

**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

## Vice-Senior General Maung Aye takes part in State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament 2007

### Ministry of Defence secures champions in team handicap and scratch events

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament 2007 took place at the City Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

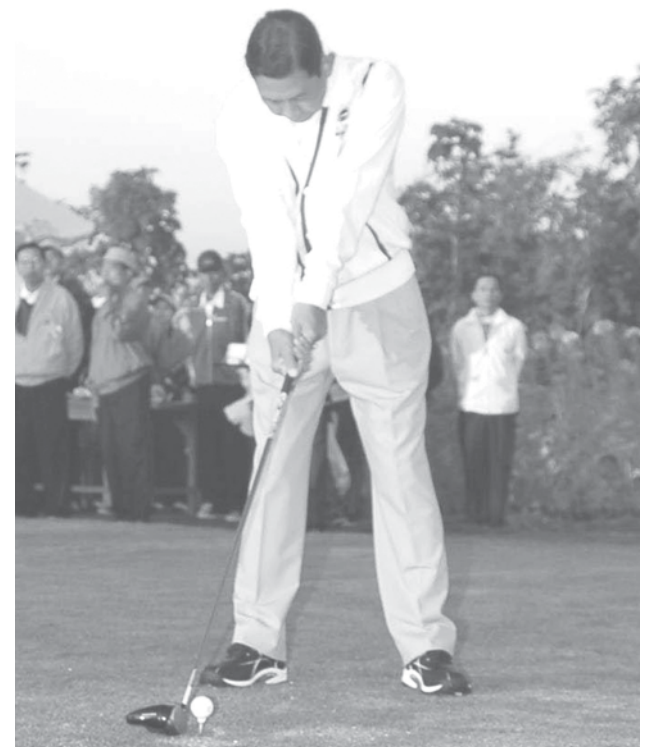
At 6.40 am, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the City Golf Course. He was welcomed by SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members, Chairman of the Organizing Leading Committee of Tournament Minister for

Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye took part in the golf tournament.

The golf tournament was attended by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, departmental heads, members of the Organizing Leading Committee and golfers from 36 teams representing the Prime Minister's Office and ministries.

Before the opening ceremony, the golfers took



*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye participates in State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament 2007.*

MNA



*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo poses a documentary photo together with golfers of Ministry of Defence.—MNA*

the designated places.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of the Organizing Leading Committee Minister U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Mayor Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt opened the tournament by firing Tracer balls.

Next, the first round of the tournament commenced.

*(See page 8)*

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 December, 2007

### Ancient cultural heritage promotes tourism industry

Myanmar is a nation of natural beauty with mountains and forests and it is rich in natural resources and it has also plenty of ancient cultural heritage. National races are sincere, friendly and hospitable. These are the basic foundations for development of tourism industry.

The majority of the tourists visit Bagan where a lot of ancient arts and crafts exist. Myanma ancient cultural heritage is concentrated in Bagan region. Ancient structures have been renovated according to their original style. It is an interesting place for many tourists.

Inlay Lake in Shan State (South), landscapes of Pindaya region, islands along the coasts, coral reefs, rare animals of biodiversity from underwater and production of traditional handicraft of national people attract tourists.

Tourists can gain knowledge about the new year festivals of national races, regional festivals and cultural dances. Arrangements have been made for tourists who like to study the life of villages along the Ayeyawady River by boat. Package tours are organized by tour operators.

The government is laying emphasis on development of tourism as it has become a popular industry in the world.

It is believed that utilization of natural resources and promotion of eco-tourism will contribute towards development of the tourism industry.

### MPMEEA to hold Annual Meeting

YANGON, 9 Dec — The Annual Meeting of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association will be held at Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 1 pm on 19 December.

Invitation letters have already been sent to members of the association. — MNA

### All this needs to be known

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

## Peoples 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

### Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects construction of Myeik Myothit



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects Myeik Myothit Jetty in Myeik.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and departmental officials, on 3 December paid homage to the Buddha Image of Laykyunhimee Pagoda in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

After making cash donations to the pagoda, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party attended a ceremony to offer provisions to monasteries in Myeik held at the Buddha Sasana Beikman of the pagoda.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party met with departmental personnel, social organizations, townsenders and entrepreneurs at Paleyadana Hall in Myeik.

Secretary of Taninthayi Division PDC U Than Win reported on work carried out for development of education, health and agriculture and livestock breeding sectors and implementation of the five rural development tasks, and the commander gave a supplementary report.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the commander and

party looked into the development of Myeik.

On arrival at Taingyanaung Hall of Myeik station, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen and their families, and urged them to fully engage in farming tasks of the station and regional development tasks in cooperation with departments concerned.

At the Technological University (Myeik) construction project site, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party heard reports on the salient points of the project and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks.

Next, they proceeded to Myeik Myothit developing project where they heard a report on work being carried and future tasks.

After inspecting the jetty built by Pho Lapyae Co, handling of loads and upgrading of the approach road to Myeik Myothit, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party paid homage to Maha Thiddhizaya Pagoda and looked into greening tasks in the precinct of the pagoda.

Later, they paid obeisance to Presiding Sayadaw of Sandayon Sankyaung Monastery Bhaddanta Chandobhasa and made cash donations.

MNA

### Transport Minister receives DPRK Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol and party at his office here on 7 December afternoon.

They discussed operation in flights programme between the two countries, increase of tourist arrivals to Myanmar, maritime cooperation, promotion of bilateral economic cooperation and participation of Korean companies in construction sector in Myanmar.



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

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Mr Kim Sok Chol, Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea.—MNA

## Russian FM rejects US call for further sanctions against Iran

BRUSSELS, 8 Dec — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed a call by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for further UN sanctions on Iran concerning its ambitious nuclear programme.

“It fully confirms the information that we have: that there is no military element in their nuclear programme,” Lavrov told reporters after talking with Rice on the sidelines of a NATO ministerial meeting.

But Lavrov, who came to Brussels for a NATO-Russia Council meeting, expressed his strong hope that “these negotiations with Iran will continue”.

Lavrov said earlier that his country has no evidence that Iran had ever had a secret nuclear weapons programme in violation of international

treaty obligations.

In meeting Lavrov, Rice aimed at persuading Russia to support new sanctions on Iran, despite that a US intelligence report released recently found Iran actually stopped atomic weapons programme in 2003.

NATO foreign ministers

agreed that adopt a two-track approach in dealing with Iran, who refuses to halt uranium enrichment as it insists the programme is for civilian use.

The United States is pushing for a new sanctions resolution in the UN Security Council.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor looks at original works of Rembrandt's drypoints in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 7 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

## Many British teachers know too little about poetry

LONDON, 8 Dec — Many teachers do not know enough about poetry, leaving their pupils with only limited experience of classic poems and verses from other cultures, school inspectorate Ofsted said on Friday.

Government-led initiatives to raise standards of basic literacy have meant little detailed attention has been given to teaching poetry, it added in a report. Inspectors said the problem was most noticeable in primary schools, but that provision for poetry was at least satisfactory in all 86 schools they visited and good or very good in two thirds of them. In the primary schools inspected, the same poems were chosen repeatedly, including “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes, “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll and “The Owl and the Pussycat” by Edward Lear.

“Too few of these poems are genuinely challenging or connect with the direct experience of primary pupils,” the report said.—MNA/Reuters



This photo, published by eastday.com on 8 Dec, shows a Chow Chow pulling a vehicle with its little master on board along a street in Tianjin's Hongqiao district.—INTERNET



A sand sculpture of artist's depictions of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is seen during an annual sand sculpture event in the northeast Italian town of Jesolo on 8 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### US State Dept Inspector General quits over Blackwater incident

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — US State Department Inspector General Howard Krongard, who came under fire for allegedly hampering an investigation of security firm Blackwater, announced his resignation on Friday.

State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said Krongard told co-workers in his department that he was leaving. Gallegos did not give any details such as the date of Krongard's last day at work.

However, *McClatchy News* reports that it obtained an e-mail from Krongard to his staff in which Krongard says he plans to leave by 15 January.

Blackwater, which provides security in Iraq for State Department officials and US diplomats, became the subject of federal and Congressional investigations after some of its guards fired on civilians in a Baghdad intersection on 16 September killing 17 Iraqis.

MNA/Xinhua

### Britain to take three Guantanamo detainees

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — Three Guantanamo inmates who are British residents will be released under an agreement between Britain and the United States, their lawyer said on Friday.

Jamil El Banna of Jordan, Omar Deghayes of Libya and Abdenour Sameur of Algeria are expected to be returned to Britain shortly and are not expected remain in custody there, said Zachary

Katznelson, a lawyer with the British organization Reprieve that represents the three men.

He was not able to say when the release would happen.

MNA/Reuters

### 21 DPRK sailors rescued on slanting cargo ship off E China

JINAN, 9 Dec — Twenty-one sailors from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) were rescued by Chinese vessels after their cargo ship slanted due to water entering its cabins off the

coast of east China's Shandong Province.

The DPRK ship, *Zo Ming 3*, leaned Friday afternoon at the sea about 20 nautical miles north of Weihai port after seawater entered two cargo cabins,

according to the Weihai Maritime Bureau.

The bureau said it received a directive from the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre around 4:50 pm saying the DPRK vessel was leaning sharply and in danger of sinking and rescue operation should be immediately launched.—MNA/Xinhua



A private security officer patrols outside the food court of the Westroads Mall near the Von Maur Department Store in Omaha, Neb on 8 Dec, 2007. Eight people were killed and five wounded in a shooting attack before the gunman, Robert Hawkins, took his own life Wednesday inside the store.—INTERNET

## China to launch first environment monitoring satellite

BEIJING, 8 Dec—China is to launch its first satellite to monitor the environment in the first half of next year, the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) said on Friday.

The satellite will be used to monitor the environment and report on natural disasters, said Wu Xiaoqing, the SEPA deputy director, at a Press conference.

“Our capability to manage the environment and forecast natural disasters will improve considerably with the operation of the satellite,” Wu said.

So far, China has set up more than 2,000 stations on the ground to

monitor the air, rivers and lakes, and the overall ecosystem. But the ground network still can not meet the demand of timely and dynamic monitoring on

the fast-changing environment, Wu said.

Wu did not elaborate on the details of how the satellite will operate.

MNA/Xinhua

## Landslide hits village along Mekong River in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 8 Dec — A riverbank of about more than 4,900 square metres collapsed into the Mekong River in Meanchey District on Thursday, local media reported on Friday.

According to experts who measured up the scale of the disaster, the landslide took away 74 metres wide and 71 metres long of the embankment in

Niroth commune’s Koh Norea Village along with four houses, reported Cambodian-language newspaper the *Kampuchea Thmey*, adding that there were no human casualties.

Local authorities have been dismantling a number of houses at risk of tumbling into the river, moving house owners and

their household belongings to safety ground.

Villagers have attributed the landslide to the dredging of sand by a company working for Sokimex to fill up a lake, another Cambodian-language newspaper the *Rasmei Kampuchea* reported. Too much sand has been dredged, they claimed.. —MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia threatens to impose retroactive acts against EU ban

JAKARTA, 8 Dec — Indonesia has threatened to impose retroactive acts against the European Unions (EU) ban on the country’s airlines to enter the group’s territory should the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) agree with the EU ban and other peaceful solutions fail, spokesman of the Transport Ministry Bambang Erfan said here Friday. The spokesman said that Indonesia would soon question the stance of the United Nations aviation organization ICAO on the EU restriction on Indonesia’s 51 airliners, including Garuda, since June after the rampant air accidents in the country that killed hundreds of lives.

Erfan said that should the ICAO supports the EU ban, the banned country could impose a retroactive

action.

“If the ICAO agrees and other solution fails, we also can impose a ban. (but) That is the last option,” he told *Xinhua*.

However, the spokesman said that Indonesia would put priority on dialogue and other peaceful settlements on the dispute on the

aviation.

On 28 November at its meeting in Brussels, the European Commission refused to lift its ban on 51 Indonesian airlines, including Garuda carrier. But it lifted its ban on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and on Blue Wing Airlines of Surinam.

MNA/Xinhua



In this 10 October, 2006 file photo, a black spiny-tailed iguana suns itself next to a canal in Miami, Florida.—INTERNET

## Arsonist admits setting deadly N China karaoke bar fire

SHIJIAZHUANG, 8 Dec Police have arrested an arsonist for a karaoke bar fire last month in north China’s Hebei Province that killed 11, the local government said on Friday.

Jiang Dayong, a waiter at the Gedu Karaoke bar, admitted to setting the bar on fire at around 4 am on 14 November to

retaliate for frequent scoldings by the bar staff, the Chengde County government said.

The 19-year-old said he had been scolded at 1 am on 14 November for some reason. Thinking he had been scolded too many times before, he decided to take revenge.

He said he got some gasoline from a motorbike parked inside the bar and put it into a plastic bottle. He then poured the gas onto the bar floor and ignited it. The blaze killed a karaoke bar worker and 10 waitresses sleeping in a nearby foot massage house in the same building.

Tian Yumin, the legal representative of the bar, and its operator, Wang Ying, were also arrested. The Chengde government said families of the victims had been compensated on average 200,000 yuan (26,666 US dollars) each.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vivica Fox reaches plea deal for drunken driving

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec — Actress Vivica A Fox pleaded no contest on Friday to drunken driving and must serve three years probation and complete an alcohol education programme, an official said.

A spokesman for the Los Angeles City Attorney said Fox, who has competed on TV’s “Dancing With the Stars” and acted in films such as “Kill Bill: Vol. 1,” changed her plea from not guilty after reaching an agreement with prosecutors.

A lawyer for Fox, 43, entered the new plea to one count of driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or above, said spokesman Frank Mateljan.

A no contest plea is the legal equivalent of pleading guilty under California law.

Judge Stephen Pfahler also ordered the actress to pay nearly 1,200 US dollars in fines and fees.

MNA/Reuters



Thousands of troops and volunteers, such as these, struggled Sunday to clear a thick layer of pungent crude oil off South Korea’s stricken southwest coast after the country’s worst ever oil spill.—INTERNET



The file photo shows the building of the People's Bank of China in Beijing. China will raise the reserve requirement ratio by one percentage point for commercial banks in an effort to cool the booming economy, the central bank announced on 8 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA

## ECONOMIC NEWS

### Qatar, Indonesia to set up \$1b joint venture

JAKARTA, 9 Dec— The Indonesian Government and Qatar's Investment Authority (QAI) have agreed to establish a joint venture to finance a number of infrastructure projects in Indonesia, according to a report Saturday.

QAI will own 85 per cent stake of the joint venture, which will have initial capital of about one billion US dollars. The Indonesian Government, through the Finance Ministry, will own the remaining 15 per cent, reported local newspaper

*The Jakarta Post.*

Qatar, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, owns the world's biggest gas field, and channels surpluses from energy sales to the QIA.

MNA/Xinhua

### Vietnam Airlines buys five more planes

HANOI, 8 Dec— National flag carrier Vietnam Airlines has signed a contract with French aircraft maker ATR to purchase five new ATR72-500s, which will be delivered in late 2009, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Friday.

After receiving the five planes, Vietnam Airlines, starting to operate ATR planes on short-haul flights in 1992 and currently having seven ATR72-200s and three ATR72-500s, will have the biggest ATR-72 fleet in the region.

Vietnam Airlines, currently operating 46 aircraft of different kinds, plans to have a total fleet of 86 by 2015 and 110 by 2020.

Now, Vietnam has three operational domestic carriers, including Vietnam Airlines which holds a domestic market

share of over 80 per cent, joint-stock Pacific Airlines, and Vietnam Air Services Company, an affiliate of Vietnam Airlines.

Vietnam's air industry served nearly 7.9 million domestic and foreign passengers in the first 11

months of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 15.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the industry transported 119,700 tons of cargoes, up 4 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

Sculptures are displayed at the 5th Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition in Teheran's museum of contemporary arts on 8 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET



### Bangladesh to sign on avoiding double taxation with Switzerland

DHAKA, 8 Dec — Bangladesh and Switzerland will sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation next week to bolster bilateral trade, commerce and investment, local newspaper *The Financial Express* reported on Friday.

A source of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) was quoted as saying the measure will help Bangladesh attract more foreign direct investment from Switzerland.

Besides, the source

said, such agreement with any country, especially with any EU country, will benefit the exporters to a large extent.

He said Bangladesh exported various products including knit and woven garment, agro-processed and frozen foods worth 31.24 million US dollars to Switzerland in the last

fiscal 2006-07 (from July 2006 to June 2007).

The foreign ministry officials said Bangladesh has already signed agreement on avoidance of double taxation with nine EU countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland.

MNA/Xinhua

Los Angeles police and a firefighter view the scene after a chartered tour bus with 41 people aboard, enroute to a taping of the 'Dr Phil' television show, crashed into a tree at a Hollywood church on 5 Dec, 2007 in Los Angeles. —INTERNET



### Chinese commodity fair opens in Chile

SANTIAGO, 9 Dec — A three-day Chinese commodity fair was opened in Chile's capital on Thursday in a bid to promote bilateral trade.

With over 60 companies in the automobile, telecommunication, machinery, construction materials and garment

industries participating, the ExpoChina 2007 fair is expected to have 100 million US dollars in trade volume.

Cai Jiayang, deputy director of China Shipper's Association, said at the opening ceremony that he hoped the fair would serve as a link between companies from China and Chile and help

promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

China has become the second largest trade partner for Chile, which is the third largest trade partner in Latin America for China. A free trade agreement between the two countries took effect in 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

### India cancels \$600m chopper deal with EADS

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec — India has cancelled a 600-million-US-dollar deal to buy 197 military helicopters from EADS and may offer the contract to other bidders, newspapers said on Friday.

Besides being a setback for EADS, the maker of the Airbus family of commercial jets, the deal's collapse will also further delay India's plans to replace its ageing helicopter fleet by at least two years, newspapers said. India will issue a fresh tender next year, a Defence Ministry source told the *Hindustan Times*.

EADS' India office said it was not commenting on the Defence Ministry's decision. — MNA/Reuters

## Hu Jintao calls on boosting Sino-Japanese ties

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Friday called for the expansion and deepening of cooperation with Japan and boosting of bilateral relations to a new level.

“The two sides should maintain friendly exchange at various levels, expand and deepen pragmatic cooperation, settle well bilateral disputes through dialogue and equal consultation and continue to expand the mutual benefit between the two nations in an effort to boost bilateral relations to a new level”, Hu said.

Hu made his remarks in his meeting with Ichiro Ozawa, president of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) at the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing.

He highlighted the recent growth momentum of bilateral relations, saying that the development of bilateral relations yielding from the joint efforts from the two sides was of great value.

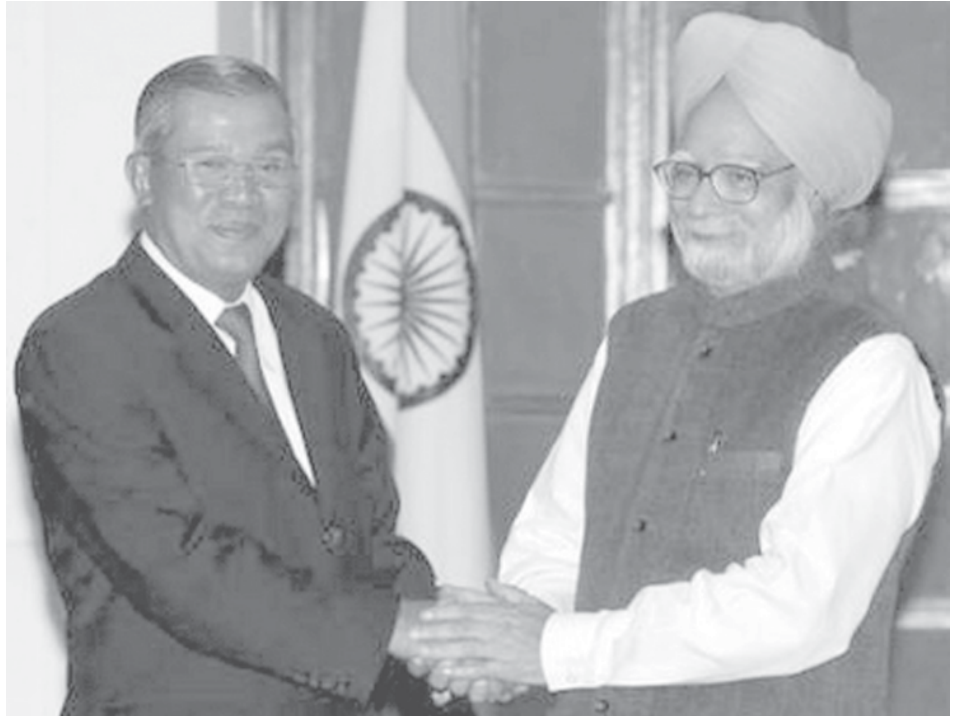
Hu added that the next year is the 30th anniversary of the signing of the peace and friendship agreement between China and Japan, which is a highly important year for the development of the bilateral relations.

Ozawa, who heads a 450-member Japanese delegation, said that Japanese people highly appreciate China’s commitment to the Japan-

China relations, expressing his hope to seize the opportunity to boost mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples.

The booming of a strong relationship between Japan and China not only serves the two nations, but is also vital to the stability and prosperity of Asia and the world at large, Ozawa told Hu.

MNA/Xinhua



Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen (L) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh before their meeting in New Delhi on 8, Dec, 2007. Sen is on a four-day state visit to India. —INTERNET

## Static blamed for gas station blast in N China

TIANJIN, 8 Dec — Static electricity is thought to have triggered a blast at a Tianjin oil supply depot that injured four people on Thursday, investigators said on Friday.

Officials with the

municipal work safety watchdog said their initial investigation cited static as the cause of several fires which broke out when two trucks were pumping out diesel from a supply tank at the privately-

owned gas depot around noon.

The two truck caught fire immediately and a strong shockwave sent the huge tank flying about 100 metres from its pad.

Fortunately, a China National Petroleum Corporation (PetroChina) gas station and two oil houses adjacent to the site were not affected.

MNA/Xinhua

A Culture Ministry employee carries a ladder beside a caryatid, at the new Acropolis Museum, in central Athens, on 8 Dec, 2007. Engineers on Saturday moved the ancient statue from the Acropolis to the museum. —INTERNET

## Moderate quake jolts Indonesia resort island of Bali

BALI (Indonesia), 8 Dec — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale jolted on Friday Indonesia’s resort island of Bali, where a two-week UN climate change conference was currently going on.

There were no im-

mediate reports of damage or injuries. The tremor, which could be felt in Bali, was centred 150 miles southwest of the island. It struck around six miles beneath the ocean floor, according to the US Geological Survey.

The quake was not

strong enough to trigger a tsunami warning. Indonesia, the world’s largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheavals due to its location on the so-called Pacific “Ring of Fire”, an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin. — MNA/Xinhua

## Police say US mall shooter hid assault rifle in sweatshirt

OMAHA, 8 Dec — A 19-year-old school dropout who shot and killed eight people and killed himself at a Nebraska shopping mall smuggled a stolen assault rifle into the building wrapped in a sweatshirt and opened fire without warning when he

got out of a third-floor elevator, police said on Thursday.

Robert Hawkins left text and voice messages with friends and family before Wednesday’s bloodbath. “He had apparently been experiencing some mental

health problems, indications of suicide,” Omaha Police Chief Thomas Warren told a briefing.

His victims ranged in age from 24 to 66. They included two male customers and another man and four women who were employees of the Von Maur department store where most of the carnage occurred.

Warren said the tapes seem to show that Hawkins had the gun wrapped in a hooded sweatshirt.

MNA/Reuters

## NYC changes subway management for better service

NEW YORK, 8 Dec — New York City Transit said on Thursday that it is making major changes to subway management in a bid to provide strap-hangers with a smoother ride, NY1 news channel reported. After the overhaul, each subway line will be a separate entity with a manager overseeing it, the report said.

The managers will be responsible for all operations of their line, including tracks, trains and stations, it said.

Each line will compete with others and be rated on service, cleanliness and other measures, it added. New York’s complex subway system was one of the first in America. — MNA/Xinhua



People dressed as Santa Claus stand in front of an upside-down house during a convention in Szymbark, close to Gdansk in northern Poland, on 6 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

# Elimination of poppy through extended raising of poultry, pigs and fish

(Maung Aung-LBVD)

Narcotic drugs including opium pose a grave danger to mankind. This being the case, they have been banned from being produced, used and trafficked in successive periods. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council also, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was formed in order to ward off the dangers of the drugs. The CCDAC reconstituted the poppy substitute agriculture and livestock breeding committees in 1997 with a view to minimizing the production, use and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

The poppy substitute livestock breeding committee is carrying out the poppy substitute livestock breeding tasks in border areas for elimination of poppy cultivation. The poppy substitute livestock breeding tasks are to undertake livestock breeding on a manageable scale that suit the region, to engage in extended breeding of quality milch cows and poultry with the help of the livestock and fisheries bank, to distribute pedigree animals and poultry to special regions, to set up model livestock breeding villages for development of livestock breeding, to put fingerlings into rivers, creeks, ponds and lakes for ensuring food security, and to place emphasis on animal health and prevention of infectious diseases.

The committee is also undertaking the education and development tasks which included conducting courses on livestock breeding at the drug rehabilitation camps, conducting on-job training courses on modern livestock breeding and conducting training courses on apiculture for boosting the crop yield.

In its effort to implement the livestock breeding tasks, the committee distributed pedigree animals free of charge for improvement of the socio-economic life of former poppy growers. It distributed four stallions, ten bulls, ten cows, 3,301 pigs and 61,988 poultry to the special region 1 and 2 of Kachin State from 1989 to 2007. And it also distributed 38 horses, 69 bulls, 120 cows, 24,331 pigs, 5,485 pedigree pigs, 545,047 poultry and 39,304 domestic fowls poultry to Kokang region, Wa region, Shan region and Paloung region in Shan State (North), Mawpha region and PaO region in Shan State (East), Kayah State, Kachin State and Mon State.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department vaccinated cattle against the infectious diseases in border areas where poppy thrived in the past. The department gave vaccines to 460,909 cattle, 124,174 pigs and 1,489,630 poultry from 1999-2000 to 2006-2007 spending K 12.039 million.

The poppy substitute livestock breeding committee put 2.13 million fingerlings worth K 2.13 million into rivers, creeks and lakes in Phekhon, Hsihseng and Laukkai regions in 2000-2001, 1.36 million fingerlings worth K 1.36 million in Moneko, Tamonye, Laukkai, Monesi, Phekhon and Hsihseng regions in 2002-2003, 0.58 million fingerlings worth K 0.58 million in Kaungkha, Lashio, Kunlon, Laukkai, Homein, Phekhon, Moebye, and Naunglaw regions, Shan State (North) in 2002-2003, 0.39 million fingerlings worth K 0.78 million in Hsihseng, Phekhon, Mongyan, Mongkai, Moebye, Tanyan, Homein and Nayein regions in 2003-2004, 1.246 million fingerlings worth K 0.26 million in Kunlon, Loilen, Monei,

Kaungkha, Laukkai, Kutkai, Mongpauk, Moneko and Naunglaw regions, Shan State (North) in 2004-2005, 1.468 million fingerlings worth K 4.32 million in Laukkai, Lashio, Tanyan and Kunlong regions in 2005-2006, 0.75 million fingerlings worth K 0.325 million in Monei, Nayein, Hsihseng, Manmaw, Tanyan, Kunlong, Lashio, Loikaw, Wanpan, Kaungkha and Homein regions, Shan State (South) in 2006-2007. To ensure pollination, boosting the crop yield and producing honey, the committee kept 2075 beehives in Laukkai, Tamonye, Kutkai, Lashio, Shwepyi Aye, Hsihseng, Dhashi, Waingmaw and Muse regions from 1999-2000 to 2006-2007 to boost the crop yield in 3,368 acres. It also conducted apiculture courses for 1,070 trainees.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries distributed poultry, pigs and cattle worth K 102 million for improvement of the socio-economic life of national races in border areas. The ministry also carried out tasks for higher living standards of national races, prevention and control of animal diseases, setting up of model farms, putting fingerlings into rivers, creeks and lakes, distribution of quality animals, keeping beehives and conducting apiculture courses, spending K 1,658 million.

Thanks to relentless efforts of the CCDAC and the ministry, the number of buffalo has increased to 36,220 in 2007 from 15,212 in 2000, that of cattle to 24,669 from 20,792, that of pig to 58,245 from 24,940 and that of poultry to 173,128 from 53,300 in Laukkai, Kongyan, Mongmaw, Panwaing and Panhsan regions.

The government is making all-out efforts to get rid of poppy cultivation, the evil legacy of colonialists. Regarding this, it is providing national races who were engaged in poppy cultivation for various reasons in the past with agriculture and livestock breeding undertakings in order to improve their living standards.

At a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a modern and developed nation the poppy substitute livestock breeding undertakings being implemented by the CCDAC and the poppy substitute livestock breeding committee are surely something to be proud of.

Translation: TS

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**The government is making all-out efforts to get rid of poppy cultivation, the evil legacy of colonialists. Regarding this, it is providing national races who were engaged in poppy cultivation for various reasons in the past with agriculture and livestock breeding undertakings in order to improve their living standards.**

# Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...

(from page 1)

This morning, the tournament continued for the second round at the same venue.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC members and ministers took part in the tournament.

After the second round, the prize presentation ceremony followed.

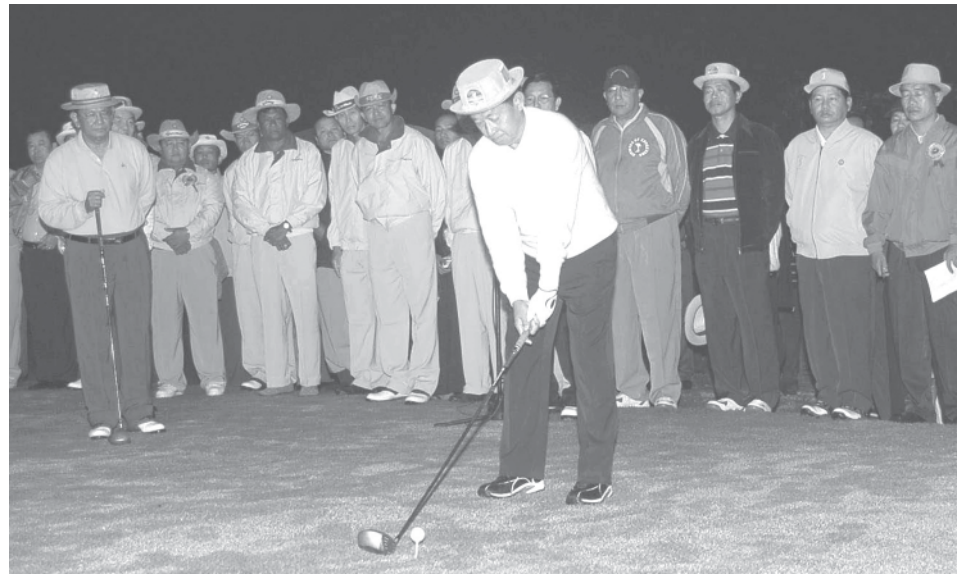
At the City Golf Course, the Secretary-1

pose of holding the tournament.

On behalf of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo awarded SPDC Chairman's Cup to the leader of the Ministry of Defence team that stood first in the team (handicap) event and the team (scratch) event.

in the team (scratch) and team (handicap), most birdie, most par, longest drive and nearest pin to the respective winning teams and winners.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence presented those who stood first, second and third in team (handicap) event. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence presented those who stood first, sec-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo tees off Tracer Ball in State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament 2007.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents SPDC Chairman's Cup to Ministry of Defence Team.—MNA

fence stood first on 520 strokes, Ministry of Home Affairs second on 543 and Ministry of PBANRDA third on 546.

In the team (scratch) event, Ministry of Defence secured the first prize on 657 strokes, Ministry of PBANRDA the second prize on 667 and Ministry of Home Affairs the third prize on 681.

Nay Thway, U Maung Maung Oo of the Ministry of PBANRDA, U Zaw Min of the Ministry of Transport, U Win Ko of Ministry of Mines and Thura U Myint Oo of the Ministry of Industry-1 grabbed the most par awards.

Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw of the Ministry of Industry-2 and U Ye Win of the Ministry of In-

Zaw Min of Ministry of Transport, U Kyi Tun of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and U Zaw Min of Ministry of Transport won the longest drive awards.

Likewise, U Thein Tun Win of the Ministry of Industry-2, U Than Oo of the Ministry of Forestry, U Thein Han of the Ministry of Industry-1 and U Myo



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence gives first prize to Ministry of Defence Team.—MNA

awarded prizes to respective winning teams.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC members, senior military officers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, departmental heads and golfers.

Before the ceremony, Myanmar Athan modern band presented various songs.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung explained the pur-

Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence presented first, second and third prizes to Ministry of Defence team, Ministry of Home Affairs team and Ministry of PBANRDA team in the team (scratch) event.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence presented the third prize to Ministry of Home Affairs team, second prize to Ministry of PBANRDA team and first prize to Ministry of Defence in team (scratch) event.

Chairman of Leading Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung presented best loser awards

second and third in team (scratch). Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister U Soe Tha and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presented prizes to best scores award winning teams. Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin presented prizes to those who stood from 4th to 20th.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party together with the golfers of the Ministry of Defence posed for a documentary photo.

In the team (handicap) event, Ministry of De-



Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence presents first prize to Ministry of Defence Team.—MNA

In the singles (handicap) event, Captain Tin Shwe of the Ministry of Defence won the first prize on 124 strokes, U Ye Win of the Ministry of Information, the second prize on 125 and Captain Khant Nay Thway of the Ministry of Defence, the third prize on 127.

In the single (scratch) event, Captain Tin Shwe of the Ministry of Defence secured the first prize on 161 strokes, U Ye Win of the Ministry of Information, the second prize on 161 and U Ban Kyum of the Ministry of PBANRDA the third prize on 161.

Captain Khant

formation bagged the most birdie awards.

U Hla Myo of the Prime Minister's Office, U

Naing Aung of the Ministry of PBANRDA secured the nearest pin awards.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut gives the best score award to an outstanding golfer.

MNA



# Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects water storage capacity in Lagunpyin dam, Ngamoeyeik Water Pumping Project

YANGON, 9 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and party inspected maintenance of channels, water supply tasks and storage capacity in Lagunpyin dam, progress of Ngamoeyeik Water Pumping Project and supplying water to some farmlands in Hlegu Township this morning and called for timely completion of the project tasks for the development of agricultural sector.

At the briefing hall, Director U Kyaw Thein (Yangon) of Irrigation Department briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe on land preparation for main canal and tributaries and water supply building and supplying water to summer paddy fields in 2007-2008.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on supplying water to grow summer paddy this year and inspected earth works with the use of heavy machinery. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into accomplishment tasks of

the main canal, 60 per cent completion of the tributary, supplying water to summer paddy fields and sanitation tasks for tributaries and called for cultivation of summer paddy as early as

Afterwards, the commander gave a supplementary report.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged officials concerned to supply water to grow

Pumping Project, Deputy Director U Htay Lwin of Water Resources Utilization Department (Yangon) and Project In-Charge U Mya Than briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe and



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence visits Ngamoeyeik water pumping project in Hlegu Township.—MNA

possible and supplying water to grow winter crops.

Upon arrival at Lagunpyin dam, officials concerned briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win on tasks for supplying water to the farmlands.

240,000 acres of summer paddy as early as possible. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected supplying water to farmlands, control tower and storage capacity.

On arrival at Ngamoeyeik River Water

party on project data, accomplishment of the tasks, progress in building water supply building, supplying water to 1500 acres of farmlands and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win gave a supplementary report.

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into Ayeyawady Bridge...

(from page 16)

Managing Director U Than Win of Mann Myanmar Construction reported on progress of building six-storey Plaza and 25-storey reinforced concrete Condominium with two Towers attached and work to be undertaken to Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the condominium on the top floor of the plaza, the sales of shops on the ground floor of the plaza, auto-exchange room and air-conditioning machine room on the first floor of the plaza and attended to the needs.

MNA



## Religious Affairs Minister meets Myanmar Hajj pilgrims

YANGON, 9 Dec — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung met with Myanmar Hajj pilgrim, before their departure for Macca of Saudi Arabia, at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here this evening.

They will be sent to Macca under the supervision of the Religious Affairs Department with the permission of the State Peace and Development Council.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the government is providing necessary assistance to Buddhist, Christian, Islam and Hinduism religious communities. This year, the government has sent 325 Hajj pilgrims to Macca. Hence, the Myanmar Hajj pilgrims are to safeguard the prestige of individuals, the religion and the State. Especially, they are to give

priority to the religious affairs only. The pilgrims are to stay away from activities of participation in political and economic affairs violating the existing laws, by-laws and rules and regulations prescribed by the State.

Next, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mr Turi Najjal Ali made a speech. Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana spoke words of thanks. Leader of the Myanmar Hajj pilgrims team Haji U Sai Yu Sein reported on their pilgrimage matters.

Assistant Director U Win Myint of Customs Department explained rules and regulations for Myanmar Hajj pilgrims.

After the ceremony, those present were served with dinner. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung meets Myanmar Hajj pilgrims at Central Hotel.—MNA

## Myanmar secures three more silver, four more bronze

YANGON, 9 Dec — Myanmar Sports Contingent bagged three silver medals and four bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games today.

Pa Pa won one silver medal in the women's marathon, Aung Ko Min one silver medal in the men's singles sculls and Shwe Sin Latt one silver medal in the women's lightweight singles sculls.

Saw Marla Nwe secured one bronze medal in the 20 km women's walk race, Kyu Kyu Thin one bronze medal in the 46-kilo women's boxing contest, Hninn Ei Swe, one bronze medal in the 50-kilo women's boxing contest and Hninn Moe Moe Naing one bronze medal in the 54 kilo women's boxing contest. —MNA

## First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament continues

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — The First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament 2007 continued at the designated places, here, today.

In the competitions, Ministry of Electric Power No 2 trounced Ministry of Culture 3-0; Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee hammered Ministry of Foreign Affairs 3-0; Ministry of Home Affairs beat Ministry of Labour 3-0; and Ministry of Industry-2 edged out Ministry of Health 3-0. —MNA

## Lavrov warns US missile plan to jeopardize NATO-Russia dialogue

BRUSSELS, 9 Dec — It would be difficult for Russia to continue dialogue with NATO if Washington deployed a missile defence system in Europe in accordance with its own plans, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here Friday.

“If a missile defence system in Europe is tailored only to the United States’ unilateral plans, it will be hard for us to continue the Russia-NATO dialogue,” Lavrov told reporters after a NATO-Russia Council meeting.

“I absolutely do not think that this strengthens

our political stability,” he added, saying that it would jeopardize Russia-NATO cooperation in missile defence.

The US wants to deploy a radar in the Czech Republic and a missile defense base in Poland.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a Press conference after the meeting of the NATO-Russia Council that the United States has reaffirmed its determination to seek to iron out differences with Russia over the missile plans “in a constructive way”.

MNA/Xinhua



Feathery look : A woman presents a feather headdress at a fashion show in Stavropol.—INTERNET

## French film wins Grand prize of Cairo Int’l Film Festival

CAIRO, 9 Dec — The Grand prize “The Golden Pyramid” of the 31st Cairo International Film Festival on Friday night went to French film “L’Ennemi Intime” (Intimate Enemy), which became the biggest winner of the night with a total of three big prizes.

The French film, directed by Florent Emilio Siri and produced by Les Films du Kiosqu, was granted the prizes for the Best Film, the Best Director and the Best Actor (Albert Dupontel) at the closing ceremony of the festival.

The film was hailed

as a brilliantly produced, devised and directed film of a time of war in Algeria in 1959, which signals a unique warning of the futility of armed conflict.

The prize of the Best

Actress was shared between Marina Magro Soto, who starred the Mexican film “Opera” and Tatiana Lutaeva of Russian film “Full Scope”.

MNA/Xinhua



Children play on a replica of the historical monument Charminar, made from flowers, during a flower show in the southern city of Hyderabad, on 8 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

## Report says Iran has stopped selling oil in US dollars

TEHRAN, 9 Dec — Iran has completely stopped selling any of its oil for US dollars, an Iranian news agency reported on Saturday, citing the oil minister of the world’s fourth-largest crude producer.

The ISNA news agency did not give a direct quote from Oil Minister Gholamhossein Nozari. A senior oil official last month said “nearly all” of Iran’s crude oil sales were now being paid for in non-US currencies.

For nearly two years, OPEC’s second biggest producer has been reducing its exposure to the dollar, saying the weak US currency is eroding its purchasing power. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who often rails against the West, has called the US currency a “worthless piece of paper”.

Foes since Iran’s 1979 Islamic

revolution, Teheran and Washington are also at odds over Teheran’s disputed nuclear programme as well as over policy in Iraq. “In line with the policy of selling crude oil in currencies other than the US dollar, currently the sale of our country’s oil in US dollars has been completely eliminated,” ISNA reported after talking with Nozari.

Nozari told ISNA: “In regards to the decrease in the dollar’s value and the loss exporters of crude oil have endured from this trend, the dollar is no longer a reliable currency.” “This is why, at the meeting of the heads of states, Iran proposed to OPEC members that a currency (for oil exports) would be determined that would be reliable and would not cause any loss to exporter countries,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

## Nigeria, Cameroon meet at UN on land handover

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Dec — Nigerian and Cameroonian officials discussed on Friday Nigeria’s handover to Cameroon of Bakassi, a peninsula with offshore oil deposits, as UN officials played down recent problems between the two states.

The officials, members of a follow-up committee monitoring a 2006 agreement on the handover, held what the United Nations called a regular meeting, chaired by UN mediator Kieran Prendergast, and later met UN Secretary-General Ban

Ki-moon. Nigeria’s former president, Olusegun Obasanjo, agreed in June 2006 to cede Bakassi to Cameroon in line with a 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice. The neighbours had argued about Bakassi for decades and come close to war over it.

After the deal, all seemed well until suspected Nigerian rebels killed 21 Cameroonian soldiers on November 12 in an unexplained raid and the Nigerian Senate said on November 22 the deal had not been ratified by Parliament and was thus illegal. But a UN read-out on Friday’s meeting said UN civilian observers in the area “continue to report that the parties are not only complying with the agreement but working together for the well-being of the populations”.

MNA/Reuters

## Study says child cancer risk higher near nuclear plants

BERLIN, 9 Dec — A German study has found that young children living near nuclear power plants have a significantly higher risk of developing leukaemia and other forms of cancer, a German newspaper reported on Saturday.

“Our study confirmed that in Germany a connection has been observed between the distance of a domicile to the nearest nuclear power plant.... and the risk of developing cancer, such as leukaemia, before the fifth birthday,” *Suddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper quoted the report as saying. The newspaper said the study was done by the University of Mainz for Germany’s Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BFS). A copy of the report was not immediately available.

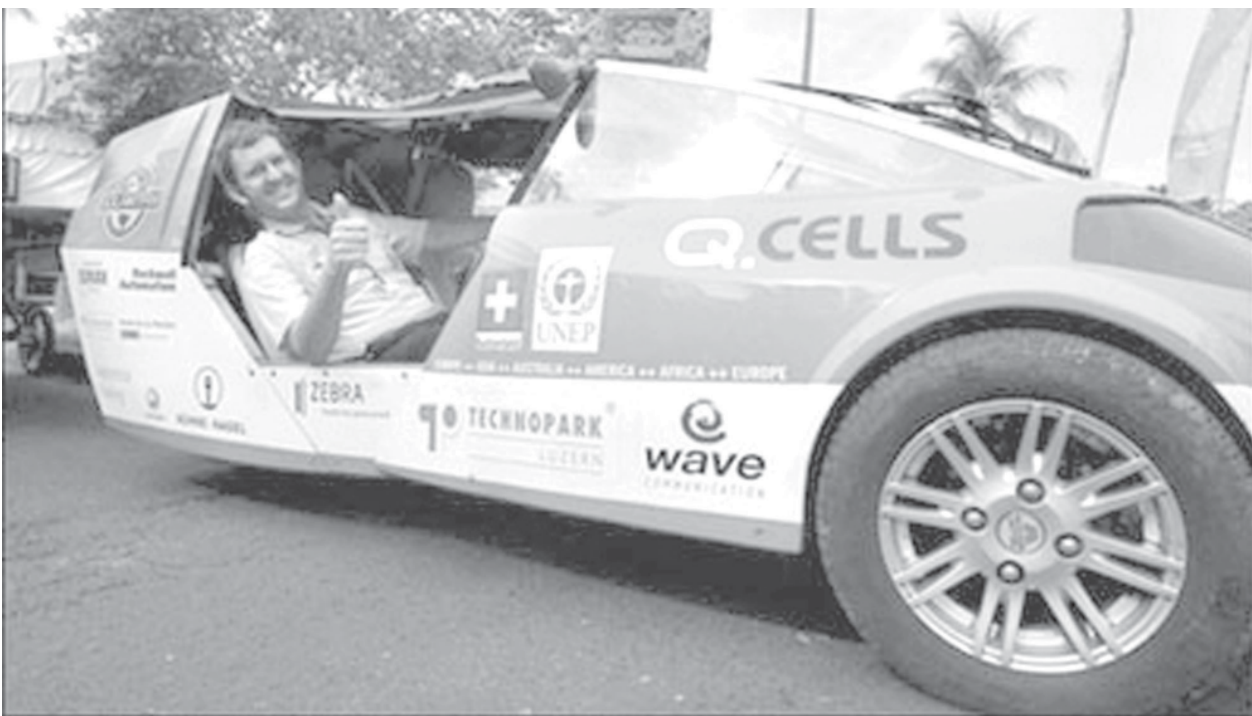
The researchers found that 37 children within a five-kilometre (3-mile) radius of nuclear power plants had developed leukaemia between 1980 and 2003, while the statistical average during this time period was 17, the paper said.

The newspaper cited an unnamed radiation protection expert familiar with the study who said its conclusions understated the problem. He said the data showed there was an increased cancer risk for children living within 50 kilometres of a reactor. — MNA/Reuters



A giant spitting cobra, measuring about 2.75 meters and carrying enough venom to kill at least 15 people, has been discovered in Kenya, a conservation group said on Friday. — XINHUA

*Steffen Uffenorde, dressed as Father Christmas, steps over the edge the facade of a hotel during a 'House Running' event in downtown Berlin on 9 Dec, 2007. Participants of the event hosted by entertainment agency 'Jochen Schweizer' walked down 98 metres (322 ft.) from atop the hotel in the German capital.— INTERNET*



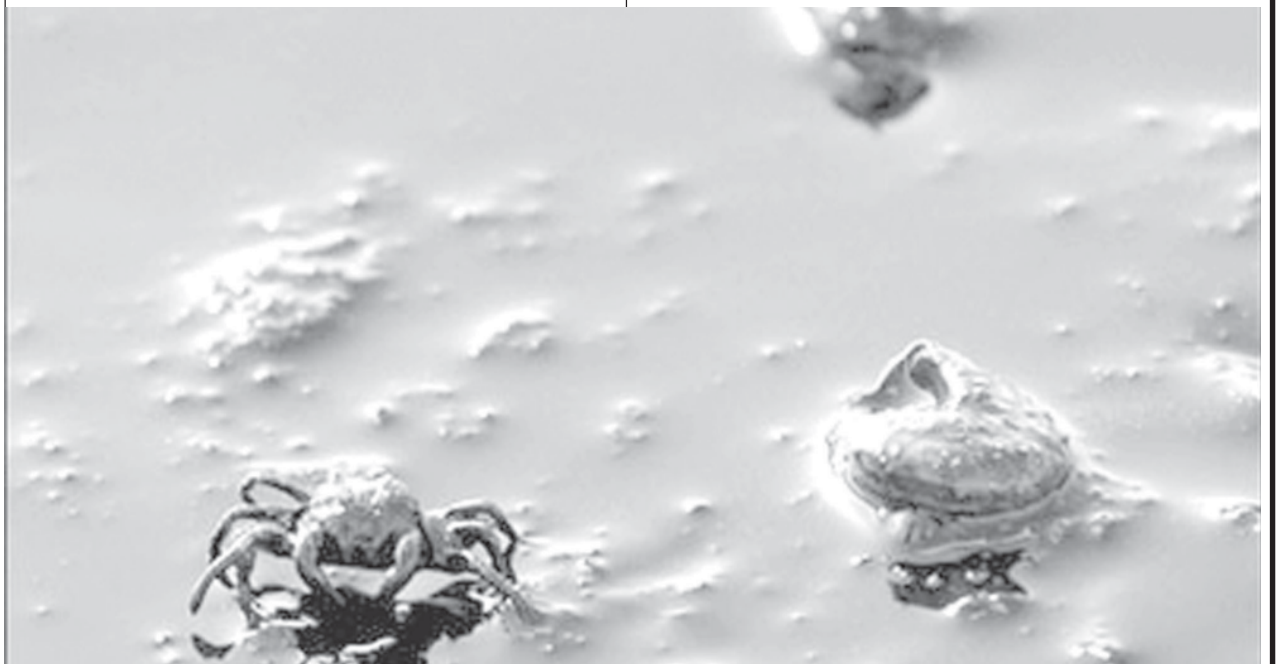
*French Louis Palmer sits inside his solar taxi at the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Nusa Dua, on Bali Island, on 7 Dec, 2007.— INTERNET*



*File photo shows a giant pair of inflatable jeans in the pedestrian precinct Frankfurt during a promotion campaign. Scraped, torn, creased, frayed, stained, sprayed and mended: never will jeans, the 150-year apparel now the planet's most popular clothing, be as battered and bruised as the models due to hit stores in 2009.— INTERNET*

*An oil-covered crab on a beach in Taean. A huge clean-up operation on South Korea's stricken Southwest coast after the country's worst oil spill is set to drag on for two months, a government minister has warned.*

INTERNET



# Images of the Day

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**Britain unveils plans for new terrorism powers**

LONDON, 8 Dec — Britain said on Thursday it wanted to give police the power to hold terrorism suspects for up to 42 days without charge, as part of compromise proposals which still failed to appease many who condemn the plans on rights grounds.

Since taking over from Tony Blair in June, Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said police powers need to be extended to give them time to carry out complex investigations that could involve multiple plots and many countries.

But he has had to backtrack from initial plans to simply raise the

detention limit, in the face of mounting opposition not only from political opponents and civil rights groups, but from senior legal figures and from within his own Labour Party. Instead, the new and complicated proposals would allow the government to use temporary measures only in extreme situations, permitting detectives to question suspects for a maximum of 42 days — up from the current 28.

These additional powers would be subject to parliamentary approval and would expire after two months.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said the measures

were needed to address an increasing “serious and sustained threat”.

Britain’s security services have said they are monitoring thousands of individuals who pose a risk. This year 42 people have been convicted of terrorism offences.

But Smith said the new powers would only be used in exceptional circumstances.

MNA/Reuters

**Women look on sculptures as they visit of the 5th Contemporary Sculpture exhibition in Teheran’s museum of contemporary arts on 8 Dec, 2007.— INTERNET**

**China expects technology transfer mechanism under UNFCCC**

BALI (Indonesia), 8 Dec — China has a much higher expectation in technology development and transfer, and very much like to have an effective technology transfer mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said a high-ranking Chinese official here on Friday.

China’s technology need covers both mitigation and adaptation technologies as China is a very diversified economy and is now in the process

of industrialization, said Su Wei, director-general of the Office of National Leading Group on Climate Change under the National Development and Reform Commission.

Due to the natural endowment of resources and the increasing demand of productivity for the world market, China has an enormous task of deploying clean and less-carbon technologies and know-how for energy efficiency, renewable and nuclear energy, said Su at a side event for the

ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali.

For capacity building, China’s needs mainly include development of human resources, adaptation, training and education, raising public awareness, database and information system development, Su told participants at the side-event called “The United Nations and China: Connecting Institutions, Technology and Partnerships to Combat Climate Change”.

MNA/Xinhua

**GEF launches account for tropical forest**

BALI (Indonesia), 9 Dec — The Global Environment Facility (GEF) here on Saturday launched the Tropical Forest Account Initiative which will help safeguard forest ecosystems while strengthening sustainable financing for protected areas and for sustainable forest management.

“The window to save the last remaining functioning expanses of tropical forests, which are

responsible for the delivery of crucial global environmental services, is closing fast,” said Monique Barbut, the chief executive officer (CEO) and chairperson of the world’s largest environmental funding body.

“GEF is teaming up with its partner agencies, governments, business and civil society to address this challenge head on. GEF’s investments are also expected to encourage

more robust financing from private investors looking to build environmentally-friendly forest markets.”

GEF would fund projects to stop deforestation in 17 countries of the Amazon, Congo Basin, New Guinea and Borneo. Tropical deforestation is on the rise, and is now responsible for over 20 per cent of global CO2 emissions.

Habitat loss in tropical forests threatens 74 per cent of endangered mammals, 44 per cent of endangered birds, 57 per cent of endangered amphibians, and 67 per cent of endangered reptiles. Each of the GEF-targeted areas has over eight million hectares of wet broadleaf forests, and they collectively harbor an astonishing 54 per cent of tropical forest cover and 68 per cent of tropical forest carbon. — MNA/Xinhua

**Suicide car bomber kills 8 in northern Iraq**

BAIJI (Iraq), 9 Dec — A suicide car bomb exploded in a residential neighbourhood in northern Iraq on Saturday, a Reuters witness said. Police said at least eight people were killed and 40 wounded.

A Reuters television cameraman said at least 11 cars were destroyed and 15 houses damaged by the blast, which targeted the home of an anti-terrorism official in a residential area in Baiji, a northern Iraqi town with a large oil refinery.

MNA/Reuters





Chinese actor Wang Lee-hom (L), director Ang Lee (C) and Chinese mainland's actress Tang Wei pose as on the red carpet for the 44th Golden Horse Awards in Taipei (China) on 8 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

## UN hails China for endeavour in combating climate change

BALI (Indonesia), 8 Dec — China is doing what it can in combating climate change as the government is very conscious of the challenges posed by climate change impacts, said a UN official here on Friday.

Climate change mitigation has to be put in a global context, and it has to be “rational and fair” in demanding any actions required for mitigation, said Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in a side-event held during the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali.

“China is doing a great deal in terms of bringing about high efficiency of energy use,” said Pachauri on the side-event “The United Nations and China: Connecting Institutions, Technology and Partnerships to Combat Climate Change”.

China has made major investments in hydro-projects in an important shift to new sources of energy.

And China has made major strides in

renewable energy, said Pachauri in his address “The IPCC Findings: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and implications for China”.

The UN official said, “China is doing what it can and probably doing much more and will do much more. But this has to be part of a global effort where the principle of ‘common but differentiated res-

possibilities’ can not be forgotten.”

China published its National Programme to address climate change in June this year, setting ambitious domestic goals including reducing energy consumption per unit GDP by 20 per cent and increasing the share of renewable energy to 10 per cent by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

## Failure to understand root causes of deforestation warned

BALI, (Indonesia), 8 Dec — A new study by one of the world’s leading forestry research institutes warns Friday that the new push to “reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)” is imperiled by a routine failure to grasp the root causes of deforestation.

The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), a leading international forestry research organization, said that the study, based on more than a decade of in-depth research on the forces driving deforestation worldwide, found that there is ample opportunity to reduce carbon emissions if financial incentives will be sufficient enough to flip political and economic realities that cause deforestation.

The study by

researchers at CIFOR sought to link the underlying causes of loss of 13 million hectares of forest each year to the promise — and potential pitfalls — of REDD schemes. The report was released Friday at the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP-13) in Bali, a resort island of Indonesia, where environment ministers from over 180 countries are meeting to draw up a long-term strategy for

combating global warming.

High on the agenda is reducing the 1.6 billion tons of carbon emissions caused each year by deforestation, which amounts to one-fifth of global carbon emissions and more than the combined total contributed by the world’s energy-intensive transport sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian defender Mohamad Aidil Zafuan executes a reverse kick to clear the ball from the goal post during a match against Singapore in the first half of the play of the 24th Southeast Asian Games (SEA games) in Korat. —INTERNET



## Kenya issues alert over desert locusts invasion

NAIROBI, 8 Dec — Desert locusts have invaded Kenya’s arid northeastern region, threatening maize and wheat crops, but the Agriculture Ministry said on Friday it was well prepared to fight the pests.

The desert locust’s destructive power stems from its gregarious nature that allows it to move in swarms, eating whatever vegetation it finds in its path. A ministry statement published in local newspapers said the locusts were not aggressively feeding yet, but were in their last stage of development and laying

eggs in the moist sandy soil of the hot region.

“In view of the above and understanding the ecology of the pest, it is important to note that hoppers which are the most destructive stage are expected to appear from around 10 December,” the statement quoted Romano Kiome, the ministry’s permanent secretary, as saying. “This stage is the focus of control.” He said the government was prepared with pesticides and spraying equipment and that the attack was the first since 1962.

MNA/Reuters

Space shuttle Atlantis is shown on Launch Pad 39A as mission managers prepare for launch at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 6 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET



## Benin finds two flu outbreaks, suspects H5N1

COTONOU, 8 Dec — Benin has discovered two outbreaks of bird flu among poultry which it believes to be the deadly H5N1 strain, the first such cases in the West African country, a senior health official said on Friday.

The cases were discovered late on Thursday in Adjarra, some 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the capital Porto

Novo, and on a farm in the commercial capital Cotonou. “We found several dead birds. We went ahead with tests which turned out to be positive,” Julien Toessi, a senior public health official, told Reuters in an interview.

“We have taken samples which we have already sent to Italy to be confirmed but we are convinced that these (bird)

deaths are due to the H5N1 strain of bird flu,” he said.

Health Ministry officials said several hundred birds had been slaughtered as a precautionary measure in a five kilometres (three miles) radius around the two separate locations. All farms within a 15-kilometre radius were being disinfected.

MNA/Reuters

# SPORTS



Chelsea's Andriy Shevchenko (L) scores past Sunderland's goalkeeper Darren Ward (R) during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 8 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

## Liverpool lose unbeaten record at Reading

LONDON, 9 Dec — Reading ended Liverpool's unbeaten start to the Premier League season with a shock 3-1 win over Rafa Benitez's team at the Madejski Stadium on Saturday.

The result left fourth-placed Liverpool seven points behind leaders Arsenal while Manchester United and Chelsea maintained their title challenges with home wins over Derby County and Sunderland respectively.

United beat bottom club Derby 4-1 at Old Trafford where Ryan Giggs scored

his 100th league goal. Chelsea overcame Sunderland 2-0 to extend their unbeaten home league record to 71 matches.

Arsenal, who visit Middlesbrough on Sunday, have 37 points from 15 matches. United have 36 from 16, Chelsea 34 from 16 and Liverpool 30 from 15.

Fifth-placed Portsmouth, who won 3-1 at Aston Villa, are also on 30 points alongside Manchester City, who play at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Mid-table Reading's victory was their first against one of the so-called 'Big Four' clubs since gaining promotion in 2005-06.

They took the lead with a controversial 17th-minute penalty from Stephen Hunt after Jamie Carragher clearly fouled Ivar Ingimarsson outside the box.

Stephen Gerrard equalized for Liverpool in the 28th but a goal from Kevin Doyle and a fine individual effort by James Harper in the 67th gave Reading the points. — MNA/Reuters

## Real race 7 points clear after win in Bilbao

MADRID, 9 Dec — Real Madrid charged seven points clear at the top of the Primera Liga after a second-half strike from Ruud van Nistelrooy earned a 1-0 win at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

The Dutchman angled a powerful right-foot shot into the far corner of the net after 55 minutes to take his tally for the season to seven in the league.

The victory gave Bernd Schuster's side 35 points from 15 matches, seven ahead of Barcelona and Villarreal who both play on Sunday. Earlier, Ronald Koeman's Valencia continued their poor run of form with a 0-0 draw at Osasuna.

The Dutchman decided to field a new-look side after last weekend's 3-0 home defeat by Bilbao but his tactical changes had little effect as Valencia turned in another laboured performance. — MNA/Reuters

## Palermo rise to 7th after sinking Fiorentina

ROME, 9 Dec — Fabrizio Miccoli and Fabio Simplicio led Palermo to a 2-0 home win over Fiorentina to move up to seventh in Serie A on Saturday.

Miccoli struck in the 17th minute when he ran on to a defence-splitting flick from Brazilian strike partner Amauri and chipped the ball over Fiorentina keeper Sebastien Frey.

Alberto Fontana did well to keep Palermo

ahead in the 41st, pushing away a powerful Riccardo Montolivo shot.

Fiorentina had to play the last 20 minutes with 10 men after Alessandro Gamberini pulled up injured with all their substitutes already on.

Palermo pressed forward with the extra man and Frey produced two fine saves to keep out Edinson Cavani before Brazilian midfielder Simplicio dribbled past two defenders to

slot the second goal in the 81st.

Fiorentina stayed fifth with 24 points from 15 games, 10 points behind leaders Inter Milan who entertain Torino on Sunday.

Earlier, Lazio won 2-0 at home to Catania to boost morale ahead of Tuesday's Champions League clash at Real Madrid.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (R) scores against Reading during their English Premier League soccer match at the Madjeski Stadium in Reading, southern England, on 8 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

## Olympiakos join AEK Athens on top after goal spree

ATHENS, 9 Dec — Olympiakos Piraeus joined AEK Athens on top of the Greek Super League after a 4-0 rout of Levadiakos on Saturday.

Olympiakos, who face Werder Bremen in their final Champions League Group C game on Tuesday, and AEK have 24 points. The Athens club play their game in hand at home to Apollon Kalamarias on Sunday.

PAOK Salonika defeated Veria 2-0 in the only other game played on Saturday thanks to goals from Antonio Gonzalez and Glen Salmon. — MNA/Reuters



France's Brahim Asloum (R) fights Argentina's Juan Carlos Reveco during their WBA Light Flyweight boxing match at Le Cannel on 8 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

## Bayern held to draw by Duisburg but stay top

BERLIN, 9 Dec — Bayern Munich were held to a goalless draw at home to Duisburg on Saturday but still clung on to top spot in the Bundesliga as rivals Werder Bremen lost a 4-3 thriller at Hanover 96.

Duisburg rarely looked like claiming a first win away to Bayern in 40 years but they held out comfortably enough, even after Mohamadou Idrissou was sent off for kicking keeper Oliver Kahn with 10 minutes to go. The result meant Werder would have taken over at the top with a win but Thomas Schaaf's side were outplayed in Hanover.

Werder did manage to fight back from 3-1 to level the scores early in the second half but Mike Hanke completed his hat-trick to clinch victory for Hanover 13 minutes from time.

Werder's frustration was obvious as Hugo Almeida was sent off in injury time for tangling with Szabolcs Huszti.

With one round of matches to go before the long mid-season break, Bayern lead the standings with 35 points from 16 games.

Werder are second on 33, with Hamburg third on 31 after they had to settle for a goalless draw at home to bottom club Energie Cottbus.

MNA/Reuters

## Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	S		2	A		3	A		4	S		5	A		6	I		7	S		8	L		9	E															
10	C		11	O		12	M		13	E		14	B		15	A		16	C		17	K		18	N		19	A												
20	A		21	I		22	O		23	R		24	V		25	I		26	R		27	U		28	S		29													
30	R		31	E		32	S		33	T		34	R		35	A		36	I		37	N		38	Q		39	D												
40	F		41	S		42	T		43	M		44	D		45	U		46	C		47	A		48	T		49													
50	8		51	H		52	S		53	S		54	P		55	A		56	I		57	B		58	8		59	8												
60	G		61	A		62	T		63	E		64	A		65	U		66	S		67	E		68	T		69	T		70	L		71	E						
72	8		73	R		74	8		75	D		76	8		77	M		78	A		79	P		80	8		81	Y		82	8		83	E		84	8			
85	20		86	O		87	D		88	I		89	U		90	M		91	8		92	S		93	8		94	C		95	8		96	H		97	8		98	O
99	8		100	C		101	8		102	L		103	8		104	B		105	Y		106	M		107	Y		108	S		109	E		110	L		111	F		112	8
113	25		114	R		115	A		116	Y		117	O		118	N		119	8		120	L		121	C		122	8		123	R		124	8		125	F		126	8
127	8		128	S		129	8		130	U		131	8		132	B		133	U		134	L		135	L		136	D		137	O		138	Z		139	E		140	8
141	27		142	G		143	H		144	O		145	S		146	T		147	8		148	M		149	E		150	8		151	N		152	8		153	R		154	8

## Ajax go top with victory at Tilburg

AMSTERDAM, 9 Dec — Ajax Amsterdam went a point clear at the top of the Dutch league after winning 3-2 at Willem II Tilburg on Saturday.

Luis Suarez set up Kennedy Bakircioglu in the second minute before Tilburg levelled four minutes later through Kevin Bobson.

Suarez restored Ajax's lead from close range and Klaas Jan Huntelaar created the third for Jan Vertonghen on the stroke of halftime.

Arjan Swinkels pulled one back for Tilburg with a header 15 minutes from time.

Ajax have 31 points from 14 matches, one more than PSV Eindhoven who lost 4-2 at home to Roda JC Kerkrade on Friday. — MNA/Reuters



Arizona's Jerryd Bayless, left, attempts a lay up against Illinois's Mike Davis during the first half of a basketball game on 8 Dec, 2007, in Chicago. —INTERNET

### British canoeist who "returned from dead" charged

LONDON, 9 Dec — A man who "returned from the dead" after apparently being lost at sea in a canoeing accident five years ago was charged by police on Saturday with obtaining money by deception and making a false declaration to get a passport.

The charges come after a week of revelations that began with John Darwin, 57, walking into a London police station claiming amnesia and ended with his wife Anne telling newspapers she had

hidden him at the family home during the missing years.

Anne Darwin described how her husband had avoided discovery by using a small passage to an apartment in an adjoining house owned by the couple.

"For three years, while virtually everyone close to us believed John was missing presumed dead, he was actually at home with me," Anne Darwin, who recently left Britain for central America, told the *Daily Mirror*.

MNA/Reuters

### Afghan abductors free Bangladeshi air worker

DHAKA, 9 Dec — A Bangladeshi aid worker kidnapped in Afghanistan nearly three months ago was freed by the abductors, the aid agency said on Saturday.

Noor Islam was working for Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) when he was taken away in Logar province, south of Kabul, on September 15.

"He was freed on Friday night and is now under the safe custody of the Afghan authority," M.

Anwarul Haq, director of public affairs and communications of BRAC said in Dhaka. "He will be flown back to Bangladesh immediately when the Afghan authority hands him over to us, after necessary medical check up," Anwar told *Reuters*.

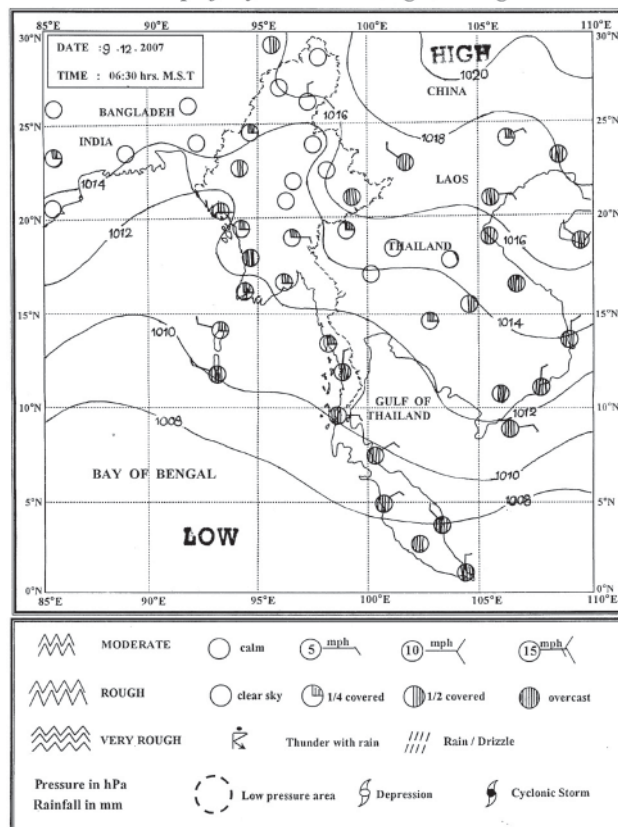
The aid agency has been active in Afghanistan since 2002, trying to empower the poor with programmes in micro-finance, education, health and agriculture.

Afghan gunmen shot dead Abdul Alim, another BRAC official, at a village in Badakshan province a couple of days before the abduction of Islam.

The Bangladesh aid agency has offices in 24 Afghan provinces, and employs around 4,300 workers, including 200 Bangladeshis.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



### WEATHER

Sunday, 9 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 (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Magway Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Rakhine State, Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-4°C), Heho and Pinlaung (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 8-12-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 9-12-2007 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 9-12-2007 was 82%. Total sun shine hours on 8-12-2007 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 9-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaka-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 (7) mph from East at (15:30) hours MST on 8-12-2007.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 10-12-2007:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon State, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 10-12-2007:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-12-2007:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-12-2007:** Fair weather.

### Four die in accident at Hyundai's car plant in India

NEW DELHI, 9 Dec — Four people, including three engineers, have died in a gas leak at a sewage tank at the Hyundai car factory in south India.

The incident took place at Irrungatukottai near Chennai on Friday evening when a sewage tank used to store chemical waste was being cleaned, local TV channel NDTV reported on Saturday.

Hyundai Motors India Ltd Vice-President (Administration and Human Resource) Ganapathy told local news

agency *Press Trust of India* "This happened at the construction site of a water treatment plant in our second unit. Out of the four deceased three were engineers employed by Thermax, which is carrying out the construction work, while the other one is a civil contractor employee."

Another person, who took ill, has been admitted

to a private hospital in Chennai and his condition was stated to be out of danger, fire service officials said.

Hyundai Motor India on Saturday has announced an ex-gratia payment of 200,000 Indian rupees (around 5,000 US dollars) each to the deceased.

MNA/Xinhua



### Monday, 10 December Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Jump for my love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Alive
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music: -Hope you're feeling better
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Kids wanna rock
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunchtime music -Music -Thank you for the music
- 9:00 pm Spotlight on the stars (Coco Lee)
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Golden Land melody/Vocal gems -Love is -Hay baby
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



### Monday, 10 December View on today

- 7:00 am 1. အတိအရှေ့မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ စောတိကတောင်တန်းသာသနာ ပြုဆရာတော်ကြီး ဦးဥတ္တမ သာရ ၏ 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. Song of national races
- 8:05 am 6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:25 am 8. ရခိုင်ချောင်းတံတား

- 8:30 am (မင်းသုရိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်) 9. International news
- 8:45 am (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်ကျော်) 10. Grammer made easy
- 2:20 pm 1. (၂၄) ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ (အမျိုးသမီး) တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီစဉ် (အကြိုဖိုလ်လွှဲ)
- 4:00 pm 2. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 3. Song for uphold national spirit
- 4:30 pm 4. Practice in reading
- 4:40 pm 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (စီးပွားရေးပညာအထူးပြု) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)
- 4:55 pm 6. အကပဒေသာ
- 5:05 pm 7. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm 8. Dance of national races
- 5:25 pm 9. "နှစ်မြှာနှစ်မိမယ်"
- 5:30 pm 10. Music programme (The Radio Myanmar Moden Music Troupe)
- 6:00 pm 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 13. အလှူငွာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm 14. သတင်းအချက်အလက်နှင့် နည်းပညာနယ်လှည့်ဟောပြောပွဲ (IT Caravan 2007)
- 7:15 pm 15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "မြူးနိုးဝေချစ်သက်တည်" (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 8:00 pm 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စေတမန်" (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 19. The next day's programme

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# People's Desire

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

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project in Mandalay



□Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects construction tasks of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and departmental officials, left Shwebo by car for Sagaing on 6 December morning. On arrival at Sagaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe looked into construction of Ayeyawady Bridge

(Yadanabon).

After hearing reports on progress of construction works presented by Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on meeting the set standard and building approach roads.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to construction site of Mandalay Zaygyo Plaza and Condominium Tower built by Mandalay City Development Committee and Myanmar Mandalay Co Ltd in Chanayethazan Township.

(See page 9)

## Universities, colleges under Science and Technology Ministry to open on 24 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University, technological universities, Government Technological Colleges and Government Technical Institute under the Ministry of Science and Technology will be opened on 24 December 2007, it is learnt. —MNA

## Weather Forecast for 10-12-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area

Fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area

Generally fair weather.

Mandalay and neighbouring area

Fair weather.



A new fish species of *Microrasbora* was discovered in southwest China's Yunnan Province.—INTERNET

- ★ 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