

Senior General Than Shwe attends graduation dinner of 11th Intake of DSTA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attends graduation dinner to honour graduate officers of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec — The graduation dinner to honour the graduate officers of the 11th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 5.30 p.m. yesterday, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

It was also attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of

SPDC Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htaik, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint and Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Myint

Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, the commanders, the ministers, senior military officers, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay mayor, officials of SPDC Office, the commander of PyinOoLwin Station and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, the commandant of the DSTA, the chief instructor officer and commanding officers of cadet battalions, professors/heads of departments, faculty members, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 21 December, 2008

Build modern Tatmadaw through advanced science and technology

The Graduation Parade of the 11th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy took place at the parade ground of the DSTA in PyinOoLwin the other day, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his speech, the Senior General said, “I would like to urge you that in accordance with the motto of DSTA’s Alma Mater “Technology for Military Might”, it is incumbent upon all of you to try to establish yourselves as technocrats and utilize effectively your know-how and ability in building a modern Tatmadaw”.

Today, the world has seen dramatic advancements in science and technology, so transforming the Tatmadaw into a modern one is in progress now. The Defence Services Technological Academy is one of the educational institutions producing human resources capable of building a powerful Tatmadaw.

In addition, military science and technology are improving at high levels day by day in the world. Accordingly, junior military engineering officers have to do constant study to be able to keep in touch with military science along with sophisticated military science, weapons, vehicles and machinery.

It is obligatory for junior military engineering officers to be in perpetual service of their corps with good volition, while enhancing their three capabilities—military capabilities, persuasive capabilities and administrative capabilities — and making contribution towards tasks for development of national brethren.

It is believed that junior military engineering officers, who are going to assume charge of their national defence duties, will do their bit in the drive for building a modern Tatmadaw by trying their best in conformity with the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw so as to become reliable and responsible technocrats with good moral conduct and disciplines.

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

Ministry of Mines holds coord meeting



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint speaks at the second work coordination meeting of Ministry of Mines. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Ministry of Mines held its second work coordination meeting at the ministry, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

Managing Directors and Directors-General and departmental officials reported on progress of

respective tasks and measures to be taken for exceeding the target.

The minister instructed them to uplift efficiency of the personnel and focus on agriculture and livestock breeding for staff welfare.

MNA

Special Civil Appeal Cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) U Tun Tun Oo, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Khin Myint, and U Myint Thein sitting at court room No. 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgments of 4 special civil appeal cases and then heard 6 special civil appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judicial Law 2000.

MNA

GMS discuss information, communications

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— The GMS Information Superhighway Implementation Group Meeting No.8 was held from 16 to 17 December and the GMS Information superhighway Steering Group Meeting No. 4, at Shwe Nandaw Hotel, here on 18 and 19 December.

The meetings were attended by the senior officials from six Mekong Region nations: Myanmar, Cambodia, the PRC, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Managing Director of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs made an opening address.

The meetings focused on progress of Information Superhighway Implementation, development of the benefits of the people in the regions and timely-completion of the plans.—MNA



Dr Daw Sandar Aung visits English learning class in No. 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township. — EDUCATION

S & C working group leader visits Sangyoung BEHS-2

YANGON, 20 Dec—Leader of Social and Culture working group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Sandar Aung arrived at Basic Education High School No. 2 in Sangyoung Township, here, this morning. She viewed the studying of trainees at Communicative English Language Course for Women opened by Education working group. She also met with trainees and teachers at the training.

The eight-week course is being attended by 90 women trainees.—MNA



Vegetables are strewn on the ground following a car bomb attack outside a traffic police post in the Munstansariyah district in Baghdad. At least nine people were killed and dozens wounded when a car bomb exploded in the centre of Baghdad on Wednesday as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was visiting, the US military said.—INTERNET

US to send 3,000 more troops to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has signed a deployment order to move an additional 3,000 troops to Afghanistan next year, US military officials said on Friday. The troops will be part of a combat aviation brigade, the latest approved by Gates for the expected build-up of US troops in Afghanistan throughout next year.

Earlier this year, the US commander in Afghanistan, Gen David McKiernan, requested at least 20,000 additional troops be sent there to fight the increasing violence by the resurgent Taliban forces in the southern and eastern parts of the country.

The officials could not say what units are being tapped to go because those units are now being told of their deployment and the announcement has not yet been made public.

Internet

A woman lays on a hospital bed as she is treated at hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 Dec, 2008. A double-bombing in eastern Baghdad killed 18 people and wounded 52 others, police said. INTERNET



US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 558

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—As of on 19 Dec, 2008, at least 558 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 am EST. Of those, the military reports 405 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—*Internet*

Family of French journalist missing in Iraq begin lawsuit

PARIS, 20 Dec—The family of a French cameraman who went missing in Iraq at the start of the US-led invasion have begun a lawsuit against persons unknown for his kidnapping and murder, their lawyer said Friday.

Fred Nerac was working for a UK television station when he disappeared after an incident in which a UK reporter and a Lebanese interpreter were killed near the city of Basra in March 2003.

He is believed to have been killed after the journalists' car came under fire from Iraqi forces and then US troops two days after the invasion began. But the 43-year-old's body has never been found.

Nerac's wife and two children were due to lodge their suit in a Paris court Friday to try to finally find out what happened to him, lawyer Olivier Morice told reporters.

French foreign ministry officials have said that Nerac was killed in the

incident, but some witnesses said he was abducted from the scene.

Morice noted that his press card and his bullet-proof vest were found in Baath party offices in a nearby town.

A UK court ruled this year that although it was clear that US forces had fired the shot that killed the UK television reporter Terry Lloyd, with whom Nerac was working, there was insufficient evidence to prosecute.

Internet

Four NATO soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Dec—Four soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed Friday by separate explosive device blasts in southern Afghanistan, said an ISAF statement released here on Saturday.

However, it did not specify the information of nationalities of victims in the light of ISAF policy.

Meanwhile, the Danish military said that three Danish soldiers have been killed and one injured when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in southern Afghan province of Helmand.

Around 700 Danish troops have been deployed in Afghanistan, most of whom are stationed in the Helmand Province under British command while the recent three deaths brought its death toll to 21 since Copenhagen deployed soldiers there as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force in 2001.

Moreover, one Dutch soldier was confirmed being killed when he stepped on an explosive device during a fire-fight with the Taliban in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, said Dutch officials.

Over 1,700 Dutch soldiers have been sent to Afghanistan keeping peace and helping with reconstruction there.

Spiraling conflicts and Taliban-linked insurgency have claimed the lives of more than 5,000 people, with over 286 foreign troops, so far this year, despite over 70,000-strong international troops stationed in strife-torn Afghanistan. — *Internet*

A man wounded in a bomb attack is rushed into the hospital in Baquba, 60 km (42 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 18 Dec, 2008. A roadside bomb attack targeted an Iraqi army patrol wounded six people in Baquba on Thursday, police said. — INTERNET



Iraqi judge says shoe-throwing reporter was beaten

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec—A judge announced a probe Friday into the beating and bruising of an Iraqi journalist's face moments after he hurled his shoes at President George W Bush, and said investigators destroyed the shoes in their search for explosives. The statement to The Associated Press by Dhia al-Kinani, the investigating judge, was the first official word that Muntadhar al-Zeidi was hurt after his outburst at a

news conference by Bush and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. According to the judge, al-Zeidi suffered a bruised face and eyes.

Al-Zeidi has been in custody since the Sunday attack and hasn't been seen since by relatives or a lawyer.

One of his brothers, Uday, alleged Friday that the isolation indicates he was abused

Internet

US misdiagnoses real danger in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—It's easy to get depressed reading the news out of Afghanistan. The insurgents are getting stronger, the United States is sending another 20,000 troops there — and yet even Defence Secretary Bob Gates admits that American soldiers aren't a long-term solution. So what to do?

In sorting out these policy dilemmas, it helps to talk to Afghans such as

Saad and Jahid Mohseni, who are struggling with these problems every day. The two entrepreneurial brothers are running a media business in the war zone of Kabul and, far from giving up, they keep thinking of innovative new ways to adapt and survive.

I first met the Mohseni brothers in April at the offices of their Moby Media Group in Kabul. We met again in Washington last

week, and their comments convinced me that many US policymakers are misdiagnosing the real danger in Afghanistan. What will destroy that country's experiment in democracy isn't the Taliban or other insurgent groups, but the lawlessness and corruption that have been allowed to fester under the government of President Hamid Karzai.—Internet

Sri Lanka navy destroys rebel arms ship

COLOMBO, 20 Dec—Sri Lanka's navy on Saturday destroyed a Tamil Tiger vessel carrying arms and other supplies off the island's northeastern coast, the defence ministry said.

Navy patrol craft "completely destroyed" the vessel of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) off the coast of Mullaittivu in a pre-dawn assault, the ministry said in a statement.

It said four more rebel craft in the area supporting the arms ship were also attacked by navy patrol craft.

"The enemy logistics vessel was completely destroyed," the statement said. "It is believed that the enemy vessel was

carrying a large quantity of warlike materials to the LTTE since it sank engulfed in a ball of fire under the heavy naval fire."

There was no immediate comment from the Tigers.

The Sri Lankan navy had earlier said it had sunk virtually the entire fleet of arms-carrying ships of the Tiger guerrillas, who were known to operate a lucrative shipping business through front organisations.

The latest naval clash came as government ground troops tried to capture the LTTE political capital of Kilinochchi in the north of the island.—Internet



Yemen kidnappers release Germans after ransom paid

SAN'A (Yemen), 20 Dec—Kidnappers released on Friday three Germans abducted in Yemen after the Yemeni government paid a \$100,000 ransom and agreed to another demand to release tribesmen from prison, officials and a mediator said.

The Germans — an aid worker and her visiting mother and father — arrived in the capital San'a after their release and met with Yemen's ministers of tourism and interior as well as Germany's deputy ambassador to Yemen, Yemeni security officials said.

They were kidnapped Monday by tribesmen in a

province about 65 miles south of San'a.

The three received medical check ups, which showed they were in good condition, and spoke with their relatives in Germany, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The kidnappers released the hostages after the Yemeni government paid a ransom of about \$100,000, said one of mediators who is also a tribal official. The mediator spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Internet

Sri Lanka's navy on Saturday destroyed a Tamil Tiger vessel carrying arms and other supplies off the island's northeastern coast, the defence ministry said.

INTERNET



Suzanne MacPherson, of Glasgow, Scotland, sits on the floor watching snow removal equipment at work, as she waits for her delayed flight, at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, on 19 Dec, 2008. A blast of snow and freezing rain knocked out power, threatened wheat crops and could ruin the last shopping weekend before Christmas as a storm moved from the US upper Midwest to the country's Northeast on Friday.—INTERNET



A pile of shoes, seen, dumped in a box outside the US Embassy by demonstrators in London, on 19 Dec, 2008. Stop the War coalition are calling for the guaranteed safety and release of Iraqi journalist, Muntadhar al-Zeidi, who threw his shoes at US President George Bush during a press conference in Baghdad.—INTERNET

UN says Darfur conflict shows no sign of ending

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Dec—As the conflict in Darfur enters its sixth year, there is still widespread violence in the region, no sign of a political settlement and millions of civilians living in camps on lifesaving international aid, the UN's peacekeeping chief said Friday.

Alain Le Roy told the UN Security Council that the joint African Union-United Nations force that took over peacekeeping in Darfur almost a year ago "has been much too slow in providing real improvements for the ordinary citizens on the ground and inadequate in resolving the Darfur crisis."

He said the UN must accelerate deployment of the 26,000-strong force, but stressed that "the fundamental responsibility for making real progress" lies with the government of Sudan and rebel groups which must stop fighting and start talking under UN mediator Djibrill Bassole.

Internet

Powerful winter storm cuts power, disrupts travel

NEW YORK, 20 Dec—A winter storm packing snow, freezing rain and biting wind cut power to tens of thousands of customers Friday, disrupted travel and gave schoolchildren from Iowa to New England an early start on their holiday break. "One thing about it, you're going to have a white Christmas this year," said Lee Longdyke, as he shoveled a sidewalk in Pontiac, Mich, for the third time Friday morning. More than 200 flights were canceled at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, and more than 650 at three New York City-area airports. Many remaining flights had hourslong delays.

Runways at Milwaukee's airport were closed for much of the morning because snowplows could not keep up with "whiteout conditions," airport spokeswoman Pat Rowe said. Snowfall affected a large region, but the worst of the ice storm — and resulting power outages — was in a band across northern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Power companies reported 60,000 customers in Illinois without service Friday, more than 35,000 in Ohio, and a whopping 180,000 in Indiana, where the area around Fort Wayne was particularly hard-hit.—Internet

Nepal to face energy crisis

KATHMANDU, 20 Dec — Nepali Prime Minister Prachanda has said that his government will declare energy crisis within a few months, The National News Agency RSS reported on Saturday.

He said the declaration is to be made in view of the possibility of 18-hour load shedding daily in the months of February to April as the energy crisis has been increasing in the country.

Speaking at the General Assembly of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries here on Friday, Prachanda said the government was also issuing white paper on the present state of the country.

Prachanda said that the government has backed building diesel-run thermal plants as the short-term option to tide over the woes of load shedding.

However, energy

experts have objected to the government decision on generating 200-250 megawatts of electricity from thermal plants to address the energy crisis in the country.

They said the cost of the electricity from thermal plants will be more expensive and have to wait for another 5-6 months, therefore other alternatives should be sought to decrease load shedding.

Xinhua



Vehicles which will take part in the Dakar 2009 Argentina-Chile Rally are seen parked at the Zarate docks, 102 km (63 miles) north of Buenos Aires, on 19 Dec, 2008. The South American edition of the Dakar 2009 starting 3 January includes a total of 14 stages across Argentina and Chile. — XINHUA

At least six killed, 11 injured in Colombia road accident

BOGOTA, 20 Dec — At least six people were killed and 11 others injured when the bus they were riding in crashed into a cargo truck and fell off a cliff Friday in central Colombia, authorities said.

The accident occurred on the road linking the capital Bogota to the city of Villavicencio in Cundinamarca state, according to a state police official. The injured have been admitted to hospital in Bogota and Villavicencio.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



Russian destroyer Admiral Chabanenko sails into Havana's bay on 19 December, 2008. — XINHUA

Petrobras' domestic oil output down 1.5% in November

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Dec — Brazil's state oil and gas company Petrobras said Friday its domestic oil production averaged about 1.84 million barrels per day in November, down 1.5 percent from October and up 4.6 percent from November 2007.

Its domestic natural gas output in November was 51.24 million cubic metres per day on average, down 4.8 percent from October and up 16.7 percent from November 2007.

The company's total average domestic production reached nearly 2.17 million barrels of oil equivalent (boe) per day, down 1.9 percent from October and up 6.4 percent from the same period last year.

Petrobras said the decrease in November production was due to scheduled shutdowns of platforms in the Northeastern Pole of the Campos Basin, off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state, in southeastern Brazil.

The platforms, Petrobras said, are already running normally again. — Xinhua

Shooting between police, drug gang kills four in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Dec — Shooting between police and a suspected drug gang in Brazil's Rio left four people dead and six others injured early Friday, said the police.

According to the

police, the shooting began when a team of policemen from the Special Resources Department found several suspected drug gang members and then started to chase them.

The suspects ran into the Parque Uniao slum, where they ordered all the lights to be turned off and put barricades in the policemen's way.

Later the police found four bodies in a square in the slum. Two policemen were among the injured.

The injured were taken to local hospital, and their situation were stable.

The police seized a grenade, a rifle and two shotguns. The police have occupied the slum since the morning but arrested no one.

Xinhua

Russia to restore ties with NATO on equal basis

MOSCOW, 20 Dec — Russia is ready to resume its relations with NATO on an equal basis, news agencies reported Friday, citing Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"We are ready for it (the restoration of relations). But it should take place on an equal basis," Lavrov told the Federation Council, the upper house of Russia's parliament.

Later in the day, the Russian top diplomat said the restoration of Russia-NATO relations should begin with a discussion of the causes of the five-day war between Russia and Georgia.

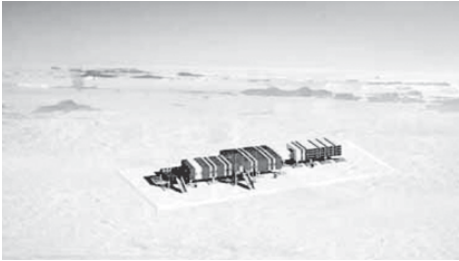
"We will insist that the resumption of ties starts with the discussion of the causes of the Caucasus crisis, which our NATO partners dodged in August," Lavrov told reporters after talks with his Bulgarian counterpart. On Friday, NATO chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer met Russian envoy Dmitry Rogozin in Brussels, resuming high-level political contacts between the alliance and Moscow, which were frozen for four months following the Georgia crisis.

NATO foreign ministers decided to suspend high-level contacts with Russia in August, accusing Russia of "disproportionate use of force" in Georgia. In response, Russia halted cooperation with NATO's Moscow office and called off the NATO chief's visit to Moscow. — Xinhua

High school students of a Japanese youth delegation arrive at the Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 Dec, 2008. The 1,000-member-delegation arrived here on Thursday, rounding off this "China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year of the Youth." Breaking into seven small groups, they will respectively visit such cities as Ningbo, Hangzhou, Jinan and Qingdao in the east, Xi'an and Baoji in the west, Shenzhen and Guangzhou in the south and Dalian and Shenyang in the northeast. — XINHUA



Chinese explorers trek to build third Antarctic base



The image released on 18 Dec 2008 shows the to-be-built Kunlun Station. —INTERNET

ANTARCTICA, 20 Dec — The Chinese 25th Antarctic expedition team left Zhongshan Station Thursday for the highest icecap on the South Pole to set up the country’s first inland Antarctic research station.

The to-be-built Kunlun Station, also the country’s third station in Antarctica after Changcheng Station and Zhongshan Station, would be located in the Dome Argus (Dome A) zone, the pole’s highest icecap at 4,093 metres above sea level.

The 1,300-kilometre journey was scheduled to take 20 days, with a team of 28 members, 11 vehicles, 43 sleds and 625 tonnes of supplies.

“As the region’s highest peak, Dome A is a true natural laboratory for scientific study and has a high value of scientific research,” said Yang Huigen, chief scientist with the expedition team.

“Dome A is a unique station for meteorological and climate observation,

and the oldest ice core is most likely to be found here,” Yang said.

Dome A was also called as the “inaccessible pole for human beings” with its thin air and a mean annual temperature of minus 60 degrees Celsius.

Li Yuansheng, the team leader, said all the 28 members had passed a series of strict assessment on physics, psychology and high plateau acclimatization, and “they will overcome chilliness and hypoxia to finish building the new station.” —Internet

Autopsy: Pregnant soldier had been asphyxiated

CHAPEL HILL, (NC), 20 Dec — An autopsy report says a pregnant soldier found dead in a Fayetteville motel room in June likely died of asphyxiation.

The report says Megan Touma’s body was in a state of moderate to advanced decomposition when found on 21 June fully submerged in a bathtub in her motel room. The 23-year-old Touma, a dental specialist, arrived at Fort Bragg on 12 June from a base in Germany.

Autopsy findings also show hemorrhage consistent with blunt force injury, which could mean Touma was strangled.

Fayetteville police say 27-year-old Sgt Edgar Patino, of Hope Mills, was the father of Touma’s unborn baby. He has been charged with first-degree murder. Investigators said Touma and the married Patino began a relationship while stationed in Germany.

Internet

Audit cites improper FBI overtime in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec — FBI agents in Iraq received millions of dollars in overtime pay for such tasks as attending movies and cocktail parties, a US Justice Department audit says.

The FBI encouraged agents to list all waking hours on their time sheets, a move that violated federal pay statutes, regulations and FBI policies, Justice Department Inspector General Glenn Fine said.

The 1,150 agents who volunteered for war zone assignment in Iraq from 2003 to 2007 uniformly listed 16-hour

workdays for each day of their three-month tours, Fine said, plus improper additional “Sunday pay” when scheduled to work on Sunday.

The inspector general could not determine exactly how much money the overtime hours cost the federal government, but the report lists \$6.4 million as a conservative estimate, The Washington Times said. Agents also received about \$1.4 million for “Sunday pay.” The policy as described in the audit has been discontinued, FBI Assistant Director John Miller said. —Internet

Czech lawmakers do not extend Afghanistan mission

PRAGUE, (Czech Republic), 20 Dec — The lower chamber of Czech parliament has failed to extend a mandate for the deployment of the country’s troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and other foreign missions for next year, meaning the soldiers will leave soon.

The mandate for as many as 415 Czech servicemen serving in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and for another unit of 100 elite troops with the US-led operation against al-Qaida and Taliban fighters, expires by the year’s end.

“I am ashamed of the vote,” Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek said.

Topolánek said later Friday the government used its constitutional rights and delayed the troops’ return home by 60 days, starting 1 Jan.

“It is a serious situation,” Czech military chief of general staff Lt Gen Vlastimil Pícek said. “It is a very bad signal for our partners,” he said. —Internet

New Year delayed — by a second

Waiting for that New Year’s Eve midnight kiss? Be careful to time it right — as it’s coming a second later this year.

When New Year revellers are expecting 2009 to start, the world’s ultra-precise atomic clock will actually show the time as 23 hours, 59 minutes and 60 seconds.

The extra second will make 2008 — already a leap year — the longest in the last 16 years.

So-called “leap seconds” are added to compensate for the Earth’s slowing rotation. It’s caused by the Moon’s gravity and other factors influencing the speed of rotation — from inside the Earth and the atmosphere.

Time is counted according to the Earth’s rotation around the sun and to Coordinated Universal Time — a time standard based on International Atomic Time. Solar mean



time is calculated at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London.

Since 1972, leap seconds have been added 23 times — to keep both time standards less than 0.9 seconds apart.

The last time a leap second was added was on 31 December, 2005.

Psychologists say that adding a second will not affect people in any way.

Differences in the duration of days were first recognised in the 19th century.

But it was only with the invention of the atomic clock in 1949 that scientists could measure precisely the difference between terrestrial and astronomical time.

Woman burns ex-beau’s clothes, damages top \$100K

A woman set fire to her ex-boyfriend’s clothing at a self-storage centre and walked away, causing more than \$100,000 in damages, police said. Officers arrested Donna J Duell, 26, on suspicion of arson in connection with the fire Wednesday night at Community Storage Lockers on the north side of Anderson.

Duell at first denied any involvement but then admitted she took her ex-boyfriend’s clothing to an empty storage unit, set it ablaze and walked away, Anderson Police Detective Randy Tracy said.

Duell told him the two were involved in a “bitter domestic dispute.”

“The fire fully engulfed one entire building and damage estimates are over \$100,000, not including the contents of the buildings,” Tracy said.

Security codes indicated Duell had been the last person to storage centre at 8:02 pm, and she left nine minutes later. Firefighters received the first report of the blaze at 8:24 pm.

Duell was released from the Madison County Jail after posting \$20,000 bond Thursday.

A telephone listing for her could not be located Friday.

Good vibrations — a new power source



Kinetic energy from everyday movements like walking and dancing are being turned into electricity in a phenomenon known as “power harvesting”. Using energy provided by humans and turning it into new sources of power may sound like a revolutionary idea but it has actually been

around for more than a decade.

In 1993 Trevor Baylis invented the wind up radio, which generated power from contact with humans.

But increasingly sophisticated and effective ways of converting mechanical energy into electricity are being developed and have been labeled as “power harvesting”. Scientists are creating tiny generators that can transmit the energy from everyday movements into electricity which can then provide power for remote installations.

Tourists gather at the Place du Trocadero, overlooking the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.



NEWS ALBUM

The twin crises of finance and food

By He Changchui

(Dr He Changchui is Assistant Director-General and the FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok.)

As world leaders struggle to halt the crisis spreading across the global financial markets, analysts and economists are attempting to gauge the magnitude of this meltdown. Will it rival or surpass the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Black October of 1987 or the Asian Economic Collapse of 1997? In fact, it has the potential to be far worse, and the reasons are high food prices and food shortages, and the steady erosion of agriculture and rural economies.

Food availability and affordability are the bedrocks of any society. During the Great Depression, Black October and the Asian Economic Crisis, food prices were at historic lows. No matter how dire the situation, food was still plentiful and cheap. Today, the story is different. Food is in shorter supply; prices have been steadily climbing since 2001, and have escalated dramatically since 2006. According to the tracking of our Organization, food prices rose by 9 percent in 2006, 24 percent in 2007, and surged 51 percent in the past 12 months. Although we saw some price drops for certain food commodities in the past months, average prices are still much higher than normal, and the international markets remain volatile. During normal times, that level of 'sticker shock' would spell hardship for most working people and the poor.

The role of food security in wider events should not be underestimated. Food shortages and runaway food price inflation have a history of leading to social unrest and political upheaval. The current crisis has already sparked riots and social turbulence in over 30 countries, and contributed to the fall of at least one elected government. In 2007 alone, the food crisis threw an additional 75 million people into the ranks of the malnourished. Hard-won gains by many nations in their battles against hunger and poverty may be reversed. The ability of countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals will be ever more doubtful. Over 60 countries are receiving support and assistance from the international community to boost food production.

World leaders have been aware of the

growing threats to food security for several years. Recently, they began taking steps to address these looming perils. In June 2008, more than \$11 billion was pledged at the Rome Food Security Summit, attended by representatives from 181 nations including more than 40 Heads of State. The money is to be used for immediate food aid for those who need it, and for investing in and revitalizing the agricultural sector to boost crop production. Considering the array of needs to be addressed, it was not an enormous sum, but it was a good start.

The danger today is that those commitments will not be kept. Governments have few choices except to set aside hundreds of billions of dollars to rescue ailing financial institutions. But that may leave them with hard choices. Some may have to cut funding from other programmes to pay for this bailout. One of the least politically popular areas of government expenditure is foreign aid. Citizens naturally ask: when times are tough at home, why should we be giving money to poor farmers in developing countries? It is a legitimate question. Let us be clear about the answer:

This is not just a problem of poor farmers in developing countries. This is everybody's problem. In the modern world few nations are self sufficient when it comes to food security. Even the wealthiest countries import massive amounts of food. Countries that ship rice overseas may still need to source wheat from outside their borders. In this respect, the world truly is interconnected and interdependent. For that reason, this is a problem that can only be addressed at a global level, and so the pledges made in Rome must be fulfilled – and fulfilled on time.

For food prices to come down, food supplies will have to increase. And for food supplies to meet the growing demands of the world's population, an infusion of investment in agriculture is essential. Climate change may already be a factor behind increasing droughts and flooding in fertile, food-producing regions. Subsidies and trade barriers distort markets and reduce efficiency in production and distribution.

A critical factor in the shortfalls in food

supplies is that in much of the developing world farmers are not anywhere near as productive as they could be. They have the potential to grow a greater variety of crops and increase the number of harvests each year. Unfortunately, many lack the technical knowledge, tools and infrastructure to achieve this. With investment and support they can remedy these problems and begin producing enough food for us all at prices we can stomach.

A thriving agricultural sector provides another benefit for many societies; it serves as a social safety net. As factories closed and jobs disappeared in the wake of Asia's meltdown during the late 1990s, substantial numbers of rural people who had migrated to cities to work returned to their farms and villages. Resources were still plentiful and food was there to be shared. But with governments focussing investment on industry, the lives of those engaged in agriculture have become ever more hard.

Governments of developing countries, therefore, must also do their part. The bulk of investment to improve infrastructure and boost productivity must come from the developing countries themselves. Policies that support agriculture, making it sustainable, rewarding and sufficiently productive to support us all must be adopted with urgency.

That said, no country can do this alone. It requires partnerships, and so donors must neither slow nor renege on the official development assistance and other political commitments made in Rome and elsewhere. As a result of the convergence of financial, food and fuel crises, a global tragedy is rapidly unfolding. In our efforts to prevent this, we must not be placed in a position of having to choose between bankers and farmers when it comes to resources. As costly and painful as the mistakes of those engaged in finance have been and will be, we must not short-change those engaged in agriculture. For our own sake, we must provide them with the tools for achievement and the seeds for success. Their success puts food on our tables. And the fruits of their labours are the very staples of our lives.



Verbatim products introduced

YANGON, 20 Dec— The introducing ceremony for Verbatim Product was held at Traders Hotel, here, this morning. Chairman and CEO of KMD Group of Companies U Thaung Tin extended greetings and Manager of Verbatim

Manager Mr Tan Teow Seng gives a presentation on Verbatim Products.

MNA

Marketing of Singapore for South Asia Mr Tan Teow Seng explained facts related to Verbatim Product.

Now, KMD sales and services centre is an authorized dealer under license and delivers to market the verbatim products. Details can be enquired at KMD Computer Sales and Service Centre, No. 550-552, corner of Merchant

street and 36th street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Tel: 204071, 384109, 245180) and No. 331, Pyay road, Myaynigon, Sangyoung Township, Yangon (Tel: 502244, 503511, 503522) and KMD sales centre (Mandalay), No. 103/1, 77th street between 27th street and 28th street, Chanayethazan Township (Tel: 02-60239, 60360).

MNA

Information Minister meets executives of Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central)



YANGON, 20 Dec— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with executives of Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central) at the meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, deputy directors-general, departmental officials, the chairman of MMA (Central) and executives and those from the music field.

Chairman of MMA

(Central) U Maung Maung Latt and Secretary U Ko Ko Lwin reported on the implementation of four objectives of the Asiayon and eight work programmes laid down by the Ministry of Information, future tasks, and Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan fulfilled the requirements.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information would provide necessary assistance in

implementing the objectives of the Asiayon and the tasks for development of the music world, adding that the ministry recognized the efforts and participation of the Myanmar Music Asiayon in the interest of the State and the people while striving for development of the music world.

At present, other fine arts sectors are holding workshops and conducting training courses for the development of their fields, he said and added that he would like the Asiayon to do the same for the development of

music subject.

He stressed the need for the Asiayon to try its best to increase the number of its members. The minister also spoke of the need for the Asiayon to make continued efforts in the interest of the State and its members. In conclusion, he urged those from the Asiayon to make collective and well-coordinated efforts for more advancement of music without harming national character and traditions and culture while serving the interest of the State, the music world and those from the music world based on unity of its members.

After the meeting, the Minister inspected studios, functions of broadcasting rooms and telecasting rooms, use of machines and maintenance of the building and heard reports presented by Director-General U Khin Maung Htay and officials on arrangements for retransmission of TV programmes and broadcasting machines and recruit of skilled personnel.

On arrival at Radio Transmitting Station, the minister looked into the facility and heard reports presented by officials.

Next, he inspected the main-

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visits Myanma Radio and Television.

MNA

tenance of offices in the main building and studios, MRTV-4 broadcasting room and arrangements for broadcasting of TV programmes, and called upon service personnel to properly maintain the broadcasting machines, to try their best to be well qualified and to take fire preventive measures and security measures.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets executives of Myanmar Music Asiayon.

MNA

Men's and women's wears on sale at new Gamonpwint Shopping Mall

YANGON, 20 Dec – Gamonpwint Shopping Mall is kept open on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here since 17 December. Men's and women's wears, various kinds of personal and household goods are available at the shopping mall.

Cosmetics, household-used electrical appliances, shoes, bags and furniture are available on the ground floor and men's and women's wears and personal goods for kids, on first floor. Amusement

park for children is being kept open on second floor. The shopping mall also offers promotion area.

Every shop in the shopping mall offers a discount from 5% to 50% on various kinds of clothes and special discount on foodstuff up to 4 January, 2009 to mark the opening of the shopping mall. — MNA

Gamonpwint Shopping Mall in Mayangon Township.—MNA



MAS grows medicinal orchids on commercial scale

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec – Accompanied by departmental officials, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the growing of medicinal orchids on a commercial-scale in various

cultivation methods in Doekwin farm of Myanma Agriculture Service in PyinOoLwin Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division, on 18 December morning.

After looking into

the medicinal orchids, worm-cast fertilizers, tissue-cultured orchids, vegetables and strawberry, the minister left instructions on seeking ways and means for boosting cultivation.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo visits medicinal orchid plantation.—MNA

Mass walk to mark December Mass Sports Activities in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec— The mass walk to mark the 2008 December Mass Sports Activities took place here at 6 am today with the participation of Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, officials from the

respective ministries, service personnel, teachers of Nay Pyi Taw No. 11 Basic Education High School, students and local people.

First, the participants started the walk from Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and walked along Taungdwingyi-Taungnyo-Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmanaroad and thence walked along Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-

Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road and ended the walk at Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market. On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, they took physical exercise together with officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department.

Next, the participants were served with snacks and bottled water by staff family of the Ministry of Sports and family of Myat Taw Win Hotel. — MNA



Staff of the ministries, teachers, students and local people taking part in mass walk activities in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Ensuring smooth and Secure transport discussed in Yangon



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint participates in mass walk activities together with local people.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Dec— The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of All Private Bus Lines Control Committee (Head Office) yesterday.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint attended the ceremony and made a speech on the occasion.

Next, officials

concerned reported on matters related to enforcement of traffic rules and others to the commander who fulfilled the requirements.

The mass walk to mark the third week of December Mass Sports Activities was held at Youth Sports Training Centre (Thuwunna) this morning with the participation of the commander and wife and party.

Afterwards, they attended the ceremony to

open the new tarred road in Lanmadaw Township and looked into the facility.

And they inspected the sanitation and hygiene measures for control of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever and diarrhea being taken in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township.

After that, they proceeded to Sethsan and Alatchaung Wards in Kyimyindine Township where they viewed regional development tasks.— MNA



Families, teachers, students and local people collectively taking physical exercise in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

MMA to hold Continuing Professional Development Forum

YANGON, 20 Dec— Organized by General practitioners Group of Myanmar Medical Association (Central), Continuing Professional Development Forum will

be held from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Hall (B) of MMA on 23 December (Tuesday). The agenda of the forum will include presentation on family health care and Q & A

on Common Neurological Problems in General Family Practice. Those interested may attend the forum.

MNA

Ongoing Katha-Bhamo Railroad Section Project on west bank of Ayeyawady River

Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon); Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

(from page 16)

Indaw Township in the west, Htigyaint Township in the south and Mohnyin Township in the north, Katha District has an area of 865.68 square miles.

The district is 15 miles east of Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad. A stretch of the railroad links Nabar Station and Katha. Katha will no longer be a railroad terminus and soon it will be able to open a new page of its transport sector. It is because the Myanmar Railways is now constructing Katha-Bhamo railroad section, and upon completion, the 95-mile-long new railroad will link Mandalay and Bhamo through Nabar and Katha.

We visited the construction site of Katha-Bhamo Railroad Project on 27 November morning. Land consolidation work was being carried out to

level the ground and large and small bridges were being built to complete the 22.78-mile Pawmamyaing-Chaungwa railroad section.

Assistant Engineer (Civil) U Sein Ohn of the Myanmar Railways told the Mirror Daily, "Due to the geographical feature of Katha, the town is railroad



U Han Sein, Junior Engineer (Work).

terminus on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River. We are constructing a railroad section to link Nabar-Katha section and Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad. When Katha-Bhamo railroad section is completed, the new railroad will link Bhamo, the northeast part, and Kalay, the northwest part of Myanmar. Then, people can travel between the two townships by train. Previous railroads stretch from south to north in parallel with rivers. But, now several railroad sections under construction stretch from east to west to form a railroad network for smooth transport and regional development."

He added that feasibility study was carried out for Katha-Bhamo railroad section in 2007; that land consolidation work was launched in May 2007; that as the first phase, 22.78-mile Pawmamyaing-Chaungwa section of Katha-Chaungwa railroad section was under construction, and land consolidation work had been completed by 63 per cent; that on completion, the railroad would have



U Sein Ohn, Assistant Engineer (Civil).

101 large and small bridges, and at that time, 20 small bridges had been constructed and five others were ongoing; that the maximum ratio of slopes was 1:100, and the maximum degree of bends was 6.

Junior Engineer-3 (Work) U Han Sein said that vessels ply in the Ayeyawady River between Katha and Bhamo; that opposite bank of Katha ran Mandalay-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road; that the ongoing railroad passed through Pawmamyaing, Minkel, Motargyi, Chaungwa, Kyaikgyi, Myogon, Sinkhan, Hanhtet and Manyut villages on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River; and that the majority of the villages were far from the river, so the railroad would boost transport and regional development.

From a site of the axis of the railroad, we enjoyed a nice view of the Ayeyawady River flowing serenely with boats and vessels plying upstream and downstream along it.

In the near future, passengers onboard vessels in the Ayeyawady River will see up-trains and down-trains running on the rails to and from Katha.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 16-12-2008



A construction site of Katha-Bhamo new railroad section.



A site of Pawmamyaing-Chaungwa railroad section.

Czech deputies reject extension of Afghan force

PRAGUE, 20 Dec—Czech deputies rejected a plan to extend and expand the Czech military presence in Afghanistan on Friday, rebuffing US demands for NATO nations to do more to combat worsening insurgent violence there. The Cabinet fell two short of the 101 votes it needed in the 200-seat Lower House of Parliament to approve all foreign military missions, a record of the voting showed.

Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek's three-party government holds

just 96 seats in the lower house after four defections in recent months. Prague will now have to withdraw the more than 500 Czech troops serving under US and NATO commands in Afghanistan within 60 days after January 1 unless it finds a new way to extend the missions. That would still require parliamentary approval.

The vote also throws into doubt the presence of the 400-strong Czech contingent in Kosovo, one of the foreign missions covered by the failed measure.

"I regret this situation has come about. It is very serious, a bad signal for our coalition partners (in Afghanistan)," chief of general staff Lieutenant General Vlastimil Pícek told Czech Television after the vote. The plan to increase the number of troops in Afghanistan by about 200 was part of an international response to the deteriorating security situation in the country, where Taliban fighters have been stepping attacks against foreign troops.

MNA/Reuters

Macedonia pulls troops out of Iraq

TIRANA, 20 Dec—The last contingent of Macedonian Army serving in Iraq returned home on Friday, ending the country's participation in the Iraq war.

Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski attended a welcoming ceremony in the capital Skopje on Friday for the country's last 40 homecoming soldiers, news reaching here from Skopje reported.

A total of 470 Macedonian troops have served in Iraq since 2003, when the United States and its allies launched military operations against the country.

Macedonia also has troops stationed in Afghanistan and Lebanon.

Its efforts to join the NATO had been

thwarted by Greece over a name dispute between the two neighbours.

Athens has been opposed to its northern neighbour being called "the Republic of Macedonia," arguing it implies a territorial claim over a Greek northern province also called Macedonia.

MNA/Xinhua



A passenger clings to the side of a Route 40P public bus in Guatemala City on 18 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

Iraqi preachers demand release of Bush shoe attacker

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec—Muslim preachers from both sides of Iraq's once-bloody Sunni-Shiite divide appealed to the government on Friday to release the journalist who threw his shoes at US President George W Bush.

The family of TV reporter Muntazer al-Zaidi, meanwhile, protested at an entrance to the heavily-fortified Green Zone in Baghdad where they believe he is being held in a hospital after being badly injured during his arrest.

At Baghdad's main Shiite mosque, al-Kadhumi, preacher Mohammed al-Shami leading Friday prayers demanded that Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki free Zaidi.

"We hold them responsible for his safety," the preacher said. "They are responsible for his life, his health and psychological condition."

At Baghdad's main Sunni Arab mosque, preacher Abu-Hanifa asked Maliki for an explanation.

MNA/Reuters

Crisis-hit Zimbabwe unveils 10b-Zimbabwe-dollar

HARARE, 20 Dec—Zimbabwe's central bank has introduced a 10-billion-Zimbabwe-dollar banknote, worth 20 US dollars on the black market, to try to ease desperate cash shortages, state-run media said on Friday.

Prices are doubling every day and food and fuel are in short supply in Zimbabwe. A cholera epidemic has killed over 1,100 people and deadlock between President Robert Mugabe and the opposition has put

hopes of ending the crisis on hold.

Hyper-inflation has forced the central bank to continue to unveil new banknotes which quickly become almost worthless.

New one billion Zimbabwe dollars and five billion Zimbabwe dollars notes were also put into circulation and the monthly cash withdrawal limit was increased fivefold to 10 billion Zimbabwe dollars.

"The increase in cash withdrawal limits is set to go a long way in improving workers' access to their money," the Herald said.

MNA/Reuters

China withdraws lift of liquids, matches ban on civil flights

BEIJING, 20 Dec—China has postponed the decision to lift the ban on liquids, lighters and matches on board civil flights, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said in an urgent notice on its website.

The move, which came only three days after the agency decided to lift the ban, was because of "practical situation and the need of work", the CAAC said in the brief notice, without elaborating.

The lift was scheduled to be effective from Saturday. To better protect flight safety, the agency issued new regulations in March and April this year, banning liquids, lighters and matches from carry-on luggage on aircraft. The ban included all baby food, cosmetics and medicine in quantities above 100 millilitres.

MNA/Xinhua

China tells Vatican not to interfere in its affairs

BEIJING, 20 Dec—Relations between China and the Vatican can only improve if the Holy See ditches ties with Taiwan and stops using religion to interfere in China's domestic affairs, state media on Friday cited a top official as saying.

China's eight million to 12 million Catholics are split between a state-sanctioned church, and an "underground" one that rejects government control and answers only

to Rome. China considers self-ruled Taiwan sovereign territory.

Beijing and the Vatican broke formal diplomatic relations shortly after the Chinese Communists took power in 1949.

They differ over who has the authority to appoint bishops but have been engaging in a secretive and cautious exploration of normalization.

Du Qinglin, head of the United Front Work

Department which deals with religious and ethnic minorities and non-Communists, said it was up to the Vatican to improve relations, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"The Vatican must not interfere in China's internal politics, including using religion to interfere in our country's domestic matters," the report paraphrased Du as saying.

MNA/Reuters



A dugong swims in the new Mermaid Lagoon display at the Sydney Aquarium in Sydney, Australia, on 19 Dec, 2008 during the introduction of two dugongs. It is said that dugongs, an aboriginal word meaning young child, in olden times were mistakenly identified as mermaids to mariners that had been at sea for a long time.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (TGA-421)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (TGA-421) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.12.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Taleban bomb claims Christmas turkeys in Afghanistan

LONDON, 20 Dec—A lorry load of Christmas turkeys for British troops in Afghanistan fell victim to roadside bomb planted by Taliban insurgents, it was reported Friday.

The frozen birds were completely destroyed in an explosion on route from Pakistan to British headquarters at Camp Bastion in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defence in London said a consignment of replacement birds had been flown out to make up for the loss and ensure that the traditional Christmas dinner for troops could go ahead.

Internet



A pair of charter bus sits with their front ends tangling over Interstate 5 on 19 Dec, 2008, in Seattle. Two charter buses crashed Friday on a Seattle street, pushing one through a guardrail next to Interstate 5 and leaving its front wheels dangling 20 feet above the freeway. Seattle Fire Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick said 11 young adults were taken to Harborview Medical Center with minor injuries.—INTERNET

Indonesia's "tree man" faces new operations

TANJUNG JAYA (Indonesia), 20 Dec—An Indonesian man dubbed the "tree man" because of the gnarled warts all over his body said on Friday his condition had worsened again although he still hoped to recover and find a job.

Dede, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, returned home from hospital in August after six kilogrammes (13 pounds) of warts were

surgically removed from his body and has been treated as an out-patient since.

"Those (warts) that were removed are growing again and started to reappear after I returned home," Dede told Reuters, adding that for a time he could go fishing and use a cell phone but now needed assistance again for such activity.

MNA/Reuters

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	MgO 90% (F.E)	365 Tons	22.12.2008	5.1.2009
2.	MgO 95% (F.E)	700 Tons	22.12.2008	5.1.2009
3.	1* Grade High Alumina(Ks)	200 Tons	22.12.2008	5.1.2009
4.	Electrical Control Spare Parts(Ks)	6 Items	22.12.2008	5.1.2009
5.	Steel Plate (Ks)	11 Items	22.12.2008	5.1.2009

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွယ်ဝခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၄၁)နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါများ လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင်ဝယ်ယူထားသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)

မြန်မာ့ကြွယ်ဝခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း



Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2008 shows the ox lanterns symbolizing the Chinese year of ox at a square in Dalian city, northeast China's Liaoning Province. With the coming of New Year and the Chinese traditional Spring Festival, Chinese people started to prepare traditional decorations.—INTERNET

Pakistan to issue Bhutto coin to mark her murder

KARACHI, 20 Dec — Pakistan will issue a coin bearing a portrait of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto to mark the first anniversary of her murder in a suicide attack.

The State Bank of Pakistan will issue 300,000 of the commemorative 10 rupee (13 US cents) coins with Bhutto's image and the words "Daughter of the East, Benazir Bhutto (Shaheed)", inscribed in Urdu. Shaheed means martyr. Chief bank spokesman Syed Wasim-uddin said on Friday the government had decided to issue the coins and they would be released on 27 December.

MNA/Reuters

Indian army says Kashmir militant commander killed

SRINAGAR (India), 20 Dec — An Indian soldier and five Islamist militant fighters were killed in gunbattles in disputed Kashmir, where troops patrolled deserted streets ahead of a planned separatist rally, officials said on Friday.

Among those killed was a senior military commander for banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which India blames for last month's attacks on Mumbai that killed 179 people, the Indian military said.

It identified him as Iqbal Malik, who it said was the LeT military commander for southern Kashmir.

Separatists and Islamist militants are trying to disrupt seven-stage state elections in Kashmir, which is claimed by India and Pakistan but ruled in part by both.

The military said Malik was killed with two other fighters when they became trapped in a cave during a gunbattle in mountains in Doda district south of Srinagar on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

Four-year-old Tendani Baloyi lies in a cholera rehydration centre in Musina on the South Africa-Zimbabwe border, On 11 Dec, 2008. The death toll from Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic has reached 1,123, with suspected cases now at 20,896, the UN said Friday, as a health expert returning from the site said the situation was "worsening" in some places. INTERNET





Panasonic to buy Sanyo in \$9 billion deal

TOKYO, 20 Dec — Panasonic has begun a 800 billion yen (\$9 billion) takeover of Japanese rival Sanyo, hoping that transforming into one of the world's biggest electronics companies will help it weather the toughest business conditions in a century.

Feng Wei combs her long hair at the restaurant she runs in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 15 Dec, 2008. Feng, 40-year-old, treasures her long hair of 2.1 metres, which hasn't been cut since she was ten. —INTERNET

Top shareholders, including Goldman Sachs, had been haggling over the price with Panasonic Corp since it expressed interest in Sanyo last month, but Friday revealed they'd settled on a tender offer price of 131 yen (\$1.47) a share.

The deal would also allow Panasonic, which makes Viera TVs and Diga Blu-ray disc players, to take advantage of struggling Sanyo's green businesses in solar panels and rechargeable batteries.

Internet

China's first grid-connected solar power station in desert enters operation

WUWEI (Gansu), 20 Dec — China's first grid-connected solar power station built in a desert entered operation on Friday in Wuwei City, northwest China's Gansu Province.

Built with a total installed capacity of 1 megawatt, the Datang Wuwei Solar Power Station in Tengger Desert was developed by the China Datang Corporation, China's second largest power producer.

Only half of the planned installed capacity was in production on Friday, which will have an annual output of 870,000 kwh.

The project is scheduled for full completion by the end of next year, said Jiang Pingsuo, chief engineer of Datang's subsidiary in Gansu Province.

The desert enjoys 2,210 hours of sunshine a year usable for power generation, which mean a 1-megawatt solar panel can generate 1.74 million kwh of electricity a year, said Jiang.

He said that the operation of the solar station is a breakthrough in the country's exploitation of the solar energy in desert region. —Internet



North Korean dancers perform during a rehearsal at Hanoi's Opera House. Filled with revolutionary fervour and drilled to artistic perfection, North Korea's elite dance troupe rehearsed in communist Vietnam at the start of a rare week-long overseas concert tour. INTERNET

Russian bomber jet crashes, pilots survived

MOSCOW, 20 Dec — A tactical bomber jet crashed in central Russia Friday with both pilots ejected and alive, Russian news agencies reported.

The Su-24 bomber crashed near the central Russian city of Voronezh at 13:45 Moscow time (1045 GMT), Air Force spokesman Vladimir Drik was quoted by Interfax as saying. The pilots, who managed to eject and survived the crash, have been sent to a hospital for further medical examination, Drik said, adding that the accident has not caused damage or casualties on the ground.

According to preliminary information, the crash was caused by a technical problem. The Russian Air Force has announced a suspension of flights of Su-24 bombers.

Internet

HK's private-sector employment up 2.2 pct

HONG KONG, 20 Dec — Total employment in the private sector of Hong Kong has increased by 2.2 percent, or 54,400 people, in September compared with a year earlier, official figures released here Friday indicated.

Meanwhile, the total number of vacancies was 47,760, representing a fall of 9 percent, or 4,550, over last year, says the Census and Statistics Department. Increases in employment were recorded in the financing and insurance sector, education services and research institutes, the medical, health and related-services sector, the communications sector and hotels and boarding houses.

Internet

Singapore, Malaysia navies drill in Malacca Strait

SINGAPORE, 20 Dec — Singapore and Malaysian navies conducted a joint exercise in the Malacca Strait from 10 to 19 Dec, Singapore's Ministry for Defence announced Friday.

The exercise, code-named Malapura, was hosted by the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) and participated by about 400 personnel from both navies.

"The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) deployed a frigate, a missile corvette and a patrol vessel for the exercise, while the RMN took part with a frigate, a corvette and an offshore patrol vessel," the ministry said in a statement. —Internet

China's SME guarantee business expected to hit 1 trillion yuan in 2009

BEIJING, 20 Dec — The guarantee business for China's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is expected to reach one trillion yuan (146 billion U.S. dollars) next year as the country is working to ease SMEs' financing bottleneck, said Li Yizhong, minister of industry and information technology on Friday.

At a national work meeting on industry and information technology, Li said China will step up the establishment of national and provincial credit guarantee institutions in 2009 to help SMEs get bank loans.

In a series of moves to boost the guarantee business for SMEs, the government vows to give tax cut or exemption to qualified guarantee agencies, and assist local governments in investing in guarantee agencies. —Internet

Paulson: Congress needs to release second \$350b

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says Congress will need to release the last half of the \$700 billion rescue fund because the first \$350 billion has been committed.

Paulson says the use of the rescue fund to provide loans to the auto industry along with a string of other rescue efforts means that the administration has now basically allocated the first half of the largest government bailout program in history. —Internet

A boat carrying tourists approaches Cavenagh Bridge in Singapore on 19 Dec, 2008. Cavenagh Bridge is the oldest bridge in Singapore and stands in its original form across the Singapore River. The Esplanade dome is seen in the background. INTERNET



SPORTS

Beckham expected at San Siro to watch struggling Milan

ROME, 20 Dec—David Beckham will get plenty of headlines when he arrives in Milan on Saturday but his new temporary employers will probably



David Beckham, seen here, will get plenty of headlines when he arrives in Milan on Saturday but his new temporary employers will probably be wishing he could take to the pitch against Udinese a day later rather than watching the game from the stands.—INTERNET

be wishing he could take to the pitch against Udinese a day later rather than watching the game from the stands.

AC Milan have been beset by injury problems to key players this season and are sweating over the return of Kaka ahead of this weekend's match.

And with Andrea Pirlo forced off at half-time during Wednesday's 2-2 UEFA Cup draw against VfL Wolfsburg and Gennaro Gattuso out probably for the rest of the season, now would be a good time to blood the former England captain.

However, Beckham cannot start playing for Milan until the January transfer window opens and in the meantime, coach Carlo Ancelotti shows no sign of letting up his complaints about injury problems.—INTERNET

Villarreal next league test for all-conquering Barcelona



Villarreal's French midfielder Robert Pires pictured during a training session. Spanish league leaders Barcelona face another stern test of their title credentials at Villarreal this weekend after recent crunch games against heavyweights Sevilla, Valencia and Real Madrid.—INTERNET

MADRID, 20 Dec—Spanish league leaders Barcelona face another stern test of their title credentials at Villarreal this weekend after recent crunch games against heavyweights Sevilla, Valencia and Real Madrid. Last weekend all eyes were on Barca who left it late with two goals in the last ten minutes for a 2-0 home victory against Real Madrid.

The rough treatment meted out to Lionel Messi led to the rejuvenated Eidur Gudjohnsen, who started the game in the absence of the injured Andres Iniesta, to call for more player protection.—INTERNET

Japan win will send message to rivals, says Rooney

YOKOHAMA, 20 Dec—Winning the Club World Cup on Sunday would be a major boost for Manchester United going into the new year and send a powerful message of intent to their Premiership rivals, says Wayne Rooney.

United will return to England on Monday with two games to make up on Liverpool and Chelsea and Rooney thinks beating South American champions Liga de Quito will send their confidence sky high.

"We are in quite a strong position in the league and if we can go



Winning the Club World Cup on Sunday would be a major boost for Manchester United going into the new year and send a powerful message of intent to their Premiership rivals, says Wayne Rooney.—INTERNET

back as champions of the world it would be a big boost for us and a platform for the second half of the season," he told the club website.—INTERNET

Liverpool look to break Arsenal jinx



Liverpool's Robbie Keane warms up during a Premier League match against Hull City last week. Liverpool will look to extend their lead at the top of the English Premier League to four points by beating Arsenal on Sunday.—INTERNET

LONDON, 20 Dec—Liverpool will look to extend their lead at the top of the English Premier League to four points by beating Arsenal on Sunday.

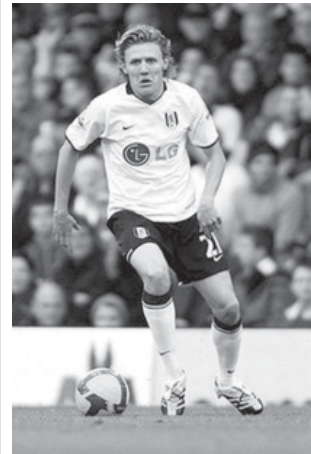
With title-holders Manchester United in Japan for the Club World Cup, and second-placed Chelsea not playing Everton until Monday,

Rafael Benitez's side can steal a march on their rivals at the Emirates Stadium. But if they are to do that, they will have to end the hoodoo which has seen them fail to beat Arsenal on the Gunners' own ground since February 2000.—INTERNET

Bullard could quit Fulham admits Hodgson

LONDON, 20 Dec—Fulham manager Roy Hodgson has admitted that Jimmy Bullard could leave the Premier League club if the midfielder is unable to agree a new contract.

Bullard's current deal

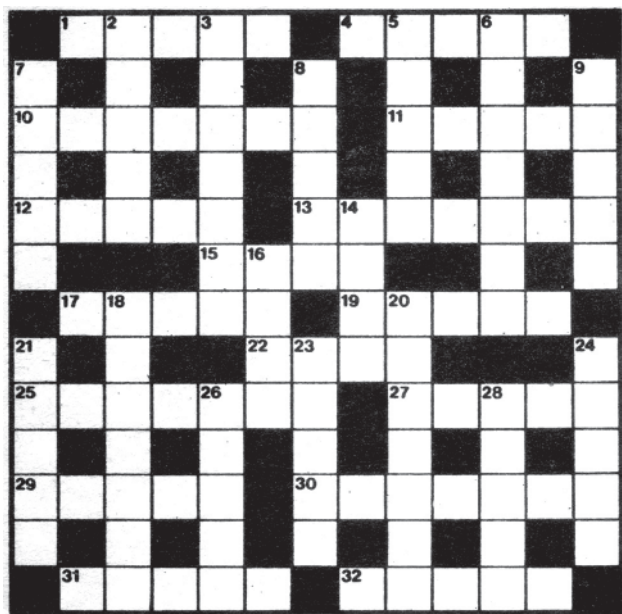


expires at the end of next season and he is keen to negotiate improved terms after helping Fulham avoid relegation last season and then earning an England call-up this term.

Hodgson insists he has no plans to sell the former Wigan player in January, but conceded that his future beyond that is uncertain.—INTERNET

Fulham manager Roy Hodgson has admitted that Jimmy Bullard, seen here in November 2008, could leave the Premier League club if the midfielder is unable to agree a new contract.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Vision
- 4 Easterner
- 10 Without weapons
- 11 Performed on stage
- 12 Shout of approval
- 13 Fur sale (anag.)
- 15 Forearm bone
- 17 Rodent
- 19 Make merry
- 22 Tumble
- 25 Spurn
- 27 Bird of prey
- 29 Storehouse
- 30 Greed
- 31 Prohibited
- 32 Investigate

DOWN

- 2 Likeness
- 3 Upper arm bone
- 5 Employees
- 6 One who 11
- 7 Premonition
- 8 Bedeck
- 9 2s for example!
- 14 English lord
- 16 Abandoned
- 18 London exhibition centre
- 20 Smart
- 21 Dwelling
- 23 Book of maps
- 24 Mutiny
- 26 Surpass
- 28 Association

Santa Cruz hints at leaving Blackburn

LONDON, 20 Dec—Blackburn striker Roque Santa Cruz has admitted that he would consider leaving the Premier League outfit if "a bigger club came in for me" during the January transfer window.

New Blackburn boss Sam Allardyce has insisted he wants the 27-year-old Paraguay forward to stay at Ewood Park, but speculation is growing linking him with cash-rich Manchester City, the club of his former boss Mark Hughes.

"Everybody knows my opinion (regarding a possible transfer), I am happy at Blackburn but also I want to keep improving my football and remain ambitious," Santa Cruz told BBC radio on Friday.—INTERNET



Blackburn Rovers' Paraguayan forward Roque Santa Cruz shows his frustration during a football match at Ewood Park in Blackburn, England in October 2008.—INTERNET

Hull get ready for Capello Premiership visit

HULL, 20 Dec—Hull City's stunning start to life in the English Premier League is finally about to receive the seal of approval from Fabio Capello.

The Tigers' KC Stadium home ground is one of the few top-flight venues yet to see a visit from the England manager on his regular scouting missions up and down the country.

Hull have confounded the many critics who tipped them for an immediate return to the second-tier Championship, following their play-off promotion in May, by cementing a top-six position almost half-

way through the campaign thanks partly to high-profile away wins over Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.—INTERNET



Hull City's stunning start to life in the English Premier League is finally about to receive the seal of approval from Fabio Capello, with reports the England manager is planning a scouting trip to the Tigers' KC Stadium.—INTERNET

Condolences

Our heartfelt Sympathy and Deepest Condolences go to the family of U Theim Htut, Chief Editor of Myanmar News Agency (External), who passed away on 19 December 2008.

The Chief Editor and staff
of the New Light of Myanmar

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The Deputy Chief-Editor and staff
of Myanmar News Agency (External)

German parliament approves anti-pirate force

BERLIN, 20 Dec—German lawmakers agreed on Friday to send up to 1,400 soldiers and a frigate to the Gulf of Aden as part of a European Union operation to fight pirates off the coast of Somalia.

The troops will take part in the first such naval operation organized by the 27-member EU, which aims to provide protection to ships delivering aid to Somalia and to civilian vessels. A surge in attacks at sea this year in the busy Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean off Somalia has earned gunmen millions of dollars in ransom, pushed up insurance costs and prompted a rush of foreign warships to the area.

Nearly 400 people and 19 ships are being held along the coast, including a Saudi supertanker with

two million barrels of oil and a Ukrainian cargo ship with 33 tanks. Germany, the world's top exporter of goods, is dependent on safe seaways, with a large majority of its imports and exports being delivered by sea.

German forces serve in the Horn of Africa under the US-led "Operation Enduring Freedom" and have come to the aid of ships which have been attacked. However, Germany's Defence Ministry says that mission only allowed them to provide emergency assistance, not to directly target pirates.

The German frigate Karlsruhe, already in the region under the US-led mission, was to be made available for the EU immediately after the parliamentary vote.

MNA/Reuters



People of the Tu ethnic minority perform the "Wutu" dance during a ceremony at Nianduhu village in Tongren county, Qinghai province, on 17 Dec, 2008. The annual ceremony is held to dispel diseases and exorcise evils. "Wutu" is an equivalent to "tiger" in the dialects of ancient Chinese.—INTERNET

Colombian police capture 2 tons of cocaine

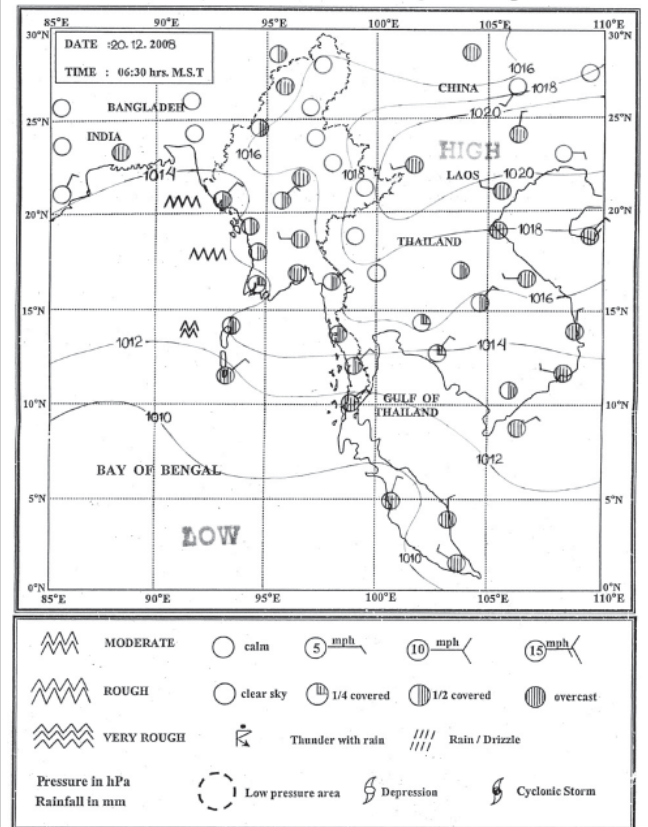
BOGOTA, 20 Dec—Colombian authorities seized on Friday two tons of cocaine near the country's northern coast. The drugs were found in a boxcar that was going to the coast of Uraba Gulf in the Caribbean Sea, police said.

"During the inspection of the boxcar ... we found more than two tons of cocaine apparently to be transported to Central America or to a vessel in high sea," a police spokesman said.

In another operation Friday, police found 2.3 tons of commodities to process alkaloids near the city of Medellin, the capital city of Antioquia state.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 20 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyarwady Division and partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below December average temperatures in Mon State, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Shan and Rakhine States, Bago Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-12-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 20-12-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-12-2008 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 19-12-2008 was (6.1) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 20-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 19-12-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21st December 2008: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-12-2008: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-12-2008: Partly cloudy.



Sunday, 21 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. Musical programme

8:30 am

7. International news

8:40 am

9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)မြောက်မြားစွာ

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's international news

11:35 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ”
(အပိုင်း-၇)

12:20 pm

5. Golf Magazine (TV)

12:40 pm

6. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း
“မချစ်လည်းနေပေါ့”
(လွင်မိုး၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သီဟတင်သန်း)

2:25 pm

7. Songs of national races

2:30 pm

8. သက်တံရောင်သံစဉ်

2:45 pm

8. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:15 pm

3. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

4:25 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓါတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓါတုဗေဒ)

4:40 pm

5. Songs to uphold national spirit

4:45 pm

6. Musical programme

5:00 pm

7. “နှစ်စဉ်မပျက်နွဲ့လို့ပျော် မြို့ရွှေဆည်ရဲ့ဆင်လျှပ်တော်”

5:20 pm

8. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ်
“Pocket Dragon Adventure”

6:50 pm

12. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ
“ယောက်ျားရှိတယ်”
(မင်းသူ၊ မိုးဟောမန်ခင်)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်သာ (ပွဲကြိုခင်)]

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“သစ္စာနှင့်ယဉ်သောမေတ္တာ”
(အပိုင်း-၄)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“အချစ်စစ်ရာဇာဗွဒ်”
(အပိုင်း-၁၈)

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects river water pumping stations

YANGON, 20 Dec – Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental officials inspected pilot cultivation of Hsinnweyin paddy through direct seeding method, use of Leya-16 power tillers, display of samples of paddy strains and weed killer at the central farm of Myanmar Agriculture Service and observed the display of sample of paddy strains grown in Bago, Ayeyawady and Sagaing Divisions at Myanmar Rice Research Institute in Hmawby Township yesterday.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe addressed the conclusion of Tatmadaw agriculture



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects pilot cultivation of Hsinnweyin paddy in Hmawby.—MNA

course No. 62 at the MRRI. He presented prizes to outstanding trainees and certificates to the leader of the trainees.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party went to Myaungdaga river water pumping station built by Water Resources Utilization Depart-

ment near Myaungdaga Village in the township.

Head of Yangon Division Water Resources Utilization Department U Htay Lwin reported on the project and supply of water.

They went to Kangalay river water pumping sta-

tion in Myogyong Village where officials reported on progress of work.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected construction of control room of sub-power station, canal and laying of pipelines to pump water from Hlaing river and irrigated areas.—MNA

INSIDE

No country can do this alone. It requires partnerships, and so donors must neither slow nor renege on the official development assistance and other political commitments made in Rome and elsewhere.

PAGE 7

BY HE CHANGCHUI

Ongoing Katha-Bhamo Railroad Section Project on west bank of Ayeyawady River

On our tour of Sagaing Division, we set out on a trip to Katha District as the last itinerary on 26 November night. The district is constituted with Katha, Kawlin, Wuntho, Pinlebu, Htigyaing,

Banmauk and Indaw townships. It is located in the northern part of Sagaing Division. Sharing borders with Shwegu and Mabein townships in the east, (See page 10)

*Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon);
Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)*



A backhoe and trucks at a work site of Katha-Bhamo railroad section.