

Senior General Than Shwe inspects greening of Monywa Township, growing of trees, progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), pays homage to pagodas in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and party, left Pyin Oo Lwin for Monywa of Sagaing Division by helicopter yesterday morning.

The Senior General and party were welcomed

there by Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and officials.

They paid homage to 424 feet high Bawditahtaung Laygyun-sekkya Standing Buddha Image near Bawditahtaung Monastery of Khattakantaung Village in Monywa Township.

At the briefing hall, Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe reported to the Senior General on greening tasks in Monywa Township, progress of Monywa, Kyaukka and Shwemyintin protected public forests, growing of trees and tasks for environmental conservation.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance on greening *(See page 8)*



Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Bawditahtaung Laygyun-sekkya Standing Buddha Image in Monywa Township.—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

Saturday, 22 December, 2007

Extensively produce potent medicines for better health care service

The government is making all-out efforts for development of all sectors of the State including education, health and cultural sectors. In that regard, it has been enhancing health care services for uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on 20 December attended the opening of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) and gave guidance on work to officials concerned.

In his guidance, he said that the government has been building pharmaceutical factories to uplift the health of the people, and called on officials concerned to seek ways for better distribution of medicines so that they can reach the hands of consumers sooner. He also spoke of the need to take remedial measures against the weaknesses in distribution of medicines due to restrictions.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) is located near PyinOoLwin and has produced tablets and capsules since March 2005. The factory is now producing injection, embrocation, syrup, powder and intravenous injection.

Other factories that produce medicines are Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Sagaing), Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory, Special Pharmaceutical Factory No 1 and No 2, Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Yangon) Extension and MPF (Inyang).

The government has been building pharmaceutical factories and hospitals and has equipped them with modern medical equipment. And more specialists, doctors and nurses have been appointed and are being trained for better health care service.

With the emergence of more pharmaceutical factories across the nation, personnel concerned are to produce potent and reliable medicines to their utmost and to distribute them to the people as fast as possible. Only then, will it be possible to contribute a lot to uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

Development tasks in TadaU, Amarapura supervised

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe accompanied by officials heard reports on progress of development tasks in TadaU Township and gave necessary instructions at the office of TadaU Township Development Affairs Department in Mandalay Division today.

Next, the deputy minister inspected supplying water at Ward 2 and visited water supply plant.

At the office of Amarapura Township DAD, the deputy minister urged the officials to carry out the beautifying and water supplying tasks systematically. He also gave instructions on work to be undertaken on time.

Next, the deputy minister looked into tarring Padauk road and staff quarters and attended to the needs. —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

Commander visits Wakema and Mawlamyinegyun Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe held a meeting with departmental officials, townsenders, members of social organizations and local people in Wakema Township on 12 December. The chairman of the Township PDC presented facts about the township. The commander delivered a speech. He inspected water supply tasks and gave instructions.

At the hall of Mawlamyinegyun Township Station, he met officers and other ranks.

He also met with departmental officials, townsenders, social organizations and local residents.

In the evening, the Commander and wife visited Loka Sakkja Marazein Pagoda in Mawlamyinegyun Township and made cash donations at the pagoda.

On 13 December, the Commander viewed the crop plantations in Po Tha Aye Village in the township.

MNA

Cash donated to build retaining wall of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image

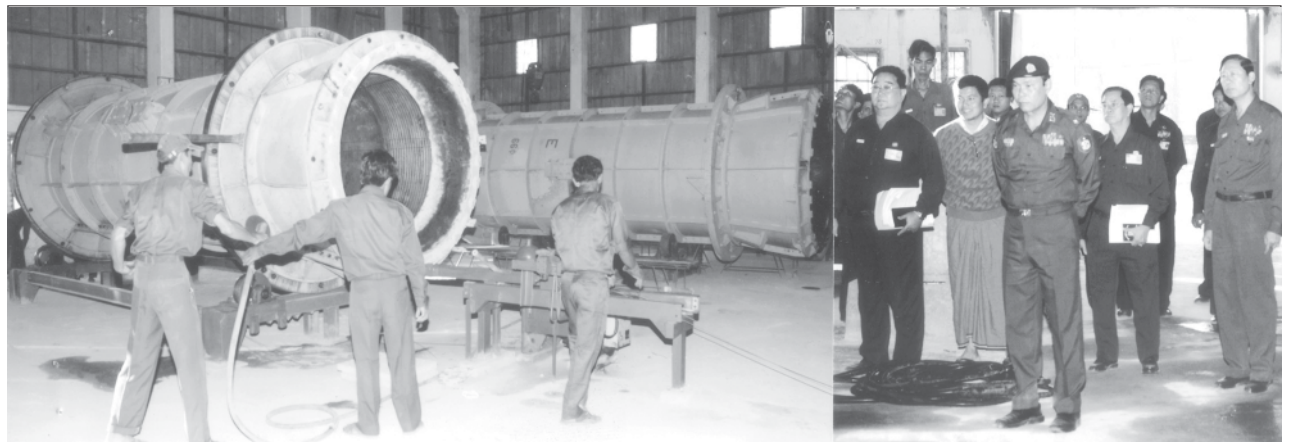
YANGON, 20 Dec — The fourth ceremony to donate cash to build retaining wall of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image was held at the pagoda on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony and accepted cash donations.

The commander and officials concerned accepted K 23.7 million donated by wellwishers. After the ceremony, they inspected progress in renovating the retaining wall.

Those wishing to donate cash to the renovation of the retaining wall of the pagoda may contact the pagoda board of trustees (Ph-01-644857 and 01-644858). —MNA

Mayor inspects concrete pipe factory in Insein Township



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects concrete water pipe factory in Insein.—YCDC

YANGON, 20 Dec — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the concrete pipe factory in Phawgan Ward of Insein Township this morning.

Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) Dr Tun Than Tun and officials reported on production process of the factory and manufacturing of reinforced concrete pipes.

In his instruction, the mayor stressed the need to manufacture RC concrete pipes to be used in water supply tasks of the city, and attended to the needs. —MNA

World AIDS Day marked in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLOWIN, 20 Dec—The ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day was held at Ayeyawady hall of PyinOoLwin Township BEHS No 1, here, on 5 December.

Chairperson of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Khin Thidar and Head of Division Health

Department Dr Khin Maung Tun opened the ceremony by cutting the ribbon. Medical superintendent of PyinOoLwin Hospital (300-bed) Dr Tin Nyo Nyo Lat explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Next, the chairperson, Daw Moe Thidar, wife of the Mandalay Mayor, Daw Thu Zar Wai, wife of the PyinOoLwin station commander, and chairperson of Pyin-Oo-Lwin District MCWA Daw Mar Mar Lwin presented awards to the students at different level who won prizes in essay, poem and painting contests to mark the World AIDS Day and viewed photos and posters displayed at the ceremony.—H



Ceremony to mark World AIDS Day in progress in PyinOoLwin.

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A performance artist promotes a laptop in a shopping centre in Beijing, on 21 Dec, 2007, Covered with plaster, the promoter looks still lifelike.—XINHUA

Turkey says US intelligence led to Iraq raids

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—US intelligence shared with Turkey led to the weekend raids in northern Iraq on Kurdish militants, Turkey's Ambassador to the United States said on Wednesday.

"There is no doubt that this operation was possible due to, of course, the information shared by the United States of

America," Turkey's Ambassador Nabi Sensoy told reporters.

He declined to say whether the United States had directly pinpointed targets for Turkish warplanes but he said the US intelligence-sharing was very important.

The Pentagon has said Washington gave Turkey intelligence to track Kurdish fighters hiding in Iraq, but would not say whether it gave precise targets used in the raids.

The ambassador said the Turkish offensive in northern Iraq on Sunday

involved about 50 fighter jets that launched two waves of attacks against positions of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

He said the attacks had seriously damaged infrastructure used by the PKK.

"This must be a strong message to the PKK terrorists that the Turkish military is capable of tracking them down wherever they might be under any weather conditions, any time of the year," Sensoy said.

MNA/Reuters

Russia to seal Central Asian gas pipeline deal

Moscow, 21 Dec—Russia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan are to sign a deal on Thursday on building a pipeline that will allow Moscow to keep Central Asian gas flows to the West under its control, sources and analysts said on Wednesday.

An intergovernmental agreement to build a pipeline to take Turkmen gas to Russia is expected to be signed during a meeting between the Russian and Kazakh presidents, Vladimir Putin and Nursultan Nazarbayev, a Russian Government source said.

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Putin is "Time" magazine's "Person of the Year"

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—Russian President Vladimir Putin was named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" for 2007 on Wednesday for bringing his country "roaring back to the table of world power". Putin, a former KGB official who was picked from obscurity in 1999 by then-president Boris Yeltsin, will appear on the cover of Time as the person the editors believe had the greatest impact on events this year, for better or worse.

"He's not a good guy, but he's done extraordinary things," said Time managing editor Richard Stengel, who announced Putin's selection on NBC's "Today Show".

"He's a new tsar of Russia and he's dangerous in the sense that he doesn't

care about civil liberties; he doesn't care about free speech; he cares about stability. But stability is what Russia needed and that's why Russians adore him."

The choice came days after Putin announced a plan to hold onto power after his term ends. Putin said on Monday that if his close ally, Dmitry Medvedev, wins next year's presidential vote, he would serve as Medvedev's Prime Minister.

The Russian President beat out several rivals for the Time distinction, including former US Vice-President Al Gore, British author JK Rowling, Chinese President Hu Jintao and US Commander in Iraq General David Petraeus.—MNA/Reuters

British fire killed Danes in Afghanistan

COPENHAGEN, 20 Dec—Two Danish soldiers killed in Afghanistan while fighting Taliban insurgents were victims of friendly fire from a British unit, the Danish Army Central Command said on Tuesday.

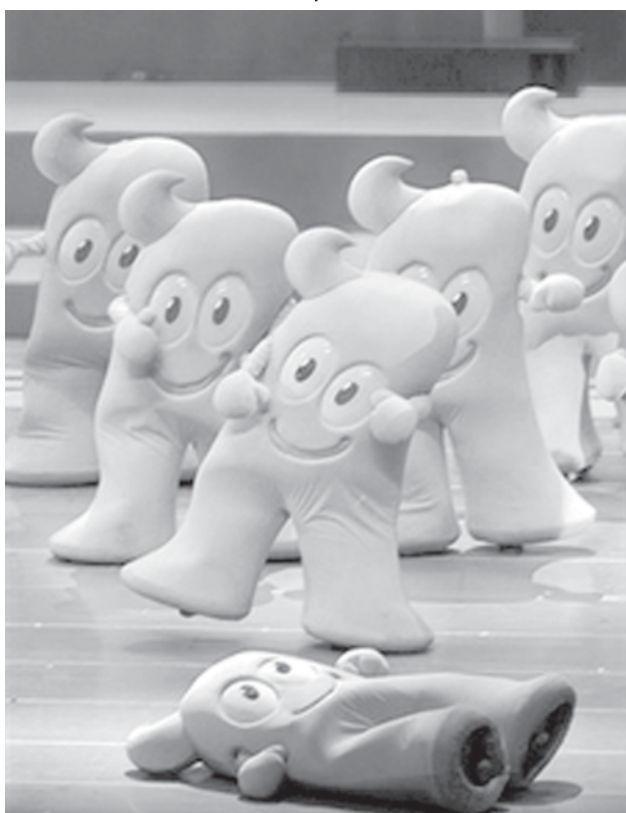
The Army said its investigation showed that the two soldiers were killed on 26 September by a Javelin anti-tank missile fired by British soldiers in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

"My thoughts go first and foremost to their relatives, who so tragically lost their loved ones," said Major General Poul Kiaerskou, head of the Army Central Command, in a statement.

"My thoughts go also to our British allies, who now have to live with the knowledge that two Danish colleagues were accidentally killed by British fire. That's a situation no soldier wants to find himself in."

British Brigadier Andrew Mackay, who commands a task force of British, Danish and Estonian troops in Helmand, issued a statement expressing deep sympathy to the families and friends of the two Danes.

He said the British Army would conduct its own thorough investigation into the incident and would make no further comment until that was completed. Denmark has about 550 soldiers in Afghanistan. So far six have died in combat, while three others were killed while trying to dismantle a mine.—MNA/Reuters



One of mascot of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai 'Haibao', front, struggles to get up during an event of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai on 18 Dec, 2007 in Shanghai, China.—INTERNET

US Navy grounds 39 "P-3S" over faulty wings

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—The US Navy Monday grounded 39 P-3 Orion anti-submarine patrol planes—nearly one in four of its inventory—over concerns of the plane's faulty wings.

The grounding reflected worries that a structural defect could cause either of the aircraft's wings to break off in flight, John Milliman, spokesman for Naval Air Systems Command, told reporters.

But Milliman said the measure was the result of engineering analysis and computer modeling, and was not caused by any actual structural failures. Each grounded aircraft will be flown to a repair depot in

Jacksonville, Florida. Those that can be repaired will be out of service for between 18 and 24 months while those that can't will be retired.—MNA/Xinhua



A shop is destroyed on 20 Dec, 2007 after a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Gisborne, New Zealand.—XINHUA



'Miuro' is displayed during the Robot award 2007 in Tokyo on 20 Dec, 2007. The 14-inch wide, egg-shaped music device is able to move and dance with its two heels.—INTERNET

Magnitude 7.3 quake jolts Aleutian Islands

TOKYO, 20 Dec— An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 jolted Alaska's Aleutian Islands in the northern Pacific on Wednesday, Japan's weather agency said, triggering a tsunami advisory for Hawaii.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said it had issued a tsunami advisory for the state of Hawaii.

The quake, with its focus about 40 kilometres (25 miles) below the seabed, occurred at 0930 GMT, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The US Geological Survey, which put the magnitude at 7.2, said it was 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) west-southwest of Anchorage.

MNA/Reuters

Building catches fire next to White House

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—A fire broke out near Vice-President Dick Cheney's ceremonial office in a building next to the White House on Wednesday, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate.

Cheney was in the White House with President George W Bush when the blaze began, and everyone inside the executive office building was evacuated safely, White House officials said.

Smoke billowed from a second-floor section of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building building facing the West Wing of the presidential mansion as firefighters arrived on the scene.

The fire appeared to be contained to only a few offices. There were no evacuations from the West Wing of the White House.

Cheney normally works inside the White House itself.

MNA/Reuters

World Bank helps Bangladesh set up solar power

DHAKA, 20 Dec— The World Bank signed on Wednesday two agreements for installation of solar home systems in power-hungry Bangladesh to cut greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewable energy.

The World Bank has signed the "Emission Reductions Purchase Agreements" as Trustee for the Community Development Carbon Fund (CDCF), it said in a

statement.

Under these agreements, Grameen Shakti and Infrastructure and Development Company Limited (IDCOL) can claim benefits for carbon emission reduction for about 970,000 and 227,000 solar home systems installed in Bangladesh respectively.

Grameen Shakti, the pioneer in solar power systems in the country, is affiliated with the micro credit organization, Gra-meen Bank,

which along with its founder Muham-mad Yunus was awarded the Nobel prize in 2006.

The World Bank projects will provide solar electricity to a large number of households that are not connected to the electricity grid and ordinarily use kerosene and diesel.

Only 30 per cent of Bangladesh's over 140 million people have access to the national electricity grid.

MNA/Reuters



Israeli tanks roll back into Israel during an Israeli army operation in the Gaza Strip. Israeli troops killed at least six Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, launching their latest ground offensive in a bid to curb rocket fire from the Hamas-run territory.—INTERNET

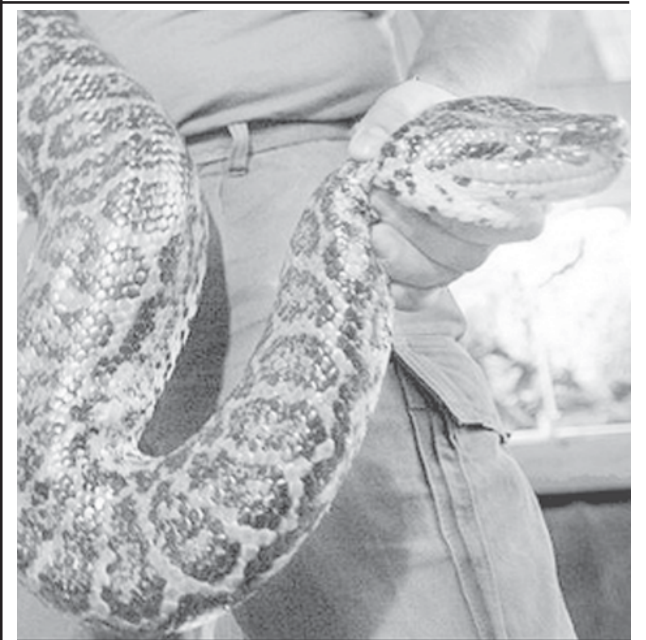
Vietnam launches e-regulation system

HANOI, 20 Dec— Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development have launched a system of electronic regulations to facilitate foreign investment, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Wednesday.

The system, in the form of a website, allows existing and new foreign investors to complete all necessary procedures online. They will be guided step by step for all stages, from intention of investment to implement of projects in Vietnam.

Vietnam is the first country in Asia to use such system, the newspaper said.

Vietnam attracted more than 15 billion US dollars of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first 11 months of this year, the biggest-ever figure in such a period, according to the country's Ministry of Planning and Investment. Vietnam is expected to lure FDI of 17-19 billion dollars this year, the ministry said, noting that FDI worth a total of 50 billion dollars is currently awaiting licenizing approval.—MNA/Xinhua



A yellow anaconda in captivity. Finnish firefighters reportedly called to help a pet owner with his agitated and aggressive anaconda succeeded in taming the dangerous beast by spraying foam on it.—INTERNET

100 Ugandans arrested for not having toilets

KAMPALA, 21 Dec— Local authorities have arrested at least 100 Ugandans for failing to build toilets in their homes in the midst of a cholera epidemic that has killed eight people and infected 164, state media reported on Wednesday.

"We cannot watch as people die (of cholera)," northwestern Bulisa District administrator Norbert Turyahikayo told the *New Vision* daily, justifying the arrest of Ugandans found to have huts with no pit latrines on Tuesday.

Police spokesman Hassan Kasinje told *Reuters* the building of homes without proper toilets was forbidden in Uganda, though he did not know of the arrests.

"It is illegal ... but it is not an arrestable offence. Whoever arrested them is wrong," he said. "A health officer is supposed to instruct them to build or they can be cautioned." In September, 70 Ugandans in the east were seized for the same offence. Many in remote villages lack latrines. Cholera epidemics spread by poor sanitation are common.—MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnam urged to open more for FDI

HANOI, 20 Dec—Vietnam should open more fields, especially service, to foreign investors, local newspaper Vietnam News on Wednesday quoted an UN agency as reporting.

“The country should consider strategies to promote foreign direct

investment (FDI) in physical infrastructure and human resource development to avoid future bottlenecks,” researcher Quentin Dupriez from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), co-author of a draft investment policy

review for Vietnam, said at a seminar on the agency’s draft on Tuesday.

New investment in telecommunications, transport, electricity and education would benefit Vietnam’s sustained economic development.

MNA/Xinhua

Trader Vitol ends gasoline contract with Iran

LONDON, 21 Dec — Iran’s largest supplier of gasoline, independent oil trader Vitol, has decided to end its long-running contract to provide the country with the fuel from next year, an industry source said on Thursday.

The source said Swiss-based Vitol has made the decision because it had made a loss of an estimated 70 million US dollars for the calendar year 2007 from its existing contract. The source did not mention any political considerations.

Iran is the world’s fourth-largest crude oil exporter but its refineries are struggling to fully meet domestic demand.

Western sanctions mean it is hard for the country to develop refineries and the need to import the fuel could make it more vulnerable to

pressure over its nuclear programme.

Trading sources have said Vitol has been the biggest gasoline supplier to Iran, handling about 60 per cent of the country’s petrol imports.

Vitol’s spokeswoman was not immediately available to comment. But a top Iranian oil official said the company was still selling petrol to the Islamic Republic.

MNA/Reuters



Apple CEO Steve Jobs is silhouetted as he introduces the new Apple iPod Nano in San Francisco, on 5 Sept, 2007. Shareholders suing officers and directors of Apple refiled their claims on Wednesday to address a judge’s ruling that some fraud complaints were too old and that the lawsuit contained scant details about wrongdoing by the company’s top officials.—INTERNET

Malaysia’s manufacturing sales down 2% in October

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Dec —The sales value of Malaysia’s manufacturing sector recorded 44.41 billion ringgit (13.06 billion

US dollars) in October this year, down 2.0 per cent year-on-year, the Statistics Department said here on Wednesday. The decline of 2.0 per cent in the sales value was attributed by the decrease in sales value of 25 industries (23.6 per cent) out of 106 industries

covered by the survey, the department said in a statement.

The sales value of this sector also decreased 3.2 per cent or 1.48 billion ringgit (435.29 million US dollars) as compared with 45.89 billion ringgit (13.50 billion US dollars) registered in the previous month. For the first ten months of this year, the country’s manufacturing sector saw a cumulative sales value of 428.0 billion ringgit (125.88 billion US dollars), up 1.1 per cent year-on-year. A total of 61 industries (57.5 per cent) out of 106 industries covered in this survey recorded a sales value of one billion ringgit (294.12 million US dollars) and above for the period January-October, 2007.

MNA/Xinhua



An employee of the Malaysia National Bank displays a new Malaysia RM 50 banknote in Subang, Malaysia, on 21 Dec, 2007. Malaysia National Bank on Friday announces the issuance of a new series of RM 50 banknotes into circulation to commemorate Malaysia 50th Anniversary of independence. The new RM 50 banknotes will be available for circulation on 30 Jan next year.

INTERNET

China proposes 10% tax on crude, urges fuel tax

BEIJING, 20 Dec—China’s Finance Ministry has proposed a 10-percent tax on crude oil production, to be phased in at a — 5 percent rate at first, it said on Tuesday as Beijing seeks to curb wasteful energy use. Vice Minister Zhu Zhigang also said in a statement on the ministry’s website, www.mof.gov.cn, that the time was ripe to introduce the long-awaited fuel tax, a move poised to lift China’s regulated fuel prices by a significant margin.

The 10 per cent tax on crude, or resource tax, would be based on oil prices now above 90 US dollars a barrel,

replacing the current volume-based levy, Zhu said—a measure set to make a hefty cut in the revenues of such oil producers as PetroChina and Sinopec Corp.

Industry analysts said the move was largely expected and had already been priced into the Chinese market. The ministry did not specify when the resource tax would take effect, saying it “should be imposed as soon as possible”.

This resource tax would go to local governments to compensate them for the extraction of crude oil and would also benefit the environment, Zhu said.

MNA/Reuters



A child plays with the MOI mobile phone in the Imaginarium shop in Paris on 18 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

India, Russia begin technical talks on joint moon mission

NEW DELHI, 20 Dec— India has begun technical discussions with Russia on the joint moon mission Chandrayaan-II which is expected to be launched in 2011-12, according to *Press Trust of India* on Tuesday.

An agreement for Chandrayaan-II was signed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Roskosmos, the Russian Federal Space Agency during Indian

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Moscow last month.

Chandrayaan-II will benefit from India's maiden moon mission which will survey the lunar surface to produce a complete map of its chemical characteristics and 3-dimensional topography over a two-year period, the report said.

The survey of the lunar surface will help scientists identify the exact place for

landing the rover and strategic locations to carry out experiments, said Mylaswamy Annadurai, Project Director of Chandrayaan-I.

Annadurai visited Russia late last month to hold initial technical discussions on Chandrayaan-II, which is expected to be a much shorter mission than Chandrayaan-I scheduled for launch on 9 April, 2008.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl observes a photo during an exhibition in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 20 Dec, 2007. As an important part of "China Tibetan Culture Forum-Kathmandu", "Multi-colored Tibet" Photo Exhibition was inaugurated Thursday in the city hall of Kathmandu. —XINHUA

EU agrees steep fines to cut car CO2 from 2012

BRUSSELS, 20 Dec— The European Commission agreed on proposed legislation on Wednesday to force down emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) from cars with steeply rising fines on manufacturers that fail to comply, an EU source said.

The European Union executive set a four-year phase-in period for fines on manufacturers whose fleets exceed an average of 120 grammes per kilometre of the main greenhouse gas blamed for global warming from 2012.

Fines on companies for non-compliance will start at 20 euros (28.80 US dollars) for each excess gram per kilometre in

2012 on average over the whole fleet, and rise to 95 euros gallon per kilometre in 2016, the source said. Of the overall mandatory target, an average of 130 gallon per kilo-

metres must be achieved from improved engine technology and the rest through biofuels and more efficient gears, tyres and air-conditioning.

MNA/Reuters



A 77-year-old Beijing resident, Yang Baoqin (2nd L), learns English with other elderly women at an Olympic Community English Class for the elderly at a community center in Beijing on 20 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Uganda's President to buy \$48m "Gulfstream" jet

KAMPALA, 21 Dec— Uganda's Government is to buy a 48.2-million-US-dollar *Gulfstream* jet for President Yoweri Museveni, media reported on Wednesday, and critics questioned whether the poor east African country could afford it.

A committee of lawmakers endorsed the proposal, moving it closer to parliamentary approval, the state-owned *New Vision* newspaper said.

Officials were not immediately available for comment. "We believe this is not a luxury for the president. It is a national asset," parliamentary committee chairwoman Mary Karoro was quoted in the *New Vision* as saying.

Karoro said the new plane would require less fuel than Museveni's existing presidential jet, need fewer inspections and stopovers on long-haul flights and be cheaper to maintain. Critics denounced the purchase as greed in an impoverished nation where the average wage is 300 US dollars per year. —MNA/Reuters

Younger drinkers know their limits better in Britain

LONDON, 21 Dec — Britons, it seems, are not older and wiser when it comes to drinking— a survey has found that those over 30 are more sensible than younger boozers.

The survey for the "Know Your Limits" campaign found that a third of people aged 30 to 50 admitted that, on at least one occasion in the last

year, drinking too much had ruined a night out or a family event.

Half also said excessive drinking had given them a hangover which left them unable to function properly the next day.

"You often hear people saying they feel worse after drinking the older they get," said GP Dr Sarah Jarvis.

MNA/Reuters

Report estimates 12m cancer cases worldwide

LOS ANGELES, 20 Dec— There will be over 12 million new cancer cases and 7.6 million cancer deaths (about 20,000

cancer deaths a day) worldwide in 2007, according to a new report.

The latest addition to the American Cancer Society's family of Facts & Figures publications said that 5.4 million of those cancers and 2.9 million deaths will occur in developed countries,

while 6.7 million cases and 4.7 million deaths will occur in developing countries. These projections were based on incidence and mortality data from the Globocan database compiled by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).—MNA/Xinhua

Colombian road accidents kill four, injure at least 97

BOGOTA, 20 Dec— Four people were killed and at least 97 others injured on Tuesday in three separate road accidents in Colombia, police said.

Highway police said two passenger buses collided in the northern province of Magdalena on a road leading to the Caribbean coast.

The accident killed

one of the drivers and left two more dead and 37 injured.

Among the injured was a nine-year-old, who lost his arm and was sent to the intensive care unit.

Police said all the dead were taken to the city of Santa Marta's Legal Medicine and Forensic Science Institute.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia approves law on anti-human trafficking

PHNOM PENH, 21 Dec — The Cambodian National Assembly Thursday unanimously approved the law on anti-human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

"This law is one of the first steps of reforming the judicial and court system of the country," Ang Vong Vattana, Cambodian Minister of Justice, told the National Assembly after it approved the law.

It also helped to strengthen the rule of law and reduce poverty in the kingdom, he said, adding that the law will be exercised strictly.

Cambodia passed its old law on anti-human trafficking and sexual exploitation with 10 articles in 1996. The new law has 52 articles and contains more details than the previous one.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam has first think-tank

HANOI, 21 Dec — Vietnam's leading scientists, researchers and experts have formed the country's first independent policy research institute, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Tuesday.

The newly-established Institute of Development Studies is to research and supply services about development plans and strategies to state agencies, social organizations, enterprises and individuals at home and abroad, said the institute's director Nguyen Quang A.

From now to next June, the institute will conduct

three research subjects: education and healthcare reform from economics view, some issues about rural areas and farmers, and economic growth quality and policy recommendations.

The institute holds regular seminars twice a week and irregular ones, which are open to all people, and publish its research works.

Its members include Nguyen Quang A, Le Dang Doanh, Chu Hao, Tuong Lai, Pham Chi Lan, Phan Huy Le, Tran Duc Nguyen, Tran Viet Phuong and Hoang Tuy.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows most Poles support Iraq troop pullout

WARSAW, 21 Dec — Eighty-five per cent of Poles support the withdrawal of Poland's troops from Iraq next year, as recommended by the centre-right government to the reluctant president, a poll by TNS OBOP showed on Thursday.

Poland, the largest ex-Communist member of NATO and the European Union, backed the US-led invasion in 2003 by sending 2,500 troops to Iraq, and after withdrawing some, still has 900 soldiers in the south.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk's plan to pull out the Polish troops fulfils an election campaign promise that put him at odds with President Lech Kaczynski, whose twin brother Jaroslaw lost the October election to Tusk.

Kaczynski, who favours a strong pro-US policy in the face of the more EU-friendly approach of the new administration, has criticized the troop withdrawal plan, but his top adviser said recently the President might agree to it.

Kaczynski's approval is needed for the government to order the withdrawal, but is expected to be forthcoming soon.

Other US allies in Iraq, such as Britain and Australia, are also reducing their military presence in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

Better late than never for Canada lottery winners

TORONTO, 21 Dec — A group of Canadian co-workers will finally receive 5.75 million Canadian dollars (5.75 million US dollars) in prize money, three years after their winning lottery ticket was allegedly stolen and cashed in by a retailer.

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp said on Wednesday that it would pay the prize, plus about 800,000 Canadian dollars in interest, to the group after

the provincial agency concluded the ticket had been claimed by someone else. Earlier on Wednesday, police laid theft and fraud charges against a former lottery-ticket seller, accusing him of stealing a ticket and claiming the prize for himself.

The OLG, which runs lotteries in the province of Ontario, said it had received a complaint from the group in July. The agency, which has been



An elderly Sri Lankan man is pictured pouring a cup of green tea. Drinking five or more cups of green tea a day could halve the risks of developing advanced prostate cancer, according to a Japanese study published on Wednesday. — INTERNET

Russia bans landmark art from travelling to Britain

MOSCOW, 21 Dec — Russia banned a landmark exhibition of Russian and French art from travelling to Britain on Thursday as deteriorating relations between Moscow and London over the murder of a former Russian official hit cultural ties.

Russia's Federal Culture and Cinematography Agency, Roskultura, said that since it had not received adequate legal guarantees from Britain, it had forbidden the export of 120 paintings — including masterpieces by Van Gogh and Matisse.

"Roskultura has not received adequate guarantees from the British authorities to allow the exhibition to go ahead," Roskultura

spokeswoman Natalya Uvarova told Reuters. The reservations concern legal guarantees on state property.

MNA/Reuters

China protects telecom facilities from theft, vandalism

BEIJING, 21 Dec — Chinese police solved more than 47,000 cases of theft and vandalism of telecom facilities and nabbed over 40,000 suspects in its six-month campaign launched in June this year.

Police confiscated

illegal gains worth about 140 million yuan (18.7 million US dollars) and broke up 2,500 criminal gangs during the same period, the Ministry of Public Security said here on Thursday.

To protect its telecom facilities, China launched

a six-month campaign in response to widespread vandalism and theft. "The campaign has helped to curb the rise in cases of theft and vandalism of telecom facilities," said the ministry on its website.

MNA/Xinhua



China's first home-grown regional jet, the ARJ21-700, rolls off the production line at the Shanghai Aircraft Manufacturing Factory in east China's Shanghai on 21 Dec, 2007. The jet's name, "Xiang Feng," meaning "flying phoenix," was also unveiled in a roll-out ceremony. The name was chosen in a global competition — XINHUA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects greening...

(from page 1)
of Monywa Township, conservation of forests and systematic arrangements for extended planting of trees in watershed area.

Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the greening of the environs of Bawditahtaung Monastery and natural scenes.

A 670 feet long and 75 feet high dam has been constructed for greening Bawditahtaung and its environs. The dam benefits arable lands and greening tasks. Furthermore, the water from the dam is being pumped to greening tasks around Hill 919.

The Senior General and party inspected conservation of forests and trees in the surrounding areas of Monywa Technological University and the Sambuddhe Pagoda and development of Monywa.

In the afternoon, they proceeded to Mandalay by helicopter. In the evening, Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Hsutaungpyae Buddha Image on Mandalay Hill. They viewed documentary photos of Mandalay Hill.

After viewing greening tasks at Mandalay Hill and natural beauty of Mandalay and its envi-



Senior General Than Shwe paying homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image.—MNA

Hsutaungpyae Buddha Image on Mandalay Hill.—MNA



rons, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on greening of Mandalay Hill and ensuring of effective irrigation system of Hsedawgyi Dam.

The Senior General presented cash donations to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Senior General and party paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image. The Senior General signed the visitors' book and made cash donations there.

This morning, they inspected progress of Zaygyo Market and Mandalay and development of Mandalay Kandawgyi

Lake and its environs.

At Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) project site, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported to the Senior General on facts about the bridge and nearing completion of the construction task.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint reported on installation of suspenders in steel beams of the main bridge, strengthening of suspenders and the testing of the strength of the bridge.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the finish-

ing touches to the facility.

After inspecting the approach bridge and road on Sagaing side, the Senior General and party went back to Mandalay and inspected Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) and gave guidance.

The main bridge of the 5,614-foot-long Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is of steel beam type. The structure features the 49-foot wide four traffic lanes flanked by two six-foot wide pedestrian walkways. The bridge is designed to handle each truck weighing 60 tonnes in maximum.

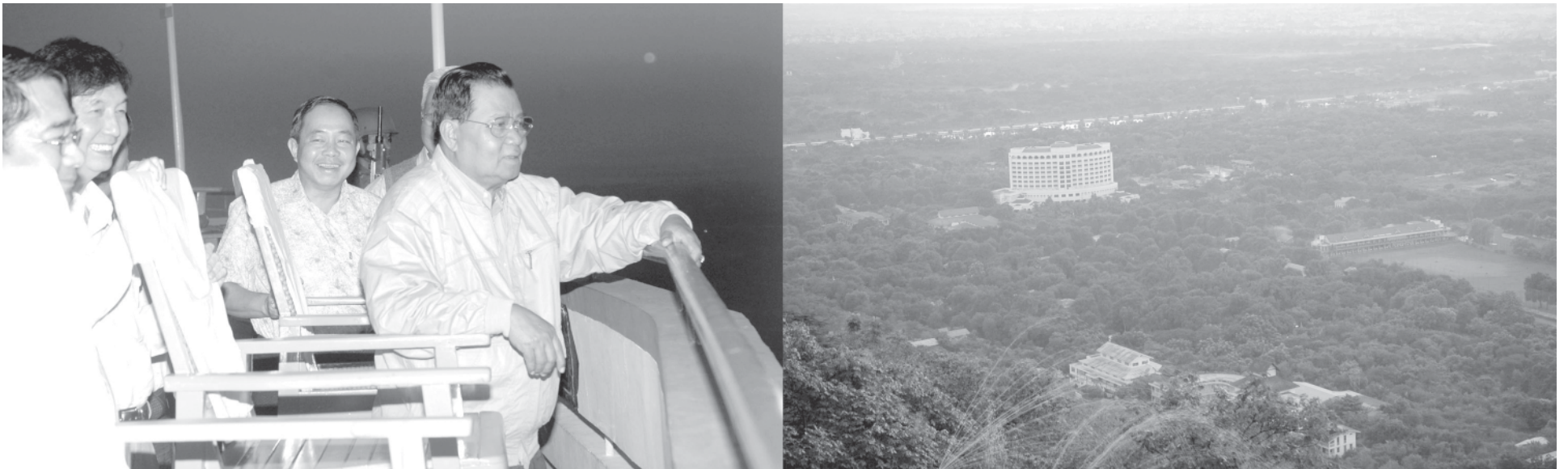
(see page 9)

* **The main bridge of the 5,614-foot-long Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is of steel beam reinforced type. The structure features the 49-foot wide four traffic lanes flanked by two six-foot wide pedestrian walkways. The bridge is designed to handle each truck weighing 60 tonnes in maximum.**

* **Although the bridge is not officially inaugurated yet, over 10,000 trucks, 40,000 passenger buses, 100,000 light vehicles and 300,000 motorcycles have used it so far.**



Senior General Than Shwe donates cash to Maha Muni Buddha Image funds.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe enjoys scenic beauty of Mandalay and tasks for greening of Mandalay Hill. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects greening...

(from page 8)

Although the bridge is not officially inaugurated yet, over 10,000 trucks, 40,000 passenger buses, 100,000 light vehicles and 300,000 motor cycles have

During the inspection tour, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected Dokwin Agriculture Farm of Myanma Agriculture Service in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

First, Manager of the farm U Tint Lwin reported to

around the farm where herbal orchids were grown with the use of various methods.

After inspecting the farm, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo urged officials of the farm to grow the herbal orchids successfully in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

Afterwards, the ministers inspected a small hydel



Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). — MNA

used it so far. Senior General Than Shwe and party also inspected the construction of road around Taungthaman Wetland, Yadanabon University and development of Amarapura Township in a motorcade.

After visiting Mandalay Industrial Zone, the Senior General and party flew to Nay Pyi Taw.

them on the farm. Deputy Supervisor of the farm Daw Yin Yin Mar reported on production process of medicinal herbs from orchids and propagation of orchids.

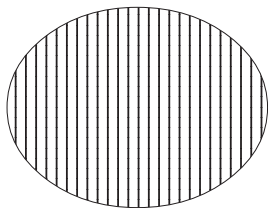
Afterwards, officials concerned conducted Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw

power project on a irrigation canal of Dokwin Dam to produce power on a small scale. The generator equipped at the small project can produce 5 kilowatts. Generators are also equipped on irrigation canals to produce hydro power on a small scale.

MNA

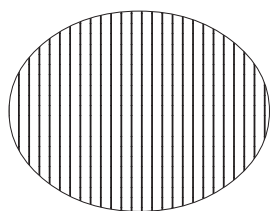


An aerial view of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).—MNA



**Ayeyawady
Bridge
(Yadanabon).**

MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspect the small scale hydropower generator in PyinOoLwin Township.

MNA

Winners of colour photo contest awarded



Director-General U Chit Naing presents prize to A K Moe (Zoology), third prize winner in colour photo contest to mark 60th Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

No wish to stand as members of NLD

117 NLD members of Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta quit

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — A total of 16 members of Mawlamyinegyun Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division including U Ohn Thein, U Khin Shwe of Katkho Village, U Thein Naing of Mithaligon Village, U Kyaw Moe Lwin of Mahmwaygyun Village, U Tin Nwe of Dalinhleseik Village on 24 August and 101 members of Labutta Township NLD including U Sein Tun of Aleyaygyaw Village-tract, Daw Nu Kyi of Labuttaloktaung Village-tract, U Hla Aye of Htinbonkwin Village, U Myint Swe of Boepyae Village, U Tun Yin of Myitpauk Village, U Thet Lwin of Kanyingon Village and Daw Kyi Win of Kyunchaung Village on 27 August sent letters of resignation to the NLD (Headquarters) and local authorities.

In the letters sent to Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommissions, they said they no longer wished to stand as members of the NLD and they resigned from the party of their own accord.—MNA

YANGON, 21 Dec — The Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information held the prize presentation ceremony for the colour photo contest in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day at The Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street here at 1pm today.

It was attended by Director-General U Chit Naing of the Information and Public

Relations Department, departmental officials, responsible persons of Myanmar Photographic Society, winners and others.

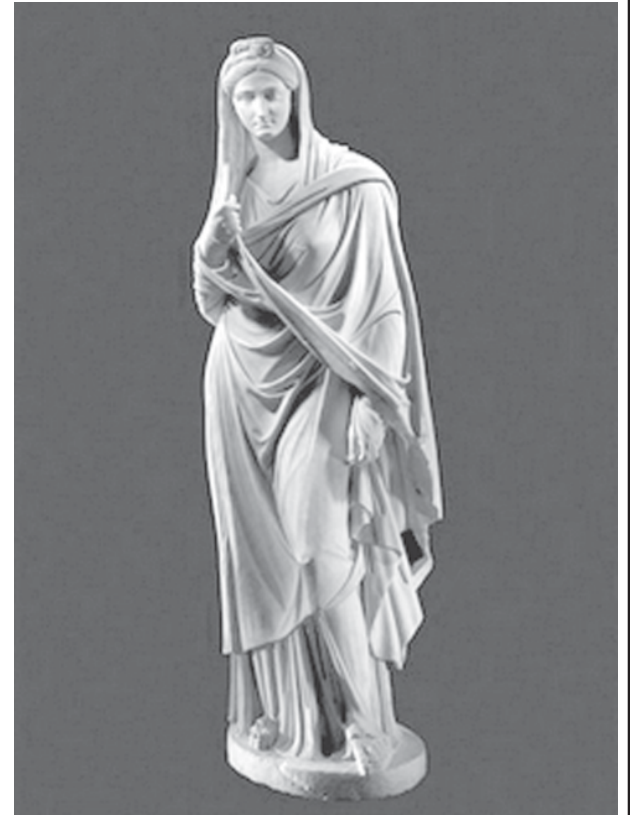
First, on behalf of the Minister for Information, Director-General U Chit Naing made an opening speech.

Next, he presented prizes to U Nyunt Kyi who stood first, Sagaing Aung Kyaw Tin, second, A K Moe (Zoology), third and other prize winners. Later, a prize winner spoke words of thanks and the ceremony was concluded. — MNA

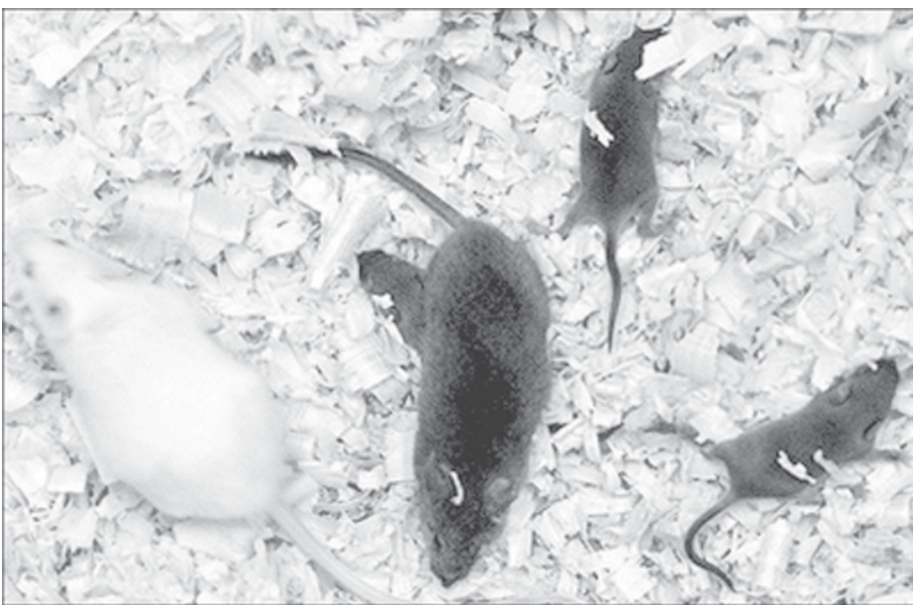
Don't Smoke



The 20th Harbin International Ice-Snow Sculpture Expo "Exotic France in Harbin" opens in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 20 Dec, 2007. — XINHUA



This handout photo provided by the Italian Culture Ministry shows a 3rd century statue of Vibia Sabina, the wife of the Emperor Hadrian, on display at the Quirinale Presidential Palace, in Rome. — INTERNET



Lab mice. Obese mice are less able to fight off bacterial infection than lean mice, according to a study released on 10 Dec, that supports emerging evidence of a link between obesity and a dysfunctional immune system.— INTERNET

Images of the Day



This undated photo provided by the Namibia Tourism Board shows a variety of wildlife in Namibia's Etosha National Park.

INTERNET

This undated file photo shows an artist's impression of the glasshouse on the beach of Yangjiang, South China's Guangdong Province, where a sunken ship will be displayed. The largest Chinese wreck, from the Song Dynasty will be hauled from its watery grave on Saturday.— INTERNET



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Int.Org. requires **Assistant Field Officer, 2 Posts, 1 in Myeik and 1 in Thandaung.** Additional Information on vacancy at **any UN or INGO Bulletin Board** in Yangon, Myeik and Thandaung. Closing date: 7 January 2008

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-199)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-199) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2007 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.

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Pakistan says no threat of bird flu pandemic

ISLAMABAD, 20 Dec—Pakistan said on Wednesday there was no threat of a pandemic from bird flu, as World Health Organization experts carried out tests in the country's

northwest after eight people were infected by the virus. Pakistani authorities confirmed the eight cases at the weekend, including one death.

The WHO said they were likely to be a combination of infections from poultry and limited human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 avian flu virus due to close contact. The WHO says a similar case occurred in Indonesia in 2006 among family members believed to have contracted the virus while caring for sick loved ones.

"There is no threat of epidemic or pandemic and there are no fresh cases being reported," Ministry of Health spokesman Orya Maqbool Jan Abbasi told Reuters. The last human case was reported on 23 November.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

China blasts Ningxia coal field to mine "black gold"

RUQIGOU, NINGXIA, 20 Dec—Ruqigou coal field in northwest China's Ningxia was blasted with 5,400 tons of dynamite on Thursday as mining operators began to mine high-quality, but low-polluting, Taixi coal, known as "black gold".

The blast, the largest

such operation to be carried out in China for more than a decade, will enable the opencast mining of about 14-million tons of Taixi coal. Taixi coal is reputed for its high carbon content and burns with a clean flame. Only Hongji coal of Vietnam can compare favorably to

it. Experts at the blast site said the dynamite used was equivalent to half the power of a nuclear bomb. It was enough to reduce a 270-metre-high hill in the coal field by 40 metres. About 12,000 people in the surrounding area were evacuated before the operation.—MNA/Xinhua

23 fall ill from food poisoning in S-W China

KUNMING, 20 Dec—Twenty-three people were confirmed sick, including three seriously, from food poisoning on Monday in southwest China's Yunnan Province, local government sources reported on Thursday.

At 7:30 am on Monday, 23 people, including an 81-year old woman and a four-year-old child, fell ill after eating "tangyuan", a rice dumpling soup, for breakfast in Wanyaoshu

Village of Luxi County.

The 23 people were Ma Raolin, a middle-aged villager, and his family and friends, who were preparing for the funeral ceremony of Ma's wife in Ma's house. The poisoned were rushed to the county hospital, where three are in a critical condition.

Officials from the provincial disease control centre collected samples of the soup and found the food poisoning had been

caused by a toxic pesticide known as "Leguo". They are investigating how it managed to get into the soup but details have not been released.

On 11 November, six people were killed and two others hospitalized in a similar food poisoning case in central China's Hubei Province. They also ate "tangyuan" but in this case the cook mistook rat poison for flour.

MNA/Xinhua

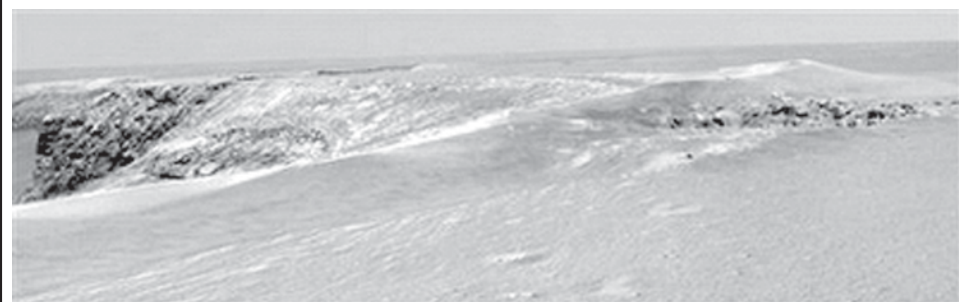
Vietnam reaps bigger export revenues in 2007

HANOI, 21 Dec—Vietnam is estimated to gain export earnings of 48 billion US dollars this year, up 20.5 per cent over last year, the *Labour* newspaper reported on Thursday.

Items with high export growth in 2007 include engineering products, up 120 per cent; pepper, 73 per cent; coffee, 50 per cent; plasticware, 45.8 per cent; and cashew nuts, 30.8 per cent, the paper quoted a report of the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Meanwhile, goods with big export revenues comprise of crude oil, 8.4 billion dollars; textiles and garments, 7.7 billion dollars; footwear, 3.9 billion dollars; and seafood, nearly 3.8 billion dollars.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo made by the Mars rover Opportunity and released in this Oct 2006 file photo, by NASA shows a view of the 'Victoria crater' looking southeast from 'Duck Bay.' A newly discovered asteroid has a 1 in 75 chance of slamming into the Red Planet on 30 Jan, 2008, scientists said on 20 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Four dead, seven missing in Egypt crash

CAIRO, 20 Dec—Four Egyptians died and seven from the same family are missing after a small bus flipped into a tributary of

the Nile River south of Cairo, security sources said.

Rescue forces saved another eight of the vehicle's occupants but said there was little hope for the missing, who included four children. Two of the dead were children.

The family had rented the bus to take them from Cairo to their hometown in the southern province of Qena for the Islamic Eid el-Adha holidays that began on Tuesday, according to security

sources. It appeared the vehicle flipped into the river in Sohag city after one of its tyres burst.

Reckless driving, lax traffic rules and poor road conditions cause many road crashes in Egypt. A series of road and rail accidents in the past few years triggered an outcry over the government's handling of road and transport safety.

MNA/Reuters

Don't Smoke

Los Angeles commercial photographer Marla Aufmuth buys an airline e-tickets on her way to a commercial job at the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, Calif on 14 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET



NASA makes headway with shuttle, station problems

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 20 Dec—Space-walking astronauts and technicians on the ground conducted a day of trouble-shooting that shed light on a spate of problems that have stalled construction of the *International Space Station*, NASA managers said

Tuesday. The space shuttle *Atlantis*, which is due to carry Europe's Columbus science laboratory to the station, was sidelined by problems with sensors in its fuel tank that are part of an emergency engine cutoff system. On Tuesday, NASA filled the shuttle's

fuel tank with 500,000 gallons (1.9 million litres) of liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen to try to pinpoint the location of a suspected wiring or circuit problem that was causing erratic readings from the sensors, which are located in the ship's fuel tank.

MNA/Reuters

Planes delayed as heavy fog cloaks in E China

BEIJING, 20 Dec—Thick fog blanketed areas of north, central and east China on Wednesday, delaying flights, reducing road visibility and forcing sections of express ways to close temporarily.

Heavy fog shrouded the central province of Hubei and forced six express ways to close. In Wuhan, Ezhou and Xiaogan cities, road visibility was reduced to less than

50 metres. Meteorological observatories in the three cities raised the warning level to red, the highest.

In north China's Tianjin Municipality, one ex-pressway was closed and the road visibility was reduced to 100 metres. In Hefei City in east China's Anhui Province, most flights out of the city were delayed by the thick fog.

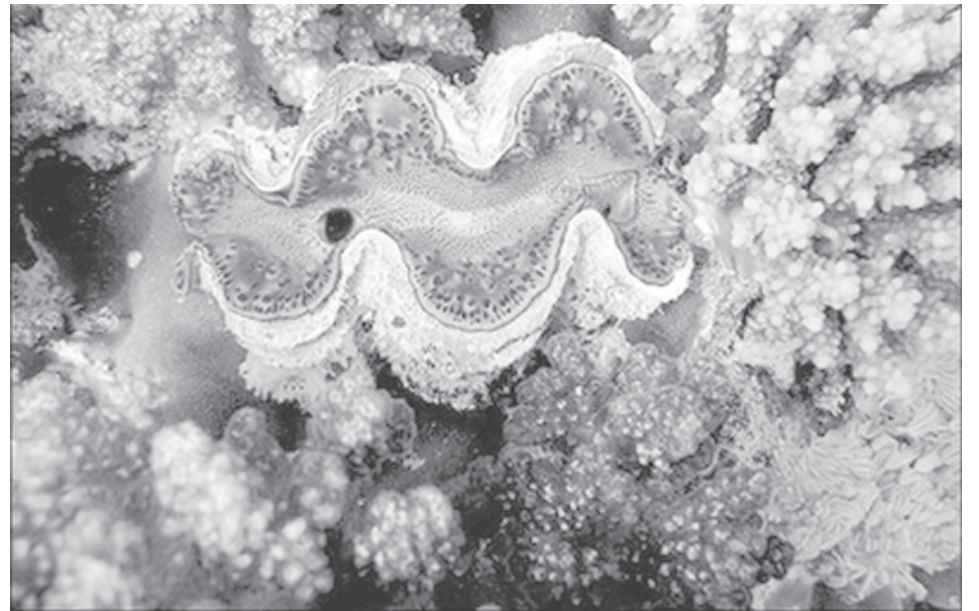
In Nanjing City of east

China's Jiangsu Province, traffic jams clogged downtown streets for about two hours in the morning.

According to observatory experts, the fog was caused by a combination of high humidity and lower temperatures.

They predicted that the fog would affect the cities again on Thursday morning.

MNA/Xinhua



A giant clam is seen nestled among coral reefs at the Obhor coast, 30 kms north of the Red Sea city of Jeddah.—INTERNET

Sarkozy in Camargue to highlight climatic change

PARIS, 20 Dec—French President Nicolas Sarkozy Tuesday visited the Camargue region in southern France, terming it as “one of the most beautiful and most threatened regions in France,” in a bid to highlight the need tackle global warming.

“Global warming and

the risk of rising waters are putting the existence of a region like this in peril.

I do not intend to see Sainte-Marie become an island. I want it to remain as a delta,” the president said in a speech at the local town hall.

“France sets the example, takes decisions, demands results and calls

on world countries, including the United States, whose input we need in this fight, to take a position that preserves nature and our planet,” Sarkozy said.

A month and a half after the Grenelle of the Environment, a nationwide debate on global warming, the president, who was accompanied by

Environment Minister Jean-Louis Borloo, told the audience that he was committed to the implementation of all the decisions that were made to deal with the effects of climatic change. “I would like to assure you that we will not only fully observe these solemn commitments but also ensure that they will be scrupulously enforced,” according to Sarkozy, who added “I will not let anyone hinder me.—MNA/Xinhua

Three people die in elephant stampede in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 20 Dec—Three members of a family died early Thursday in a stampede of a flock of elephants in a village at the foothold of Karaldanga hill in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong district, about 340 km from capital Dhaka.

Police and local people said the flock of seven to eight elephants came down from the hill at about 2 am local time and trampled to death three people of a family. The victims died in sleep.

Another child was seriously injured and admitted to hospital. Local people said the elephants also twisted several houses.—Internet



The 48 million year old ungulate *Indohyus* from India in an illustration released on Wednesday. *Indohyus* is a close relative of whales, and the structure of its bones and chemistry of its teeth indicate that it spent much time in water.—INTERNET

Picasso works stolen from Sao Paulo Museum

BEIJING, 21 Dec—Thieves made off with paintings by Pablo Picasso and Brazilian artist Candido Portinari in a daring heist Thursday morning in Sao Paulo Museum of Art.

The thieves stole “Portrait of Suzanne Bloch” by Pablo Picasso and “O Lavrador de Cafe” by Candido Portinari, the most valuable pieces in the museum's collection, said museum spokesman Eduardo Cosomano, quoted by media reports Friday. The two works are estimated by the museum to be worth more than 100



Pablo Picasso's oil painting, “Portrait of Suzanne Bloch”, is seen in this handout photograph released by the Sao Paulo Museum of Art on 20 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

million US dollars.

The museum issued a statement saying this is the first theft of such kind in its 60 year history.

The heist was carried out within three minutes, between 05:09 and 05:12, when the guards were changing shifts on the second floor of the museum. Security cameras captured video images of three men entering the museum but little else, and the images are of poor quality, said lead Sao Paulo police investigator on the case, Marcos Gomes de Moura.

Internet

Ali Mohammed (R), who lost his leg in a bomb attack, is checked by technician in Baghdad's Artificial Limbs Center, on 11 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET



SPORTS

Inter stroll to Cup win at Reggina, holders Roma lose

ROME, 20 Dec — Teen-age forward Mario Balotelli scored twice as Inter Milan strolled to a 4-1 triumph at Reggina in the first leg of their Italian Cup last 16 tie on Wednesday but holders AS Roma suffered a 3-1 defeat at Torino.

Inter, who are seven points clear in Serie A, went ahead with a Hernan Crespo header in the 14th minute and Balotelli, 17, doubled the lead in the 29th.

Leonardo Pettinari pulled one back for Reggina in the 50th before Santiago Solari and Balotelli's second sealed the win for the Italian champions, who rested many regulars ahead of Sunday's derby with AC Milan. Alvaro Recoba struck in both halves and Gian-luca Comotto headed a late goal to give Torino a home victory over AS Roma, who scored just before the break through Brazilian midfielder Mancini.

Lazio came from behind to beat Napoli 2-1 in Rome, while Udinese and Palermo battled out a goal-

less tie. European champions AC Milan, who beat Boca Juniors 4-2 in the Club World Cup final in Japan on Sunday, host Catania on Thursday.

Juventus lost 2-1 at Empoli two weeks ago while Fiorentina drew 1-1 at Serie B Ascoli last week when Cagliari put their league troubles behind them with a 1-0 home win over Sampdoria.

MNA/Reuters

Dokic to rely on invite for Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 20 Dec — Former world number four Jelena Dokic will need to rely on an organizer's invitation for next month's Australian Open after pulling out of the wildcard qualifying tournament with a thigh injury.

Dokic had been trailing 16-year-old Olivia Rogowska 6-3, 3-1 in the quarter-final of the tournament when she called for the trainer and then withdrew from the match.

MNA/Reuters



AEK Athens' Nikos Liberopoulos, right, vies for the ball with Villareal's Fabricio Fuentes, left, during their UEFA Cup group C soccer match at the Olympic stadium, Athens, on 20 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Pele not surprised by England's choice of Capello

LONDON, 20 Dec — Pele is not surprised England have again opted for a foreign coach although he said it would have once been unthinkable for some of his former adversaries.

Italian Fabio Capello was confirmed as England's second foreign coach this week after re-

placing Steve McClaren who was sacked last month. McClaren took over from Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson after the 2006 World Cup finals.

"A long time ago I used to talk to my English friends like Bobby (Charlton) and they could not accept the idea of a

foreign coach," the Brazilian said at the launch of a collection of medals portraying his 1,283 goals.

Each will be auctioned to raise money for Goals for Life, a project raising funds for a Brazilian children's hospital.

"But there was one with Eriksson and now there's another and England also tried to get (Luiz Felipe) Scolari two years ago don't forget. Capello is a very good coach and very experienced so let's see if he can win something for England."

Pele said he could not imagine a foreign coach in charge of the Brazil national team.

"It's very different," he said. "Maybe an Argentine because it's so close but I think it would be very difficult for a foreign coach in Brazil."

MNA/Reuters



Canada's Stephanie Penner (L) and Sherline Holness block a ball during their quarter final volleyball match in the women's continental Olympic qualification championship against Trinidad and Tobago in the northern city of Monterrey on 20 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Toni hits four as Bayern waltz through in UEFA Cup

LONDON, 20 Dec — Italy striker Luca Toni's four goals fired former European champions Bayern Munich into the knockout stages of the UEFA Cup after a 6-0 rout of Aris Salonika in their final group game on Wednesday.

Victory sent the Bundesliga leaders through as Group F winners and means Bayern will avoid one of the eight third-placed Champions League sides who enter the last 32 draw on Friday.

Toni, fully fit after a recent hamstring strain, pounced twice from close range in the first half and added two in quick succession midway through the second period. Christian Lell and Philipp Lahm completed the demolition.

Aris were eliminated with Braga, 2-0 winners over Red Star Belgrade,

and Bolton Wanderers, also progressing from the group.

Galatasaray, the 2000 winners, sneaked through as the third-place finishers in Group H after they drew 0-0 at home to Austria Vienna and Panionios contrived to lose 3-2 at home to Girondins Bordeaux after being 2-0 up.

Galatasaray went through on a better goal difference than the Greek outfit.

Spain's Getafe finished top of Group G after a 2-1 home win over Belgian champions Anderlecht sent both sides through as Hapoel Tel Aviv, who began the night in contention, lost 3-1 at home to AaB Aalborg.—MNA/Reuters



Larissa's Giorgos Galitsios (L) is tackled by Nuremburg's Dominik Reinhardt during their UEFA Cup Group A soccer match at Panthessaliko stadium in Volos on 20 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Maccabi Haifa beat Sakhnin to win Israel's Toto Cup

TEL AVIV, 21 Dec — Brazilian striker Renato scored twice to give Maccabi Haifa a 2-0 win over Arab club Bnei Sakhnin in the Toto Cup final on Wednesday.

Renato scored with a 53rd-minute penalty and then sealed the result eight minutes from time when he slotted the ball into the net with the Sakhnin defence beaten.

Sakhnin's misery was compounded by the sending off of Armenian striker Iliya Yevoryan in the 89th minute.

MNA/Reuters

McGinley and Storm join Europeans for Royal Trophy

BANGKOK, 20 Dec — Irishman Paul McGinley and Briton Graeme Storm have been picked to represent Europe against Asia in the Royal Trophy early next year, organizers said on Wednesday.

McGinley will make his third successive Royal Trophy appearance next month alongside Storm, who joins captain Seve Ballesteros's team after an impressive 2007 season which included victory in the French Open.

Ballesteros, who has been Europe's non-playing captain since the inaugural Royal trophy in 2006,

said he was happy to have the pair on board, in particular McGinley because of his vast experience. Ballesteros said: He has the golden touch, and any captain would be delighted to have him on their side.

He is an experienced, battle-hardened campaigner, and one of the great things about him is that you can play him with anybody else in the team, knowing he will help to bring out the best in them.

"That quality will be very important this time as we will have a few rookies like Graeme, who have bags of talent but are somewhat new to this level of team competition."

Ryder Cup holders Europe won the first two editions of the Royal Trophy, a matchplay event featuring fourball, foursomes and singles, with eight players on each team.

McGinley and Storm will team up with Sweden's Robert Karlsson, Frenchman Gregory Havret and Britons Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke at the January 11-13 event in Chon Buri, Thailand.—MNA/Reuters



Stade Rennes' Bruno Cheyrou (L) fights for the ball with Dinamo Zagreb's Etto during their UEFA Cup Group D soccer match in Rennes on 20 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



Hampton Hotel employee volunteers pitch in as holiday 'elves' on Mon, 17 Dec 2007 to refurbish the 'World's Largest Rocking Chair' in Gulfport, Miss. The colossal chair was damaged in Hurricane Katrina and is the thirty-fifth roadside attraction to be restored as part of Hampton's Save-A-Landmark programme.—INTERNET

Strong earthquake jolts NZ's east coast

WELLINGTON, 21 Dec — A strong earthquake rattled the east coast of New Zealand on Thursday, causing some power outages and minor damage but no casualties. The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences said the tremor,

measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale, struck at 8: 55 pm (0755 GMT). The institute said it was centred about 50 kilometres (30 miles) off the coast, south east of the provincial city of Gisborne on the country's North Island.

MNA/Reuters

Drivers could face jail for using mobile in London

LONDON, 21 Dec — Motorists caught talking on a hand-held mobile phone or sending a text while driving could be jailed under guidelines due to be published on Thursday.

In the most serious cases, they could be charged with dangerous driving, which carries a two-year maximum sentence and an unlimited fine, according to a BBC report.

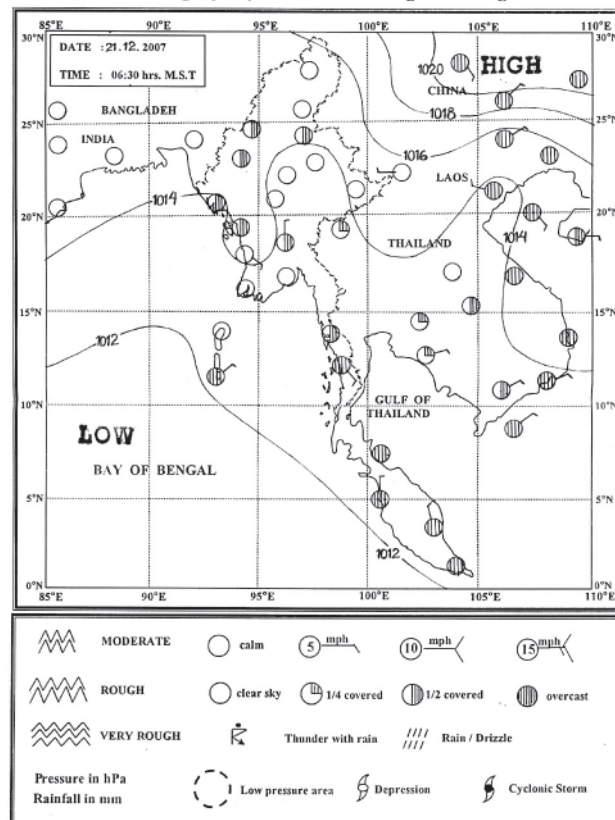
Currently, motorists face an automatic 60-

pound fine and three points on their licence under the lesser charge of careless driving.

Director of Public Prosecutions Ken Macdonald said earlier this year that drivers who flout the law and drive dangerously should face tougher penalties.

"There is widespread public concern about the use of mobile phones and other hand-held electronic equipment while driving," he said. —MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 21 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Shan and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Bago Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (3°C) and Putao (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 20-12-2007 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 21-12-2007 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 21-12-2007 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 20-12-2007 was (8.2) 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 (4) mph from North at (16:30) hours MST on 20-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weekend of December: During the coming weekend, generally fair weather in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 22 December
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံယာဇာနည်အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

- Musical programme

8:15 am

- ပဗ္ဗဝတီတံတား

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:15 am

- Musical programme

11:30 pm

- Game for children

11:55 am

- Round up of the week's TV local news

1:30 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၁)

2:10 pm

- "ရိုးသားစွာကြိုးစားပါ" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ဦးစောနိုင် (ရှမ်းပြည်)၊ ဦးရဲစိန်၊ ကြည်စိုး (IC)၊ မြင့်မြင့်နိုင်၊ ဟိန်းထက်စော်၊ စီယံ၊ မောင်သူရဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်စိုး (ဝ/သရန်ကုန်)

2:25 pm

- ဆွေးနွေးအကြံပေး(၉)ကြိမ် မြောက်အာဆီယံပြန်ကြားရေး

2:35

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:45 pm

- International news

2:50 pm

- ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်(၄၆)ကြိမ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်ကကွယ်ရေး ဦးစီးချုပ်ဖလားတပ်မတော်ကြည့်ရှုရေးလေ့လာပွဲပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ဗိုလ်လှပွဲ) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းစစ်ဌာနချုပ်အသင်းနှင့် တောင်ပိုင်းတိုင်းစစ်ဌာနချုပ်အသင်း)

4:45 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

5:00 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်အထူးပြု)(သရုပ်)

5:15 pm

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

5:30 pm

- Musical programme

5:45 pm

- မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:50 pm

- Musical programme

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နေပြည်အမ်းမှ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)

8:00 pm

- The next day's programme



Saturday, 22 December
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Frosty the snowman

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music -Everyday is like X'mas day

8:50 am National news

9:00 am Music: -Santa Claus is coming to town

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music -Mary's boy child

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40pm Music at your request+music -The gift

9:00pm ASEAN news Exchange news from ASEAN member countries

9:20pm Myanmar culture...Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

9:30 pm Souvenirs -Silver bell

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Process and Product Show, paper reading session of MES

YANGON, 21 Dec—The opening ceremony of Process and Product Show to mark the annual general meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society was held in conjunction with a paper reading session at the building of MES on Hlaing Universities' Campus, here, this morning, with an opening address by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

It was also attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin, senior military officers, departmental officials, the chairman, vice-chairmen and members of MES, new generation Myanmar engineers and guests.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and MES Chairman U Than Myint cut the ribbon to open the show.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses paper reading session of the annual general meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party observed the booths.

Altogether 27 booths are staged and engineering products and production processes are displayed at the booths. The show was organized by new generation Myanmar engineers under the supervision of Myanmar Engineering Society aiming to develop the engineering subject and it continues tomorrow.

At the opening of paper reading session, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed that for a nation to develop, it is necessary to make use of high technologies that are suitable to the nature of the nation. So he called for the participation of MES in the drive for the development of industrial zones.

He stressed the need of manufacturing quality products by saving cost as well as energy. MES is to

strive to keep track new technologies in order not to lag behind others and emphasis is to be placed on conducting research with the intention to make innovations individually as well as in group, he added.

Next, the chairman gave an account of the society.

Fifty-four papers are to be read out today and tomorrow.

MNA

Process and Product Show

YANGON, 21 Dec—Myanmar Engineering Society staged Process and Product Show at MES building on Hlaing Universities' Campus here this morning.

The show included 27 booths that display engineering products and production process.

With the aim of ensuring development of engineering subject, new generation engineers under the supervision of MES are staging the show. The show is kept open to public up to 22 December.

MNA

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