

## Senior General Than Shwe inspects water resources around PyinOoLwin, PyinOoLwin General Hospital (300-Bed)



*Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe views water storage of Hsinlan Dam. —MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected the site chosen for construction of Pwegauk Dam near Yaythayaukgon Village of PyinOoLwin Township, completion of Hsinlan Dam near Hsinlan Village and PyinOoLwin General Hospital (300-Bed) on 12 December.

Accompanied by SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann and party, the Senior General arrived at the site for construction of Pwegauk Dam Project near Yaythayaukgon Village.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on the location of the dam, aims of the project, facts about the project and the main tasks and implementation of the project task.

The minister also submitted reports on situations of other water resources in the township, task being carried out for supply of water to PyinOoLwin and Yadanabon Myothit. He continued his reports that Hsinlan, Doegwin and Sitha dams have been constructed.

*(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

Sunday, 16 December, 2007

### Protect motherland at risk to lives

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe addressed the graduation parade of the 50th Intake of Defence Services Academy at the parade ground of the DSA in PyinOoLwin on 14 December.

The Senior General in his speech said, "You are to uphold Our Three Main National Causes and abide by the Four Oaths, placing equal value on them as life itself. You are to be successors to the Twelve Traditions of the Tatmadaw. You are to discharge fully the Three Principal Duties of the Tatmadaw. You are to abide by the Soldier's Code of Conduct strictly as if it were the clothes that cover your shame. And while favourable circumstances have been achieved in every aspect and sector in the gentle transition to a true discipline-flourishing democratic State with development, you are to discharge the duties you are assigned, with energy and enthusiasm".

In successive periods, the Tatmadaw has protected and safeguarded the nation and the people constantly, while upholding Our Three Main National Causes. The junior officers will have to shoulder national defence duties, training duties and public welfare services. So, they have to work hard to be endowed with military capability, administrative capability and organizing capability.

Moreover, they also have to make efforts to win trust, respect and reliance of their subordinates. In other words, they must have not only leadership qualities but also talents that are above average.

Furthermore, they have to put the public interests in the fore and observe code of conduct towards the people.

It is believed that the junior officers, triumphant elites of the future, will throw themselves to the building of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, while protecting and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the State—land, waters and airspace in conformity with the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

### Myanmar Orchidologist leaves for Orchid Symposium

YANGON, 14 Dec—At the invitation of Tsukuba Botanical Garden of Japan, an Orchidologist and Myanmar Floriculturist Association Central Executive Committee member Dr Saw Lwin left for Japan yesterday to present a paper on *Wild Orchids of Northern Forest Complex of Myanmar and its Conservation Needs*, at the 3rd International Symposium on Diversity and Conservation of Asia Orchids, at Tsukuba Botanical Garden, National Museum of Nature and Science, from 15 to 17 December.—H

## People's Desire

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

### Minister for Information accepts cash donations for doyen literati

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan yesterday attended the cash donation ceremony organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association under the Ministry of Information to pay respects to doyen literati in commemoration of the 1369 ME Sarsodaw Day, at the meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise (Central Printing Press) on Theinbyu Road, here. The Minister accepted cash donations of the wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Also present on the occasion were the director-general, managing-directors of department and enterprises, officials, the Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, vice-chairmen, members of central executive committee, wellwishers and departmental staff.

At first, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) extended greetings.



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donations from wellwishers for ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati. —MNA

Afterwards, the minister, the MWJA chairman, departmental heads and the MWJA vice-chairman accepted K 17,849,282 and other donations worth K 2 million donated by wellwishers including K 3.6 million by the State Peace and Development Council, K 300,000 by the Ministry of Information and other willwishers.

U Tin Kha

(Tekka-tho Tin Kha), Chairman of Fund Raising Committee and Vice-Chairman-1 of MWJA, spoke words of thanks.

After the meeting, the Minister cordially greeted those present at the ceremony and the wellwishers.—MNA

### Shwe Naing Ngan Journal Vol VI, No 14 available

YANGON, 13 Dec — Shwe Naing Ngan Journal Vol 6 No 14 has been distributed today.

The journal carries articles with titles of "Whom do you represent, Mr Gambari, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi or all parties or the entire people?" written by Mawkyun Soe Myint, "What is your attitude, Mr Pinheiro?" by a journalist, and "Need to prepare" by Dr Khin Maung Nyo. In addition, it features next articles of energy extensive measures of India written by Maung Maung Myint Thein (Institute of Technology), the oldest grandmother Blogger by Kyaw Htay (BAC) and patriotic poem by Nyunt Han (Kyutaw) and other interesting ones.

The journal is available at Sarpay Beikman Bookstall, Hsintaunggyi Publishing House, Tin Soe Publishing House, the bookstall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Panshwepyi Bookstall. The manuscripts can be sent to Shwe Naing Ngan Journal, PPE on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township (Tel-01-382070). — MNA

### Sein Lei Shwe Pyi Journal Vol V, No 1 in circulation

YANGON, 13 Dec — Sein Lei Shwe Pyi Journal Vol V, No 1 has been distributed today.

The journal features articles on import license, Myanma pearl, fishing system, steam-rice, fruits market in Mandalay, Myanmar traditional medicines, housing estate, bird flu, Indian Export, seminars on natural disasters and other interesting ones as well as humors and crimes.

The journal is available at Sarpay Beikman Bookstall, NPE Bookstall and Panshwepyi Bookstall. The manuscripts can be sent to Chief Editor of Sein Lei Shwe Pyi Journal at No 228, PPE on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township (Tel-382070).

MNA

### Book Fair on 29 Dec

YANGON, 13 Dec — The book fair organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will be held to mark the Sarsodaw day in Kandawgyi, here, from 29 December to 6 January 2008. There will be Myanmar book shops, English book shops, rare book shops, various kinds of books and media show-rooms.

Those who wish to take part in book fair are to contact MWJA No 529, Merchant Road, on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman (Ph: 252417, 385273) and Wah Moe Aung Sarpay on the ground floor of Sarpay Beikman building not later than 18 December.

MNA

## Former CIA chiefs to be asked about torture tapes

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec —Former CIA directors George Tenet and Porter Goss will be asked to testify in a probe of the spy agency's destruction of interrogation video-tapes of suspected terrorists, top lawmakers said on Wednesday.

The Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee and the panel's top Republican described Tenet and Goss as key figures in the expanding congressional investigation into a possible cover-up of harsh techniques widely condemned as torture.

CIA Director Michael Hayden, who testified before the House panel a day after appearing before

its Senate counterpart, reiterated that he had limited knowledge about the matter and said the agency could have kept Congress better informed about its activities.

The videotapes were made in 2002 while Tenet was director, and destroyed in 2005 when Goss was at the helm. Hayden took over in

2006. Many countries, US lawmakers and human rights groups have accused US security services of torturing terrorism suspects since the 2001 attacks, including using a method known as waterboarding, which amounts to simulated drowning.

MNA/Reuters



## Thousands of UK security staff working illegally

LONDON, 14 Dec—More than 6,600 security industry employees in Britain do not have the right to work here, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said on Thursday.

Smith told Parliament she had ordered checks by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) on the status of 39,885 workers from Europe who received security licences.

As a result, she said: "BIA believes that 6,653 do not have the right to work in this country. In 4,447 other cases, the BIA is not satisfied that the individual has proved the right to work."

Her statement followed accusations her department had covered up a blunder over security clearances for illegal migrant workers.

It emerged last month that thousands of them could have been cleared

to work as security guards —some even at government facilities.

The SIA will write to all of those individuals to advise them that it is "minded to revoke their licence", Smith said.

In addition, she said, the BIA will screen the individuals against the police national computer to target any who may pose a risk to the public.

MNA/Reuters



Sculptor Tolek Zen from Poland works at his sculpture entitled 'Temple of Poseidon' in Rovershagen, northern Germany, on 14 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) and his Belarussian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko inspect the honour guard during a meeting in Minsk on 14 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

## Russia slams London over British Council row

Moscow, 15 Dec—Britain's statements in a row over the closure of British Council offices in Russia are provocative and will only make the situation worse, *Interfax* quoted a senior Foreign Ministry source as saying on Thursday.

British officials have said Moscow's order to close British Council's offices outside the Russian capital is illegal. Russia said the Council's regional offices had not been properly registered. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the ban was totally unacceptable and demanded Moscow reverse its decision.

"Statements about intentions not to abide by the decision of the Russian authorities are provocative and can only make the situation worse," *Interfax* news agency quoted the Foreign Ministry source as saying. —MNA/Reuters

*Environmental activists — dressed as polar bears —shout slogans during a demonstration outside the venue for the UN Climate Change Conference in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.*  
INTERNET

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Ban appreciates China's attitude on climate change

BALI (Indonesia), 15 Dec—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said here Thursday that China's position on climate change is constructive and China has sent a positive signal to the world.

The Secretary-General said he held a "very constructive" telephone conversation with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on climate change before coming to Bali for the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The Chinese delegation has been active in the UN conference, said the UN chief while meeting with Xie Zhenhua, deputy head of China's National Development and Reform Commission. —MNA/Xinhua

### Two Koreas talk on fishing zone in disputed waters

PANMUNJOM (South Korea), 14 Dec — Military officials from the two Koreas held talks on Wednesday to resolve differences over a joint fishing zone in disputed Yellow Sea waters, seen as a key step towards reconciliation.

The latest talks are taking place between top generals from the two countries on the South's side of a joint truce village set up in the Demilitarized Zone buffer that has divided the two since a ceasefire ended the 1950-1953 Korean War.

The generals agreed to expand the hours their military border would be open for the daily passage for workers and tourists, and to allow the use of the Internet and telephone lines across the border beginning next year. — MNA/Reuters



*India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) shakes hands with Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Sayyid Fahad Mahmood Al-Said before their meeting in New Delhi on 14 Dec, 2007. Fahad is on a five-day state visit to India.—INTERNET*

### JK Rowling magic tales fetch 1.95m pounds

LONDON, 14 Dec — A hand-written, illustrated book of wizardry by Harry Potter author JK Rowling fetched a record 1.95 million pounds (3.98 million US dollars) at auction in London on Thursday, nearly 40 times its expected price.

“The Tales of Beedle the Bard” had been expected to go for up to 50,000 pounds at the Sotheby's sale. The buyer was from London dealer Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox, the auctioneer said.

“There was applause when it reached one million and more when it finished,” a Sotheby's spokesman said. “Bidding lasted about 10 minutes with four or five bidders in the room and the same number on the phones.”

The price is the highest ever achieved at auction for a modern literary manuscript, an auction record for a work by JK Rowling, and an auction record for a children's book. — MNA/Reuters

### Wild snow leopard captured after killing 50 sheep

XINING, 14 Dec — A wild snow leopard that killed 50 sheep has been captured and put in a zoo in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

The big cat haunted the Qijia village, Gonghe county of the province, and attacked the sheep before angry villagers finally decided to hunt it.

They chased the leopard on motorcycles and roped the beast after lengthy fight.

When villagers were told that the wild snow leopard they had snared was under first class protection along with the panda, they decided to hand it to the Xining Zoo in the capital city of the province rather than kill it.

“The animal, aged five or six, was caught alive by the villagers only because it had been without food for several days and was weak,” said Xu Shuren, head of the zoo and expert on wild animal protection.

There are believed to be between 5,000 and 7,500 snow leopards left in the wild and around 500 in captivity, mainly in Asia.

Qinghai had an estimated 900 to 1,200 wild snow leopards, Xu said.

The demand for snow leopard pelts in some countries had led to a great drop their numbers.

MNA/Xinhua

## Argentina calls US cash probe a “dirty trick”

BUENOS AIRES, 14 Dec— Argentina said on Thursday the US Government pulled a “dirty trick” by accusing Venezuela of trying to smuggle 800,000 US dollars into Argentina to fund the former first lady's successful campaign for president.

US authorities arrested three Venezuelans and an Uruguayan they accused of trying to cover up a scandal set off in August when a Venezuelan-American businessman tried to enter Argentina with a suitcase full of undeclared cash.

Argentine Customs agents seized the money and let Guido Antonini Wilson, a US and

Venezuelan citizen, go, but an FBI affidavit said Venezuelan agents met him after he returned home to Florida to pressure him to conceal Caracas' role.

Argentine Justice

Minister Anibal Fernandez said the US probe was aimed at “smearing” President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, an ally of Venezuela's leftist leader Hugo Chavez.

MNA/Reuters



*Ksenia Sukhinova, 20, smiles after she was named as the winner of 'Miss Russia' beauty contest in Moscow, on 14 Dec, 2007. According to organizers, Sukhinova will represent Russia at the 'Miss World' contest next year.—INTERNET*

*Local residents wade through a flooded street in downtown Kota Bharu, Malaysia, on 14 Dec, 2007.*

INTERNET

### Norway oil spill contained, raises Arctic fears

OSLO, 14 Dec — Favourable winds were set to keep a 23-square-kilometre oil slick from reaching the Norwegian

shore on Thursday although rough seas hampered a clean-up operation, energy group StatoilHydro said.

The accident has stirred debate about the risks of opening up new areas of Norwegian waters for oil and gas exploration, especially in the Arctic where similar spills would have bigger impact.

Norway's second biggest ever spill of some 25,000 barrels of oil occurred on Wednesday during loading onto a tanker at StatoilHydro's Statfjord field. The spillage is about a tenth of the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker disaster off Alaska.

“The slick is not very visible (from aircraft above) which indicates that it is probably dissolving as we expected,” StatoilHydro spokesman Vegar Stokset said.

StatoilHydro's calculations have suggested the slick would dissolve at sea. It is some 200 kilometres (124 miles) from shore and moving north-east, roughly parallel to the coastline.

MNA/Reuters



### South China restaurant blaze kills ten

BEIJING, 14 Dec — A fire at a restaurant in southern China killed 10 people and injured nine hours after fire-fighters doused a blaze that killed 21 in the east China, state media reported on Thursday.

The fire on Wednesday afternoon at Mingdian Western-style Restaurant in Zhangmutou, in the southern province of Guangdong, spread more than 400 square metres before being put out, Xinhua news agency said.

Police were investigating. Most of the victims were elderly people doing morning exercise.—MNA/Reuters

## Syria, Iran build joint car, cement factories

DAMASCUS, 15 Dec — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Thursday inaugurated two joint car and cement factories with Iran, stressing that the relations between the two countries “would not be shaken for any reason”.

The two joint projects in Syria include a car plant of 50 million US dollars near the city of Homs, about 160 kilometres north

of Damascus, and a cement factory with yearly output of 1.1 million tons on the outskirts of Hama, some 200 kilometres north of Damascus, according to Syria’s official SANA news agency.

Visiting Iranian Minister of Industry and Mine Ali Akbar Mehrabian and Minister of Housing and Urban Development Mohammad Saeedi Kia

accompanied President Assad to open the joint ventures.

“Opening the plant with the participation of the Iranian officials is a response to those who tried to circulate ... that relations between the two countries have been shaken,” Assad was quoted as saying at the auto factory in Hasya near Homs. “I confirm, on this occasion, that relations will not be shaken for any reason or under any circumstance,” Assad said, adding that “they’re another cornerstone of our strategic ties”.

MNA/Xinhua



People use computers in an Internet cafe in Xichang, Southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 14 Nov, 2007.  
INTERNET

## US’ import penalties new problem for WTO pact

GENEVA, 14 Dec — The United States squared off against other World Trade Organization members on Wednesday over its use of import penalties, an issue diplomats see as the latest obstacle to a new global trade deal.

WTO judges have repeatedly struck down the US method of calculating anti-dumping duties — known as “zeroing” — as contrary to international trade rules, because it results in higher-than-merited charges on goods entering the United States.

But Washington says the practice is allowable under current global trade rules, penned in the 1994 Uruguay Round accord, and has signalled that any agreement emerging from

the six-year-old Doha Round of talks must recognise its validity.

“It is a very serious issue,” US Ambassador to the WTO Peter Allegeier said after a heated negotiating session at the trade body’s Geneva headquarters. He has previously said the United States “cannot envisage an outcome to the negotiations without addressing zeroing”.

A draft text circulated last month by Uruguayan ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmes, who chairs the WTO’s “rules” talks, made room for the use of zeroing in some circumstances, in what was widely regarded as a concession to Washington.

MNA/Reuters

## Nepal introduces dairy policy

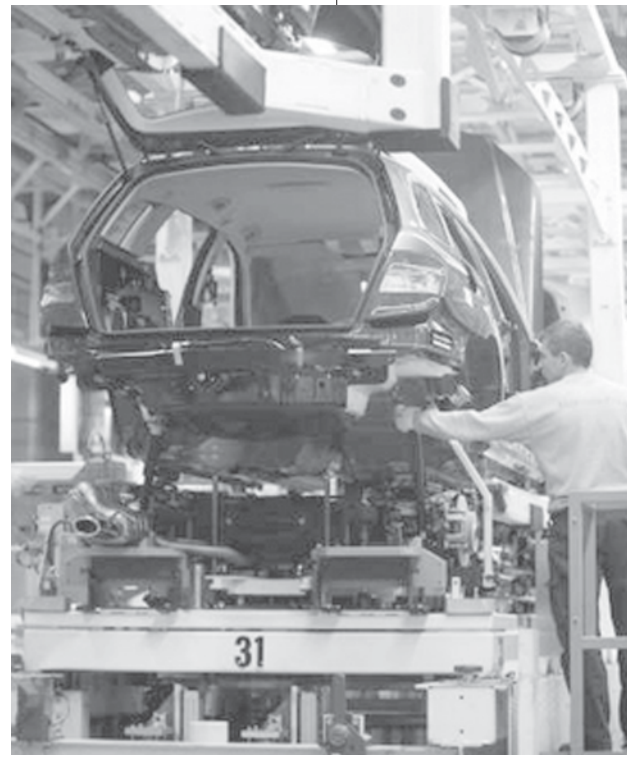
KATHMANDU, 15 Dec — The Nepali Government has introduced a dairy policy for commercialization of dairy production and to increase competitiveness in this sector, according to Friday’s *The Kathmandu Post*.

Under the policy, the government is adopting an open market policy for fixing of prices for dairy products as well as extension of dairy collection centres and processing plants in different parts of the country, the newspapers

said. Presenting the dairy policy formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Hari Dahal, spokesperson of the ministry, said that the policy is aimed at increasing production and productivity of milk in rural parts of the country.

“Dairy production will be taken as an initiative to reduce poverty in the rural parts of the country by providing a market for the milk produced there” Dahal was quoted by the daily as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian scientist working on an Optical Profiling System microscope at a nanotechnology laboratory in Bangalore. India is hoping nanotechnology could provide a new thrust to its booming economy and to become a world leader in a market expected to be worth one-trillion dollars by 2015.—INTERNET



Workers of the Mercedes-Benz car factory in Bremen in northern Germany perform the so-called marriage between the chassis and the body of a C Class estate car, on 14 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

## UAE bans import of birds from Poland

ABU DHABI, 15 Dec — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Thursday imposed a ban on imports of all kinds of birds from central Poland’s Mazowieckie Province, the official *Emirates News Agency* reported.

Mohammed Saeed Al Kindi, Minister of Environment and Waters, issued the ban order as a precautionary measure following reports by the World Organization for Animal Health on the emergence of bird flu cases in Mazowieckie.

The ban covered “all domestic and wild birds, including ornamental birds, and their products”, according to the report.

Poland’s veterinary department announced on 1 December that two turkeys from a poultry farm in Mazowieckie have tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu. After that, several new cases of bird flu were detected in the same province.

MNA/Xinhua

## ECONOMIC NEWS

### US crude oil rises over \$4 on inventories

NEW YORK, 15 Dec — US crude-oil futures climbed more than four US dollars on Wednesday

to close above 94 dollars a barrel after data showed US crude inventories dropped for a fourth straight week and five world’s top central banks said they were ready to inject cash into the money markets.

Crude oil for January delivery closed up 4.37 dollars at 94.39 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest closing price since 28 November. The price surged to an intraday high of 94.85 dollars earlier. Oil have been sliding eight out of 13 trading days since it hit a record high closing of 98.18 dollars on 23 November.

MNA/Xinhua

## UK Army loses ‘battalion’ a year to illegal drugs

LONDON, 15 Dec — The British Army, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, is losing the equivalent resources of more than one battalion (500-600 soldiers) a year as a result of illegal drug use, researchers said on Friday.

This was more than the number of fatalities and serious casualties in both conflicts and may be a reflection of combat stress, the Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit said.

Analysis of figures from the Ministry of Defence by the body, which was published in the Journal of the Royal United Services Institute, found there had been a four-fold increase in soldiers testing positive for cocaine. It said figures showed positive tests for illegal substances in the British Army rose to 769 in 2006 from nearly 520 in 2003. The unit said this was the equivalent of losing more than one

battalion a year to drug use. The MOD said drug taking in the Army was not wide-spread. But, Professor Sheila Bird, a senior scientist at the unit, warned the trend could be on rise.

“What is worrying from our study ... is the sharp increase in the proportion of soldiers testing positive for cocaine, a sharper increase than in 16-24 year olds in society at large,” she said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



Fireworks light up the sky over a Christmas tree in Athens on 13 Dec, 2007. Latvian authorities have given residents something to cheer about when they invited them to cut their own Christmas trees for free — only to be chased away by forest rangers.—INTERNET

## China plans concerted effort on human trafficking

BEIJING, 15 Dec — China said Thursday that 28 government ministries would make a concerted effort to halt human trafficking in China and neighbouring countries.

The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) said in a notice on its website that the government would release anti-trafficking measures in the first five-year (2008-2012) national plan for curbing trade in humans, particularly women and children.

The ministry said, without elaborating, that

the plan would include preventive measures, crackdown policies, victims’ aid, repatriation and rehabilitation, and international and regional cooperation.

As part of its anti-trafficking effort, the ministry is hosting a vice ministerial-level Mekong regional meeting Friday.

The meeting involves Cambodia, China, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, countries where human trafficking has become more commonplace in recent years.

MNA/Xinhua

## Australian Co begins biofuel production in Zambia

LUSAKA, 15 Dec — An Australian company Oval Biofuels has begun the production of bio-diesel in Lusaka, Biofuels Association of Zambia director Bruno Chisambo said.

In an interview Wednesday, Chisambo said the Oval Biofuels started bio-diesel production two weeks ago and is producing 3,000 liters of bio-diesel per day, *The Post* reported on Wednesday.

“Already we have some companies that have set up refineries, have set up bio-diesel plants in Lusaka,” he said. “Oval Biofuels Limited for instance have set up a refinery and they are producing 3,000 litres of bio-diesel per day and they are in Lusaka, it’s an Australian company.”

Chisambo said Oval biofuels was using soya beans to produce bio- diesel.

“They are not using jatropha, but they are using soya beans as an energy crop but eventually they will be using jatropha when it is available in masses as feed stock,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua



Dancers from the Russian State Ballet Troupe perform ‘Swan Lake’ in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 14 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

## Twelve dead as mortars hit Mogadishu market

MOGADISHU, 15 Dec — At least twelve people were killed and almost 45 wounded as mortars showered in a number of locations in Mogadishu’s main Bakara market, medics and witnesses said Thursday.

“I saw four dead people after two mortars fell in the market and nearly five wounded lying in pool of blood,” Mohamed Gurey, a salesman in Bakara market, told *Xinhua*.

Dr Hassan Osman

of Mogadishu’s main Median hospital said that two people died at the hospital and nearly 45 wounded people were brought to the hospital in less than an hour.

MNA/Xinhua

**Drive safely**

## US Marine convicted in death of Iraqi soldier

CAMP PENDLETON, 15 Dec — A US Marine was convicted of negligent homicide on Thursday in the 2006 stabbing death of an Iraqi soldier, but cleared of the more serious charge of unpremeditated murder.

Lance Corporal Delano V. Holmes, a 22-year-old reservist from Indianapolis, Indiana, was expected to face a maximum of eight years in the brig. If convicted of the more serious charge, he could have faced life behind bars.

A sentencing hearing for Holmes, who was the first Marine charged with murdering an Iraqi soldier during the Iraq war, began at Camp Pendleton, California, after the verdict was returned by a military jury. — MNA/Reuters

## Trolley trains collide in Boston, nine injured

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec — At least nine were reported injured after two trolley trains collided in Boston of Massachusetts during rush hours on Thursday morning, a CNN report said.

Some more passengers complained of neck and back pain and emergency crew were responding to the scene to take the injured to hospital, according to the report.

Transit officials said that the crash took place around 8 am when one MBTA Green Line trolley rear-ended another and one of the cars became derailed upon impact. The scene was still undergoing cleaning as crew were working to get the derailed car back on track, it added. — MNA/Xinhua

## Five injured in helicopter crash in Peruvian jungle

LIMA, 15 Dec — A helicopter rented by an oil company crashed on Thursday in Peru’s Amazon jungle area, leaving five people injured, police said.

The accident occurred near Curaray River close to the border with Ecuador, some 1,500 kilometres northwest of capital Lima.

Preliminary investigation showed the helicopter, which was rented by Barrick oil enterprise, had five people aboard, including three passengers and two crew members. The injured have been transferred to hospital for medical treatment. Police said they are investigating the accident. — MNA/Xinhua

## Russia accuses Britain of worsening ties

MOSCOW, 15 Dec — Russia accused Britain of a systematic effort to worsen diplomatic ties on Friday after the British Government rejected an order from Moscow to scale back the presence of its cultural arm.

The row over the British Council's regional offices in Russia has done new damage to relations reeling from a dispute over the murder in London of Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko.

Russia's Foreign Ministry this week said the Council, which promotes

British culture abroad, must halt work at its two offices outside Moscow, saying they were illegal. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that was unacceptable.

"Britain has embarked on a programme of systematic deterioration of our bilateral relations, expelled Russian diplomats, ceased all cooperative contact with the FSB (Russian state security service), meaning any and all counter-terrorism cooperation," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov told a news briefing.

"The British side has frozen discussion on improving the visa system which has the utmost importance in the development of relations between our two countries," Lavrov said.

Britain said in July it was scaling back cooperation with Russia as a retaliatory measure over Moscow's refusal to extradite the main suspect in the 2006 murder of Litvinenko, a former Russian intelligence agent. — MNA/Reuters

## Nigerian anti-drug agency arrests 200 drug dealers

LAGOS, 15 Dec — The Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested about 200 suspected drug dealers in central Nigeria's Nasarawa State.

NDLEA Commander Fred Ezeora announced the arrests Wednesday in Lafia, capital city of the state, at a workshop organized by the National Association of Patent Medicine Dealers and the agency, according to a

report by the *News Agency of Nigeria*.

The workshop was on "compliance with the law on sale, handling and distribution of psychotropic substances".

Ezeora said, "We have prosecuted two persons, out of the 200 and both have been sentenced to five years in prison with hard labor and without option of fine."

He said there was need for the patent

medicine dealers and other participants that dealt with health matters at primary level to be knowledgeable on the laws guiding the conduct of their businesses.

"As stakeholders in the health care delivery sector, it is very important that you have a working knowledge of the provisions of the laws governing your trade, so that you are better guided as drug vendors," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## US consumer inflation rises at fastest pace in 2 years

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec — US consumer prices surged 0.8 per cent in November, the fastest pace in over two years, reflecting sharply higher energy prices, the Labour Department reported Friday.

The 0.8-per-cent gain in the department's consumer price index, a

measure of inflation at retail level, was higher than the 0.6-per-cent increase expected by analysts. In November, energy prices increased 5.7 per cent, with gasoline costs surging 9.3 per cent, the biggest increase since May. Food prices, meanwhile, rose 0.3 per cent.

Excluding volatile energy and food, core consumer prices rose by 0.3 per cent in November, biggest rise since January. So far this year, consumer prices are rising at an annual rate of 4.3 per cent. That compares with an increase of 2.5 per cent for all of 2006.

MNA/Xinhua



Lakshmi, 2, center, sits in her father's lap as her brother, right, looks on before she was discharged from the Sparsha Hospital in Bangalore, India, on 15 Dec, 2007. Lakshmi, an Indian girl born with four arms and four legs was discharged from the hospital after a successful operation where doctors removed her extra limbs.—INTERNET

## Philippine Army pushes for tougher security laws

MANILA, 15 Dec — The Philippine Army is pushing for tougher laws to help crush nearly 40 years of Communist rebellion, favouring legislation similar to the internal security acts enforced elsewhere in Southeast Asia, the military chief said on Friday.

General Hermogenes Esperon said the Philippines had a weak legal system that allowed Communists and other dissident groups to take advantage of the democratic space.

"We need a kind of law that would approximate the internal security acts of other countries who have availed of this tool in defeating insurgencies in their homeland," Esperon told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

## Hino says Indonesia is biggest market outside Japan

JAKARTA, 15 Dec — Japanese truck and bus manufacturer Hino Motors Ltd said Thursday its first-half sales in Indonesia had surpassed those in Thailand to become the largest market outside Japan.

Indonesia is expected to end 2007 as Hino's largest overseas market with estimated full year sales of 8,200 units to grab 15.5 per cent of the market share in the segment, said Toshiro Mizutani, president director of local subsidiary PT Hino Motos Sales Indonesia (HMSI).

The company also said overseas sales will for the first time ever beat domestic sales this year.

"The sales composition used to be 60 per cent domestic and 40 per cent export, but this year it comes to the opposite with export 60

per cent and domestic 40 per cent," visiting Hino Motors Ltd. vice president Shimchico Sugisaki was

quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Bedouins prepare with their camels for the annual desert camels' race in Wadi Rum, Jordan.—INTERNET

## Nepal, Qatar agree to implement labour pact

KATHMANDU, 15 Dec — Nepal and Qatar have agreed to sign an addendum protocol of a bilateral labour pact reached some three years ago to bring the accord into practice at an earliest, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Friday.

According to the daily, a five-member delegation led by Abdul Rahaman Mohammed Al-Khulaisi, joint secretary at the Qatari Labour Ministry held discussions with the senior officials at Nepali Ministry of Labour and Transport Management here on Thursday.

"The meeting agreed to implement the bilateral labour pact after signing of the addendum protocol for which a Nepali official delegation has been invited to Doha, Qatar," the newspaper said.

Qatar has recently emerged as the most popular destination among Nepalis and has already employed over 150,000 Nepali workers.

During the first four months of the current fiscal year, a total of 26,732 Nepali workers are working in Qatar. This Gulf country has recently overtaken Malaysia as the most popular destination for Nepali jobseekers among the Gulf countries. — MNA/Xinhua



Senior General Than Shwe inspects the Pwegauk Dam Project.— MNA

**The 665 feet long and 92 feet high Hsinlan dam now supplies water to PyinOoLwin. The capacity of water at full brim is 5,600 acre feet. Arrangements are being made for more supply of water to PyinOoLwin and Yadanabon Myothit.**

### Senior General Than Shwe inspects water...

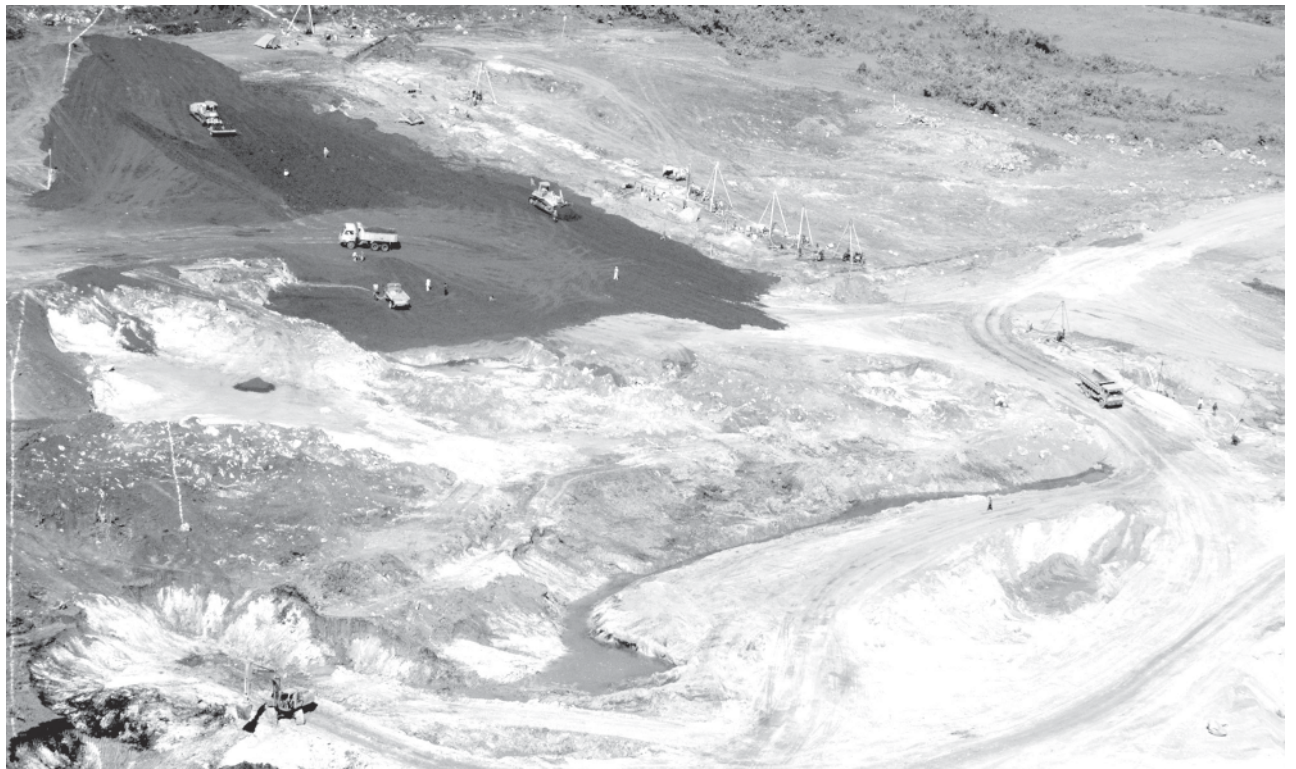
*(from page 1)*

Feasibility studies are being conducted for implementation of Hsinlan-2, Pyinsar, Twinnge and Dattawchaung dams projects. Pwegauk Dam Project is being implemented.

The minister said that the already-completed Hsinlan Dam can supply water to PyinOoLwin and it has capacity to extend supply of one more million gallons of water a day. If the embankment of the dam will be strengthened with six more feet high, the dam can store more water for PyinOoLwin. If Hsinlan-2 will be constructed in the downstream area of Hsinlan Dam, the supply of water can be undertaken not only for PyinOoLwin region but also for Mandalay. Hence, the feasibility study is being conducted for the dam project. In addition, Hsinlan-2 Dam can supply water to Dattawchaung Dam to be able to contribute toward the water supply task for Mandalay. As such, the survey tasks are being undertaken for implementation of Dattawchaung Dam, two miles northeast of Ohnchaw Village in Patheingyi Township.

Next, the Senior General heard reports on water supply task of PyinOoLwin, Yadanabon Myothit and Mandalay.

SPDC member Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Chairman



of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe gave supplementary reports on supply of water to Mandalay and PyinOoLwin.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to build Pwegauk and Hsinlan dams six more feet high to fully supply water to PyinOoLwin, to implement Pyinsar

Dam for supplying water to Yadanabon Myothit and to conduct feasibility studies for implementation of the Mandalay Water Supply Project by building Hsinlan-2 and Dattawchaung Dams.

Afterwards, they inspected progress in implementing Pwegauk Dam Project.

*(See page 9)*



Senior General Than Shwe and party visit General Hospital (300-bed) in PyinOoLwin.— MNA



## Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 8)

Pwegauk and Pyinsar Dams to be built and already-built Sitha, Hsinlan and Doekwin Dams will supply water to farmlands and to Yadanabon Myothit and training schools.

Hsinlan-2 Dam and Dattawchaung Dam Projects are the supporting ones for supply of water to Mandalay. Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Pwegauk Dam and inspected storage of water in the dam.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on the dam. He said Hsinlan Dam was built on Hsinlan Creek north of Hsinlan Village in PyinOoLwin Township.

The 665 feet long and



Extended buildings of PyinOoLwin General Hospital (300-bed) in PyinOoLwin.—MNA

92 feet high earth dam now supplies water to PyinOoLwin. The capacity of water at full brim is 5,600 acre feet. Arrangements are being made for more supply of water to PyinOoLwin and Yadanabon Myothit.

Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary guidance and inspected the work under way.

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to 300-bed PyinOoLwin General Hospital where they were welcomed by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe, departmental officials, the medical superintendent and doctors.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said the 100-bed

hospital was upgraded to 200-bed facility under the guidance of the Senior General during his inspection tour in December 2004, laboratories, X-Ray room and operation theatres are now in operation. The 200-bed hospital was upgraded to the 300-bed one, he added.

Since PyinOoLwin is a hill station, the hospital is

being built as a medical resort centre for patients to undergo treatment during relaxation. Altogether 21 kinds of subjects are being taught at the hospital.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on providing hospital equipment and medicines and appointment of technicians, treatment and making arrangements for

greening of the hospital and its environs.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected special ward and visited cardiac patients.

They also inspected construction of extension wards, X-Ray room, installation of equipment, diagnosis unit, operation theatre and intensive care unit.—MNA

## National Landmark Gardens, National Kandawgyi Gardens, flower festival, orchid garden packed with visitors

YANGON, 15 Dec — People visited the celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the National Landmark Gardens in

PwinOoLwin and that of the 76th anniversary of National Kandawgyi Gardens being staged by the Ministry of Forestry and the second flower festival and international level orchid garden at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin today, a holiday.

People took rest at the National Kandawgyi Gardens and holiday-makers took photos near the designs of snow balls

and birds decorated with various kinds of flowers and, water fountains in the gardens.

In addition, flower lovers and visitors from abroad and at home enjoyed scenic beauty of the designs of Nanmyint Tower and Brahminy ducks decorated with various species of domestic and foreign flowers and flower pots at the second flower festival.

At the international level orchid garden, various kinds of rare domestic orchids as well as variety of foreign orchids were displayed, and they gave pleasure and

knowledge to the visitors.

At the National Landmark Gardens, visitors who are interested in studying honourable landmarks representing States and Divisions and music lovers enjoying entertainment of Emperor Band in front of the gardens crowded the place.

Popular vocalists entertained to the visitors near Nanmyint Tower in the National Kandawgyi Gardens. Those in search of rest and recreation will be presented with entertainment programmes from 1 pm to 6 pm until 16 December.—MNA



Holiday-makers visit 2nd Flower Festival to mark 1st Anniversary of National Landmark Gardens and 76th Anniversary of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.—MNA



# Information Minister presents cash and gifts to doyen literati



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and attendees paying respects to doyen literati.—MNA

YANGON, 15 Dec — Organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalist Association, the ceremony to pay respects to the doyen literati in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day-1369 ME was held at the City Hall, here, this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, departmental officials, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and vice-chairmen, secretary and executives, wellwishers and guests.

First, Secretary of MWJA Dr Tin Tun Oo read out the message of the MWJA Chairman, Joint-Secretary U Than Hlaing (Tekkatho Thinkha), the names of the doyen literati and Treasurer Police Col Khin Maung Tun (Retd) (Khin Maung Tun-Lanmadaw), names of the wellwishers.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, the vice-

mayor and those present paid respects to the doyen literati and the minister greeted them.

The minister presented K 30000 each donated by the State Peace and Development Council and K 90000 each donated by MWJA totaling K 120, 000 each and gifts to the doyen literati. The vice-mayor, departmental officials and executives of MWJA also presented cash and kind to the doyen literati.

Next, Joint-Secretary-2 U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) spoke words of thanks and the meeting came to an end.

A total of 120 doyen literati who are 80 years and above were invited this year and 73 doyen literati attended the ceremony. —MNA

**Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets a doyen writer.**  
MNA



## Coordination meeting on prevention of human infection of birdflu at border areas held

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—A coordination meeting on prevention of human infection of birdflu at border areas was held at the meeting hall of Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana General Hospital (200-bed) this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

In his address, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo said that at present altogether 61 countries are being struck by an outbreak of bird flu, adding that over 300 people in 12 nations were infected with the zoonosis, leaving over 200 people dead.

He went on to say that priority is to be given to the prevention of bird flu virus strain as mortality rate is much higher than that caused by SARS. He said that the government has been implementing plans for control of avian influenza and human influenza since 2004, and urged those responsible to take effective measures in the fight against the pandemic, drawing lessons from the past when SARS broke out.

Next, the deputy minister dealt with matters

on outbreak of bird flu in the nation, which is now under control thanks to concerted efforts, a child infected with bird flu in Kengtung Township and officials being able to control the virus strain from infecting others, and thanked to those who were engaged in the fight against the pandemic.

After that, the deputy minister stressed the need for the respective state and division health departments to draw and implement plans for prevention and control of the avian flu and touched upon measures to be taken.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

Afterwards, the deputy minister clarified matters on One Health, One World United for Avian Influenza and Human Influenza Pandemic Preparedness to be undertaken in the control of bird flu and human influenza pandemic, and called on those present to lay emphasis on implementing the task in cooperation with the public as a national concern.

MNA

## Myanmar grabs two more bronze medals

YANGON, 15 Dec —[The Myanmar Sports Contingent bagged two more bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games in Thailand today.

Two more bronze medals for Myanmar came through Oaka Soe and Zaw Lat in the men's doubles regu Sepak Takraw contest and Khin Aye Maw and Kyu Kyu Thin in the women's doubles regu Sepak Takraw event.—MNA



Oaka Soe



Zaw Lat

**Drive safely**



*Surgeons operate on a prostate cancer patient. Israeli scientists at the University of Haifa have claimed that a wild mushroom, used in traditional Chinese medicine for a century, could treat prostate cancer.—INTERNET*



*Dancers perform in the musical “Tibetan Riddle” in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province. A musical “Tibetan Riddle” was put on in Guangzhou Friday evening, presenting the original Tibetan culture with folk dances and songs.—XINHUA*



*This handout picture shows a model wearing a goggle jacket. The jacket, dubbed a “burkha for boys,” is shaping up as a big Christmas hit in Britain. — INTERNET*



*A three dimensional exhibit made from aluminium, silicone, pigment and hair by Canadian artist Evan Penny is among a selection of more than 200 leading art galleries from around the world during Art Basel Miami Beach at the Miami Beach Convention Center.— INTERNET*



*Sudan’s capital Khartoum is attacked by sandstorm. – INTERNET*

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of  
the  
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**Ten deceased in bus holdup in Colombia**

BOGOTA, 15 Dec — Ten people died and 11 were seriously injured on Thursday during a bus holdup in a northeastern highway in Colombia, the country's Prosecutor's Technical Investigations' Corpse and police officials said.

According to the witnesses, the robbers were travelling in the bus as passengers and they threatened the driver in the rural location Curba de Malta near Boyaca department.

The driver refused to stop the bus and the robbers sprinkled gasoline and turned it on, the passengers travelling in back of the bus were unable to escape and died burned.

Amidst the flames the driver jumped out of one of the windows and died run over, witnesses said.

Colombia's Prosecutor's Technical Investigations' Corpse and police officials are investigating the case.

The injured people were transferred to Sogamoso's regional hospital and they are in critical conditions.

MNA/Xinhua

**Over 17 killed in road accident in India**

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec — More than 17 people were killed when a bus and a passenger train collided at a railway crossing in northwest India Friday morning, police officials said.

"At least 17 people were killed, including six children, when the bus, carrying college students and teachers, and the train collided at around 09:00 am local time in Punjab's Moga District," the police officials said.

According to a railway spokesperson, the accident took place at a manned gate which was closed as the train was passing. But the bus crashed into the gate and then hit the train.

He said apparently there was fog and visibility was low, and the driver of the bus could not see properly.

There were about 35 passengers on the bus and the death toll was expected to rise as many of the injured were in a critical condition, police said.

MNA/Xinhua



Pop star Jay Chou performs during his world circuit at Hong Kong Coliseum in Hong Kong, south China, on 12 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

**India test fires surface-to-air N-capable missile**

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec — India Friday test fired a surface-to-air nuclear capable missile from a defense range in eastern state of Orissa, defence sources said.

Akash, the indigenous missile was tested from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in northeast Orissa, at 2:10 pm (0840 GMT) targeting a flying object released from a fighter aircraft, the sources said, according to the Indo-Asian News

Service.

The multi-target medium range missile with a strike range of 25 kilometres and capable of carrying a warhead of 50 kilos was test fired as part of an air defence exercise (ADE).

The 5.6-metre-long missile, which weighs 650 kilos and has a range of 25 kilometres, has been developed by the Indian Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). On Thursday, the defence scientists had tested the Akash missile from the same test range.

MNA/Reuters

**Israeli Army kills two Palestinians in Gaza**

GAZA, 14 Dec — Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militants in Gaza Strip on Wednesday, hospital officials and witnesses said.

A Palestinian militant was shot dead on Wednesday afternoon by Israeli soldiers near the borders between eastern Gaza Strip and Israel, and earlier, a member of the Islamic Jihad (Holy

**Russia, Iran agree N-power station timetable**

MOSCOW, 14 Dec — Russia and Iran have settled all differences over the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station and agreed on a timetable for its completion, the Russian contractor building the station said on Thursday.

Russia's role in building Bushehr, Iran's first nuclear power station, is a key element in a diplomatic dispute over

Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"We have resolved all the problems with the Iranians," said Sergei Shmatko, president of state controlled Atomstroiexport, which is building the Bushehr atomic plant on the Gulf.

"We have agreed with our Iranian colleagues a timeframe for completing the plant and we will make an announcement at the end of December,"

Shmatko told reporters.

The United States, leading European Union nations and Israel say they suspect Iran wants to develop a nuclear weapon and have pressed Moscow to drop the Bushehr project.

But Russia says there is no evidence that Teheran is seeking nuclear weapons and that the uranium Moscow intends to ship to fuel the Bushehr plant is too weak to develop a nuclear bomb.

Teheran says its nuclear programme is only intended to generate electricity. Russia, which has used the Bushehr plant as a lever in relations with Teheran, has repeatedly put back the start-up date for the plant, citing millions of dollars in delayed payments from Iran. Iran always said it was up to date with payments. Shmatko said those problems were all resolved, but did not give any details.

According to Russian forecasts, the first reactor at the Bushehr plant could be started up in 2008 and nuclear fuel would have to be shipped to Bushehr six months ahead of time.

MNA/Reuters

**Kadaffi visit a bridge too far for Paris Mayor**

PARIS, 14 Dec — Paris police barred pedestrians from bridges over the river Seine on Wednesday to let Libyan leader Moammar Kadaffi cruise the city's main waterway — a decision that infuriated the Socialist mayor of Paris.

Kadaffi's five-day visit to Paris has already angered leftist leaders, who have accused President Nicolas Sarkozy of brushing Libya's alleged human rights abuses under the red carpet in his bid to secure business deals with Tripoli.

The highly unusual decision to shut off bridges one by one as Kadaffi's boat passed underneath, added to the controversy over his high-profile stay.

"Barring pedestrians from all the capital's bridges because of a 'stroll' by the Libyan leader ... is to my

knowledge a first that will have been a surprise and above all inconvenienced many of our city's users," Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë said in a statement.

Police closed the bridges as a security measure to prevent anyone targeting Kadaffi as he sailed by.

Kadaffi is paying his first visit to France in 34 years. He has already dined at Sarkozy's official residence and had meetings at the Ritz Hotel, but has seen little of the city's sights, many of which overlook the banks of the Seine.

MNA/Reuters

**Civilian killed in Baghdad car bombing**

BAGHDAD, 14 Dec — A civilian was killed and five people were wounded when a car bomb struck a police patrol near the Italian Embassy in central Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

"A car bomb parked on a road near the Italian Embassy in the Waziriyah neighbourhood detonated after midday near a passing police patrol," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast resulted in the killing of a civilian and wounding five other, including two policemen, along with damaging a police vehicle and several nearby civilian cars, the

source said.

In separate incident, a roadside bomb detonated near a US patrol in the al-Ghadeer neighbourhood in eastern Baghdad, the source said.

It was unknown whether the US soldiers suffered any casualty, as the troops immediately cordoned off the area, he said. The US military has no immediate comment on the incident.

Violence continues in Baghdad despite the fact that the US and Iraqi security forces have staged a security plan in the capital since 14 February aimed at putting rampant violence under control.

MNA/Xinhua

## Spacewalkers to inspect station for meteoroid strike

CAPE CANAVERAL, 14 Dec—Two astronauts on the International Space Station will make a spacewalk next week to find out if a micro-meteoroid strike damaged a critical part of the outpost's power system, officials said on Thursday. The station is not in any danger and is still producing enough power to support the arrival of a Russian cargo ship this month, said station deputy programme manager Kirk Shireman.

Analysis is under way to determine if changes need to be made to NASA's plan to launch the space shuttle Atlantis in January with Europe's Columbus science module on board.

That flight, originally planned for last week, was postponed when sensors in the shuttle's fuel tank failed during two launch attempts.

NASA had said it would try again no earlier than 2 January.

But on it said it had

reset the target date to January 10 to give workers more time with their families during the holidays.

Shireman said the power problem would probably not affect plans to attach *Columbus* to the station next month.

But flights of Japanese modules in February and April could be affected.

Without repairs, "we know we can't go too much farther", he said.

MNA/Reuters



A student simulates movements of kangaroo in the Wild Zoo of Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 13 Dec, 2007. Over 30 students of the performing department in Anhui Artistic Vocational College went to the zoo to mock animals' movements, in a bid to improve their performing skills.—INTERNET

## Japan's report says 2007 warmest for world land areas

TOKYO, 15 Dec — The average global land surface temperature this year will be the highest since records began in 1880, partly due to greenhouse gas emissions, Japan's weather agency said on Thursday. Natural climate fluctuations contributed to the temperature rises, said the report by the Japan Meteorological Agency. The report coincided with the 3-14 December international talks on the Indonesian island of Bali to discuss a new climate treaty to succeed the Kyoto Protocol after

2012, but it was not presented there.

The average land surface temperature from January to November this year was higher than in the past in all regions except for southern South America, the report said.

MNA/Reuters

*Students' chorus perform in front of the 55-foot-high lighting Christmas tree in Hong Kong of south China, on 14 Dec, 2007 as the city is decorated to greet the Christmas.*

INTERNET



## Liver cirrhosis kills 26 crocodiles in north India

LUCKNOW, (India) 15 Dec — As many as 26 endangered crocodiles have been found dead over the last three days in northern India and experts attribute the rare mass deaths to cirrhosis of the liver, authorities said on Friday.

The reptiles died in the waters of the Chambal River, which runs along the borders of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh and the central state of Madhya Pradesh, baffling experts as it is considered their natural habitat.

"Autopsies confirm liver cirrhosis as the cause

of death," D N S Suman, Uttar Pradesh's top wildlife official, told Reuters from Etawah town on the banks of the Chambal where experts have camped to investigate the deaths.

Poisoning was not suspected as fish in the river had not died, Suman said, adding that scientists would test the water for the presence of any liver-damaging toxins. Cirrhosis is marked by the loss of liver tissue, leading to the loss of function of the vital organ. — MNA/Reuters

*Asiatic salamanders, one of the most primitive salamander species, are found alive in a forest park in Dongguan, Guangdong Province, on 9 Dec, 2007. The salamanders found that day were about 13 cm in length.*

INTERNET

## UN official says climate tech issue solved

BALI, (Indonesia) 15 Dec — UN top climate official Yvo de Boer struck a more optimistic note at his second Press briefing in Bali, Indonesia, in the late afternoon than earlier, saying that the technology issue had now been solved, which meant that technology needs assessments made by developing countries would be turned into concrete project proposals. De Boer, Ex-ecutive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said there were also more encouraging signs with

regard to a post-2012 agreement.

Still to be resolved was how to formulate the objectives of industrialized countries on the one hand and those of developing countries on the other, he said.

On the issue of emission reduction ranges, de Boer said: "What's becoming clear to me is the more robust industrialized countries are willing to be in terms of the effort they are working towards, the stronger the reaction you're likely to get from developing countries."

MNA/Xinhua

## 250,000 face of drinking water shortages in Guangdong

GUANGZHOU, 15 Dec — Almost a quarter million people in south China's Guangdong Province face drinking water shortages as a severe autumn drought lingers, government authorities said. As of Thursday, 249,000 people and 73,300 hectares of cropland in the province have been affected by the shortage, according to the Guangdong Provincial Hydraulics Bureau.

The drought had dried up 133 reservoirs in the province, the bureau said.

Statistics from the bureau showed the province had received

only 1,453 millimetres of rain from January through early December, down

nearly 20 per cent from normal years.

MNA/Xinhua



# SPORTS

## Cottbus boost survival hopes by thrashing Hanover

BERLIN, 15 Dec — Energie Cottbus moved off the bottom of the table with a stunning 5-1 win over Hanover 96 on Friday, their final Bundesliga match before the mid-season break.

Cottbus went in front with a header from Christian Bassila in the 11th minute and further goals from Dennis Sorensen and Dimitar Rangelov made it 3-0 by halftime.

Daniel Ziebig added a fourth before Thomas Kleine got one back for Hanover. But Rangelov's second in the 70th minute restored the home team's four-goal lead.

Cottbus climbed to 15th on 15 points although they could fall back into the bottom three depending on results on Saturday and Sunday. Hanover are fifth on 27 points.

Bayern Munich, two points clear at the top, travel to Hertha Berlin on Satur-

day. A draw would almost certainly be enough to secure the honorary title of 'winter champions' at the halfway stage of the season. Second-placed Werder Bremen host Bayer Leverkusen while third-placed Hamburg SV travel to Karlsruhe.

After this weekend's matches the Bundesliga takes a break until 1 February. — MNA/Reuters

## Wenger hails exciting Premier League season

LONDON COLNEY (England), 15 Dec — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has hailed this season's Premier League title race as the most exciting since he moved to England 11 years ago.

Wenger's league leaders host third-placed Chelsea in a London derby on Sunday just hours after Liverpool and Manchester United, fourth and second respectively, clash at Anfield. With the top four separated by just seven points, Sunday is a potentially decisive day in the battle for the title.

"Without a doubt this year will be the most exciting year of the Premier League," Wenger said. "Since I have been here there have never been four teams as tight as this after 16 games.

The Frenchman, who regards the Premier League as "super healthy", believes the contenders are evenly matched and the chasing pack are all a big threat to Arsenal's title ambitions. — MNA/Reuters



Singapore's Baihakki Khaizan (L) tussles for the ball with Vietnam's Vo Mhat Tan during their 3rd and 4th placing soccer match at the SEA Games in Nakhon Ratchasima on 14 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

## Bayern sign Brazilian defender from Sao Paulo

BERLIN, 15 Dec — Bayern Munich have signed 18-year-old Brazilian defender Breno from Sao Paulo, the Bundesliga club said on Friday.

Bayern did not disclose a fee for the transfer, but German media have reported the Bavarians were prepared to pay at least 18 million US dollars for the highly rated centre-back.

Subject to a medical, Breno will sign a contract starting January 1 and running until June 30 2012.

"We're delighted about getting him," Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said on the club's website (www.fcbayern.de). "He's a young and exceptionally talented player."

Breno will get a first chance to meet his new team mates when Bayern resume training after the holidays on January 7. After this weekend's round of matches the Bundesliga is not back in action until 1 February. — MNA/Reuters

## Capello handed England job until 2012



Fabio Capello

LONDON, 15 Dec — Italian Fabio Capello was given the England manager's job until 2012 by the Football Association (FA) on Friday.

The FA confirmed his appointment on a four-and-a-half year contract in a statement on its website (www.thefa.com). The 61-year-old succeeds Steve McClaren, who was sacked last month after the team failed to qualify for Euro 2008.

Capello, the oldest man to take charge of England, will start his new job on

January 7. His first match is a friendly against Euro 2008 co-hosts Switzerland at Wembley on February 6.

The appointment of England's second overseas coach following Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson (2001-06) was ratified by the FA board on Thursday. Contract details were finalized by the FA and Capello's lawyers on Friday.

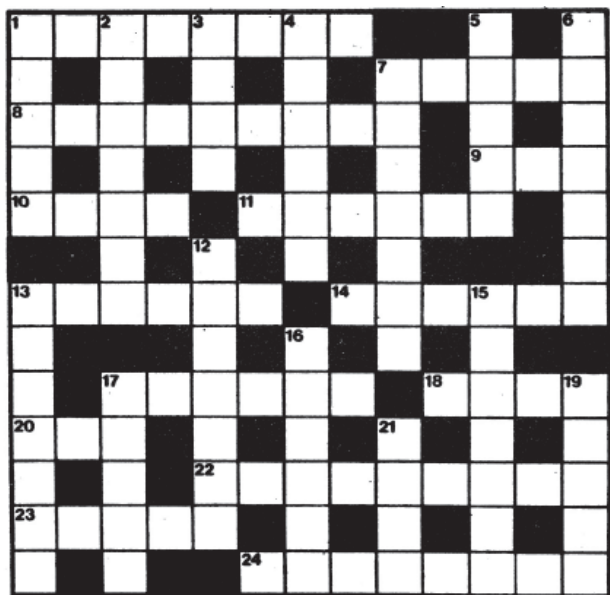
"I am delighted Fabio Capello has agreed to become England manager," said FA chief executive Brian Barwick.

"When we set out to recruit the new manager we said we were committed to appointing a world class candidate. In Fabio Capello we have that man."

Capello's backroom staff will consist of assistants Franco Baldini and Italo Galbiati, goalkeeping coach Franco Tancredi and fitness assistant Massimo Neri.

An English presence will also be drafted into the set-up in due course, the FA said. —MNA/Reuters

## CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Assembled
- 7 Impertinence
- 8 Remiss
- 9 Newt
- 10 Level
- 11 Confused
- 13 Sewing thread
- 14 Aft
- 17 Obvious
- 18 Grave
- 20 Fasten
- 22 Left over
- 23 Consumed
- 24 Joy

### DOWN

- 1 Presbyterian minister's house
- 2 Propose
- 3 Egress
- 4 Corrects text
- 5 Remedied
- 6 Segment
- 7 Fashionable
- 12 Back door
- 13 Gossip
- 15 Arousing feeling
- 16 Beast
- 17 Insignificant
- 19 Sham
- 21 Discover



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) from Germany pulls in a rebound in front of New Orleans Hornets center Tyson Chandler (6) in the first half of their NBA basketball game, on 14 Dec, 2007 in Dallas. —INTERNET

## Veron pulls out of MLS move

NEW YORK, 14 Dec — Juan Sebastian Veron has performed a U-turn on a reported deal to join DC United in Major League Soccer.

After speaking with his teammates, Veron chose to remain in Argentina. "I'm staying because of the fans and my teammates. The truth is that I couldn't say goodbye."

"My teammates' request for me to stay was very important. And I couldn't ignore the fans' affection." He added. Veron admitted he had been very tempted by the offer to join MLS. "It was a lot of money; maybe I would advise a kid to go. But in a situation like mine it is better to live for the things that give you happiness." —Internet

## Former Ukraine coach named Moscow boss

Moscow, 15 Dec — Former Ukraine manager Oleg Blokhin was named coach of Russian Premier League club FK Moscow on Friday.

The former Soviet striker replaces Leonid Slutsky, who was sacked by FK Moscow at the end of the season last month despite leading them to fourth place, their best finish, as well as the Russian Cup final. — MNA/Reuters



Argentina's midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron has performed a U-turn on a reported deal to join DC United in Major League Soccer. —XINHUA

**Sri P. Subramaniyan (a)  
U Thein Lwin  
Aged (64)  
Sandhi Press**

Sri P. Subramaniyan (a) U Thein Lwin, aged 64, General-Secretary of Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh and Secretary of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, of No 24, Bawga Street, Ward (C), Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division, passed away at 4.45 am on Saturday (15-12-07). The remains had been cremated at Yeway Hindu Cementary at 3.00 pm the same day.

**Bereaved family**

**Iran's Vice-President visits DPRK to boost cooperation**

PYONGYANG, 15 Dec - Visiting Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and President of the Physical Education Organization Muhammad Aliabadi on Thursday met with Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

(DPRK) Supreme People's Assembly, with the aim of improving bilateral exchanges.

"It is the firm stand of the Iranian Government to boost relations of friendship with the DPRK," Aliabadi was quoted by the DPRK's official KCNA news agency as saying. *MNA/Xinhua*

**Two Chinese ships sent to assist in ROK oil spill**

BEIJING, 15 Dec—China has sent two vessels to assist in a crude oil clean-up operation after a supertanker collided with another ship near the Republic of Korea (ROK) coastline, the Ministry of Communications said on its website on Friday.

Xu Zuyuan, Vice-Minister of Communications, said the two ships, carrying more than 65 tons of oil-absorbing materials and heavy equipment, left Qingdao port in the eastern province of Shandong on Thursday night.

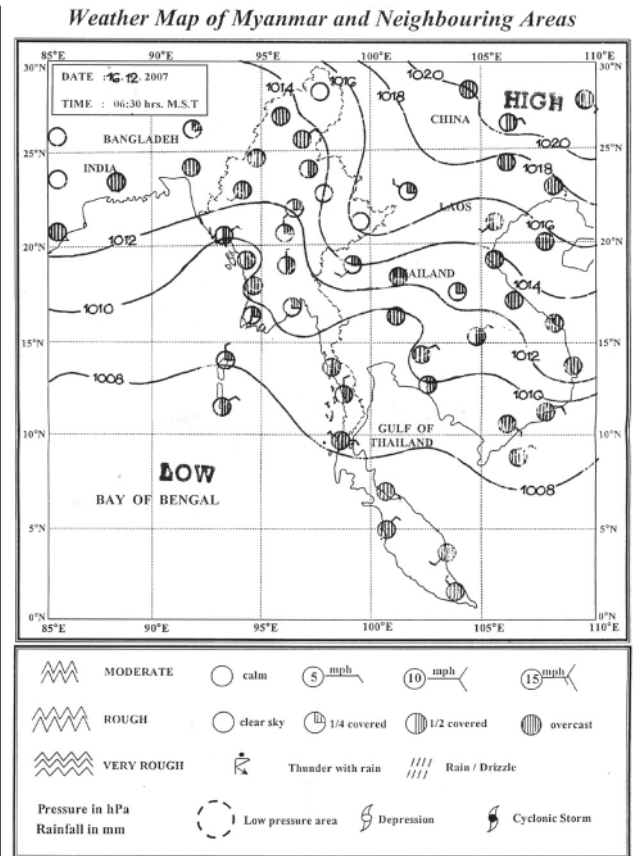
A week ago, the ROK barge, *Samsung No 1*, hit the oil tanker *Hebei Spirit* from Hong Kong, sending more than 10,000 tons of crude oil into the Yellow Sea. Although the damaged tanker had

stopped leaking, a ROK official said a long stretch of coastline had been polluted.

Xu said the dispatch of Chinese clean-up vessels was in response to a ROK emergency request. In 2003, Japan, Russia, the ROK and China all signed an agreement to jointly deal with large oil spills in the Pacific northeast.

The announcement also said a Chinese team of experts would travel to the spill site to provide technical support.

*MNA/Xinhua*



**WEATHER**

**Saturday, 15 December, 2007**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**

During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Shin, Rakhine, Kayah States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) above December average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.12) inch. The significant night temperatures were Haka (3°C) and Namhsam (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 14-12-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 15-12-2007 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 15-12-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 14-12-2007 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-12-2007 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 windspeed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North-east at (11:30) hours MST on 14-12-2007.

**Bay inference:** According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay still persist. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 16-12-2007:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kahin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-12-2007:** Generally fair weather

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-12-2007:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-12-2007:** Generally fair weather



**Sunday, 16 December  
View on today**

- 7:00 am**
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးသော မဟာရတနာ အဘိဓမ္မာ အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
- 7. တံတားအလှပန်းလောင်
- 8:20 am**
- 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
- 1. Martial song

- 11:10 am**
- 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am**
- 3. Round up of the week's International news
- 11:35 am**
- 4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:05 pm**
- 5. Myanmar video feature
- “နှင်းငွေသင့်ကောင်းကင်” (နေထက်လင်း၊ သူထူးစံစိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်မိုးရီဆွေ)
- 2:00 pm**
- 6. သတင်းအချက်အလက်နှင့် နည်းပညာနယ်လှည့်ဟောပြောပွဲ (IT Caravan 2007) (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 2:15 pm**
- 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:25 pm**
- 8. “သတိနဲ့ယှဉ်အသိနဲ့ပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၁) (ဝါးမယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလျှန်၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးရီ၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနှင်းဝေ၊ ဝိုင်းစုရီခင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 2:35 pm**
- 9. ရေလှောင်တစ်ရံနွယ်
- 2:45 pm**
- 10. International news
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Song for uphold national spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. English for everyday use

- 4:45 pm**
- 4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်အထူးပြု) (သရုပ်)
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. Song of national races
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm**
- 7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
- 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
- 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
- 10. “ညောင်မယ်မျိုး” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ငှက်ပျော်ကြော်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 6:45 pm**
- 11. လူမျိုးစုံလင်သစ်ခွဲယူပျော်ရွှင်စွာခွဲပျော် အမျိုးသားကန်တော်ကြီးဥယျာဉ် ပန်းပွဲတော်
- 6:55 pm**
- 12. ဆွေးနွေးအကြံပေး(၉)ကြိမ်မြောက် အာဆီယံပြန်ကြားရေး
- 7:10 pm**
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နေပြည်ဆမ်းမှ” (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 8:00 pm**
- 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချိုမြိန်သောအချစ်နေ့” (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 18. The next day's programme



**Sunday, 16 December  
Tune in today**

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -When I look into your eyes
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -obsession
- 8:50 am National news/slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Queen of your fantasy
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music -Love is all around
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40pm Children's delight (story)
- 1:50pm Song for children
- 9:00pm Weekly news review
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music / LIES -Silent night -X'mas time is here
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

# People's Desire

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

## Senior General Than Shwe attends graduation dinner of 50th Intake of DSA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — The graduation dinner to honour the graduate officers of 50th Intake of DSA was held at parade ground of Anawratha battalion of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Present also at the dinner were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, 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, the commanders, ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay mayor, offi-



Senior General Than Shwe attends graduation dinner of 50th Intake of Defence Services Academy. —MNA

cial of SPDC Office, the PyinOoLwin station commander, senior military officers of PyinOoLwin station, the acting pro-rector of DSA, the director (literary) and cadet battalions commanding officers, professors and faculty members, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

MNA

## Prize distribution for National Literary Award 23 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — The prize distribution ceremony for the Life Time Achievement Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2006 will be held at the Ministry of Information here on 23 December.

The prize winners are to attend the rehearsal ceremony at the same venue on 22 December without fail. The winners from countryside are to report to the reception committees at Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Station, airport and bus terminals for their transport, and they may dial 067-412375 for more information. The winners and writers from Yangon are to contact the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman, Tel 01-240048 or 381449. All the winners are to arrive at No 7 Transit Centre in Ywadow, here, not later than 21 December evening.—MNA