

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates King of Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2007, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Nangyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening of Yatanarpon Teleport, visits 2nd Flower Festival

Good opportunities to be created for enabling local and foreign entrepreneurs to make investment at the teleport and to smoothly carry out modern information and technological tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended the opening ceremony of Yatanarpon Teleport

in Yadanabon Myothit of PyinOoLwin Township at 11.30 am on 14 December.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC members

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, (See page 16)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects display of computers and accessories at Yatanarpon Teleport.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 17 December, 2007

Boosting agricultural production and increasing income of peasants

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe made an inspection tour of the site of Pwegauk Dam project near Yaythayaukgon Village in PyinOoLwin Township, completion of Hsinlan Dam near Hsinlan Village the other day and gave necessary guidance.

The already-built Sitha, Hsinlan and Doekwin Dams will fully supply drinking water to PyinOoLwin and Yadanabon Myothit and water to farmlands. Feasibility studies are being conducted for construction of Hsinlan-2, Pyinsa, Twinng and Dattaw Creek Dam Projects and implementation of Pwegauk Dam is now under way.

Hsinlan-2 and Dattaw Creek Dam will be built for supply of water to Mandalay. The earth Hsinlan Dam built on Hsinlan Creek will supply water to PyinOoLwin. To be able to store more water the embankment of the dam has been raised six feet higher than the existing one and arrangements are being made for supply of more water not only to PyinOoLwin but to Yadanabon Myothit.

The government has been providing agricultural requirements including availability of water for agricultural purposes. Altogether 205 irrigation facilities and 305 river water pumping stations have been built nationwide and they benefit over two million acres of cultivable lands.

The government provides peasants with quality strains of crops and modern cultivation methods for boosting production in agricultural sector. The peasants on their part are to make endeavours for helping develop national economy and increasing their income.



President of MCF U Nyunt Win speaking at opening of 2nd Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2007-08.—MNA

People's Desire

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

Textbooks, clothes provided to schools, youth training schools in border areas

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — A ceremony to donate textbooks and clothes to the schools and youth training schools in border areas was held at the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs with an address by Minister Col Thein Nyunt.

The minister made a speech. Later, the donors of

book centres handed over textbooks to the minister and donor U Myint Thein of Mandalay clothes to Director-General U Than Swe of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department.

A total of 6,660 text books worth K 5,278,700 and clothes worth K 5,250,000 were donated to the schools and youth training schools in border areas.—MNA

Aung San Tawya TatU Sayadaw arrives back

YANGON, 16 Dec — Aung San Tawya TatU Monastery Sayadaw Patron of Mogok Vipassana Branch No 77, Patron of Mogok Vipassana Propagation Organization Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Kittisara arrived back here by air on 13 December.

At the request of Mahamuni Buddhist Society of Singapore, the Sayadaw delivered Mogok Vipassana Patičcasamupadda Desanas at Bodh Gaya Thukhayama Monastery in Singapore from 30 November to 9 December and at Abace University



Aung San Tawya TatU Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kittisara being welcomed back by disciples at Yangon International Airport.—H

from 10 to 12 December with the sponsorship of Integration Co Ltd of

Thailand.

The Sayadaw was welcomed back at Yangon

International Airport by disciples.

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Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield commences

YANGON, 16 Dec—The opening ceremony of the 2nd Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2007-08 jointly organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No-3 Basic Education Department took place at Bahan Cricket Ground in Bahan Township, here, this morning attended by Director-General of No-3 Basic

Education Department U Aye Kyu and officials President of MCF Actor U Nyunt Win, Vice-Presidents U Kyaw Kyaw and U Maung Maung and executives.

First, the President of MCF delivered a speech. In the first match, Lanmadaw BEHS-1 beat Bahan BEHS-1 66-52 points.

The matches continue tomorrow. In men's events, Ahlon BEHS-4 will play against Dagon BEHS-2, Bahan BEHS-1 against Pabedan BEHS-2 and Latha BEHS-1 against Tamwe BEHS-3 at Bahan Cricket Ground. In women's events Bahan BEHS-1 will meet Tamwe BEHS-3 and Kyimyindine BEHS-3 against Dagon BEHS-2 at Lanmadaw BEHS-1 Cricket Ground.

MNA



All this needs to be known

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

Malaysia says US do not meddle in its security law

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Dec — Malaysia has told the United States to remember Guantanamo Bay and not to criticize its own use of the Internal Security Act, a Malaysian law that allows detention without trial, the *New Straits Times* said on Saturday.

Malaysia has detained five ethnic Indians under

the ISA for helping to organize a huge anti-government protest last month. Under the Act, they can be held for up to two years on the grounds that their actions had threatened national security.

“Our expectation as a government is that these individuals would be provided the full protection under Malaysian law, that they would be given due process, that they would be accorded all the rights accorded to any other citizen, and that this will be done in a speedy and transparent manner,” Deputy Prime Minister Naif Rasa was reported as saying.

Naif reacted to comments by US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack on Thursday that Washington

hoped that those arrested in Malaysia would enjoy full legal protections and rights, due process, and a speedy and transparent handling of their case. “Can they (the United States) first of all give a fair trial to the detainees in Guantanamo Bay?” he asked. “We’ll only respond if they do so.”

MNA/Reuters



Snow sculptors work on the world’s tallest snow sculpture on 13 Dec for the 20th Int’l Snow Sculpture Art Expo in Harbin in northeastern China’s Heilongjiang Province. —XINHUA

Delegates take part in an extended session of the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Nusa Dua, on Bali Island. World climate negotiators have set a 2009 deadline for a landmark treaty to fight global warming.—INTERNET



Uruguay rejects British warship to enter its port

MONTEVIDEO, 16 Dec — The Uruguayan Government has dismissed a request by a British warship, heading for the Malvinas Islands, to enter the port of Montevideo, Foreign Minister Reinaldo Cargano said on

Thursday. The request to supply the ship in the port was aimed at carrying on its duty of controlling sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, said Cargano to reporters.

Under an agreement reached after the war on Malvinas Islands, British warships could be allowed to berth at Uruguay’s ports out of humanitarian reasons, he added. Uruguay’s rejection was to avoid any misunderstanding at a time when the new Argentine President Cristina Fernandez came into office, he said.

The Argentine President, who was sworn in on 10 December, had reiterated that Argentina owned the sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands,

called Falklands by the British side. Argentina and Uruguay have been at odds over a paper mill on their border.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean troops end mission in Afghanistan

SEOUL, 16 Dec — South Korea completed the withdrawal of its military troops from Afghanistan on Friday, wrapping up the 70-month-long mission in the Asian country, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

The Defence Ministry held a ceremony to welcome the Dasan and Dongui units returning from Afghanistan at Seoul Airbase in Seongnam, south of Seoul. About 800 family members and military officials, including Army Chief of Staff General Park Heung-ryul, attended the ceremony.

The JCS announced later that the two units were formally disbanded later in the day. South Korea has dispatched military troops to Afghanistan since 2002 at the request of the United States.

The Dongui Medical Unit with about 60 medic provided humanitarian and medical aid to local residents, while 150 engineers from the Dasan Engineering Unit supported construction work in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

A shop clerk arranges Christmas decorations on sale at a gift shop on 14 Dec, 2007, in Shanghai, China. — INTERNET



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Passenger plane evacuated in Chicago

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — A United Airlines flight from Shanghai were evacuated on the runway of the O’Hare International Airport of Chicago, IL, Friday, after smoke was detected in the cabin.

CBS News reported that the UA Flight 836, with 258 passengers and 15 crew members on board, was evacuated after the pilot reported an emergency in the cabin. The pilot reported the emergency at 3:45 pm (2145 GMT) and the plane landed at 4 pm (2200 GMT). The passengers slid down the emergency chutes and were taken by bus to the terminal. — MNA/Xinhua

Insurgents kill US soldier in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Dec — An American soldier was killed by insurgents’ small arms fire in Baghdad, the US military said on Friday.

The soldier assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad was killed in southern Baghdad on Thursday, a military statement said.

The deceased soldier’s name is being withheld pending notification of relatives, it added. The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,889 since the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Libya ink MoU for enterprise development

SINGAPORE, 15 Dec — Singapore and Libya Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote enterprise development in the two countries.

The MoU was inked by the leaders of SPRING Singapore, the enterprise development agency, and the National Economic Development Board of Libya, and was witnessed by Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang and President of the Kadaffi Inter-

national Foundation for Charity Associations Saif Al-Islam Al- Kadaffi.

The MoU signing is one of the highlights of Saif Al-Islam Al- Kadaffi and his delegation's three-day visit to Singapore from 14 to 16 December .

A statement by SPRING Singapore said that this MoU will promote collaboration between the two agencies and strengthen cooperation between companies and government agencies in Libya and Singapore.

Areas of collaboration include exchange of information, best practices and technology in entrepreneurship and enterprise development, as well as promotion of business collaborations between companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both countries. Both sides will also cooperate in the training and education of government officials and SMEs.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss Russia 2007 Ksenia Sukhinova (2nd L Front and Miss Russia 2006 Tatiana Kotova (L Front) pose after Sukhinova won the Miss Russia 2007 beauty contest in Moscow, Russia on 14 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

UN sends team to help S Korea oil clean-up

GENEVA, 15 Dec —The United Nations is sending eight environmental experts to assess damage from South Korea's worst oil spill, caused by the leaking *Hebei Spirit* tanker. Deployment of the team, composed of four UN experts and four from the European Commission, follows a formal

request from South Korean authorities for international assistance, UN spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said on Friday. "The team will evaluate immediate needs following the catastrophe and pollution," Byrs, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Hu-

manitarian Affairs (OCHA), told a news briefing in Geneva.

A week ago, a crane barge punched holes into the oil tanker which spewed 10,500 tons of its load into the sea.

Recovery of the oil has been painfully slow since the spill and the maritime ministry has conceded it was not properly prepared for such a disaster and did not have enough equipment. The UN/EC expert team will assess the need for equipment for a shoreline clean-up, Byrs said. They will also evaluate the need for heavy equipment for a clean-up in the open sea, and help assess medium and long-term environmental damage, according to the UN spokeswoman.

MNA/Reuters



A Gloucester, Mass firefighter hoses down what is left of a four-storey apartment building, on 15 Dec, 2007 following an eight-alarm fire in Gloucester, Mass. One person was killed in the fire.— INTERNET

Suicide bomber blows up car in Kabul

KABUL, 15 Dec —A suicide bomber set off explosives inside a car near an Afghan Government security office in Kabul on Saturday, a military spokesman said, and eyewitnesses said a number of people were killed.

General Zahir Azimi, a Defence Ministry spokesman, said the suicide bomber had detonated two rockets. Another Defence Ministry official said he had heard two blasts.

"The first one was small, but the second one really shook the city," the official said. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the bombing, but the Taliban rely heavily on suicide raids and roadside bomb attacks as part of their insurgency against the Afghan Government and

foreign troops.

In early December, Taleban suicide bombers attacked twice around the time of a visit by US Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

A bomber slammed his car into a bus filled with Afghan soldiers in Kabul on 5 December, killing 13 people. On 4 December, a NATO convoy was hit by a similar attack close to the capital's international airport. There were no casualties among NATO forces, but 22 Afghans were wounded, according to NATO.

MNA/Reuters

WWF says Bali Roadmap "weak on substance"

BALI (Indonesia), 16 Dec — The World Wild Fund for Nature, (WWF), a global environmental conservation organization, said on Saturday that the Bali Roadmap adopted at the end of a two-week UN climate conference fell short in its ambition and "weak on substance".

WWF said in a Press release following the meeting that political leaders meeting for the UN's climate change conference will start formal negotiations with a 2009 end date, but the deal fell short in its ambition.

The Bali Roadmap was a deal " weak on substance", WWF said. "The US administration was asked to get out of the way, and in the end they bowed to pressure," said Hans Verolme, Director of WWF's Global Climate

Change Programme. "The Bali Road-map leaves a seat at the table for the next US President to make a real contribution to the global fight to stop dangerous climate change," WWF said.

MNA/Xinhua

Dancers perform in the musical "Tibetan Riddle" in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 14 Dec, 2007.

XINHUA



India, Russia, China to boost economic ties

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India, Russia and China vowed to boost trade and investment with each other after a one-day meeting that saw officials and businessmen from the three countries gather in New Delhi this weekend. A top Indian foreign

official admitted that the three countries needed to do much more to further economic links.

“Investment between these three countries is quite insignificant,” said Nalin Surie Saturday, according to a *Press Trust of India* agency report.

“India, China and Russia have huge raw material and energy reserves.

All three of us should come together to form a India-China-Russia business partnership.”

The Russian ambassador to New Delhi, Vyacheslav I Trubnikov, said he looked forward to further investment in his country’s energy resources by the energy-hungry Asian nations.

“The three of us can work together to promote joint ventures that could infuse more investments in oil exploration and production blocks in Russia, ensuring energy security in India and China,” said Trubnikov, according to *PTI*.

But the countries vowed to work together in other arenas as well, including technology, pharmaceuticals and services, according to a statement from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.—*Internet*



Tents for homeless people line the Seine in front of Notre Dame in Paris on 15 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Merck recalls children’s vaccines in China

BEIJING, 15 Dec — Nearly a tenth of 1.2 million doses of children’s vaccines recalled by American drug firm Merck on Wednesday were sold in China, Chinese media reported on Friday.

Merck voluntarily recalled 11 lots of PedvaxHIB vaccine and two lots of its Comvax vaccine after quality-

control checks found production equipment might not have been properly sterilized.

The only lot which the company said had been distributed outside the United States had been exported to China, the *Southern Metropolis Daily* said.

The southern province of Guangdong, where the newspaper is based, had

bought more than 10,000 of the 104,930 doses sold across China, it said.

“The provincial disease control centre has issued an urgent notice ordering the immediate freeze of the vaccines,” the newspaper said.

MNA/Reuters

Canada’s trade with China at record level

OTTAWA, 16 Dec — Canada’s total merchandise trade with China soared in the last decade, hitting 42.1 billion Canadian dollars (41.7 billion US dollars) in 2006, federal agency Statistics Canada reported on Friday. China now accounts for five per cent of Canada’s total world trade. Since 2003, China has emerged as Canada’s second largest trading partner, passing Britain and Japan, the report says.

In 2006, imports from China were five times higher than 1997 figures and exports to China tripled.

Leading commodities in the trade between Canada and China include chemicals, metals, industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment, wood products, fish products and other products. —MNA/Xinhua



A Toyota hybrid is on display at an automobile show in New York. Toyota Motor Corp plans to raise its global output to near 10 million units next year, out-distancing its rival General Motors Corp of the United States, a news report said on Sunday.—INTERNET

Nepal Airlines to suspend flights next week

KATHMANDU, 15 Dec — Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC) is suspending all its international flights from Tuesday for 13 days as its lone functional Boeing flies off to Brunei for a C-check, a complete overhaul. The airline’s other Boeing aircraft is grounded because of a faulty engine, according to *The Kathmandu Post* on Saturday

“We will be removing the engine from the jet that is going away and fit it to the grounded aircraft and have it in the air from 1 January,” NAC managing director Gautam Das Shrestha told the parliamentary Public Finance Committee Friday.

According to Shres-

tha, the corporation earned revenue of 1.004 billion rupees (238,095 US dollars) from its international flights during the first four months of

the current fiscal year starting in mid-July. NAC conducts 11 weekly flights to six countries and regions.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Sony says global sales of PS3 to top 11m

TOKYO, 16 Dec — Worldwide sales of Sony Corp’s PlayStation 3 are expected to reach 11 million by the end of this fiscal year, a senior executive said in an interview published Saturday.

Sony Computer Entertainment’s chief executive Kazuo Hirai told the *Yomiuri Shimbun* news-

paper he was confident of fulfilling that goal despite stiff competition from Nintendo’s Wii and Microsoft’s XBox 360.

“The PlayStation3 is starting afresh as a console to play games with. Although pricing strategy is important, now we would like to put our strength in the number of software games,” he said.

Sony cut the price of the PS3 by 10 percent in Japan to 39,980 yen (US\$356) and launched a new slimmed-down version, ratcheting up the competition with its rivals ahead of the crucial year-end sales period.

A recent report said the PS3 video games console had outsold Nintendo’s Wii in Japan in November.

The company has also announced that PS3 sales in North America more than tripled in the crucial Thanksgiving holiday week after a 100-dollar price cut.

Internet



A plane of Air New Zealand. Tapping the burgeoning Chinese tourist market, and strong interest by New Zealanders in the Olympic Games in Beijing next year, it will start flying to Beijing from 18 July next year, ahead of the Olympic Games.—XINHUA

Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association

Khin Maung Tun (Lanmadaw)

The Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) was formed in Yankin Township, Yangon Division, on 26 June 1994, the International Day Against Narcotic Drugs and Illicit Trafficking.

Now, the association has been shifted to No 101/102, Building No 3, Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township, and carries out movements with the formation registration No 1770.

The association is now in pursuit of its objectives:—

- to contribute towards the 15-year plan the government is implementing for elimination of dangers of drug abuse and addiction,
- to participate in the drive for prevention of HIV spread among drug addicts who abuse narcotic drugs through injection,
- to cooperate not only with local organizations but also with international organizations in realizing the objectives,
- to share research findings with other organizations for collaboration.

Since its birth, the association has been carrying out the following tasks:

- organizing exhibitions and competitions on dangers of narcotic drugs,
- constantly giving educative talks on narcotic drugs

to students,

- raising public awareness about dangers of narcotic drugs,
- taking preventive measures against HIV spread related to abuse of narcotic drugs.

In doing so, the association is mobilizing the participation of local service personnel, congenial organizations, and international organizations within the framework of the policy.

With the sponsorship of an organization and permission of the Ministry of Education, the association launched a campaign to give educative talks to students. In the process, it conducted a course on the danger of abuse of narcotic drugs for teachers. The teachers who had completed the course then organized multiplier courses for the students. Its campaigns include HIV/AIDS preventive measures, distribution of pamphlets on dangers of narcotic drugs and setting up educative billboards.

The association is constantly taking preventive measures against drug abuse among students.

With the permission of local authorities and sponsorship of some organizations, it is constantly opening courses on prevention of HIV/AIDS for the youths who often go to the neighbouring countries.

Moreover, dealing with international anti-

narcotics organizations, it is taking measures extensively to combat narcotic drugs such as attending seminars, participating in the discussions, making suggestions, and exchanging views. And it takes and applies experiences and knowledge that are suitable for the nation.

The association is now implementing plans to give educative talks to the people and the youth for prevention of drug addition. It applies local and international treatment methods to make contribution towards the plans the government is implementing.

The association, mobilizing the participation of township, state and division level associations and collaborating with departments, takes part in the drive in the regions that the government's plans do not cover fully as well as in the regions that need immediate assistance.

Now, the MANA has formed its branches at state and division and township levels systematically and is pursuing its objectives.

The association welcomes those who want to join it with national awareness and national outlook, who are interested in social welfare tasks, and anti-narcotics campaigns.

The association has implemented these functions and will expedite them in future.

Now, the association has been reconstituted with members of the Central Committee and Central Executive Committee members who are well-experienced and capable of carrying out tasks in accordance with its constitution. At the same time, it is stepping up tasks for organizing more branches at state and division and township levels.

The ninth annual meeting of the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association will be held at its head office on Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township, Yangon Division, on 19 December 2007.

Translation: MS

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Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe attends first convocation of Myanmar Maritime University. — MNA

First convocation of MMU held

YANGON, 16 Dec—The first convocation of the Myanmar Maritime University was held at the convocation hall of Yangon University here this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Maritime University Council Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe attended the ceremony.

Also present were Deputy Commander of Naval Shipyards Command Headquarter Commodore Han Sein, departmental officials, guests, Rector of Myanmar Maritime University U Thein Htun, pro-rector U Chali Than, faculty members and special guests.

Rector U Thein Htun conferred degrees on graduates.—MNA

Information Minister inspects IPRDs, TV retransmission station in Mon State



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects TV retransmission station in Mawlamyine.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan viewed wall magazines and documentary photos

displayed at the office of Mon State Information and Public Relations Department in Mawlamyine yesterday

and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister met with heads of State/District/Township IPRDs

and service personnel at the meeting hall of the office and heard reports on opening of self-reliant village libraries in Mon

State, conditions of TV retransmission stations in Mon and Kayin States and condition of cinema and video supervisory tasks of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise in the State presented by officials.

The minister instructed officials to observe the tasks for durability of village self-reliant libraries.

At TV retransmission station, the minister inspected TV retransmission tasks, maintenance of machines, fulfillment of fuel and machine parts.

In Thaton, the minister visited Township Information and Public Relations Department and

viewed display of documentary photos, books and pamphlets.

At the hall of Thaton District IPRD, the minister met local authorities, service personnel and social organization members and heard reports on tasks being carried out for durability of libraries in the district presented by Thaton District IPRD Staff Officer Daw Nang Kyi Sein.

In the evening, the minister inspected the construction of Bilin Township IPRD office, and gave instructions on construction of the office and staff quarters meeting the set standards and timely completion of the tasks.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan views display of wall magazines and photos at Mon State Information and Public Relations Department in Mawlamyine.—MNA

MOSA holds 5th AGM

YANGON, 16 Dec — The 5th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association took place at Hotel Nikko, Tamway Township, this morning.

First, Chairman of the association Dr Tin Hlaing gave an opening speech and CEC Chairman Capt Min Sein extended greetings.

Secretary of the association Capt Soe Min Aung submitted the report of CEC and the chairman approved the report after seeking the approvals from those present.

Treasurer Capt Htay Myint submitted the 2006-2007 fiscal report and financial statements, which were approved by the chairman.

Secretary of the association Capt Soe Min Aung answered the questions raised by the members.

Later, Daw Aye Aye Mar, wife of late sailor U Myint Oo, spoke words of thanks to the members of the association for granting compensation and the chairman of the CEC gave a concluding speech.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets a doyen literati at the ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day 1369 ME at the city hall on 15-12-2007.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening of Yatanarpon Teleport, visits 2nd Flower Festival...

(from page 16)

General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the signboard of the teleport. At the briefing hall, Chairman of Myanmar e-National Task Force Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Construction of Yadanabon Myothit Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported to the Senior General on matters related to the construction project of Yadanabon Myothit.

In his report, the minister said that Yadanabon Myothit was established at mile post No 27/0 on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road in PyinOoLwin Township. The first-phase project site was 10,000 acres of land. As the first phase tasks of the project, software and hardware production buildings are being constructed on 2,200 acres each of land. Of them, the main building of the teleport and the incubation centers have so far been completed.

The minister continued to say that the main building of the teleport is L shape comprising one-storey



Senior General Than Shwe attends opening ceremony of Yatanarpon Teleport.—MNA

incubation center. For the first phase, seven incubation centers are under construction, and four incubation centres have been completed.

In the new town, the 2.5-mile concrete road and the 10-mile earth road have been constructed. In addition, the water supply tasks are being carried out through Hsinlan and Sitha dams.

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Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann unveils the signboard of Yatanarpon Teleport.

MNA



Main building of Yatanarpon Teleport in PyinOoLwin Township.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening...

(from page 8)

He added that the network connection was built with satellite communication system, fibre communication system, underwater cable communication system and transnational communication system. Furthermore, tasks of environmental conservation are being conducted. Guidance of the Head of State on his inspection tour is being implemented.

The minister said that at present, a total of 11 local and foreign companies proposed to make investment in Yadanabon Myothit. Next, the minister reported on weather conditions of the new town and implementation of the project phase by phase.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that in accord with weather and environmental conditions Yadanabon Myothit was set up for development of modern information and communication technologies in Myanmar. As the government has provided water and power supply, communication and administration facilities for the new town, it is necessary to create good opportunities for enabling local and foreign entrepreneurs to make investment at the teleport and to smoothly carry out modern information and technological tasks.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe received gift



Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for a documentary photo at 2nd Flower Festival in National Kandawgyi Gardens. —MNA

computer accessories and communications equipment of the respective companies and heard the reports of the minister and responsible persons of the companies.

Week-2007 at Yatanarpon Teleport. Modern IT equipment and other computer accessories were displayed by 115 local and foreign companies at the 6th Myanmar ICT Week.



Senior General Than Shwe views display of flowers at 2nd Flower Festival in National Kandawgyi Gardens. —MNA

to mark the opening of Yatanarpon Teleport presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the booths of the entrepreneurs who will invest in Yatanarpon Teleport and modern IT equipment,

The construction tasks of the main building of the Teleport started in Yadanabon Myothit on 30 June, 2006.

The opening ceremony of Yatanarpon Teleport took place in conjunction with the 6th Myanmar ICT

The 6th Myanmar ICT Week will be kept open until 20 December, and talks and workshops will be held at the meeting hall of the main building of the Teleport.

(See page 10)



Senior General Than Shwe looks into progress of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe attends...

(from page 9)

Booths, market festival and game contests of IT companies will be held on the ground, first and second floors of the

main building and Incubation Centre (7).

Besides, the entertainment pro-grammes are included at the 6th Myanmar ICT Week.

In the afternoon, Senior General Than Shwe and party visited National Kandawgyi Gardens and viewed various kinds of flowers displayed at the second flower festival and heard reports presented by

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and responsible persons of Myanmar Floriculturalists Association. Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party posed for a documentary photo.

A total of 15 kinds of domestic flowers, 65 kinds of exotic flowers and 5 million flowers are put on display at the second flower festival.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the progress and beautiful scenes of National Kandawgyi Gardens. They also observed the orchid garden and heard a report on progress of building of the garden and efforts made on

construction of international level orchid garden by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

The garden was built on 5-acre plot in the National Kandawgyi Gardens. Altogether 304 species of orchid naturally-grown in

Myanmar, 3,515 plants and 28,518 kinds of exotic orchids are put on display in the garden.

Those in search of rest and recreation can enjoy with pleasure and knowledge due to setting up of such international level orchid garden.—MNA



Designs decorated with flowers in National Kandawgyi Gardens.—MNA

Orchids seen in National Kandawgyi Gardens.—MNA

Foreign military attachés visit PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Division, Lashio and Muse of Shan State (North)

YANGON, 16 Dec — Foreign Military Attachés to the Union of Myanmar and families made a study tour of PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division and Lashio and Muse in Shan State (North) from 13 to 16 December.

A 50-member study group led by Dean of Defence Services Attaché Corps Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh left here by air at 7 am on 13 December and arrived at Anisakhan Airport near PyinOoLwin at 9 am.

Next, the study group visited National Kandawgyi Gardens and National Landmark Gardens in PyinOoLwin.

In the afternoon, they

visited Peikchinmyaung Mahanandamu Cave and Maha Arnhtu Kantha Buddha Image where they made cash donations.

On 14 December morning, the study group attended the graduation parade of 50th Intake of DSA in PyinOoLwin.

Accompanied by Daw Myat Ngwe, wife of Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, they arrived in Lashio, Shan State (North) by car in the evening and were welcomed there by officials of North-East Command and local people.

At 8 pm, they attended a dinner hosted by Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung

Than Htut at Shweli Yeiktha of the command Headquarters. After the dinner, Dean of Defence Services Attaché Corps Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh and wife presented a flowerbasket to the national race cultural troupe that entertained the guests.

On 15 December, the study group visited Mansu Wickerwork Buddha Image in Lashio and made cash donations. They

Foreign military attachés and their families visit National Kandawgyi Gardens and National Landmark Gardens.

MNA

proceeded to the 500-acre highland project site of Manmaw Agricultural Zone-3 and heard a report on work being carried out.

At 1 pm, they arrived at Muse where they observed Shwenandaw

Tour Industry and Nandaw Gate bordering Myanmar and China.

In the evening, they visited the Muse Night Market and looked into trade and commerce between Myanmar and

China.

On 16 December, they left Muse by car for Lashio Airport where they met with Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, and then left for Yangon.

MNA



AGM of MFF, Myanma Marine Products Festival on 30 Dec

YANGON, 16 Dec — The ninth annual general meeting of Myanmar Fishery Federation will be held at the MFF building on Bayintnaung Road in West Gyogon Ward, Insein Township, on 30 December.

Departments concerned of the ministries, members entrepreneurs of MFF, marine products entrepreneurs, experts and guests were invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with Myanma Marine Products Festival 2007-08. There will be seafood restaurants, marine products shops, household goods shops and educative booths.

The festival will be opened on 30 December and it will be kept open until 4 January 2008 with the entertainment programmes. —MNA

Beautiful Orchids & Flowers of Myanmar



Many species of orchids and various kinds of domestic and exotic orchids seen at Orchid Garden in PyinOoLwin.
MNA



ADVERTISEMENT

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ် ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၁၃ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက်
အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့်ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသဖြင့်
ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများတင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း မိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

Table with 3 columns: စဉ် (က), ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် (တာယာအရွယ်စုံ), အရေအတွက် (၂၃၉၆) စုံ

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၂၀၀၇ ခု၊ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး
ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်နှစ်ထောင်တိတိ)
နှုန်းဖြင့်ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်း ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနထုတ်
ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-
၃၈၈၇၂ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOYNO (159)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOYNO (159) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 17.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

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Gunman suspected in Japan shooting found dead

TOKYO, 15 Dec — A man believed to have opened fire on a sports gym in southern Japan was found dead early on Saturday, following a bloody rampage in which a woman swimming instructor and another man were killed and six people injured.

Police said 37-year-old Masayoshi Magome was found lying in a pool of blood in a church near the Renaissance Sports Gym in Sasebo City, on the island of Kyushu, where the shooting took place on Friday.

Magome, who was found in the same camouflage suit worn in the shooting, had apparently committed suicide, Kyodo News reported, quoting police officials. A shotgun lay near the body.

Police said Magome had attended school with Yuji Fujimoto, a 36-year-old fishing gear maker who died in hospital on Friday after the attack.

Media reports said he was also acquainted with Mai Kuramoto, the 26-year old swimming instructor who also died in the rampage, but the nature of their relationship was unknown.

MNA/Reuters

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊
သစ်ပင်ကို နှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။

For sale
For Your X'mas and New Year Gifts. 7th Floor facing Kyimyindine Market. Enquire, Ph: 01-513433 U Thein Han

First SAARC youth camp concludes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 15 Dec — The first South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Youth Camp 2007 concluded in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka Thursday with the adoption of a number of declarations.

Representatives of youths from host Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka took part in the camp at the National Youth Centre in Savar on the outskirts of Dhaka from 10 to 13 December.

The camp discussed possible areas of cooperation and action-oriented undertakings, primarily in the areas of education, environment, culture and information and media, which may be undertaken. They requested the governments to support and facilitate in realizing the long-term goals of accomplishing a South Asian identity.

They suggested the governments consider organizing frequent common sports events and facilitating greater exchange of academics and students of leading academic institutions in SAARC countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin hails Russian-Belarusian ties

Moscow, 15 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin Friday spoke highly of relations between Russia and Belarus, pledging to further economic and trade ties, according to reports reaching here.

“Relations between Russia and Belarus are extensive and keep growing. This year, I am certain, we will reach a new level in trade and economic ties — over 24 billion US dollars,” Putin said in talks with his

Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk.

Putin was in Minsk for a meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Russia-Belarus Union State slated for 13-14 December that will focus on the Union State's four-billion-ruble (158-million-US-dollar) budget for next year and discuss the adoption of a constitutional act and fuel and energy cooperation.

The two

countries, which agreed to forge a union state after the collapse of the Soviet Union, have witnessed a down-turn in relations in recent years due to disputes over oil and gas prices.

During the visit, the two countries are also expected to sign an intergovernmental agreement granting Belarus a stabilization loan, the RIA news agency quoted a Union State official as reporting.

MNA/Xinhua

UN staff death toll in Algiers bomb raised to 17

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Dec — The number of UN staff killed in a bombing that damaged two UN buildings in Algiers three days ago has risen to 17 after several bodies were found in the rubble, the United Nations said on Friday.

Al-Qaeda's North African wing claimed responsibility for twin car bombs on Tuesday that killed more than 30 people in all at the UN offices and

a court building, saying it had targeted what it called “the slaves of America and France.”

“The efforts on the ground to clear away the rubble following the bomb blast at the UN offices in Algeria last Tuesday have, as we feared, helped us find and identify more bodies,” said UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe.

“Consequently I can now confirm that 17 UN

staff were killed in the Algiers attack,” she said. Previously the United Nations had confirmed 11 deaths.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has asked UN staff to observe a minute's silence on Monday.

“I have learned with profound sadness that the death toll on the bombing in Algiers is even higher than we feared,” Ban said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Switzerland provides Bangladesh more cyclone assistance

DHAKA, 15 Dec — Switzerland has provided an additional 3.6 million US dollars as emergency assistance for the victims of cyclone Sidr and also for post-flood rehabilitation.

This brings the total Swiss Government

assistance so far to 5.5 million US dollars, private news agency UNB reported Thursday.

Among the additional fund, 1.72 million US dollars will be provided to the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP) for early economic recovery for the cyclone-affected people.

Switzerland will also provide 1.88 million US dollars worth of assistance for post-flood rehabilitation through Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a Swiss Embassy release was quoted as saying.

Besides, a number of humanitarian aid experts from Bern are supporting the ongoing relief and rehabilitation operations.

“More Swiss assistance for recovery and rehabilitation is expected to be provided in 2008 in the cyclone-affected areas,” said the embassy.

The cyclone Sidr battered Bangladesh's southern and southwestern coastal areas on 15 November, leaving more than 3000 dead and millions homeless.—MNA/Xinhua



A Pakistani health worker gives a polio vaccine to a child at a vaccination camp in Peshawar. Pakistan is on the verge of being polio-free after recording the fewest cases this year in more than a decade.—INTERNET

Low CO2, high-tech ship launched in Hamburg

HAMBURG(Germany), 16 Dec — The world's first commercial merchant ship pulled by a giant high-tech kite aiding its engines to slash fuel consumption and cut greenhouse gas emissions was launched in Hamburg on Saturday.

The pioneering 132-metre long *MV Beluga SkySails* was ceremonially launched in the northern German Port

ahead of its maiden voyage across the Atlantic to Venezuela in early January.

Pulled by a huge kite to catch strong winds up to 300 metres above the surface, the 500,000-euro (725,600 US dollars) *SkySails* system is projected to cut fuel costs by about 20 per cent — or about 1,600 US dollars per day. It will also reduce

CO2 output, which is blamed for climate change, by a similar amount, designers say.

“The shipping industry emits 800 million tons of CO2 now and that will rise to over one billion tons in five years,” said Niels Stolberg, the chief executive of Beluga Shipping GmbH that helped develop the system. — MNA/Reuters

Mistrial for six in US Sears Tower conspiracy case

MIAMI, 15 Dec — A judge declared a mistrial on Thursday for six men accused of plotting to blow up America's tallest skyscraper, Chicago's Sears Tower, after a jury failed to reach verdicts on them but acquitted one other man.

The decision was a setback for the US Government, which had touted the arrests as an important victory in its war on terrorism.

US District Judge Joan Lenard scheduled a new trial for 7 January for the six.

The verdict came after the 12-member Miami jury deliberated over nine days and twice told the judge they could not agree on any of the four charges against the men, known as the Liberty City Seven after

the poor Miami neighbourhood where they met.

Lyglenson Le-morin, 32, described as a soldier in the plot, was cleared on four terrorism conspiracy charges

including the charge of plotting to wage war on the United States.

“The jury cannot reach a verdict regarding the remaining defendants,” Lenard said.

MNA/Reuters



Picture taken on 19 Dec, 2006 shows that a man dressed as Santa Claus reads a card from Italian school children at Santa Claus' Village at the Arctic Circle near Rovaniemi, Finland. A Christmas postcard mailed in 1914 just arrived in northwest Kansas, media reported on 19 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

US panel says data support cold medicines

SILVER SPRING (Maryland), 16 Dec — Over-the-counter cold medicines made with phenylephrine appear effective for relieving nasal congestion in adults but the ingredient needs more study, a US advisory panel said on Friday.

Phenylephrine was substituted for pseudoephedrine in many nonprescription cold and allergy medicines, including Johnson & Johnson's Sudafed PE, after the latter ingredient was restricted amid reports of abuse.

Researchers petitioned the government, however, saying there was no evidence phenylephrine worked for relieving a stuffy nose. The Food and Drug Administration asked a panel of outside experts to weigh in. By an 11-1 vote, the committee said available data was “supportive” of the effectiveness of phenylephrine at 10 milligrams, the dose sold over the counter.—MNA/Reuters



Amazon.com bought a book of fairy tales handwritten and designed by J.K. Rowling with a price of nearly 4 million US dollars at auction on Thursday. British author JK Rowling (C) poses with a copy of her new book “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” at the Natural History Museum in London on 20 July, 2007.—INTERNET

British researchers develop tumour 3D view laser scanner

LONDON, 16 Dec — British researchers have developed an ultrasound scanner that provides more detailed 3D images of the

deformed blood vessels within a tumour.

Researchers at University College London, Britain, developed a high-resolution photo-acoustic tomography scanner, which could help doctors determine the boundary between cancerous and healthy tissue during surgery, *New Scientist* reported on Friday on its website.

The scanner uses laser light to “twang” cells so they emit an ultrasound wave, which is then detected and used to form a 3D image.

This shoots very short pulses of non-harmful near-infrared laser light at a tumour, and as the light is absorbed by tissue, the cells heat up and expand very slightly, creating an

ultrasound wave that can then be detected by a sensor, according to Paul Beard who led the research.

The intensity of the ultrasound wave depends on how well the tissue absorbs the near-infrared radiation, which produces high-contrast images of blood vessels because haemoglobin is very absorbent at these wavelengths.

“Our scanner is best suited to providing high-resolution images at a short range, but the technique could be used to image tumours a few centimeters into the breast,” Beard was quoted as saying.

In order to convert the reflected ultrasound into a high-resolution 3D image the researchers had to create a new ultrasound sensor as well, the report said. The sensor consists of a thin layer of a polymer sandwiched between two reflective layers. The outer layers only reflect certain wavelengths of light and the laser light used to penetrate a patient's tissue shines straight through all three layers.

MNA/Xinhua



Spanish flamenco dancer Cristina Hoyos (L) performs during her “Viaje al Sur” (Southernbound trip) dance show, at the Garcia Lorca Theatre in Havana.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Eto'o double leads Barca to 3-0 win in Valencia

MADRID, 16 Dec — Samuel Eto'o led Barcelona to only their second away win of the season in a 3-0 victory over Valencia in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

The home side had no answer to the Cameroon striker's pace and power as he netted twice in the first half, proving he has fully recovered from the surgery that kept him sidelined for the first three months of the season. Eidur Gudjohnsen added the third in the second period.

For Valencia coach Ronald Koeman it was his side's sixth game in all competitions without a goal.

"It's clear Samuel was very important for us today. We have to congratulate him as he has performed to a very high standard," Barca coach Frank Rijkaard said.

Second-placed Barca moved on to 34 points, one behind leaders Real Madrid who host Osasuna at the Bernabeu on Sunday.—MNA/Reuters



China's Huang Lei (L) fights with Japan's Kudo Yuki during their 85kg match at the 2007 Sino-Japan Free Boxing competition. Huang Lei won the match.—XINHUA

Del Piero scores twice as Juve beat Lazio

ROME, 16 Dec — Alessandro Del Piero scored two second-half goals to inspire Juventus to a 3-2 win at Lazio on Saturday, lifting his side to second in Series A.

The visitors took the lead in the 29th minute when France striker David Trezeguet deflected in his 12th goal of the season after a goalmouth scramble.

Lazio levelled in the 36th when Tommaso Rocchi found Massimo Mutarelli in the area and the midfielder volleyed the ball across the face of goal for Macedonia striker Goran Pandev to head in.

Juve captain Del Piero, making his first start in four league games, then latched on to a long pass and drilled the ball into the far corner three minutes after the break.

The Rome side pressed forward in search of the equalizer but were caught on the counter-attack in the 70th as Del Piero scored a goal similar to his first.

MNA/Reuters



Newcastle United's Joey Barton, left, scores from the penalty spot in injury time following a foul by Fulham's Elliot Omozusi during the English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage, Fulham, England, on 15 Dec, 2007.

Newcastle won the match 1-0.—INTERNET

Man City reach top four with home record intact

LONDON, 16 Dec — Manchester City came from behind to beat Bolton Wanderers 4-2 on Saturday to keep their 100 per cent home record and go fourth in the Premier League while the big guns enjoyed a day off.

The four leading contenders are in action on Sunday, with champions Manchester United playing Liverpool at Anfield before leaders Arsenal host third-placed Chelsea.

Arsenal have 37 points from 16 games

to United's 36, with Chelsea on 34 and City on 33. Portsmouth could have gone fourth but fell to seventh after losing 1-0 to Tottenham Hotspur at Fratton Park. They remain on 30 points, behind Liverpool and Everton — who won 2-0 at West Ham United — on goal difference.

"We got well beaten today," said Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp of his side's first home league defeat of the season and Tottenham's first away win.

MNA/Reuters

Werder beat Leverkusen to join Bayern at the top

BERLIN, 16 Dec — Werder Bremen thumped Bayer Leverkusen 5-2 on Saturday to move level on points with tiring leaders Bayern Munich at the halfway stage of the season.

Bayern did just enough to hold on to top spot, and claim the honorary title of 'winter champions', with a goalless draw away to Hertha Berlin.

They now lead Werder only by goal difference, though, after Thomas Schaaf's side recovered from their Champions League exit in midweek by clinching a great comeback win.

The highlights for the crowd were two goals from Ivan Klasnic, the Croatian striker who recently returned after two kidney transplant operations this year.

MNA/Reuters



Russia's 2 sled driven by Alevtina Kovalenko with Elena Doronina on the brakes slides through the finish curve after rolling over during first run of the Women's Two-Man Bobsled World Cup race, on 15 Dec, 2007 in Lake Placid, NY.—INTERNET

Lyon survive scare in home draw with Nice

PARIS, 16 Dec — Ligue 1 leaders Olympique Lyon survived a fright in a 0-0 home draw with Nice on Saturday. The visitors had the best chances in a lively game and almost got a winner after 83 minutes when Brazilian playmaker Ederson's free kick bounced down off the bar onto the line. Six-times champions

Lyon now have 38 points, five clear of second-placed Nancy, who visit Racing Strasbourg on Sunday.

Lyon, who reached the last 16 of the Champions League with a 3-0 win at Rangers on Wednesday, had their chances too but were denied by a string of great saves from 20-year-old Hugo Lloris.

"We were a bit tired after our match in Glasgow," said Lyon goalkeeper Remy Vercoutre. "Sometimes you have to be content with a draw." Surprise package Nice have gone eight matches without defeat are in seventh place, 12 points off the pace. Le Mans moved into third, eight points behind the leaders, after a 0-0 home draw with mid-table Lorient.—MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

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|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | M | U | S | T | E | R | E | D | 5 | C | 6 | S | | | | |
| | A | | U | | X | | M | 7 | S | A | U | C | E | | | |
| 8 | N | E | G | L | I | G | E | N | T | | R | | C | | | |
| | S | | G | | T | | N | Y | 9 | E | F | T | | | | |
| 10 | E | V | E | N | | 11 | A | D | D | L | E | D | I | | | |
| | | S | | 12 | P | | S | | I | | | | O | | | |
| 13 | C | O | T | T | O | N | | 14 | A | S | T | 15 | E | R | N | |
| | H | | | S | | 16 | A | | H | | M | | | | | |
| | A | | 17 | P | A | T | E | N | T | | 18 | T | O | M | 19 | B |
| 20 | T | I | E | | | E | | I | | 21 | F | | T | | O | |
| | T | | T | | 22 | R | E | M | A | I | N | I | N | G | | |
| 23 | E | A | T | E | N | | | A | | N | | V | | U | | |
| | R | | Y | | | 24 | G | L | A | D | N | E | S | S | | |



Swiss wheelchair champion Edith Hunkeler waves to the audience after receiving the "Paralympic Athlete of the Year Award" during the Swiss Sports Awards gala in Bern on 15 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Brazilian scores twice in Heerenveen goal spree

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 16 Dec — Brazilian Paulo Henrique, 18, struck twice on his debut to lead Heerenveen to a 5-1 win at NAC Breda in the Dutch league on Saturday to close the gap on the top three, who are out of action this weekend.

The mayors of Amsterdam and Rotterdam have postponed the fixtures between Ajax Amsterdam and PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord and AZ Alkmaar because they cannot guarantee public safety when the police go on strike during the games.

Dutch Football Association (KNVB) director Henk Kesler said they would lodge a claim with the unions for costs already incurred by home teams Ajax and Feyenoord.—MNA/Reuters

Serbia will not accept EU trade-off over Kosovo

BELGRADE, 16 Dec — Serbia would never agree to give up its Kosovo province in exchange for speeding up accession to the European Union, Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic said on Friday.

A draft stat Friday's EU summit, obtained by Reuters, indicated Brussels would offer Serbia a fast track to candidate status. It also says talks on Kosovo had been exhausted, the status quo was untenable and a settlement of Kosovo's future status was essential

for Balkan stability.

Serbia does not see Kosovo as something that can be compensated by European Union membership. "A trade-off is out of question," Jeremic said. "It would be an indecent proposal, and European leaders are decent people, they have not made such an offer."

Kosovo's Albanian majority plans to declare independence in early 2008. The United States and most EU members have indicated they will recognise the territory as a state.— *MNA/Reuters*

Earthquake jolts Indonesia's Maluku islands

JAKARTA, 16 Dec — An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude jolted the Maluku islands in eastern Indonesia on Saturday but there were no reports of casualties or damage, the meteorology agency and residents said.

The epicentre was 128 kilometres (79 miles) northwest of Saumlaki Town in Northwest Maluku District at a depth of 100 kilometres, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said in a text message.

The quake was unlikely to trigger a tsunami given its depth, said Fauzi, the head of the agency's earthquake centre.

An official at the Fatima Hospital in Saumlaki said there was no panic there.

We have not received any patients from the earthquake and there's no damage around here," Rosa Batmomolin told Reuters by telephone.

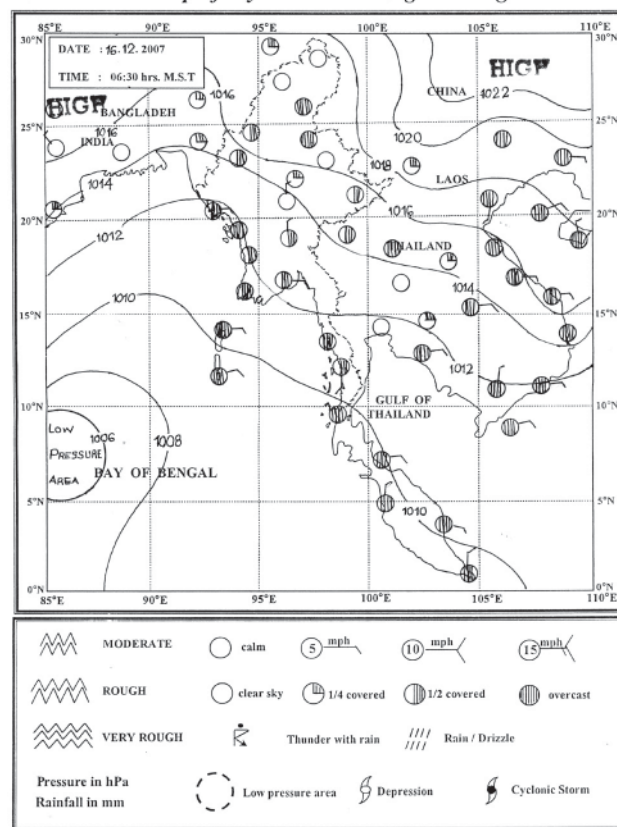
A resident, Gulman, told Elshinta radio the quake was felt strongly.

"It was unusual. My chair rocked and the lamps swayed," he said.

Indonesia lies on the Pacific Rim's "ring of fire", a zone prone to seismic upheavals.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 16 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Divisions, and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperature in Magway Division, (3°C) above December average temperature in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above December average temperature in Taninthayi Division, (6°C) above December temperature in Mon State and about December average temperature in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature were Namsam, Haka and PyinOoLwin (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 15-12-2007 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 16-12-2007 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-12-2007 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 15-12-2007 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-12-2007 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 (8) mph from North at (18:30) hours MST on 15-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-12-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of thesea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17- 12-2007: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-12-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-12-2007: Generally fair.

Indian girl born with eight limbs leaves hospital

BANGALORE (India), 16 Dec — A two-year-old Indian girl born with four arms, four legs and extra internal organs left hospital smiling on Saturday, nearly six weeks after doctors removed her extra limbs in a gruelling operation.

The team of around 30 medics took away what amounted to Lakshmi Tatma's

headless identical twin sister who was joined at the pelvis and who did not develop and separate properly in the womb — an extremely rare case.

"I cannot say how happy we are," Lakshmi's labourer father, Shambu, told reporters as the family left Sparsh Hospital in the southern city of Bangalore for a flight

home to Bihar state.

"My daughter is going to lead a normal life. We plan to build a temple in our village."

Lakshmi, named after the four-armed Hindu goddess of wealth, was expected to be in the operating theatre for 40 hours in early November, but the surgery was completed after 27.— *MNA/Reuters*



Monday, 17 December
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်အောင်မြင်စေမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဏ် အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- Song of national races

8:05 am

- Cute little dancers

8:15 am

- အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song for uphold national spirit

4:30 pm

- Demonstration Exercise for correct pronunciation

4:45 pm

- အပေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ခါတုပေဒ၊ ရူပပေဒ ရုက္ခပေဒအထူးပြုများ)(ခါတုပေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Dance variety

5:10 pm

- မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm

- ဖြတ်လျှောက်ရုံလေးပဲဖြတ်လျှောက် ဖြစ်တော့မှာပါ”(ကျော်ဇေယျ၊ မေသန်းနု၊ ပန်းဖြူ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- မောင်မောင်ဦး) (စနိုးဂိုက်)

5:35 pm

- Song and dance of national races

5:45 pm

- Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:55 pm

- “တောင်ပေါ်မြေပြန့် ရင်ခွင်မဲ့ပန်း တို့ကွန်းခိုရာနန်းဦးအေးရိပ်သာယာ”

7:10 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူးခိုးဝေချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၆)

8:00 pm

- News

8:00 pm

- International news

8:00 pm

- Weather report

8:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်စေတမန်”(အပိုင်း-၈)

8:00 pm

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

8:00 pm

- The next day's programme



Monday, 17 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Have you ever
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -I never
- 8:50 am National news/slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Forever young
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -Evergreen
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music -To sir with love
- 9:00pm -Eternal flame Spotlight on the stars (Connie Francis)
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20 pm Drug/Women Affairs
- 9:35 pm Golden Land Melody/Vocal Gems -25th of last December -Light of the stable
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

- * Main building of the teleport is L shape comprising one-storey incubation center.
- * Seven incubation centers are under construction, and four incubation centres have been completed.
- * The 2.5-mile concrete road and the 10-mile earth road have been constructed.



Senior General Than Shwe accepts gift to mark opening of Yatanarpon Teleport presented by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening...

(from page 1)

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, ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials of the Yadanabon Myothit Construction Committee, responsible persons of

Myanmar Computer Federation local and foreign IT experts, officials from companies who will invest in Yatanarpon Teleport, local people from Mandalay Division, PyinOoLwin District and Township, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Asso-

ciation, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Fire Brigades, teachers, students, pom-pom dance troupes and nurses.

(See page 8)



A scene of beautiful flowers at Flower Festival in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Flowers bloom at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin