

Senior General Than Shwe inspects Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project, Yeywa Hydropower Project

Government taking measures for supply of water for greening Meiktila Plain, boosting agricultural production and improving living conditions of local people



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Yeywa Hydropower Project near Ye-yaman Village in Mandalay Division. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe yesterday inspected Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South), and Yeywa Hydropower Project being implemented near Ye-yaman Village, south-east of Mandalay, in Mandalay Division.

Senior General Than Shwe, together with SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, commanders of commands, the ministers, the chairman of Magway Division PDC, and officials of the SPDC Office, arrived by helicopter at Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project site at 9.30 am.

From the observation post near the briefing hall, the Senior General inspected the project area, progress of earth work for the main dam, and
(See page 8)



Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 13 December, 2007

Explore new oil and gas blocks in interest of nation

As Myanmar is rich in natural resources, the government is making efforts for exploration and production of oil and gas in inland and offshore areas for ensuring energy sufficiency and bringing about national interest.

There are better prospects of production of natural gas on commercial scale from the deposits in Myanmar offshore. The government in cooperation with oil exploration companies from abroad is conducting exploration in oil and natural gas blocks with the utilization of manpower and machinery.

Companies from India, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand have now begun production of oil and natural gas in the energy sector.

Drilling was started at the test well No Zawtika-1 (A) block in M-9 in Mottama offshore block. Estimated volume of natural gas deposit is 2.5 trillion cubic feet. Extended exploration is being made in the potential areas in the country. The government has gained a great deal of profits as natural gas deposits like Zawtika-1 (A) that can be exploited on a commercial scale are found.

Extended exploration of oil and natural gas not only in inland areas but also offshore blocks will surely contribute towards progress of the nation.

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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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

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects roads, bridges in Mawlamyine, Hpa-an



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects road works on Mawlamyine-Hpa-an Road. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, inspected development tasks and roads and bridges in Mawlamyine and Hpa-an on 6 December.

Before his tour of inspection, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders at Yamanya Hall in Mawlamyine on 6 December.

At the meeting, Maj-Gen Tha Aye said 17 peace groups are participating in undertaking the regional development tasks joining hands with the government and people have enjoyed fruits of development due to the five rural development tasks. He urged the local people and officials at the meeting to collectively participate in transition process to democracy.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and the commander also inspected the conditions of Attayan and Zathabyin bridges on their way to Hpa-an.

During the tour of Hpa-an, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party met with officers, other ranks and their families of Hpa-an Station at the hall of the station and departmental officials and townsenders at Zweekabin Hall in Hpa-an.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and the commander inspected development tasks in Hpa-an.

They also inspected tarring of Hpa-an-Donthami Road in Myainggalay and called for completion of the road work in time.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and the commander inspected tarring of road section between Mile Post No 135/6 and No 135/5 and road work between Mile Post No 133/3 and No 133/2 near Kamasaing village on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road.

On way to Kyaikto, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected the road work in Bilin Township.

They visited Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto and made cash donation. Afterwards, they went to local station and met with officers and other ranks and their families.

After the meeting, they inspected tarring on Kyaikto-Theinzayat and visited Sittoung Bridge construction project in Kyaikto Township.

The bridge links Waw Township of Bago Division and Kyaikto Township of Mon State. The main portion of the bridge is 1,365 ft long and can withstand 60-ton loads. The motor way of the bridge is 28 ft wide and it is flanked by 6-foot-wide walkways.

MNA

Yangon Division CCI holds AGM

YANGON, 12 Dec — The 15th annual general meeting of Yangon Division Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at the meeting hall of the brokerage building in Ba yintnaung Brokerage Area, Mayangon Township this morning.

President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon Division CCI U Than Oo made addresses.

Joint Secretary-2 of Yangon Division CCI

U Kyi Thein read out the report and financial statement of the Central Executive Committee and sought the approval of

those present. General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing approved the list of new executive commit-

tee members for 2007-08. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Chairman U Than Oo. — MNA

General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing announces list of new executive committee members.
UMFCCI



Gates slams US counternarcotics in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — US Defence Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday told Congress the United States has no effective plan for tackling Afghanistan's opium industry and warned that current efforts could aid Taliban rebels.

In a forthright critique of counternarcotics efforts, Gates said the United States has become isolated among its allies by favouring aerial spraying of herbicides on Afghan poppy fields that produce more than 90 per cent of the world's opiates.

"I'm really concerned about counternarcotics, because I think

that we don't really have a strategy," Gates said at a hearing held by the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee. I think it's patently obvious that we have not been successful in the counternarcotics effort in Afghanistan."

Gates said US strategy has sometimes focused too heavily on the eradication

of poppies grown by farmers who can rely on no other cash crop to feed their families.

"The day we go in and eradicate somebody's crops, we better be there with alternative seeds, some money, and a way to get that product to market, or we will have just recruited somebody else for the Taliban," the Defence Secretary said.

The Bush Administration is split over how to combat Afghanistan's four billion US dollars opium trade, which equals more than half of the country's legitimate gross domestic product, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. —MNA/Reuters

An undated false-colour image of gully channels in a crater in the southern highlands of Mars, taken by the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. —INTERNET



Avalanche kills eight, injures four in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Dec — A total of eight people were killed and four others sustained injuries in an avalanche which has hit northeastern Afghan province of Badakhshan, the Interior Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

"The incident occurred Tuesday morning hit the village of Bamdara in Baharak District, washing away 50 persons, of whom eight had lost their lives," the statement said, adding that four more people were injured.

Police with the support of locals have rescued 30 persons while eight others are still missing, the statement further added.

MNA/Xinhua

Fourteen dead as ice storm sweeps US Plains



With rain throughout the day in Oklahoma City, most of the ice from the winter storm has melted from the Survivor Tree at the Oklahoma National Memorial, on 11 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

KANSAS CITY (Missouri), 11 Dec—A deadly ice storm sweeping through the US Plains left more than 400,000 people without power as temperatures plunged and was blamed

for at least 14 deaths, authorities said on Monday.

The icy blast downed tree limbs and power lines, leaving more than 311,000 people without power in Oklahoma and shutting



NASA's Deputy Administrator Shana Dale and NASA Research Scientist Dr William Saturno investigate the San Bartolo Maya archaeological site in Peten, Guatemala, on 11 Dec, 2007. NASA's remote sensing data were used to locate and interpret the remains of the ancient Maya civilization. —INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Philippines plays down UNICEF report on conflict children

MANILA, 11 Dec—The Philippine military Sunday played down a report of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which said more than 200,000 Filipino children and women have been victimized by the conflict between government forces and left-wing rebels.

Filipino Army spokesman lieutenant-colonel Ernesto Torres said the UNICEF report was based on figures from a left-leaning foundation, add-

ing figures from the military, police and the Department of Social Welfare and Development "were not given due consideration" by the report.

The UNICEF study detailed at least 800 cases of human rights violations on children in areas where the military pursues

operations against left-wing rebels.

The study collected figures of children and women affected by conflict from 2001 to 2006, and showed at least 215,000 of them were "victimized" by the military operations with 58 killed.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia says Kosovo could trigger "chain reaction"

Moscow, 11 Dec—Russia warned the West on Monday that recognizing a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) by Kosovo could set off a "chain reaction" of problems in the Balkans and beyond.

Russia, which has backed its ally Serbia over the status of the breakaway Serbian province, would also demand that any unilateral declaration be rescinded.

"I want to stress that UDI of Kosovo and recognition of such independence will not remain without consequences," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said during a visit to Nicosia.

"It will create a chain reaction throughout the Balkans and other areas of the world," he said, speaking through an interpreter after talks with Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos.

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed Kosovo with German Chancellor Angela Merkel by phone on Monday, Russian news agencies reported, quoting the Kremlin press service.

The talks came on the day mediation efforts between Serbia and Kosovo Albanian leaders officially expired and after Kosovo Albanians said they would start immediate talks with Western backers about an independence declaration.

Russian mediator Alexander Botsan-Kharchenko spelt out the tougher diplomatic line from Moscow.

MNA/Reuters

Diplomat says Frenchman shot dead in Iranian city

TEHERAN, 11 Dec — A French tourist was shot dead in the central Iranian city of Isfahan by a man who local police said was “mentally disturbed”, a French diplomat said on Monday.

“It has no political significance,” the diplomat, who asked not to be named, told *Reuters*.

He said the 24-year-old French man, Julien van Waesberghe, was shot dead on Sunday night at a bus station as he was about to travel to another city south of Isfahan.

“It seems that it was a crime that has been done by somebody who was mentally disturbed,” the diplomat said.

He said police told the French Embassy the killer had been seeking the release of his brother from jail.

The police said he had previously made threats about taking possible action.

Iranian media also reported the shooting.

MNA/Reuters



Computer-generated image of an Airbus A350 passenger plane. Airbus has said that Saudi Arabian Airlines has confirmed its order for 22 Airbus A320 short-haul passenger aircraft while China Airlines has signed a letter of intent to buy 14 A350 planes.—INTERNET

Iraq provincial police chief killed in bombing

BAGHDAD, 11 Dec — A roadside bomb killed the police chief from Iraq’s Babel Province south of Baghdad on Sunday, police said.

They said Major-General Qais al-Mamouri was killed when the bomb struck his convoy near the provincial capital Hilla,

100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Baghdad.

Two guards were killed in the attack and six were wounded, police said.

Mamouri had been praised by US commanders in the area for his efforts to improve security in Babel Province. An al-Qaeda-linked militant

group recently threatened a wave of car bomb attacks and strikes against Iraqi security forces.

In August, a roadside bomb killed the police chief of Diwaniya Province in southern Iraq. Other provincial police chiefs have survived numerous assassination attempts in recent months.—*MNA/Reuters*

Subtropical storm “Olga” forms in Caribbean

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — Subtropical storm Olga formed over the Virgin Islands on Monday, and prompted a tropical storm warning for the Dominican Republic as it headed west over the Caribbean, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The Miami-based centre issued a special statement at about 8:30 pm EST (0130 GMT on Tuesday) saying satellite, radar and surface observations indicated that an area of low pressure centred over the Virgin Islands had developed into the rare post-season subtropical storm.

Subtropical cyclones have some of the same characteristics as the more familiar tropical storms and hurricanes, but have a cooler core that can slow their development.

MNA/Reuters

New Guinea struck by 5.6 magnitude quake

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec — A 5.6 magnitude earthquake struck near New Guinea on Monday, the US Geological Survey said.

The moderate strength quake, which hit at 1210 GMT, was centred 51 miles (82 kilometres) east of Wewak, New Guinea, the USGS said, at fairly shallow depth of 21.7 miles (35 kilometres).

There was no threat of a destructive tsunami resulting from the quake, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said.

MNA/Reuters



A large observation wheel, seen in front of Battersea Power Station chimneys, rotates in Hyde Park in central London, on 11 Dec, 2007. The 55-metre (180ft) high wheel has 40 capsules for carrying visitors, and forms part of a seasonal attraction that runs until January.—INTERNET

Nigeria tops Africa’s foreign reserve ranking

LAGOS, 11 Dec — With an estimated 43.307 billion US dollars in its coffers, Nigeria now leads its African counterparts in the ranking table of countries’ foreign reserves, according to a report by the local newspaper, the *Guardian*, on Monday.

The country also ranks 27th in the global listing of nations with the highest foreign reserve.

In the Africa ranking, Nigeria is followed by South Africa, 29.334 billion dollars; Botswana, 7.445 billion dollars; Angola, 6.750 billion dollars; and

Sudan with 3.552 billion dollars. The statistics was made available by Zemedeneh Negatu, managing partner with Ernst and Young, a leading global provider of professional services to the transportation industry with over 130,000 employees worldwide, including more than 4,000 in Africa.

Negatu, while presenting a paper at the just concluded 16th yearly African Aviation Finance conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, disclosed that the foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa has been consistently higher than in most regions of the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Blast on bus kills two in Russia

MOSCOW, 11 Dec — A blast on a bus in southern Russia killed two people on Sunday, emergency services said, less than a month after five people died when a nail bomb

exploded on a bus in a neighbouring province.

The local prosecutor’s office in Stavropol Region was treating the blast as a terrorist bomb, RIA *Novosti* news agency said, quoting an unnamed official. Other sources said the blast could have been caused by an exploding gas canister.

Stavropol borders Russia’s north Caucasus, a volatile region wracked by violence centred on Chechnya, which has fought two separatist wars since 1994.

The bus had been travelling from the city of Stavropol to another town when an explosion started a fire on the bus while it was parked at a station in the town of Nevinno-myssk.—*MNA/Reuters*



South Korean demonstrators hold a plastic globe at the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Nusa Dua, on Bali island.—INTERNET

Britons rank economy as top concern

LONDON, 11 Dec—Concerns over the economy have topped Britons' worry list for the first time in more than four years, a survey showed on Monday.

Almost a third of those polled cited the economy as their main concern in the coming six months — up from just 17 per cent a year ago, the survey, jointly conducted by market research company Nielsen and the British Retail Consortium, showed.

The findings will make grim reading for Prime

Minister Gordon Brown, who has regarded his record on the economy over the past decade as a trump card and is already trailing in the polls.

Retailers will also be worried ahead of the key Christmas shopping season by yet another survey suggesting consumers are not in a festive mood.

“Consumers will be thinking twice about splashing out this Christmas,” said Mike Watkins of Nielsen's retail services division.

The poll of more than 1,000 consumers was conducted at the end of November and follows high-profile media coverage of stricken mortgage lender Northern Rocks and a housing market slowdown.

Evidence of a slowing economy, falling consumer confidence and fast-cooling housing market prompted the Bank of England to cut interest rates last week for the first time in more than two years.

MNA/Reuters



Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Suzuki Motor Corporation Osamu Suzuki poses with a photo of the company's next global car at a Press conference in New Delhi, on 11 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Singapore, Oman ink investment guarantee agreement

SINGAPORE, 11 Dec—Singapore and Oman signed here on Monday an investment guarantee agreement to lay out mechanisms to protect and promote investments in both countries.

According to a statement of the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry, the agreement was signed by Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang and Oman's

Minister for Commerce and Industry Maqbool Ali Sultan, and the signing ceremony was witnessed by Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Sayyid Fahad Mahmood Al-Said, who arrived here on Sunday for a four-day official visit. In recent years, Singapore and Oman have taken measures to strengthen their ties.

Last year, the two countries enjoyed a bilateral trade amounting to 520 million Singapore dollars (about 355.5 million US dollars).

An avoidance of double

taxation agreement has been in force since April 2006 and the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and the Information Technology Authority (ITA) of Oman also inked a memorandum of understanding recently to cooperate on initiatives to develop the infocomm technology (ICT) sectors in both countries.

Oman is the third country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with which Singapore has signed an investment guarantee agreement, following Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnamese textile firms to pay extra consultancy fees

HANOI, 11 Dec—Vietnam's Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas) has asked its members having exports to the US market to voluntarily participate in a scheme, under which a levy of 0.01 per cent would be made on all US-bound garment exports, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported Monday.

The US Department of Commerce (DOC) started to monitor garment imports from Vietnam in January. The Vitas has recently retained an American law firm, Sidley Austin LLP, whose job was to help its members self-monitor exports to the United States and to lobby with US

officials and trading partners and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to overturn the monitoring system, calling it an unfair trade barrier contrary to WTO rules.

“The fees collected early next year will cover consultancy costs paid this

year, and will continue to be earmarked for additional costs incurred in 2008, particularly in March and August, when the DOC is expected to announce the results of its monitoring programme,” said Vitas chairman Le Quoc An.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Minister warns of food crisis in next 10 years

JAKARTA, 11 Dec—Indonesia may face a food crisis within the next 10 years should it fail to overcome the disparity between its rapidly growing population and its limited ability to expand arable land for food production.

With the population growth rate of between 1.3 per cent and 1.5 per cent a year, Indonesia needs to increase the annual production of the country's staple food of rice by at least 1.8 million tons by 2009, Agriculture Minister Anton

Apriyantono was quoted Tuesday by local newspaper *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

Such a production increase requires another 600,000 hectares of paddy fields, while the country is at present in short supply of available arable land.

“The demand for more land can actually be fulfilled if there weren't so many land conversion for other purposes, such as for factories or housings,” Anton said during a visit to South Sulawesi Province on Monday.

“But the fact is that the availability of potential arable land is currently unavailable.” The country has to import 1.5 million tons of rice this year to secure supply and stabilize prices.

MNA/Xinhua



A diamond which is estimated to cost 8.8 million yuan (about US\$ 1.19 million) is seen at an exhibition in Zhuzhou, Central China, Hunan Province, on 9 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET



The trail to Mount Everest, background, near Namche Bazaar, Nepal. Starting in Jan 2009, a global poll will allow people worldwide to vote and select the seven natural wonders of the world.

INTERNET

UNICEF cites child health progress work remains

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec — Progress in expanding breast-feeding and fighting measles and malaria has improved the health of children world-wide, but many in developing nations still do not have enough to eat, UNICEF said on Sunday.

The United Nations Children's Fund released a report on global child health, citing some strides while pointing to persistent problems in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. "We're seeing some significant progress in a number of areas in different parts of the world," Alan Court, UNICEF chief of programmes, told reporters. "There's a lot more to do."

UNICEF reported in September that annual global deaths of children under age 5 fell below the 10 million mark in 2006, to 9.7 million, for the first time on record, marking a reduction of about 60 per cent in the under-5 mortality rate since 1960.

More women are following advice to exclusively breast-feed their babies for the first six months of life.

About 37 per cent of

babies in developing country are being exclusively breast-fed, up from 33 per cent a decade earlier, according to the report. In sub-Saharan Africa, the rate was 30 per cent, up from 22 per cent a decade ago.

Breast-feeding provides nutritional benefits that can avert 13 per cent of deaths of children under 5 in developing countries, the report said.

MNA/Reuters



The Wujiang Mega Bridge is seen under construction over the Wujiang River near Guiyang, Southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 11 Dec, 2007. The tallest pier of the 1,452-metre-long bridge stands 173.5 metres high, and the bridge will open to traffic before the new year. —XINHUA



Two pupils show their self-made "fashionable dress" during a fashion show held by a local elementary school in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 7 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA

Russia urges to work out solution to Cyprus problem

NICOSIA, 11 Dec—Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged on Sunday all sides concerned to break the stalemate on Cyprus problem and work out a mutually acceptable solution.

"In order to be successful we must not look for who is to blame " for the impasse, said Lavrov, adding "we must urge all parties to find a mutually accepted settlement".

He made the remarks after meeting with his Cypriot counterpart Erato Kozakou Marcoullis in Nicosia. Lavrov underlined Russia's opposition to the imposition of deadlines by third parties for the settlement of the Cyprus problem and the Kosovo issue, adding only the parties concerned can determine the time frames.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on Middle East and Iraq, discussed ways for strengthening stability in the Mediterranean area and in the Balkans.

Lavrov said that Russia and Cyprus share common positions on many issues.

MNA/Xinhua

Tiger kills man in Bangladesh safari park

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), 11 Dec— A forest worker was killed by a tiger in a Bangladesh safari park on Saturday, an official said.

The tiger swooped on the worker while he was cleaning weeds in the 900-hectare (2,250-acre) Dulhazara Safari Park, home to three tigers and a small herd of elephants.

The park is about 350 kilometres (217 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka.

Forests cover about 17.5 per cent of Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated nations.

MNA/Reuters

Mexican police seize nearly 10 tons of drugs in four days

MEXICO CITY, 11 Dec— Mexican federal police seized nearly one ton of cannabis Saturday in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, the Mexican Public Security Ministry said in a statement.

With the drugs seized

in another two separate operations, some 10 tons of cannabis have been seized with four suspects arrested in the past four days, said the statement.

The federal police raided a house Saturday in Tamaulipas, seizing 113 packages of cannabis totalling 856.6 kilos and a vehicle with an American license plate.

In another operation on 6 December, the police found 2.041 tons of cannabis and arrested a driver while inspecting a container vehicle in the northern state of Baja California, the local media reported.

On 5 December, the police seized six tons of cannabis from another container vehicle on an expressway of the north-western state of Sonora and arrested three suspects. — MNA/Xinhua



Iceicles form on a bush in Kansas City, Kansas, on 11 Dec, 2007. Sleet and freezing rain blanketed much of central United States with a thick coating of ice on 11 Dec, 2007 killing more than a dozen people and knocking out power to nearly a million homes and businesses. —XINHUA

Indonesia reports 92nd bird flu death

JAKARTA, 11 Dec — A 28-year-old mother has died of bird flu at a Jakarta hospital, bringing the total death toll from the disease to 92 in Indonesia, the local Press said Tuesday.

The woman, a mother of two in the Jakarta suburb of Tangerang, died during treatment at the Persahabatan Hospital early on Monday, reported major national newspaper *Kompas*.

Her relatives said she had suffered respiratory problems, high fever and severe pneumonia since last week.

When she was admitted to the hospital, her conditions were already at worst.

"Test results by the Health Ministry's research and development centre confirms that (she) is positive of having H5N1 virus," I Nyoman Kandun, a senior official with the ministry, told the newspaper.

Indonesia is the hardest hit by the avian influenza with a record 114 confirmed cases in humans and 92 deaths.

MNA/Xinhua

Donating blood, saving life

Padaung Than Kywe

Without blood, man can no longer be alive. So, blood is the life of human beings. Blood transfusion can save the life of a person or patient who is in need of blood. Donating blood is, therefore, saving lives of others. And blood donors are benefactors of the patients who need emergency blood transfusion. Blood donors are the ones who make blood donation that many cannot do so.

Blood transfusion is carried out in cases of profuse bleeding due to injuries, surgical operation, menorrhagia in giving birth or abortion, shock, anaemia, and cancer.

Donated blood is tested in a laboratory before blood transfusion to find out whether or not it carries HIV, hepatitis B and C, and VD virus so that a patient is not infected with the diseases through blood transfusion. Only pure blood is used, and blood bottles and blood bags that contain virus are destroyed systematically.

Now, an effective system is applied that before donating blood, a donor has to answer or complete a questionnaire. So, virus is found only in a few of the bottles of donated blood. On the increase is the number of blood donors who are healthy and donate blood regularly with good volition.

Pure donated blood can bring a variety of benefits to the patients, so it is an invaluable gift.

The World Health Organization said that blood requirement was common all over the world; that sufficient blood was not available in developing countries; that in the third world, about 500,000 women died while getting pregnant and giving births yearly and 99 per cent of the deaths were due to the fact that blood was not available in time; and that in Africa, 70 per cent of blood transfusion cases were concerned with children suffering from anaemia and malaria.

Donated blood is tested in a laboratory before blood transfusion to find out whether or not it carries HIV, hepatitis B and C, and VD virus so that a patient is not infected with the diseases through blood transfusion. Only pure blood is used, and blood bottles and blood bags that contain virus are destroyed systematically.

It said that about four million people had been infected with HIV through transfusion of unsafe blood; that laboratory tests showed that the number of cases of finding hepatitis B and C, and venereal virus in the donated blood was higher than expected; that in the window period, the viruses could not be found in the blood of the patients, so not cent per cent of blood transfusion cases were safe; and that the issue could be solved only by blood donors who practised the lifestyle that they were not infected with those viruses.

The WHO designated the 14th of June 2004 as the World Blood Donors Day with the aim of raising the role of blood donors. The 58th conference (2005) of the WHO passed the resolution to celebrate the 14th of June as the World Blood Donors Day yearly, and gave encouragement for the increase in the number of blood donors.

A blood bank was established in Yangon General Hospital in 1939 and at that time a system was exercised that blood was bought for medical treatment. In 1962, it started to practise a new system, relying on the people who donated blood of their own accord. The blood bank of Yangon General Hospital was upgraded

to the Central Blood Bank. Now, blood banks have been opened at the state, division and district hospitals.

The 14th of December was designated as Myanmar Blood Donors Day and that gave birth to the Committee of the Central Blood Bank. Since 1976, blood donors have been honoured every year. At the upcoming 31st ceremony to honour blood donors, 36 monks, two nuns, and 582 blood donors will be present.

About 35,000 units of blood required yearly for 15 hospitals in Yangon are got from 2500 regular donors and 1500 donors who donate blood once or twice a year. Now, the number of blood donors is growing, so the Central Blood Bank has been able to fulfill 65 per cent of required blood.

Thanks to the advancement in medical equipment and technology, various agents of blood can be separated for relevant diseases. However, artificial blood cannot be invented yet. So, natural blood is still of great value.

By nature, Myanmar people are fond of making donation and hold compassion for others. So, the donating of blood is getting popular in the nation. It is heartening to note that people donate blood individually and team-wise, division-wise and township-wise.

Donating blood is harmless. Disposable syringes and pasteurized medical equipment are used, so blood donors cannot be infected with any virus. Before donating blood, donors have to receive medical checks. Donating blood takes only a few minutes. After donating blood, donors have to take a rest for a while and are served nutritious foods. So, all the people aged between 18 and 60 should donate blood. This article is aimed at honouring blood donors.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 12-12-2007

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Senior General Than Shwe inspects Myogyi ...

(from page 1)

construction of a coffer dam. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo conducted the Senior General around the project site.

At the briefing hall, the Senior General heard a report by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo on location and objectives of the project, progress of building the main dam and diversion tunnel, construction of hydropower tunnel and spillway, and work progress.

The minister said that projects are being implemented systematically for greening Meiktila Plain in Mandalay Division.

The first project for greening Meiktila Plain is Kengkham Multi-purpose Dam Project near Kengkham Village in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South). On completion, the project will be able to supply water for greening Meiktila Plain and generate six megawatts, he said.

He said that the second project is Zawgyi Multi-purpose Dam Project near Indaw Village in Yaksawk Township, adding that the project has been completed and is supplying irrigation water and generating electricity.



Senior General Than Shwe inspects scale model of Yeywa Hydropower Project site. — MNA

together with Samon Diversion Weir, he said.

The fourth project is the construction of Chaungkauk, Lunngin, Letkhok and Nyaunggon dams that will feed water to Meiktila Lake, and they will link with each other through a canal, and all the works are

saying that the government is taking measures for supply of water with the aim of greening Meiktila Plain, boosting production of agricultural produce, and improving the living conditions of local people.

(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects a concrete core used to test quality of main dam of Yeywa Hydropower Project. — MNA



The third project is Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project that will store water from Zawgyi River. Irrigation water will be supplied to Meiktila Plain by means of the canal that will carry water from Myogyi Dam through Myogyi Diversion Weir, he said.

Myogyi Dam is a cost-effective irrigation facility designed to supply water in the most beneficial way

nearing completion, he said.

The fifth project is construction of Shan Ma Nge (Mondaing Support) Dam on Shan Ma Nge Creek in Meiktila Township, he added.

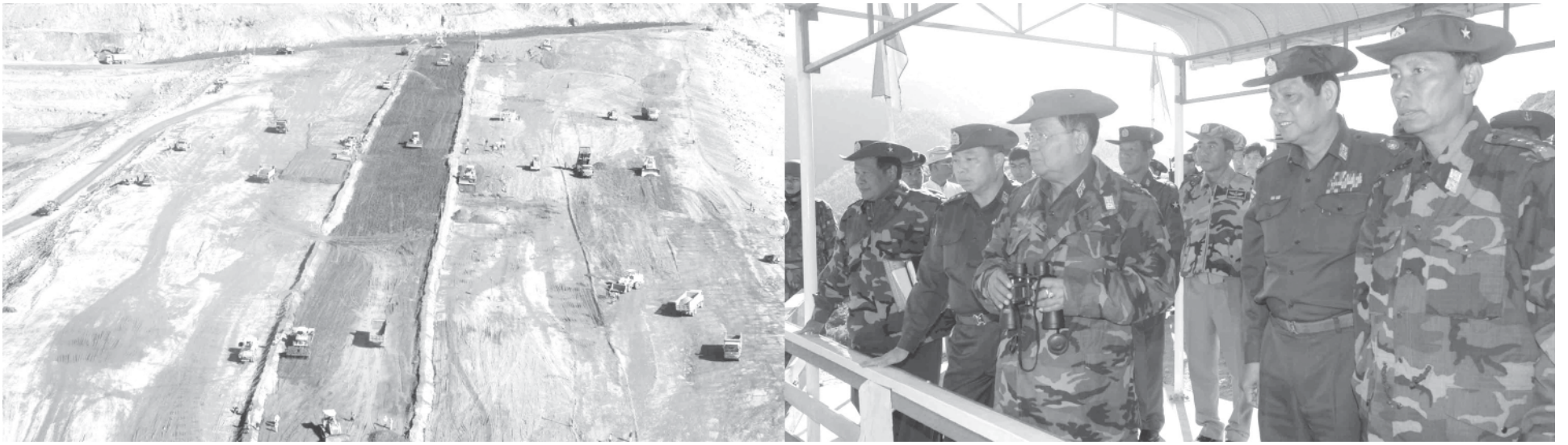
SPDC Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report on progress of the tasks for greening Meiktila Plain.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance,

- * The project for greening Meiktila Plain is Kengkham Multi-purpose Dam Project near Kengkham Village in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South). On completion, the project will be able to supply water for greening Meiktila Plain and generate six megawatts.
- * The Zawgyi Multi-purpose Dam Project near Indaw Village in Yaksawk Township. It has been completed and is supplying irrigation water and generating electricity.
- * The Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project that will store water from Zawgyi River. Irrigation water will be supplied to Meiktila Plain by means of the canal that will carry water from Myogyi Dam through Myogyi Diversion Weir.
- * The construction project of Chaungkauk, Lunngin, Letkhok and Nyaunggon dams will feed water to Meiktila Lake, and they will link with each other through a canal, and all the works are nearing completion.
- * Construction of Shan Ma Nge (Mondaing Supporting) Dam on Shan Ma Nge Creek in Meiktila Township is under way.



Senior General Than Shwe presents fruit basket to Mr Ye Zhiziang, Project Manager of China Gezhouba Group Corporation. MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project in Ywangan Township. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects Myogyi ...

(from page 8)

He said that new projects are being implemented, calling for renovation of old dams in the region for expansion of irrigated areas.

He highlighted the points for officials to work hard for greater progress by recording the numbers of acres of crops grown with rain waters and irrigated acres.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected

on Zawgyi River for storage of water from Zawgyi Dam in Yaksawk Township.

On completion of the project, it can supply more water for greening of Meiktila region and generate 30 megawatts. Over 36 per cent of the project has been completed.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Yeywa hydropower project by helicopter.

The minister also explained completion of diversion tunnel and approach tunnels, construction of intake structure, the main dam, spillways, laying of steel pipelines, construction of power station and progress of work.

Next, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint reported on laying of pipelines and systematic inspection in construction of power station.

The deputy minister said the Senior General had given guidance on exploration of hydro power resources



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project presented by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo. — MNA

completion of embankment and earth work for coffer dam with the use of heavy machinery and observed the flow of water in Zawgyi River.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of the entrance of power intake tunnel and diversion tunnel and its end.

Irrigation Department Construction-7 is implementing the Myogyi multi-purpose dam project

Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min reported on the project. He said the project is being undertaken by No 2 Construction of Hydropower Project Implementation Department. Roller compacted concrete dam, 2,264 feet long and 433 feet high, is being built on Myitnge River.

The 790 megawatts project can generate 3,550 million kilowatt hours yearly.

along Myitnge River. Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported on data of Pyaungsho hydropower project to be implemented on Namtu River (Myitnge River) near Yaydwingyi Village, 32 miles south of Nawnghkio Township in accord in his guidance, survey, findings and preparations.

Next, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on construction of short cut road linking Yeywa hydropower project site and Kyaukse Township and progress of work.

In this connection, Senior General Than Shwe said the project contributes towards the national development and raising the standard of living of the people. He spoke of the need to complete the project systematically as soon as possible.

Senior General Than Shwe presented fruit baskets to consultant engineer Mr Ljubomir Djordjevic of Colenco Power Engineering Ltd, project manager Mr Ye Zhijiang of China Gezhouba Group Corporation and Director U Myint Oo of No 2 Construction of Hydropower Project Implementation Department.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected production of sample concrete core. They observed thermometer, barometer and scale model of Yeywa Hydropower Project. He inspected progress of work on the site and construction of approach tunnel. They then went through the tunnel.

Diversion tunnel No 1 and No 2, laying of concrete of diversion structure and earth work of the switch yard have been completed cent per cent.—MNA



Aerial view of Yeywa Hydropower Project. — MNA

Information Minister attends cash, books, radios donation ceremony in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the cash and books donation ceremony at the office of Pyigyidagun Township on 8 December.

After viewing posters and wall magazines, the minister gave a speech.

The minister accepted cash, books and magazines donated by wellwishers. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Latt of Mandalay Division General Administration Department accepted books, journals and 400 radios from wellwishers.

At the ceremony, the wellwishers donated cash, books and radios worth K 31.55 million for the libraries. Next, the minister met staff of the Ministry of Information in Mandalay Division.

At Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay), Manager of the press Secretary of Mandalay Division Printing Works Supervisory Committee U



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets bookworms reading at the library of ChaungU Township IPRD. — MNA

Toe Kyaw reported on matters related to the press. After hearing the reports, the minister inspected production process and storage of books.

At Sub-printing House (Mandalay) of News and Periodicals Enterprise, the minister inspected tasks of the house and left necessary instructions. At the hall of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise (Upper Myanmar Branch), the minister met staff of Sub-

printing House (Mandalay) and MMPE (Upper Myanmar Branch).

The minister inspected Sagaing District and Myinmu and ChaungU Township IPRDs.

On 10 December, the minister viewed construction of Buddha Wihara Sasana Beikman and paid homage to Hsinmyatshin Pagoda in Pale. Next, he donated exercise books, textbooks, clothes, blankets and K 120,000 to students of

Ngapayin Monastic Education School.

Together with Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn, the minister visited Monywa Township IPRD and MRTV re-transmission station. Later, they paid homage to Laygyun Sekkya Standing Buddha Statute. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash...

(from page 16)

At BEPS in Mange-Alat Village of Twantay Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports by officials on progress in construction of a road to link Hlinethaya-Twantay motor road and Tamatakaw, Hteingon and Wayonseik regions.

He stressed the need for the officials upon timely completion of the road before rainy season to make easy access for the local people and meet the set standards. After greeting the local people, he viewed the completion of Tamatakaw Bridge.

Construction of the 14,756-foot earth road started in 2004 to provide easy access for the locals and at present, the road has completed by 87 per cent.

Upon completion, the road will benefit 5,972 local people in the socio-economic sector. — MNA

Myanmar wins three more gold, one silver and one bronze medals

YANGON, 12 Dec — Myanmar Sports Contingent earned three more gold, one silver and one bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games in Thailand today.

Phone Myint Tayzar claimed one gold medal in the men's 1000-m rowing event, Khin Maung Myint, Phone Myint Tayzar, Yan Paing and Myo Zaw one gold medal in the men's 1000-m rowing event, and Aung Lin, Htoo Htoo, Kyaw Lin

Tun, Saw Law Kail, Kan Shwe, Aung Ko, Ye Aung Soe, Min Min Zaw, Myo Myint Aung, Tun Tun Lin, Saw Ahle Ba Lu and Shwe Than Naing one gold medal in the men's 1000-m traditional boat race.

Win Htike picked up one silver medal in the men's 1000-m canoeing event and the Myanmar women's team one bronze medal in the women's regu game of the Sepak Takraw event. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Government Press (Mandalay). — MNA

Eight villagers injured in mine blast in Loikaw Tsp

YANGON, 12 Dec — Eight villagers were injured as a mine planted by insurgents exploded in Dawpawkale Village in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, today.

The mine planted at the base of pylon No 102 in the village blasted off while U Phya Yae of the village and seven other villagers were clearing the bushes near the

tower. All victims were rushed to Loikaw People's Hospital by the local authorities at 11.30 am.

MNA



Flowers blooming at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

76th anniversary of National Kandawgyi Gardens, 2nd flower festival on 14 Dec in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — The 76th anniversary of the National Kandawgyi Gardens and 2nd flower festival will be held at the garden in PyinOoLwin on 14 December.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the first and largest orchid garden in Myanmar is expected to

open in the garden this year and 3,515 orchid plants of 304 species found in Myanmar and 28,518 orchid plants grown in foreign countries will be shown in the garden.

Research work and hybridization can be carried out in the garden.

At the flower festival, over 5 million flowers of 15 kinds of plants grown

in Myanmar and 65 kinds of plants grown in foreign countries will be shown. About 20,000 of Tulip and Lily flowers from Germany will be displayed at the festival.

Arrangements have been made to entertain the visitors to the festival with songs from 14 to 16 December.

MNA

Images of the Day



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



Elephants Jamilah (L) and Tun walk in their waterproof boots inside the Singapore Zoo on 12 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

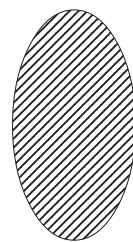


A cat looks after several chicks after the hen was killed at a farm in Amman, Jordan, on 13 May, 2007.

XINHUA



A file photo published on 22 Nov, 2007 shows a piece of lacquer ware said to have been used by the first emperor of the Eastern Han Dynasty (6 B.C.-57A.D.)—XINHUA



A chimpanzee undergoes tests. Young chimpanzees beat human adults in short-term memory tests conducted by Japanese researchers, media reported Tuesday. XINHUA



A Russian worker stands in the Chill Out ice lounge, the first to be opened in the Middle East, in Dubai on 13 August, 2007.

INTERNET

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Dated: 13 December 2007

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Dated: 13 December 2007

Study says diabetes drug Avandia increases heart attack risks

OTTAWA, 11Dec—The popular diabetes medication Avandia increases the risk of heart failure, heart attacks and death in older adults, according to a Canadian study.

The study looked at the glitazone class of drugs, which include rosiglitazone, the pharmaceutical name for Avandia and pioglitazone (sold under the name Actos).

Researchers looked at patients aged 65 years or older who were treated with diabetes medications and then followed them for almost four years, until March 2006.

During this period of time, 7.9 percent of patients made a visit to the hospital for congestive

heart failure, 7.9 percent went to the hospital for a heart attack, and 19 percent died.

The researchers found that, compared to patients taking other diabetes medications, patients taking glitazones (Avandia & Actos) had a 60 percent relative increase in heart failure, a 40 percent relative increase in heart attacks, and a 30 percent relative increase in death.

This translates into an estimated three additional episodes of heart failure, four additional heart attacks and five additional deaths for every 100 individuals taking these drugs, over a four-year period in the older

population. The study comes on the heels of the Food and Drug Administration in the United States deciding to slap a black box label warning on Avandia, telling patients that it may increase the risk of heart attacks.

Co-author of the study Dr David Alter says patients taking Avandia should not panic. "Treatment decisions must remain individualized with doctors and patients weighing the potential harms and benefits of these drugs, especially when used among the elderly who are at higher-risk of cardiac complications," he told reporters.—Internet

British PM calls on private sector to help world's poor

LONDON, 11 Dec—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, in an interview to be published Monday, called on private sector firms to boost economic growth in developing countries and help the UN meet its poverty-reduction goals

by providing their expertise.

In an interview with *The Guardian*, an influential British newspaper, Brown said that ministers have been holding intensive discussions with 20 large multinational companies, including Internet search

giant Google, telecom company Vodafone, investment bank Goldman Sachs and retailer Wal-Mart, in an attempt to find ways of spurring growth in poor countries.

Brown also called for an "action meeting" on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight basic targets to be met by the international community by 2015, at the UN General Assembly in September next year to address what he described as a "development emergency".

"We are half way to the target date of 2015, but a long way off track to our goals and face a development emergency," Brown told *The Guardian*.

The Prime Minister will use three events next year — a London conference involving the private sector early next year, a meeting of the G-8 group in Japan next summer, and the UN General Assembly in September — to reinvigorate the drive to meet the MDGs, set in 2000.

MNA/Xinhua

Don't Smoke

Rocket attack sparks Baghdad refinery fire

BAGHDAD, 11 Dec—A rocket attack sparked a big fire at a domestic oil refinery in southern Baghdad on Monday but the plant was still operating, Iraqi police and officials said.

Firemen were fighting the blaze, which broke out in a storage tank for refined crude at the Doura refinery, sending a large plume of smoke into the sky. Police said the blaze was set off when a *Katyusha* rocket hit the facility at about 6:00 am (0300 GMT). There were no reports of any casualties.

Rockets also hit the Karrada District in central Baghdad and the heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses the Iraqi Parliament, the US Embassy and many government buildings, police said.

"It is believed a rocket landed on one of the storage tanks for refined crude in the Doura refinery," said Oil Ministry spokesman Assim Jihad.

He said the fire had been isolated and was under control.

"They will extinguish it within the next few hours," Jihad said. The Doura refinery receives crude from Iraq's north and south to supply refined oil products to Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters

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One killed, over 40 injured in train accident in India

NEW DELHI, 11 Dec—One person was killed and over 40 passengers were injured when a train derailed in eastern India late Sunday night, officials said Monday.

A body of a pantry worker was recovered from the pantry car early this morning.

The train, which was headed for New Delhi from Guwahati, the capital of the state of Assam, derailed about 15 kilometres from a railway station in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal last night.

The injured, including women and children, were admitted to local hospitals, many of whom have suffered serious injuries. A medical team has been sent to the area.

Two other trains have been cancelled as a result of the accident. It will take another several hours for the tracks to be cleared, railway officer Rabha told the *Indo-Asian News Service*.

Meanwhile, the cause

of the accident is yet to be known. Railway officials did not rule out sabotage. "We have started an inquiry to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Sabotage cannot be ruled out," Rabha said.—MNA/Xinhua

Oil near \$88, eyes modest fed rate cut

LONDON, 11 Dec—Oil hovered near 88 US dollars a barrel on Monday, ahead of an expected cut in interest rates this week by the US Federal Reserve to revive economic growth in top oil consumer the United States. US crude was down 4 cents a barrel to 88.24 US dollars by 1140 GMT. London Brent crude fell 10 cents to 88.54 US dollars a barrel.

Better-than-expected US employment data on Friday reduced the likelihood of an aggressive 50 basis point interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve on Tuesday.

Markets are, as a result, pricing in a quarter-point cut, a factor that helped support the dollar near a one-month high against the yen on Monday. A rally in the US dollar last week helped depress oil prices, which fell to their lowest in six-weeks after coming close to breaking the 100 US dollars mark in November.—MNA/Reuters

China's pioneer nuclear, space scientist honoured

BEIJING, 11 Dec — Qian Xuesen, China's leading pioneer in nuclear and space science, was hailed for his contributions to the development of China's nuclear and space industries at a seminar in his honour on Monday.

The workshop, with the theme "Learning from Qian's example in his innovative thought in research and fostering leading scientists in science and technology",

marked his 96th birthday, to fall on Tuesday.

Delegates honoured his outstanding contribution in fostering students, and called for carrying forward his spirit of patriotism. Qian last week said that fostering leading scientists was a "primary issue" for the nation's future and should be "properly handled", said his secretary and academic assistant, Tu Yuanji.

Tu told the seminar that Qian had a "fairly

good" health, and most of the past year he had stayed at home, "reading something every day while leading a peaceful life". "The problem that most concerns him is that China is in great need of leading scientific personnel," Tu said.

Premier Wen Jiabao visited Qian at his home in July 2005 and August this year, and they discussed proposals on fostering leading scientists.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl looks at a sculpture during the "Christmas symphony" ice sculpture contest, on 9 Dec, 2007 in St.Petersburg. Russia's 25 most multinational companies have more than doubled their foreign assets, sales and number of employees abroad since 2004, according to a survey published on 11 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Baby boom in migrant families in Britain

LONDON, 11 Dec — Britain is facing a baby boom — thanks to the migrant Muslim families from Asia.

This inference can be drawn from figures from the Office for National Statistics which reveal that the birth rate among Pakistani-born women living in Britain is three times higher than that among British-born women.

Of the total 669,531 births last year, 146,956 were to mothers born outside the UK. Among these 25,948 or 3.9 per cent of total births were to mothers born in Pakistan or Bangladesh, while 33,689 or 5 per cent, were to mothers born in Europe.

The figures do not reflect the total number of babies born in Britain's ethnic communities because they exclude those of British-born

second-generation migrants.

And among names, Mohammed has overtaken Jack as Britain's most popular name for baby boys. Last year's ratings showed that Jack remained in first place, chosen for 6,928 babies, but Mohammed — taking into account all of its variant spellings — had overtaken Thomas to lie

in second place with 5,991.

The evidence of a rising birth rate underlines last month's official projections which showed the population on course to rise to 77 million by the middle of the century, or even 91 million at the highest forecast, *The Sunday Telegraph* reported Sunday.

MNA/PTI



Russia successfully launches spy satellite

MOSCOW, 11 Dec — To enhance its military capabilities, Russia Sunday successfully launched a Kosmos series spy satellite from a cos-

modrome leased from Kazakhstan.

A *Proton-M* rocket carrying military satellite took off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, at 5:36 am IST and was successfully placed in the designated orbit at 15:47 hours.

The launch was controlled by the Space Forces' automated ground services, according to the reports. It is the third spy

satellite to be launched since the beginning of 2007.

Simultaneously, Russia is rapidly filling gaps in its orbital cluster of GLONASS global navigational system as the Russian strategic bombers, surface and underwater warships are resuming global patrolling after a gap of 15 years following Soviet collapse.

MNA/PTI

Winter swimmers jump into icy water during early morning at a park in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, on 12 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Plane crash kills three Croats in Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, 11 Dec — Three Croats died when their small plane crashed near the Slovak capital Bratislava on Monday, police said. The *Cessna* aircraft was flying to have a regular mechanical service inspection in Slovakia, Pavel Brath, Bratislava region police chief, told the news

television channel TA3.

The three dead men were the 53-year-old pilot, a 35-year-old flight engineer and a 19-year-old flight student, Brath said, adding they were all from Croatia. Police did not comment on the possible cause of the crash.

MNA/Reuters

Another H5N1 bird flu site found in Poland

WARSAW, 11 Dec — The H5N1 bird flu virus has been found at a new farm in Poland some 2 km (1.2 miles) from a site where it was discovered on Saturday, Agriculture Minister Marek Sawicki said on Monday.

The virus was detected at a farm with about 360,000 birds within a danger zone set up after the previous bird flu discovery. The region

has significant poultry production.

"This is an economic, not a health problem," the minister told a news conference, adding that farmers would get compensation for birds culled because of the virus. Culling began on Sunday of the 110,000 birds at the first site. Polish authorities have said they expect the ban on poultry products from the affected region

to be extended as new centres of infection are found. One of the EU's biggest poultry producers, Poland exported 230,000 tonnes of poultry to European markets last year. — MNA/Reuters

Thick plumes of ash is spewed from Mount Gamkonora in Halmahera island, in North Maluku in July 2007.—INTERNET



SPORTS

Real power into last 16 as group winners

MADRID, 12 Dec — Real Madrid powered their way into the Champions League knockout stage as Group C winners with a confident 3-1 victory over Lazio at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

Quick-fire goals from Julio Baptista and Raul put Real two goals up after just 15 minutes and Robinho added a third before halftime to help the nine-times European champions reach the last 16 for the 11th season in a row.

Their victory was never in serious danger but Lazio striker Goran Pandev grabbed a consolation 10 minutes from time and fellow striker Tommaso Rocchi had a chance to pull another one back in injury time but he fluffed a penalty.

"We played at a high tempo at the start, pushed them hard early on and the goals followed," said Real coach Bernd Schuster. Real ended the group stage level on 11 points with Olympiakos Piraeus but the Spaniards go through as winners thanks to their better record in head-to-heads.—MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Robinho (R) vies with a Lazio's player at the Champions League Group C football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Tuesday. Real Madrid powered their way into the Champions League knockout stage as Group C winners with a confident 3-1 victory over Lazio.—INTERNET

Schalke beat Rosenborg 3-1 to reach last 16

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 12 Dec — Schalke 04 reached the last 16 of the Champions League for the first time when they rediscovered their scoring touch to beat Rosenborg Trondheim 3-1 on Tuesday.

Schalke had managed just two goals in five previous matches in Group B but were soon in command, with Gerald Asamoah and Rafinha putting them 2-0 up by the 19th minute.

Rosenborg needed a draw to clinch a place in the first knockout round and Yssouf Kone's goal gave them renewed hope in the 23rd minute.

But Schalke always looked dangerous and they restored their two-goal cushion with Kevin Kuranyi's accurate shot nine minutes before the break.

Victory for the Germans, who had failed to progress beyond the group phase in two previous appearances in the Champions League, took them through as runners-up behind Chelsea.

"It's fantastic that we've done it at last," coach Mirko Slomka told reporters. "It's a great success for the team and the whole club. I think for tonight we'll forget about the game we've got coming up at the weekend and just enjoy ourselves." —MNA/Reuters

Chelsea unbeaten home run hits 50 after 0-0 draw

LONDON, 12 Dec — Chelsea's unbeaten home run reached the half-century mark on Tuesday when they drew 0-0 with Valencia in an uninspired Champions League Group B game which only the London side showed any interest in winning. The landmark, 50 games at Stamford Bridge in all competitions since February 2006, will be the only thing the match is remembered for as Chelsea, already assured of top spot, enjoyed a one-sided exhibition but went close only late on when they twice hit the woodwork.

Valencia began the night with a slim hope of a UEFA Cup place for finishing third in the group but even that disappeared with Schalke 04's 3-1 win over Rosenborg Trondheim and the Spaniards barely mustered an effort on goal.

Chelsea, with most of their first choice players on show, looked lively enough with some sharp early passing but the competitive edge was missing and the game soon took on the feel of a friendly.

Frank Lampard, who seems destined to play in every match regardless of its importance, was as usual, their most potent threat in the first half.

He forced Santiago Canizares into a flying one-handed save with a 27th-minute shot, then sent a header into the keeper's hands shortly before the break.

The only bright thing about Valencia was their luminous orange shirts and their occasional forays over the halfway line produced only one worthwhile effort, a David Villa shot parried by Petr Cech.

Chelsea appeared more determined to win it in the second half and spent almost all of it on the attack.

Salomon Kalou had the ball in the net but was offside in the 64th minute, then missed a glorious chance 10 minutes later when Claudio Pizarro headed across goal only for the Ivorian striker to sidefoot against the bar from six metres.—MNA/Reuters

Two Chinese players injured in knife attack

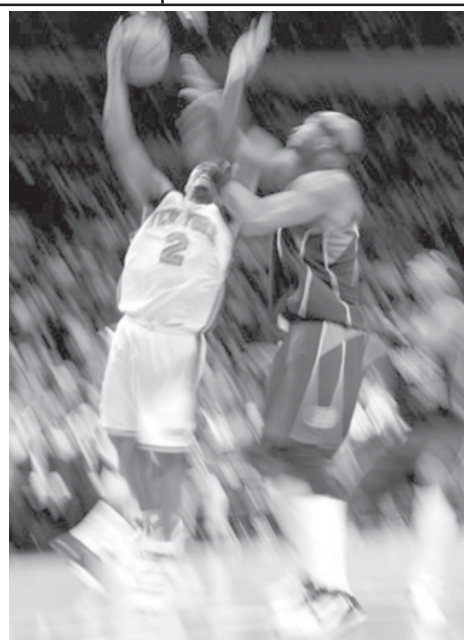
BEIJING, 12 Dec — Chinese police have detained a taxi driver who attacked two young soccer players with a knife after they refused to clean up vomit in his cab after a night out, the *Beijing News* said on Tuesday.

Wang Lin, a 22-year-old former striker from relegated Chinese Super League club Xiamen, was unconscious in hospital in Shenyang, capital of the northeastern province of Liaoning, after surgery for multiple stab wounds.

His friend Cao Chen, a former China youth international, was also injured but has been discharged from hospital.

In September, a court in the southern city of Shenzhen gave jail terms to two men involved in a 2005 knife attack on former China striker Chen Yongqiang.

MNA/Reuters



Fred Jones (L) of New York Knicks shoots during Knicks' NBA game against Dallas Mavericks in New York, the United States, on 10 Dec, 2007. Mavericks won 99-89.—INTERNET

Porto reach Champions League's knockout stage

PORTO (Portugal), 12 Dec — Goals by Lucho Gonzalez and Ricardo Quaresma gave Porto a 2-0 victory over Besiktas and a place in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

Porto's Argentine forward Lisandro Lopez had an effort disallowed for offside after 13 minutes but his side's pressure paid off when they took a controversial lead through compatriot Gonzalez just before halftime.

Besiktas keeper Rustu Recber and his defenders stopped momentarily, expecting an offside decision for a pass into the area, and left the Argentine midfielder to steer the ball into an empty net.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Andriy Shevchenko (C) has a shot saved by Valencia's goalkeeper Santiago Canizares (R) as Luis Miguel watches play during their Champions League Group B soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 11 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Liverpool through with 4-0 win at Marseille

MARSEILLE (France), 12 Dec — Liverpool stormed through to the last 16 of the Champions League with a spectacular 4-0 win at Olympique Marseille in their final Group A match on Tuesday.

Captain Steven Gerrard opened the scoring on four minutes, following up after his penalty was kept out by Marseille goalkeeper Steve Mandanda.

Spain striker Fernando Torres doubled the advantage with a fine solo effort seven minutes later and

Dutch forward Dirk Kuyt made it 3-0 from close range following a poor Mandanda clearance early in the second half. Substitute winger Ryan Babel then wrapped it up in added time. Marseille, who had stunned Liverpool 1-0 at Anfield in October, looked nervous from the kickoff and will have to be content with finishing third in the group and continue in the UEFA Cup.

Marseille, the 1993 European champions, started the match with a perfect 6-0 home record against English clubs in European club competitions but their hopes were short-lived on a cold, windy night.

MNA/Reuters

Thai pair kicked out of SEA Games after failed drugs tests

BANGKOK, 12 Dec — Two Thai athletes have been kicked out of this week's Southeast Asian (SEA) Games after failing out-of-competition drugs tests, a senior official said on Tuesday. Gymnast Panaporn Kosol and field hockey player Surathep Wisawa-thiron tested positive for steroids in the run-up to the Games in Nakhon Ratchasima and have been handed two-year bans, Chattraporn Nanakorn, head of the SEA Games Doping Control Committee, told *Reuters*.

"They failed the tests before the Games and are therefore not allowed to compete," Chattraporn said.—MNA/Reuters

Pakistan test fires cruise missile

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec — Pakistan on Tuesday successfully test fired an indigenously developed cruise missile, according to an Army statement.

The *Hatf-VII* cruise missile is designed with a range of 700 kilometres and has near stealth capabilities, said the statement.

The missile test is part of a continuous process of validating the design parameters set for this weapon system. The cruise missile, belonging to Babur series, is a low flying, terrain hugging missile with high maneuverability, pinpoint accuracy and radar avoidance features.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Tariq Majid, senior military officers, scientists and engineers of the strategic organizations witnessed the test.

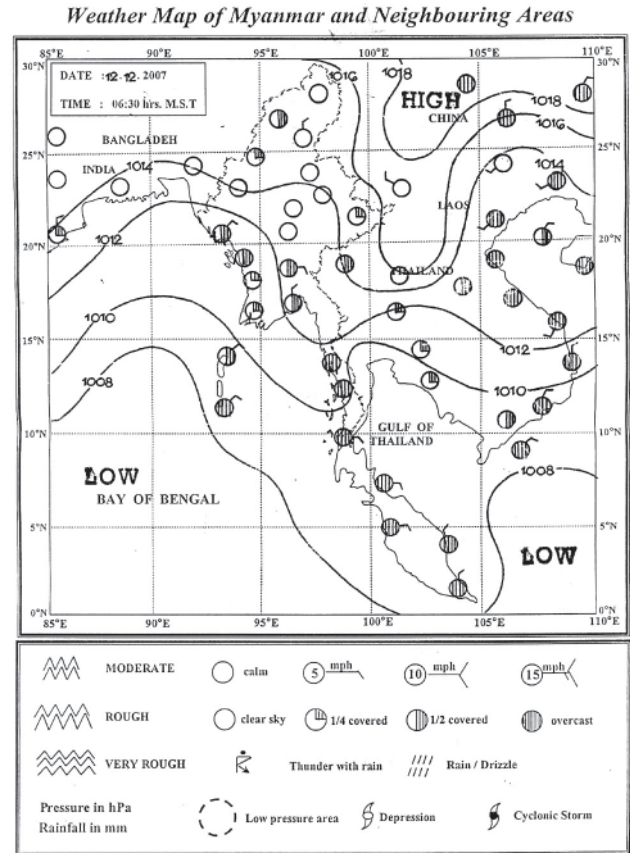
The test will consolidate Pakistan's strategic capability and strengthen national security, according to the

statement.

President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mohammad Mian Soomro have congratulated the scientists and engineers on the success, and assured them of their complete support in the development plans of all strategic projects.

The *Babur Hatf-VII* cruise missile was first tested in 2005. The previous test of this type of cruise missile was conducted in July this year.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 12 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Pinlaung (2°C) Namhsam, Mindat and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 11-12-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 12-12-2007 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 12-12-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 11-12-2007 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 12-12-2007 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 (4) mph from North west at (10:30) hours MST on 11-12-2007.

Bay inference: According to observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over Southwest Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-12-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-12-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-12-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Adviser says Iraq rejects permanent US bases

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec — Iraq will never allow the United States to have permanent military bases on its soil, the government's national security adviser said.

"We need the United States in our war against terrorism, we need them to guard our border sometimes, we need them for economic support and we need them for diplomatic and political support," Mowaffaq al-Rubaie said.

"But I say one thing, permanent forces or bases in Iraq for any foreign forces is a red line that cannot be accepted by any nationalist Iraqi," he told Dubai-based al Arabiya

television in an interview broadcast late on Monday.

His comments were the clearest sign yet that Iraq's leaders are looking ahead to the days when they have full responsibility for its defence. The United States has around 160,000 troops in Iraq, officially under a United Nations mandate enacted after the US-led invasion in 2003.

Iraq formally asked the United Nations on Monday to renew that mandate for a year until

the end of 2008. It made clear it would not extend the mandate beyond next year and the mandate could be revoked sooner at Iraq's request.

US President George W Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki signed a declaration of principles last month agreeing to friendly long-term ties. Arrangements for US troops to stay beyond next year will be negotiated in early 2008.

MNA/Reuters



Thursday, 13 December Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -It's in his kiss
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Here and now
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Tell it to my heart
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Too much
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
- Islands in the stream
- Come to me
- 9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- Natural beauties of Myanmar
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Topics potpourri
- Survey says women check the mirror every half hour
- German has pencil in head removed after 55 years
- 9:30 pm Songs of your choice
- Just the way you are
- If
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Thursday, 13 December View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 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. Dance of national races
- 8:05 am
- 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:15 am
- 7. Dance variety
- 8:20 am
- 8. မိုးယုန်းကြီးရေထိန်းတံခါး
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to Uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (ခေတ်ဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ခေတ်ဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Cute little dancer
- 5:25 pm
- 7. Musical programme

- 5:40 pm
- 8. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:00 pm
- 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 11. မူလန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 6:45 pm
- 12. "သူနဲ့ပဲနေတော့မယ်" (ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ကြူကြူသင်း၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ရွှေဦး(MRTV))
- 6:55 pm
- 13. Musical programme
- 7:10 pm
- 14. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရေသူမလေးတတိယချစ်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူများ" (အပိုင်း-၉)
- 19. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash donation ceremony for Danok Pagoda, inspects construction of road

YANGON, 12 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the third cash donation ceremony for Danok Pagoda in Danok Model Village in Dalla Township this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered alms to Ovadaçariya of the pagoda Shwethuwun Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Saddhira.

Together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 16,027,000 in total donated by wellwishers including K 1 million by Yangon Divi-

sion PDC and K 2 million by servicemen and families of Defence Services (Navy) under the patronage of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein.

The pagoda was built by King Thirimar Thawka of Thaton in the year 240 religious era. At present, renovation tasks are being carried out at the pagoda. (See page 10)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donated by a wellwisher at third ceremony to donate cash to renovate Danok Pagoda in Dalla Township. — MNA

Express buses to run for Yadanabon Teleport, Myanmar ICT Week

YANGON, 12 Dec — The opening of Yadanabon Teleport, Myanmar ICT Week and Kandawgyi Gardens Flower Festival will be held in Yadanabon Myothis of PyinOoLwin District soon.

For ensuring smooth transportation for the people, Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and Mandalay Division All Private Bus Lines Control Committee will run express buses daily from the bus terminal located at the corner of 27th and 83rd streets in Chanayethazan Township beginning from 14 to 21 December.

The fares of express buses will be K 1,500 per head from Mandalay to PyinOoLwin Kandawgyi Gardens, K 1,000 from Mandalay to Yadanabon Myothis and K 500 from Yadanabon Myothis to PyinOoLwin. — MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — The opening ceremony of Yadanabon Teleport and the 6th Myanmar ICT Week 2007 will be held at Yadanabon Teleport (PyinOoLwin) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, from 14 to 20 December. — MNA

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