

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 30 December, 2007

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



Safeguard independence and sovereignty

The young generation born as independent citizens who are well convinced of the value and taste of independence, are duty bound to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the motherland through the might of unity and harmony.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From message sent on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day)

500 KVA paddy husk-fired generator, diesel-fired generator launched in Taungup

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein and Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended the launch of a 500 KVA paddy husk-fired generator and a diesel-fired generator at the Electrical Engineer's Office of Taungup Township, Thandwe District, Rakhine State, on 22 December.

The commander delivered a speech on the occasion.

(See page 10)

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Shein and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects 500 KVA paddy husk-fired generator and diesel-fired generator.—MNA



SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Article

Independence and bounden duty of Myanmar people

Independence and sovereignty are two of a nation's characteristics the world legal experts and political scientists have standardized.



Greater Opportunities for Pursuing Education



POEM

Myanmar Spirit

Myanmar spirit is that
Let alone coveting other's
flower
From a flowerbed
To pick and wear without
owner's consent

CARTOON



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 December, 2007

Realize objectives of Defence Services Medical Corps

The Graduation Parade of the 9th Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of DSMA in Yangon the other day, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his speech, the Senior General said, "Comrades, you will become military medical officers with physical strength and mental prowess who are capable of upholding Our Three Main National Causes in accordance with the objectives of the Defence Services Medical Academy only if you are outstanding in the practice of medicine with three capabilities. So, you have to continue to work hard with tenacity to become competent officers of the Defence Services Medical Corps."

The Defence Services Medical Academy produces qualified medical officers with physical strength and mental prowess for the Tatmadaw. The newly-graduated cadets have become medical servicemen, so they have to provide health care with goodwill and kindness so as to foster the health, fitness and combat capability of every Tatmadaw member.

The newly-graduated cadets have studied medical science and undergone military training and training in military leadership at the level of an infantry platoon commander. So, they are to take charge of national defence duties bravely. In addition, they have to enhance their leadership skills and inculcate their subordinates with good morale and discipline.

What is the most important for man is longevity with no diseases. Thus, it is believed that the newly-graduated cadets of the Defence Services Medical Academy, outstanding medical doctors, will throw themselves to the drive for uplift of the health and fitness standard of the entire people, while in pursuit of the objectives of the Defence Services Medical Corps.

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

Foreign Minister signs Book of Condolences for demise of former PM of Pakistan



Minister U Nyan Win signs the Book of Condolences opened for the demise of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan.—MNA

YANGON, 29 Dec — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win signed the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, No A-4, Diplomatic Quarters, Pyay Road, at 2.30 pm,

today opened for the demise of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan on 27 December 2007. — MNA

Animal Disease Control Project Phase-II inked

YANGON, 29 Dec — A ceremony to sign an agreement on the JICA Animal Disease Control Project Phase-II between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was held at the hall of LBVD in Insein Township this morning.

Afterwards, Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of LBVD and Resident Representative Ms Michiko Umezaki of JICA signed the agreement.

According to the agreement, JICA will provide aids worth ¥ 102 million to the department for setting up laboratories, exchanging information for disease control and providing refresher courses joining hands with international organizations such as OIE, FAO, ASEAN, USAID, AusAID and EU to be able to contribute toward infection control of five animal diseases including avian influenza in Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. —MNA

Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt and Resident Representative Ms Michiko Umezaki of JICA sign agreement on animal disease control project phase-II.—MNA

Prevention against DHF

YANGON, 29 Dec — As part of mass activities, the preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever was carried out in Hlinethaya Township on 26 December.

Accompanied by officials, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin heard reports on infection of DHF in Hlinethaya Township and other townships of Yangon Division and progress of taking preventive measures



against DHF.

Similar mass activities for prevention against DHF were held in Botahtaung, Thakayta, Dawbon and Pabedan Townships on the same day. —MNA

Development of cricket in Myanmar coordinated

YANGON, 29 Dec — A coordination meeting on the development of cricket sport in Myanmar

was held at the office of Myanmar Cricket Federation at Aung San Stadium here yesterday. It was attended by Cricket Development Officer of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Mr Mohammed Aminul Islam, President of MCF U Nyunt Win, Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw and executives.

The president of MCF made an address and those present held discussions on matters needed for the development of cricket in Myanmar.

President of MCF U Nyunt Win addresses meeting on development of cricket in Myanmar.

MCF

MNA



နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

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

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်
(၃၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလအတွက်
(၁၃-၁-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့နှင့် (၂၇-၁-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DPRK slams hostile US policy

PYONGYANG, 28 Dec — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday accused the United States of continuing its hostile policy against it, saying it is the main factor behind the escalating tension on the Korean Peninsula.

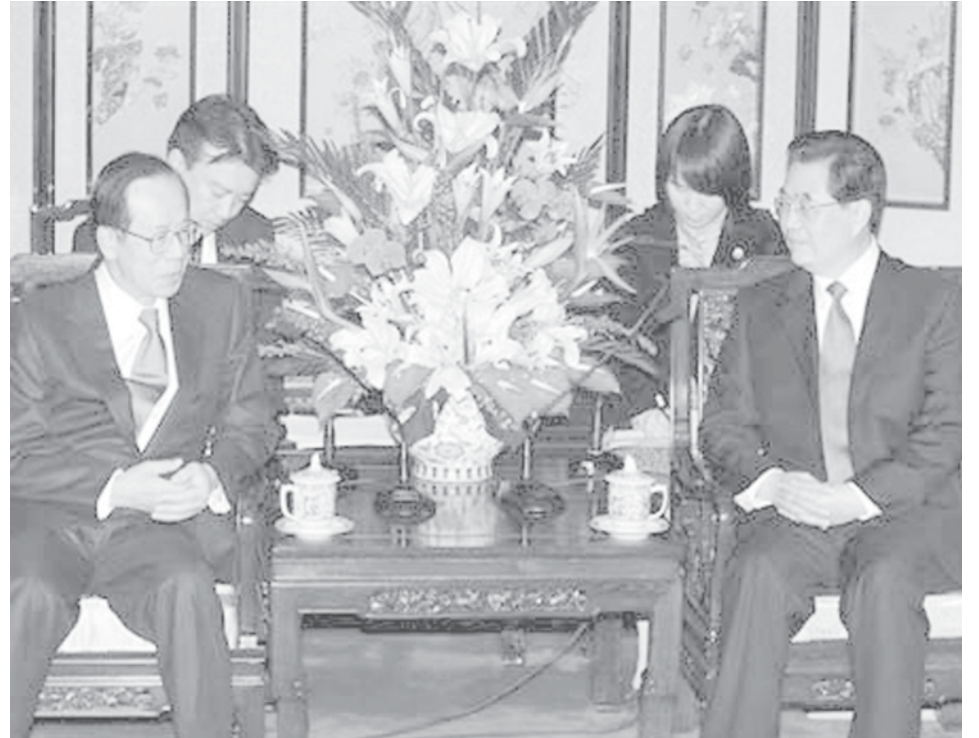
“Joint military

exercises staged in South Korea by the US bellicose forces... showed that there is no change in the US hostile policy toward the DPRK,” said the leading official newspaper *Rodong Sinmun*.

The DPRK also lashed out at the United States for speeding up the arms

buildup in South Korea and surrounding nations.

“The US bellicose forces” policy of aggression against the DPRK is the root cause of ruining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and a source of aggravation of tension and the outbreak of war” it added.—MNA/Xinhua



China and Japan pledged on Friday to build on their rapidly warming ties, as Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda (L) meets Chinese President Hu Jintao (R), but a dispute over maritime gas fields remained unresolved. —INTERNET



A female trainee pilot of the China Air Force undergoes flight training in this undated photo.—INTERNET

PPP inches closer to forming Govt

BANGKOK, 29 Dec — The political party backing ousted Thai PM Thaksin Shinawatra responded positively on

Friday to pre-conditions laid down by two smaller parties to form a coalition government. “PPP believes no one

and no political party should interfere with any stage of the judicial process,” the party said in a statement. “No Thai is above the law.”

PPP Secretary-General Surapong Suebwoonglee told reporters on Friday his party would need to hold talks with Chart Thai and Peua Pandin about forming a coalition.

MNA/Reuters

organizers of this crime are found and punished accordingly.”

Bhutto was killed in a gun and bomb attack as she left a rally ahead of an election due on 8 January.

“We hope that the

MNA/Reuters

Two European diplomats expelled by Afghanistan

LONDON, 29 Dec — The Afghan Government has expelled two European diplomats accused of holding unauthorized meetings with Taleban, according to a BBC report Thursday.

Mervyn Patterson, a high-ranking British UN employee and Irish Michael Semple, the acting head of the EU mission in Afghanistan, were accused of posing a threat to national security during a visit to Helmand Province. The two were charged with meeting with Taleban militants during that trip and were told to leave the country. —MNA/Xinhua

Bhutto killing worries Pakistan investors, markets

LONDON, 29 Dec — Benazir Bhutto's killing will boost perceived risk in nuclear-armed Pakistan, analysts warned on Thursday, but some said it was not in itself surprising enough to substantially change

investor sentiment.

News of her assassination in a suicide gun and bomb attack outside a political rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi sent global gold and oil prices higher, also unsettling global

foreign exchange markets.

“The killing of Bhutto will likely lead to further political and social instability in Pakistan and across the subcontinent,” Swiss investment bank UBS said in a research note.—MNA/Reuters

Cars ride along the newly built bridge across the Moskva River near Serebryanny Bor, an island that includes Moscow's most popular beaches, in the western outskirts of the Russian capital, on 27 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Pakistani sectarian clashes kill about 40 tribesmen

PARACHINAR (Pakistan), 28 Dec — Pakistani authorities tried on Thursday to get warring Sunni and Shia Pashtun tribes to settle their differences after five days of clashes that have killed about 40 people, officials said.

About 150 people have been killed in the Kurram tribal region bordering Afghanistan since mid-

November, fuelling volatility along the frontier where pro-Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants are battling security forces.

The fighting had died down and the two sides had even agreed to a truce but it flared again at the weekend. Authorities said they were hoping peace could be restored at a meeting of tribal elders, known as a jirga. “We have called a

jirga, we're trying to defuse the situation,” said political administrator Zahir-ul-Islam.

Sectarian violence has bedevilled Pakistan since the 1980s and Kurram has a long history of such clashes. Most of the ethnic Pashtun tribesmen in Kurram are Shiites, although most Pashtuns on both sides of the border are Sunnis. —MNA/Reuters



Russia helping Iran build up air defence

MOSCOW, 28 Dec — Russia is assisting Iran to strengthen the country's air defence capability, Russia's deputy foreign minister told reporters on Thursday.

"I know we are assisting in work to reinforce Iran's air defence systems," Alexander Losy-

kov was quoted by the *RIA Novosti* news agency as saying. "I have no concrete information on the issue and can make no comment whatsoever on the type of (military) hardware," he said.

Iranian Defence Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said Tehran has

signed a contract with Russia on Tuesday for the delivery of the advanced S-300 air defense missile systems, Iran's *Fars News Agency* said on Wednesday. The minister provided no details of the deal or any timeline for the delivery of the system.

MNA/Xinhua

Policeman dies after attending domestic incident

LONDON, 28 Dec — A man in his 30s has been arrested for murder after a police officer died attending a domestic incident in northwest London, Scotland Yard said on Thursday.

The death happened when police were called to a house in Wembley early on Wednesday evening.

A man was initially arrested for assaulting a police officer but a different officer subsequently collapsed outside the address, police said.

The *Daily Mirror* said the dead man had been pushed down stairs while

trying to break up a family row.

He was taken to hospital in north London where he was pronounced dead.

A post mortem on the 48-year-old was being held on Thursday. No further details were immediately available.

MNA/Reuters



Tourists climb the stairs of Phnom Bakheng temple to see the sunset near the Temple of Angkor near Siem Reap, Cambodia, recently. — INTERNET



Elephant falls from truck, kills circus worker

SYDNEY, 28 Dec — An elephant toppled out of a truck and killed a circus worker in Australia on Thursday, police said.

"The man was killed, crushed to death, while the elephant was being offloaded from a truck," a spokeswoman for the New South Wales police department said.

Police said they had no other details of the incident, which occurred on the grounds of a circus in the seaside community of Yamba, about 700 kilometres (435 miles) north of Sydney. The victim had been the handler of the elephant, named Anna, for two years, local television reported. — MNA/Reuters

165 kilos pure heroin seized in eastern Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 28 Dec — A total of 165 kilograms of pure heroin was seized during an operation staged by Turkish security forces in eastern Turkey linking neighboring Iran, local sources told *Xinhua* on Thursday.

The sources said that Turkish security forces seized the heroin in Van province, which is valued as nearly 4.2 million US dollars, claimed to linking to the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

MNA/Xinhua

35 aftershocks recorded after quake in Ankara

ANKARA, 28 Dec — A total of 35 aftershocks was recorded following the earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale in Ankara on Thursday dawn, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported Thursday. The quake, centering on Bala town, was also felt in Ankara and surrounding provinces of Cankiri, Kirikkale and Yozgat, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian killed by robbers in east Kenya

NAIROBI, 28 Dec — An Italian was killed on Tuesday by robbers in northeast Kenya's Malindi town, *Kenya News Agency* reported on Wednesday.

Police said the thugs killed the man at the gate of Peponi Villas in the outskirts of the town as the Italian was driving home with his wife.

The robbers ransacked them and stole a wrist watch and a mobile phone before one of them shot the man in the thigh. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai EC soon to organize senatorial election

BANGKOK, 29 Dec — Thailand's Election Commission (EC) has earmarked 1.8 billion baht (about 529.4 million US dollars) to organize the senatorial election and selection process, set in early next year, EC secretary general Suthiphol Haveechaigarn said on Thursday. "The preparations will focus on publicity to raise awareness about the new electoral system and the nomination process for senatorial candidates," Suthiphol was quoted by news network *The Nation* as saying.

The Constitution 2007 stipulates that the 150-seat Senate will be produced through two different kinds of procedure: 76 senators will be elected in the 76 provinces all around the country, each seat for one

province; the other 74 will be appointed by a selection panel. For the appointed seats, professional groups will submit the names of their candidates on 13 to 17 January at the EC headquarters in Bangkok.

A EC-appointed panel

will vet the candidates' credentials before forwarding the names to the seven-member selection committee headed by Constitution Tribunal president Virat Limvichai, to appoint 74 for the job.

MNA/Xinhua

Yu Hongjun (1st R), Chinese Ambassador to Uzbekistan, shows a Chinese painting to visitors during a Chinese painting exhibition in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 26 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET



A camel keeper gets stuck in the middle of camels after the start of a race at the Sweihan camel race track, about 100 kms south of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 28 Dec, 2007. — INTERNET



Traders blow horns at the close of trade during the last business day for the year at the Philippine stock exchange in Makati City, Metro Manila on 28 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

UK Christmas sales up 2.4% year on year

LONDON, 29 Dec—British retail sales in the runup to Christmas rose a seasonally-adjusted 2.4 per cent compared to a year ago, according to data from credit card company MasterCard on Thursday.

The figures suggest that Christmas spending has not been as bad as some analysts had feared given a deteriorating outlook for the economy and as the global lending squeeze takes its toll on consumer confidence.

“An upsurge in electronics sales helped drive Christmas spending, as did strong year-to-year gains from grocery stores and personal care retailers,” MasterCard said in a

statement.

“Sales at clothing retailers and department stores, however, continued to lag behind the pace of

the rest of retail spending.

The figures cover the 31 days before Christmas day.

MNA/Reuters

India’s APEC membership may be years away

SINGAPORE, 28 Dec—India is increasingly important to Asia and the Pacific, but its membership in APEC, the main group pursuing regional free trade and development, is likely to still be years away, APEC’s executive director said on Wednesday.

APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, has 21 member economies

accounting for more than a third of the world’s population and 46 per cent of world trade volume, but India, despite its robust and growing economy, is not among them.

“You cannot talk about trade in Asia-Pacific if you do not talk about India,” Juan Capunay, who recently took up the top managerial post of APEC, told Reuters in an interview at the group’s

Singapore headquarters.

While Indian membership would be “convenient” for APEC, it “will have to negotiate membership according to World Trade Organization regulations” and gain consensus support from existing members, a process that would likely take several years and also depend on Doha global trade talks, Capunay said.

MNA/Reuters

China’s SAIC Motor, Nanjing Auto announce merger

BEIJING, 28 Dec—Top Chinese car maker SAIC Motor Corp and smaller rival Nanjing Automobile Group announced a long-expected merger on Wednesday, creating a national car champion that aims to rival big multinationals.

Separately, Italy’s Fiat said it had agreed to sell its 50 per cent stake in its loss-making passenger car venture with Nanjing Auto to the Chinese firm, ending a long-strained relationship.

SAIC Motor will pay 2.095 billion yuan (285.7 million US dollars) for the vehicle and core auto parts operations of Nanjing Auto, owner of the classic MG Rover brand, the Chinese firms’ parent companies said in a joint statement. Nanjing Auto’s

parent company, Yuejin, will in return get 320 million shares in SAIC Motor, the statement

added, equal to 4.9 per cent of the Shanghai-listed firm’s total shares.

MNA/Reuters



Euro and US 10 dollar notes. The euro crossed 1.47 dollars Friday amid persistent speculation that poor US economic data could force the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in 2008, dealers said.—INTERNET

Petrobras breaks oil production record on X’mas Day

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Dec—Brazilian state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras announced on Wednesday that it set a new daily oil production record on 25 December. The production of 2.238 million barrels of oil on Christmas day exceeded Brazil’s average daily oil consumption of two million barrels. The company’s previous record was 1.912 million barrels, set on 23 October, 2006. The new achievement was ascribed to the building of six production platforms in 2007, which added a total of 590,000 barrels a day to Petrobras’ maximum production capacity.—MNA/Xinhua

Gas pipeline gets 16b yuan boost

BEIJING, 29 Dec.—PetroChina Co Ltd, the listed arm of China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), and another CNPC subsidiary will invest a combined 16 billion yuan to build a gas pipeline from China to Turkmenistan

“PetroChina and China National Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Corp will each inject 8 billion yuan in cash into CNPC Exploration and Development Co Ltd,” the company said in a



PetroChina

statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

CNPC Exploration and Development is cooperating with other companies

to build a pipeline to transport natural gas purchased by China from Turkmenistan.

CNPC said in August the pipeline would be designed to take 30 billion cubic meters of gas a year. The total project investment is estimated at \$7.31 billion.

Turkmenistan has an estimated 23.1 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves, and plans to produce up to 240 billion cubic meters a year, according to local media.

Internet



The Alitalia building with logo is pictured in Rome. Air France-KLM, the world’s largest airline by revenues, came a step closer Friday to controlling the near-bankrupt Alitalia after Italy’s finance minister said it could begin exclusive takeover talks.—INTERNET



Members of a "comparsa", an Afro-Uruguayan rhythm carnival group, dance and play candombe during a Cultural Carnival in Valparaiso city, about 75 miles (120 km) northwest of Santiago, on 28 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

Putin hails newest missiles as "holiday fireworks"

Moscow, 28 Dec — President Vladimir Putin, who has made the assertion of Russia's role in the world a cornerstone of his rule, hailed on Wednesday the successful test of two new nuclear missiles as holiday fireworks.

On Tuesday, a submarine in the Barents Sea

fired a *Sineva RSM-54* missile at a test site in the far east. A few hours later, an *RS-24* ballistic missile was launched from the northern Plesetsk cosmodrome.

A relaxed and smiling Putin called the successful missile tests "pleasant and spectacular holiday

fireworks", in televised remarks with Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov. The two rockets will replace ageing Soviet-built strategic nuclear missiles. Russian generals say the new rockets can outperform any missile defence system.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows new way to fight Chagas disease

LONDON, 29 Dec — A new, low-cost screening strategy could make it

easier for poor countries to target and treat Chagas disease, a deadly

parasite-borne condition found mainly in Latin America, according to a new study.

Fighting the disease has traditionally focused mainly on spraying campaigns to kill the bug that carries the single-cell parasite causing Chagas disease, which affects an estimated 11 million people in the Americas.

But a team of US researchers showed they could use easy-to-collect data on the number of insects found in homes during spraying campaigns to identify clusters of at-risk children who should be tested for Chagas disease.

MNA/Reuters

Ancient pyramid found in central Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 28 Dec — Archeologists have discovered the ruins of an 800-year-old Aztec pyramid in the heart of the Mexican capital that could show the ancient city is at least a century older than previously thought.

Mexican archeologists found the ruins, which are about 36 feet (11 metres) high, in the central Tlatelolco area, once a major religious and political centre for the Aztec elite. Since the discovery of another pyramid at the site 15 years ago, historians have thought Tlatelolco was founded by the Aztecs in 1325, the same year as the twin city of

Tenochtitlan nearby, the capital of the Aztec empire, which the Spanish razed in 1521 to found Mexico City, conquering the Aztecs.

The pyramid, found last month as part of an investigation begun in August, could have been built in 1100 or 1200, signalling the Aztecs began to develop their civilization in the mountains of central Mexico earlier than believed.

"We have found the stairs of this, much older pyramid. The (Aztec) timeline is going to need to be revised," archeologist Patricia Ledesma said at the site on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

Rescue workers use an excavator to search for bodies in Indonesia's Central Java Province, on 28 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET



Tennis star Maria Sharapova arrived in Singapore on Friday morning from Los Angeles. The highlight of her three-day trip here will be her exhibition match against fellow Russian Anna Chakvatedza at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Sunday. INTERNET

Heavy snow closes N-W China airport

URUMQI, 28 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 a.m. 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 p.m. on Wednesday.

Some places in Urumqi reported a maximum snowfall of 20 centimeters 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.

They were saved by local policemen who searched the region for three hours before finding them.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 120 feared dead in Indonesia landslides, floods

MOGOL (Indonesia), 28 Dec — Landslides and floods triggered by heavy rain have left over 120 people dead or missing on Indonesia's Java Island, as rescuers struggled on Thursday to pull out bodies buried under thick mud, officials said.

Thousands of people have been left homeless after their houses were submerged by heavy floods or buried by landslides in villages near the Bengawan Solo River, which lies about 500 kilometres from the capital, Jakarta.

In neighbouring Central Java Province, about 1,000 rescuers, police and soldiers tried to unearth 26 people buried in mud from steep slopes in Tawangmangu, a hilly area that was the worst-hit, using manual equipment.

MNA/Reuters

Technological University (Monywa)

Technological University (Monywa) was built in Monywa Township of Sagaing Division to enable local students to have the opportunities in pursuing modern technology.

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day



With a view to enabling students in Kayah State to pursue higher education, the main building of Loikaw University was opened in Loikaw on 5 August 2007.



Greater Opportunities for Pursuing Education throughout the nation in 2007

A new building of Htongyi Basic Education High School (Branch) in Htongyi Village of Bago Township, Bago Division, is now creating the opportunities for local students to learn basic education.



Sr.	University/College/School	Location	Opening Date
1.	A total of 49 colleges under Ministry of Science and Technology were upgraded to universities	the entire nation	19-1-2007
2.	Four Government Technical Institutes were upgraded to Technological Colleges	Mohnyin, Shwebo, Sagaing and Myingyan Townships	19-1-2007
3.	Three degree colleges under Ministry of Education were upgraded to universities	Bhamo, Lashio and Kengtung Townships	19-1-2007
4.	Lashio University was opened	Lashio Township, Shan State (North)	20-1-2007
5.	Kengtung University was inaugurated	Kengtung, Shan State (East)	25-1-2007
6.	New building of Technological University (Monywa) was opened	Monywa Township, Sagaing Division	26-1-2007
7.	Main building of Loikaw University was commissioned	Loikaw Township, Kayah State	5-8-2007
8.	New building of Kyandaw Basic Education Primary School was opened	Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division	17-9-2007
9.	Kyaythahmyar Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was opened.	Pale Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division	20-9-2007

HAILING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence and bounden duty of Myanmar people

Tekkatho Myat Thu

Cherish the Independence, safeguard it at the risk of lives



Independence and sovereignty are two of a nation's characteristics the world legal experts and political scientists have standardized. They said that to be able to stand in the international community, a nation had to have (1) territory, (2) population, (3) sovereignty and (4) independence.

Myanmar has its territory. King Anawrahta reunited the scattering regions into the First Myanmar Empire. Taking a stronghold in Toungoo, King Bayintnaung brought disintegrated regions together to establish the Second Myanmar Empire. Shwebo (Konbaung) U Aung Zeya (King Alaungphaya) founded the Third Myanmar Empire and delineated the territory of the nation.

When the Third Myanmar Empire became weak in military prowess, the British colonialists annexed the nation. Myanmar national races thus had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat to regain territory. The Union of Myanmar today has (1) territory, and (2) more than 56 million people of more than 100 national races. (3) Since Myanmar regained independence, successive Myanmar governments have taken charge of State duties. (4) Myanmar is an independent and sovereign nation. Therefore, Myanmar stands tall in the world with all

the four characteristics of a nation.

Sovereignty, independence or practice of democracy in accordance with the consent of the majority of the people, and meeting the standards of human rights reflect the image of an independent nation. Sovereignty means the right to serve the interests of the nation and the people freely or self-determination.

Under the UN Charter, every independent nation shall become a member of the UN after pledging to follow the principles of the Charter and enjoy the rights therein. The Charter prescribes that all member nations shall recognize and respect the sovereignty of other members. There shall be equality among big and small nations holding only one vote for each nation. Members are to refrain from committing acts of aggression against the territory of others and the UN and other nations are not to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations and disputes are to be settled through negotiations rather than the use of force, and every member nation is entitled to self-determination.

International legal norms support the principles. The principles of the Bandung Declaration (resolution passed at Bandung Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955) of the 118-member Non-Aligned Movement are similar to the principles of the UN Charter. The fundamental principles and objectives of the ten-member ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and the principles of the ASEAN Charter include cooperation for development, peace and security, and non-interference of the Association in the internal affairs of members.

Myanmar joined the United Nations in 1948, in which it regained independence. It is one of the nations that initiated the Non-Aligned Movement. Myanmar, a member of the ASEAN, upholds non-aligned foreign policy and Bandung principles.

Now, the government is dedicating itself to the national development tasks in line with the nation's geographical features, characters of national races, historic experiences and consent of the majority of the people. As a result, it managed to put an end to internal armed conflicts that had disrupted national development for 40 years. The government has been able to realize projects for all-round development of the whole nation, tenaciously braving a wide range of blockages, disruptions and destructive acts. The purpose of the government's endeavours is nothing more than enabling the people of national races to fully enjoy the taste of independence.

Myanmar people have placed gravity on perpetuation of sovereignty or independence, for which the people had to launch battles with tenacity against the colonialists, and on perpetual existence and prosperous future of the Union that was unified with national solidarity and Panglong spirit or Union Spirit based on patriotism. National races have made efforts to regain independence, chart brighter future of the nation and ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.

To maintain independence, to protect the Union, and to ensure perpetual unity of national brethren are the three national duties or bounden duties of Myanmar people.

(See page 9)



HAILING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence and bounden duty of Myanmar people

Tekkatho Myat Thu

(from page 8)

Myanmar has more than 25 million acres of cultivated lands. Now, reclamation of vacant and virgin lands and watershed areas is in progress and so the nation has potential for over 20 million more acres of arable lands. About half the area of the nation is covered with forests. The nation is rich in precious stones and it produces crops in abundance. The nation gets sufficient water from rivers, creeks, lakes, dams and rains for agriculture. Other mineral products such as gold, silver, bronze, zinc, iron, tungsten, antimony, and oil and gas are almost inexhaustible. In addition, peace has been restored throughout the Union.

With these good conditions, the seven-step Road Map is being implemented to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one with flourishing discipline. The National Convention has adopted the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for drafting a State constitution that is necessary for every independent nation. The government is building all possible foundations for building a democratic nation. In the process, the third step — drafting a State constitution — is well under way.

After the State constitution has been drafted by the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution, it will be presented to the people and sought their approval through a referendum. And after elections are held, the Hluttaw is to be convened, the President elected and a government formed, a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation will be built under the leadership of the President and the Union Hluttaw.

Then, the sovereign Union of various national races will enjoy progress and will be pleasant for ever. Being able to build a prosperous Union harnessing the natural resources represents the taste of independence, freedom of activities, or self-

determination of the people.

I have presented that a nation's characteristics are (1) territory, (2) population, (3) government, and (4) sovereignty. However, supposing the government of a nation is an alien government, that nation will be just a colony. If so, sovereignty, fundamental rights of the citizens and natural resources will fall in the hands of the colonialists.

Furthermore, supposing a government of axe-handles under the influence of aliens comes to power under the arrangements of a foreign country, such a government will be a puppet. If so, aliens behind the puppet government will manipulate the internal affairs and exploit the natural resources. And the nation will be in a position to be under the yoke of aliens through indirect ways (neo-colonialism). Therefore, it is incumbent upon every citizen of every independent nation to protect and safeguard their motherland constantly from having its territory occupied and secession of any part. And the onus is on all citizens to ward off the schemes of the neo-colonialists with patriotic spirit and nationalistic fervour in order that the mother country will not lose sovereignty and fall under alien subjugation. The government that will have to serve the interests of the nation and the people must be a national government that will never be under the influence of aliens. Besides, they have to protect the sovereignty of the nation considering it to be their soul. The day on which sovereignty is lost will be the day on which the people lose their soul or freedom of activities.

The entire people are, therefore, to pursue the Myanmar independence policy or bounden duty of safeguarding the Union and independence, while dealing with all forms of destructive acts, preserving the fine traditions of the nation, and bearing in mind the forefathers' sacrifices to help the nation regain independence.

Translation: MS

POEM:

Myanmar Spirit

* Myanmar spirit is that
Let alone coveting other's flower
From a flowerbed
To pick and wear without owner's consent
Myanmars will not even enjoy the aroma
However sweet it is

* Let alone pouring bad blood oneighbours
Quarrelling over family matters
Myanmar never have any wish to enter
Others premises without being invited
Is the Myanmar spirit

* Have never coveted other's flowerbed
Have never intruded on other's community
But with consideration
Have lived as true Myanmars
Throughout history
Do not try with wicked means
To approach our community
Just for making gains
Beware of alien encroachments
To tarnish our cherished traditions
And to break up our unity
Let's join hands firmly
Continuing our journey forward
With pride and intelligence

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe
(Translation)



Tin Win (Insein)

The National Convention has adopted the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for drafting a State constitution that is necessary for every independent nation. The government is building all possible foundations for building a democratic nation. In the process, the third step — drafting a State constitution — is well under way.

Meeting of National Committee on Rights of Child held



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe addresses the meeting No 1/2007 of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— The meeting No 1/2007 of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, here, this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the committee Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe.

In his speech, the minister said the meeting will focus on the national level report for third and fourth phases of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child drawn by the committee.

He continued to say that Myanmar is making efforts for ensuring the four key rights namely Survival, Development, Protection and Participation in the society and has laid down and is implementing policies and programmes in the Best Interests of the Child.

He added that as a member country of UNCRC, ministries concerned are joining hands with NGOs in carrying out the tasks of Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting. In the process, the National Committee could carry out the tasks that should be documented.

In the sector of monitoring, the working committee and subcommittees on the rights of the child have been set up at State/Division, district and

township levels, he said. He continued to present his report that in order to make the children enjoy their rights fully, the government of Myanmar submitted its undertakings on the rights of the child to the UN and now it has been the second time. The third and fourth phase national level reports on the activities carried out in 2001-2006 will be submitted to the UN in 2008.

He urged all the members of the national committee to participate in compiling the report that will enhance the dignity of the motherland.

Secretary of the National Committee Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing explained the matters on the third and fourth phase national level report (2001-2006) of the UNCRC.

Later, the minister gave concluding remarks. Present also at the meeting were Members of the national committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, departmental heads and officials, representatives from social organizations and guests.

MNA

Seikkyun Sluice Gate commissioned into service in Thaton Township

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—A ceremony to inaugurate Seikkyun Sluice Gate built by Construction-6 of Irrigation Department was held at the sluice gate near Seikkyun Village of Thaton Township yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint said that Seikkyun Sluice Gate was the 206th irrigation facility of its kind throughout the nation. Kyonhtaw, Zaikkaye and Mayangon sluice gates had been built in Thaton Township, he added. Therefore, the local people were to participate in the tasks for durability of the already-opened sluice gates that would contribute to boosting production of crops.

Secretary of Mon State Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Tun made a speech and a local people spoke words of thanks.

The deputy minister unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it. After opening the sluice gate, the deputy minister and the secretary of Mon State PDC viewed the sluice gate.

Seikkyun Sluice Gate is located on Seikkyun Creek, and it has 15 valves measuring 6 feet by 12 feet

each. The 4,000-foot-inlet channel and the 450-foot-outlet channel will contribute towards cultivation of 10,000 acres of monsoon paddy.

MNA

Seikkyun Sluice Gate in Thaton Township.

A&I



500 KVA paddy husk-fired...

(from page 1)

The minister in his speech said that electricity is the engine of the drive for all-round development of regions. The 500 KVA paddy husk-fired generator, the largest of its kind in the nation, and the diesel-fired generator have been put into commission to help supply sufficient electricity, he added, calling for region-wise collaborative cooperation in the supply of electricity in Rakhine State.

Chairman of the Committee for Supply of Electricity to Taungup Township U Kyauk Taung gave an account of the efforts made to achieve the plan. Townselder U Than Wai expressed thanks.

The commander and the minister unveiled the signboard of the archway put up to mark the ceremony, and pressed the buttons to launch the generators.

Next, they inspected conditions of the engines, paddy husk-fired boilers and operation of the engines to generate electricity. Managing Director of the Electric Power Supply Enterprise U Htin Aung and Chairman of the Myanmar Innovators Cooperative Ltd U Soe Tin Aung conducted the commander and the minister round the power plant. The commander and the minister gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Myanmar, Vietnam hold 3rd Policy Consultation Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec — At the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, Mr Dao Viet Trung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam arrived in Yangon by air on 24 December 2007, to attend the 3rd Policy Consultation Meeting between the two Foreign Ministries. The Vietnamese Deputy Minister and party left for Nay Pyi Taw by air on the same day.

In the afternoon, Mr Dao Viet Trung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam paid a courtesy call on U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister also met with Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun of the Ministry of Communication, Posts and Telegraph at the Ministry of CPT.

The Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister also called on Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Energy at the Ministry of Energy.

The 3rd Policy Consultation Meeting between the Foreign Ministries of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held on 25 December 2007 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here.

At the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interests and ways to promote bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister and party left Yangon by air on 26 December 2007.—MNA



Sand artist Sudarsan Patnaik creates a sand sculpture of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, following her assassination, at a beach in Puri, close to the eastern Indian city of Bhubaneswar, on 28 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Health news in brief

- * There has been a significant increase in the number of young adults hospitalized with diabetes-related conditions in US over the last decade or so according to a new study.
- * Two Egyptians have tested positive for the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, a day after an Egyptian woman died of the disease, Egypt's Health Ministry said.
- * Researchers from the London Research Institute discovered that a protein called Tes is able to block a second protein, Mena, from helping cancer cells "crawl" away from the initial tumor.

The sun sets over the Akshardham temple in New Delhi, Guinness World Records has reportedly recognized the sprawling mock-ancient monument in the Indian capital as the world's largest Hindu temple.

INTERNET



An elephant plays football during the International Elephant Race at Sauraha Chitwan village, about 200 km (124 miles) south of Kathmandu on 28 Dec, 2007. The three-day long event is organized by the Nepal tourism board which includes various activities and sports for different species of animals.

INTERNET



Images of the Day



Monkey business : A monkey gives a street performance near a shopping mall in Jakarta.— INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in FE (Euro) and Myanmar Kyat;

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
i.	12(T)26/MR(ML) 2007-2008	Spare Parts for Rail Bus (RBE)	1-Lot (197-Items)
ii.	15(T)13/MR(E) 2007-2008	Bore Pile Machine	3-Units

Closing Date/Time-14.2.2008 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 1.1.2008 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 01-291982, 291985 (201555 Ext 601,605)

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar sealed Quotations with deferred payment for three years as well as L/C at sight proposals are invited by the Managing Director, Public Works, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the detailed design (including the erection procedure), fabrication, supply of materials, erection equipment, and supervision of steel truss erection for LEINLI Suspension Bridge across Paung Laung Chaung, Pinyinana-Pinlong Road, Southern Shan State.

2. The particulars of LEINLI Suspension Bridge may be obtained for USD 5000 by request in writing or in person at the specified price following address.

Managing Director
Public Works
No. 11, Ministry of Construction
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The Quotation should be submitted to the above address not later than 16:30 hours on 31st January 2008.

4. When this Quotation is accepted, the Contract will be made in the name of Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Managing Director
Public Works

Saudi arms sale may spark Bush-US Congress battle

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—A plan to sell Saudi Arabia highly accurate bomb-guidance kits is roiling Israel's backers in the US Congress, setting up a potential clash with President George W Bush.

The administration could formally notify lawmakers as soon as January 15 of the possible sale to Riyadh of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAM, technology.

As many as 253 members of the 435-seat House of Representatives have signed bipartisan warnings to Bush about

such a sale to Saudi Arabia, still in a formal state of war with Israel.

The projected deal involves tail kits produced by Boeing Co that turn unguided bombs into precision munitions with built-in satellite and motion-sensor navigation systems.

"You have the makings of a resolution of disapproval," said Representative Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican pushing for measures to curb what he considers the JDAM's risk to Israel and US forces in the region.

MNA/Reuters

Some tsunami survivors remain stressed in Thailand

BANGKOK, 28 Dec — Three years after the tsunami tragedy hit Thailand's Andaman coastal provinces, some young survivors are still suffering from stress, while some mentally-disturbed adults have turned to alcohol to suppress their anxiety disorders, a senior Thai public health official said on Wednesday, which marked the third anniversary of the disaster.

Thai News Agency quoted Director-General Somchai Chakrabhand of the Mental Health Department as saying that some children still had nightmares, awakened in the night and shut

themselves from the outside world, while adults who could not get rid of the terrifying memory turned to using alcoholic drinks or drugs.

In the first two years after the 26 December, 2004 tsunami, Thai and American health professionals had surveyed 800 survivors on their posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) — an anxiety disorder after exposure to a terrifying event, and found that 13 per cent of them remained suffering from stress. Another survey six months later found the stress reduced to 7 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia satisfied with its ties with Japan in 2007

Moscow, 28 Dec — Russia's relations with Japan have been developing productively with bilateral trade volume reaching a record high of 18-19 billion US dollars this year, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov said on Thursday.

"The leaders of the two countries met in Hailigendamm and Sydney this year. The dialogue at the level of foreign ministers has been active as well," Losyukov

was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Japanese companies are actively moving to Russia. "The opening of the Toyota assembly line near St. Petersburg — attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin — is a symbolic example,"

Losyukov said. Toyota is Japan's largest company.

"On the whole, we're pleased with the development of relations with Japan," he said, adding that Russia is ready to discuss with Japan all issues, including those difficult issues.

MNA/Xinhua

China's 3rd largest hydropower plant starts operation

NANNING, 28 Dec — Longtan hydropower project, China's third largest, went into operation on Wednesday after a seven-month trial generation proved successful.

The project's three generators, which were put into a test run in May, July and October, respectively, were announced to enter the formal generating stage on Wednesday. It was 14 months ahead of schedule, said Dai Bo, general manager of Longtan Hydropower Development Co. of China Datang Corporation (CDT).

In recent months, the water level had remained at 342 metres in the reservoir, close to the designated 400 metres when the other six generators start operation as of 2009.

The project was situated on the Hongshui

River, a major tributary of the Pearl River in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. It was China's third largest hydropower plant after the Three Gorges Project on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, and Xiluodu hydropower project on the Jinsha River, a Yangtze tributary.

It was a key component of the government's campaign to develop the western regions and to bring electricity to the economically-developed but energy-demanding eastern and coastal areas.

An investment of 30 billion yuan (3.75 billion US dollars) from CDT was used to build the 216.5-metre-high dam, a ship lock and an underground generating house with nine turbo-generators with a combined installed capacity of 6.3 million kilowatts.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese student wins lottery, leaves school

BEIJING, 28 Dec — A college student withdrew from school after winning the five million yuan (683,000 US dollars) jackpot in a lottery in China's eastern city of Nanjing, local media reported on Thursday.

The second-year student at the Jiangsu Maritime Institute, identified by the nickname Yong to protect his identity, was the sole first-prize winner in the "Double Colour Ball" issued by the China Welfare Lottery on Tuesday, the Beijing News said.

"After winning the lottery, Yong told his roommates that he would share 2,000 yuan with each of them," it added. Yong informed school authorities of his winnings, and had returned home.

MNA/Reuters

A worker arranges piles of firecrackers before delivering it to a store at Bocaue town in Bulacan Province, north of Manila December 27, 2007.

REUTERS



Chinese merchant boat arrives ashore after 800 years

YANGJIANG(Guangdong), 28 Dec—An 800-year-old merchant boat loaded with precious trading goods anchored at a port here Thursday morning after it was hoisted from the bottom of the sea four days ago.

With the help of a crane, workers managed to drag the 5,000-ton *Nanhai* (South China Sea) *No1* aboard 16 huge air bags to a temporary port at about 1:00 am after more than three hours of hard work overnight. The 30-metre-

long wooden vessel will continue to move to its final residence of the “crystal palace” in a specially built museum aboard 25 round air bags, each of which is 15 metres long and one metre in diameter.

The ship is expected to arrive at the destination Thursday night and on Friday, it will enter the designated glass pool, where the water temperature, pressure and other environmental conditions are the same as where the ship has lain on

the sea bed. The pool, containing seawater, is 64-metre long, 40-metre wide, 23-metre high and about 12 metres in depth. It will be sealed after the ship and the silt, taken out of water along with the boat, are put in. The well-preserved boat, containing an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 items of gold, silver, porcelain and copper coins, was raised from about 30-metre depth of the South China Sea by a crane on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua



A general view shows the ‘Plaza de las Tres Culturas’, or the plaza of the three cultures, in the central Tlatelolco area of Mexico City on 27 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

WHO confirms Pakistan human-to-human bird flu case

GENEVA, 28 Dec—The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on Thursday a single case of human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 bird flu virus in a family in Pakistan but said there was

no apparent risk of it spreading wider.

A statement from the UN agency said tests in its special laboratories in Cairo and London had established the “human infection” through presence of the virus “collected from one case in an affected family”.

But it said a WHO team invited to Pakistan to look into an outbreak involving up to nine people, from late 6 October to December had found no evidence of sustained or community human-to-human tran-

smision. No identified close contacts of the people infected, including health workers and other members of the affected family, had shown any symptoms and they had all been removed from medical observation, the WHO added.

The outbreak followed a culling of infected chickens in the Peshawar Region, in which a veterinary doctor was involved. Subsequently he and three of his brothers developed proven or suspected pneumonia.

MNA/Reuters

Int’l AIDS journal publishes first special issue on China

Beijing, 28 Dec — AIDS, the official journal of the International AIDS Society, has published its first special issue on China, to educate readers about the achievements and challenges in the country’s efforts to deal with the fatal epidemic.

The special edition was jointly edited by Wang Longde, chairman of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA), and two well-known American AIDS experts, Dr Roger Detels and Dr Sten H Vermund.

The edition features one commentary and 23 academic papers on the HIV/AIDS situation and epidemiological studies in

China, as well as the country’s measures to deal with the disease and care for AIDS patients. Most of the authors are Chinese experts and medical professionals.

According to the CPMA chairman, the decision to publish the special issue indicates that China has approached or reached the international level in the field of HIV/AIDS research.

AIDS publishes every three weeks, or 18 times a year. In 1985, China reported its first AIDS case. To date, the government has reported about 700,000 people infected with HIV, including some 85,000

people being treated as patients. So far, about 20,000 Chinese have died of AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker cleans an Olympics-correlative-sculpture at the Longsha Park in Qiqihar, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 27 Dec, 2007. An Olympic sculpture exhibition will be opened here on 28 Dec. —INTERNET

Shuttle repair to delay European space lab launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 28 Dec—Repairing an electrical connection in a US space shuttle’s fuel tank will push the already delayed launch of Europe’s first permanent space laboratory beyond the current target date of 10 January, NASA said on Thursday.

Two attempts this month to launch the shuttle Atlantis carrying the European lab to the *International Space Station* were cancelled due to malfunctioning fuel

sensors that are part of an emergency engine cutoff system.

NASA had re-scheduled the flight for no earlier than 10 January, but the repair plan under consideration will bump the launch by a few days to a few weeks, shuttle programme manager Wayne Hale told reporters in a conference call.

“We need to get the problem resolved. Then we’ll look at schedules,” Hale said.

MNA/Reuters

Rising Spanish director debuts ‘Orphanage’ in US

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec — As a movie-obsessed teenager, Spanish director Juan Antonio Bayona snuck into a film festival masquerading as a journalist to catch the eye of award-winning Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro.

Fast forward 15 years

and Bayona’s early panache has paid off handsomely in “The Orphanage”, a supernatural thriller produced by Del Toro fresh off his 2006 hit “Pan’s Labyrinth”, which earned three Oscars and was Mexico’s nominee for best foreign language film.

MNA/Reuters



Ngawi village is seen submerged in floodwaters in East Java, Indonesia, on 28 Dec, 2007. Rescuers used bare hands and shovels Friday to pry muddy corpses from Indonesian villages devastated by landslides, as flooding blocked heavy equipment from reaching a disaster zone where at least 87 people were killed or feared dead.—INTERNET

SPORTS



India's Rohan Bopanna returns a shot during his singles tennis match against Mardy Fish, of the US, at the Hopman Cup at Burswood Dome in Perth, Western Australia, on 29 Dec, 2007. Fish won the match 6-2, 6-4.—INTERNET

Jones' agent suspended by USATF

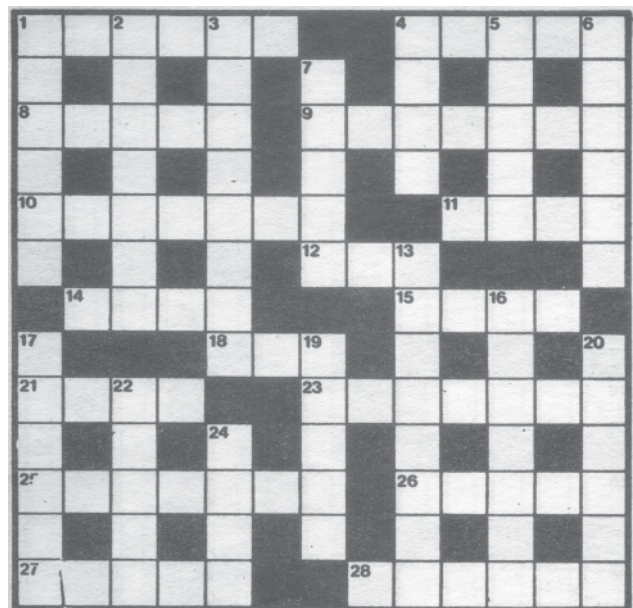
NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Disgraced sprinter Marion Jones's long-time agent has been suspended by USA Track & Field (USATF) for two years after pleading guilty to bank fraud charges, the sport's US governing body said on Friday.

Charles Wells entered a guilty plea in federal court in March. The fraud and money-laundering case also involved Jones, her ex-boyfriend and former world 100 metres record holder Tim Montgomery and another coach, Steve Riddick.

Wells will be suspended by USATF until March 2009 for violating its athlete representative regulations and he must apply for reinstatement, USATF spokeswoman Jill Geer told Reuters on Friday.

He did not return calls seeking comment on the suspension. — MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



Across

- 1 Declared
- 4 Interior
- 8 Cogitated
- 9 Very old
- 10 Erudite
- 11 Employer
- 12 Affirmative
- 14 Stake
- 15 Scholastic test
- 18 Tear
- 21 Dutch cheese
- 23 Shorten
- 25 I aborious
- 26 Instructor
- 27 Betimes
- 28 Mediterranean island

Down

- 1 Specimen
- 2 Refrain from
- 3 Put at risk
- 4 Short measure
- 5 Requirements
- 6 Sharp answer
- 7 Convenient
- 13 Privily
- 16 Listener
- 17 Ten years
- 19 Temporary stop
- 20 Striped beasts
- 22 Viper
- 24 Nosegay

Wenger signals Lehmann can leave for right offer

LONDON, 29 Dec — Unsettled goalkeeper Jens Lehmann may be allowed to leave Arsenal next month if the right offer is received, manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday.

Wenger added that he had not heard of any firm bid for the 38-year-old German's services and hoped he would stay at the club when the transfer window opens next month. The London Evening Standard newspaper reported, however, that managing director Hans Joachim Watzke and sporting director Michael Zorc of Lehmann's former club Borussia Dortmund had flown to London for talks with the goalkeeper.

Wenger told reporters: "We will sit down together, if an offer comes, but I believe first he has to make his own mind up if he wants to stay with us, or not. "I, personally, would prefer him to stay."

Lehmann joined Arsenal from Dortmund in August 2003 and won a Premier League title with the Gunners in 2004 and the FA Cup in 2005. He was also in the Arsenal team that lost to Barcelona in the 2006 Champions League final when he was sent off early. Germany's first choice keeper at the 2006 World Cup, Lehmann is keen to keep his place in his national team for the European Championship finals in Switzerland and Austria next June. — MNA/Reuters

Wenger said on Friday.



Washington Huskies' Sara Mosiman (42) shoots between California Golden Bears' Devanei Hampton, left, and Alexis Gray-Lawson, right, during second half action of their NCAA basketball game in Berkeley, Calif on 28 Dec, 2007. California won the game 66-40.—INTERNET

FA rejects red card appeals from Cole, Knight

LONDON, 29 Dec — The Football Association has rejected appeals by Chelsea left back Ashley Cole and Aston Villa defender Zat Knight for wrongful dismissal in the 4-4 draw between the teams in the Premier League on Wednesday.

England international Cole appealed against his red card for deliberate handball on the goalline which led to Villa equalizing with a Gareth Barry penalty in stoppage time at Stamford Bridge.

Cole will serve a one-match ban and misses Saturday's home game against Newcastle United.

Knight was sent off by Phil Dowd

at the end of the first half after the referee ruled he had brought down Michael Ballack. That foul also led to a penalty converted by Andriy Shevchenko.

The Villa player was also handed a one-match ban and misses Saturday's game at Wigan Athletic.

"We are obviously disappointed because we felt we had a case," manager Martin O'Neill told Villa's official Web site (www.avfc.premiumtv.co.uk).

"But we abide by the decision and prepare for Saturday's important game at Wigan without him."

MNA/Reuters

Fulham backing new manager Hodgson to avoid drop

LONDON, 29 Dec — Roy Hodgson was named Fulham's new manager on Friday, one week after the Premier League strugglers sacked Lawrie Sanchez.

The 60-year-old former coach of Finland, Switzerland and Inter Milan will join on a long-term contract starting on Sunday, the club said on their Web site (www.fulhamfc.com).

Caretaker manager Ray Lewington and assistant Billy McKinlay remain in charge for Saturday's match at Birmingham City.

Fulham have slid from 12th in the table to 18th over the last month. They drew 1-1 with Wigan Athletic and lost 5-1 to Tottenham Hotspur in Lewington's two games at the helm.

MNA/Reuters



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (R) shows the jersey presented to him by AC Milan's soccer player Kaka during a meeting in Brasilia on 28 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Wenger calls for clampdown on tackles from behind

LONDON, 29 Dec — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has called for referees in the Premier League to be stricter when punishing tackles from behind.

Wenger told a news conference on Friday he welcomed the recent clampdown by officials on two-footed tackles from the front but suggested there was still a need for referees to stamp out the dangerous ones from behind.

"I just think, at the moment, it is more punished now than it was two or three weeks ago, Wenger said about the crack down on two-footed tackles.

"The second thing I believe is that the tackles from behind are not punished enough.

"Now they just punish the tackles from the front," he added.—MNA/Reuters



Sania Mirza from India plays a backhand shot in her women's singles tennis match against Meghann Shaughnessy from the US during session one of the Hopman Cup mixed team event in Perth on 29 Dec, 2007. Shaughnessy won the match.—INTERNET

Altogether 27 armed group members exchange arms for peace

YANGON, 29 Dec—The State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes has been striving for national reconsolidation and bringing about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation. Realizing the endeavours and goodwill of the government and comprehending their misdeeds, they exchanged arms for peace individually or in group.

During the period of May, June, July and August 2007, in the area of Triangle Region Command, Private Ye She of SSA Ywet Sit Armed Group's 367 Battalion, bringing in along with one M-22 automatic rifle, four magazines, 120 rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade and one mine;

In the area of Eastern Command, Tee Mar with the rank of 757-Brigade Commander of SSA Ywet Sit Armed Group, Aik Liya, Aik Gyi, Aik Nun with the rank of company commander, Privates Sai San Tun, Ahar Line, Kyin Tar, Aik Awan, Aik San and San Kyaik, bringing in along with two Carbines, one M-16 automatic rifle, one M-21 automatic rifle, one M-22 automatic rifle, one pistol, one revolver, one long barreled gun, one Stin gun, 187 rounds of ammunition, two grenades, four i-coms, two communication devices and four family members; Cpl Aik Kham of 759 Brigade, bringing in along with one M-16 automatic rifle, one

magazine, ten rounds of ammunition, one i-com; San Myint with the rank of platoon commander of Ya La La Pha (Breakaway), bringing in along with one M-22 automatic rifle, one magazine, ten rounds of ammunition and one i-com;

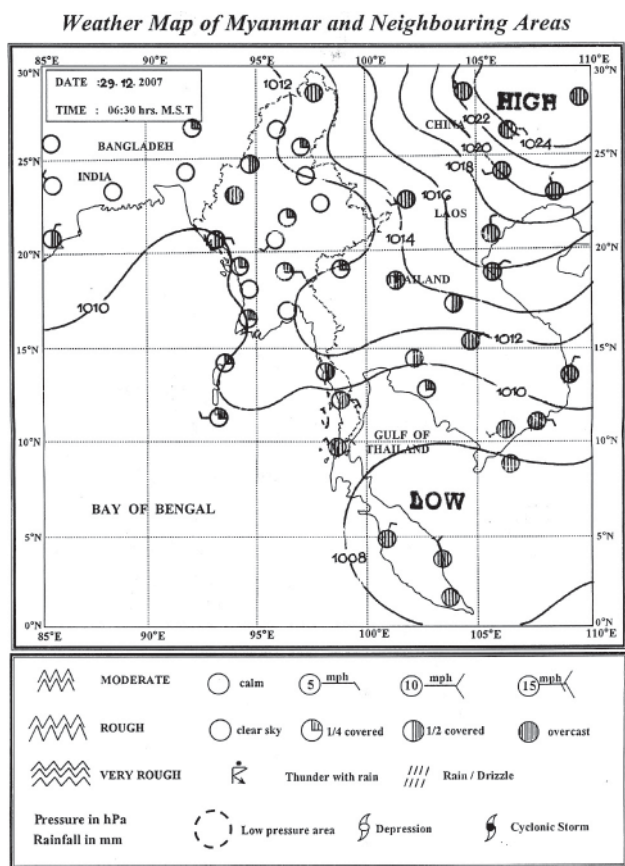
In the area of South-East Command, Private Ye Naing of KNU Armed Group Brigade-7's 101 Battalion, bringing in with one pistol, one magazine, seven rounds of ammunition and one family member;

In the area of Western Command, Cpl UHla Tun of ALP Armed Group, Khine Aye Naing, L-Cpl Khin Nyunt, bringing in with one single barreled gun and ten rounds of ammunition; Private Kalar Che of NUPA Armed Group;

In the area of Southern Command, Saw Win Bo with the rank of Cpl of KNU Armed Group Brigade-2's Battalion-5, Private Htaung Ke' of KNU Brigade-3's Battalion-8 together with a dependent; hard-core Saw Saw Yi, bringing in with one rifle and one magazine; exchanged arms for peace.

A total of 27 armed group members who exchanged arms for peace during that period were warmly welcomed and provided with necessary assistance by officials of the respective Tatmadaw camps. And more armed group members will follow suit, it is learnt.

MNA



WEATHER

Saturday, 29 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in kachin and mon States, Yaangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division, (3°C) above December average temperatures in Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilin (0°C), Haka (1°C), Pinlaung and Heho (3°C) each and Namhsam (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 28-12-2007 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 29-12-2007 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 29-12-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 28-12-2007 was (4.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 29-12-2007 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 Northeast at (11:30) hours MST on 28-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 30-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-12-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-12-2007: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 30 December View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

- တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသီရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တီပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာ

8:10 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

- ရင်းငြိမ်ရေထိန်းတံခါး

8:25 am

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Say it in English

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:25 am

- Round up of the week's international news

11:40 am

- ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:10 pm

- Myanmar movie “တိုက်ပွဲခေါ်သံ” (ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ သီဟတင်စိုး၊ မင်းဦး၊ ဇော်လင်း၊ ဇင်မာဦး၊ ဆွေဇင်ထိုက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)

2:15 pm

- မြေကမ္ဘာသာယာစေဖို့ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းဖို့ (အပိုင်း-၂)

2:30 pm

- မြစ်စေ့အစနှင့် မြစ်ကျဉ်း များ၏အလှ (အပိုင်း-၂)

2:45 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- အေးသောလှူဒါနသို့လှူပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအတူပြု)(ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

4:45 pm

- Song of national races

5:00 pm

- နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့်လွတ်လမ်းရေးကော်မတီအစီအစဉ်

5:15 pm

- Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သတင်းအချက်အလက်နှင့်နည်းပညာနယ်လှည့်ဟောပြောပွဲ (IT Caravan 2007) (အိုင်စီစီနည်းပညာဖြင့်စီးပွားရေးလုပ်ငန်းများလုပ်ဆောင်ခြင်း)

6:50 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နေခြည်ဆမ်းမှ” (အပိုင်း-၂၀) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

7:30 pm

- အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ စွန့်ရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေဖို့ ရှေ့မှ “ကျေးလက်ဒေသဖွံ့ဖြိုးစေမည့် လှပသည့်မြင်ကွင်းပန်းချီ”

8:00 pm

- News
- International news
- Weather report

8:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချိုမြိန်သောအချစ်နေ့” (အပိုင်း-၈)
- The next day's programme



Sunday, 30 December Tune in today

8:30 am

- Brief news

8:35 am

- Music: -New day has come

8:40 am

- Perspectives

8:45 am

- Music -Happy song

8:50 am

- National news/Slogan

9:00 am

- Music: -Too fancy

9:05 am

- International news

- Cultural images of Myanmar -The art of curving and sculpture

9:20 am

- Music

1:30 pm

- News/Slogan

1:40 pm

- Children's Delight (story)

1:50pm

- Songs for Children
- 9:00pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article Modernization of Myanmar during the reign of King Mindon)

9:20 pm

- Music/ LIETS -To love is to give

9:45 pm

- News/Slogan

10:00 pm

- PEL

People's Desire

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



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win participates in December Mass Walk Activity together with the people.—MNA

Commander takes part in December Mass Walk Activity

YANGON, 29 Dec — The December Mass Walk Activity for 2007 took place at Dagon Township of Yangon West District this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win took part in the

mass walk activity together with the people.

A total of 22,000 people including the commander and wife, Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, Yangon City Development Committee Secretary U Aung Than Win and Secretary of

Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe walked from Myoma Sports Ground to the People's Square.

They took physical exercises in the People's Square.

Likewise, over 5,000 people participated in the mass walk activity in Aung San Stadium, over 12,000 people and over 3,800 people took part in the mass walk activities in Kyaikkasan Sports Ground and Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna).

MNA

Fire preventive measures demonstrated

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec — The Ministry of Rail Transportation gave a demonstration of fire prevention at the ministry, here, yesterday.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin, directors-general and managing directors of the ministry were present on the occasion.

Deputy Director U Than Kyaw Kyaw of Nay Pyi Taw Fire Services Department and firefighters demonstrated fire preventive measures to those present.

Later, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin briefed on fire preventive measures.

Deputy Director U Than Kyaw Kyaw explained how to take fire preventive measures.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min observes the demonstration of fire fighting drill of Ministry of Rail Transportation.—MNA

- ★ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
- ★ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
- ★ The public be warned of killers in the air waves — RFA, VOA and BBC