Undated handout photo shows a Panathenaic black-figure amphora, dated 323-322 B.C. Ancient Greece resurfaces in Singapore this week at an exhibit of classical sculpturs and artefacts which aims to give Asians a glimpse of the cradle of Western civilization.—INTERNET

WHO says children dying for lack of child-sized drugs

LONDON, 7 Dec — Children are dying for lack of drugs tailored to their needs, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which launched a global campaign on Thursday to promote more research into child medicine.

More than half of the drugs currently used to treat children in the industrialized world have not been specifically tested on youngsters, even though they metabolize medicines differently to adults.

As a result, clinicians lack clear guidelines on the best drug to use and often have to guess at the correct dose. The problem is even worse in developing countries where price remains a major barrier and six million children die each year from treatable conditions.

In the case of HIV/AIDS, the few existing paediatric therapies developed for children generally cost three times more than adult ones.

In a bid to address the problem, the WHO has drawn up the first international List of Essential Medicines for Children, containing 206 products deemed safe for children that tackle priority conditions.

MNA/Reuters



Knut, the celebrity polar cub, makes its first public appearance at the Berlin Zoo, who won the hearts of millions around the globe as a roly-poly orphan cub, celebrated his first birthday on 5 Dec, 2007, with a cake made from 300 eggs and 20 pounds of marzipan.—INTERNET

Kuwait to provide \$13m loan to Bangladesh for power project

DHAKA, 7 Dec — Kuwait will provide some 13 million US dollars to finance the ongoing Greater Chittagong Power Transmission and Distribution Development Project (Phase-III) in Bangladesh’s south-eastern Chittagong

District, according to local media Thursday. A loan agreement in terms of this was signed Thursday by representatives from Bangladesh Government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), private news agency UNB reported.

The KFAED, a mechanism through which the gulf country could extend loans and aid to Arab and other developing countries, has been involved as a development partner of Bangladesh for over three decades.

MNA/Xinhua

India busted wildlife trade racket

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — The Special Task Force of the Uttar Pradesh Police seized three tiger skins and three tiger skeletons Tuesday with the assistance of the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), a news release from WPSI arriving at Xinhua on Wednesday said.

Sixteen people were arrested, including wildlife trader Shabeer Hasan

Qureshi who was an accused in at least four major wildlife cases. Three other traders were arrested along with two tiger poachers and 10 women couriers who belonged to the Baheliya community.

The case was a landmark for wildlife enforcement as it included the arrest of three key elements of wildlife crime: traders, poachers and couriers.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Chile reduces international bans on five players

SANTIAGO, 8 Dec — Chile has halved the 20-match international bans imposed on five players including team captain Jorge Valdivia for indiscipline during this year's Copa America in Venezuela.

The Chilean league (ANFP) said in a statement that Pablo Contreras, Reinaldo Navia, Rodrigo Tello, Jorge Vargas and Valdivia had publicly apologised for the incident. It did not mention defender Alvaro Ormeno, the other player who was suspended.

"The players will be eligible for future selection by the national team coach once the relative administrative formalities have been concluded," said the ANFP.

MNA/Reuters



Indonesia's Jufriyanto Achmad (L) and Thailand's Anon Sangsanoi vie for the ball during their group A football match at the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Korat on 7 Dec, 2007. Thailand won 2-1.—INTERNET



Thai Anuwat Chaichana, (L), kicks the ball to Vietnam Lieu ba Tung during Sepaktakraw team match during the first round at the Southeast Asian Games in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, northeastern of Bangkok, Thailand on 7 Dec, 2007. Thailand won 30.—INTERNET

Red star defends arrested club officials

BELGRADE, 8 Dec — Serbian champions Red Star Belgrade defended the club's three arrested officials shortly after they were apprehended on Friday over a riot at a league match in which a policeman was seriously injured.

The club's secretary general Zoran Damjanovic, stadium manager Miodrag Corovic and se-

curity chief Novica Mijuskovic were arrested with match delegate Rade Popovic and all four have been charged with "causing a state of general danger".

"The club states that its officials have done everything in their power under the law on preventing violence at sports events," the club said on its Web site

(www.crvenazvezdafk.com).

"Security at stadiums cannot be the sole responsibility of football clubs and Thursday's UEFA Cup match between Red Star and Bolton is a good example how it works when all competent institutions act accordingly," it said.

"Red Star is grateful to police and other state authorities for their assistance in organising the match and to the fans for their exemplary behaviour."—MNA/Reuters

Dortmund crush Bielefeld 6-1 in Westphalia derby

BERLIN, 8 Dec — Borussia Dortmund crushed Arminia Bielefeld 6-1 in the Westphalia derby after running riot with four second-half goals in the Bundesliga on Friday.

Dortmund, fresh from a 2-1 win over champions VfB Stuttgart last weekend, took a 2-0 lead before the break with Tinga's early strike and an own-goal by Markus Schuler.

Mladen Petric headed his eighth goal of the season from a Dede cross to make it 3-0 two minutes into the second period.

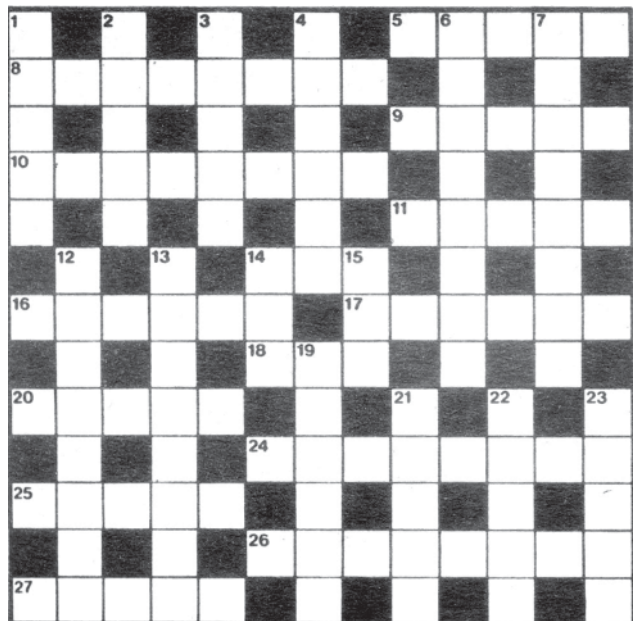
Nelson Valdez converted a penalty for the fourth goal before Florian Krings slotted home right-footed from a Petric pass and Giovanni Federico made it 6-0 in the 67th minute.

Oliver Kirch's reply for Bielefeld in the 81st minute will have come as no consolation at all. The result took Dortmund up to ninth with 21 points from 16 matches. Bielefeld are 14th with 15 points.—MNA/Reuters



Swiss Alinghi, seen here racing in the 2007 America's Cup, moved on Friday to end its damaging dispute with challenger Oracle which is threatening to fatally hole the next America's Cup scheduled for 2009.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 5 Passage between seats
- 8 A retort (4-4)
- 9 Simple organism causing disease
- 10 Hold back
- 11 Old gold coin
- 14 Mineral spring
- 16 Fancy cake
- 17 High-backed bench
- 18 Geographical plan
- 20 Abhorrence
- 24 Me alone (2,6)
- 25 Artificial silk
- 26 Level mechanically
- 27 Spectre

DOWN

- 1 Muffler
- 2 Improperly
- 3 Miscarry
- 4 To stint
- 6 Wickedness
- 7 Praiseworthy
- 12 Ready money (4,4)
- 13 Assiduous
- 14 Total
- 15 Snake
- 19 Refuge
- 21 Go by bike
- 22 Wading bird
- 23 Tender



Iranian team Sepahan's defender Mohsen Bengar (L) of Iran and New Zealand team Waitakere United defender Neil Emblen of England jump to head the ball during the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2007 soccer tournament match in Tokyo on 7 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

Roda sink Dutch leaders PSV

AMSTERDAM, 8 Dec — Dutch league leaders PSV Eindhoven conceded four goals inside 64 minutes to slump to a surprise 4-2 home defeat by Roda JC Kerkrade on Friday.

Davy de Fauw headed the visitors in front after 18 minutes be-

fore Marcel Meeuwis curled the ball round goalkeeper Gomes on the stroke of halftime to underline Roda's dominance.

Estonian striker Andres Oper made it 3-0 in the 48th minute and also set up Anouar Hadouir for the fourth goal.

Danny Koevermans gave the scoreline a more respectable look when he struck twice in the last nine minutes for PSV.

PSV, who have 30 points from 14 matches, are in danger of being overtaken by Ajax Amsterdam and Feyenoord, second and third respectively on 28 points.

MNA/Reuters

Female suicide bomber kills 16 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec — A female suicide bomber wearing a vest packed with explosives killed 16 people on Friday in an attack northeast of Baghdad on former Sunni Arab insurgents who have joined with security forces to fight al-Qaeda, police said.

Another 27 people were wounded in the blast in the town of Muqadaya, 90 kilometres (55 miles) northeast of Baghdad, in volatile Diyala, a religiously and ethnically mixed province which has become one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq.

Women and children were among the wounded, police said.

A "surge" of 30,000 extra US troops and the growing use of neighbourhood security patrols, organized by mainly Sunni Arab tribal leaders, has helped reduce violence in Iraq to its lowest levels in almost two years.

The security crackdown has squeezed Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda out of their former stronghold

in western Anbar, where the neighbourhood units sprang up last year, into other areas north of Baghdad like Diyala. Police said Friday's attack targeted a building used by members of the 1920 Revolutionary Brigades, a Sunni Arab insurgency group. A number of its members have begun working alongside security forces against al-Qaeda.

While overall attacks have fallen 55 per cent in Iraq since the "surge" was fully deployed in mid-June, General David Petraeus, commander of US forces in Iraq, warned on Thursday that al-Qaeda remained a dangerous foe that would seek to launch major assaults.

MNA/Reuters

Two killed after car fills home with CO fumes in Canada

OTTAWA, 8 Dec — An elderly Canadian couple died of carbon monoxide poisoning Wednesday after they left their car running in the garage filling their home with fumes.

Nine others, including eight emergency workers, were treated in hospital for the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning in the western city of Calgary, reports said Thursday.

The authorities were alerted when the couple's adult son called for help saying he was suffering the symptoms of a heart attack. Emergency workers evacuated the building when they found the mother was also in cardiac arrest.

In total, 11 people were affected by the odorless fumes. Four firefighters, two paramedics and two Calgary police officers suffered the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Police sent

additional units to the house, who helped transfer the victims to hospital. They are expected to make a full recovery.

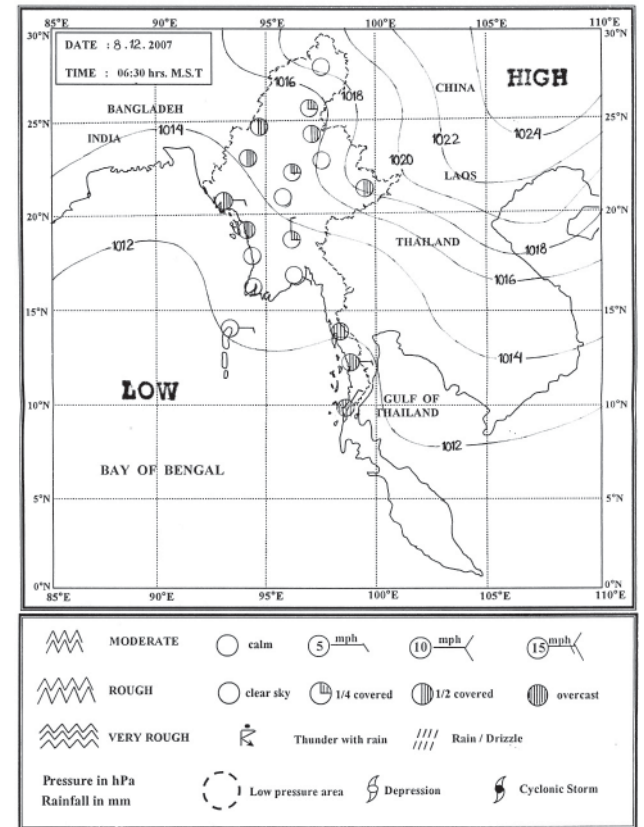
Carbon monoxide blocks the absorption of oxygen into the bloodstream from the lungs and poisons the red blood cells so they cannot carry oxygen. If body tissues do not receive a constant supply of oxygen, they stop functioning.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include confusion, headache, nausea and fatigue, which are often mistaken for flu.

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisonings in North America, according to the Canada Safety Council.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 8 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State. (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States and upper Sagaing Division, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (1°C) and Pinlaung (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 7-12-2007 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 8-12-2007 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-12-2007 was 75%. Total sun shine hours on 7-12-2007 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 8-12-2007 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 East at (9:30) hours MST on 8-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-12-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-12-2007: Fair weather.



Sunday, 9 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. အဘိဓမ္မာအဖွဲ့က ဝိညာဏ်တော်တော်ကြီး ပြောရာတော်ကြီး ဦးဥတ္တမ သာရ စာ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာ
- 8:00 am
 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am
 7. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရေထိန်းတံခါး
- 8:20 am
 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme

- 11:25 am
 3. Round up of the week's International news
- 11:40 am
 4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:05 am
 5. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း "အလွမ်းတစ်ပွင့် ပန်းတစ်ပွင့်" (လွင်မိုး၊ ခိုင်သင်းကြည်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သီဟတင်သန်း)
- 1:35 am
 6. ကောင်းကင်ယံမှာ ဝဲကာပျံ တောင်ကြီးမြို့မှ မီးပုံးပျံ
- 1:50 am
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:10 am
 8. Musical programme
- 2:25 am
 9. "ပေါင်ပေါကျတဲ့မီး" (ရဲအောင်ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ညီညီမင်းထက်၊ တွန်းလှိုင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ဝိုင်းစုနိုင်သိန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်လွင်၊ မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 2:35 am
 10. ပန်းလှိုင်တံတား
- 2:45 am
 11. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Song for uphold national spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. English for everyday use
- 4:45 pm
 4. သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာတေး

- 4:55 pm
 5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm
 6. Dance of national races
- 5:25 pm
 7. ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်
- 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 10. "အသက်ကလေးရယ်တဲ့ ရှည်စေလို" (ဦးအောင်လွင်၊ ဦးကြည်စိုး၊ မေထွဋ်ခေါင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)
- 6:50 pm
 11. Musical programme
- 7:00 pm
 12. သတင်းအချက်အလက်နှင့် နည်းပညာ နယ်လှည့် ဟောပြောပွဲ (IT Caravan 2007) (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 7:15 pm
 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နေခြည်စမ်းမှ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 8:00 pm
 14. News
- 8:15 pm
 15. International news
- 8:30 pm
 16. Weather report
- 8:45 pm
 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချိုမြိန်သောအချစ်နေ့" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:55 pm
 18. The next day's programme



Sunday, 9 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
 - Must have been high
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
 - She's my girl
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music:
 - Come into my life
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music
 - There you'll be
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight (story)
- 1:50 pm Song for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music / LIETS
 - Let's get it on
 - Mama said
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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People's Desire

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

Myanmar wins 5 more silver, 4 more bronze on 6-8 Dec

YANGON, 8 Dec — Myanmar Sports Contingent bagged three more silver medals and four more bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games today.

Shwe Sin Latt secured one silver medal in the women's single sculls and the Myanmar team, one silver in the women's lightweight four event of the rowing contest.

Silver medals for the Myanmar rowing team came through Myint Myint Aye in the women's 800-m race, Zaw Zaw and Thet Naing Soe in the men's double sculls and the Myanmar team in the men's lightweight double sculls.

Le Le Win, Myint Myint Aye, Naw Ka Paw Phaw and Kay Khine Lwin gained one silver in the women's 400x4 relay event, and Phyu Wah Thet one silver in the women's 5000-m race.

On 6 December, Myanmar women's team grabbed one silver medal in the Hoop Takraw event on 590 points and Myanmar men's team, one silver medal on 760 points. —MNA

Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway, oil palm plantations inspected



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects Pyigyimandaing Hospital.
MNA

Weather forecast for 9-12-2007
Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area :
 Fair weather.
Yangon and neighbouring area :
 Generally fair weather.
Mandalay and neighbouring area:
 Fair weather.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence on his tour of Taninthayi Division, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and departmental officials inspected Kawthoung-Myeik road and Bokpyin-Pyigyimandaing road and thriving oil palm plantations along the roads on 2 December.
 In Pyigyimandaing of Bokpyin Township,

Maj-Gen Tha Aye met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders. He heard reports on construction of departmental buildings and staff quarters, border area and national races development tasks, realization of five rural development tasks, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and plans for growing winter crops. He stressed the need for further development of Pyigyimandaing and called for extended cultivation of rubber and pepper.
 (See page 8)

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