

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

Maj-Gen Tha Aye donates provisions to members of the Sangha from monasteries in Mawlamyine



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects People's Hospital in Kya-in-seikkyi Township. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence attended the rice, edible oil and salt donation ceremony to monasteries in Mawlamyine on 24 December morning.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye offered alms to member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Webyan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win donated offertories to State Ovadaçariya Kawhla Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Obhasa. At the ceremony, wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt and alms worth K 2,068,000 to members of the Sangha.

They visited Shwepyithaya Mingala Market in Thanbayar Village of Kya-in-seikkyi Township and instructed officials to use paddy husk-fired fuel instead of fuel oil for power supply.

At the local battalion in Kya-in-seikkyi, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen and family members and presented gifts to them.

At Kya-in-seikkyi Township Hospital, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected the patient wards, x-ray room and operation theatre and gave cash assistance to the patients.

At Zami Hall in the township, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations. Next, they inspected repaving of the road between Chaunghnakhwa and Kyungon villages. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presents cash assistance to a staff who is assigned duty to Cocogyun Township. — MNA

Commander meets departmental staff to discharge duty in Cocogyun Tsp

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win met the departmental personnel who will discharge duty in Cocogyun Township at the hall of Thakayta Jetty of Myanma Five Star Line this morning.

The commander presented cash, VCD player, religious books, VCDs and MP3, DVD player, electrical appliances for the departmental personnel, local

residents, monastery and Basic Education High School in the township through the officials.

He cordially greeted the staff and passengers on board the vessel "Haka".

Rice, edible oil, foodstuff, construction materials, one set of Table Tennis court and two GPSs for local station and Cocogyun Township PDC presented by Yangon Division PDC were transported in the same voyage. —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 December, 2007

Accelerate preventive measures against fire

Now, the open season has come up, so, it is required of the people to step up preventive measures against fire.

In this regard, each house has to keep all necessary types of fire-fighting equipment, and each household living in an apartment, a fire extinguisher. Consumption of electricity is growing now with better living standard of the people. Negligence in using electrical apparatus such as electric irons and electric rice cookers has resulted in short circuit thereby causing fires.

The majority of the fires that take place in rural areas are due to negligence, especially when stoves are being used and candles are kept burning. Most of the fires stem from the fact that people use fire without paying enough care.

In the open season, members of the Fire Service and auxiliary fire brigades have to speed up fire preventive measures ward-wise and village-wise.

Therefore, members of the Fire Service are urged to expedite prevention against fire in collaboration with local people in order to avert losses of property in fires.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်

(၃၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလအတွက်

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နှင့်

(၂၇-၁-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

All this needs to be known

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

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

Yadana gas field under repair

YANGON, 27 Dec — Natural gas production at Yadana offshore gas field will be suspended while repairs are carried out to the production process of the field.

The repairs will be carried out from 28th December, 2007 to 7th January, 2008 with the aim of producing more natural gas from the field.

Gas-powered plants and factories are to reduce their production during the period.

However, the authorities have already taken necessary measures not to affect the supply of electricity to Yangon during the period due to the suspension of production at the field.—MNA

Myanmar artistes delegation poses for a group photo before depart for China to take part in 2008 CCTV New Year's Gala.

MNA



Korean Traditional Drum Performance on 29 Dec

YANGON, 28 Dec — In order to promote the existing friendship and cultural understanding between the two peoples of Myanmar and Korea, Korean Traditional Drum Performance will be staged at Mo Gaung Pagoda Festival tomorrow at 11.30 pm.

It was organized by Mr Choi Kwang-jin, First Secretary & Consul of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea together

Ambassador U Min Thein presents credentials to President of Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec — U Min Thein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Belarus, on 11 December 2007 in Minsk. —MNA

MRTV's artistes leave for China

YANGON, 27 Dec — The official transmission ceremony of Lankan-Mekong River documentary film "Nourished by the Same River", directed and produced since 2005, in collaboration with State-run TV departments of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam

documentary film telecasting programme and the 2008 CCTV New Year's Gala will also be held in Beijing on 31 December.

On the occasion, the artistes of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and China will take part in 2008 CCTV New Year's Gala.

The Myanmar artistes delegation comprising eight ladies of national races namely Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan left here by air this afternoon for Beijing of the People's Republic of China. It was led by Artist Grade-2 U Htet Myat Soe of Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information. Myanmar artistes were seen off at Yangon International Airport by the Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television, officials concerned and families of the delegation members.—MNA

and the People's Republic of China, will be held in Beijing of the PRC on 30 December. And the ceremony to mark the successful cooperation in the



Myanmar and Korean artistes stage a performance.—H

Pakistan's Bhutto assassinated in gun, bomb attack



Benazir Bhutto addresses a rally.—INTERNET

RAWALPINDI, 27 Dec—Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on Thursday in a gun and bomb attack as she left an election rally in the city of Rawalpindi.

State media and her party confirmed her death. Bhutto, 54, died in hospital in Rawalpindi. Ary-One Television said she had been shot in the head.

Police said a suicide bomber fired shots at Bhutto as she was leaving the rally venue in a park before blowing himself up.

“The man first fired at Bhutto’s vehicle. She ducked and then he blew himself up,” said police officer Mohammad Shahid.

Police said 16 people had been killed

in the blast, which occurred during campaigning for a January 8 national election.

A witness at the scene of the attack said he had heard two shots moments before the blast.

Another witness saw bodies and a mutilated human head strewn on a road outside the park where she held her rally. A spokesman for President Pervez Musharraf said he had to confirm the news before commenting.

A suicide bomber killed nearly 150 people in an attack on Bhutto on October 19 as she paraded through the southern city of Karachi on her return from eight years in self-imposed exile.—Internet

Landslides kill 88 in Indonesia after torrential rains

JAKARTA, 26 Dec—Days of torrential rain triggered landslides, killing up to 88 people till 21:00 local time in Central Java province of Indonesia on Wednesday, Antara news agency reported. Out of the victims, 71 people were killed in Karanganyar district of the province, 17 were killed in regencies of Tirtomoyodan Manyaran of Wonogiri district. And thousands of houses were destroyed by the floods, said the report.

Hundreds of rescuers, using heavy machinery equipment and bare hands, are removing the rubbles of houses to find missing, said the report.

Local people, together with policemen and soldiers, are evaluating affected people in several areas, but the works are very difficult as it is in the night, the report added. Floods also hit Solo, causing 26,720 people from 5,344 families fled their home, said the report.

Indonesia has been frequently hit by flood and landslide due to lack of forest-covered areas, which could not hold excessive waters during heavy rains.

Activists have already warned that the forests in the area are under threat from large-scale forest destruction.

Internet



Indonesian soldiers and villagers dig into mud to search for landslide victims in Karang Anyar district near Solo, Indonesia’s Central Java Province, on 26 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

Photos of Colombian hostage’s children airdropped

BOGOTA, 26 Dec—The husband of Ingrid Betancourt, who had been held hostage for more than five years by Colombian rebels, on Monday dropped more than 20,000 photos of their children over a Colombian jungle, hoping the photos could reach their mother.

The husband, Juan Carlos Lecompte, flew over the jungle, dropping photos of their children Melanie and Lorenzo. The children are launching a campaign in Europe to seek the release of their mother. Betancourt, a French-Colombian politician, was kidnapped in February 2002 by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), while she was campaigning for the presidency of Colombia.

On the same day, Betancourt’s children broadcast a message on

Colombian radio urging their mother to maintain hope on the eve of her 46th birthday.

On Tuesday, Betancourt’s family will celebrate her birthday and commemorate her five years in captivity.

Betancourt was last

seen in a video seized from rebels a few weeks ago, looking thin and weak at a rebel camp. In a letter to her mother, Betancourt has said she does not have any access to books and she has lost her appetite as well as her will to live.

MNA/Xinhua



A merchant boat, dubbed the Nanhai No 1, or “South China Sea No 1,” is being moved to the “Crystal Palace,” the Marine Silk Road Museum of Guangdong in south China’s Guangdong Province, on 26 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Depression treatment reduces diabetes death risk

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec—Treating depression can help extend the lives of people with diabetes, US media quoted a new study

as saying on Tuesday.

Depression and diabetes are conditions that are closely linked with each other, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine said in a study published in the December issue of the journal *Diabetes Care*.

The study found that providing depression care to older adults with

diabetes and depression reduced the risk of death over five years by about 50 per cent.

Patients with diabetes who received depression care were less likely to have died at the end of five years of follow-up than patients with diabetes who received usual care, according to the study.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderate earthquake hits Osh, Kyrgyzstan

WASHINGTON, 27 Dec—A 5.4 magnitude earthquake shook Kyrgyzstan on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said in a posting on its website. The quake at a depth of 18 miles (29 kilometres) was 16 miles (26 kilometres) south-east of Osh. Osh is the second largest city of Central Asian republic, located near the border with Uzbekistan.—MNA/Reuters

Russia warns of retaliation against US missile shield

Moscow, 26 Dec—Russia will take “measures of reprisal” if the United States insisted on deploying a missile shield in Central Europe which could threaten Moscow’s national security, a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday.

The US missile defence plan will be “a strong action designed to weaken Russia’s nuclear deterrent,” said Mikhail Kamynin in a Foreign Ministry statement.

Russia would “have no other choice than to take measures of reprisal”, he said.

Russia’s head of strategic missile forces, General Nikolai Solovtsov, has threatened to target planned US missile defence shield in Poland and the Czech Republic if Washington ignored Russia’s concerns, the *Interfax* news agency reported.

Russia’s intercontinental ballistic missiles could target the planned US shield if it was seen to “undermine the Russian nuclear deterrent capability”, Solovtsov said.

Washington has insisted the missile shield, which consists of a radar

station in the Czech Republic and interceptor missiles in Poland, is intended to stave off the threat of attacks from what it calls “rogue states”.

Earlier reports said the first missile could be put on alert in Poland in 2011 and the deployment could be completed by 2013.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl looks at a Chinese painting during a Chinese painting exhibition in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 26 Dec, 2007. Sixty Chinese painting works by 14 painters from northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region were on show during the exhibition, which will last until 7 Jan, 2008.—XINHUA

UAE bans bird imports from Germany’s Brandenburg

ABU DHABI, 26 Dec — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) imposed a ban on imports of poultry and birds from Germany’s Brandenburg state due to the outbreak of bird flu there, *Emirates News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

Minister of Environment and Water Dr Mohammed Saeed Al Kindi issued the ban which covers “all living domestic and wild birds and their products”, as a precautionary measure to protect health safety of the public and animal resources alike, according to the report. The ban was imposed after the ministry received reports from the World Organization for Animal Health about the appearance of bird flu in Brandenburg, the report said.

On 15 December, German authorities confirmed an outbreak of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in the northeastern state of Brandenburg.

MNA/Xinhua



Germany’s Jasmin Riedel, 20, places a stalk of red rose at a memorial during a ceremony in Khao Lak, in Thailand’s Phang Nga Province, about 110 km (68 miles) north of the resort island of Phuket on 26 Dec, 2007, marking the three-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami.—XINHUA

22 die, over hundred wound on X’mas Eve in El Salvador

MEXICO CITY, 26 Dec— National Police in El Salvador said Tuesday that at least 22 people died and over hundred injured in different incidents and accidents on Christmas Eve, according to news reaching here.

The dead including 12 murdered, seven killed in road accidents, two for poisoning and one for drowning. The murdered were 10 more than on a typical day in El Salvador, the police said.

Although the number of murders was high, overall injuries reduced, according to civil protection authorities. There were 124 injured by gunshots, burns and other accidents this year, while in 2006 the number was 161.—MNA/Xinhua

Road accidents kill 44 during holidays in Turkey

ANKARA, 26 Dec—Some 44 people were killed while 127 others were injured in traffic accidents during the holidays of Muslim religious festival “Eid-ul-Azha” (feast of sacrifice), the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Monday.

A total of 39 fatal traffic accidents took place in Turkey between 19 and 23 December, said the report, adding the number of traffic accident deaths dropped by 27.9 per cent compared to the same period last year.

“Eid-ul-Azha” is the second most important Muslim festival, which usually witnessed scores of traffic accident deaths as travels increased for visiting relatives or friends.—MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill eight, leave 5,600 families homeless in Bolivia

LIMA, 26 Dec— Floods have killed at least eight people and left 5,600 families homeless since mid-December due to heavy rains, Bolivian Civil Defence authorities said on Tuesday, according to news reaching here.

Five of the dead were in Cochabamba, two in Potosi and one in La Paz, director of the nation’s Civil Defence Authority General Johnny Patzi said.

There were 3,600 families homeless in Chapare, a coca growing area in Cochabamba, he said, adding that rivers had flooded after heavy rains in several parts of the country.—MNA/Xinhua



A worker folds a traditional Chinese lantern for delivery at a factory in Beijing on 27 Dec, 2007. The small factory is one of only a few in the Chinese capital that still make the large traditional-style lanterns for the Chinese New Year celebrations on 7 February.—INTERNET

Alaska island hit by powerful earthquake

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec— A magnitude 6.5 earthquake rattled Alaska’s Aleutian Islands in the northern Pacific on Wednesday, but did not immediately trigger a tsunami warning, according to the US Geological Survey.

The strong quake was detected at 1:04 pm local time southeast of Nikolaski, a village of 31 people about 1,500 kilometres southwest of Anchorage, with the epicentre about 33-kilometre deep in the Pacific, the agency said.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia to become world's 5th largest economy by 2020

Moscow, 26 Dec—Russia will become the world's fifth largest economy by 2020, should its gross domestic product (GDP) keeps an annual growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent, said Russian Minister of Economic Development and Trade Elvira Nabiullina on Monday.

"If we maintain the GDP growth at 6 per cent to 7 per cent per year, we'll join the group of the world's five largest economies," the minister

was quoted as saying by Russia's *RIA Novosti* news agency.

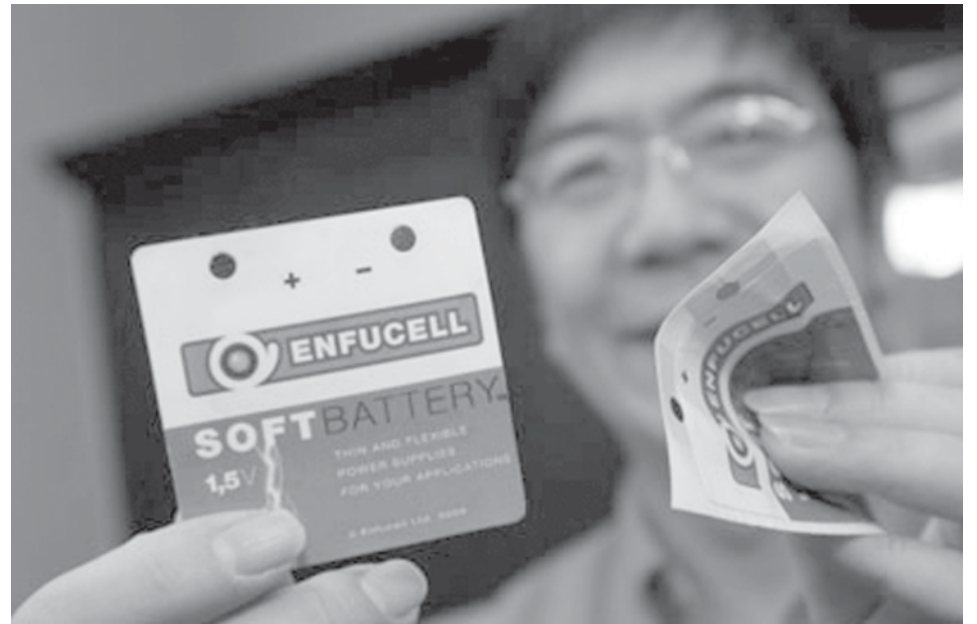
"We are setting ourselves this goal," she said. Under a forecast drawn up by her ministry in November for Russia's economic development until 2020, the country's GDP is expected to exceed five trillion US dollars in 2020 given a foreign exchange rate of 30 roubles equivalent to one dollar.

The forecast also put

Russia into the position of the world's fifth largest economy measured by the GDP by 2020 while overtaking all the other European countries.

Russia's GDP in 2007 is expected to reach 1.3 trillion dollars, a surge of more than 7 per cent driven by growing household consumption and a boosted business activities, the *RIA Novosti* reported, citing a report of the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua



A scientist displays his invention—"Paper-like Battery"—at a hotel in eastern China's Wenzhou on 26 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

China-Jordan to set up JV automobile factory in Jordan

AMMAN, 26 Dec—A 200-million-Jordanian-dinar (about 282-million-US-dollar) Chinese-Jordanian joint venture automobile factory will be set up in Jordan in early 2008, Mohammad Qalam, director general of Chery Jordan Company, said on

Tuesday.

The construction of the factory will start early 2008 and production is expected to start by the end of the year, Qalam told *Xinhua*, noting that the company will develop the plant in four phases.

"The first stage of the

project will be manufacturing around 700 medium- and large-size commuters," said Qalam, adding the second phase will extend the plant's capacity to produce commercial vehicles such as pickup and dump trucks.

During the third phase, a new academy will be established to produce a skilled labour force in the fields of electronics and mechanics. The last phase of the project will be aimed at manufacturing fancy cars which will target local and regional markets, he added.

According to Qalam, the plant will create around 500 job opportunities for Jordanians who will constitute 95 per cent of the plant's manpower. After the completion of the plant's four phases, this figure is expected to reach 2,000.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam sends more employees abroad in 2007

HANOI, 27 Dec — Vietnam sent 82,000 local people to work abroad, including Japan, South Korea, China's Taiwan, Malaysia and some Middle East countries in 2007, up from 78,800 in 2006 and 70,600 in 2005, according to local official sources on Wednesday.

Vietnam, creating a total of nearly 1.7 million jobs this year, has set next year's targets of creating 1.7 million jobs, partly by sending 85,000 people to work abroad; and reducing its poverty rate to 11-12 per cent from the current 15.5 per cent, said the Overseas

Labour Management Department under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.

To this end, Vietnam is expanding its labour export market to the United States, Italy, Australia and the Middle East, while further tapping traditional ones in Asia.

As of early last year, over 400,000 Vietnamese people were working in more than 40 countries and regions, generating combined annual income of around 1.6 billion US dollars, the department said.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors pass the Sharp and Samsung LCD TV displays at a consumer electronics show in Las Vegas, Nevada, earlier this year.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

China to prevent coal-mine gas blasts in 2008

BEIJING, 26 Dec—China will do more to prevent coal-mine gas blasts next year, after an explosion in north China killed 105 people earlier this month.

This year, China reported 898 deaths in 236 such accidents

from January to November, according to information presented during a work conference of the colliery gas accident prevention panel held on Monday.

There were 57 fewer accidents than in the same

period last year, down 19.5 per cent, and the death toll was down 312 persons or 25.8 per cent, according to the panel, which was set up to improve the safety record of the industry.

But prevention remained difficult, as shown by recent accidents, the meeting heard. Participants at the meeting cited the deadly accident that claimed 105 lives in north China's Shanxi Province.

China would approve no mines with a capacity of less than 300,000 tons next year, the meeting decided.

Small coal mines have been a major source of hazards due to poor safety facilities and slack management.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia's oil trade in deficit

JAKARTA, 26 Dec—Indonesia has recently become a net oil importer that needs to develop strategic reserves to deal with future needs which are predicted to soar in line with the rapid economic expansion, local Press said Wednesday.

Indonesia's oil export totalled 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) while its import already reached some 740,000 bpd, comprising 400,000 barrels of crude oil and 340,000 barrels of fuel products, reported leading economic daily *Bisnis Indonesia*.

Southeast Asia's only OPEC member needs strategic reserves for emergency cases that can potentially disturb regular supplies from domestic sources and imports, the daily quoted Maizar Rahman, the country's representative for OPEC, as saying.— MNA/Xinhua



Models stand next to the Roewe, Chinese automaker SAIC Motor Corp's own-brand car, at the China International Industry Fair 2006 in Shanghai, China.—INTERNET

Russian submarine test-fires ballistic missile

MOSCOW, 26 Dec— A Russian submarine in the Barents Sea successfully test-fired a new ballistic missile on Tuesday, hitting a target on the Kamchatka Peninsula on Russia's Pacific coast minutes later, the Ministry of Defence said.

"The launch was carried out from the submarine platform in line with military training.

The rocket warhead arrived down range at the designated time," the ministry said in a statement.

The RSM-54, or *Sineva*, is a hybrid ballistic missile that in its final stages becomes a modified cruise missile.

In this guise, the warhead cannot be targeted by anti-missile systems that rely on a ballistic trajectory for their calculations.

Tuesday's launch is the second such test-firing of the *Sineva* in less than a week.

Speaking after the last successful launch, a general said Russia could thwart any anti-missile system in the foreseeable future.

"The military hardware now on our weapons, and those that will appear in the next few years, will enable our missiles to outperform any anti-missile system, including future systems," General Nikolai Solovtsov told journalists on 17 December.

MNA/Reuters

Heavy snow closes northwest China airport

URUMQI, 26 Dec — Heavy snow in northwest China forced the closure of a major airport on Wednesday, disrupting the travel of more than 1,000 people

Urumqi International Airport in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, was closed around 11 am when snow on the runways made takeoff impossible, airport official Wang Chengwei said.

More than 40 flights were cancelled because of the snow that had started to fall on Tuesday.

Wang said the airport was expected to reopen around 6 pm on Wednesday.

Some places in Urumqi reported a maximum snowfall of 20 centimetres

with a temperature decrease of about 10 degrees Celsius.

At the Alataw Pass on the China-Kazakhstan border, China's second largest land port, the heavy snowfall trapped 16 students on their way to school. —Internet

Afghanistan to expel two foreigners on security charges

KABUL, 26 Dec — Afghanistan has ordered the expulsion of a Briton working for the EU and an Irishman working for the United Nations, accusing them of posing a threat to national security, officials and diplomats said on Tuesday.

Local news portals said the pair may have visited the Taliban insurgent stronghold of Helmand recently and might have met with senior tribal elders with close links to the Taliban — or even insurgent leaders themselves. — MNA/Reuters

Dozens missing after flood sweeps away bridge in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 Dec — Around 50 people are missing after a bridge collapsed in Madiun regency of East Java province on Wednesday, local police said Thursday.

Strong currents of the river triggered by flood had damaged one of the foundations of the bridge and cause the bridge collapse, local police chief Supardi had told *Xinhua* through telephone from the regency on Wednesday night.

Supardi said that about 20 people were feared dead as they were on the bridge when it collapsed, some of them riding motorcycles.

All of them plunged into the river and were swept by the strong currents.

The bridge collapsed in the afternoon, but until midnight none of them was found by rescuers, said Supardi.

"They could be dead as

the water of the rivers flow is very fast and deep."

The accident happened following floods and landslides in Central Java that killed at least 61 persons on Wednesday.

Indonesia has been frequently hit by flood and landslide due to lack of forest-covered areas, which could not hold excessive waters during heavy rains.—Internet

Chile suffers two modest quakes

SANTIAGO, 26 Dec — Chile suffered two small earthquakes on Tuesday which caused alarm, but no serious damage, in the northern cities of Iquique and Arica, in the Tarapaca Region, the Regional Emergency Office said.

The more serious of the two, registering 5.8 degrees on the Richter Scale, was at 1:21 pm local time (1621 GMT) and lasted 40 seconds. Its epicentre was 150 kilometres northeast of Iquique, close to the Bolivia border and 78.2 kilometres deep.

The office said that there were no injuries

although in rural areas like Huara some walls had collapsed.

Highway 45 which goes to Camina suffered no damage. A weaker quake, registering 4.9 degrees Richter, hit at 9:15 am (1215 GMT).

MNA/Xinhua

Explosion rocks Istanbul, injuring 7

ANKARA, 27 Dec— Istanbul Police Director Celalettin Cerrah said the bombing rocked Turkey's largest city Istanbul on Tuesday evening, injuring seven people.

The explosion, which occurred in Kucukcekmece District in Istanbul, injured seven people, including six in slight conditions, Cerrah was quoted as saying by the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency. He said one injured woman was in serious condition and was rushed to a nearby hospital for operation. Turkish private broadcaster NTV reported earlier that Istanbul was rocked by a bombing, with two people injured. —MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 26 Dec, 2007 shows the site of an oil pipeline explosion in Abagbo of Lagos, Nigeria.—XINHUA

Death toll in Egypt building collapse rises to 19

CAIRO, 26 Dec — The death toll from the collapse of a 12-storey residential building in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria rose to 19 on Tuesday after authorities dug more bodies out of the ruins, state news agency *MENA* said.

Army rescue teams have joined efforts to search for survivors in the rubble, which is thought to have buried 25-30 people.

Rescue workers have extracted at least two survivors from the rubble since the collapse, security sources said. *MENA* gave the figure as three.

The building disintegrated on Monday as construction workers carried out repairs on the first floor. It was constructed as a seven-storey building in 1982 without a permit, authorities said. The owner obtained a permit later but then illegally added five more storeys. — MNA/Reuters



Egyptian rescue workers stand by a bulldozer removing the rubble of a collapsed building in Alexandria. The death toll from the collapse of an apartment block in Egypt rose to 19.

INTERNET

The Jade Buddha Image in Shwedagon Pagoda's Precinct

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

A large Buddha Image sculpted out of a monolith of jadeite is housed in a pavilion in the precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon.

Under the direction of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (State Peace and Development Council) Government, Myanma Gems Enterprise began sculpting a Buddha image out of a single jade stone by a party of jade sculptors led by U Han Sein and U Ohn Shwe. It took five years to complete this sculpture.

The jadeite stone was extracted from the jade mines of Wa Kye Maw in the township of Phakant, Kachin State. Its colour is dark green with some strips in the texture. The Image weighs 241.69 viss or 179 kilos and is 30 inches high. In the sitting posture and the right hand in the earth-touching gesture [*bhumi phatha mudra*] the Image is adorned with gold and gems.

The following is the detail of its rich adornments:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Weight of gold frontlet | 10.55 tickals |
| 2. Weight of gold unisha | 1.09 tickals |
| 3. Weight of gold robe | 7.24 tickals |
| 4. Diamonds | 9 |
| 5. Rubies | 91 |
| 6. Total weight of gems | 22.548 gm |
| 7. Duration of work | 1-10-1991 to 12-12-1996 |

The detail of the pedestal throne:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Height | .9 inches |
| 2. Front breadth | 28 inches |
| 3. Front to back breadth | 17 inches |
| 4. Weight of stone | 195.75 viss or 145 kilos |
| 5. Colour of stone | purple, green and white |
| 6. Place of extraction of jade stone | Hsa Hmaw, Phakant Township |
| 7. Weight of gold | 24.97 tickals |
| 8. Duration of work | 24-4-1998 to 18-3-1999 |



The Jade Buddha Image.

PHOTO BY YE HTUT (NLM)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 9. Sculptors | U Ohn Shwe and party, Myanma Gems Enterprise |
|--------------|--|

On the morning of 3-4-1999 at the auspicious time 7 am the Jade Buddha Image was ceremonially conveyed to Shwedagon Pagoda and it was temporarily kept in the central pavilion. On the morning at 7 am of 9-4-1999 the Jade Buddha Image was ceremonially consecrated in U Maung Gyi Tazaung.

A permanent residence was chosen in Ponnya Kusala Athin Tazaung [CMA] where a glass case was built to house the Jade Image. Today the Jade Buddha Image is receiving the homage of the pilgrims and marvel of the visitors.

Vietnam strives to reap GDP per capita of \$960 in '08

HANOI, 27 Dec— Vietnam is determined to post gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of 960 US dollars in 2008, up from estimated 723 dollars in 2007, the *Pioneer* newspaper on Wednesday quoted Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung as saying. The country will strive to achieve economic growth of more than 9 per cent next year, compared with the target of 8.5-9 per cent, he said at a meeting on the implementation of economic development resolutions of the National

Assembly of Vietnam, the country's top legislature, ended on Wednesday.

Vietnam will strive to fundamentally fulfil its 2006-2010 socioeconomic development target right in 2008, two years ahead schedule, Dung noted.

The Vietnamese Government is asking local relevant agencies to improve the investment environment, ensure the macro-economy's stability, increase quality of human resources, and intensify administrative reform and anti-corruption campaign.

MNA/Xinhua

Grand Royal Special Reserve Qualifying Round 5-6 January

YANGON, 27 Dec— The Grand Royal Special Reserve Qualifying Round, to be organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, will be held at



Phankharmyay Golf Club in Magway on 5 and 6 January.

The qualifier round will be organized under St Andrews and regional golf rules and regulations.

Five best golfers in the scratch event of the qualifier will be selected for the final round.

International Beverages Trading Co Ltd will mainly sponsor the competition together with co-sponsors Dusit Inya Lake, Srixon and Alpine. Han Event Management will carry out the organizing task for the competition.

Amateur golfers may enlist at Phankharmyay Golf Club, Tel: 063-21153, not later than 2 January 2008.—MNA

Indonesia marks 3 years after Asian tsunami

CALANG (Indonesia), 27 Dec—Hundreds of Indonesians prayed at mass graves in Aceh Province on Wednesday to remember relatives who died in the Indian Ocean tsunami three years ago.

On December 26, 2004, giant waves triggered by one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded pulverised villages along Indian Ocean shores, killing or leaving missing

about 230,000 people. Aceh, on the northwestern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra Island, suffered the most, with about 170,000 dead or missing and billions of dollars in losses.

We pray for the victims that God may accept their good deeds," said Kamal Usman, a survivor in Calang, an area in western Aceh where hundreds of officials and residents prayed at a ceremony to mark the

anniversary. Elsewhere in Indonesia, thousands of factory workers and villagers scrambled up the hills of as sirens blared in a drill to mark the third anniversary of the disaster.

In Ciwandan on the northwestern Java shore, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono watched the drill to test a tsunami early warning system.

As part of the drill, authorities also tested the

response of emergency relief teams to a mock chemical leak in a factory if an 8.5 magnitude quake were to hit the area.

"We hope through this exercise people begin to understand that they live in a tsunami-prone area and know what to do in case of an emergency," said Ami Pramitasari of the research and Technology Ministry, which led the drill in Ciwandan District.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးစုံညီပွဲတော်

နိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိအခြေခံပညာကျောင်းအားလုံး ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲစို့။



၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁ ရက်မှ ၃ ရက်
SCHOOL FAMILY DAY
1-3 January, 2008

Kyauktalone Kyaungsu monastery consecrated, rural health centre opened, books donated to rural library

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec — Ceremonies to consecrate Kyauktalone Kyaungsu Village Monastery, open the rural health centre and donate books to the rural library were held in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe this morning, attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife.

The commander and wife paid homage to Kyauktalone Kyaungsu Village Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wunnasami and offered alms to the Sayadaw.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Phayagyi Kyaungtaik Presiding Sayadaw Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Ariyavamsa.

The commander supplicated on religious affairs to members of the Sangha. Next, the commander and wife



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife present offertories to a Sayadaw at a ceremony to share merits for completion of a monastery in Kyauktalone Kyaungsu Village-tract in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe. — MNA

donated provisions to members of the Sangha. Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana District Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Zaw and Medical Superintendent

Dr Aye Ko Ko of 200-bed Hospital formally opened the rural health centre.

The commander inspected the rural health centre and cordially met with health staff. Afterwards, he attended the ceremony to donate books to the rural library. Books were presented to

the chairman of village PDC. On behalf of the rural people, he spoke words of thanks.

Wellwishers donated K 16.9 million to build the monastery. The Ministry of Health contributed K 4.2 million to build the rural health centre.

MNA

Talks on literature given to rural people

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—Under the arrangement of Information and Public Relations Department of Pynmana district and Yaungkyi Oo self-reliant library committee, a ceremony to give talks on literature was held at basic education high school of Thit Lay Lone village on 25 December. The ceremony was attended by people from literary arena, students and local residents.

Writer Chit Naing (Psychology), Nyunt Han (Kyudaw), Than Tun (IPRD) gave talks on literature. Next, the Director-General of IPRD U Chit Naing and U Than Tun (IPRD) viewed the library and presented books.—MNA

Yangon Mayor calls for beautifying Inya Lake

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the bank of Inya Lake on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

He heard reports by officials concerned on

clearing of flotsam and mud in the lake with the use of machinery and future programmes for beautifying the lake and gave necessary instructions.

The mayor looked into repaving of asphalt concrete road near Sawbwagyigon Junction in Insein Township to ensure smooth transportation and upgrade Pyay Road. At the reports of the officials on completion of the work and tasks being carried out from the junction of Yangon International Airport in Mayangon to Thirimingala Junction in Insein Township, he stressed the need for timely completion of the road according to the set standards and fulfilled the needs.

MNA



A machinery dredging Inya Lake to make the lake deeper and water cleaner. — YCDC

Distribution of electricity, maintenance of generators supervised

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint accompanied by officials visited An Township Electrical Engineer's Office and looked into the generator of the township for ensuring power sufficiency in the township and distribution of electricity on 22 December.

After hearing a report on supply of power in the township presented by an official, the minister stressed the need to carry out the tasks with goodwill.

The minister and party inspected maintenance of two 150 KVA diesel-powered generators and progress of the installation of power lines in the township. The minister gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein met with service personnel at the hall of Ma-i Electrical Engineer's Office on An-Taungup road. They inspected the generators and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Ministry of Home Affairs stands third in Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Volleyball Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec — Ministry of Home Affairs Team grabbed the third position after edging out Ministry of Industry-1 Team with 3-2 in the First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament 2007 at the Volleyball Ground No 4, here, this morning.

Ministry of Progress for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs will have to fight against Ministry of Sports for the first position on 30 December morning at the same venue.

MNA



Ministry of Industry-1 Team plays against Ministry of Home Affairs Team. — MNA

Donate blood

MWAF donates rice, edible oil to WVTS



Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Khin Lay Myint present provisions to the principal of Women's Vocational Training School.—MNA

YANGON, 27 Dec — The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation donated 10 bags of rice, three tins of edible oil, salt and gram to Women's Vocational Training School of the Social Welfare Department at a ceremony held at the school on Natmauk Road, here, this afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-Presidents of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Thet Htay, General Secretary Dr Daw Myint Kyi, Head of Organizing Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Joint General Secretary Daw Khin Htar May and

secretariat members, Leader of Nurturing and Resettlement Working Group Daw Kyi Kyi Mya and Director U Sein Win of SWD.

At the ceremony, Principal Daw Mar Mar Myint of the school explained facts about the school. The vice-presidents and officials of the MWAF met the female trainees. — MNA

SIP course No (60/2006) concludes

YANGON, 27 Dec — Myanmar Police Force Central Training School concluded course No (60/2006) for Sub-Inspector of Police on its parade ground in Zeebingyi, PyinOoLwin Township this morning.

On the occasion, MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi took the salute of the sub-inspectors of police and inspected the companies. Next, he awarded the outstanding trainees and delivered a speech.

The course was attended by 200 trainees. MNA



Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi awards the best cadet of the SIP course.

MNA

USDA CEC member accepts membership applications

YANGON, 27 Dec — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Yangon Division In-Charge Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin delivered

an address and accepted 670 membership applications of the workers at the garment factory of Yangon Pan Pacific International Co Ltd in Ward 29, Thingangyun

Township yesterday.

After the ceremony, the CEC member inspected production process of the factory and attended to the needs.

MNA

ACC official arrives

YANGON, 27 Dec — To provide assistance of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for Myanmar Cricket Federation to ensure development of Myanmar cricket sport, Cricket Development Officer Mr Mohammad Aminul Islam of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) arrived here by air yesterday evening.

He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw of Myanmar Cricket Federation, Treasurer Mr Akhter, Coach U Mechael Musaji and executives. — MNA

Vice-President of Myanmar Cricket Federation welcomes Cricket Development Officer of ACC.—MCF



Deputy Director of LBVD Dr Than Tun delivers an address at opening of Course on Poultry farming and Bio-Safety.—MNA

Poultry farming and Bio-Safety Course conducted

YANGON, 27 Dec — Under Bird Flu Control Programme launched by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and FAO, Poultry farming and Bio-Safety Instructor Course was opened at MiCasa Hotel

on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, on 24 December.

Advisor Dr Masao Sasaki and Deputy Director of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Tun made speeches.

A total of 34 trainees are attending the course which will last till 28 December. Multiplier courses will be conducted by the trainees in 30 Townships later for 3 days.

MNA



Colombia accepts Venezuela hostage release plan

BOGOTA, 27 Dec—Colombia agreed on Wednesday to allow a Venezuela-led mission to enter the country and pick up the three hostages held by its largest rebel group the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said several aircraft, including helicopters carrying Red Cross symbols, are ready to leave from the Venezuelan border. Envoys from France, Argentina, Cuba, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela and Bolivia will be on board, he said.

According to Chavez, the Venezuelan helicopters

will first fly to Villavicencio, a central Colombian city about 75 kilometres south of Bogota, before taking off to meet the rebels and the hostages at some unknown spot.

“Let’s hope that in the next few hours the freeing of Clara Rojas, Consuelo Gonzalez and the child Emmanuel will be made reality,” Chavez told reporters. If so, they will be able to spend the New Year with their families, he added.

Gonzalez is a former Colombian congresswoman held by the rebels since September 2001 and Rojas is an aide to former

Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt. Rojas gave birth to son Emmanuel during captivity.

MNA/Xinhua

US sanctions against Belarus unacceptable

MOSCOW, 27 Dec—Any possible US economic sanctions against Belarus for political reasons are unacceptable, Belarussian Prime Minister Sergei Sidorsky said here on Wednesday.

Sidorsky, who was here for Wednesday’s session of the Russia-Belarus Union State Council of Ministers,

described any US sanctions against it as “discriminatory”, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Sidorsky made the remarks after US ambassador to Belarus Karen Stewart warned in Minsk on 13 December that Washington could impose new sanctions on the nation over its refusal to free political prisoners and allow democratic freedoms.

Any sanctions will run counter to international laws and the principles of “noninterference in a

sovereign state’s internal affairs,” Sidorsky said.

The new sanctions could target other state-owned Belarussian companies, Stewart said. The previous US sanctions against the nation include travel restrictions against Belarussian officials and sanctions against a state oil processing company.

“By imposing sanctions, the United States violated its obligations to abstain from sanctions because Belarus joined the nuclear non-proliferation treaty,” the Prime Minister said.—MNA/Xinhua



Nepalese children stand on a collapsed bridge over the Bheri River, in the Surkhet district of western Nepal, on 26 Dec, 2007. Sixteen people were killed and 25 still missing from the collapse of a bridge in west Nepal, police said on Thursday, calling it a “miracle” the toll was not higher.—INTERNET

Bayer recalls Contour test strips for diabetes

WASHINGTON, 27 Dec—A unit of Bayer AG recalled diabetes test strips used with its Contour TS Blood Glucose Metre because they may result in 5 to 17 per cent higher blood glucose readings, the US Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday.

The test strips are used by diabetic patients to

monitor their daily blood sugar levels.

Bayer Diabetes Care said the recalled test strips were produced on new manufacturing equipment and that it has fixed the problem.

Some 53 production lots were affected by the recall, totalling 230,000 bottles of strips, a Bayer spokeswoman said. Each bottle typically contains 25 to 50 strips.

Contour TS strips are sold predominantly through mail order in the United States and are also marketed in France, Austria, Turkey, Korea, India and Mexico, according to Bayer.

MNA/Reuters

Ultrasound fails to spot early ovarian cancer

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—Annual screening with a technique called transvaginal ultrasound, coupled with a blood test for CA125, a protein that can be elevated in the setting of ovarian cancer, does not reliably detect ovarian cancer early, at a more curable stage, according to a new study.

“We and other groups confirm that the current method of ovarian screening, which is a combination of ultrasound scans and (blood) markers, is ineffective,” Dr Emma R Woodward from Birmingham Women’s Hospital, UK, told Reuters Health.

“Therefore, for women at high risk of developing ovarian cancer, the only real option at present to prevent ovarian cancer death is to have the ovaries removed as a preventive measure.”

The early diagnosis of ovarian cancer is difficult and the disease is often not detected until it has reached an advanced stage.

In a “look-back” study, Woodward and colleagues assessed the effectiveness of ovarian cancer screening with the CA125 blood test plus transvaginal ultrasound, which involves placing an ultrasound probe into the vagina to detect abnormalities in the ovaries, in 341 women with a family history of ovarian cancer.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico seizes nearly 3 tons of marijuana

MEXICO CITY, 27 Dec—The Mexican Army seized 2.95 tons of marijuana in the northern state of Sonora on Tuesday night, the National Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

The capture took place in the town of Agua Prieta, where officers

spotted a suspicious car and found 354 packets that contained “a dry green herb with the characteristics of marijuana”, police said.

They also found four

AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition in the car. Two people in the car fled in panic. Police did not say whether there were any arrests.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey allocates \$120m dollars for tourism promotion

ANKARA, 27 Dec—Turkey has allocated a 120-million-US-dollar budget to promote its tourism riches in Europe and across the world, local newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing officials from the Culture and Tourism Ministry.

The ministry’s official campaign to promote Turkey’s resorts

would be launched in January, said the report.

Ozgur Ozarslan, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism’s general manager, said that campaigns to promote Turkish tourism have proved to be quite fruitful in attracting more tourists during the last four years.

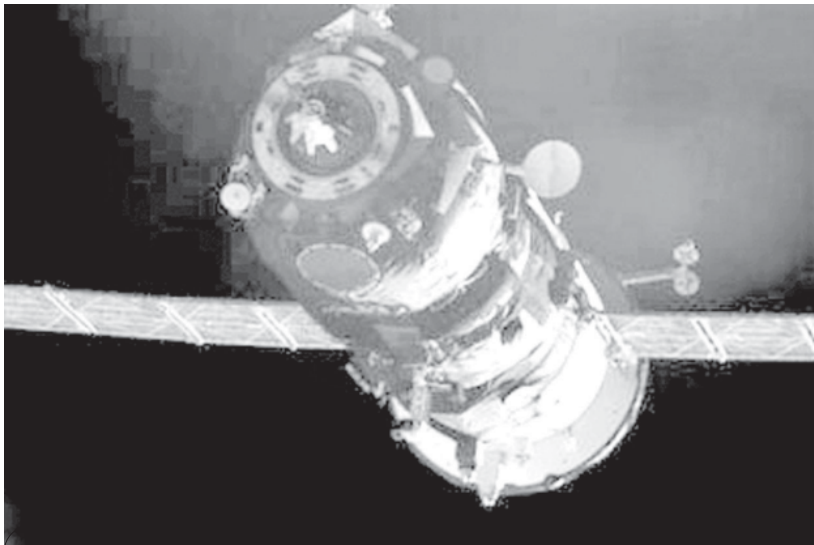
The ministry’s 120-

million-dollar budget to promote Turkey in 2008 would be allocated to 10 separate campaigns in different regions of the world, said Ozarslan, adding that video clip showings, billboards, fairs and Internet-based advertising would all be parts of this year’s promotional campaigns.

MNA/Xinhua

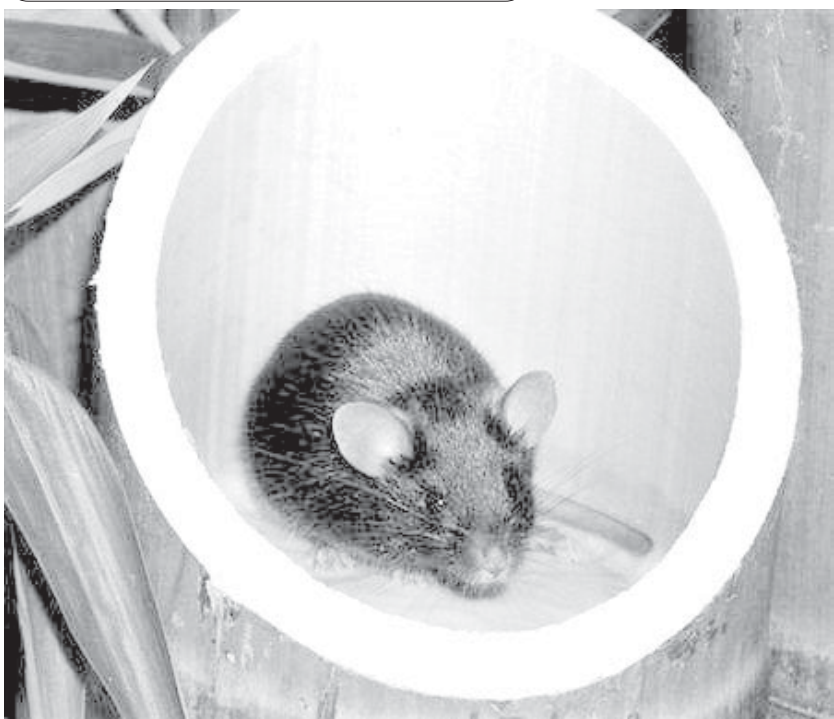


A bulldozer covers slaughtered birds after an outbreak of bird flu in the Egyptian village of Hanout in the Nile Delta, on 25 Dec, 2006. A 25-year-old Egyptian woman has died of bird flu, Egypt’s Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.—INTERNET



An unmanned Russian Progress supply vessel in an undated image courtesy of NASA. An unmanned Progress docked with the orbiting International Space Station (ISS) on Wednesday to deliver fresh food, water, fuel, equipment and holiday presents for the crew.—INTERNET

Hong Kong pop duo Twins shoot Christmas-themed photo album. INTERNET



A mouse sits inside a bamboo stalk in this handout photo.—INTERNET



A guide in a traditional Kimono welcomes foreign tourists at the entrance of Himeji Castle in Himeji, Japan.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



Engineers work on a Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) satellite at the NPO PM applied mechanics institute in the Siberian city of Zheleznogorsk. Russia successfully launched a rocket on Tuesday carrying the last three satellites to complete a navigation system to rival America's GPS.—INTERNET

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Spasskaya tower of the Kremlin is seen through illumination lamps at the Red Square in Moscow.—INTERNET

Russia vows to further trade, eco ties with Libya

Moscow, 26 Dec—The Russian Foreign Ministry pledged on Monday to boost trade and economic relations with Libya, following a visit by its Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"The sides hailed a favourable atmosphere in bilateral relations contributing to their dynamic progress and stated considerable potential for mutually profitable cooperation and interest in realizing it to the fullest," it said in a statement posted on its website.

"In this context, both sides voiced readiness to step up joint efforts, above all in the trade, economic and investment spheres. A solid package of contracts for the realization of joint projects is shaping up," it said.

The two nations also have agreed to deepen interaction on the international arena, particularly in the United Nations Security Council. Libya has obtained a year-long non-permanent membership in the Security Council from 2008 to 2009. —MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 28 December 2007

Privatizations in Turkey total \$30b in 22 years

ANKARA, 27 Dec — Turkish Government has privatized assets worth 29.9 billion US dollars from 1985 to 2007, local newspaper *Today's Zaman* reported on Tuesday, citing the Chamber of Certified Public Accountants of Istanbul.

During the past 18 years, 18.1 billion dollars was collected via block sales while 4.7 billion was collected via plant and asset sales, 5.1 billion via public offerings, 1.2 billion via stock exchange, 4.3 million via sales of

unfinished plants and 565 million via acquisitions, the report said.

It was expected that approximately 15-25 per cent of the remaining public shares of Turk Telekom and a part of public shares of Ziraat Bank and Turkish Airlines (THY) would be offered to the public at the stock

exchange next year.

An income of 11.8 billion dollars was expected through privatizations of Halkbank, the state-owned cigarette manufacturer Tekel, electricity distribution, and transfer of management rights of bridges and highways, the report added. — MNA/Xinhua

Bullied Japanese cheerleader killed himself

TOKYO, 27 Dec—A male cheerleader at a Japanese university killed himself after being bullied by other cheerleaders, media reports said on Wednesday.

An investigation by authorities at Tokyo's Meiji University found violence was rife in the group, the reports said.

Younger members were hit in the face, chased with fireworks and forced to eat grass, the *Asahi* newspaper said.

The dead student, whose name has not been released, was forced to stripnaked and videotaped by senior students, the *Sankei* newspaper reported.

"I just wanted him to

have a good time," the student's weeping father told TV Asahi on Tuesday. "It's so sad."

Besides women cheerleaders, many Japanese colleges have mixed or male cheerleading teams.

In the men's groups, their black uniforms, drums and salutes evoke their roots in the militarist 1920s. Meiji University's male cheerleading squad ceased activities in September after the student committed suicide in July, media said. The university could not be reached for comment.

Bullying has long bedevilled Japan from schoolyards to workplaces. A government survey in November found 125,000 cases of bullying in elementary, middle and high schools in the year to March, but more cases are believed to go unreported. —MNA/Reuters

Triple suicide bombing kill 23 in northern Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq), 26 Dec—A triple suicide bombing struck a crowd of people outside a gas station in the town of Beiji in Salahudin Province on Tuesday morning, killing up to 23 people and wounding 77 others, a provincial police source said.

"A suicide bomber drove his blue Toyota Crown saloon car, rigged with explosives, into a truck loaded with cooking gas cylinders outside a gas station in the al-Nafut District in the oil refinery town of Beiji, 200 kilometres north of Baghdad," Colonel Hassan Ahmad from the provincial police operations office told *Xinhua*. The powerful blast was followed by several secondary explosions when the cylinders caught fire, he said.

Meanwhile, two more suicide bombers wearing explosive-vests blew themselves up among a crowd of people who were queuing outside the gas station to buy cooking gas, Ahmad said.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal resumes search for missing in bridge collapse

KATHMANDU, 27 Dec—Rescuers searched on Wednesday for scores of people missing after a suspension bridge collapsed into a river in west Nepal, killing at least 15 people, mostly women and children, police said.

The iron bridge's pillars gave way on Tuesday under the weight of between 400 and 500 pedestrians crossing the Bheri River on their way to a religious festival, officials said. Many survivors were pulled out of the river by Army and police rescuers on Tuesday and many others swam to safety after the accident near Chhinchu Village, 320 kilometres (200 miles) west of Kathmandu, officials said.

At least 30 people have

been taken to hospital, some with broken bones, they said. Five are in critical condition and have been brought to Kathmandu by Army helicopters for treatment.

"Hundreds of Army and police search and rescue personnel armed with

communication equipment, ropes, life jackets, rubber tubes and sticks, as well as health workers, have been sent to look for survivors," said Bharat Bahadur GC, the region's top police officer overseeing the search operation.—MNA/Reuters

DRIVE WITH CARE



The south Pars gas field in Asaluyeh, July 2007. Iran and Malaysia on Wednesday signed a multi-billion dollar contract to develop two offshore Iranian gas fields.—INTERNET

Lung cancer cells' survival gene seen as drug target

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec— When a key gene called 14-3-3zeta is silenced, lung cancer cells cannot survive on their own, US researchers said on Tuesday.

Lung cancer, one of the deadliest forms of cancer, "appears to carry this specific weakness," said researchers from Emory University in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). The gene is a potential target for selective anti-cancer drugs. Lung cancer kills more Americans annually than any other type of malignancy, according to the US National Cancer Institute.

Yet treatment options

are very limited. Emory researchers chose to focus on the gene 14-3-3zeta because it is activated in many lung tumours. In addition, recent research elsewhere shows that survival of lung cancer patients is worse if the gene is on overdrive in their tumours. In their new study, researchers used a technique called RNA interference to selectively silence the 14-3-3zeta gene. They found that when 14-3-3zeta is turned off, lung cancer cells become less

able to form new tumour colonies in a laboratory test.

Further experiments showed that 14-3-3zeta regulates a set of proteins called the Bcl2 family that control programmed cell death, and its absence upsets the balance within the family. The finding has implications beyond lung cancer, because 14-3-3zeta is also activated in other forms of cancer such as breast and oral, the authors notes.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Indian anti-terror military training successful

KUNMING, 26 Dec— The first-ever Sino-Indian joint anti-terrorism military training was successful, a senior Chinese military official said here on Tuesday.

During the five-day military training, soldiers from Chinese and Indian armies treated each other with sincerity, learned from each other, and demonstrated their special skills and strong anti-terror attainment, said Lieutenant General Ma Xiaotian, head of the

Chinese military observer delegation.

Ma, also deputy chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, made the remarks at a Press conference following the conclusion of the joint manoeuvre in this capital city of the southwestern Yunnan Province.

The training, code-named "Hand-in-Hand 2007", helped improve the troops' anti-terror combat ability and will play an active role in enhancing

mutual understanding and trust and deepening exchanges and cooperation in defence field between the two sides, Ma said. —MNA/Xinhua

Paris Hilton (L) and her sister Nicky pose at a promotional event for Japan's fashion brand Samantha Thavasa's handbags and accessories.

The Hilton sisters' potential inheritance dramatically diminished after their grandfather Barron Hilton announced plans on 26 Dec, 2007 to donate 97 percent of his \$2.3 billion fortune to charity.—INTERNET



Philippines vows to crack down on illegal "tourist workers"

MANILA, 27 Dec — The immigration authorities of the Philippines on Wednesday pledged to rein in the growing trend of Filipinos illegally working abroad on "tourist visas", especially in Singapore, Dubai of United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong.

"We have to make sure that our Filipino workers are protected from possible abuse and exploitation in foreign

lands," an on-line report of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* quoted Marcelino Libanan Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, as saying.

A "tourist worker" is one who goes abroad as a tourist but actually has the intention of working in his or her country of destination, Libanan said, adding that the practice is aimed to circumvent the government requirement of securing clearance from

the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), he said.

Libanan also said a stricter procedure would be devised to ensure no "tourist workers" that could sneak out of the country. About 300 of the 442 passengers who were barred from leaving the country since June were suspected "tourist workers", he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentina destroys 70,000 guns under disarmament plan

Buenos Aires, 27 Dec — The Argentine Government has destroyed 70,000 guns collected from civilians as part of the National Voluntary Gun Handover Plan, local media reported on Wednesday.

Andres Meiszner, director of the National Arms Register with the Justice Ministry, said the

plan offered up to 150 US dollars per gun in reward and guaranteed the anonymity for those who handed over the guns, starting from July 10.

He said that authorities had received on average 500 guns a day, half being just registered or in active use, together with a total of 50,000 rounds of

ammunition.

The government plans to spend 10 million Argentine pesos (3.18 million US dollars) on the plan in 2008.

Like many Latin Americans, Argentines have traditionally used guns for hunting and property defending while guns can be bought without a licence at gun shops.

There are 1.2 million registered firearms in the country by official count with an estimated same amount of unregistered guns.

Gun accidents have been a leading cause of death in Argentina, killing a total of 32,000 people since 1997.

The disarmament plan was triggered by the Belgrano Shooter case in July 2006, when 27-year-old schizophrenic Martin Rios shot five strangers in the capital's suburb Belgrano, killing 18-year-old student Alfredo Marcenac.

MNA/Xinhua



The world's largest awareness ribbon made of flowers is seen from above during the UAE leg of the Avon Walk around the world for Breast Cancer Awareness walkathon in Zaabeel park in Dubai on 25 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Study says women with short legs face liver damage

BEIJING, 26 Dec— The shorter a woman's legs, the more likely she is to have liver damage, with both most likely the result of diet or other factors early in life, according to British researchers.

The findings of study of 3,600 women dovetailed with other studies linking leg length with diabetes and heart disease, Abigail

Fraser of the University of Bristol and colleagues said.

"Adult liver function is affected by early life environmental exposures as reflected in leg length, and this may suggest common childhood influences on liver development and adult risk of diabetes and coronary heart disease," they wrote.

Fraser's team looked at women aged 60 to 79 who were taking part in a larger health study.

They measured their leg length as compared to trunk length and also measured four liver enzymes: alanine aminotransferase, gamma-glutamyltransferase, aspartate transaminase and alkaline phosphatase.

Internet

SPORTS

Chelsea, Villa share eight as 3 sent off

LONDON, 27 Dec — Aston Villa grabbed a 4-4 draw at Chelsea on Wednesday as the Premier League's holiday action kicked off with three red cards and two penalties in an astonishing clash at Stamford Bridge.

Gareth Barry converted a last-minute penalty for Villa who had led 2-0 after 44 minutes thanks to two Shaun Maloney goals. Andriy Shevchenko scored twice for Chelsea who had Ricardo Carvalho and Ashley Cole sent off.

Villa defender Zat Knight was red-carded just before halftime after a clumsy foul on Michael Ballack that sparked Chelsea's comeback from the penalty spot.

There were goals galore and another red card at White Hart Lane where Robbie Keane and Tom Huddlestone both hit two in Tottenham Hotspur's 5-1 drubbing of struggling Fulham who had Moritz Volz sent off.

In the day's other early kickoff West Ham United were held 1-1 at home by Reading who also ended the match with 10 men.

Premier League leaders Arsenal play at Portsmouth later while second-placed Manchester United travel to Sunderland. — MNA/Reuters



United go top as Arsenal, Chelsea drop points

LONDON, 27 Dec — Manchester United went top of the Premier League after a 4-0 romp at Sunderland on Wednesday with Arsenal and Chelsea dropping points.

Arsenal, who began the day in first place, were held 0-0 in a late kickoff at Portsmouth while third-placed Chelsea were involved in an astonishing 4-4 battle with Aston Villa.

Champions United were a class above hapless Sunderland, two goals from Louis Saha and one each by Wayne Rooney and the league's leading scorer Cristiano Ronaldo allowing them to go above Arsenal with 45 points at the season's halfway stage.

The holiday fireworks were at Stamford Bridge where Gareth Barry's last-gasp penalty gave 10-man Villa a deserved share of the spoils against a Chelsea side who had Ricardo Carvalho and Ashley Cole sent off.

Chelsea's Michael Ballack (L) challenges Aston Villa's Martin Laursen during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 26 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Chelsea have 38 points, two more than Liverpool who went fourth after a late goal from captain Steven Gerrard earned a 2-1 victory at bottom club Derby County.

Everton stayed in touch with the top four by beating Bolton Wanderers 2-0 at Goodison Park.

United manager Alex Ferguson rested a few of his first teamers against Sunderland but United were still too good and Rooney opened the scoring after 20 minutes.

Saha's volley and a Ronaldo free kick made it 3-0 before halftime and Saha completed the rout with a late spot kick.

At the bottom Birmingham City gave themselves some breathing space with 3-0 victory over fellow strugglers Middlesbrough and Wigan Athletic moved out of the drop zone with a 1-0 defeat of inconsistent Newcastle United. — MNA/Reuters



Sunderland's Grant Leadbitter (R) challenges Manchester United's Wayne Rooney during their English Premier League soccer match at The Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England, on 26 Dec, 2007. Manchester United beat Sunderland 4-0 for its fifth straight win in the Premier League on Wednesday. —INTERNET

Boca Juniors name low profile Ischia as new coach

BUENOS AIRES, 27 Dec — South American champions Boca Juniors named surprise choice Carlos Ischia as their new coach on Wednesday.

The appointment by Argentina's biggest club was a dramatic turnaround in fortunes for Ischia, who two months ago quit Rosario Central with the team at the bottom of the Apertura championship.

"The happiness on my

face says everything," Ischia told a news conference as he was officially presented by club president Pedro Pompilio.

"It's an enormous satisfaction to return to this club."

Ischia was previously assistant to Carlos Bianchi at Boca between 1998 and 2001, when the club enjoyed an unprecedented run of success.

But the 51-year-old has relatively little experience as a coach in his own right. He has previously coached middle-ranking clubs Velez Sarsfield, Gimnasia-La Plata and Rosario Central in Argentina and Atletico Junior in Colombia.

Ischia replaced Miguel Angel Russo, who resigned last week following the 4-2 defeat to AC Milan in the Club World Cup final in Japan.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Fernando Torres (L) scores past Derby County's Lewis Price (C) during their English Premier League soccer match at Pride Park in Derby, central England, on 26 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Feyenoord go top as Groningen sink PSV 2-1

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 27 Dec — Roy Makaay struck twice to inspire Feyenoord to a 2-0 derby victory over Sparta Rotterdam that lifted them over PSV Eindhoven into first place in the Dutch League on Wednesday.

Feyenoord are top with 35 points from 16 matches, two points above PSV who lost 2-1 at Groningen. Ajax Amsterdam, third on 31 points, host Twente Enschede on Thursday. Groningen are fourth with 30 points after 17 matches.

Makaay intercepted a pass from Nourdin Boukhari after four minutes to open the scoring and settled the match from close range from a pass by Andwele Slory with 16 minutes remaining.

Brazilian full back Alcides put PSV ahead after 21 minutes but Rasmus Lindgren equalized on the hour with a well-placed shot.

Lindgren combined

with Marcus Berg 12 minutes from time and Berg outplayed his marker and beat goalkeeper Gomes at the near post to seal the victory.

MNA/Reuters



New York Knicks forward David Lee (R) shoots the ball around Orlando Magic centre Dwight Howard (L) during the second half of NBA basketball action in Orlando, Florida, on 26 Dec, 2007. The Magic beat the Knicks 110-96. —INTERNET

Celtic return to top with 2-0 win at Dundee Utd

GLASGOW, 27 Dec — Celtic returned to the top of the Scottish Premier League with a 2-0 win at Dundee United thanks to second half goals from Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink and Stephen McManus.

They had surrendered first place for an hour after city rivals Rangers beat Motherwell 3-1 earlier on Wednesday.

Celtic moved to 40 points from 19 games with Rangers on 38 from 17.

Dutch striker Vennegoor of Hesselink headed home a corner from Paul Hartley from six metres in the 68th minute and defender McManus bundled in the second goal six minutes later following a Hartley free kick into the penalty area.

At Rangers, French striker Daniel

Cousin put the home side in front four minutes from the interval with a 15-metre shot following a cut-back by defender Steven Whittaker. Motherwell levelled with a Paul Quinn header from six metres on 64 minutes after a corner by Ross McCormack to the back post.

Six minutes later Rangers went 2-1 ahead when a Charlie Adam cross was deflected into his own net by Motherwell defender Jim Paterson.

Substitute striker Kris Boyd rammed home the third in stoppage time to secure the win and take Rangers top on 38 points from 17 games.

MNA/Reuters

Two Spanish aid workers abducted in N Somalia

BOSASSO (Somalia), 27 Dec — Gunmen kidnapped two Spanish aid workers with the medical charity Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in the north Somalia Region of Puntland on Wednesday, their driver and a local official said.

"I was driving the two Spanish women to the local hospital, then six men armed with guns approached me, blocking the road," the Somali driver, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

"They hit me very badly and kidnapped the women in their car."

The abduction in Bosasso port came two days after gunmen in Puntland released French journalist Gwen Le Gouil, whom they

kidnapped and held for eight days demanding 80,000 US dollars in ransom.

Known for its relative stability compared with chaotic south Somalia, Puntland has, however, become increasingly associated with kidnappings, hijackings and piracy.

Somali kidnappers are known to treat their captives well and almost never kill them, viewing them as an investment on which they expect a return in the form of ransom.

Local authorities said they were gathering information.

"We heard that two Spanish women working for MSF have been abducted. We are investigating," the region's deputy governor, Yusuf Mumin Bidde, told Reuters.

Foreigners in Somalia often run foul of local clans by failing to seek permission to travel through their territories.

MNA/Reuters

Cyprus rewards widow of heroic

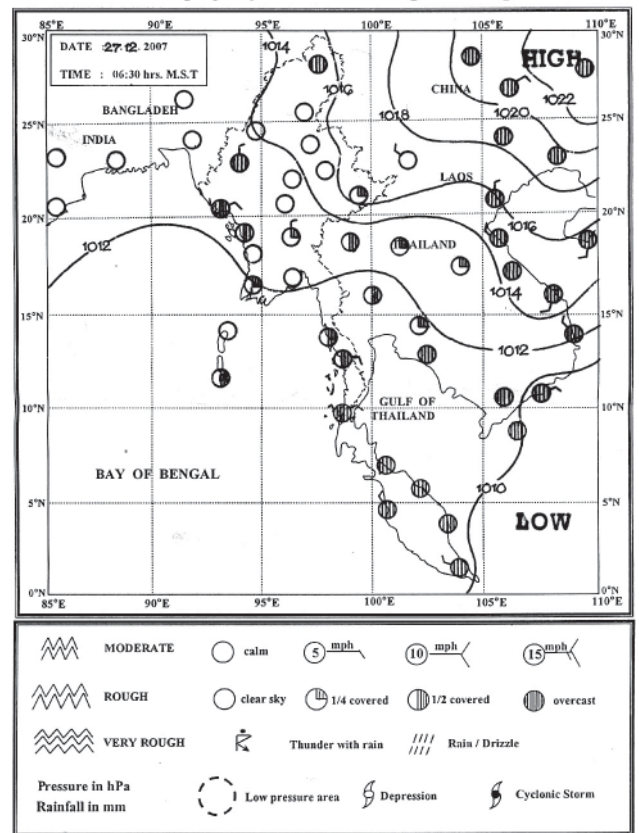
NICOSIA, 27 Dec — The widow of a 46-year-old man, who was gunned down when chasing a bank robber, has received 120,000 Cypriot pounds (about 300,000 US dollars) from the government in recognition of his valour.

Justice Minister Sophoclis Sophocleous described the deceased Iacovos Kyriacou as a "hero", saying the financial assistance was a "token of appreciation for Iacovos' act", local media reported on Tuesday.

The minister gave two 60,000-pound checks to Kyriacou's widow and two kids, one for covering the family's living expenses and the other for the children's education. Kyriacou was inside a Bank of Cyprus branch in the southern city of Larnaca last May when he saw a masked man wielding a sawn-off shotgun.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 27 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Pinlaung (1°C), Namhsam and Heho (2°C) each and Mogok (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-12-2007 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 27-12-2007 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 27-12-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 26-12-2007 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 27-12-2007 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 (6) mph from East at (15:30) hours MST on 26-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions 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 continuation of decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 28-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-12-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Mauritania hunts killers of 4 French tourists

NOUAKCHOTT, 27 Dec — Mauritanian police detained several suspects and scoured the south of the Saharan country on Tuesday in a hunt for three gunmen who killed four picnicking French tourists in a Christmas Eve attack, officials said.

Authorities initially said robbery appeared to be the motive behind Monday's shooting at Aleg, 250 kilometres (160 miles) southeast of the capital Nouakchott, in which turbaned gunmen armed with automatic rifles killed three members of a family and a friend. A fifth member of the French group was injured and survived.

Police had not ruled out the possibility the attack was the work of Islamic

militants seeking to carry out a high-profile strike on Europeans at Christmas, 12 days before the January start of the Lisbon-Dakar rally that will cross Mauritania.

The head of the French family attacked, a man in his seventies, was shot in the leg and was taken to neighbouring Senegal for treatment. His two adult sons, his brother and a family friend were killed.

"I think this was an attack by bandits because it seems they were following the French when they went to a bank (in Aleg) to change 50 euros," the local prefect of the Brakna region, Sidi Mouloud Ould Brahim, told Radio France International (RFI).

MNA/Reuters



Friday, 28 December

View on today

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am**
- 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိတာ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတာ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသီရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်)၊ ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:00 am**
- 6. The mirror images of the musical oldies

- 8:10 am**
- 7. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**
- 8. ဖောင်းကတောရေလှောင်တစ်
- 8:20 am**
- 9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
- 10. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 11. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:05 pm**
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:20 pm**
- 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု)(ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 4:35 pm**
- 4. Song of national races
- 4:50 pm**
- 5. "ဆုံဆည်းခွင့်" (မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်ဖိုးသောကြာ၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ ချစ်သူဝေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်(ဖီးနစ်))

- 5:05 pm**
- 6. Song of yesteryears
- 5:20 pm**
- 7. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် လွတ်လပ်ရေး နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:30 pm**
- 8. ဘာသာစကားသင်ကြားလေ့လာ တက္ကသိုလ်မှာ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 5:45 pm**
- 9. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာခွန်ရှည် ကြာရှည်မာစေမှု ဒီ.ရှေ့.ရှု "ပြောင်းလဲသစ်လွင်ယနေ့ ခေတ်ပညာရေးအစီအစဉ်"
- 6:00 pm**
- 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
- 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
- 12. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညာဏ်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm**
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရေသူမလေးတတိယချစ်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)
- 8:00 pm**
- 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 18. The next day's programme



Friday, 28 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: -Fame
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music -Good feeling
- 8:50 am** National news/ Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -I need a hero
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music -Moving around
- 1:30 pm** News/ Slogan
- 1:40pm** Lunch time music -Love of my life -What's up
- 9:00pm** W O M
- 9:15pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Music at your request -That's love -Without you
- 9:45 pm** News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

People's Desire

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

Health Minister visits Yangon General Hospital, Central Women's Hospital

YANGON, 27 Dec— Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, inspected the X-ray machine, ultrasound machine, MRI machine, angiogram machine and CT-Scan machine at the X-ray Unit of Yangon General Hospital this morning.

The minister and party inspected the medical equipment at the Musculoskeletal Science Unit and maintenance of the medical equipment at the Biomedical Workshop.

Next, they inspected the Gastroenterological X-ray machine used for the inpatient wards and the Liver Unit. They also visited the blood-related diseases unit.

They inspected tasks for rehabilitation of patients and the medical equipment at the Physio



Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint visits Yangon General Hospital.

MNA

Therapy Unit. At the Dermatitis Unit, the minister heard a report by Specialist Dr Khaing Khaing Zaw on treatments to the patients and daily patient arrivals at the Outpatient Department. The minister at-

tended to the needs.

Next, the minister and party inspected the baby patients room, blood transfusion room, baby care room and other rooms, and nurturing of newly-born babies at the newly-born babies intensive care unit

in the Central Women's Hospital. The minister held a meeting with professor heads of department at the CME meeting hall of Gynecological Ward (1) and fulfilled the requirements.

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.

INSIDE

In the open season, members of the Fire Service and auxiliary fire brigades have to speed up fire preventive measures ward-wise and village-wise.

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PERSPECTIVES

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