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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

Four economic objectives

Ministry of Defence Team wins SPDC Chairman’s Trophy Golf Championship for 2006

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein awards winners of Golf Championship

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec — State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Trophy Golf Championship 2006 was held at Yedagon Taung Golf Resort in Mandalay on 9 and 10 December and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein opened the championship. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the championship Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee opened the championship on 9 December.

Golf teams representing ministries, the Supreme-Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board and the Yangon City Development Committee and others totalling 34 teams participated in the championship. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party also participated in the championship together with participants of the golf teams in the first day of the 18-hole event.

The final day of the event continued at the same golf resort yesterday and the championship concluded in the evening.

The prize presentation ceremony was held at the golf resort in the evening and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented prizes to winners. Also present at the ceremony were Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials and the golfers.

First, Chairman of the leading committee Minister U Aung Thaung briefed on the holding of the championship.
Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave the championship trophy to Ministry of Defence Team who stood first in the team handicap event and the team scratch event and leader of the team accepted the trophy.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented the third prize to Ministry of Home Affairs Team in the team handicap event, the second prize to Ministry of Forestry Team and the first prize to Ministry of Defence Team.

Next, Minister U Aung Thaung awarded the third prize to the team representing the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the second prize to Ministry of Forestry Team and the first prize to the Ministry of Defence Team in the team scratch event. He also presented cash awards to the music band and vocalists of Mandalay City Development Committee who presented entertainment during the prize presentation ceremony.

(See page 8)

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

**Turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia for national development**

Now is the time when science and technologies are experiencing rapid development and so every nation in the world is trying to make its education sector compatible with the latest developments.

In such a situation, it is important for every citizen to be well-educated and rational and have all sense of perspective. More important, they should try to be upright and to serve the interests of the nation and the people.

The government is taking systematic measures to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia for the emergence of a modern and developed nation. Efforts are being made for development of human resources and higher standard of education. Moreover, educational infrastructures are also being built across the nation.

Intellectuals and intelligentsia who can differentiate between good and bad and right and wrong play an important role in developing a nation. It is the duty of teachers to turn out such intellectuals and intelligentsia. Teachers should try their best for the realization of the national education promotion plans.

Only then will intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the nation can rely constantly emerge and our common goal — a modern and developed nation — be realized.

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**World AIDS Day observed in Kachin State**

**Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint addresses World AIDS Day 2006. — MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec — Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Kachin State Health Department jointly organized the World AIDS Day 2006 at the City Hall in Myitkyina on 1 December morning.

Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address. Head of Kachin State Health Department Dr Khin Maung Win gave lectures on HIV and AIDS, and Leader of the Myitkyina Township AIDS and STD Control Team Dr Azi Zee on the disease control.

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, wife Chairperson of Kachin State MCWSC Daw Nu Nu Swe and officials presented prizes to winners in the competitions to mark the World AIDS Day. Next, they viewed prize winning works in the essay, painting, cartoon and poster contests and documentary photos on activities of the AIDS campaign.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, senior military officers, Kachin State PDC Secretary U Maung Maung Win, departmental officials, social organizations and local people.

The commander greeted pre-school children who would visit Kachin State Cultural Museum. At the Drug Addicts Hospital, the commander comforted the patients and presented brooches which marked the World AIDS Day to them.

**Commander, Minister meet secretaries, executives of eight districts and 31 townships in Mandalay Division**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec —** Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Patron of Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and USAID Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met with secretaries and executives of eight district and 31 township USADAs at the hall of Mandalay Division USAID yesterday afternoon.

Secretary of Mandalay Division USAID U Tin Maung Oo reported on public welfare tasks carried out in eight districts and 31 townships.

**Acting Secretary of Mandalay District USAID U Soe Thein and township secretaries submitted reports on undertaking of rural development tasks.**

The commander and the secretariat member attended to their needs and instructed them to place emphasis on carrying out public welfare tasks including five rural development tasks.

In Amarapura Township, the commander and the minister offered robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tegobhaisa and members of the Sangha at Sasanahita Suhkakari Monastery.

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**Minister inspects Yangon-Mandalay Highway project**

**Yangon, 10 Dec —** Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, inspected construction of the approach road to Sittoung Bridge (Waw bank) and maintenance of Yangon-Bago six-lane road yesterday morning.

Next, the minister looked into road works on Yangon-Mandalay Highway from No 3 Junction to Bawnatgyi road section and the road section from mile posts (40) to (308). Superintendent Engineer U Tin Hsan reported to the minister on laying of concrete tarmacking, construction of conduit pipes and future tasks.

Giving his instructions, the minister stressed the need for timely completion of the project, meeting the set standards and use of machinery at full capacity.

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**Donate Blood**

To hail the 40th Blood Donors Day, which falls on 14 December, U Thein Ngye of The New Light of Myanmar made the 44th blood donation to Yangon National Blood Bank on 10 December, 2006. — NLM
Lat-Am leaders end second summit

London, 10 Dec—Latin American leaders have ended the second summit of the South American Community of Nations with a call for greater regional integration.

The summit was held in Bolivia alongside a meeting of indigenous groups from around the continent.

But it took place amidst tensions as Bolivian opposition groups are seeking greater autonomy for some areas.

Campaign leaders have called on hundreds of thousands of their supporters to rally next week.

A band warmed up the crowd for the arrival of the visiting presidents.

It felt more like a music festival than a meeting of heads of state.

The Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the Bolivian President Evo Morales and the Nicaraguan President-elect Daniel Ortega addressed a crowd of 40,000 in Cochabamba’s main stadium.

Social and indigenous groups from around the continent were invited to the event, which ran in parallel with the summit.

The call was for an end to free trade.

But in their official meetings the presidents produced few concrete results. A South American parliament was mooted. A secretariat is to be set up in Brazil. Its aim will be to create a political bloc similar to the European Union.

China launches huge oil production, storage vessel

Shanghai, 10 Dec—A huge oil tanker, three football fields long and as tall as a 24-storey building, was launched Friday in Shanghai.

The ship, which can load or off-load 190,000 barrels of crude oil a day, is called a floating production storage off-loading (FPSO) vessel.

It was designed and built by Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co Ltd and is the largest and most expensive of its kind in China, the company said.

The 300,000-ton dead weight vessel costs 240 million US dollars, close to the cost of an Airbus A380, the world’s largest commercial airliner.

The vessel is 323 metres long and 63 metres wide, and measures 71 metres from its keel to the top of its smoke stack. It can store 2 million barrels of crude oil.

Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co Ltd built the vessel for ConocoPhillips China Inc.

Bangladeshi President calls on Army to maintain peace

Dhaka, 10 Dec—Bangladeshi President Iajuddin Ahmed has called on the Army to help the civil administration to quell political unrest ahead of the country’s general elections in January.

A spokesman of the President House said Saturday that the President has ordered the Home Secretary to deploy Army to assist the civil administration to restore order in the country.

The call for Army deployment came as a major political alliance led by Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, threatened siege at the President House Monday to press for reconstitution of the controversial Election Commission.

Two US soldiers killed in Baghdad roadside bomb blast

Baghdad, 10 Dec—Two American soldiers were killed and two others were wounded by a roadside bomb during a “dismounted patrol” in south of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement on Saturday.

The soldiers, assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad, were responding to a possible improvised explosive device (IED) on Thursday in south of the city, when the blast took place, the statement said.

The latest deaths brought to 34 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the beginning of December.

Medical studies boost red wine sales

Los Angeles, 10 Dec—Red wine sales rose after medical studies suggested that red wine contains an anti-aging compound called resveratrol, it was reported on Saturday.

Market research firm ACNielsen this week reported a bump in red wine sales after a series of medical studies about the anti-aging properties of a compound called resveratrol, which is found in red wine, said the Los Angeles Times.

The ACNielsen report found that red wine sales had increased 8.3 per cent in the four weeks ended 18 November compared with the same period last year.

The rise “is more than what we’d normally expect”, said market analyst Danny Raden at ACNielsen. “Our hypothesis is all that favourable press out there... led people weighing their choices to tip in favour of red wine.”

Although the experiments in mice proved authentic, a human study suggested that people would have to drink hundreds of glasses a day to get an equivalent dose of resveratrol, according to the studies.

“We’re big winos and sohere was another excuse to drink red wine,” said Dana Frankley, 36, a wine dealer in California.

Harvard Medical School researcher David A Sinclair, senior author of a key resveratrol study, said wine drinkers were going overboard.

“To say our research endorses red wine consumption is missing the point,” Sinclair said.

Besides, resveratrol is found in other food products, including nuts. The public has fixated on red wine, nuts have not seen a similar buzz.

MNA/Xinhua

Workers at the assembly line in Tianjin Faw Toyota Motor Co, Ltd recently.—Xinhua

Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad (L) welcomes his Nigerian counterpart Olusegun Obasanjo after reviewing an honour guard in Damascus on 10 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

A major power transmission line that links Three Gorges project with Shanghai starts operation on 9 Dec, 2006, amid efforts to ensure the city’s huge demand for power.—Xinhua
Firefighters battle bushfires in Australia

C ANBERRA, 10 Dec—About 150,000 hectares, two homes and a pine plantation have so far been burnt in bushfires in Australia’s southeast state of Victoria.

Firefighters have worked through the night building containment lines near properties in Victoria’s Gippsland and the state’s north-east, in preparation for extreme fire conditions as temperatures in the high 30s and 40s are forecast for Saturday and Sunday.

Residents near Mansfield and further east in the King Valley have been on high alert overnight, with fires threatening property. Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported. The Country Fire Authority’s Gary Weir said additional firefighters from the state of New South Wales as well as New Zealand will join the front line Saturday.

“They’ll be helping around the north-east, around the Jamieson area and the Wangaratta area - we’ve prepositioned them,” he was quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to introduce new ID card for foreigners

K UALA LUMPUR, 10 Dec—The Malaysian Immigration Department will introduce a new identity card with security features for foreigners next year, an official said Friday. The new identity card will replace the existing card for foreign workers, maids, students, and trade officers, Malaysia My Second Home owners and workers of outsourcing companies, Home Minister Mohamed Radzi Sheikh Ahmad.

“The Immigration Department’s new identity card will have high physical security features apart from storing the holder’s biometrics, photo and information in its chip,” he told reporters in the administrative centre of Putrajaya.

The card would be issued to 40,000 foreign students first, followed by the 1.8 million foreign workers, the minister added.—MNA/Xinhua

Fire at Moscow hospital kills 42

MOSCOW, 10 Dec—A fire broke out early Saturday at a drug treatment hospital in southwestern Moscow, killing up to 42 people, the Russian news agencies reported.

It was not immediately known how many people were injured and there were some different reports about the number of rescued people.

East Timorese men wear traditional clothes during a ceremony in Dili on 10 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

Over 13% of young netizens, internet addicts

B EIJING, 10 Dec—More than 13.2 per cent of netizens under the age of 18 suffer from Internet addiction, said a report issued by the China National Children’s Centre here Friday. Internet addiction is particularly prominent among junior middle school and vocational middle school students, the report on Chinese children’s life and development said.

Over 17 per cent of 13 to 17 years old netizens are hooked on the Internet, especially online gaming. The report did not provide details on what constitutes an Internet addict.

Official statistics show that China’s netizens reached 123 million by the end of the first half of this year, and 18.3 million were under the age of 18, accounting for 14.9 per cent of the total.—MNA/Xinhua
Chilean banker praises eco reform in China since WTO accession

SANTIAGO, 10 Dec—China has transformed its economy during the five years it has been a member of the World Trade Organization, Francisco Garces, a Chilean central banker and financial adviser said in a Xinhua interview Friday.

Garces described China’s efforts to meet the goals set by the WTO when China joined in December 2001 as “gigantic”, saying that China has complied with most of the first round of goals set by the WTO.

“They have completed five years and in this time China has experienced sustained growth,” Garces told Xinhua.

China is now one of the most important trading nations, representing 10 per cent of world trade, and is contributing to global growth and international price stability, he said.

Garces added that China’s banks had become more autonomous thanks to opening of financial markets to allow foreign capital to be invested.

He highlighted Citibank’s purchase of a Guangzhou Bank and other similar deals by Singapore-based firms.

Garces identified two key challenges for the future — local financial regulation, especially relating to the influence of the central bank, and the development of local capital markets.

“This is not something that can be changed from one day to the next. It needs time and technical knowledge. That involves training staff both inside and outside China, and the hiring of outside experts,” he said.— MNA/Xinhua

Over 3.4 mln cars sold between Jan-Nov in China

BEIJING, 10 Dec—About 3.41 million cars were sold in between January and November, an increase of 40 per cent year-on-year, according to figures from the China Association of Auto-mobile Manufacturers.

The country’s top 10 sedan manufacturers in the 11-month period this year are: Shanghai GM, the most popular brand in November, followed by Santana and Excelle.

The top ten models sold 139,300 units, or 37.26 per cent of the national car sales in November.

China had between 8.4 and 9 million cars on the road at the end of last year.

Sales of the 10 auto-makers topped 2.34 million cars from January to November, accounting for 68.71 per cent of the country’s total.

Citroen and Geely.

Only Chery, FAW Xiali and Geely are Chinese companies, the others are joint ventures.

“Chinese manufacturers are now able to produce high-quality competitive cars, especially Chinese-owned auto-makers such as Chery and Geely,” said Sheng Xianying, a Shanghai-based industry analyst.

About 3.41 million cars were sold in between Jan-Nov in China.

108 arrested in massage parlour raids in Vancouver area

OTTAWA, 10 Dec—Canadian police carried out a series of raids on 18 massage parlours in Vancouver area Thursday night, making 108 arrests, reports said recently.

Police targeted parlours suspected of having connections to the sex trade, organized crime and human trafficking operations.

Twenty-six of those arrested were clients at the parlours, while human trafficking investigators interviewed another 78 women, many of them described as being Asian or South Asian, the reports said.

“Mary Pichette, a social worker who runs a safe house for prostitutes in Surrey, said the raids were unprecedented in Canada.

Police found up to 130 women who were allegedly being sexually exploited, she said, adding that she believes the raids just scratch the surface of the problem.

“Without the raid, we would have no idea of the scope of the problem,” she said.— MNA/Xinhua

“Discovery” lifts off, first night launch in four years

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—US space shuttle Discovery successfully lifted off at 8:47 pm EST Saturday (0147 GMT on Sunday) at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, flying to the International Space Station (ISS), according to NASA TV.

This was the first night launch in four years, also marking the third and last shuttle flight in 2006.

Outfitted with its external fuel tank and twin booster rockets at the seaside 39B launch pad, Discovery soared into space on the firing command, leaving splendid flames and roaring sound.

Discovery “lifts off successfully”, NASA spokesman Bruce Buckingham announced excitedly.

Several minutes before the scheduled launch time, Launch Director Mike Leinbach wished Discovery crew “good luck and Godspeed”.

“We’re looking forward to lighting up the night sky and rewriting the ISS,” replied commander Mark Polansky.

The launch moment, which was lighting up the Central Florida sky, was just like an amazing painting of masterpiece with the night sky as a cosmic canvas. — MNA/Xinhua

A man blows a trumpet at the end of the annual Argungu fishing festival on the Mutan Fada river in Kebbi State, northwest Nigeria, on 9 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Visitors watch as a diver in Santa Claus costume feeds fish at Shanghai Ocean Aquarium on 9 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

The US space shuttle Discovery lifts off from Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 9 Dec, 2006.—Xinhua

Miss France 2007 Rachel Legrain Trapani from the Picardie region reacts after winning the title in Poitiers, central France on 9 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

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Central Florida sky, was just like an amazing 
painting of masterpiece with the night sky as a 
cosmic canvas. — MNA/Xinhua
Nepal in homework on Nepali-India trade treaty renewal

KATHMANDU, 10 Dec — As the current Nepal-India trade treaty is expiring on 5 March, 2007, the Nepali Government is on consultation with trade experts and other concerned stakeholders to build a national position for improving the treaty while renewing it, local The Kathmandu Post daily reported here Saturday.

“As both countries have already agreed to make some changes in the treaty given the changed context, we are now on consultation with stakeholders on how we can best serve the Nepali interest in the renewed treaty,” the newspaper reported quoting sources at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies.

“As South Asia has already entered into free trade agreement, we need to make some changes to maintain its unique characteristics,” he said.

India has been providing duty-free access to Nepali goods as per the treaty provision, but it has lost its edge with the enforcement of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) last year.

“India has proposed the inclusion of service trade, investment, industrial promotion and energy in upcoming treaty to deepen the impact on bilateral trade in which Nepal is also supportive,” said the official. However, Nepali bus-messmen and trade experts have asked the government to work for eliminating non-tariff barriers, selective inclusion of service sector and special measures for protecting the interest of Nepali farmers.

Pakistan successfully test-fires Ballistic Missile

ISLAMABAD, 10 Dec — Pakistan on Saturday conducted a successful launch of the Short Range Ballistic Missile, the Army said.

The Hansaf-III (Ghaznavi) missile has a range of 290 kilometres, a statement from the Army’s Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) said. This was the third launch of a ballistic missile by the Strategic Missile Group (SMG) in as many weeks as part of the training exercises of the Pakistan Army’s Strategic Force Command (ASFC), according to the statement.

Two other SMGs had earlier conducted successful launches of the Ghauri and Shaheen-I ballistic missiles last month.

“The launch came at the culmination phase of the training exercise, which validated the operational readiness of the Strategic Missile Group (SMG) equipped with Ghaznavi missiles,” the statement said.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Tanvir Mahmood Ahmed and a large number of senior military officers, scientists and engineers of the strategic organizations witnessed the launch exercise, it added.

Ugandan capital bans food vending as cholera epidemic escalates

KAMPALA, 10 Dec — The authorities of Uganda’s capital city of Kampala has banned food vending in the city in an attempt to curb the rising cholera epidemic that has so far left 13 people dead and 305 hospitalized.

The indefinite ban, imposed by Kampala City Council (KCC), prohibited the selling of food items along the streets such as porridge, juice, ice cream, milk, roasted groundnuts, pancakes, water and roasted grasshoppers.

Dr. Mesach Mubiru, the Kampala Health Director was quoted by local media on Friday as saying the ban followed reports that the majority of cases were caused by eating food sold at road sides.

“It is therefore proven that selling food items on the streets is unhealthy and must be stopped immediately,” said Mubiru. He added that all markets, abattoirs, restaurants and other eating places in the city ought to be inspected to conform to basic health standards.

The city council has also ordered its enforcement team to confiscate property of whoever attempts to sell prepared food on the streets and arrest the vendors. KCC, along with the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization have set up a cholera treatment centre at Mulago Hospital parking yard to handle the problem.

Donors pledge $475m to fight bird flu

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — International donors have pledged approximately $475 million dollars to help countries fight highly pathogenic avian influenza, said a statement released by the World Bank on Friday.

UN officials had hoped for up to twice the amount pledged Friday, but welcomed the results at an avian flu summit in Bamako, Mali.

“This is a clear sign that the international community remains firmly focused on the fight against avian influenza, with a special emphasis on Africa, which remains vulnerable to the spread of the H5N1 virus,” said UN Senior Influenza Coordinator Dr. David Nabarro.

He said that more donor financing would certainly be available over the coming months as donors move into new budget cycles in the coming financial year, according to the statement.

The World Bank also vowed that it would help all countries get the financial and technical support they need to control avian flu in their poultry flocks, while protecting their communities from the risk of a human influenza pandemic.—INTERNET
Favouritism democracy and benefiting democracy

Saw Nandar (Manaung)

Favouritism democracy

I would like to present some weak points of the favouritism democracy Myanmar practised in the past. In 1948 Myanmar regained independence and the AFPFL government came to power, practising the parliamentary democracy. The AFPFL party, the then ruling party, exercised favouritism democracy, as evidenced by the fact that members of the party were vying each other for support such as issuing import licences and presenting capital to the relatives and friends of the circle concerned. So, they were unable to pay due attention to the interests of the people. At the third conference of the AFPFL held in 1958, the party split into two factions — Thantshin (Clean) AFPFL (Nu and Tin) and Temye (Stable) AFPFL (Swe and Nyein). They organized the people and friends of the circle concerned in scramble by offering various kinds of incentives to win victory over the other faction. They invested money in organizing parliament members, while offering the imprudent promise of secession from the Union to a small group of people as well as religious incentive, culminating in the damage to the fundamental principles of the AFPFL. That was followed by political unrest, and in the end, it had to transfer State power to the Tatmadaw in 1962.

Benefiting democracy

In the time of the kings, Myanmar saw many patriotic State leaders who constantly dedicated themselves to nation-building tasks. King Anaukphetlun, a member of Bayintnaung Dynasty, also promoted and presented gifts to the administrative machinery was always run smoothly. The court personnel had to strive to keep an area free from theft or robbery. They had to strictly obey the king's orders. At one such time, he secretly left the palace in disguise one night. While on his way to a village, the king was abducted by a group of robbers. After robbing him of his money, the robbers told him not to complain about the robbery to the local administrator, because, they said, they had already bribed him. When the king asked the robbers, "Are other areas like this?", the robbers said "Yes". When the king arrived back at the court, he punished the corrupt administrators at all levels. The king also promoted and presented gifts to the sincere and straightforward court personnel.

The story warns us that corrupt officials and flatterers may appear in any administrative system; that the ruler should not be deceived by such persons as they are going to give trouble to the people; that the ruler should keep in the fore the people's interests.

Favouritism democracy is used in the interest of a group of people or a party. It will harm the public interest and jeopardize the rule of law. Benefiting democracy is practised by the persons who love the nation and dare to make sacrifices in the national interests. The latter system will lead the nation to prosperity and progress.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 12 December, 2006
Secr etary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein awards winners of Golf Championship...

(from page 1)

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented prizes to those who won Most Birdie, Most Par, Longest Drive and Nearest Pin and awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the individual (handicap) and (scratch) events. Next, ministers and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presented prizes to those who stood grades from four to 20 in the individual handicap event.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party posed for a documentary photo together with Ministry of Defence Team.

In the team handicap event, Ministry of Defence Team won the trophy with 477 strokes; Ministry of Forestry Team stood second with 527 strokes and Ministry of Home Affairs stood third with 548 strokes.

In the team scratch event, Ministry of Defence Team stood first with 621 strokes; Ministry of Forestry Team second with 665 strokes and Ministry of PBANRDA stood third with 666 strokes.

In the individual handicap event, Capt Ye Htet of Ministry of Defence stood first with 117 strokes, Capt Htet Aung Khaing of Ministry of Defence stood second with 118 strokes and Capt Nyan Koe of Ministry of Defence stood third with 120 strokes.

In the individual scratch event, Capt Ye Htet of Ministry of Defence stood first with 153 strokes, Capt Htet Aung Khaing of Ministry of Defence stood first with 154 strokes and Capt Nyan Koe third with 156 strokes.

Police Captain Ye Myint of Ministry of Home Affairs won the most par prize, Capt Zaw Min of Ministry of Defence won the most birdie prize and Capt Ye Htet of Ministry of Defence won the most eagle prize. — MNA

Judgment of three special criminal appeal cases passed, six special civil appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges U Myint Thein and U Han Shein sitting at courtroom No 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw), passed judgment of three special criminal appeal cases and heard six special civil appeal cases under section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung presents prize to Ministry of Defence Team who stood first in team scratch event. — MNA
Thanks to concerted efforts of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people, changes and developments of the nation are destined for new democratic nation

Advanced Management (Special) Course No 3 for USDA Executives opened

YANGON, 11 Dec—The Advanced Management (Special) Course No 3 for Executives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at the Pyidaungsu hall of the USDA Training School in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division this morning with an address by Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo.

Also present on the occasion were executives of the USDA, guests, In Charge of the course Lt-Col Khin Win, supervisors and trainees.

In his address, Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo said that at present efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, adding that the government is taking all the necessary measures in transition to democracy aspired by the people. At the same time, the State, the Tatmadaw and the people are making concerted efforts for laying down good foundations that can guarantee the perpetuation of a new nation that will soon emerge.

He said that members of the USDA born of the people are now actively taking part in nation-building endeavours together with the people. Based on noble objectives and correct principles, the USDA has laid down and is implementing the future work programmes in the interest of the State and the people. As it has won trust and cooperation of the people, the number of its members has increased up to over 23.8 million, he noted.

As the number of its members has been on the increase all the more efforts are to be made for the association to become a strong and qualified force in order that it can further serve the interest of the people, he added. Priority is being given to qualitative improvement of each member so that the USDA at different levels can effectively participate in the drive for building a new and modern nation.

Based on united strength, the USDA at different levels will be able to serve the interest of peoples of the respective regions as each of its members has been endowed with qualification, he stressed. Each and every course conducted by the USDA (Central) for USDA at different levels was aimed at enabling each member to serve the interest of the people rather than his own.

He said that the course opened today was conducted with the aim of enabling USDA at different levels to take part in nation-building endeavours in accord with the future work programmes laid down by the USDA (Central) and of ensuring the entire national people to participate in national development tasks through the organizing strength of the USDEs.

At the course, experienced and well-qualified course instructors will give lectures on correct leadership and obedience, national politics, national security and prevailing situations of the nation. And those who are attending the course are the ones who are carrying out regional development tasks with might and main in line with the future work programmes laid down by the USDA (Central).

Thanks to concerted efforts of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people, changes and developments of the nation are destined for a new democratic nation that is the national goal. In the meantime, systematic steps are being taken for perpetuation of a new nation soon to emerge while striving for stability of the State, ensuring strong economy of the State and high standard of the national education.

Having a glance at the present situations it is found that progress has been made in all aspects as a result of making to concerted efforts of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people, and the nation is on the right path of the stability and development, he said.

He said that the Union of Myanmar is a nation where various national races have been residing through thick and thin since yore. The Union Spirit came into existence on the basis of loving-kindness and mutual understanding between national races. The Union Spirit is a prerequisite for Our Three Main National Causes.

Now, unprecedented progress has been made in all sectors since efforts are being made with nationalistic spirit. And the seven-step Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a new, modern and developed nation.

At a time when the nation is making progress in all spheres, the internal and external destructive elements in cohort with some foreign broadcasting stations are turning a blind eye to national development and making attempts to jeopardize the stability and peace already in place. Their attempts cannot destroy the nation-building endeavours but impede the national development. Therefore, the USDA is to defend and ward off the attempts that are detrimental to the State.

In conclusion, he stressed the need for the USDA members to try their best to be able to further serve the national interest, applying knowledge and experience gained from the course in a pragmatic way, to successfully implement the future work programmes laid down by the USDA (Central), to try their utmost for ensuring peace and stability of the nation, while striving for flourishing of nationalistic spirit and to try hard to become a strong national force capable of serving the interest of the State and the nation under the leadership of the USDA (Central).

After the opening ceremony, the Secretary-General cordially greeted the trainees.—MNA

Now, unprecedented progress has been made in all sectors since efforts are being made with nationalistic spirit. And the seven-step Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a new, modern and developed nation.
Chairman of MIDC inspects foundry shop of Mandalay Industrial Zone

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects machinery parts produced at Foundry Shop in Upgrading Project for Mandalay Industrial Zone. — INDUSTRY-1

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min presents gift to a passenger on Myitkyina-Mandalay Special Express Train. — MNA

Commander, minister attend inauguration...

(from page 16)

At Mandalay Railway Station, Deputy Minister U Pe Than together with Managing Director U Min Swe of Myanmar Railways and responsible personnel sprinkled scented water to the coaches of No 37 special express up train which will ply between Mandalay and Monyin Stations only. The No 38 special express down train will have altogether 11 coaches— six coaches at the ordinary class, four sleepers at the upper class and one coach at the upper class.

The coaches of the special express trains were from 130 coaches presented as goodwill gifts by China during Prime Minister General Soe Win’s goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China in 2006. MNA

Myanmar Fisheries Market Festival in Yangon 15-17 Dec

YANGON, 11 Dec — Myanmar Fisheries Federation will hold the Myanmar Fisheries Market Festival in its compound at the corner of Bayintnaung Road and Hsewa Setyon Street in West Gyogon, Insein, Yangon, from 15 to 17 December. Booths will be opened every day from 9 am to 10 pm at the festival, which was launched at 3 pm on 15 December.

The festival will educate the public to know more about the fishery products for health and other purposes and help boost production and exports of the sector. It will also introduce advanced packaging systems and various types of cuisine and cooking methods to the visitors. The MFF and other related associations and private companies will open booths, shops and restaurants at the festival.

Myanmar is producing fishery products for local demand and exports. During the third five-year national economic project from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006, the fisheries sector was the fourth largest contributor to the GDP and also the fourth largest source of foreign exchange earnings.

With the leadership of the ministry, the sector will boost exports to reach US $ 400 million in 2006-2007 fiscal year in addition to raise its contribution to the GDP.

With the help of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Myanmar Fisheries Association was upgraded into Myanmar Fisheries Federation on 1 December 1998. The MFF became a member federation of the ASEAN Fisheries Federation on 18 September 2002.

The MFF will organize the festival in hailing its eight annual general meeting that will be held 15 December. — MNA

Myanmar delegation led by U Thein Htut, Chief Editor, Myanmar News Agency (External), seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Japan on 11 December 2006. Under the programme of “One Village One Product Movement” and sponsorship of Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan, the six-member delegation will go on study tour of Oika in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, from 13 to 16 December and will participate in workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17 to 23 December. — MNA

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Urban Chinese record double-digit income growth

BEIJING, 11 Dec — China’s rapid economic growth has brought about double-digit growth in the incomes for urban residents this year, said a report of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), a major government think tank.

The average per capita disposable income of urban residents is likely to increase by 10.5 per cent this year and by 10 per cent next year, said the CASS in analysis and forecast for 2007.

Rural residents are expected to see incomes up by 6.1 per cent this year and 6 per cent next year.

According to the National Development and Reform Commission, urban residents’ per capita disposable income reached 5,997 yuan (749.6 US dollars) in the first half of this year, an increase of 10.2 per cent. The disposable incomes of rural residents was 1,797 yuan (224.6 dollars), up 11.9 per cent.

The CASS report warned that China’s serious unemployment situation is likely to continue next year, with more than 15 million people unable to find jobs and more than 100 million labourers in rural areas yet to be fully employed, widening the rural-urban income gap.

MALAYSIA sends more aid to Philippines

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec — Malaysia Saturday sent second batch of aid to the Albay Province in the Philippines for the victims of Typhoon Durian.

Two C130 transport aircraft carrying 14 tons of aid Saturday morning took off from the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang near here and left for the Legaspi City Airport.

National Security Division’s disaster and crisis management director, Che Mohd Umar, said the aid includes items such as clothes, medicine, gas stoves, mosquito repellents and foodstuff.

Four found dead in Brooklyn, New York

NEW YORK, 11 Dec — The decayed bodies of two adults and two children were found inside an apartment in Brooklyn, New York on Sunday, police said.

Police were called to the scene because of reports of an odor, and the search ended up with police breaking down the door and finding the bodies.

The victims were a man, a woman, and an adolescent boy and girl, police said. No names or cause of death were immediately released.

Neighbors had differing accounts of when the people in the apartment had last been seen. One neighbor said she had seen the woman late last week, but another remembered last seeing the couple around Thanksgiving.

Seven killed as India’s mining dump caves in

PANAJI, 11 Dec — Seven persons were killed when a mining dump caved in at an iron ore mine at Collem in Goa Saturday, police said.

One body has been retrieved from the site, while the remaining six bodies could not be recovered by the police, fire and emergency services.

Personnel of the Military Training Regiment has been called at the site, while rescue operations were on to retrieve the remaining trapped bodies from the site, South Goa Superintendent of Police Shekar Prabhudesai said.

Ex-detainees reportedly seek right to sue Rumsfeld

LOS ANGELES, 11 Dec — Nine former detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan are seeking the right to sue outgoing Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and three senior Army leaders for alleged torture, it was reported here on Saturday.

The suit is believed to be the first to try to hold US officials accountable for the abuse at prisons.

As non-citizens of the US, the detainees, however, might not be allowed to pursue their claims in US court, the Los Angeles Times reported, quoting a judge.

This indicates the flareup of the debate over abuses in US military prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan. The scandal triggered worldwide outcry and forced an overhaul of US interrogation rules.

In US District Court, lawyers for Iraqi and Afghan civilians said Rumsfeld and the officers, two of whom have retired, violated US and international law and should be held personally responsible for the abuse they say their clients suffered, said the paper.

Ian Blair cleared by inquiry into Menezes shooting

LONDON, 11 Dec — London’s chief police officer Sir Ian Blair has been cleared of any misconduct charges over the mistaken killing of a Brazilian man on a subway train last year.

Blair, the Commissioner of London’s Metropolitan Police has been told in a letter by Independent Police Complaints Commission that there is no evidence that he misled the public over the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes, The Times newspaper reported.

The Brazilian was killed by police marksmen in an underground carriage at Stockwell Station in South London on 22 July last year during a botched counter-terrorist operation the day after four bombers allegedly tried to blow up underground trains.

The 27-year-old electrician was followed from a house linked to one of the suspects and shot nine times after boarding a train.

One investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission has looked at the shooting and another, nicknamed “Stockwell Two”, has examined complaints from the de Menezes family about what Sir Ian and his force said afterwards.

Fire leaves 2 dead, hundreds homeless in LA

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A labourer winnows wheat at a foodstuff storage in Xining, northwest China’s Qinghai Province, on 8 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MVI XIONG FA VOY NO (6061)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVI XIONG FA VOY NO (6061) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 12.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHOPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256090/378316/376797

China’s GDP to grow by 10.5% this year

BEIJING, 11 Dec—China’s gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to exceed 20 trillion yuan (about 2.56 trillion US dollars) this year, up 10.5 percent over 2005, said Ma Kai, minister of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC), here on Saturday.

Addressing the national development and reform working conference, Ma said that the country’s economy has been developing this year fairly fast with good efficiency and low inflation. Stable economic operation has benefited the people and will power future development.

MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon “Seniang” hits central Philippines

MANILA, 11 Dec—Typhoon Seniang (inter-
national codename Utor) struck the central Philip-
ippines, causing power blackouts in many areas, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said on Sunday.

The typhoon made landfall in Eastern Samar on Saturday, knocking out power and communication lines in many areas in Cebu, Leyte, Aklan, Tacloban City, Boracay and Sariaya, Quezon, according to an NDCC report. In Albay Province, up to 57,000 people trooped to makeshift evacuation centres, fearing a repeat of a mudslide that killed hundreds in the province last week, said the NDCC.

Typhoon Seniang hit Romblon early Sunday as it moves towards the southern part of Occidental Mindoro and the Calamian Group of Islands, said state weather bureau PAGASA.

The PAGASA said, as of 4 am Sunday, the eye of the typhoon was spotted at 40 kilometres south of Romblon or 140 kilo-
metres east-southeast of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. It is predicted to pass through Occidental Mindoro by Sunday afternoon.—MNA/Xinhua

China’s audio-video publishers ally to combat piracy

BEIJING, 10 Dec—China’s major audio-video publishers and distributors have allied to form a joint venture to facilitate EVD (Enhanced Versatile Disc) circulation, according to Zhang Baquan, secretary-general of the EVD Industry Alliance.

The new company, which involves the Zoke Culture and the Antaeus Group, aims to promote the unprecedented home-grown EVD standard, and help pummel widespread copyright piracy. The EVD formatted publishing rights, which is exclusively owned by the Antaeus Group originally, will be shared among the six firms that account for 80 percent of the audio-video market in China, Zhang said. Nearly 20 leading Chinese manufactures jointly announced several days ago that they would stop making DVD players from 2008, replacing them with the next-generation players based on the self-innovated technology.—MNA/Xinhua
have found malaria may be fuelling the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Kenyan city of Kisumu

The new scientific studies say HIV was spreading more quickly than they would expect just through risky sexual behaviour. When people with HIV/AIDS contract malaria, it causes a surge of HIV virus in their blood, making them more likely to infect a partner.

The way the two diseases interact can help them spread faster, said the researchers, 5 per cent of adult malaria cases are linked to HIV. They also believe that 10 per cent of deaths among the infected people, if they are not on a responsive treatment regimen, are linked to increased viral load caused by malaria. Such development is also known to intensify the progression towards AIDS.

The further weakening of the body defence system of an HIV-positive person by malaria parasite is also known to intensify their progression towards HIV/AIDS. Such development is likely to result in more deaths among the infected people, if they are not on a responsive treatment regime.

The FY-2D satellite was launched into the target orbit at 8:53 am aboard a Long March-3A carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

“The satellite will monitor weather changes at all the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games venues,” Li Qian, chief designer of the FY-2D, told Xinhua.

“The FY-2D will provide accurate and timely information about weather changes to help us with weather forecasts during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, especially the opening and closing ceremony and important contests,” he said.

China launched a geostationary orbit satellite

Scientists studying malaria fuels spread of “AIDS”

NAIROBI, 10 Dec— Scientists studying the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in the Kenyan city of Kisumu have found malaria may be fuelling the spread of the killer scourge in the East African nation.

Job seekers visit a job fair in Hefei, east China’s Anhui Province on 10 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

Europe’s “ariane” rocket launches two US satellites

PARIS, 10 Dec — Europe’s Ariane 5 rocket was launched late Friday in French Guiana, carrying two US telecommunications satellites into orbit.

The heavy-lift Ariane 5 rocket was launched from Europe’s Kourou space base in the French Guiana, transporting two US telecommunications satellites into orbit. The satellite monitoring system of an HIV-positive person is intensifying their progression towards AIDS.

The further weakening of the body defence system of an HIV-positive person by malaria parasite is also known to intensify their progression towards HIV/AIDS. Such development is likely to result in more deaths among the infected people, if they are not on a responsive treatment regime.

The satellite was launched on 8 February, 1994, as part of the Consortium to study how to control the flooding. According to the Ariane rocket company’s chief designer, the satellite was launched 27 minutes into the launch, followed by SES Americom’s AMC-18 satellite five minutes later. WildBlue-1 was released into a preliminary orbit and is designed to provide high-speed broadband Internet service to rural areas in the United States and Canada, while AMC-18 will be used for high-definition television and telecommunications service across the United States.

Report says OPEC may refrain from further output cut

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — With oil prices back above 60 US dollars a barrel and the global economy slowing, OPEC is likely to refrain from further tightening its oil spigots when the cartel meets next Thursday in Nigeria, The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

But in an indication that oil prices are likely to remain lofty, the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries will be poised to cut output if needed, with an eye on large stockpiles of crude stored around the world, the report quoted senior officials of this organization as saying.

The cartel, which meets about a third of the world demand of 85 million barrels of crude per day, in October called for a 4.4-per-cent reduction in its output. It remains unclear how much has been cut, but even partial compliance will mean the market is about to feel a drop in shipments. Some industry analysts say prices could rise next year because the world will need more oil from the cartel, not less.

Several OPEC officials said the cartel is likely to schedule another meeting for late January or early February to review output levels.

“We don’t have to do anything right now. This is our analysis of the situation,” said a senior official of one major member of the 11-nation cartel.

A chained dog sits on a snow-covered hill at the port of Pajares, in the northern Spanish region of Asturias, on 10 Dec, 2006. Northern Spain was hit by a freeze weather with heavy wind, rain and snowfalls. —INTERNET
N Korea beat China 3-1 in women’s soccer final at Asiad

DOHA, 11 Dec—Two extra-time goals gifted North Korea a 3-1 win over China in the women’s soccer semifinal at the Doha Asian Games on Sunday. North Korea controlled the game in the first half, but it was China who scored first. Chinese midfielder Wang DanDan powered the ball home from a cross at the 10th minute. But North Korean forward Kim Son Hui tied the score in the 21st minute with a goal-mouth tap. Then, North Korea squandered several scoring chances in front of the well-organized Chinese defence.

After the interval, China played more actively in the attacking but both sides failed to get any goals. China’s defence collapsed during extra time and North Korea scored twice in five minutes. Ri Kum Suk first scored on 94 minutes, followed by the goal from Ri Un Gyong in the 99th minute. — MNA/Xinhua

China, Japan reach women’s volleyball final

DOHA, 11 Dec—Defending champion China has outfought Taibei in straight sets, setting up a final clash against Japan in the women’s volleyball tournament here on Sunday. It is the fourth time for the two Asian powerhouses to meet in Asiad’s volleyball final.

Japan’s Narisako wins men’s 400m hurdles

DOHA, 11 Dec—Kenji Narisako beat Chinese hurdler Meng Yan to win the men’s 400m hurdles here on Sunday, adding a first gold medal from the athletics competitions to Japan at the Asian Games.

Narisako crossed the finish line with a time of 48.78 seconds, ahead of China’s Meng at 0.48 seconds. His compatriot Naohiro Kawakita finished third in 50.19.

Barclays Premiership Table

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Japanese Ikeda wins women’s long jump in Asian Games

DOHA, 11 Dec—Japanese Kumiko Ikeda flew 6.81 meters to win the women’s long jump gold medal at the Asian Games on Sunday.

Anju Bobby George of India took silver in 6.52 meters and Olga Rypakova of Kazakhstan got bronze with 6.49 meters. — MNA/Xinhua

S Koreans win 59kg, 84kg taekwondo golds

DOHA, 11 Dec—Lee Sung Hye of South Korea beat Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu of Vietnam 3-0 in the women’s 59kg division here on Sunday. Tseng Pei Hua of Chinese Taipei and Ayasha Shakya of Nepal took the bronze. She won four points, setting up a final and the last China-Japan clash against Japan in the 15th Asian Games here on Sunday, beating Mehdi Navaei Saraskanru of Iran 2-0 in the final.

Abdulqader Abdulmete Al Adhmi Abdulqader of Qatar and Liu Xiaobo of China shared the bronze medals. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia wins Asiad badminton gold after 36-year wait

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec—Malaysian pair Koo Kien Keat/Tan Boon Heong put an end to the country’s 36-year wait for a gold from badminton in the Asian Games, local Press reported Sunday.

The pair defeated Indonesian opponents Luluk Hadiyanto/Alvin Yuliwanto 21-13, 21-14 in the men’s doubles final in Doha Saturday night.

Last time Malaysian shuttlers won Asian Games gold medals was in 1970, when the country bagged three golds in men’s singles, men’s doubles and mixed doubles.

Koo/Tan not only brought home the first gold after 36 years of painful waiting but also became the first Malaysian badminton players to advance to the Asiad final after the year 1994.

China, South Korea share fencing golds at Asiad

DOHA, 11 Dec—Chinese fencer Wang Jingzhi snatched the men’s individual sabre gold after a close-fought bout against South Korea’s Oh Eun Seek, but world champion Zhong Weiping of China lost the women’s individual epee gold to her South Korean opponent at the 15th Asian Games on Sunday.

Wang stormed into a 8-4 lead by the first break, but in the second three minutes, Oh launched a strong fight back, coming from behind to lead 9-8. In the final session, both players intensified offensives, with the lead changing hands several times. But Wang triumphed in the last second with a narrow 15-14 win.

Wang, the silver medalist at the Busan Asian Games, said that he was too conservative after gaining a big lead in the first session, which gave his opponent chances to score with aggressive attacks.

China’s Zhou Hanning and Kotthay Wiradetch of Thailand had the bronze.

Japan’s Sawano wins men’s pole vault gold at Doha Asiad

DOHA, 11 Dec—Japan’s Daichi Sawano cleared the height of 5.60 metres to clinch the men’s pole vault gold medal at the 15th Asian Games here on Sunday.

Uzbekistan’s Leonid Andrew won the silver medal after clearing 5.55m, his season’s best. China’s Yang Yansheng took the bronze with 5.50m... — MNA/Xinhua

The Chinese synchronised swimming team performs its free routine during the team event free routine final at Doha Asian, Qatar, on 9 Dec, 2006. — XINHUA

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A woman walks a horse during the final stage of the women’s long jump competition at the Doha Asian Games on 9 Dec, 2006. La Delfina won the game. — INTERNET

Canadian pit crew practice changing tyres before the Al Grand Prix race at Indonesia’s Sentul International Circuit on 10 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET

China’s Meng at 0.48 sec-
Second hospital fire kills nine in Russia

Moscow, 11 Dec—Nine people were killed and 16 others injured in the second hospital fire in Russia over the weekend, news agencies reported on Sunday.

A total of 223 patients and seven staff members were in the building of a psycho-neurological clinic in the Siberian region of Kemerovo when the blaze started shortly after midnight, Valery Korchagin, spokesman for the regional branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry, told the Interfax news agency.

All the injured were taken to hospitals and the rest of the patients were temporarily accommodated at healthcare centers in the region.

Kemerovo’s Governor Aman Tuleyev said the two-storey brick house was built during World War II but was completely renovated two years ago.

The fire was brought under control three hours after it began, and arson may be the cause of the fire, said officials.

The fire came just a day after another fire early Saturday at a drug treatment hospital in southwestern Moscow killed 45 people.

Sources close to the investigation told Interfax that Saturday’s fire may be an arson committed by a female patient, a drug addict, who was seeking revenge after doctors refused to give her drugs.

—Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Sunday, 11 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Rakhine States, Magway Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Yangon Divisions. (7°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C) and Mogok (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 10-12-2006 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 11-12-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 11-12-2006 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 10-12-2006 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 11-12-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from North-west at 15:15 hours MST on 10-12-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Southwest Bay become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy in the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12-12-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 12-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 12-12-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 12-12-2006: Fair weather.
YANGON, 11 Dec — The Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia held its group meeting at the meeting hall-6 in Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

It was attended by members of panel of chairmen of the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia and NC delegates.

At the meeting, film director U Khin Zaw presided over the meeting together with Director-General of Medical Science Department Dr Maung Maung Wint and U Hla Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation. Deputy Director U Than Win of NCC Work Committee Office acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Nyin Myint, co-MC.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the meeting valid as 45 delegates out of 56 were present, accounting for 80.36 per cent.

Next, alternate chairman film director U Khin Zaw made a speech on the occasion. Rector of Institute of Medicine 1 Dr Myo Myint read out the proposal to be submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention to lay down the detailed basic principles for the chapter on Amendment of Constitution to be included in drafting the State Constitution; Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon film director U Kyi Soe Tun, the chapter on State Flag; architect and sculpturer technician U Win Maung (Tanpawady), the chapter on State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital; technician U Sein Kyi of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, the chapter on Transitory Provisions and professor Daw Po (Retd) of Myanmarsar Department of Yangon University, the chapter on General Provisions.

Afterwards, NC delegates held discussions on the proposals and the meeting chairman made conclusion remarks.

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The story warns us that corrupt officials and flatterers may appear in any administrative system; that the ruler should not be deceived by such persons as they are going to give trouble to the people; that the ruler should keep in the fore the people’s interests.

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SAW NANDAR (MANAUNG)

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MNA

Commander, minister attend inauguration of Myitkyina-Mandalay special express train

YANGON, 11 Dec — The Ministry of Rail Transportation has already planned to run one up train and one down train on Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad section daily for the convenience of the travellers who are plying between Myitkyina and Mandalay. A ceremony to inaugurate No 38 special express down train to run from Myitkyina to Mandalay was held at platform No 1 of Myitkyina Railway Station yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, senior military officers, departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social organizations and local people.

At Myitkyina Railway Station, the commander and the ministers sprinkled scented water on coaches of the No 38 special express coaches and cordially greeted the passengers and presented souvenirs to them.

As the train started leaving Myitkyina station, the local people waved at the passengers. On its way to Nankway, Mogaung, Pinbaw, Hopin and Monyin stations, the local people welcomed the passengers by presenting music and dances.

(See page 10)