

## Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Pagoda



*Chairman of State Peace and Development Council  
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General  
Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Buddha  
Image in PyinOoLwin Township. — MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-

Gen Tin Ngwe and officials visited Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Pagoda in PyinOoLwin Township on 18 December evening and paid homage to Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Buddha Image.

The Senior General donated cash to the funds of the pa-

goda through the chairman to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Later, the Senior General viewed prize winning works in the photo contest 2007 to mark Tazaungdine Festival of the pagoda.

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

Friday, 21 December, 2007

### Improve science and technology sector to build modern Tatmadaw

“I urge you to participate with energy and vigour in the development of the Science and Technology of the Tatmadaw and the building of a modern Tatmadaw, ensure that you become the new generation of leaders who will defend the Twelve Traditions of the Tatmadaw, even with your lives, and join in the activities for the building of a modern developed nation.”

This is an excerpt from the speech given to junior engineer leaders by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the graduation parade of the 10th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy at the parade ground of the DSTA in PyinOoLwin on 19 December.

Today, advancement in the science and technology has gained a dominant position over any other sector. And military science and technologies are advancing day after day. Therefore, Defence Services engineers, who will have to participate in the building of a modern Tatmadaw, are to work hard to improve their qualifications and to be able to keep abreast of global advancements.

Now, steps are being taken for building a strong and modern Tatmadaw capable of protecting the motherland. The Defence Services Technological Academy is one of the educational institutions that produce human resources for strengthening the Tatmadaw. Successful completion of the graduation parade of the 10th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy is a contribution towards the drive.

The new graduates, engineering resources, will have to shoulder national defence duties, training duties and public welfare services, while playing a key role in the building of a modern Tatmadaw. Moreover, they will have to study constantly the subjects on military science and technology that are advancing.

It is believed that the Defence Services junior engineer leaders will protect and safeguard the nation at risk to their lives, while trying their best to become reliable citizens in accordance with good morale and fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

*A responsible person speaks at joining ceremony of China Southern Airlines Company at Sky Team Alliance at Traders Hotel.—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

### Mayor pays homage to Presiding Sayadaw of Ngwekyaryan Pariyatti Sarthintaik

YANGON, 20 Dec — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-Charge) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and officials concerned visited Ngwekyaryan Pariyatti Sarthintaik in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

They paid homage to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the Sarthintaik State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Revata.

The CEC member and wife supplicated on upgrading of the entrance road to the monastery. Next, they presented five bags of rice and one tin of edible oil donated by Yangon Division USDA to the Sayadaw. At No 2 Basic Education High School in Yankin Township, they attended the closing ceremony of Red Cross course in conjunction with the uniform presentation ceremony.

Completion certificates were presented to the trainees by Adviser to Myanmar Red Cross So-

ciety Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and outstanding awards by Executive Director U Khin Maung Hla of MRCS.

Red Cross uniforms worth K 500,000 were handed to officials by the CEC member and wife. Leader Daw Moe Swe Aung of School Red Cross Brigade spoke words of thanks. — MNA

*Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe donate provisions to the Sayadaw of Ngwekyaryan Pariyatti Sarthintaik.—YCDC*



## MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Aung Myo Myint	Managing Director Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise Ministry of Information
(b) U Zaw Htay	Director-General Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) Ministry of Education
(c) U Tin Myint	Director-General Attorney-General's Office

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Director-General U Hoke Kyi of Hydropower Administration Department under Ministry of Electric Power No 1 as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

### China Southern Airlines Co opens Yangon branch

YANGON, 20 Dec — A ceremony to join the Sky Team Alliance of the China Southern Airlines

Company of the People's Republic of China and open Yangon branch office was held at Traders Hotel, here, on 18 December.

China Southern Airlines launched the Guangzhou-Yangon direct flight in July for ensuring cooperation in tourism and economic sectors between Myanmar and the PRC.

Boeing airplanes of China Southern Airlines run its flights to Paris, New York, Tokyo, Nairobi, Panama, Seoul, Moscow and Beijing cities in addition to Yangon-Guangzhou flight, carrying passengers and freight. The airlines set a programme to sell air tickets at a discount up to 31 March 2008.

Air tickets are available at No 370, on the first floor of the Grand Mee Ya Hta Residences, near Kaung Kaung Restaurant, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Tel: 01-256355, extension: 3555/3666, fax: 01-250016.

MNA

# Japan test-fires ballistic missile off Hawaii



Japan successfully shoots down a ballistic missile in space high above the Pacific on 18 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET

TOKYO, 19 Dec—Japan successfully intercepted a mock ballistic missile off Hawaii in a test-fire shortly after local time Monday noon. Japanese Defence Ministry officials said Tuesday.

The test of the *Standard Missile-3*

which was launched by a Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) destroyer in the Pacific Ocean, was the first by a country other than the United States.

With the help of the US Navy which launched a mid-range ballistic missile from its military base in the Pacific, the Aegis-equipped Kongou of the MSDF several hundred kilometres away detected it and fired an SM-3 to intercept it at an altitude of more than 100 kilometres at around 7:12 am Japan time Monday.

*Kyodo News* quoted experts as saying that the success marks an important progress in Japan's construction of its missile shield. They also expressed concern over the breaking up of military balance in the region.—MNA/Xinhua

## Massage may help ease pain, anxiety after surgery

LOS ANGELES, 20 Dec — A 20-minute evening back massage may help relieve pain and reduce anxiety following major surgery when given in addition to pain medications, according to a new study.

Many patients still experience pain following major surgery despite the availability of pain-relieving medications, said the study published in the December issue of *Archives of Surgery*.

But massage may help to relieve the anxiety that synergizes with pain effectively. It could also generate mood-boosting endorphins or create a competing sensation that blocks pain, according to the study.

A team of US researchers from the Department of Veterans Affairs and VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System conducted a randomized controlled trial involving 605 veterans (average age 64) undergoing major surgery (chest or abdominal operations) between 2003 and 2005.

Patients were asked daily to rate the intensity and unpleasantness of their pain, plus their level of anxiety, on scales of

one to 10.

Compared with the control group, patients in the massage group experienced short-term decreases in pain intensity and anxiety, according to the study.

The effectiveness of massage in reducing both the intensity and unpleasantness of pain suggests that it may act through more than one mechanism, said the study.

MNA/Xinhua

## Cambodian UN Ambassador condemns UN envoy

PHNOM PENH, 20 Dec—Cambodian Ambassador to the United Nations Sia Kosal on Wednesday condemned the current UN human rights envoy to Cambodia Yash Ghai, accusing him of “having rude and arrogant behaviours” to the Cambodian people and government.

Yash Ghai looked down upon the Cambodian people and government by his comments in public, Kosal said in an official letter delivered to UN Secretary General Ban Kim-moon, Yash Ghai said Cambodia was not ruled by law, Kosal said in the letter, adding that Ghai's words are equaled Cambodia with an anarchic and pre-history country.

Yash Ghai also urged the Cambodian people to rebel against the Cambodian Government which was elected in democratic process, he said. Cambodia is very upset for Ghai's words and behaviours which are unacceptable, Kosal said in the letter.

Although Cambodia did not need an UN special envoy on human rights, the government has always expressed the goodwill to accept the UN special envoy for improving human rights conditions in this country. Kosal said, adding that now the Cambodian Government is considering whether the UN special envoy is still necessary.—MNA/Xinhua

## Blackwater probed for shooting “NY Times” dog

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec—The US Embassy in Iraq is investigating another deadly shooting incident involving its Blackwater bodyguards — this time of the *New York Times's* dog.

Staff at the newspaper's Baghdad bureau said Blackwater bodyguards shot Hentish dead last week before a visit by a US diplomat to the *Times* compound. Blackwater spokeswoman Anne Tyrrell said the dog had attacked one of Blackwater's bomb-sniffer dogs while a security team was sweeping the compound for explosives.—MNA/Xinhua

## Poland seeks to pull troops from Iraq by October 2008

WARSAW, 19 Dec—Poland's new government asked the President on Tuesday to approve plans under which the country's 900 troops in Iraq would pull out by October next year.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk has clashed with

conservative President Lech Kaczynski, who has opposed a troop withdrawal so soon.

The request for a final extension of Poland's military mission in Iraq until the end of October 2008 was presented as a compromise. It comes as other US allies such as Britain and Australia are also scaling back their presence.

Tusk, who defeated the President's twin brother, former prime minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, in October elections, pledged in his inaugural address last month to withdraw Polish soldiers from Iraq next year.

MNA/Reuters

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Malaysia hopes to attract 100,000 foreign students by 2010

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Dec—The Malaysian Government has set a target to attract 100,000 foreign students to study in Malaysia by 2010, an education official said here on Tuesday. The target was in line with Malaysia's National Higher Education Strategic Plan which formulates a vision to make Malaysia the regional hub of excellence in education, said Malaysian Higher Education Minister Mustapa Mohamed.

The presence of foreign students would not only help bring foreign exchange into Malaysia but also would add the international dimension to campuses of Malaysia's

institutions of higher learning, he said in a speech delivered to a local university conference.

Currently, there were

about 52,000 foreign students studying in the country, according to the Higher Education Ministry.—MNA/Xinhua

## At least 19 killed in Mexico truck accident

MEXICO CITY, 19 Dec—A dump truck packed with coffee pickers skidded off a road in the Mexican state of Puebla and plunged into a shallow ravine, killing at least 19 people, a Red Cross official said on Monday.

The truck was carrying between 80 and 85 people to coffee plantations on the mountains of Puebla when the driver lost control on a curve and fell about 15 feet (5 metres) into the ravine.

“The truck ended up upside down. It squashed the people,” Red Cross coordinator Baldomero Azua told *Reuters*. Road accidents are common on Mexico's narrow, poorly paved interstate roads.

MNA/Reuters



Insurgents kill at least 22 people in Iraq in a series of bomb attacks, including a suicide attack that kills 16 people in a cafe near the restive city of Baquba. INTERNET

## Cambodia, Thailand sign single visa agreement

PHNOM PENH, 18 Dec — Cambodia and Thailand on Monday signed a single visa agreement which allows foreign tourists from a third country to visit the two countries with a single visa.

This agreement will

promote more foreign tourists to visit both countries and make it easier to get the visa for them, Hor Nam Hong, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters after

signing the agreement with his Thai counterpart Nitya Pibulsonggram.

The two kingdoms will become one destination for foreign tourists, he said, adding that the agreement will take effect as soon as possible.

MNA/Xinhua

## Somali pirates hijack Italian cargo ship

NAIROBI, 18 Dec — Somali pirates have hijacked an Italian cargo ship off the coastal waters of the Horn of Africa region, a regional maritime official said here Monday.

Andrew Mwangura, the coordinator of the Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP), said the vessel which was sailing from Italy to Kenya's port city of Mom-

basa was attacked in southern Somalia early Monday.

"An Italian cargo ship has been attacked by Somali pirates. Details of the crew and their nationalities have not been established," Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone.

The hijack comes barely a week after the pirates freed a Japanese che-

mical tanker and its crew members.

The 12,000 dead-weight-ton tanker, the *Golden Nori*, was sailing from Singapore to Israel with a cargo of chemicals when it was attacked by pirates at the end of October.

The International Maritime Board has warned of an alarming increase in piracy in Somali waters and has urged ships to avoid the area.

MNA/Xinhua



An excavation in Thailand's Northeast has discovered fossils of various dinosaurs, among them those of allosaurus, the biggest-sized carnivorous dinosaur species that have been found in Thailand.

INTERNET



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a news briefing after talks with Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis in Moscow's Kremlin on 18 Dec, 2007. Greece wants to double imports of Russian gas after 2016 when a new link will be built to supply fuel from Siberia to Europe's south, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

## US researchers regenerate lost breast tissue

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — US researchers have successfully tested the method of mixing a woman's stem cells with her body fat to partly-regenerate breasts after partial mastectomies, it was announced on Sunday.

Researchers from the

Cytori Therapeutics company in San Diego announced the results of a study on 21 women in Japan, who underwent partial breast removals and, at the same time, had some of their stem cells and body fat removed, according to a company

report.

A year later, regenerated tissue and body fat was used as doctors re-engineered the lost breast tissue.

The company told cancer researchers meeting in San Antonio, Southern California that none of the 21 women have shown signs of cancer spreading or any tissue rejection for a year after their lumpectomies.

In a statement, Cytori said it isolated those stem cells with its Celution System using tissue taken from the women during their cancer operations. Because the women were injected with stem cells from their own bodies, there were no issues with tissue rejection.

MNA/Xinhua

## China hopes Japan's actions beneficial for regional peace

BEIJING, 19 Dec — Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang said here on Tuesday that China hopes Japan's actions, including its latest missile test, are beneficial for regional peace and trust.

Japan on Monday successfully tested a US-built missile system off the coast of Hawaii.

It has been designed to track and destroy missiles, according to the Japanese Defence Ministry.

"We noticed Japan has reiterated on many occasions that it pursues the road of peaceful development," Qin told reporters.

"The Chinese side hopes that the actions of

Japan are favourable for regional peace and stability, and conducive for mutual trust among the countries in the region," he said.

He declined to comment on reports that the US-Japan joint missile effort was aimed at China-developed medium-range missiles.

MNA/Xinhua

## WTO launches investigation of US farm support

GENEVA, 18 Dec — The World Trade Organization (WTO) launched an investigation on Monday into Washington's multi-billion-dollar farm subsidies that Brazil and Canada say break international trading rules.

The Canadian complaint called for a WTO assessment of US subsidies and domestic support for corn and other agricultural products,

while the Brazilian request challenged broad US domestic support.

A single panel was set up by the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body to assess the two countries' concerns.

While the WTO's 151 members agree that some forms of farm support are acceptable to help secure food supplies, preserve the countryside and give farmers stability, international trade rules limit

the type and size of assistance states can give.

Subsidies are believed to skew trade by allowing producers to sell their goods more cheaply than producers in competing countries.

The nature of US farm support is a major point of contention in the WTO's six-year-old Doha Round negotiations on scaling back barriers to global trade.

MNA/Reuters



Vietnam's immigration officers conduct a rehearsal on combating potential bird flu outbreaks among people at the Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi capital, on 18 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

## Mercosur summit to focus on economic imbalance

MONTEVIDEO, 19 Dec — The 34th summit of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) was opened here Monday, focused on the imbalance of economic development among its member countries. Paraguay and Uruguay, two smaller economies, applied for bilateral trade deals outside Mercosur without losing full membership status.

The meeting will also strive for the elimination

of double taxation through a common external tariff arrangement.

On Tuesday, Cristina Fernandez, who became Argentina's president last Monday, would take over the rotating Mercosur presidency from her Uruguayan counterpart Tabare Vazquez.

Argentina and Uruguay are arguing over a paper mill on the Uruguayan bank of the Uruguayan River, which marks

the border between the two nations.

Activists in Argentina said that the mill has caused pollution in the river, which violated a bilateral treaty.

Mercosur, founded in 1991 to promote regional economic integration in Latin America, now has four full members — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, and a few associated members.

MNA/Xinhua

## French urges for equilibrium on euro exchange rates

PARIS, 19 Dec — French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said Monday that efforts should be made to establish an equilibrium on the exchange rates between the euro and other major currencies.

Lagarde said that major economies should work to establish a balanced exchange rate system covering the euro, the dollar, the RMB and the yen.

The minister also

proposed to include currencies of the Middle East countries in the system since they are under-evaluated given the economic strength of the region.

Lagarde said she is glad that Germany maintains a similar view with France that the strong euro has already become an obstacle for export growth in Europe.

The French Government has been complaining that the euro's

continuous appreciation against the dollar harms its economy, especially its export and competitiveness of its enterprises.

According to official statistics, France registered a record-high foreign trade deficit of 29.2 billion euros in 2006, and a higher record is expected in 2007, with the accumulated trade deficit between November 2006 and October 2007 standing at 35.2 billion euros.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam opens first container factory

HANOI, 20 Dec — Vietnam has launched its first container manufacturing plant in northern Hai Duong province, which is the second biggest of its kind in Southeast Asia, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Wednesday.

Vinashin-TGC Container Company, a joint venture between Vietnam's biggest ship-builder, Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Group (Vinashin), and Toong Goen of China's Taiwan, inaugurated Tuesday the plant with annual capacity of 45,000 TEUs (20-foot equivalent unit). Total investment for the facility is 30 million US dollars. Up to 80 per cent of the joint venture's containers will be exported.

Vinashin will help the

joint venture raise its annual container production capacity to 200,000 TEUs by 2010 with the construction of more plants in Vietnam's central and southern regions.

Demand for shipping containers in Vietnam

annually increases by around 50 per cent, while the total cost for container transport reaches one billion a year, the newspaper said. Most contracts for container transport in Vietnam are won by foreign shipping companies. — MNA/Xinhua



## ECONOMIC NEWS

### Potala Palace receives over one mln tourists

LHASA, 19 Dec — Tibet's architectural icon, the Potala Palace has received more than one million tourists so far this year, a 56-per-cent increase year-on-year, a local official said on Tuesday.

"Potala Palace has taken measures to improve its reception capability so as to meet the needs of visitors from home and abroad," said Jiang Yang, director of Tibetan Culture Bureau at a tourism promotion meeting held in Lhasa,

capital of the autonomous region.

Jiang added Tibet had built more restaurants near tourist hot spots to cater to visitors. In order to protect the cultural relics Potala Palace allows no more than 2,300 visitors per day.

Starting in January, the palace will sell tickets for 200 yuan (27.4 US dollars) in the peak summer season and 100 yuan in the winter low season, respectively.

Tourism is the main industry in Tibet.

The region received 2.5 million tourists last year

and reaped 2.77 billion yuan in total tourism earnings. This accounted for 9.6 per cent of the region's gross domestic product.

This year, Tibet expected to receive a record-high 4.02 million tourists, with the region's tourism revenues estimated to hit 4.8 billion yuan.

Tibet now has 88 star-level hotels that accommodate nearly 50,000 guests. It also has 56 travel agencies.

MNA/Xinhua



Stars from China and S Korea attend the ceremony of Star Awards 2007 in Beijing on 17 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET

Western family members shop for China-made toys at a shopping centre in central Beijing recently. — INTERNET

## Shanghai World Expo mascot unveiled

SHANGHAI, 19 Dec — Shanghai unveiled its mascot for the 2010 World Expo on Tuesday evening, 865 days before the six-month event kicks off.

The mascot, named Haibao, literally means "treasure of the world".

The blue smiling cartoon figure has curly hair and is in the shape of Chinese character REN, or human beings.

It was presented during a televised ceremony at the Shanghai Grand Stage in front of an audience of more than 9,000.

"Haibao is a jolly, confident and cute kid," said Shao Longtu, 62, CEO of the Jiumuchuan Sheng advertising company and head of the mascot design team. "Using a human being as a mascot reflects the spirit of human-orientation, while the colour blue stands for water, sea, the Earth, life, dreams, the future and technology."

The mascot was selected from among 26,655 entries from 21 countries and regions.

The expo, which runs from 1 May to 31 October, 2010, is expected to draw 70 million visitors, or an average of 400,000 daily. — MNA/Xinhua

# China sets up oil reserve centre

BEIJING, 19 Dec— China announced on Tuesday the setting up of a national oil reserve centre, the top economic planning agency confirmed.

China started a state strategic oil reserve base programme in 2004 as a way to offset oil supply risks and reduce the impact of fluctuating energy prices worldwide

on China's domestic market of refined oil.

With the approval of the Chinese Government, the centre was officially launched on Tuesday, said the National Development and Reform Commission, which oversees a wide-range of social and economic affairs, including energy.

The centre, the administrative body of the

country's national oil reserve system, takes the responsibility of building and making use of the country's strategic oil reserves, the commission said in a statement.

The commission said the centre will also keep an eye on the movement of demand and supply of both domestic and international oil markets.

MNA/Xinhua



A model poses with Nintendo's new family video-game console Wii and its controller during a press conferenc in Tokyo.—INTERNET

## Pakistani train derails, 15 dead, many hurt

HYDERABAD (Pakistan), 19 Dec — A Pakistani express train packed with holiday travellers came off the rails on Wednesday and at least 15 people were killed and about 100 hurt, an ambulance service official said.

The Karachi Express train was on its way from the southern city to Lahore when most of its carriages came off the rails near the town of Mehrabpur, officials said.

"We've counted 15 bodies and dozens are injured, at least 100," said senior ambulance service official Faisal Edhi.

"Some people are still trapped so the numbers may rise," he said.

A railway official said 12 of the train's 16 carriages had come off

the rails but district police chief Abdul Hadi Bullo who was at the scene said he could see 14 derailed carriages, some in a field beside the track.

Bullo said he had called for cutting equip-

ment to reach people trapped in the wreckage. The cause of the crash, about 400 kilometres north of the city of Karachi, was not known, railway officials said.

MNA/Reuters

## UAE gas company discovers new gas well in Egypt

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec— Dana Gas of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the largest private-sector natural gas company in the Middle East, discovered a new gas well in its concessions in Egypt, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported Tuesday.

The discovery, the second of its kind this year, was made at the Dabayaa-2 delineation well in Dana Gas' West Manzala Exploration

Concession in the Nile Delta, according to the report.

The company's subsidiary, Centurion Petroleum Corporation, drilled the well to a total depth of approximately 3,000 metres and encountered gas bearing zones in both the Upper and Lower Abu Madi formations.

The Lower Abu Madi formation was tested and found to flow at a gas rate of over 10 million cubic feet per day, and 240 barrels per day of condensate.

## Ebola epidemic in Uganda getting contained

KAMPALA, 19 Dec — Uganda's Health Ministry has said the deadly Ebola epidemic that has so far killed 35 people in the western district of Bundi-

bugyo is getting contained, a release issued here on Monday has said.

"The ministry assures the general public that the epidemic is getting contained," said the health ministry release giving an update of the Ebola situation in the country. Since the outbreak was confirmed in late November, a total of 124 people were suspected of being infected, among which 35

died as of Monday.

The cumulative total of patients discharged is 34 while those still admitted in hospital are 12, according to the release.

"The public is urged to be compassionate and provide care and support to persons that have been discharged.

These people are not infectious and therefore should not be discriminated against," the release said. —MNA/Xinhua

## Costa Rica seizes one ton of cocaine

SAN JOSE, 19 Dec— Costa Rica anti-drug police seized more than a ton of cocaine and arrested six suspected smugglers in two joint operations, Costa Rica's Public Security Ministry said Monday.

In the first operation, police officers stopped a Costa Rican fishing vessel when patrolling the international waters facing Guatemala's Pacific coast.

They found 800 kilos of cocaine in the boat and arrested its 54-year-old Costa Rican captain and three crew members. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese workers assemble a car at a factory in Wuhau, Anhui Province recently. —XINHUA



## Bangladeshis kill tiger, elephants kill four

KHULNA (Bangladesh), 19 Dec— A female tiger in Bangladesh wandered out of a mangrove forest on Tuesday and was surrounded by villagers and killed, officials said.

Four people were injured in the confrontation with the Royal Bengal tiger, an endangered species. Villagers attacked it with weapons as a woman shouted for help in panic

when she spotted the animal stalking near her home, officials said.

"The tigress might have strayed into the village in search of food," said Sundarbans mangrove forest official Amalendra Shaha.

In a separate incident, four people were killed, 25 others were injured and at least 25 bamboo-made houses were

damaged when a herd of elephants strayed into a village near a forest in the Cox's Bazar District, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Dhaka.

With these new victims, at least nine people have been killed by wild elephants in southeastern forest regions over the last month, forest officials said.

MNA/Reuters

# Inland Water Transport in public interest

The Inland Water Transport was Irrawaddy Flotilla Co Ltd at birth in 1865. It was nationalized into the Inland Water Transport Organization on 1 June 1948. It was renamed Water Transport Corporation on 1 March 1972, and Inland Water Transport on 1 April 1989.

It is pursuing its mottoes — safety; service; image; transportation in commercially navigable waterways such as Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers, Delta Region, Kalatan, Laymyo and May Yu rivers in Rakhine State, and Thanlwin, Gyaing and Attayan rivers in Kayin State; spreading its wings for transport facilitation; and transport of goods bound for project sites, those produced by governmental organizations, import and export goods, goods manufactured by State-owned factories, cooperative goods and private-owned goods in accordance with the economic objectives of the State.

To achieve the Ministry's motto "Improve national economic development through water transport", the Inland Water Transport yearly transports 24.7 million passengers and 4.3 million tons of goods with the use of 514 vessels in the commercially navigable waterways of 7943 miles in total. In addition, it provides services in the water transport sector to raise the income of the nation.

The IWT has six dockyards: Dalla dockyard, Ahlon dockyard, Sittway dockyard, Yadanabon dockyard (Mandalay), and Chindwin dockyard (under construction). Each dockyard can careen 46 vessels at one time. And the maximum capacity of each dockyard is 1400 tons.

Due to its compliance of the guidance of the Head of State and following strictly the close supervision of the Ministry of Transport, the IWT is making progress.

The IWT implements the functions on the basic of the following policies.

- to utilize at full capacity of and improve the transport forces in building a modern and developed nation with strong economy,
- to contribute effectively towards production in the other economic sectors and social

## Maung Tin Hlaing (Hotels and Tourism)

requirements, and to fulfil requirements of the transport sector,

- to help ensure facilitation of inland and overseas transport and to contribute towards projects for development of national races and tourism industry,
- to utilize and protect waterways fully,
- to prevent the air space and waters from being polluted and to meet international provisions on environmental conservation in developing aviation and water transport sectors,
- to develop human resources, and to nurture and produce experts capable of keeping abreast of technological changes,
- to follow laws, acts, bylaws, provisions and procedures enacted by international organizations,
- to be part of the drive for improving inland and overseas transport and aviation and shaping the State's transport sector into multimodel transport,
- to make preparations for building transport network locally, regionally and globally.

The IWT transports passengers and goods at fair fares. The fare rates are three to five times cheaper than private vessels. The majority of the people rely on the inland water transport up to now. The people can enjoy safety in taking State-owned vehicles due to supervisions at different levels. It gives priority to customer satisfaction. There are broad relations within the Ministry and with other ministries. A vessel can carry more passengers and goods than a motor vehicle or an aeroplane. Automobiles can be transported across the waterways with the use of Z-crafts.

The Inland Water Transport is achieving success thanks to its hard work in the interests of the people.

**Translation: MS**

*Kyemon: 20-12-2007*

## Workshop on DPABCD held

YANGON, 20 Dec — The workshop on Dissemination of Public Awareness Brochure on Acid Deposition, jointly organized and sponsored by the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC), Nigata Prefectural Environment Conservation Corporation (NPECC) and Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Myanmar, was opened at the meeting hall of the DMH, here, this morning.

The workshop would focus on the assistance in promoting public awareness on acid deposition problems through dissemination of brochure in Myanmar.

It would also discuss progress on the joint project for compiling the brochure on acid deposition control, environmental education, exchange information and public awareness.

The workshop was chaired by Director-General of DMH U Tun Lwin and attended by three experts from Japan ADORC and 70 participants from the departments concerned.

MNA

## Plots for Maha Gandhayon Monastery for the film 'Majjhima Alin' completed

YANGON, 20 Dec—Film director Zinyaw Maung has completed the shooting of the plots for the documentary film 'Majjhima Alin' in Mandalay and its surrounding areas.

The film is designed to promote and propagate Theravada Buddhism.

He shot Kathina robe-offering ceremony in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay moat, and scenic beauties of Mandalay Hill. Then, he shot many pagodas, stupas and monasteries in Sagaing. On 18 December, he shot a day's activities of the monks of Maha Gandhayon Monastery in Mandalay.

He said, "The abbot asked his assistants to help me shoot the film. All the monks in the monastery gave help to me. So, I could shoot all the religious activities of the monks without any difficulties".

The plots of flourishing Buddhism in Thailand and Cambodia have been shot for one year. It will take six more months to complete the entire film. Some more plots will also have to be shot in other neighbouring countries. Zinyaw Maung and his two friends sponsor the film.

H



**12th Myanmar-  
Thailand meeting  
on narcotic drugs  
control in progress  
in Nay Pyi Taw on  
17-12-2007.—MNA  
(News reported)**



## Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Pagoda



Senior General Than Shwe views winning works of photo competitions to mark Tazaungdine Festival of Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Pagoda. (News on page 1) — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe donates cash to Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Buddha Image funds through a member of the pagoda board of trustees. (News on page 1)

MNA



## Senior General Than Shwe attends graduation dinner of 10th Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—The dinner to honour the graduates of the 10th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of the DSTA in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division yesterday, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also Present at the dinner were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and 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, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC

Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, the ministers, senior military officers, the deputy ministers, the

Mandalay mayor, officials of the SPDC Office, the station commander and senior military officers of

PyinOoLwin Station, the acting rector of DSTA, the chief instructor officer, the commanding officers of the cadet

battalions, professors and heads of department, faculty members, the graduates and their parents and relatives. —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe attends the dinner reception to mark the graduation of 10th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. — MNA



## Senior General Than Shwe urges officials to set...

(from page 16)

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported that the pharmaceutical factory was established with the aim of reducing the import of tablets, capsules, intramuscular, intravenous, syrup and powder for the public health and manufacturing import-substitute medicines. As the factory will run its production process under the good manufacturing practice, quality and standards of the medicines will be high. To provide health care services to the people, pharmaceutical factories including Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) were established for manufacturing the medicines, while extended tasks are being carried out at Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Yangon).

U Aung Htay Kyaw, a local resident, spoke words of thanks for construction of the factory.

Next, Managing Director U Than Shwe of MPI presented cash donation for Township USDA, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, PyinOoLwin General Hospital (300-bed) and Anisakhan BEHS of PyinOoLwin Township through officials.

PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Managing Director U Than Shwe and



Senior General Than Shwe inspects production process of medicines at Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin). —MNA

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed production process of medicines under the good manufacturing practice.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and

tasks and projects of pharmaceutical factories, requirements of the projects, production and quality control tasks of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin).



General Thura Shwe Mann unveils signboard of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin). —MNA



Factory Manager Dr Myint Sein formally opened the factory.

General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the signboard of the factory.

party viewed herbal plants and seeds to be used in manufacturing medicines.

At the briefing hall, Minister U Aung Thaung reported to the Senior General on implementation of

After hearing reports, Senior General Than Shwe said the government has been building pharmaceutical factories to uplift the health of the people.

(See page 10)



PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung, Managing Director U Than Shwe of MPI and Factory Manager Dr Myint Sein formally open Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin). —MNA

### Excerpt from guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe

- \* Government building pharmaceutical factories to uplift the health standards of people
- \* Seek ways for better distribution system of pharmaceuticals in order that they shall reach the hands of consumers as fast as possible
- \* Pharmaceutical factories are to run at full capacity to produce effective medicines and to collect raw materials for producing medicines as many as possible in local
- \* Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Forestry to cooperate in planting artemisia and other herbal plants

## Senior General Than Shwe urges ...

(from page 9)

He also called for seeking ways for better distribution system of pharmaceuticals in order that they shall reach the hands of consumers as fast as possible.

He also stressed the need of pharmaceutical factories to run at full capacity to produce potent medicines and for collection of raw materials in local. The senior general also urged Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Forestry to cooperate in planting artemisia and other herbal plants. He also called for setting a

target to export herbal plants in the future and to encourage a private sector of herbal plantation.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) is located near PyinOoLwin and has produced tablets and capsules since March, 2005. The factory has produced intravenous injection, syrup and powder since October, 2007. The factory produces 2,100 million tablets and capsules, 0.5 million litre of syrup, 0.205 million kilo of lotion, 0.75 million kilo of powder, 50 million of vial and 10 million of intrave-

nous injection per year.

Those factories which produce medicines in Myanmar are Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin), Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Sagaing), Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory, Special Pharmaceutical Factory No 1 and No 2 and Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Yangon) MPF (Inyaung). Among them, MPF (PyinOoLwin) is the largest and the most modern one in Myanmar and produces 162 kinds of medicines including syrup and tablets.

MNA



Workers of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) at work in manufacturing medicines at the factory.—MNA

## Commander, minister present scholarship awards to university students, attend launching of power stations

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu attended the university scholarship award presentation ceremony of Rakhine State PDC at Danyawady Hall in Sittway yesterday morning.

After delivering addresses, the commander and the minister presented K 120,000 each from the educational trust-fund of Rakhine State PDC to 60 university students.

The commander and officials accepted cash donation for the educational trust-fund from wellwishers.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister attended the launching ceremonies of paddy husk power stations in Setyonsu Ward and Aungmingala Ward of Sittway and observed the power stations. Officials formally opened the power stations.—MNA

## Flower Arrangement Course concludes



CEC Member of MMCWA Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt delivers an address at a ceremony to conclude flower arrangement course No 1/2007. — MMCWA

YANGON, 20 Dec — The Flower Arrangement Course No 1/2007 organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association concluded at the association at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami Roads, here, this afternoon.

Vice-President of the association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members and trainees were present on the occasion.

Leader of Economic and Social Working Group CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt made a speech.

The vice-president handed certificates for all

female trainees to a representative trainee and certificate of honour and gifts to instructor Daw Nay Nay Naing.

The trainees presented a flower basket to the vice-president. Later, a female trainee, on behalf of her colleagues, expressed words of thanks.—MNA

## 6th AGM of MPMEEA held

YANGON, 19 Dec — The sixth annual general meeting of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association was held at the auditorium of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Road, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, this afternoon, with addresses by Chairman of MPMEEA Dr Maung Maung Lay and President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint.

The secretary of the association read out the report and annual financial statement of the executive committee and sought the approval of those present.

Next, Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Myo Oo declared the names of nine CEC members including the chairman and the secretary and 19 executives for the period 2007-09. The

## Stimulant tablets seized in Dagon Myothit (North)

YANGON, 20 Dec — Members of Yangon West Anti-Drug Squad searched the house of forty-one-year-old Aikcar at No 127/128, Kyunshwewah Street, No 34 Ward in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and seized 194 stimulant tablets with WY letters weighing 19.4 gram on 18 December.

Action was taken against the arrest under Section 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Dagon Myothit (North) Police Station.—MNA

meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by new Chairman Dr Win Sithu.—MNA

## 2nd Inter-school Cricket Challenge Shield 2007-08 goes on

YANGON, 20 Dec — The second Inter-school Cricket Challenge Shield 2007-08 continued today at Bahan Cricket Training Ground and Lamadaw BEHS No 1 Cricket Ground, attended by President of MCF U Nyunt Win and executives, guests and cricket fans.

In the boys' semifinals, Lanmadaw BEHS 1 beat Kyimyindine BEHS 3 by 7 wickets and Ahlon BEHS No 4 won Pabedan BEHS No 2 by 3 wickets.

In the girls' events, Ahlon BEHS No 4 edged out Bahan BEHS No 1 by 8-wickets and Kyimyindine BEHS 3 defeated Tamway BEHS 3 by 3 runs.

Lanmadaw BEHS 1 and Ahlon BEHS 4 will meet in boys' final and Ahlon BEHS 4 and Kyimyindine BEHS 3 in girls' final at Bahan Cricket Training Ground tomorrow.—MNA



President of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association Dr Maung Maung Lay delivers an address at annual general meeting of the association.—MNA



**Greater Angkor, Cambodia**

*The capital of a Khmer state that flourished between the ninth and fifteenth centuries, Cambodia's Angkor is one of the most intensively studied sites in the world. But it continues to inspire more questions than answers, the most fundamental being why the sophisticated Khmer Empire collapsed. In 2007, research into the mysteries of the world's largest preindustrial city reached a milestone with the completion of a 10-year mapping project, which yielded clues suggesting that the sprawling metropolis may have collapsed under self-induced environmental pressures related to overpopulation and deforestation.*

INTERNET

# Images of the Day



*Takashi Sudo, a student of Osaka Sangyo University, sits in a car powered by Panasonic's "Oxyride" AA dry cell batteries before a Guinness World Record attempt at a vehicle test centre in Shirosato town, northeast of Tokyo. According to the organisers, the collaboration of Panasonic and Osaka Sangyo University has achieved the new record for the fastest car powered by dry cell batteries with the average speed of 105.95 km/h (65.8 mph) for 1 km (0.6 miles), using 192 AA dry cell batteries. –*

INTERNET



*A zebra charges towards Kenya Wildlife Service rangers at the Marula ranch, in Naivasha 100 km (62 miles) west of Nairobi.*

INTERNET



*Yang Yang, 3, kisses a Beluga Whale during a publicity photocall at the Qingdao Polar Ocean World, in eastern China's Shandong Province.*

INTERNET

# ADVERTISEMENTS

## ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	Tyre (Ks)	1 Lot	18.12.2007	31.12.2007
2.	Wire Nail (Ks)	3 Items	18.12.2007	31.12.2007
3.	Steel Structure for Kiln (Ks)	1 Set	18.12.2007	14.1.2008
4.	Spare Part For Sheet Glass Factory (FE)	1 Lot	18.12.2007	14.1.2008
5.	Gas Line Control Parts (FE)	1 Lot	18.12.2007	14.1.2008
6.	Refractories For Glass Factory (FE)	1 Lot	18.12.2007	14.1.2008
7.	Renovation Of Press (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	18.12.2007	14.1.2008
8.	Storage Car (Ks)	5 Set	18.12.2007	14.1.2008
9.	Electrical Spare (Ks/ FE)	1 Lot	18.12.2007	14.1.2008

အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၄)နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါများ လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူထားသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၅၉၈) မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

**sanofi-aventis** (formerly Sanofi-Synthelabo), a Company incorporated in France, of 174 avenue de France, 75013 Paris, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

**PLAVIX**

Reg. No: 3425/1996 in respect of "Pharmaceutical products (Int'l Class 5)".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for **sanofi-aventis** P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 21 December 2007

## FAO needs to protect poor nations from food price hikes

ROME, 19 Dec—The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is urging governments and the international community to implement immediate measures in support of poor countries hit hard by dramatic food price increases, FAO said on Monday in a Press release. Currently 37 countries worldwide are facing food crises due to conflict and disasters. In addition, food security is being adversely affected by unprecedented price hikes for basic food, driven by historically low food stocks, droughts and floods linked to climate change, high oil prices and growing demand for bio-fuels, FAO said.

High international cereal prices have already sparked food riots in several countries, according to FAO.

In its November issue of Food Outlook, FAO estimated that the total cost of imported foodstuffs for Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in 2007 would be some 25 per cent higher than the previous year, surpassing 107 million US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

## Four killed, two wounded in Thai south

YALA (Thailand), 19 Dec—Four Muslims were killed — and one of them beheaded — and two soldiers were wounded seriously in two attacks in Thailand's rebellious Muslim-majority far south, police said on Tuesday.

Three village security guards and a village headman were ambushed and shot dead in Yala, one of the three southern provinces caught up in nearly four years of separatist insurgency in which more than 2,100 people have been killed.

"Their bodies were left near a pick-up truck and the village headman was beheaded, with his head left on the road," one said.

A fifth man was shot in the arm but escaped, they said. The identity of the gunmen was unknown, but police said they

presumed they were members of a militant group called RKK — Runda Kumpulan Kecil, which means Small Patrol Group in Malay.

In a separate incident, a bomb wounded two soldiers seriously as they

stopped at a grocery store in another Yala Town, police said.

The bomb, hidden in front of the store, was detonated by a remote control when the soldiers went in, police said.

MNA/Reuters

## Brokerage houses for sale

- Brokerage houses have already been built at border trade zone in Myawady. The following three firms will sell them.
- The areas and values of the brokerage houses are as follows:—
  - Max Myanmar Company  
(20 ft by 50 ft) Two-storey (1) Room— K 42 million
  - Eden Company  
(20 ft by 50 ft) Two-storey (1) Room— (—)  
(13 ft by 50 ft) Two-storey (1) Room— (—)
  - Shwewahmyay Company  
(25 ft by 50 ft) Two-Storey (1) Room— K 45 million
- Those interested may buy the above brokerage houses in accord with the following rules.
  - The buyer must be a Myanmar citizen.
  - He shall abide by the laws promulgated by the State. He shall not be associated with an unlawful person or unlawful organization or organizations.
  - He shall not have violated the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and Control of Money Laundering Law before and have not associated with violators of the above laws.
  - Priority shall be given to members of Local Merchants Associations or State Chamber of Commerce and Industry or Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and brother associations.
  - Payment may be made in installments.
- Contact the following for further details.
 

(a) Max Myanmar Company	Ph- 095200557, 01-524016, 527797
(b) Eden Company	Ph- 01-500980/985
(c) Shwewahmyay Company	Ph- 092006206, 01-374964, 381994
(d) Border Trade Department	Ph- 067-408174/017

## Czech, German police launch joint water patrols

PRAGUE, 19 Dec—The Czech and German police launched joint water patrols on the Labe (Elbe) River together with the Czech Interior Minister Ivan Langer and his Saxony counterpart Albrecht Butollo in connection with the upcoming Schengen enlargement, the Czech news agency CTK reported on Monday.

The ministers hoisted a flag on the joint police motor boat called Europa that was funded by EU in

Hrensko, the Czech Republic.

Langer said that one of the human freedoms — the movement of persons—would extend along with the Czech

Republic's Schengen entry on 12 December.

Both ministers pointed out that people's safety would improve after the lifting of checks at EU borders. — MNA/Xinhua

## AirAsia to open daily flight to Guangzhou, China

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Dec — Malaysia's low-cost airlines AirAsia said here on Tuesday that it would offer daily direct flights to Guangzhou, China, beginning 16 January next year.

The budget airlines hoped that it could attract young people from China's Pearl River Delta region to visit Malaysia with its amazing low fares, according to the airlines. This would be the fourth destination opened by AirAsia to China after Shenzhen Xiamen and Macao, it said. AirAsia is offering promotional fares on its website on 19-26 December for travels from 16 January to 25 October next year.—MNA/Xinhua

## Five die as Paraguay light aircraft crashes

BUENOS AIRES, 19 Dec—Three men and two women died and another woman was injured when a light aircraft on Tuesday crashed while trying to make an emergency landing after running out of fuel in Paraguay, according to news reaching here.

The plane crashed close to a road in Limpio, 6 kilometres from its destination, during a flight to the Silvio Pettirossi International Airport in Paraguayan capital Asuncion.

Hugo Aquino, the airport's director of aeronautics, said that the plane, an air taxi, had been carrying officials from the ruling Colorado Party who were transporting ballot papers from the party's internal elections held on Sunday.— MNA/Xinhua



Dancers of the Ballet Bejart Lausanne perform on stage during the rehearsal of Maurice Bejart's final creation entitled "Around the World in 80 Minutes" in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 19 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

## Pakistan, WHO check if bird flu passed by people

ISLAMABAD, 19 Dec— Pakistani authorities and World Health Organization (WHO) experts were trying to determine on Tuesday whether bird flu had passed from human to human after the country reported its first human death from the virus.

Pakistani health officials confirmed at the weekend that eight people had tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus in North West Frontier Province since late October, of which one person, who worked on a poultry farm, died.

A brother of the dead person, who had not been tested, also died.

It was not yet clear if he

was a victim of bird flu.

One hundred people with symptoms of flu living in the vicinity had been checked but all tested negative, said a Ministry of Health spokesman.

“No linkage has been developed about human-to-human transmission. We are safe but we have to be very cautious,” said the spokesman, Orya Maqbool Jan Abbasi.

The last human case was reported on 23 November, he said.

Health Secretary Khushnood Akhtar Lashari said on Monday some of the seven affected people had not worked with poultry and authorities were tracing who they had been in contact with.

Six had recovered while one was being treated, a provincial health official said. Humans rarely contract H5N1, which is mainly an animal disease. But experts fear the strain could spark a global pandemic and kill millions if it mutates to a form that spreads more easily. — MNA/Reuters



Toshiba Corp's laptop computers are displayed at an electronics store in Tokyo. — INTERNET

## New pipeline to increase Europe's energy security

Moscow, 19 Dec — Projects to build an oil pipeline across the Balkans and a natural gas pipeline under the Black Sea will increase Europe's energy

security, the Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

Building the South Stream gas pipeline and the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline “will not only bring tangible economic dividends, but will improve energy security on the European continent,” Putin was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying after a meeting with visiting Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis in the Kremlin.

“We believe that we

should concentrate our efforts on advancing major bilateral and multilateral agreements, including the construction of the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline and the South Stream gas pipeline,” he said. Russia, Bulgaria and Greece signed a memorandum on the oil pipeline in April 2005.

Once completed, the pipeline will pump 35 million metric tons of oil a year, a volume that could eventually be increased to 50 million metric tons.

MNA/Xinhua

## “Olga” kills 33 in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 19 Dec— Thirty-three people have been killed after tropical Storm Olga ramped through the Dominican Republic since last Tuesday, the nation's Emergency Operations Centre said on Monday. Another 61,605 people have been evacuated, mostly to homes of friends or relatives. The government has also provided some temporary shelters, said the centre.

Over 12,000 homes have been damaged and 43 aqueducts, four bridges and several highways and minor roads destroyed, it said.

Santiago is the worst-hit province where the storm has devastated many of its banana fields. The Public Health Ministry began vaccinations in affected areas last week as a precaution. After the rage of Tropical Storm Noel in November, an outbreak of leptospirosis claimed 30 lives. — MNA/Xinhua

## Seven Chinese mathematicians recognized with Morningside awards

HANGZHOU, 19 Dec— Seven outstanding Chinese mathematicians were recognized with the Morningside Medal of Mathematics here on Monday.

The awards, also known as Chinese Fields Medal, were presented at the Fourth International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians (ICCM) in the capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.

Wang Xujia, a professor from the Australian National University Mathematics and its Applications Centre, won the gold medal for his

contribution to fully nonlinear equations and Hessian's theory.

Statistician Fan Jianqing, who creatively applied mathematics into statistics, received the applied mathematics gold medal.

Silver medals were awarded to Liu Chiu-chu, Ji Lizhen, Jin Shi, Chen Chiun-chuan and Tian Ye.

MNA/Xinhua

## Suicide bomber kills 16 in Iraqi village

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec— A suicide bomber killed 16 people when he detonated a vest rigged with explosives in a Shiite Muslim village north of Baghdad on Tuesday, police said. Suicide bombers, gunmen and car bombs killed 14 other people across the country.

The violence coincided with an unannounced visit by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who lauded recent security gains in Iraq.

The worst incident was in the volatile Diyala Province when a suicide bomber targeted a coffee shop in the al-Abbara Village north of the city of Baquba, 65 kilometres (40 miles) north of

Baghdad. Twenty-eight people, including children who were near the site, were wounded in the blast, police said.

Also in Baquba, a suicide car bomber targeting a police checkpoint killed one policeman and one civilian, and wounded 15 people including three children, police said.

MNA/Reuters

**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed mad cow disease or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a 13-year-old beef cow from western Alberta Province.**

INTERNET



## EU confirms bird control measures in place in Germany

BRUSSELS, 19 Dec— Following an outbreak of bird flu in Germany, the European Commission said on Monday they have defined the risk area and confirmed the control measures already

in place in Germany. The German authorities informed the commission on Saturday of an outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in a small holding of 11 chickens in Landkreis Oberhavel, north of Berlin.

The precautionary measures laid down in European Union (EU) legislation are being applied, including the culling of the poultry on the holding and establishment of a 3-kilometre protection zone and 10-kilometre surveillance zone around the outbreak area, said the commission, the executive body of the EU.

MNA/Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Chelsea cruise past Liverpool in League Cup

LONDON, 20 Dec — Holders Chelsea moved into the semifinals of the English League Cup on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory over Liverpool.

They will now take on Everton over two legs while the draw also paired north London rivals Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in the last four for the second year running.

Frank Lampard's deflected shot just before the hour mark put the hosts in front and Andriy Shevchenko sealed the win in the final minute with a powerful low shot.

Liverpool's miserable night was capped by a red card for Peter Crouch just after Lampard's opener, the tall striker dismissed for a two-footed lunge at Jon Obi Mikel.

"That decision finished the game," Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez told reporters. "Crouch was kicked twice from behind, I've seen much worse tackles in the last few weeks." Liverpool were without captain Steven Gerrard while Benitez made wholesale changes to the side that was beaten by Manchester United on Sunday.

Chances were few and far between in the first half, Lampard being denied by Liverpool keeper Charles Itandje while Lucas went close for Liverpool.

Ricardo Carvalho's mistake almost let in Crouch after the break but Liverpool fell behind when Shevchenko chested a pass into the path of Lampard and his shot looped into the net off the leg of the unlucky Jamie Carragher. —MNA/Reuters

## Valencia end goal drought with Zigic Cup double

MADRID, 20 Dec — Trouble-torn Valencia found the net for the first time in seven games when they came from a goal down to claim a 2-1 comeback win against third division Real Union in the first leg of a King's Cup last 32 tie on Wednesday.

Serbian striker Nikola Zigic struck twice in the space of 10 second-half minutes to earn Valencia only their second win since Ronald Koeman took charge of the side at the start of last month.

Real Madrid scrambled a barely deserved last-gasp 1-1 draw away to third division Alicante after midfielder Javier Balboa headed home a free kick in stoppage time to cancel out a second-half penalty from Borja.

Espanyol also had to come from a goal down to claim a 1-1 draw at home to Deportivo Coruna in the night's all-first division clash.

Rescue specialist Ferran Corominas struck three minutes from time

## Immelman faces lengthy spell out after surgery

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Dec — World number 19 Trevor Immelman faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines after having surgery to remove a growth on his diaphragm.

The growth was about the size of a golf ball, the Sunshine Tour said on its official Web site (www.sunshinetour.com).

The 28-year-old South African, who won the Sun City Challenge earlier this month, is expected to be out of action for between four and eight weeks.

Twice former South African Open champion Immelman pulled out of last week's tournament after two holes because of severe pain and discomfort across his ribcage area. He has won four times on the European Tour and once on the US PGA Tour.

MNA/Reuters

## Romario gets 120-day doping ban

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Dec — Former Brazil striker Romario was banned for 120 days on Tuesday for a failed dope test which he blamed on a hair-loss treatment.

Brazilian football's disciplinary tribunal suspended the 1994 World Cup winner after the 41-year-old tested positive for the banned masking agent finasteride following a match for Vasco da Gama against Palmeiras in October.

Romario, who has played sporadically since

scoring what he claimed to be his 1,000th goal in May, broke the news himself earlier this month in a news conference. He blamed a hair-loss product which he had been taking for some time.

Two days after making the announcement, Romario was named as Vasco's player-coach. He had intended to keep playing for the first few weeks of the 2008 season.

Romario was not present at the hearing where he was represented by Vasco's lawyers. Vasco

doctor Rafael Blum told the tribunal he was unaware that Romario had been using the medication.

Finasteride was added to the list of banned substances in 2005 and has already claimed several victims.

German second division soccer player Nemanja Vucicevic of TSV Munich 1860 was banned for six months and Argentine tennis player Mariano Hood for one year after positive tests in 2005. US skeleton gold medal hope Zach Lund was kicked out of the 2006 Winter Olympics and given a one-year ban by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after testing positive at a World Cup event the previous year.

Former Australia international soccer player Stan Lazaridis last month completed a one-year ban.

Romario has kept his career going over the last few years, defying those who said he should hang up his boots.

Three years ago, he was sacked by Fluminense after being jeered off the field by the crowd during the match at the Maracana.

MNA/Reuters

## Hansen books debut appearance at US Masters

LONDON, 20 Dec — Denmark's Anders Hansen will make his US Masters debut in April after claiming 50th position in the end-of-year world rankings.

Hansen, who won the PGA Championship at Wentworth in May, is among 30 European Tour members to earn an invitation to the first major of the season, the tour said on its official website (www.europeantour.com) on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old Dane is one of six European Tour members set to make their Augusta debuts. He

will be joined by fellow countryman Soren Hansen (46th in the world) and South African Richard Sterne (44th).

Briton Nick Dougherty, Australian Richard Green and Argentina's Andres Romero secured their places after good performances in this season's majors.

Dougherty finished tied seventh in the US Open at Oakmont while Romero and Green finished third and joint fourth respectively in the British Open at Carnoustie.

MNA/Reuters

## Mexican striker Castillo joins Manchester City

LONDON, 20 Dec — Mexican striker Nery Castillo has agreed a one-year loan move to Manchester City from Shakhtar Donetsk after financing most of the deal himself, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old, who signed for Ukrainian side Shakhtar from Greek club Olympiakos Piraeus for 15 million pounds (\$30.28 million) in July, will be eligible to play for City in January.

City, who are fourth in the Premier League, said the player had gone to "extraordinary" lengths to secure the move. "Nery Castillo's desire to make this deal happen has been extraordinary," chief executive Alistair Mackintosh said City website (www.mfc.co.uk) on Tuesday. —MNA/Reuters

to cancel out a first-half freekick from former Espanyol midfielder Sergio.

Alicante, who play in the regionally-based Segunda B, gave Real Madrid several early scares at the Rico Perez but were denied a lead after some sharp saves from keeper Jerzy Dudek, who was making his first competitive appearance of the season.

Real, fielding a largely second-string side but one still full of internationals, fell behind on the hour when Borja sent Dudek the wrong way with his spot-kick after Dutch defender Royston Drenthe had bundled Alvaro over in the area.

Bernd Schuster's side missed several good chances to get back on level terms with Argentine striker Javier Saviola fluffing two close-range opportunities, but Balboa popped up in the area to head home in injury time and spare Real's blushes.

MNA/Reuters



Austria's Marlies Schild speeds down the course during training for an Alpine Ski, World Cup Women's Downhill, in St Anton, Austria, on 20 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

## Van Nistelrooy set for new Real Madrid deal

MADRID, 20 Dec — Real Madrid striker Ruud van Nistelrooy is to receive a contract extension as a reward for his outstanding scoring record.

"We will agree a contract renewal in the next few days because that's what I promised him and because that's what he deserves," Real president Ramon Calderon told radio station Onda Madrid.

"Players like him deserve to be rewarded for both their performance and behaviour. He is an extraordinary player and person and it would be great if he could end the season as top scorer together with (team mate) Raul."

MNA/Reuters

# UNHCR says over 1,400 drowned off Yemen this year

GENEVA, 20 Dec — More than 1,400 would-be migrants, mostly Somalis and Ethiopians, have drowned off Yemen this year trying to cross the Gulf of Aden on rickety boats run by brutal smugglers, the UN refugee agency said on Tuesday.

The toll includes nearly 200 people believed to have died last weekend after one vessel capsized off the coast of Yemen and another broke up after hitting a rock.

Desperate passengers have been beaten, pushed

overboard and doused with acid on perilous journeys during 2007, according to aid workers who are trying to halt further loss of life.

“This has been a tragic year in the Gulf of Aden. As of now we have statistics that more than 1,400 people have died. These are the ones that we have recorded, and there might be more,” Astrid van Genderen Stort, spokeswoman of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a news briefing.

MNA/Reuters

# Russia to discuss US missile shield with Poland

Moscow, 20 Dec —

Russia said on Tuesday it would hold consultations with Poland in early 2008 over Washington's plans to build a missile defence shield in Eastern Europe. “I am happy there will be discussions over the missile defence shield,” Sergei Yastrzhembsky, adviser to President Vladimir Putin, told a news conference. He said the talks would be held in Warsaw.

Washington wants to station interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic as part of a

shield it says is designed to protect Europe from “rogue states” such as Iran and North Korea.

Russia believes the shield is targeted against its missile arsenal and poses a threat to its national security.

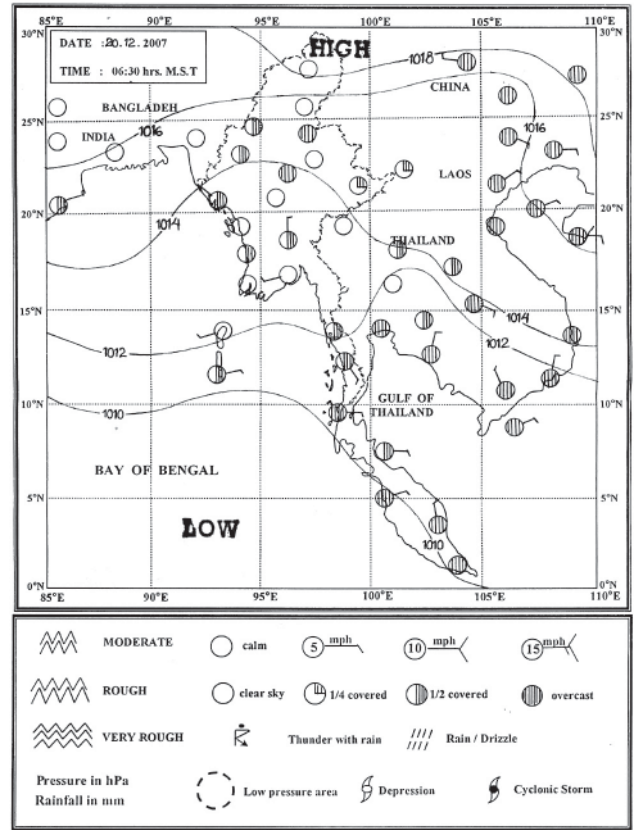
Moscow has offered Washington access to data on missile launches from a Russian radar station and a second radar operated by Russia in ex-Soviet Azerbaijan, if Washington drops its missile shield plan.

But the Pentagon has made clear it sees the Russian radar offer as a supplement to its shield, not a substitute.

Just like many capitals in Europe, Moscow was relieved in October when Donald Tusk's Civic Platform opposition defeated Poland's Kaczynski brothers.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Thursday, 20 December, 2007

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

During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin State and Magway Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Bago Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-1°C) and Putao (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-12-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 20-12-2007 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 20-12-2007 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 19-12-2007 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 20-12-2007 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 (5) mph from North at (13:00) hours MST on 19-12-2007.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 21-12-2007:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

**State of these seas:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-12-2007:** Generally fair weather.


**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-12-2007:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-12-2007:** Generally fair weather.



A cat hissing at the camera, in a pet shop in Australia.

INTERNET



**TV Myanmar**

**Friday, 21 December**  
**View on today**

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဏ်အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p>	<p>5. လူပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်</p> <p><b>8:05 am</b></p> <p>6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:10 am</b></p> <p>7. The mirror images of musical oldies</p> <p><b>8:20 am</b></p> <p>8. နတ်သားတောရေလှောင်တစ်</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>9. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>10. English for everyday use</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သမိုင်း)</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b></p> <p>4. Song of national races</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <p>5. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား</p>
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<p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>6. “ခင်စင်နုမြိုင်ကျား” (ခင်စင်စော်မြင့်၊ လင်းလင်းစော်မြင့်)(ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)</p> <p><b>5:25 pm</b></p> <p>7. Song of yesteryears</p> <p><b>5:40 pm</b></p> <p>8. မြေကမ္ဘာသာယာစေဖို့သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အပိုင်း-၂)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <p>9. Evening news</p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <p>10. Weather report</p> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <p>11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွှတ်ရှင်</p> <p><b>7:15 pm</b></p> <p>12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရေသူမလေးတတိယချစ်ပုံပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၂၉)</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <p>13. News</p> <p>14. International news</p> <p>15. Weather report</p> <p>16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သူများ” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)</p> <p>17. The next day's programme</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p><b>Radio Myanmar</b></p> </div> <p><b>Friday, 21 December</b> <b>Tune in today</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am</b> Brief news</p> <p><b>8:35 am</b> Music: -I am every woman</p> <p><b>8:40 am</b> Perspectives</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b> Music -Blame it on the boogie</p> <p><b>8:50 am</b> National news/Slogan</p> <p><b>9:00 am</b> Music: -That's the way</p> <p><b>9:05 am</b> International news</p> <p><b>9:10 am</b> Music -You to me are everything</p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b> News/Slogan</p> <p><b>1:40pm</b> Lunch time music -I take you with me -Power of love</p> <p><b>9:00pm</b> W O M</p> <p><b>9:10pm</b> Article</p> <p><b>9:20 pm</b> Music at your request -The X' mas song -God rest ye merry gentleman</p> <p><b>9:45 pm</b> News /Slogan</p> <p><b>10:00 pm</b> PEL</p>
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# People's Desire

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

**Senior General Than Shwe urges officials to set a target to export herbal plants, to encourage private sector of herbal plantation**

**Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) commissioned**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended the ceremony to open Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 in PyinOoLwin Township at 11 pm yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and party, officials of the Ministry of Industry-1, departmental personnel of Mandalay Division, PyinOoLwin District and Township, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe said that thanks to opening of the pharmaceutical factory modern medicines such as tablet, capsule, intramuscular, intravenous, lotion and powder can be manufactured to provide health care services to the people. The factory will produce the high quality medicines under the good manufacturing practice to meet the pharmaceuticals demand of the nation. Therefore, local people and departmental personnel are to participate in the tasks for durability of the factory.

(See page 9)



*Senior General Than Shwe inspects artemisia and other herbal plants to be used in producing medicines.—MNA*



*Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) .—MNA*