

Senior General Than Shwe inspects rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in Kyaiklat, Dedaye, Kungyangon Townships

Encouragement and assistance should be given to one village one product project



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Htinponseik model village in Kungyangon Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in storm-hit Kyaiklat and Dedaye town-

ships in Ayeyawady Division and Kungyangon Township in South District of Yangon and met with local people this morning.

Accompanied by Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, (See page 8)

Village to village roads and village to town roads are to be built and a road network should be established in cooperation with township development affairs committees and local people.



Aerial view of Dedaye Bridge.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 25 December, 2008

Participate in drive for road safety

Traffic accidents kill or injure thousands of people in the world yearly. Drivers and pedestrians can reduce the number of traffic accidents, injuries, and deaths by abiding by traffic rules.

Traffic Rules Enforcement and Educative Competitions and Exhibitions are held in Yangon every year. This year, the exhibition will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 26 to 31 December. The exhibition aims at organizing people to observe traffic rules and educating motorists as well as pedestrians to do the same.

Action is being taken against those who violate the traffic rules and educative activities are being constantly launched. Arrangements are being made to hold such exhibition. The number of people killed in traffic accidents increases due to the violation of traffic rules.

Last year's figures show that there were 929 traffic accidents in which 133 people were killed and 1,550 injured.

Every motorist should be skilful at driving and must refrain from drinking while driving.

Both motorists and pedestrians must abide by traffic rules in order to reduce road accidents. The people on their part are to actively take part in the efforts for reduction of traffic accidents.

All this needs to be known

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

Mingala Taungnyunt Township Basic Education High School 4 team taking part in cricket competition.—MCF



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

Myanmar Unicode system discussed



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivers speech at work coordination meeting on implementing Myanmar Unicode System.—COMMUNICATION

YANGON, 24 Dec — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the work coordination meeting on implementing Myanmar Unicode

system at Myanmar Info Tech in Hline Township yesterday and made an opening address.

The meeting was also participated by Vice Chairman of Myanmar e-National Task Force U

Aung Myint and officials of Myanmar Computer Federation and Myanmar Info Tech. They discussed matters related to Myanmar Unicode system, and the minister fulfilled the requirements

at the meeting.

The minister also inspected Hanthawady Internet Station & Auto Exchange and International Expedite Mail Service here yesterday. —MNA

Yoma Technologies to conduct courses on Java professional

YANGON, 24 Dec — To become a software engineer, the practical programming course of Yoma Technologies will give lecture about professional software programming. In addition, systems and experience being applied in software development fields will be effectively used by learning from experts.

Under the arrangement of British Software Engineer, Yoma

technologies will open programming course (Java) and Java programmer course on 5, January 2009 and Java professional developer course (Project) on 26, January 2009.

Java programmer course includes object oriented design and UML, core Java/J2SE (collections, I/O, Inner classes, Generies etc), Java swing API for GUI,

Exceptions and Exception Handling Techniques, Introduction to Relational databases and SQL and Java database connectivity (JDBC).

Likewise, Java professional developer course includes software development lifecycle, object oriented system analysis and design, software architectures, component based development, software

engineering best practices and a practical software development project to apply all of the above.

Anyone wishing to attend the courses may make contact with Yoma Technologies at room No.3, ward (2), Myanmar Info Tech, Hline Township, (Ph-652264 (Ext-15), 703230 and 503599) and Web: www.yomatechnologies.com/training.—MNA

MFF annual meeting postponed

YANGON, 24 Dec — An annual meeting scheduled to be held on 28 December by Myanmar Shrimp Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar

Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association, Crab Entrepreneurs Association, Eel Entrepreneurs Association and Ornamental Fish

Entrepreneurs Association under Myanmar Fishery Federation was postponed and the date of the meeting will be announced later.

MNA

3rd Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2008 goes on

YANGON, 24 Dec — Jointly organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No. 3 Basic Education Department, the 3rd Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2008 continued at Bahan Cricket

Training Ground here this morning.

Among the spectators were MCF President UNyunt Win and executives and cricket fans.

At men's quarterfinals of the

competition, Mingala Taungnyunt Township Basic Education High School 4 beat Lanmadaw Township BEHS 1 and Ahlon Township BEHS 4 won over Botahtaung Township BEHS 6.—MNA

Karzai attends memorial for three killed in US raid



Afghan President Hamid Karzai, center, speaks during a memorial ceremony for three Afghans who were killed last week during an overnight raid by US forces in Khost province west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 23 Dec, 2008. Karzai has asked America's top military officer to investigate the incident.—INTERNET

KABUL, 24 Dec—President Hamid Karzai attended a memorial ceremony on Tuesday for three Afghans killed in an overnight raid by US forces, an incident Karzai has asked America's top military officer to investigate.

The American military

has said that its forces killed three people targeted as "known individuals with al-Qaeda links" during a raid on 17 December Col Greg Julian said the "insurgents" had weapons and tried to fire on the US forces first.

Afghan officials say the three killed were inno-

cent Afghans, and Karzai on Monday asked Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to investigate the deaths.

The three killed were Amir Hassan, 40, his wife and a 14-year-old nephew, said Haji Balal Hassan, the brother of Amir Hassan. Balal Hassan said that Karzai shared his condolences during the ceremony in eastern Khost province and asked for details of the incident.

Some 800 people attended the memorial ceremony. Karzai told the crowd he is working on the problems, but said for now the country needs foreign troops despite pleas from some in the audience for international forces to leave.

Internet

Civilian casualties in conflicts on the rise in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Dec—Continued militancy and conflicts have claimed the lives of more civilians in Afghanistan in comparison to last year, spokesman of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) Nadir Nadiri said on Tuesday.

In 2007, the number of civilian casualties had registered over 1,500 while in 2008, according to the watchdog's spokesman, the figure has risen by 41 percent.

More than 1,700 civilians, according to Nadiri, have been killed over the past eight months of 2008.

"Since beginning this year up to the end of August 1,778 civilians have been killed and out of these 625 of them were

killed by the national and international troops," the spokesman asserted.

Nadiri added that 25 percent of these people were killed in air strikes, but he did not say the number of non-combatants killed since September up to date.

AIHRC also equally blamed pro-government

troops and militants for the violence, adding both sides are involved on 50 percent basis in abusing the rights of non-combatants. Both the Taliban and the US-led NATO troops have abused human rights in combat operations which had left thousands of civilians dead.—*Internet*



An Afghan villager points to the blood stains after an overnight raid of the US and Afghan forces in the city of Khost, east of Kabul, Afghanistan.—INTERNET



Pakistani rescue workers examine the wreckage of a car at the site of a bomb explosion in Lahore, Pakistan, on 24 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

Explosion wounds one in east Pakistan

LAHORE, 24 Dec—A car bombing in a neighborhood filled with the homes of government workers wounded one person on Wednesday in a major eastern Pakistani city bordering India, police said.

The explosives were planted in a mini-truck parked in the Mazang Chungi area of Lahore.

The blast obliterated the vehicle and flying debris hit a woman passing by, while the wall of a nearby house collapsed, police officer Atif Mairaj said.

"This is an attempt by terrorists to create panic and spread terror," he said. "We can't say who is behind it until the matter is investigated."

Pakistan has witnessed scores of bombings in the past two years, but most have occurred in its northwest regions bordering Afghanistan, where al-Qaida and Taliban militants have long proliferated and the army is carrying out offensives.—*Internet*

Bomb explosion kills five policemen north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec—A roadside bomb struck a police chief's convoy in an Iraqi town north of Baghdad on Tuesday morning, killing him and four policemen, an Interior Ministry source said.

The incident took place in the town of Tarmiyah, 40 km north of Baghdad, when a roadside bomb hit the convoy of a Colonel who is the police chief of the nearby town of Mashaahda, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Internet

An Afghan policeman looks through the debris of the entrance of the Kandahar prison in southern Afghanistan.

INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,213

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—As of Tuesday, 23 December, 2008, at least 4,213 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,397 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 30,879 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.—*Internet*





Stranded air travelers sleep on the floor at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, on 22 Dec, 2008 in Seattle. A series of storms has stranded thousands of people at the airport and caused hundreds of flights to be canceled or delayed.—INTERNET

Huge water main break traps motorists on Md road

BETHESDA, 24 Dec—A massive, aging water main ruptured on Tuesday and sent a wave of water down a suburban Washington road, transforming the street into a raging river and trapping nine motorists who had to be rescued from the frigid deluge by emergency workers in helicopters and boats.

The water gushed down River Road and rocked cars. Two people in a minivan were plucked by helicopter out of the roaring rapids, water crashing and spraying around them as they were lifted to safety in a basket. Other motorists escaped 4-feet deep water by boat.

Montgomery County fire officials said five people were checked for hypothermia; temperatures outside were in the 20s.

“The water tumbled over the car like a wave,” said Silvia Saldana, of Springfield, Va, who was traveling to work when she became trapped. “I started to pray.”

In a frantic 911 call released by authorities, an unidentified stranded motorist cried and pleaded for help.

“I can’t see anything,” the woman screamed. “I need help!”

“Stay calm, ma’am. We’re coming,” the operator says. It was not immediately clear what caused the pipe to burst. Temperature, age and other factors can contribute to water main breaks.

Fire spokesman Pete Piringer said crews had trouble getting to people because of the swift-moving water. Officials said 150,000 gallons of water per minute were rushing out at one point, spilling rocks, dirt and other debris onto the road.—Internet



A car sits in rushing water released from a 66 inch water main break along River Road in Bethesda, Md on 23 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Iraqi parliament approves speaker’s Iraqi parliament and bill on troops withdrawal

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec—Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, speaker of Iraq’s parliament, announced resignation on Tuesday, the official Iraqia TV reported.

Mashhadani offered the resignation at a special parliament session late in the day, which was accepted by the majority of the parliament members, according to the report.

Deputy Speaker Khalid al-Attiya will temporarily take Mashhadani’s post. His replacement could be found after the parliament returns to session early next year.

During a parliament session last Wednesday, chaos and arguments erupted over the issue of Muntadhar al-Zaidi, the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at the visiting

US President George W Bush. During the arguments, Mashhadani got very angry and insulted some MPs as “sons of dogs.”

The vote over the resolution on the staying of foreign troops except the US one was postponed Monday as the Kurdish bloc and a major Shiite union insisted that Mashhadani should resign.—Internet

ment on Wednesday, will show a drop of 0.7 percent. That would be the fifth straight month of decline.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department’s tally of initial applications for unemployment benefits last week is expected to rise slightly to a seasonally adjusted 560,000 from 554,000 in the previous week.

And the Commerce Department is expected to report that durable goods orders fell by 3 percent in November, after a 6.2 percent drop in October. October’s decline was the largest fall in two years.

Internet

Two Hamas militants killed in Gaza blast

GAZA CITY, 24 Dec — Hamas says two of its fighters have been killed in a blast in the southern Gaza Strip.

The militant group says the men were killed on a “holy mission.” That’s the term Hamas uses when fighters are killed by explosives that go off inadvertently.

Hamas also says that three militants killed by Israeli forces on the Gaza border late on Tuesday belonged to the group.

The clash was the bloodiest since a truce between Israel and Gaza’s Islamic Hamas rulers expired over the weekend. It was followed by mortar and rocket attacks from Gaza on southern Israeli border communities late Tuesday and early on Wednesday.

Internet

Mexican beauty queen arrested in gun-filled truck

GUADALAJARA, 24 Dec —A reigning Mexican beauty queen from the drug-plagued state of Sinaloa was arrested with suspected gang members in a truck filled guns and ammunition, police said on Tuesday.

Miss Sinaloa 2008 Laura Zuniga stared at the ground, with her flowing dark hair concealing her face, as she stood squeezed between seven alleged gunmen lined up before journalists.

Soldiers wearing ski

masks guarded the 23-year-old model and the suspects.

Zuniga was arrested shortly before midnight on Monday at a military checkpoint in Zapopan, just outside the colonial city of Guadalajara, said Jalisco state police director, Francisco Alejandro Solorio.

Zuniga was riding in one of two trucks, where soldiers found a large stash of weapons, including two AR-15 assault rifles, .38 specials, 9mm

handguns, nine magazines, 633 cartridges and \$53,300 in US currency, Solorio said.

State police identified one of the men caught with her as the brother of an alleged drug trafficker from Ciudad Juarez, a city on the US border, and said the man appeared to have been her boyfriend.

Zuniga told police that she was planning on traveling to Bolivia and Colombia with the men to go shopping, Solorio said.

Internet



The 2008 beauty queen of the drug-plagued state of Sinaloa, Laura Zuniga, centre, is shown to the press with other unidentified suspects after she was detained with guns and large amounts of cash in the city of Zapopan, Mexico, on 23 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



US new home sales drop by 2.9% in November

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec—New home sales in the United States fell by 2.9 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 407,000 units, the lowest level since January 1991, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday.

The drop in new home sales was bigger than analysts had expected and left sales 35.3 percent below the level a year ago.

Regionally, new home sales rose by 14.3 percent in the Northeast last month and were up 11.0 percent in the West. In the Midwest, however, sales plunged by 16.4 percent. Sales in the South also declined by 7.1 percent.

The median price of a new home dropped by 11.5 percent in November from the year-ago level to 220,400 dollars. That was the biggest year-on-year price decline since a 12.7 percent fall in March this year. Inventories of unsold new homes at the end of November totaled 374,000 units, representing a supply of 11.5 months at the current sales rate, up from 10.8 months for October.—Xinhua

An Airbus A320 is assembled at the workshop in north China's Tianjin municipality, on 23 Dec, 2008, with three other Airbus A320 also in the process of assembling at the same time. It is estimated that the first plane will be painted in early 2009.—XINHUA

A video grab shows the wreckage of a bus sits by the side of the road after it overturned between two Egyptian resorts in the Sinai peninsula on 22 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

China donates \$500,000 to support Zimbabwe cholera fighting

HARARE, 24 Dec—China donated 500,000 US dollars to Zimbabwe on Tuesday to boost the country's efforts to arrest cholera epidemic which has killed more than 1,000 people since the first outbreak in August.

Speaking at the donation ceremony at the Health Ministry office building in Harare, He Meng, Charge d'Affair of the Chinese Embassy in Harare, said as a long-term friend of Zimbabwe,

China shares the concerns of international community over the current cholera situation, and sympathies with Zimbabwean people in their sufferings.

"At the moment, Zimbabwean people are eagerly waiting for assistance fighting against cholera, we sincerely hope and believe that the money would be made best use of under the coordination of the Zimbabwean government and UN agencies, so as to al-

leviate the epidemic situation and help Zimbabwean people to overcome challenges at an earlier date," He said.

Zimbabwe's Health and Child Welfare Minister David Parirenyatwa said with the help of international organizations and countries friendly like China, the situation is now much better. He spoke highly of good relations between the two countries.

Xinhua



China's top legislature discusses report on water pollution control

BEIJING, 24 Dec—China's National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature, began discussing a report on water pollution prevention and control on Wednesday.

Zhou Shengxian, the Environmental Protection Minister, delivered the report at a plenary session of NPC Standing Committee.

China has paid increasing attention to ecological challenges and environmental problems as it seeks to balance its high economic growth rate with a rational use of natural resources and pollution control. Zhou is to detail the country's efforts in curbing drinking water contamination and achievements in tackling water pollution in major rivers and rural areas.—Xinhua



A visitor poses for photos in the Ice and Snow World in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 23 Dec, 2008. The annual ice and snow world in Harbin began a test run on Tuesday.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Nine female footballers, two coaches die in auto accident in Nigeria

LAGOS, 24 Dec—Nine footballers and their two coaches were killed in a motor accident in central Nigeria's Plateau State at the weekend, local media reported on Tuesday.

A source said the female team comprising 15 athletes was returning from a football match to Jos, the capital when their vehicle Peugeot J5 had a head-on collision with a commercial Volkswagen Golf car in the evening.

The vehicle conveying the athletes somersaulted several times and eventually caught fire with occupants inside. Before local people nearby could get to the scene of the incident and rescue the occupants, 11 of them had already been consumed by fire, according to the Guardian report.

Six of the athletes who sustained injuries were initially rushed to a nearby hospital before they were taken to Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) for further treatment.

The state Commissioner for Youths and Sports Joel Gwatau confirmed the incident and said the team from Jos North Local Council Area of the state had finished from a local tournament, which they lost to another team and they were on their way back to Jos when the sad incident occurred.—Xinhua

Japan's Cabinet approves defence spending cut

TOKYO, 24 Dec—The Japanese Cabinet approved a plan Wednesday to cut Japan's fiscal 2009 defence spending for the seventh consecutive year to a 14-year low, government sources said. Defence spending for the fiscal 2009 starting in April will fall 0.1 per cent, or 5.5 billion yen, from the initial fiscal 2008 budget to 4,774.1 billion yen. The size of the initial defence budget will remain below the 4,800 billion yen level for the second straight year if Parliament approves the budget. The Cabinet attributed the budget cut to falling oil prices, the appreciation of the Japanese currency and cost savings from the bulk purchase of arms and munitions.

MNA/Xinhua

Practice integrated farming for higher income (1)

Kyaw Ye Min

It was at sunset when I got to the village. The clouds in the sky were glowing with reflected light of the sun. It was very pleasant to have a view over rural scenes in a rural region.

Piles of bunches of harvested paddy plants were scattering here and there in the paddy fields stretching to the horizon. Some paddy fields were still at harvest. When a wind blew, I indistinctly heard the voices of some female workers in the distance. They sounded happy, working in the fields. Their voices were some way a rural music to my ears. Some workers were found winnowing paddy. Some were on their way home from work. The scene of dust layers caused by the two light trucks passing in front of me with the glittering pagoda in the background provoked a thought of the song "My native town" by Than Tun Lay.

The village is located in an inner place of Nyaungdon Township. It is far from Yangon-Pathein Road. There lives Maung Toe Myint, a friend of mine, whom I regard as my younger brother. I paid a visit to the village at his invitation.

He is an educated young farmer, running a 10-acre paddy field. He seemed to be making handsome profits from his agricultural farm, practicing double- or triple-cropping pattern with advanced agricultural methods. He said that he was running a livestock farm of two fish breeding ponds, inspired by his strong desire to be rich. He also raises four or five pigs. He thus earned some income.

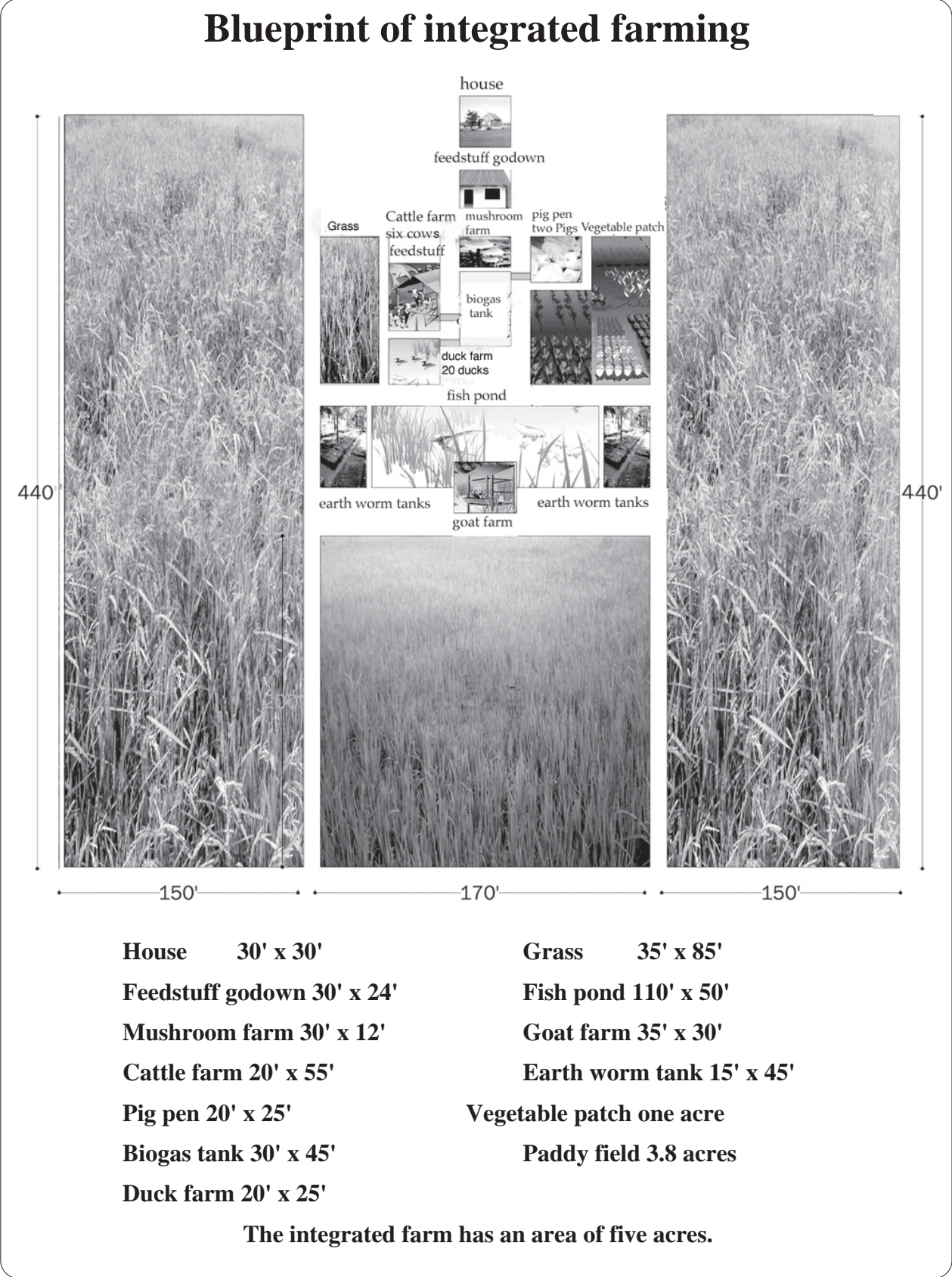
Once, I shared integrated farming system with him by chance for his knowledge in a conversation. Then, he took great interest in it and eagerly invited me to his village. I made a compromise to come to his village some day and explain integrated farming system not only to him but also to other interested villagers.

The village's main business is agricultural and livestock farming. They seemed to do well in their businesses because there I noticed the majority of the houses, fine ones, and the village had a basic education school, rural health care centre, and a self-reliant library. It is a lovely village with all the characteristics of a village. The village will enjoy greater economic growth if it introduces integrated farming system.

In the evening, I happened to meet with him, Village Peace and Development Council Chairman U Aye Chan, school teacher Ko Thayar and some townsenders, totaling about 15 at the library. Being engaged both in agricultural farming and in livestock farming, they showed their interest in the integrated farming. They said that since they got the information about the integrated farming, they had been eager to know it in further detail.

Then, we started our conversation. We held discussions in a cordial way, so our conversation soon became lively, like a game of traditional cane-ball.

U Aye Chan: Well, Ko Kyaw, let's start our discussions now. We want to know about integrated farming very much because we have heard that we can make substantial profits if we integrate agricultural farms with livestock farms.



Ko Thayar: He is right, Ko Kyaw. I have got some knowledge of integrated farming. So, I happened to discuss it with Ko Toe. But, I must admit I don't know how to manage it.

Kyaw Ye Min: It's like that. Integrated farming or integrated agriculture is a system in which a farmer integrates his agricultural farms with livestock farms. For instance, a farmer raises cattle for his agricultural farming. He uses cattle dung as fertilizer. That is just a basic stage. The integrated farming I will present you has a much wider area than that.

Maung Toe Myint: Interesting! Go on, please.

Kyaw: It is said that an association called FARRE (Forum de l' Agriculture Raisonn'e Respecteuse l' Environnement) initiated integrated farming in France in 1993. To put it in

English, "food production, profitability, safety, animal welfare, social responsibility and environmental care". That's why the government is disseminating methods in rural areas so that farmers will come to practise integrated farming on a wider scale to get bio-fertilizer and bio-fuel from cattle dung.

Aye: Yes, you are right. I noticed some news stories in the newspapers that a family can extract biogas from animal waste on a small scale for multipurpose use. Many of our villagers are interested in it.

Kyaw: Yes, I will also explain the method of producing biogas in integrated farming. Now, integrated farming has proved successful in Vietnam. So, without any doubt it will be successful in our country.

(See page 7)

Practice integrated farming for higher income (1)

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 6)

Tha: Yes, we will achieve success if we try our best. Well, tell us a bit more about integrated farming of Vietnam.

Kyaw: It is also said that Heifer International, an American NGO, introduced integrated farming in four regions: Mekong River Basin region, south-eastern region, central coastal region, and central highland region beginning in early 2001. Heifer Vietnam Project was designed to provide farm animals, seeds and nurseries of crops to farmers in 14 states and cities of those four regions. Moreover, the association provided a family of a Vietnamese farmer with 500,000 Vietnamese dong to run a livestock farm and disbursed one million to one million and five hundred thousand Vietnamese dong to grow vegetables and a patch.

Aye: Vietnam is not the only country to do so. In our country, the government is providing cultivation loans, isn't it?

Kyaw: In Vietnam, integrated farming is compulsory for all the farmers engaged in the project. Methods and technologies are also provided for them to do so. Due to Heifer Vietnam Project, Vietnamese farmers are doing well now.

Toe: I wonder how they are making good progress.

Kyaw: It is because integrated farming has several advantages. There, farmers have to raise farm animals such as cattle, goat, duck and fish. So, they get higher incomes from their livestock farming, don't they? The purpose of

The integrated farming system by nature is to make products and waste interrelated with each other. So, crops, animals, farmlands, and water in the system are integrated for multipurpose use.

their livestock farming is to use all the organics for agricultural farmlands by seeking ways to integrated paddy fields, crop plantations, farm animals and water sources. That saves costs in agricultural farming, but productivity is on the increase remarkably.

Tha: I am afraid, of course it is nice to listen, but I don't think it is that easy in practice, Ko Kyaw.

Kyaw: Oh, why not! It is quite beneficial, so they practise it. Indeed, integrated farming is not like building castles in the air. The integrated farming Vietnamese farmers practise is a system in which nothing is wasted because all things in the system are interrelated with one another. All cattle dung, for example, is used and even a single dust of it does not go to waste.

Toe: Then, cattle dung is used as fertilizer in our country, as well, isn't it, Ko Kyaw?

Kyaw: Yes, it is. But, we can't use it as effectively as

they do. To make it clearer, I would like to present a simple example. We feed grass to dairy cows. The cows produce milk and cow dung. The milk is sold and cow dung is used as fertilizer to grow grass. According to that cycle, there is nothing to waste. The integrated farming system by nature is to make products and waste interrelated with each other. So, crops, animals, farmlands, and water in the system are integrated for multipurpose use.

Aye: Frankly speaking, I am paying a careful attention to what you say, but I haven't got it yet.

Tha: Nor have I. I don't understand it very well.

Toe: I held discussions about that once with Ko Kyaw, so I understand it well. Uncle Aye and Ko Thayar, you will understand the system later.

Kyaw: I am sure you will soon get it. Have a look at this picture. This is a picture of Vietnamese farmers' integrated farming system to which a land of five acres is scaled.

Aye: All right, I come to understand it a bit more. Go on, please.

Kyaw: You will all get it if you study it carefully. Well, have a look at the picture.

They observed the picture thoroughly till they got it. It was just a picture of a five-acre land consisting of a house, feedstuff closet, mushroom farm, cow farm, duck farm, goat farm, earth worm tank, biogas tank, pasture, fish breeding pond, vegetable patch and field.

Translation: MS

Integrated farming is not like building castles in the air. The integrated farming Vietnamese farmers practise is a system in which nothing is wasted because all things in the system are interrelated with one another. All cattle dung, for example, is used and even a single dust of it does not go to waste.

Ngachin Dam to contribute to rice sufficiency

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The inauguration of Ngachin Dam constructed by Construction-3 of the Irrigation Department was held at the panel of the facility near Ngachin Village, Seikpyu Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division, this morning.

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe addressed the ceremony, saying that the facility was one of the 71 projects for ensuring food security and greening of Pakokku District.

The opening of the dam added the number of dams to 43 and acres of irrigated farmlands to 261261 in Magway Division, he said. The plan for construction of 71 dams, lakes and small dams was launched in 2004, he said adding so far, 62 irrigation facilities had been constructed and the remaining seven projects would be completed by 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint said that the facility was the 217th of its kind in the nation, calling for effective use of irrigation facilities for rice sufficiency of the region, edible oil sufficiency of the nation and extensive growing of marketable crops such as beans and pulses, and industrial crops such as cotton and sugarcane, and durability of the irrigation facilities.

The chairman of the Division PDC formally opened the stone plaque of the dam. He and the deputy minister formally opened the dam and inspected it.

The dam is the 43rd of its kind in Magway Division. The earthen dam is 43 feet high, 1980 feet long, and its dyke, 300 feet long. Its maximum water storage capacity is 1160 acre feet. The project cost 1146 million kyats contributed by the government.

MNA

Minister meets farmers in Thongwa

YANGON, 24 Dec—Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung met with rural people in Kanmyint village of Thongwa Township in Yangon South District on 21 December.

During his meeting with the rural people, the minister discussed matters related to buying paddy from the State and plans for disburse loans to the rural people to help cultivation of pulses and beans in the township.

After the discussions, the minister inspected spraying of pesticides in the green gram plantations.

MNA

Beware of Fire



Senior General Than Shwe inspects kitchen crops in Htinponseik model village of Kungyangon Township.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 1)

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Maj-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thien Lin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of SPDC Office, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe arrived by helicopter in

Kyaiklat of Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Division at 10.25 a.m.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials.

At Golden Jubilee Hall in Kyaiklat, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing who is supervising the rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in Kyaiklat reported to the Senior General and party on economic, education, health and agriculture matters, loss and damages caused by Storm Nargis, progress of relief, supply and rehabilitation works, progress of repairing state-owned and private-owned buildings, arrangements being made for better transport, cultivation and harvesting of monsoon paddy for 2008-09, growing of

summer paddy and tasks to deal with the consequences in the aftermath of Storm Nargis in cooperation with the government, the people and the Tatmadaw in Kyaiklat Township.

Next, Commander

services that are vital for the region, extended construction of transport network in the township and measures to be taken for the improvement of the regions.

The Head of State and party helicoptered to

In case of emergency, newly-built roads can be used as embankments for villages near the sea.

Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on measures being taken for 33 rice mills in the township to come into operation, cultivation of summer paddy and measures taken to meet the target.

In connection with the reports, the Head of State gave guidance on regeneration of agricultural

Dedaye Township of Pyapon District where they were welcomed by senior military officers from South-West Command and departmental heads.

The Head of State and party viewed conditions of development of Dedaye Township and progress in repairing houses and

office buildings in a motorcade.

At the meeting hall of Dedaye Township PDC Office, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented reports to the Head of State and party on location and area of the township, supply of power-tillers, fuel and paddy strains for the cultivation of the monsoon paddy, repairing of embankment to prevent sea water from entering into the farmlands, harvest of monsoon paddy, cultivation of summer paddy, arrangements made for providing fishing boats and nets for regeneration of fishery sector, construction of houses for storm survivors, accomplishment of the tasks carried out for buildings schools, hospitals and dispensaries and conducting educative courses on natural disaster preparedness.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe

presented reports to the Head of State and party on repairing of rice mills and their operations, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and plans to be made for growing crops as targeted.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance on regeneration of agricultural services and fisheries, extended cultivation of kitchen crops by each household, regional education and health services to return to normal, development of transport and communication, construction of cyclone shelters and rapid improvement of storm-hit regions.

Senior General Than Shwe and party continued their journey to Kungyangon Township where they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and departmental heads.

While they were in Htinponseik model village of Hsukalatt village tract, Kungyangon township, they inspected living conditions of the storm survivors in the newly-built houses, use of bio fuel digesters at U Singapu's house, cultivation of kitchen crops and growing of mango, coconut, pepper and areca nut and cordially greeted local people in Htinponseik model village.

(See page 9)



A bird's eye view of Htinponseik model village in Kungyangon Township.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 8)

At the briefing hall, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented reports to the Senior General and party on measures taken for accommodating storm victims, construction of houses, establishment of villages, accomplishment of the tasks carried out for repairing schools, hospitals and dispensaries, progress in building Kungyangon's new market, cultivation of monsoon paddy thriving farming based on mutual interest and plans for growing summer paddy.

After hearing reports, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to grow kitchen crops, to conduct vocational trainings, each village to produce one product, to establish a road network in the area in cooperation with local people.

Afterwards, the Head of State inspected the clinic, library, water purifier and water tank in the village and cordially greeted the villagers.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also visited Kungyangon and inspected Myoma Market, progress of reconstruction of departmental offices and development of the town in a motorcade. After the tour of inspection, Senior General Than Shwe and party flew to Yangon.

At the meetings with officials concerned and local people during the tour of Kyaiklat, Dedaye and Kungyangon, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on full rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in Kyaiklat, Dedaye and Kungyangon townships.

He said agriculture is the main business in the townships and he spoke of the need to fully produce crops to meet the targets set in the townships and to lay emphasis on boosting production and minimizing loss and wastage.

He urged the officials concerned to try not only to restore and develop the economic sector return to normal but also to create better conditions than it was in the past.

He also called for fully reestablishment of region-wise businesses, systematic cultivation of kitchen crops on manageable scale in addition to ensuring sufficiency of rice and edible oil and teaching the local people to engage in cottage industries.

He said there should be a chart that contributes towards the assessment of the increase of family



Library of Htinponseik model village in Kungyangon Township.—MNA

Fully produce crops to meet the targets set in the townships and lay emphasis on boosting production and minimizing loss and wastage.

income and economic growth. Encouragement and assistance should be given to one village one product project. By doing so, per capita income will increase and living standard of rural people will improve, he said.

At the same time, he said, village to village roads and village to town roads are to be built and road network in the township should be established in cooperation with township development affairs committees and local people.

With the development of transport, socio-economic conditions such as economy, education and health of the township will improve and rural and urban areas will also develop equally. In case of emergency, newly-built roads can be used as embankments for villages near the sea, he added.

He said the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are to make efforts for all-round development so that storm-hit areas will surely develop.—MNA



Houses seen in Htinponseik model village of Hsukalatt village tract, Kungyangon Township.—MNA

Sections of Dawei-Ye Road under maintenance

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence inspected heavy machinery and the axis for construction of Dawei-Myeik railroad, repairing of Dawei Railway Station and railroad section at Dawei Station, Dawei in Taninthayi Division, on 21 December.

He viewed development of Dawei and tasks for beautifying the town.

He also inspected construction of Khamaunghla Sluice gate in Maungmeshaung Village, Dawei Township, and ploughing of the fields of farmer U Pha



Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects construction of Khamaunghla Sluice gate in Maungmeshaung village, Dawei Township.—MNA

Hsu with the use of machinery to grow summer paddy.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected Dawei-Ye

road section, maintenance of Pyintaing Bridge in Yebyu, and resurfacing of the road section between Mile Post Nos.

34/7 and 34/6.

At Kaleinaung People’s Hospital, he donated medical equipment and medicines.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected repairing of Dawei-Ye road section between Mile Post Nos. 59/6 and 59/7 and

between 66/4 and 66/5, and thriving rubber in the road section between Mile Post Nos. 71 and 72.—MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung looks into cement plant in Thayet. INDUSTRY-1



TCG Chairman Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu receives Regional Director of UNOPS Mr Wang Yue.—MOFA

Deputy Energy Minister pays respect to teachers

YANGON, 24 Dec—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay attended the 7th respect

paying ceremony to teachers of Myanaung Township BEHS in Ayeyawady Division on 20 December.

The deputy minister spoke on the occasion and presented cash and gifts to teachers.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister visits factories in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung visited Winthuza Shop in Aunglan, Magway Division on 22 December.

Next, the minister inspected Thayet Cement Plant No 1 and Pyaloh cotton buying center in Aunglan and left necessary instructions.

The minister also visited Shwedaung Textile Factory in Shwedaung and Thayawady Enamelware Factory in Thayawady. MNA

EP 2 Minister visits sub-power stations

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec — Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected control room and switch yard of 132 KV Aung Chan Tha sub-power station in Monywa on 21

December and left necessary instructions.

At the office of division electrical engineer in Monywa, the minister met with staff.

Next, the minister visited ChaungU Township Electrical

Engineer's Office and looked into distribution of electricity.

The minister also visited Belin, Inngon and Thazi sub-power stations and met with service personnel. MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister receives regional director of UNOPS

YANGON, 24 Dec—Chairman of Tripartite Core Group (TCG) Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu received Mr Wang Yue, Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) at the ministry

here today.

They held discussions on the role of UNOPS in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Myanmar and assistance for post-Nargis reconstruction and

livelihood in Delta regions.

Also present were Mr Sanjay Mathur, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and Pacific and Mr Lainejoki, Chief Executive Officer of UNOPS Myanmar. MNA

MMA annual meeting on 27 Dec

YANGON, 24 Dec—The annual meeting of Myanmar Medical

Association (Yangon) will be held at the auditorium of MMA at 10 a.m. on 27

December. MMA members are invited to attend the meeting.—MNA

White gold plantations of Chindwin region

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

(from page 16)

Situated between 400 and 5,700 feet above sea level, Homalin Township in Chindwin region has a warm and wet climate. Its average annual rainfall is between 70 and 90 inches, and its temperature varies from 50 degree F to 92 degree F.

The township covers

mental organizations and regiments that are interested in growing rubber plants.

Our mobile team of the Mirror Daily visited Homalin Township at the beginning of November. During our trip, we had an interview with Daw Su Su Htwe of Myanma Agriculture Service. She said

plants have been grown on 2,004 acres of land in 2008-2009 and that land reclamation work is being carried out to increase the cultivated acreage up to 11,000 acres in 2009-2010 as targeted.

She continued that introduction of rubber cultivation is a new milestone in the agriculture industry of Homalin Township, that the rubber plants grown in the township are of high-yield quality strains such as PRIM 600, PB-260, BPM-24, GT-1 and PBIG and that extension of rubber cultivation increases the cultivated acreage in the township, creates employment, raises the living standard of the local people and contributes to regional development and environmental conservation.

After the interview, we proceeded to two rubber plantations five miles away from Homalin. The first plantation we visited was owned by U Po Tar (a) U Kyaw Swa Lwin of Kawyar village-tract. U Kyaw Swa Lwin ex-

plained that he applied for the use of land in 2005 and was allotted 220 acres and started growing rubber plants in the same year. He said that he had already cultivated rubber plants on 50 acres, that he would increase the cultivated acreage up to 220 acres as targeted in 2011-2012, that rubber plants grown in his plantation is BPIG strain and that they can be tapped when they are five years old. He continued that he had dealt in various kinds of consumer goods before he went to Palaw Township in Taninthayi Division in 2004 to attend a practical course on rubber cultivation there. He went on to say that, on his return from Palaw to Homalin, he conducted a multiplier course for some 50 people interested in growing rubber plants, there were about 147 rubber growers in the whole township and that he was distributing rubber saplings of BPM-24, RRIM-600 and PB-260 strains to rubber plantations in the neighbourhood

at reasonable prices.

The next plantation we visited was U Aung Than Myint's. He also started growing rubber plants in July, 2005. He said that his rubber plantation had an area of 100 acres and he had already cultivated rubber plants on 50 acres and that he would reclaim another 30 acres in 2008-2009 and grow rubber plants to the full on condition that he could get enough saplings. U Aung Than Myint had been a merchant before he took up farming. He became interested in cultivation of rubber plants as it was a long-term investment. U Aung Than Myint conducted us around his rubber plantation.

He explained that he had planted 1,000 pineapple plants between the rows of rubber plants the year before, that he had fetched about K 400,000 from the sale of pineapples and that he would grow 10,000 pineapple plants this year.

After spending some time at U Aung Than



I am disseminating rubber farming knowledge to fellow rubber growers.

**U Po Tar (a)
U Kyaw Swa Lwin**

Myint's plantation, we returned to Homalin. It was already evening. The light of the sun was getting fainter and fainter and the green colour of rubber plantations darker and darker. On the way, we were thinking of the day when Chindwin region would surely become a land of white gold.

**Translation: NN
Kyemon: 23-12-2008**



The main reason behind rubber growing is my interest in agriculture.

U Aung Than Myint.

an area of 2,768,927 acres. It has 18,039 acres of arable virgin land and 706,317 acres of wild forest. Therefore, there are enough lands in the township to be allotted to farmers, companies, depart-

that rubber cultivation was introduced in Homalin Township in 1995, that the State laid down a five-year plan starting from 2005-2006 and has rendered all the necessary assistance, that rubber

Protea plants help unlock secrets of species 'Hotspots'



CAPE TOWN, 24 Dec—New species of flowering plants called proteas are exploding onto the scene three times faster in parts of Australia and South Africa than anywhere else in the world, creating exceptional 'hotspots' of species richness, according

to new research.

Proteas are best known as the national symbol of South Africa. The international team behind the new study created an evolutionary 'family tree' of all 2,000 protea plant species on Earth – the majority of which are

found in South Western Australia (SWA) and the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) of South Africa. This 'family tree' enabled the researchers to examine how these and other regions of the planet with Mediterranean-style climates have become so-called 'biodiversity hotspots'.

Until now, scientists have not known exactly why such large numbers of plant and animal species live in these Mediterranean hotspots. They are places of significant conservation importance which, like the rainforests, contain some of the richest and most threatened communities of plant and animal life on Earth.

Internet

Does global warming lead to change in upper atmospheric transport?

FRANKFURT, 24 Dec—Most atmospheric models predict that the rate of transport of air from the troposphere to the above lying stratosphere should

be increasing due to climate change. Surprisingly, Dr. Andreas Engel together with an international group of researchers has now found



Launch of a helium-filled stratospheric balloon by the French Space Agency (CNES). Such balloons can reach altitudes of more than 35 km. The balloon shown here will have a diameter of close to 100 m and a volume of 150,000 cubic meters when reaching its ceiling altitude. During the slow descent of the balloon through the stratosphere, air samples can be collected at different altitudes.—INTERNET

that this does not seem to be happening. On the contrary, it seems that the air masses are moving more slowly than predicted. This could also imply that recovery of the ozone layer may be somewhat slower than predicted by state-of-the-art atmospheric climate models.

The researchers investigated the time it takes to transport the atmospheric trace gases sulfurhexafluoride (SF6) and carbon dioxide (CO2) from the troposphere (the atmospheric layer between the ground and about 10 km) to the stratosphere (the atmospheric layer between about 10 and 50 km altitude).

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (263)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (263) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2008 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (137)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (137) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2008 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

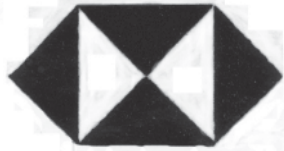


A stranded passenger is lowered down to the ground from the capsule of world's largest observation wheel in Singapore on 23 December . Officials in the city state are investigating a fire at the landmark that left almost 175 tourists trapped for hours, some of them dangling high in the sky.—INTERNET

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 25 December 2008

Rare rhino calves found in Indonesian jungle



A hand out video grab taken in May 2008 from WWF shows two rhinos in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon national park on Java island. Four calves of the world's rarest species of rhino have been found in remote jungle on Java, giving hope to efforts to save them from extinction, an official said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

JAKARTA, 24 Dec—Four calves of the world's rarest species of rhino have been found in remote jungle on Indonesia's Java island, giving hope to efforts to save them from extinction, an official said on Tuesday.

"Four Javan rhinos of six to seven months age were seen by scientists on the beach near the jungle during a recent field survey," Agus Primabudi, the head of the Ujung Kulon National Park in West Java, told AFP.

Alerted to the presence of humans, the baby rhinos fled into the park to where two adult rhinos aged roughly 35 to 36, believed to be their parents, were staying, Primabudi said.

Internet

Germany mulling support for large offshore wind farms

BERLIN, 24 Dec—Germany might help companies obtain credits for large offshore wind farms, Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel told the Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper in comments published on Tuesday.

"We are thinking about deposits to guarantee large projects," Gabriel said.

Berlin has ambitious projects for offshore wind power installations because space on land is beginning to run out.

But developing such wind farms is expensive and the global financial crisis has made it hard to obtain credits for the technically complex infrastructure.

Gabriel also told the newspaper that he wanted to "accelerate authorisation procedures for electric lines" to link Germany's coast with the rest of the country.

Internet



An offshore wind farm on the British coast. Germany might help companies obtain credits for large offshore wind farms, Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel told the Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper in comments published on Tuesday.

INTERNET

Tourists safe after drama at world's biggest observation wheel

SINGAPORE, 24 Dec—Singapore officials on Wednesday were investigating a fire at the world's biggest observation wheel that left almost 175 tourists trapped for hours, some of them dangling high in the sky.

Tuesday night's fire in the control room of the Singapore Flyer shut down the 42-storey high observation wheel, leaving customers stuck for six hours before power was restored.

A few lowered themselves in a sling-like device on a rope from one of the observation capsules before the Singapore Flyer eventually began turning again to allow other trapped passengers to walk out, an AFP reporter witnessed.

Power was restored at about 11:11 pm (1511 GMT).

A 70-year-old woman complaining of dizziness, and a boy who vomited were taken to hospital, said Lieutenant Colonel N Subhas, of the paramedic and fire service.

"We thought we were going to have to abseil out of the capsule. Of course we were getting fairly panicky about that," said Anna-Louise Allen, an Australian tourist who was trapped with her daughter Amelia, husband Syd, and five other people in one capsule.

Internet

Study says Bovine TB still a threat to people in UK

LONDON, 24 Dec—Three recent cases of bovine tuberculosis in southwest England—including a mother and her daughter—show the disease remains a threat to human health, researchers said on Tuesday.

The cases in rural Cornwall also involved the woman's pet dog and indicate the disease poses a low but ongoing public health risk for people too, Dinesh Shrikrishna of the Royal Cornwall Hospital and colleagues wrote in the journal *Thorax*.

"The potential for airborne transmission... particularly to segments of the rural population, highlights the need for vigilance and effective collaboration between clinicians, animal and public health professionals in the management of this often forgotten infection," they wrote.

Bovine TB is a chronic debilitating disease which causes breathing difficulties and ultimately death in cattle. It can spread to people, with similar symptoms to the human form of the disease, but such cases are very rare. Badgers are a wildlife host for bovine TB and have been implicated in spreading the disease. Many farmers believe a cull on badgers is needed to tackle its spread but wildlife groups have provided strong opposition. —MNA/Reuters



A man looks at the Hong Kong Victoria harbour from the Peak in Hong Kong on 18 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET

Drug shields mice from chronic lung disease

CHICAGO, 24 Dec — An experimental drug protected mice exposed to tobacco smoke from developing chronic lung disease, raising hope for a treatment in humans, US researchers said on Monday.

They said the chemical CDDO-Im helped activate a master gene called Nrf2 that bolsters the lung's ability to fight off chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease, or COPD, a condition that includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis and some types of serious chronic asthma.

"COPD is the 4th-largest killer in the world with no effective drugs," Shyam Biswal of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Maryland, who worked on the study, said in an e-mail.

In prior research, Biswal and colleagues found that Nrf2 works as a "master

gene," turning on genes involved in protecting the lungs from pollution and cigarette smoke. "The Nrf2 pathway is the major antioxidant and detoxifying response in the lungs. Therapies targeting this pathway need to be developed and tested in patients," said Biswal, whose study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. —Internet

New study shows how certain vegetables combat cancer

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — While it has been known for some time that eating cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, can help prevent breast cancer, the mechanism by which the active substances in these vegetables inhibit cell proliferation was unknown — until now.

Scientists in University of California, Santa Barbara, reported on Tuesday that their new research has shown how the healing power of these vegetables works at the cellular level.

The study results was published in this month's journal Carcinogenesis.

"Breast cancer can be protected against by eating cruciferous vegetables such as cabbage and near relatives of cabbage such as broccoli and cauliflower," said first author Olga Azarenko.

"These vegetables contain compounds called isothiocyanates which we believe to be responsible for the cancer-preventive and anti-carcinogenic activities in these vegetables."

Their research focuses on the anti-cancer activity of one of these compounds, called sulforaphane, or SFN.

Internet

A Vietnamese boy sells balloons from his bicycle in the northern Vietnamese city of Hanoi.

INTERNET



New discovery offers hope for treating kidney cancer

WASHINGTON, 24 Dec — Kidney cancer is typically without symptoms until it has spread to other organs, when it is also the most difficult to treat. Newer chemotherapies show great promise for extending survival during later disease stages, but they can also be highly toxic.

In one of the first discoveries of its kind, researchers at University

of California, Davis, have identified ways to block a cancer gene's own repair mechanism and, in so doing, help make chemotherapy for kidney cancer more effective and better tolerated.

The outcome is published in the current issue of Cancer Biology and Therapy.

"Cancer cells are notorious in their ability

to rapidly create copies of themselves. While the latest medications slow down that process, they do not tend to be curative and have many side effects," said lead researcher Robert Weiss on Tuesday. "We wanted to find ways to help make chemotherapeutics as effective as possible at the lowest doses possible."

Internet

Indian women face uphill health battle

NEW DELHI, 24 Dec — Indian women have taken big steps in politics and the workforce but their health is still determined by class and caste, says a major study tracking their experiences over the last 30 years.

Food shortages and a declining government commitment to health care in the 1990s increased the "systemic inequities" for women throughout the country, said a copy of the report obtained by AFP.

Positive developments such as longer female life expectancy are negated by the fact that a woman's health "depends on where she is born and lives, and what class and caste she belongs to," says the study.

Internet



Traders celebrate in front of the electronic board after the closing of the last trading day of the year on 24 Dec, 2008 at the Philippine Stock exchange in Manila's financial district of Makati. —INTERNET

Millions of older Americans use risky drug combos

CHICAGO, 24 Dec — At least 2 million older Americans are taking a combination of drugs or supplements that can be a risky mix — from blood thinners and cholesterol pills to aspirin and ginkgo capsules — a new study warns.

Among older men, the numbers are particularly alarming — one in 10 are taking potentially harmful combinations, according to the study. The results aren't

always disastrous, but older people are more vulnerable to side effects and drug-to-drug interactions. And patients need to know that just because lots of medicines and supplements don't require prescriptions doesn't mean they're harmless. Nor are some of these safe to take when you're prescribed other medications.

Experts say the take-home advice is to ask about any side effects of

prescription drugs, and tell your doctor before taking other medicines.

The report showing just how many older people are using risky combinations comes from a study of nearly 3,000 interviews with people aged 57 to 85. The research, funded by the National Institutes of Health and University of Chicago, appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. —Internet

SPORTS

Evra targets title treble for Man Utd



**Manchester United
French defender
Patrice Evra**

MANCHESTER, 24 Dec—Patrice Evra has told his Manchester United teammates to focus on a hat-trick of Premier League titles.

The champagne corks had barely stopped popping on United's Club World Cup victory at the weekend before France defender Evra turned his thoughts back to domestic action in England.

Not only did United enjoy a successful trip to

Japan to end the year as world champions, as well as reigning Premier League and Champions League holders, but they received a further boost as Chelsea and Liverpool wasted their chance to open up a big lead over Sir Alex Ferguson's team.

United could have returned from Asia with a substantial deficit to make up on the top two, but Liverpool's draw at Arsenal and Chelsea's goalless scrap at Everton kept the Old Trafford outfit within seven points of first place, with two games in hand.

Internet

Chelsea's Cech makes case for Scolari

LONDON, 24 Dec—Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech insists Luiz Felipe Scolari still has the full support of the Stamford Bridge squad.

Reports in the English media recently claimed that senior players including John Terry and Frank Lampard were unhappy with Scolari's training methods and substitutions.

Chelsea's results have hardly quelled the sense that Scolari is struggling to adapt to life at the west London club, as well as the unique demands of the Premier League.

Although the Blues remain firmly in the title race, they wasted a chance to go top of the table at Christmas on Monday after drawing 0-0 at Everton.

Scolari's team, who are one point behind leaders Liverpool, have won just one of their last five league matches and Terry's red card at Goodison Park is the latest set-back for the club.—*Internet*



Chelsea's Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech is pictured during a training session.—INTERNET

Arsenal's Fabregas ruled out for four months

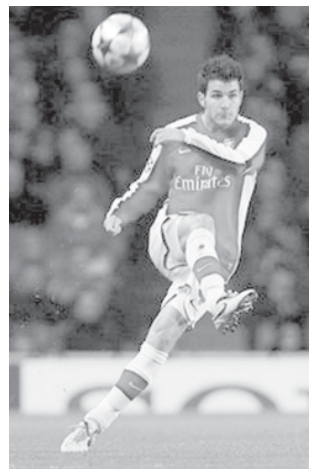
LONDON, 24 Dec—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger revealed on Tuesday that Gunners captain Cesc Fabregas will be out of action for four months after suffering a partial rupture of his medial knee ligament in Sunday's draw against Liverpool.

Fabregas suffered the injury in a challenge with Liverpool's Xabi Alonso and limped off at half time at the Emirates Stadium.

Wenger initially hoped Fabregas would only be out for three weeks but scans confirmed the Spain midfielder won't play again before April.

"The news is not good," Wenger said. "It will take three to four months, we count four. He will be working hard to come back earlier but I count four months."

Internet



Arsenal's Spanish captain Cesc Fabregas

"The challenge by Alonso was fair and honest, I have no problem with it. It is exactly what I have said many times, it is the kind of thing you accept in the game that can happen. I don't feel there was any intention to hurt, it was purely accidental."

Mikic leaves Dynamo Zagreb for Japanese challenge

ZAGREB, 24 Dec—Dynamo Zagreb midfielder Mihael Mikic said on Tuesday he has negotiated an early exit from the Croatian champions to join Japanese second division outfit Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

"Japan is a new challenge in my career and I will leave for Hiroshima in early January," Mikic told journalists.

"I'm grateful to Dynamo for their understanding, which has enabled me to leave although my contract was to expire in a year," the 28-year-old added.

Mikic, who has also played for Bundesliga side Kaiserslautern, had a contract with Dynamo until June 2010.

Internet



Mihael Mikic of Dynamo Zagreb

Capello ends England's 'funfair' culture

LONDON, 24 Dec—Football Association chairman Lord Triesman believes Fabio Capello's most significant achievement since taking charge of England has been to destroy the "funfair" culture surrounding the team.

Capello rules the England set-up with a no-nonsense mentality that has stripped away the excesses of Steve McClaren's reign.

Under McClaren, and his predecessor Sven Goran Eriksson, England's players were allowed to become far too comfortable on international duty, with wives, girlfriends and agents following them everywhere.

But in his first 12 months in charge Capello has laid down the law by banning all hangers-on from England's hotel.

After a slow start, the Italian has convinced the players to buy into his philosophy.

The results have been impressive. Four successive World Cup qualifying victories, including a superb away win in Croatia, were followed by a friendly triumph over Germany in Berlin last month.—*Internet*



England coach Fabio Capello. Football Association chairman Lord Triesman believes Capello's most significant achievement since taking charge of England has been to destroy the "funfair" culture surrounding the team.—INTERNET

Arshavin transfer on the way, says agent - report

LONDON, 24 Dec—Highly-rated Russian forward Andrei Arshavin could finally be on his way to Europe after his agent said the Zenit St Petersburg player was almost certain to be sold in the transfer window.

Arshavin has been linked to Arsenal, Tottenham and Real Madrid and, according to a BBC website report on Tuesday his agent, Dennis Lachter, said Arshavin and Zenit had agreed that he should find a new club in January.

"He will definitely move in January or the player and club will lose money," Lachter said.

"Zenit and Andrei understand that it is time for them to part from each other."

Arshavin, 27, was linked with Tottenham last summer following his impressive performances at Euro 2008, and this week Zenit general director Maxim Mitrofanov was quoted as saying his price tag was 20 million pounds

and they hoped Arsenal would make an offer. But Lachter denied reports that the player had visited both teams' training grounds on a recent trip to London.

Internet



Highly-rated Russian forward Andrei Arshavin, could finally be on his way to Europe after his agent said the Zenit St Petersburg player was almost certain to be sold in the transfer window.—INTERNET



Bulgarian carol singers bearing gifts of food perform traditional songs and dances in Varna, east of the capital Sofia.—INTERNET

Brazil, France sign \$12b defence pact

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec—Brazil and France signed a defence deal on Tuesday worth about 8.6 billion euros (12 billion US dollars) which includes the transfer of technology for Latin America's largest economy to develop its own arms industry.

The accord was signed by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who ended a two-day visit to Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. Under the deal Brazil will buy 50 EC725 helicopters built locally by Helibras, Eurocopter's subsidiary in Brazil. Eurocopter is the helicopter subsidiary of European aerospace group EADS. The

helicopters, worth an estimated 1.9 billion euros, are to be delivered from 2010.

MNA/Reuters

Bird flu detected in belgian farms

BRUSSELS, 24 Dec—Emergency measures have been taken after an outbreak of bird flu was detected in two farms in northern Belgium, Belgian media reported on Tuesday.

Control tests showed last Friday that some ducks and geese in a farm in Bocholt, which borders the Netherlands, were infected with the H5 bird flu virus. The same virus was also detected in a farm in Buggenhout in the province of East Flanders.

The H5 virus is not dangerous to human beings and is different from the H5N1 variant, which has killed more than 200 people since it surfaced in 2003.

The Belgian Federal Food Agency, which supervises the safety of the food chain, has ordered emergency measures to be taken in the two farms and surrounding areas.

Some 5,000 animals had to be slaughtered as a precautionary measure and all poultry within a radius of one kilometre of the farms must be kept indoors. Transport of poultry is forbidden for 21 days.

MNA/Xinhua

Taleban's Omar rejects reports of peace formula

KABUL, 24 Dec—The Taleban's supreme leader rejected on Tuesday reports he had sent a letter to the Saudi King involving a formula for ending the war in Afghanistan and conditions for talks with the Afghan Government.

Mullah Mohammad Omar, who carries a bounty of 10 million US dollars by the United States for his capture, also denied reports saying members of the Taleban's

resurgent movement had held talks with pro-Afghan Government officials on ending the conflict.

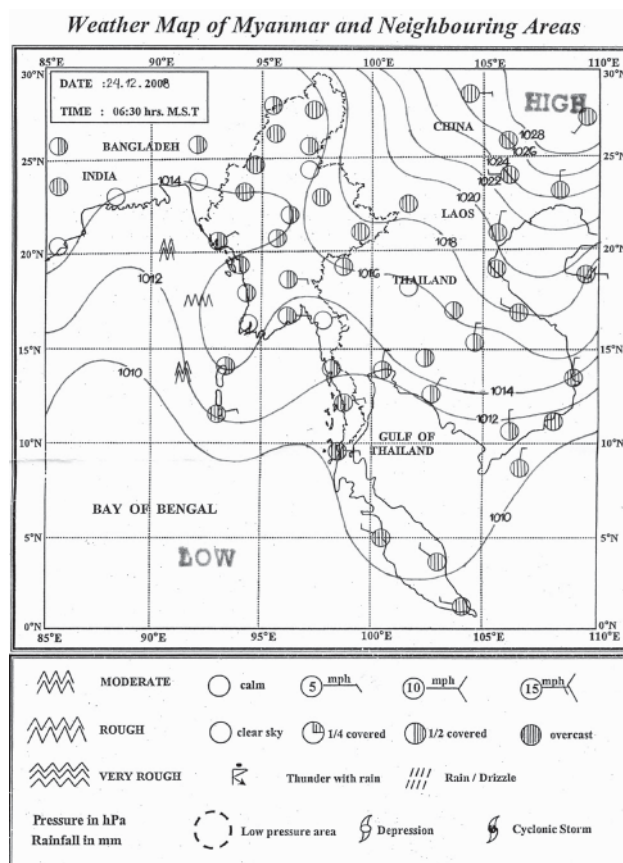
"The fact is that the Islamic Emirates has neither held any negotiations in Saudi Arabia or in the United Arab Emirates and neither anywhere else," the Taleban's Website quoted Omar as saying in a statement.

"I neither have sent any letter addressed to

Saudi-King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, or to the opposite side (Afghan Government) and neither have (I) received any message from them."

The statement added that whatever was being said on this issue was false and part of a propaganda campaign by vested interests.

An Iranian Press report had initially said Omar had sent a peace formula to the Saudi King.—MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Wednesday, 24 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (3°C) and Loilem (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2008 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 24-12-2008 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 23-12-2008 was (9.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 24-12-2008 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 Northeast at (17:30) hours MST on 23-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25th December 2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-12-2008: Partly cloudy.



Thursday, 25 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

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. Dance variety

8:00 am

6. အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

7. “အန္တရာယ်ဆိုတာလက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ” (စိုးသူ၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်၊ ကျော်မင်းနောင်၊ ကောင်းချာန်သစ်၊ ယင်းမာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

8:25 am

8. အဆိုဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:50 am

10. Local talent

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Songs of national races

4:20 pm

3. နားဝင်ပီယံလက်သံ

4:35 pm

4. Cute little dancers

4:50 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာ အထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)

5:05 pm

6. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:10 pm

7. “အေးမြသောလေညင်းလေးများ” (မေတ္တာ၊ ဇေယျ၊ စိုးမိုးကြည်၊ ဇူးဇူးမောင်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

5:20 pm

8. Musical programme

5:35 pm

9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. “ထူးဆန်းထွေလာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့်ချည်းကပ်ခြင်း”

6:55 pm

13. Musical programme

7:15 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကုန်သွယ်မှုနံတိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၃၇)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၅၇)

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

White gold plantations of Chindwin region

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

Rubber plants are being grown on many acres of land in Taninthayi Division and Mon State in Myanmar. Other regions such as Kayin State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, and some townships in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States are also suitable for cultivation of rubber plants.

Rubber plants can grow well in the regions

where the climate is neither too hot nor too cold and the temperature ranges from 55° F to 100° F. They can be cultivated even in the regions more than 2,000 feet above sea level. In this case, however, it takes a little longer than normal for them to be tapped.

Rain is of the essence in the growth of rubber plants and the most suitable rainfall is from 80 to

160 inches. They can grow well also in the areas with an average annual rainfall of 200 inches. It is learnt that it is more profitable to grow rubber plants in the regions where it rains from time to time all the year round because it can increase the yield.

(See page 11)



Rubber and pineapple plants seen in Aung Thukha (Lin) rubber plantation of U Aung Than Myint in Homalin Township.

Evolution: Life on Earth got bigger in 2-million-fold leaps

SCIENCE DAILY, 24 Dec—Earth’s creatures come in all sizes, yet they (and we) all sprang from the same single-celled organisms that first populated the planet. So how on Earth did life go from bacteria to the blue whale?

“It happened primarily in two great leaps, and each time, the maximum

size of life jumped up by a factor of about a million,” said Jonathan Payne, assistant professor of geological and environmental science at Stanford.

Payne, along with a dozen other paleontologists and ecologists at 10 different research institutions, pooled their existing databases,

combed the scientific literature and consulted with taxonomic experts in a quest to determine the maximum size of life over all of geological time.

That might sound like a rather large undertaking, but, fortunately, the quest was made easier because even the professionals have a fascination with the size of the fossilized.

“The nice thing about maximum size is that people tend to remark on very large fossils, so they are much easier to track down in the geologic literature than anything else,” Payne said. In addition to quantifying the enormity of the two leaps in maximum size, the researchers also pinned down when those leaps took place.

Internet



Blue whales. Earth’s creatures come in all sizes, yet they (and we) all sprang from the same single-celled organisms that first populated the planet. So how on Earth did life go from bacteria to the blue whale?—INTERNET

INSIDE

He is an educated young farmer, running a 10-acre paddy field. He seemed to be making handsome profits from his agricultural farm, practicing double- or triple-cropping pattern with advanced agricultural methods.

PAGES 6+7

KYAW YE MIN

Sale agents invited, Win Thuza shops to be hired

YANGON, 24 Dec—The Ministry of Industry-1 is producing textiles, ready-made clothes, foodstuff, beverage, medicines, soap, ceramics, paper and exercise books, paints, sewing machines, bicycles, plastics, leather, rubber totaling 904 items.

With the purpose of distributing products to the public, sales agents are invited. In addition, Win Thuza shops, which are being kept open in all parts of the country will be hired at reasonable rate.

Those wishing to sell goods and hire Win Thuza shops may contact the Directorate of Industries (Tel-067-408196), Myanmar Textile Industries (Tel-067-408157), Myanmar Foodstuff Industries (Tel-067-408276), Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries (Tel-067-408162), Myanmar Ceramics Industries (Tel-067-408372), Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries (Tel-067-408374) and Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries (Tel-067-408340).—MNA