

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

Literati to lead people applying modern arts, new thoughts, theories, ideas

Secretary-1 presents National Literary Life Time Achievement Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to winners

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — A ceremony to present prizes to winners of National Literary Life Time Achievement Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2006 was held at the Ministry of Information, here, this afternoon, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the deputy ministers, the Director-General of Myanmar Police Force, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, members of Myanmar Historical Commission, members of the Scrutiny Committee for National

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party pose for a documentary photo with the winners of National Literary Award.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party pose for a documentary photo together with National Literary Life Time Achievement Award winner Daw Kyan (writer Ma Kyan).—MNA



Literary Life Time Achievement Award and National Literary Award and the Scrutiny Committee for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, literati, journalists, prize winners and family members, staff of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

On the occasion, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo said today's ceremony is an annual event held to award those for their literary achievements as well as encourage the Myanmar literature to develop and flourish. At a time when historical Myanmar literature is developing, it is also a great honour for the entire

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 24 December, 2007

Guard against outside instigation through high intellect

Education is the process by which people acquire knowledge, skills, good habits, values, or attitudes. Efforts are to be made for facing and surmounting the challenges of knowledge age as science and technology are developing rapidly in the world today. Only citizens with high intellectual power can confront and cope with outside instigation and attempts to influence the nation.

Education belongs to all the citizens and the duties of the education sector are to uplift the education of students and the entire people and to enhance their knowledge and thinking power.

It is the duty of the teachers to nurture the students to become proficient in their studies and to possess spirit and qualifications of the good citizens especially in abiding by law, observing social codes of conduct, respecting and cherishing culture and customs and preserving the national character.

Youths are active and have constructive views and are willing to serve social duties. The teachers on their part are to uplift their intellect to contribute towards kindling patriotism and Union spirit.

The teachers are to serve educational duties with national outlook. By doing so, younger generation with high intellect will emerge and they will be able to shape the future of the nation and its people.

Indonesia eyes \$6.4b from tourism in 2008

JAKARTA, 23 Dec— The Indonesian Government has targeted 6.4 billion US dollars in foreign exchange from an estimated seven million foreign tourists expected next year.

“We haven’t reached our target yet for the year 2007, but the number of foreign visitors arriving in the first 10 months of this year was up, compared to last year’s figures,” Thamrin Bhiwana Bachri, director general for marketing at the Culture and Tourism Ministry, was quoted Saturday by local newspaper The Jakarta Post as saying.

“Arrivals were increasing at around 14.4 per cent from January to October this year, compared to the same period in 2006.”

Thamrin said ASEAN countries, especially Malaysia and Singapore, have been the focus for Indonesia’s tourism sector over the last 10 to 15 years.

He said the two countries remained Indonesia’s major markets. “Their proximity, the high amount of flights available and the similar customs and food are the main factors that stimulate the interest of people from these countries to visit Indonesia,” he said.

Bali remains a favourite tourist destination, with foreign arrivals up 40 per cent this year.—MNA/Xinhua

Peoples' 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

60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination commences



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win supplicates on religious matters at opening of 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination.—MNA

YANGON, 23 Dec — The opening ceremony of the 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning.

Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadaçariya Committee Chairman Mandalay Paukmyaing monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts.

On behalf of the Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Nyaungdon Ponnamayama Zaykyaung Monastery Sayadaw Secretary of SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa gave Saraniya Ovadakatha.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win supplicated on the religious affairs.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung also supplicated on matters related to the religious affairs.

Next, the commander and the minister accepted cash donations for the examination from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

After the ceremony, wellwishers offered robes and alms to members of the Sangha. At 1 pm, the examination commenced at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill.

MNA

Myanmar Engineering Society holds AGM

YANGON, 23 Dec — The opening ceremony of the annual general meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society was held at the meeting hall of the MES on Hline Campus this morning, with an address by Chairman of the meeting Patron of MES Deputy Minister for Industry 2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw.

Chairman of MES U Than Myint delivered a

speech and General Secretary U Win Khaing submitted the report of Central Executive Committee.

Treasurer U Ko Ko Gyi and Vice-Chairman U Kyaw San Win read out the reports and sought the approval of those present.

Next, the MES chairman spoke words of thanks and the meeting came to an end with the

concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe and patrons of MES, the executives and members of MES and guests.

Process and Product Show and paper reading session to mark the meeting took place at the building of MES from 21 to 23 December.

MNA



Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw speaks at annual meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society.—MNA

Myanmar Dental Association conference 23-26 Jan

YANGON, 23 Dec— The 28th conference of the Myanmar Dental Association and ninth FDI-MDA Joint Educational Meeting will be held at the Traders Hotel, here, from 23 to 26 January 2008. Those wishing to attend the meeting may get registered at the hotel from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on 21 and 22 January.

The conference includes paper reading session, paying respects to elderly persons, sports events, new CEC members election and booths of pharmaceutical companies.—MNA

Follow up news

Please read Shan Yoma Naga Co Ltd is mining 2,000 tons of coal per day in the news of Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, featured in the newspapers issued on 23-12-2007.—MNA

China, India start joint anti-terror military training

KUNMING, 22 Dec — The Chinese and Indian armies kicked off their first joint anti-terrorism military training in southwest China on Friday morning.

The two armies each dispatched about 100 ground troops for the training, code-named "Hand-in-Hand 2007", to Kunming, popularly known as the "City of Perpetual Spring".

Major General Xiong

Zuoming, commander of the Chinese troops, said at the opening ceremony of the joint training, "Both China and India are resolutely opposed to terrorism and actively committed to strengthening international cooperation in fighting terrorism."

"But we must be aware that factors endangering world peace and stability still exist. Terrorism, in particular, has become a public enemy to the

international community," Xiong told the ceremony.

"We would like to join hands with India to make unremitting efforts to push for building a harmonious world featuring long-lasting peace and common prosperity," he added.

The joint training was intended to enhance mutual understanding and trust, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua



A Thai boatman pushes his boat before the launching of the new bridge linking Malaysia and Thailand in Malaysia's village of Bukit Bunga on 21 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET



In this photo released by China's official Xinhua news agency, Chinese and Indian soldiers act during the joint anti-terrorism military training in southwest China on Saturday, 22 Dec, 2007.

XINHUA

Iraq's violence takes heavy toll on children

GENEVA, 22 Dec—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Friday painted a bleak picture of the situation of children in Iraq, where an estimated two million boys and girls continue to suffer from poor nutrition, disease and interrupted education.

Thousands of families have been obliged to leave their homes because of violence or threats, and hundreds of children have lost their lives in the violence, UNICEF said in a Press release.

Conditions continue to deteriorate, with many mothers preventing their children from attending school for fear they would

be attacked.

"Iraqi children are paying far too high a price," said Roger Wright, UNICEF's special representative for Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

France to build third of world's new N-reactors

PARIS, 22 Dec—French nuclear group Areva is projecting to build a third of all new nuclear reactors in the world between now and 2030, Anne Lauvergeon, chairwoman of the board of directors of the Areva group, has said.

According to Lauvergeon, who was addressing France's National Assembly

economic affairs committee Wednesday, the number of new reactors to be constructed in the world by 2030 would be between 100 and 300.

"We are looking forward to being able to soak up to a third of this market," Lauvergeon said, adding that Areva was "five years ahead of its competitors" with its new generation of reactors.

Lauvergeon said her group intended to build third generation EPR reactors, developed in collaboration with Germany's Siemens, which had a production capacity of 1,600 MW (MegaWatts), and Atmea reactors, developed with Japan's Mitsubishi with a capacity of 1,100 MW.

In order to finance the ambitious programme, Areva was in dire need to "increase its capital" base,

Lauvergeon said before underlining the need for huge investments to enhance electricity networks in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

day after recording a verdict of unlawful killing in the death of Rodney Wilson, a British soldier shot by insurgents while on patrol in the southern Iraqi city of Basra in June.

LONDON, 22 Dec — Seven British soldiers shot dead in Iraq this year were probably killed by the same sniper using the same US-made weapon, a British coroner said on Friday.

The coroner, David Masters, was speaking a

Masters said evidence given during Wilson's

inquest showed that six other British soldiers killed in the three months before Masters were more than likely killed by the same sniper using the same weapon.

"In terms of the markings on the fragments found, an expert forensic scientist concluded that they were fired from the same weapon," Masters told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Quake jolts central Turkey

ANKARA, 23 Dec—An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 shook an area near the Turkish capital Ankara on Thursday, the country's earthquake observatory said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

CNN Turk television reported that 10 to 15 houses had been damaged in Sirapinar Village near Bala, where the quake occurred at 11:48 a.m. (0948 GMT). The extent of the damage was not clear.

Ankara provincial governor Kemal Onal earlier told CNN Turk television no damage or casualties had been reported.

MNA/Reuters



Cars congest the 10 Freeway in Los Angeles, California. The head of the US environmental protection body ignored advice from staff in rejecting California's bid to set tough new vehicle emissions standards, it was reported on Friday. — INTERNET

Union says strikes may close British airports

LONDON, 22 Dec — Thousands of workers at seven of Britain's busiest airports have voted to strike in a dispute over pensions that could cause widespread disruption and closures in the New Year, their union said on Friday.

The Unite union said its members will walk out three times next month in protest at the closure to new employees of the final salary-linked pension scheme of airport operator BAA.

"Without doubt, in my view, it will result in the closure of those seven airports during that timeframe," its National Aviation Secretary Brendan Gold told a news conference. "There will be a huge amount of disruption."

Union members will stage three strikes: two 24-hour walkouts starting at 0600 GMT on 7 January and 14 January and a further 48-hour strike from 0600 GMT on 17 January.

Those taking part include fire crews, security staff and clerical workers.

The strike will affect the country's biggest airport Heathrow, in London, as well as Gatwick, Stansted, Southampton, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports.

A spokesman for BAA, owned by Spain's Ferrovial, would not comment on the likely impact at its airports.

MNA/Reuters



Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko wave to well-wishers through the bulletproof glass of a balcony at Imperial Palace in Tokyo during a public appearance on 23 Dec, 2007. Emperor Akihito marks his 74th birthday on Sunday.—INTERNET



A man dressed as Santa Claus and children participate in a rafting event in Citarik River in Pelabuhan Ratu, West Java on 22 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Vietnam strives to improve youth's height

HANOI, 22 Dec — Vietnam is focusing on nutrition and physical culture issues in a move to increase the average heights of its male and female young people to 1.67 metres and 1.55 metres, respectively, by 2030 from current 1.63 metres and 1.53 metres.

The country will

conduct researches on local people's stature, diet and physical activities, and campaigns on enhancing public awareness about the growth of youths, especially those aged under 14, the *New Hanoi* newspaper reported on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Google, Microsoft, Yahoo fined of online gambling

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec — Google Inc, Microsoft Corp and Yahoo Inc have agreed to pay 31.5 million dollars in fines to resolve claims they promoted illegal gambling, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Thursday.

The US Department of Justice said it had agreed to the fines with the three high-tech companies for "corporate conduct the government found in violation of the Federal Wire Wager Act, federal wagering excise tax laws,

Four missing in fire at Mitsubishi chemical plant

TOKYO, 22 Dec — Four workers were missing after a fire broke out on Friday at an ethylene plant near Tokyo run by Mitsubishi Chemical Corp's, Japan's top petrochemicals manufacturer.

Mitsubishi Chemical said output at the Kashima

facility, its largest ethylene plant, is expected to drop because of the fire, which affected one of the plant's two units.

The fire broke out near a cracking furnace at the unit on Friday morning, a local fire department official said. Fire fighters are searching

for the four missing employees, who were working for another company.

Television footage in the afternoon showed a blackened plant with small flames still flickering.

Ethylene, made from naphtha, is a basic feedstock for petrochemicals that are processed into products such as plastics.

The Kashima plant, which consists of two units, can produce up to 926,000 tons of ethylene per year, with the No 2 unit contributing 516,000 tonnes. In years when the units are temporarily shut for maintenance, overall capacity drops to 851,000 tons, while capacity at the No 2 unit falls to 476,000 tons a year.—MNA/Reuters

and various states' statutes and municipal laws prohibiting gambling," according to the report.

Microsoft is to pay the largest penalty, with its settlement totalling 21 million dollars. The company is accused of receiving payments between 1997 and June 2007 from online-gambling

businesses for advertising online gambling.

As part of the settlements, none of the three companies admitted or contested their culpability. All three companies said they had stopped accepting advertising from gambling companies nearly four years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, 11 wounded in Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — An American soldier was killed and 11 others were wounded when two roadside bomb attacks hit their vehicles in northern Iraq, the US military said on Saturday.

The attack took place when the soldier's unit was conducting combat operations in Kirkuk Province on Friday, a military statement said.

The wounded soldiers were transported to a military medical facility for treatment, the statement added.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 3,895 since the US-led invasion broke out in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



Bessie Washington, 65, sits by the cooking area outside her tent at "tent city", a terminus for the homeless in Ontario, a suburb outside Los Angeles, California on 19 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

World eco growth to suffer from financial crisis

PARIS, 22 Dec — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said here on Friday that world economic growth will “suffer slightly” from the current global financial crisis.

Speaking on a French radio station, Strauss-Kahn said “the impact of the current financial crisis on Europe and the United States will be significant, while the economic growth will be much weaker, though it will not necessarily be disastrous, it will nevertheless continue to exist.” According to him, the world economic growth generally “will continue to be relatively strong this year” because “the emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil, which are main engines of growth, will be less affected by the crisis.” —MNA/Xinhua



Chauffeurs pose with Bentley limousines at the new St Regis hotel in Singapore in this handout photo dated on 14 Dec, 2007. The St Regis Singapore, a new five-star hotel, opened its doors on Saturday with a fleet of customised Bentley limousines to ferry guests around.

INTERNET



A general view of a container terminal in Singapore on 22 Dec, 2007. Singapore is spending S\$2 billion (\$1.38 billion) to boost annual capacity at its container port by about 40 per cent to cope with the higher volumes expected from global trade, a newspaper said on Saturday.—INTERNET

UK Q3 current account gap hits record high

LONDON, 22 Dec — Britain's current account gap hit a record high of 20 billion pounds in the third quarter, equivalent to 5.7 per cent of GDP, official data showed on Thursday.

The Office for National Statistics also reported that quarterly GDP growth in the third quarter of 2007 was unrevised at 0.7 per cent but the annual rate was marked a tenth of a point higher to 3.3 per cent because of changes to 2006 data.

Public sector net borrowing, meanwhile, hit a record high of 11.208 billion pounds in November as government expenditure outstripped receipts. The cash measure, PSNCR, stood

at 8.937 billion pounds, around 1.5 billion higher than a year earlier.

The huge rise in the Q3 current account deficit is likely to put further pressure on sterling and is a result of a big rise in the deficit on income as well

as trade in goods.

The GDP breakdown, meanwhile, revealed consumer expenditure rose by 1.1 per cent in Q3, the fastest rate since Q2 2006. The saving ratio fell to 3.4 per cent from 4.0 percent.—MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

EU charges companies for air freight cartel

BRUSSELS, 22 Dec — The European Union (EU) anti-trust watchdog announced on Friday that it had formally charged several companies for running an air freight cartel.

"A statement of objections has been sent to a number of companies, concerning their alleged participation in a cartel in the provision of airfreight services," the European

Commission said in a statement.

As a usual practice, the commission did not disclose the names of the suspected companies, but Air France-KLM, British Airways, Scandinavian carrier SAS, Lufthansa and Japan Airlines

acknowledged they had been targeted. A statement of objections is a formal step in the EU anti-trust investigations in which the commission informs the parties concerned in writing of the objections raised against them.

MNA/Xinhua

Alipay enables Chinese consumers to buy from US retailers

HANGZHOU, 22 Dec — Alipay a Chinese online payment platform and a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, announced on Thursday that it has signed a corporation agreement with New York based Phillion Selwanes Partners (PSP) to enable Chinese Mainland consumers to buy directly from US retailers.

According to the agreement, PSP will help to promote the acceptance of Alipay by North American merchants.

Jonathan Lu, Alipay's president said it was a natural step for the company to expand

service in North America, as it had become a popular

online payment system in China.—MNA/Reuters

An Ecobook made partly from bamboo is displayed in San Francisco, California, on 10 Dec, 2007. Asustek Computer Inc is finding potential beauty, and sales, in an eco-friendly notebook PC encased in natural material: bamboo.

INTERNET



Vietnam to buy 30 Airbus airplanes

HANOI, 22 Dec — Vietnam Airlines, the country's national flag carrier, and the Vietnam Aircraft Leasing Company (VALC) will buy 30 airplanes from Airbus, Vietnam News Agency reported Friday.

Under a contract signed here Friday, the airline will buy 10 A350-900 XWB and 10 A321 aircraft, and the VALC will purchase 10 A321.

The France-based plane maker will deliver the first A321 to Vietnam in 2012, and the first A350-900 in 2016.

The 10 aircraft

purchased by the VALC will be rented by Vietnam Airlines for 12 years, said the agency. Vietnam Airlines, which is currently operating 47 aircraft, plans to have a fleet of 86 by 2015 and 110 by 2020. Vietnam's air industry served nearly 7.9 million domestic and foreign passengers in the first 11 months of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 15.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the industry transported 119,700 cargoes, up 4 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

China unveils new 300 kph bullet train

JINAN, 23 Dec — The first bullet train designed and manufactured in China with a speed of 300 kilometres per hour rolled off the production line on Saturday morning.

The train was the latest model in the country's China Railway High-speed (CRH) Series.

"This marks that China has joined an elite world club after Japan, France and Germany to become the fourth country capable of turning out such high speed trains," said Wang Yongping, Ministry of Railways spokesman.

Previously, China's fastest self-developed trains ran at a service speed of up to 250 kilometres per hour. Those trains,

which debuted on April 18, serve the Beijing-Harbin, Beijing-Shanghai and Beijing-Guangzhou routes.

The new train, by comparison, excelled in its air tightness, driving force and smoothness of travelling, according to Wang.

The streamlined train was made of aluminum alloy, weighing about seven tons. The thinnest part of the body was only 1.5 millimeters thick.

"The train body is the lightest of its kind in the world," said Ma Yunshuang, vice-director with the technical centre of China Southern Locomotive and Rolling Stock Industry (Group) Corporation. "Such a design was for the sake of energy economization".

He noted the train's per capita power was 12.7 kilowatts, lower than other high-speed trains, which was normally about 15 kilowatts.—MNA/Xinhua



In this photo taken on 22 Dec, 2007 and distributed by China's official Xinhua news agency, shown is the locomotive of the first Chinese-designed and manufactured high-speed train CRH2-300 at CSR Sifang Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co Ltd in Qingdao, east China.—INTERNET

Three Gorges avoids 191m tons of greenhouse gas emissions

SHANGHAI, 22 Dec — China's Three Gorges Project, the world's biggest hydroelectric plant, helped the country avoid emitting 191.3 million tons of carbon dioxide and 1.16 million tons of sulphur dioxide as at the end of last month, officials said here Friday.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC),

the government's top economic planner, said that the plant had generated 203.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity since its first generating units began operation in 2003.

Hao Weiping, chief of the power section of the Energy Bureau of the NDRC, said Chinese coal-fired power plants would have burned about 73.35 million tons of coal

to produce the same amount of electricity.

The Three Gorges Project will be able to generate 84.7 billion kwh of electricity annually when it is completed at the end of 2008, or the equivalent of 50 million tons of coal, said the China Three Gorges Corporation, the developer and operator of the dam project.

MNA/Xinhua

Castro meets with Venezuelan President

HAVANA, 22 Dec — Cuban leader Fidel Castro met with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Thursday, who is here to attend a regional oil summit, Cuban daily *Granma* reported Friday.

In a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two and-a-half-hour meeting on Thursday afternoon showed the

"profound friendship" between the two leaders as well as the peoples of the two countries, *Granma* said.

Chavez arrived here Wednesday to attend the PetroCaribe Summit in the south central Cuban city of Cienfuegos. It is his third meeting with the Cuban leader in two months.

MNA/Xinhua

Diver Brad Norman photographs a whale shark at Ningaloo Marine Park, off the coast of Western Australia, in this undated handout picture made available on 29 Nov, 2007.
INTERNET



Malaysia unveils new 50-ringgit banknotes

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Dec — Malaysia's central bank Friday announced the issuance of a new-design banknote in denomination of 50 ringgit (about 14.7 US dollars) the first denomination of the country's Fourth Series of currency notes which will replace its existing series in stages.

The new banknote retains the predominant colour of green-blue

and the main theme of the design is the country's National Mission 2020, the Bank Negara Malaysia said.

The first 50 million pieces of the new banknote features Malaysia's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj at the historic declaration of Malaya's independence and the logo of the 50th Anniversary of In-

dependence on the reverse side, the bank added.—MNA/Xinhua

Volunteers, residents and soldiers help along the coast to remove oil spill in Taean, about 170 kms southwest of Seoul. South Korea plans to bring forward a ban on visits by single-hulled tankers following the country's worst oil spill, a maritime official said on Friday.—INTERNET

WHO suspects limited human H5N1 spread in Pakistan

GENEVA, 22 Dec — The World Health Organization (WHO) suspects there has been only limited human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 virus in Pakistan, but international test results are still pending, a top official said on Friday.

David Heymann, WHO assistant director-general for health security and environment, also said

that no new suspect human bird flu cases had emerged in Pakistan since 6 December, signalling there had been no further spread.

Global health experts fear that bird flu could mutate into a form that spreads easily from one person to another, triggering a pandemic that could kill millions of people.

Pakistan announced last week that eight people had been infected since late October, including a veterinarian involved in culling whose two brothers died. A WHO team has investigated the outbreak, and international laboratory results on samples taken are now expected at the weekend.

MNA/Reuters



Development of Kayin State inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence accompanied by Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min and officials arrived at Myawady on 20 December.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye met departmental officials at Myawady District PDC office and heard reports on development of social and economic sector of the district and cultivation of ten major crops. The Chairman of Kayin State PDC reported on regional development tasks and progress of border trade.

Next, he urged them to adhere to the State's

policy and perform tasks dutifully.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party looked into issuing of a single day visit ticket at Myanmar-Thailand Goodwill Bridge (on Myanmar side) and developments of Myawady.

Next, Director of Myawady District Border Trade Department U Aung Soe Thein gave an account of regular border trade.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party looked into implementation of border trade zone project where Director U Aung Soe Thein and officials reported on construction of buildings and roads, supply of drinking water and electricity in the trade zone. Later, they inspected work being done.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party met servicemen of local battalions and their families at the hall of Thingan Nyinaung Station, gave instructions on regional development and presented gifts to them. On arrival at Kawkareik People's Hospital, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected the hospital. Maj-Gen Tha Aye asked after the warded patients and provided cash assistance for them. At Kawkareik Station, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen and their families, and presented clothes to them.

Thereafter, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected roadworks at Kyondo-Kawkareik road section and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hosts dinner in honour of Literary Award winners and Scrutiny Committee members

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hosted a dinner in honour of the winners of National Literary Life-Time Achievement award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript award 2006 and Scrutiny Committee members at Shwe Nan Taw Hotel here this evening.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, the literati and executive committee members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association attended the dinner.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets the winners of National Literary Life-Time Achievement Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award at the dinner.—MNA



Second Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield concludes

YANGON, 23 Dec — The final matches of the second Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield jointly organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No 3 Basic Education Department were held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony at Cricket Training Ground in Bahan Township yesterday.

In the boys' event, Ahlon BEHS No 4 team beat Lanmadaw BEHS No 1 by 51 runs. Champion Ahlon BEHS No 4 team won K 70,000 for the first prize, Lanmadaw BEHS No 1 team, K 40,000 for the second, Kyimyindine BEHS No 3, K 20,000 for the third.

The Best Batsman Award went to Myat Min Hein (Lanmadaw BEHS No 1), the Best Bowler Award to Aung Pyae Phyo Min (Ahlon BEHS No 4) and the Best All Rounder Award to Saw Phone Thet Paing (Ahlon BEHS No 4) and they also won K 5,000 each as rewards.

In girls' event, Kyimyindine BEHS No 3 team beat Ahlon BEHS No 4 team by 23 runs. Champion Kyimyindine BEHS No 3 team was awarded K 70,000 for the first prize, Ahlon BEHS No 4 team K 40,000 for the second and Tamway BEHS No 3 team K 20,000 for the third.

Best Batsman Award winner Aye Sanda Linn (Bahan BEHS No 1), Best Bowler Award winner Linn Linn Tun (Kyimyindine BEHS No 3) and Best All Rounder Award winner Mya Myet Chei (Ahlon BEHS No 4) secured K 5,000 each.

President of MCF U Nyunt Win presented cricket gear for development of cricket sport in basic education schools to prize winning schools through officials.

The director-general of No 3 BED and officials, the president of MCF and executives presented prizes to the respective winners.

MNA

YMCA holds X' mas service plus dinner

YANGON, 23 Dec — The Christmas service conducted by Young Men's Christian Association was held in conjunction with a dinner at M3 Food Centre in Bahan Township, here, yesterday.

It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, departmental heads, the Archbishop and bishops, representatives of various religions, the chairman and members of YMCA, guests and others.

YMCA General Secretary Dr Tha Nyan read the verses from the Bible and Vice-Chairman Rev U David Soe Tint prayed for God's blessing.

YMCA Chairman Dr U Tin Hla made an introductory speech.

Next, the minister extended greetings.

This was followed by Christmas service including saying prayers. Later, a dinner was hosted to those present on the occasion. — MNA

Literati to lead people applying modern...

(from page 1)

people to see fine classical literature, works of literature of high standards and books in knowledge/aesthetic genre flourishing. And this will serve the interests of the State and the people.

The government is encouraging in all aspects to develop the literature, the pillar of national culture in order to catch up with the developing world. In doing so, handsome literary prizes are also being awarded year after year.

Myanmar alphabets and literature have already flourished since more than 1000 years during the civilization of Bagan. In successive eras, Myanmar literature has developed in all genres such as royal literature, descriptions of rural life, prose and poetry. It is found that Myanmar literature has developed in essence and form alike. And it has developed in all fields such as political, religious and social affairs.

Thanks to the Myanmar literature, the Myanmar people have been blessed with such good characteristics



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents National Literary Award to Myinmu Maung Naing Moe.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents National Literary Life Time Achievement Award to Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan).—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party pose for documentary photo with winners of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.—MNA

as kindness, good manners, sympathy and mutual help and unity. Particularly, literature has bequeathed the people mental as well as physical abilities. So onus is upon the literati to develop and maintain those characteristics and traditions with national outlook. Literature and culture play a tremendous role in serving the national interest. At a time when the world is changing rapidly, the Myanmar people need to have knowledge, experience, national outlook with high spirit through the might of literature so as to keep safeguarding the national interest.

In the march towards a new nation, the State requires the literati to train the people to cultivate high morale through their literary strength so that sound political, economic, social conditions can be forged.

He said endeavours are to be made for the people to possess ethnics of the citizens such as nationalistic spirit, national solidarity spirit and Union spirit, practice of preserving traditional culture, high morale, abiding by law and rules and observing regulations and reviewing in the interest of the society through the strength of literature.

He said the literati are to lead the people applying modern arts, new thoughts, theories and ideas and they must also have ability to review the international developments from the point of view of national interest.

Some big nations are making instigation on purpose in order to inculcate with their thoughts or ideas they wish through the broadcasting stations and the media. If we ignore their attempts with the use of advanced communi-

cation technology, it is sure that national outlooks and ideas will perish.

It is important to educate the people to gain knowledge on international affairs, to see the history of the past



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents National Literary Award to Nay Myo Naing.—MNA



Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gives National Literary Award to Kyaw Win.—MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan handed National Literary Awards to Maung Paw Tun in the translation (aesthetics) genre, Kyaw Oo in the general knowledge (science) genre and Nay Myo Naing in the general knowledge (applied science) genre.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo awarded Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to Pathein Aung Than Oo who stood first in the novel genre, Thu Them second and Paint Hline Thit third.

(See page 9)



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Paint Hline Thit.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gives Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Maung Hsanda (Lewe).—MNA



Minister U Nyan Win presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Dr Aye Kyaw (Physiology).—MNA

Literati to lead people applying modern...

(from page 8)

Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented first, second and third prizes in the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Maung Cheint, Nay Myo Thant and Thwe Htar Nyo (Thakkala) in the collected short stories genre.

Attorney-General U Aye Maung gave first, second and third prizes to Shwemyaing Pyone Le Maw, Maung

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win awarded prizes to Aung Soe (Seikpyo-107) who stood first in the general knowledge (science), Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin), second and Dr Aye Kyaw (Physiology) third.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gave second and third to Kay Myu and U Thaug Ngwe in the belle-letters genre and second prize to Maung Hsanda (Lewe) in the drama genre.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen

literature genre.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun awarded prizes to Kyunsinmyay Saw Khet who secured the first prize in the youth literature genre, Myoma Hla Maung the second and Maung Hsanda (Lewe).

Later, writer Ma Kyan (Daw Kyan) spoke words of thanks.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party posed for documentary photo with Life Time National Literary Award winner Daw Kyan (writer Ma Kyan).



Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein gives Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Maung Nwe Than (IPRD)—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Tin Aung Thwin.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Myoma Hla Maung.—MNA

Ohn Thaug (Magway) and Athoke Maung Win Yaung in the collected poems genre.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein presented first, second and third prizes to Nyunt Nyunt Yi (Fine Arts), U Moe Myint Win (Science and Technology) and Maung Nwe Than (IPRD) in the general knowledge (arts) genre.

Maung Maung Swe presented first, second and third prizes to Myat Wai Toe (Institute of Education), Htan Hlaing and Tin Aung Thwin in the Myanma culture and fine arts genre.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein handed first, second and second prizes to Aung Kyaw Hsan, Myat Myo Myint and Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt in the child

The Secretary-1 and party had documentary photos taken together with prize winners in the National Literary Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

The Secretary-1 and party greeted the prize winners and viewed prize winning books and photos.

MNA



Chief Justice U Aung Toe presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Thwe Htar Nyo (Thakkala).—MNA



Attorney-General U Aye Maung gives Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Athoke Maung Win Yaung.—MNA



Minister Dr Chan Nyein presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt.—MNA

KNU terrorist insurgents perpetrate series of atrocities receiving cash assistance from external elements

People urged to exercise constant vigilance against destructive acts, come forward with timely information

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—KUN terrorist insurgents have been perpetrating a spate of destructive acts such as detonating bombs, looting and killing the people, planting mines and committing arson with every intention of undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, relying on external elements.

On 18 December, a bus which was on its way from Kawkaik to Myawady was blasted and attacked with launchers and small arms by a group of KNU, leaving eight passengers dead and six others injured. The incident has already been reported in the 20 December issue of

dailies. According to information received, it is further learnt that the KNU have been funded by some big nations and expatriates under the influence of those nations in order that they can commit destructive acts and violence in the nation.

About 15 members including Maung Maung (a) Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai of NCUB, Khine Soe Naing Aung, Myo Win, Myint Thein, KNU Vice-Chairman Tamalar Baw, Mutu Hseboe, Oliver, Pyi Hla Sein, Du Wun and Mahn Kyaw Pe of KNDO on 28 November met at the office of NCUB in Mae Sot in the other country and discussed matters on intensifying the destructive acts in the

nation. Maung Maung (a) Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai of NCUB provided KNU with US\$ 20,000 through Mutu Hseboe. This was the second time the NCUB provided KNU with cash assistance. The NCUB has already provided KNU with cash assistance in March 2007 through KNU Brigade-7 Commander Johnny.

On 6 December, Major Robert John Still of US Air Force met with Tamalar Baw, Phado Mann Shar and Soe Soe at the house of KNU Vice-Chairman Tamalar Baw. And Major Robert John Still gave cash assistance and documents to Tamalar Baw for purchasing arms and ammunition, walkie-talkies and uniforms. It is learnt that more cash assistance will be provided



Medical treatment being provided to Ma Win Nanda, 5, of Hpa-an Township who was wounded in the attack of KNU terrorist insurgents.—MNA

to KNU. KNU terrorist insurgents purchased arms and ammunition with cash provided by external elements and have been committing a series of atrocities to undermine

peace and stability and cause panic to the people. It is learnt that they will perpetrate more destructive acts.

The authorities concerned have urged the

people to exercise a constant vigilance against any atrocities of internal and external destructive elements and to come forward with timely information.—MNA



An infant killed by KNU terrorist insurgents.—MNA



A man who was killed in the attack of KNU terrorist insurgents.—MNA



A woman killed by KNU terrorist insurgents.—MNA

Germany still restricts border crossing

PRAGUE, 23 Dec—Germany kept a restricted operation regime at the local border crossing Tillyschanz-Zelezna on Friday in spite of Czech's entry into the Schengen Zone at midnight Thursday, according to the Czech news agency CTk.

The Germans still allow the crossing to be used only by drivers with car number plates of the Bavarian districts

Weiden, Neustadt and Schwandorf.

Germans from other districts are not allowed to cross the border in Eslarn-Zelezna, CTk said.

A board with the relevant restricting instruction, situated in front of Eslarn, Bavaria's town closest to the crossing, has not been removed, Libor Picka, mayor of the Czech town Bela nad Radbuzou said.

It will reportedly

remain in its place for the next three years until a bypass of Eslarn is completed, Picka added.

Neustadt land counsellor Simon Wittmann said in the local Press that the residents of Eslarn can stay calm as he would not allow the crossing to be opened to trans-regional and freight transport until the Eslarn bypass is completed.

MNA/Xinhua

Police officers to patrol Paris daily over X'mas period

PARIS, 22 Dec—The French capital's police authorities will mobilize, each day until the end of the year, some 1,500 police officers to beef up security across the capital over the Christmas period, according to a statement issued Friday.

Since the beginning of December, police authorities have deployed a patrol mechanism

covering all areas in the capital in a bid to strengthen security in the most visited commercial sectors. These measures will remain in place until early January 2008.

A total of 415 police patrols, on foot or motorized, will be deployed everyday across the capital. To reinforce these security measures, the police have targeted four

symbolic sectors which are the most frequented by tourists, namely the Champs-Elysees-Madeleine, Haussmann-Opera, Rivoli-Forum des Halles and Montparnasse-Rennes. Moreover, a mobile police station for assisting foreigners in distress has been set up along shopping malls in the Haussmann-Opera area.

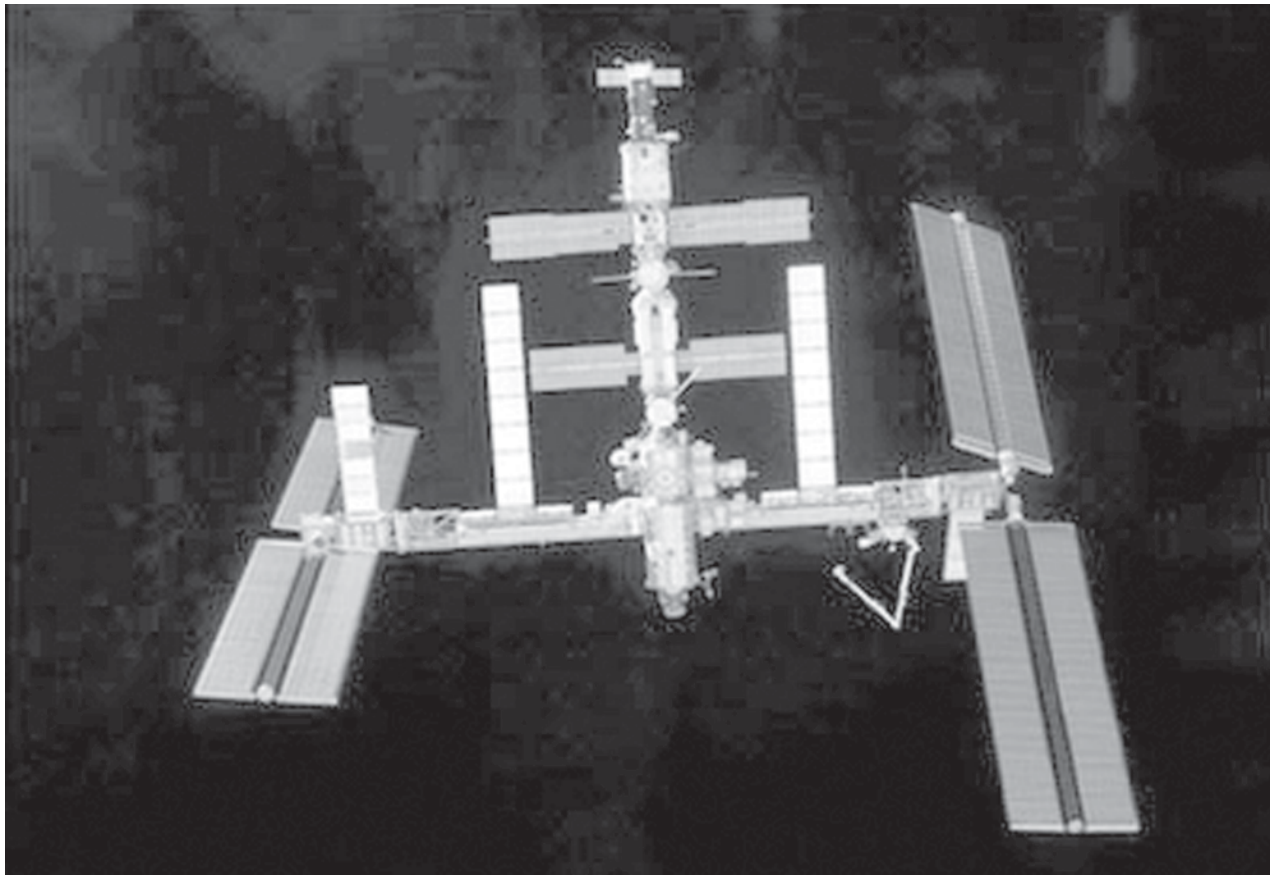
MNA/Xinhua

I
m
a
g
e
s

o
f

t
h
e

D
a
y



A NASA photo shows the International Space Station. A Russian Progress spacecraft blasted off on Sunday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan delivering presents and goodies for Christmas and New Year's to the International Space Station.
INTERNET



Guo Yue holds an IBM first laptop computer PC5140 year 1986 model while being surrounded by his collection of other IBM laptop models at his home in Beijing on 22 Dec, 2007. Guo started his collection of IBM laptop computers since 2004.

INTERNET



Mickey Mouse in Santa Claus outfit performs as part of Christmas show during a parade at Tokyo Disneyland in Tokyo. - XINHUA



Valerie Begue, Miss Reunion celebrates after being awarded Miss France 2008 during the 61st Miss France beauty contest on early December.

INTERNET

An artist from the desert state of Rajasthan performs a puppet show during the all India craft fair in the southern city of Hyderabad, on 20 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



ADVERTISEMENT

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:—

(a) Max Myanmar Company (20 ft by 50 ft) Two-storey (1) Room—	K 42 million
(b) Eden Company (20 ft by 50 ft) Two-storey (1) Room— (13 ft by 50 ft) Two-storey (1) Room—	K 38 million K 25 million
(c) 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

UK doctors say raise price of alcohol

LONDON, 22 Dec—Senior doctors said on Friday the government should raise the price of alcohol as part of a series of tough measures to cut the harm caused by excessive drinking.

Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Nick Sheron, a liver specialist at Southampton University Hospital, said attempts to change people's behaviour through education or public information had not worked.

Writing in the Christmas issue of the BMJ magazine, they said raising prices, banning alcohol advertising and reducing its availability should be considered instead.

“To suggest, as producers and retailers do, that increasing the price of alcohol would not reduce alcohol-related harm goes against the evidence and the fundamental principles of marketing — product,

price, promotion, and place,” they wrote.

“How many more lives will be damaged by alcohol in the UK before our governments decide to tackle the problem with measures that are likely to work?”

The doctors argued that figures showed that alcohol was a major health and social problem.

Drink was responsible for 150,000 hospital admissions and up to 22,000 deaths in 2003.

Alcohol was also a factor in more than half of violent crimes and a third of domestic violence, with between 780,000 and 1.3 million children affected by their parents' use of alcohol.

MNA/Reuters

Workers from Indonesia's national oil company Pertamina pull a tube to salvage oil from the over-turned oil tanker at the port in Surabaya. Fuel has begun seeping from a small tanker that capsized at an Indonesian port this week, apparently from its engine rather than the fuel hold, the port master said recently.— INTERNET



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TERAJU VOYNO (TRJ-275)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOYNO (TRJ-275) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GEE HONG VOYNO (722)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOYNO (722) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Mother of “space station” astronaut dies in US crash

CHICAGO, 22 Dec—The mother of a US astronaut who has been in space since October was killed when a freight train hit her car at a railroad crossing near Chicago, police said on Thursday.

Daniel Tani's 90-year-old mother, Rose, died on Wednesday as her son was aloft in the *International Space Station*. He was told of her death but is not scheduled to return to Earth until next month.

A NASA spokeswoman said there was no impact on space station activities and Tani was working on a science experiment on Thursday, as scheduled.

Police in the town of Lombard, Illinois, west of Chicago, said Tani's mother was behind a school bus stopped at a crossing when the gate went down. She drove around the bus onto the tracks and was struck, they said.

MNA/Reuters

Truck-car collision kills six in Guangdong Province

GUANGZHOU, 22 Dec — Six people in an overloaded car died after the car collided with a truck early Thursday morning in south China's Guangdong Province. The accident happened around 2:30 am near a bus station in Zhanjiang City when the car was crushed by a sand-carrying truck. The car was caught on fire after the collision. Five people in the car died at the scene, according to local traffic police.

Rescuers found a passenger who was seriously injured on the backseat, who later died in hospital.

Investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.—MNA/Xinhua

Lula signs decree to tackle deforestation in Amazon

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Dec—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed here on Friday a decree to fight deforestation in the Amazon rainforest.

The document restricts sales of products and derivatives of animal or vegetable sources from the Amazon region, defines actions to protect areas endangered by deforestation and monitors the rationalization of land use. The decree also establishes penalties for those who purchase or transport any product from environmentally-protected areas.

MNA/Xinhua

EU approves Enel's takeover of Romanian power company

BRUSSELS, 22 Dec — Italian utility Enel on Friday won approval from the European Union (EU) to buy Romanian electricity distributor and supplier EMS for 820 million euros.

“The transaction would not significantly impede effective competition,” the European Commission said in a statement after examining the operation.

The EU's antitrust watchdog said although the two companies' activities overlap on the electricity retail supply market, its investigation showed that the proposed concentration would not give rise to competition concerns as in the market for the retail supply of electricity since there are several other strong competitors present.—MNA/Xinhua

UNSC urges donors to meet Palestinian pledges

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Dec—The UN Security Council on Friday urged donors who pledged 7.4 billion US dollars in aid to the Palestinians in Paris this week to come up with the cash quickly to shore up the peace process.

At Monday's meeting in Paris, international donors pledged that sum over three years to support the Western-backed government of President Mahmoud Abbas, who is nego-

tiating peace with Israel.

The funds are designed to revive the Palestinian economy and strengthen Abbas in a struggle with Hamas Islamists who control the Gaza Strip.

The donors' meeting followed a US-hosted conference in Annapolis last month, which relaunched talks to create a Palestinian state, aiming to reach a deal next year.

Security Council president Marcello

Spatafora of Italy said the Council welcomed the donors' conference as "an important step in a broader process aiming at the realization of the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security".

"The members of the Security Council ... urge a rapid disbursement of these pledges, based on equitable burden-sharing among all donors," his statement said.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese peers perform acrobatic performance in Beijing, capital of China, on 21 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

Spain's "El Gordo" lottery awards over \$3b

MADRID, 23 Dec—Spain's "El Gordo" the world's biggest lottery, gave out 2.2 billion euros (3.2 billion US dollars) in Christmas prizes on Saturday.

El Gordo, Spanish for "The Fat One", is designed so that as many people as possible across Spain get a festive windfall.

The top prize this year was three million euros — going to the series of tickets with the magic number 6,381.

Because the tickets are sold in a series of 10, only those who paid 200 euros for the whole strip get the

full prize. A total of 185 series of tickets bear the winning number.

The biggest share of winning tickets was bought by people in the town of Nava, in the northwestern Asturias region.

But some also went to the traditionally lucky Catalan town of Sort (Luck) where a tradition of winners has made it a popular place to buy tickets and increased its chances of winning.

MNA/Reuters



A two-month old Amur tiger cub plays in a cage in the municipal zoo Royev Ruchey in Russia's Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, on 21 Dec, 2007. A pair of Amur tigers Cedar and Iris have given birth to seven cubs in the last 3 years in the zoo.—INTERNET

Ariane rocket blasts off with satellites

KOUROU (French Guiana), 23 Dec—An Ariane-5 rocket blasted off from French Guiana on Friday putting into orbit telecommunications satellites for Africa and North America, space officials said.

The rocket was launched from Europe's space base in Kourou, on the northeast coast of South America, at 6:41 pm (2141 GMT).

Originally scheduled for launch on Thursday, the mission was delayed for 24 hours on account of a technical problem. Twenty-seven minutes after lift-off the rocket placed into a preliminary orbit RASCOM-QAF1, a

telecoms satellite designed to provide service across Africa.

RASCOM, a 3.2-ton (7,000-pound) satellite for the Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM), is slated to serve the rural African market overlooked by

major commercial operators.

"(RASCOM-QAF1) will contribute to bridging the digital divide within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world," Faraj Elamari, RASCOM chief executive said after the launch.

MNA/Reuters

Moderate quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Dec—An earthquake with magnitude of 5.5 rocked eastern part of Indonesia on Friday evening with no report of damages or casualty, the meteorology agency said here.

The quake struck at 23:17 Jakarta time 1617 GMT with epicentre at 173 kilometres southwest Manado, the capital of North Sulawesi Province and at 30 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said.

MNA/Xinhua

China donates \$100,000 to flood-hit N-E Uganda

KAMPALA, 23 Dec—Chinese Government has given a 100,000-US-dollar cash donation to the people of northern and eastern Uganda to help them rebuild their lives after

severe floods hit their area.

Sun Heping, Chinese Ambassador to Uganda, handed over the cheque to Uganda's Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Relief Tarsis Kabwegyere here on Friday.

"The purpose of the donation is to join in the efforts to help the Ugandan people suffering in the flooded areas to rebuild their homeland," Sun said.

Kabwegyere thanked the Chinese Government for the donation saying it comes in handy in helping the affected people rebuild their lives.

"We appreciate the contribution you have made and we will certainly deliver the service to the people who need it. The floods have now gone but the consequences are still with us. We actually need a lot more money," he said.

Severe floods hit the northern and eastern part of the country between July and October, which have destroyed crops and property, cut off villages and washed away bridges and roads in northern and eastern Uganda.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indonesian woman with her children wades through a flooded street in north Jakarta, Indonesia, on 21 Dec, 2007. High tides flooded parts of the Indonesian capital with seawater and inundated hundreds of homes in the capital.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Aston Villa's Martin Laursen, centre, wins a header from a corner during the English Premier League soccer match against Manchester City at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, on 22 Dec, 2007. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Arsenal go 4 points clear after beating Spurs 2-1

LONDON, 23 Dec — Arsenal guaranteed themselves Christmas dinner as Premier League leaders after they beat north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 at the Emirates on Saturday to open a four-point lead.

Arsenal, below their best for much of the game, won with a 76th-minute header by Nicklas Bendtner to move to 43 points, four ahead of Manchester United, who play in-form Everton on Sunday. Tottenham, who have

now gone 20 league and Cup games without beating Arsenal, missed their chance on Saturday.

Arsenal took the lead three minutes into the second half when a backheel by Cesc Fabregas set up Emmanuel Adebayor for 10th league goal this season.

Dimitar Berbatov levelled from a tight angle in the 66th minute but, after the Bulgarian was then tripped in the box, Robbie Keane had his penalty saved by Manuel Almunia.

Arsenal took almost immediate advantage when 19-year-old Danish striker Bendtner came off the bench to power home a header from a Fabregas corner with his first touch.

"We were a bit flat in the first half and Tottenham played well," Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports. —MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's striker Nicklas Bendtner (L) scores the winning goal during the Premiership match against Spurs at the Emirates Stadium. Bendtner's late goal secured a precious 2-1 victory over Tottenham.—INTERNET

Perez double sends PSV top

AMSTERDAM, 23 Dec — Two goals from Kenneth Perez sent PSV Eindhoven top of the Dutch league on Saturday after a 4-1 home win over Utrecht.

Perez opened the scoring after 15 minutes following a blunder from Utrecht goalkeeper Franck Grandel.

Leroy George equalized shortly after the restart but goals from Lazovic and another from Perez within four minutes settled the match, while Danny Koevermans added a fourth with five minutes remaining.—MNA/Reuters



Sunderland's Paul McShane, right, and Reading's Dave Kitson battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match at the Madejski Stadium, Reading, England, on 22 Dec, 2007. Reading won the match 2-1. INTERNET

Roma sink Sampdoria with Totti brace

ROME, 23 Dec — Captain Francesco Totti scored twice as second-placed AS Roma kept in touch with Serie A leaders Inter Milan with a 2-0 win over 10-man Sampdoria on Saturday.

Totti set the home side on their way in the 18th minute with one of his trademark chipped penalties, awarded for Stefano Lucchini's foul on Matteo Ferrari.

Lucchini wasted a good chance to equalize in the 31st minute, firing wide after Sergio Volpi had found him on the left side of the six-yard box with a free kick.

Roma pressed forward after the break and Samp keeper Luca Castellazzi did well to tip a spectacular Simone Perrotta effort from outside box on to the bar.—MNA/Reuters

Leaders Lyon held after late Nancy equalizer

PARIS, 23 Dec — A late goal from Chris Malonga secured second-placed AS Nancy a 1-1 draw at home to Ligue 1 leaders Olympique Lyon on Saturday.

Lyon, who head into the mid-season break with a four-point cushion, led

through a Milan Baros goal on 80 minutes before substitute Malonga struck three minutes from time.

Nancy were the better side but were kept at bay by keeper Remy Vercoutre.

Lyon were lucky not to fall behind just before the

break when a Marc-Antoine Fortune header hit the post.

But the champions were dangerous on the counter attack with France striker Karim Benzema a constant threat.

Nancy midfielder Youssouf Hadji had two clear chances on 67 and 75 minutes, only to be denied by Vercoutre.

Baros, who replaced the injured Sidney Govou on the half-hour mark, was perfectly set up by a Hatem Ben Arfa through pass before he slotted the ball past Gennaro Bracigliano.

MNA/Reuters



AS Nancy's Issar Dia (R) challenges Olympique Lyon's Sebastien Squillaci during their French Ligue 1 soccer match in Nancy on 22 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	E		2	B		3	S		4	H		5	R		6	A		7	Z		8	O		9	R	
8	Q		U		E		S		T		I		O		N		C					P				
	U		E				I		R						9	A		C		U		T		E		
10	I		N		F		A		N		T		R		Y		U		I							
	P		Y		T		O							11	T		R		A		M		P			
			12	S		13	T		14	E		15	R		A		A					I				
16	S		U		P		E		R		B			17	D		E		T		E		S		T	
			R				R				18	B		19	E		D					E				T
20	S		P		U		M		E			X		21	T				22	A				23	S	
			R				I				24	S		P		O		R		A		D		I		C
25	D		I		A		N		A			E		O					M						O	
			S		U						26	C		R		O		U		P		I		E		R
27	C		E		A		S		E			T							T						N	

Romagnoli penalty gives Sporting 2-1 win over Pacos

LISBON, 23 Dec — A second-half penalty by Argentine midfielder Romagnoli gave Sporting a 2-1 victory over 10-man Pacos Ferreira to regain third place in the Portuguese Premier League on Saturday. Porto, who lost 1-0 at Nacional Madeira in their first defeat in the league on Friday, remain top with 35 points from 14 matches, seven clear of Benfica, who beat Estrela Amadora 3-0 on Thursday. Sporting have 26 points.

Pacos Ferreira went ahead after 10 minutes when Brazilian Edson headed in at the far post. Sporting equalized eight minutes later when midfielder Simon Vukcevic fired in an angled shot following a neat pass from Miguel Veloso. —MNA/Reuters

Liverpool's Harry Kewell, right, in action with Portsmouth's Glen Johnson during the English Premier League soccer match at Anfield, Liverpool, England, on 22 Dec, 2007. Liverpool won the match 4-1.—INTERNET



UK finds bluetongue in imported cows, ban sought

LONDON, 23 Dec — Bluetongue virus has been found in 20 cows imported into England from the Netherlands, prompting British farmers to call for a livestock import ban.

Britain's Farm Ministry said the virus had been detected at a farm near Worcester in western England located outside existing bluetongue protection and surveillance zones.

The animals had been imported from a region in the Netherlands where the disease is circulating.

Last week the virus was

found in an imported cow at a farm in northeast England which had been imported from Germany.

"This is the second time in a week that animals infected with bluetongue have been imported," a spokesman for the National Farmers Union said in a statement.

"Until such time as arrangements are in place

to prevent this sort of thing happening, the only safe course of action is to ban all imports of livestock from bluetongue-infected areas," he added.

The Farm Ministry said there was currently no evidence that the virus was circulating in the area. The animals will be culled and the farm placed under restrictions.—MNA/Reuters



Turkish soldiers patrol on road near Yuksekova in southeastern Turkey, bordering Iraq, on 22 Dec, 2007—INTERNET

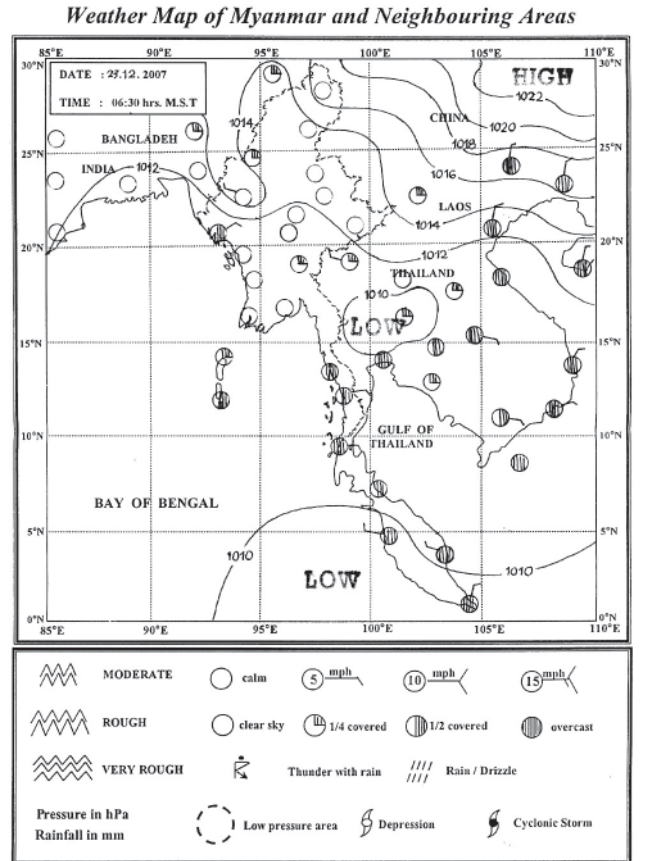
Germany writes off Cameroon's \$1.2b debt

YAOUNDE, 23 Dec— The Cameroonian and German governments signed an agreement here Friday to write off more than 1.2 billion US dollars of debt owed by the West African country.

Germany decided to exempt Cameroon from its debt of 530 billion US dollars CFA francs (1.23 billion dollars) after the country met conditions under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative in May 2006.

The debt mainly came from the country's infrastructure construction, including such projects as Yaounde Airport, Douala Port, national railways and the state television station complex.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER
Sunday, 23 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) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin State, Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, (3°C) above December average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Namhsam, Pinlaung and An (3°C) each and Putao (4°C).
 Maximum temperature on 22-12-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 23-12-2007 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-12-2007 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 22-12-2007 was (8.3) hours approx.
 Rainfall on 23-12-2007 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 Northwest at (10:30) hours MST on 22-12-2007.
Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 24-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in th Upper Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-12-2007: Fair weather.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-12-2007: Fair weather.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-12-2007: Fair weather.



Monday, 24 December

- Tune in today**
8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
 -Jingle bells
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
 -Last X'mas
8:50 am National news/
 Slogan
9:00 am Music:
 -I wish you a
 merry X'mas
9:05 am International
 news
9:10 am Music
 -My X'mas
 tree
1:30 pm News/ Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time
 music
 -Merry X'mas
 everybody
 -Merry X'mas
 everyone
9:00 pm Spotlight on the
 stars
 -X'mas songs
 (Elvis Presly)
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Drug/Women
 Affairs
9:35 pm Golden Land
 melody/Vocal
 gems
 -Silent night
 -Little strick
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Monday, 24 December

View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော် သံဃာ့မဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အောင်စေ မဟာရတနာအောင်စေအဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တ သာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သီရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- Morning news
- Nice and sweet song
- Song of national races

8:10 am

- Cute little dancers

8:25 am

- ဒွန်ဘန်တံတား

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar Made Easy

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

- အလေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု)(သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Dance variety

5:10 pm

- “ချောင်းကမ်းဘေးကရွာကလေး” (နွဲ့နွဲ့စန်းစန်းမြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်ထင်ပေါ်၊ သဇင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ - စိုးမြင့်(ဝ/သရန်ကုန်)

5:15 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:30 pm

- Songs and dance of national races

5:45 pm

- Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

- တောင်ပေါ်မြေပြန့်ရှင်ခွင်မဲ့ပန်း တို့ကွန်းခိုရာ “နန်းဦး” အေးရိပ်သာယာ

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူးခြီးဝေချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၈)

8:00 pm

- News

8:00 pm

- International news
- Weather report
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်စေတမန်” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ ဓမ္မတ္တာဘဝနာပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်
- The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening ceremony of library, accepts cash donations

YANGON, 23 Dec — A ceremony to open the Lawka Ahla library of Dhamma Vihara Pahtamakyaw Monastery was held in conjunction with the first cash donation for Sangha Gonyi three-storey building at the monastery in Nga/Ka Ward, Thingangyun Township here yesterday, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Present also were State Ovadacariya Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sobhana and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, departmental heads, wellwishers, members of the social organizations and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and donor Actor Khant Sithu formally opened the library. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander presented books and viewed the library.

At the first cash donation ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and wellwishers received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana and donated provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials accepted K 35 million donated by wellwishers and Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Myint Thein Pe, K 300,000 for the ceremony to pay respects to elderly film actors and actresses presented by Actor Khant Sithu. Next, those present shared the merits gained. —MNA



□Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence accepts cash donation from a wellwisher for Sangha Gonyi three-storey building.— MNA

Objectives of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day

- (a) All the national people to constantly join hands for safeguarding the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State;
- (b) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
- (c) To ensure emergence of an enduring constitution in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention that has been completed successfully;
- (d) All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation;
- (e) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit, patriotic spirit and the spirit of sacrifice.

Significant night temperatures

Haka	(-2°C)
Namhsam	(3°C)
Pinlaung	(3°C)
Ann	(3°C)
Putao	(4°C)

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