### 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
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
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**Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects regional developments in North-East Command**

YANGON, 9 Dec — Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by the officials of the State Peace and Development Council office, left here by air on 6 December morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport.

Together with senior military officials of North-East Command, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and (See page 8)

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**National Convention delegate groups’ meetings continue**

YANGON, 9 Dec — The delegates groups of political parties, representatives-elect, national races and peasants held their meetings at the designated halls of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

The meetings were attended by members of panel of chairmen from respective delegate groups.

The meeting of delegate group of peasants in progress. — MNA

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Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Kaukktwe Creek Dam near Manhsu Village in Lashio Township. — MNA

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

Saturday, 10 December, 2005

Produce medicines for six major diseases

In an effort to fully engage in public health care services, the government has laid down and is implementing the national objective which calls for uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. For the entire national people to enjoy longevity and be free from all forms of diseases, priority is being given to producing potent medicines and conducting research on them.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State, the scientists, officials of the ministries concerned to try their utmost in order to produce potent medicines and to carry out research on them. In his inspection tour, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by the Heads of Departments, Thai Minister for Energy Mr Viset Choopiban and Head of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosol and embassy staff, CEO Mr Kraisri Karnasuta and officials of EGAT Public Pharmaceutical Factory (Project) of the Ministry of Industry-1 during his tour of PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division and gave instructions to officials concerned.

In his inspection tour, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein stressed the need for officials concerned to make constant efforts for realization of the guidance given by the Head of State, to carry out research on potent medicines for six major diseases—malaria, TB, hypertension, diabetes, diarrhoea and dysentery—and widely distribute them in cooperation with private entrepreneurs, and to carry out research on potency and side-effects of traditional and foreign medicines and made them public in time.

Malaria, TB, hypertension, diabetes, diarrhoea and dysentery are common in Myanmar. The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Project) of the Ministry of Industry-1 is being implemented in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division for improvement of public health care services.

At present, the factory has been installed with machinery with a capacity of producing 1,050 million tablets and capsules yearly and another machinery with a capacity of producing 500 million tablets and capsules. Therefore, we would like to call upon officials of the ministries concerned to try their utmost in order to produce potent medicines for six major diseases which are common in Myanmar.

Hydroelectric Power Department, EGAT Public Company Ltd ink agreement on Hutygi Hydropower Project

YANGON, 9 Dec — An agreement signing ceremony, between Hydroelectric Power Department and EGAT Public Company Ltd, Thailand, on Hutygi Hydropower Project to be implemented on Thanlwin River in Kayin State, by Hydroelectric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power took place at Hotel Nikko here this morning. It was attended by the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Heads of Departments, Thai Minister for Energy Mr Viset Choopiban and Head of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosol and embassy staff, CEO Mr Kraisri Karnasuta and officials of EGAT Public Pharmaceutical Factory (Project) of the Ministry of Industry-1 during his tour of PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division and gave instructions to officials concerned.

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282 drug-related cases exposed in November

YANGON, 9 Dec — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department managed to expose 282 drug-related cases in November 2005.

They exposed and seized 9.7992 kilos of opium in 30 cases, 2.6834 kilos of heroin in 112 cases, 0.4081 kilos of opium oil in five cases, 0.2536 kilo of low opium in 10 cases, 3.6628 kilos of marijuana in 18 cases, 12.3085 stimulant tablets in 72 cases, 0.0246 kilo of stimulant powder, 30.0179 kilos of speciosa in 5 cases, 0.032 litter of cough syrup, 271 diacephyl pills in two cases, two bottles of diacephyl (injection) in one case, 1087 bottles of morphine (injection) in two cases, 0.0021 kilo of caffeine in one case, 12 cases of failure to register and 11 other cases.

Action was taken against 392 people in 282 cases—317 men and 75 women during November. One of the remarkable cases was that a combined team, acting on information, stopped and searched a motorcycle with license plates (Masa/17839) driven by Kyan Hsan from Muse to Pan Kham village and seized 25800 stimulant tablets bearing WY letters inside its tool box and one packet weighing 0.02 kilo of stimulant powder on 2 November.

In connection with the case, Muse Police Station filed a lawsuit against houseowner Kwan Maw Htaung. — MNA

ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST 392 PEOPLE IN 282 CASES—317 MEN AND 75 WOMEN DURING NOVEMBER.
ASEAN Charter to be based on spirit of “togetherness”

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Dec — The crafting of the ASEAN Charter must be based on the spirit of “togetherness” and “we” feeling, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said on Wednesday.

He said the proposed charter must bring people together through their active engagement and contributions. The Malaysia-mooted charter, known as the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter, will be signed on Monday during the 11th summit of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) in Kuala Lumpur.

“Togetherness” is something that seems to have eluded ASEAN all these years. The missing ingredient in our interactions has been this “we” feeling between and among the ASEAN people, he said.

While ASEAN has been in existence for 39 years, ASEAN citizens have been perceived as still not having a strong attachment to be labelled as belonging to an ASEAN community, Syed Hamid said at the opening of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference.

As such, ASEAN needs to stress on community building, generation of trust and building of confidence among its people, he said.

Syed Hamid also said that ASEAN leaders, at the 2004 Summit in Vientiane, Laos, had called for a more people-centered approach to cultivate the sense of belonging among its citizens.

A caring ASEAN community could only be achieved by inculcating understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness and richness of ASEAN cultures and encouraging more people-to-people contact, he said.

China, Uzbekistan vow to further enhance military cooperation

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan held talks with visiting Defence Minister of Uzbekistan Rustam Mirzayev here on Wednesday.

The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on current international and regional issues, bilateral relations and bilateral military cooperation.

Since China and Uzbekistan forged diplomatic ties 13 years ago, Cao said, bilateral relations have witnessed smooth development and bilateral military exchanges and cooperation have been expanding.

Cao acknowledged that Mirzayev’s current visit to China is significant to boost the pragmatic cooperation between the two armed forces.

Under the backdrop of complicated regional and world situation, it is in the fundamental interests of the people of both countries to further enhance bilateral military cooperation, Cao said.

China is ready to make joint efforts with Uzbekistan to step up security cooperation so as to contribute to regional and world peace and stability, Cao said.

Mirzayev voiced his appreciation for China’s support for its fight against terrorism and for China’s aid over the years.

Philippines denies receiving information about bomb threat

MANILA, 8 Dec — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Wednesday said it has not received any information about any plans to bomb the US Embassy in Manila.

Colonel Tristan Kison, AFP’s public information office chief told a Press conference that terrorists would not strike at the American installation at a time when security are in place.

“As of today, we have no information about threats to the US Embassy,” he said a day after a bomb scare disrupted the operation of the US Embassy.

Seven Pakistani quake survivors die in tent fire

Muzaffarabad (Pakistan), 8 Dec — Fire engulfed a tent in which Pakistani earthquake survivors were sleeping, killing seven members of the same family including four children, police said on Wednesday. The cause of the blaze on Tuesday night in Banser village in North-West Frontier Province was believed to have been a candle or an electrical short circuit, said police official Mohammad Nadeem.

British blame ground fire for Iraqi crash

London, 9 Dec — Ground fire caused a military transport jet to crash in Iraq in January, killing 10 servicemen in Britain’s largest single loss of life in the war, a top British official said on Thursday.

Defence Secretary John Reid told the House of Commons that investigators determined that hostile fire was the most likely cause of the crash of the C-130 Hercules north of Baghdad on 30 January. He declined to reveal what type of weapon was used.

A board of inquiry determined that low-level daylight flying made the aircraft vulnerable to ground-to-air fire. Investigators also reported that the wing which was hit lacked a fuel tank safety system. “The board of inquiry has concluded that the aircraft crashed because it became uncontrollable after hostile ground-to-air fire caused the outboard right-hand wing to fold and separate from the aircraft,” Reid said. “The crash was not survivable.”

The crash happened about a half-hour after polls closed in landmark Iraq elections 30 January.

The plane reported a fire six minutes after taking off from Baghdad on a flight to a US air base at Baladabout, and was reported missing 25 minutes afterward. US helicopters found the wreckage 20 minutes later. An interim inquiry report in March ruled out a number of possible causes, including sabotage.

Gunmen attack Iraqi hospital, killing three police officers

Baghdad, 8 Dec — Three police officers were killed on Wednesday when gunmen broke into a hospital in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, police said.

The gunmen were attempting to free an injured man who had been arrested for plotting to murder a judge in the trial of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The attack occurred at Al-Jumhuriya Hospital in Kirkuk, 290 kilometres north of Baghdad. Six police officers were also injured in the attack.

Philippines displaced by floods

MANILA, 8 Dec — More than 13,500 people have been displaced by floods triggered by heavy rains in low-lying areas in the northeastern Philippines, the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) said Wednesday. The most severely hit site was Lucena City in Quezon Province some 130 kilometres south of Manila where 12,000 people were forced to flee to evacuation centers, the OCD said.

In Candelaria Town also in Quezon Province, rising flood waters have displaced more than 100 people, the report said.

Floods also hit Victoria Capalonga Town in Camarines Norte Province in southern Philippines, where 188 people were forced to evacuate, said OCD.
ASEAN senior economic officials finalize single window document

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Dec—ASEAN senior economic officials concluded their meeting here on Wednesday and finalized several documents including one on the establishment and implementation of a Customs facilitating initiative.

The documents will be signed by the 10-member bloc's economic ministers at the upcoming 11th ASEAN Summit slated for 12 December.

The initiative, called the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), is the single most important Customs initiative that will ensure expeditious clearance of goods and reduce the cost of doing business in ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ASW, whose draft model had been completed at the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting last October in Vientiane, Laos, will facilitate the speedy clearance of imports through electronic processing of trade documents at national and regional levels.

A pilot implementation of the initiative was targeted for the end of this year for Thailand and the Philippines, and full implementation by 2008, at the latest, for ASEAN-6 (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei) and by 2012 for Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam.

China supports ASEAN's leading role in East Asia cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Dec—China supports the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to remain the driving force behind the efforts to promote cooperation among East Asian countries, a senior Chinese diplomat said here on Wednesday.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, who heads the Chinese delegation to the Senior Officials' Meeting for the 11th ASEAN Summit and related summits, made the remarks while meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Secretary-General Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak. He stressed that this is a stance China has always been upholding.

Wu exchanged views with his over-ruled一副 to work for the ASEAN Summit and the inaugural East Asia Summit, and expressed appreciation over Malaysia's efforts for the events.

The Related Summits that are to be held include the 9th ASEAN + 3 Summit, 9th ASEAN + China Summit, 9th ASEAN + Japan Summit, 9th ASEAN + Republic of Korea Summit, 4th ASEAN + India Summit, and the first ASEAN + Russia Summit.

Thai Foreign Ministry redenies allegations of secret CIA prison

BANGKOK, 8 Dec—Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wednesday denied an American media report that the US Central Intelligence Agency had set up secret CIA prisons in Thailand.

The ministry issued a statement in response to the ABC News report, carried on its website on Tuesday, which cited current and former American CIA agents. Similar allegations first appeared in the Washington Post last month.

The report said the CIA secret prison system in Thailand and two East European countries was set with the capture of Osama bin Laden's lieutenant Abu Zabaydah in Pakistan.

The report said Zabaydah was first held in Thailand in an unused warehouse on an active airbase.

The United States has neither confirmed nor denied the existence of the secret prisons.

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry denied the ABC report as well as similar report carried by the Washington Post on 2 November.

UN official criticizes US for eroding ban on torture

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Dec—Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on Wednesday implicitly criticized the United States for violating the global ban on torture.

Arbour told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York that the absolute ban on torture is becoming a casualty of the so-called "war on terror" through loosened legal definition, secret detention, hand-over of prisoners without adequate safeguards and other practices.

"Pursuing security objectives at all costs may create a world in which we are neither safe nor free," she said with aim at the United States.

"Abolishing the ban on torture is a creeping violation of human rights, perhaps the most corrosive effect of the war on terror," she said.

Arbour said the international ban on torture "prohibits transferring persons, no matter what their crime or suspected activity, to a place where they might face torture or other ill-treatment.

Vietnam faces ailing tourism manpower

HANOI, 8 Dec—Human resources of Vietnam's tourism industry are weak in terms of foreign languages and professional skills, local newspaper Youth reported on Wednesday.

Among 234,000 direct employees in the industry, over 60 per cent have undergone full professional training, and among nearly 8,000 tourist guides, less than 70 per cent have been granted professional cards which ensure their tourism-related qualifications.

Among 700 lecturers working at local universities having tourism faculties, only 4 per cent have good command of two foreign languages, and 22 per cent one foreign language, the report said.

An elderly earthquake survivor makes a food in a camp near the earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir early on Wednesday.

"Pursuing security objectives at all costs may create a world in which we are neither safe nor free," she said with aim at the United States.

Arbour stressed that the United States was "pursuing a global victory," and the "United States" should be "remembered" for its "allegations first appeared in the Washington Post last month.

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Internet
US Air Marshals kill passenger over bomb threat

MIAMI, 9 Dec — US Air Marshals on Wednesday shot and killed an American Airlines passenger who claimed to be carrying a bomb in his backpack and ran off a plane at Miami International Airport after being confronted.

Federal officials said the 44-year-old American made threats and indicated he had a bomb in his bag as he was boarding a flight to Orlando in central Florida.

It was the first time an airplane passenger was shot by Air Marshals since the US Marshals program was beefed up after the 11 September, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington. Witnesses said the man might have been mentally ill.

The man, who arrived in Miami from Quito, Ecuador, was identified as Florida resident Rigoberto Alpizar.

Authorities said he was challenged by two Air Marshals on board the Orlando-bound plane, and shot on the passenger gangway after running off the aircraft. He ignored demands to put his bag on the ground and instead reached into it, a Department of Homeland Security spokesman said.

"Shoots were fired as the team attempted to subdue the subject," the spokesman said.

The shooting triggered a scramble by Air Marshals to guard airports across the United States against possible attacks.

But Jim Bauer, special agent in charge of the Federal Air Marshals' Miami office, said investigators found no immediate evidence of a link to terrorism and no sign of a bomb.

A woman who said she was a witness told NBC television's Miami affiliate, WTVJ, that the man's wife had screamed "my husband, my husband", and said he had bipolar disorder and needed medication.

"Her husband ran through the aisle frantically. She ran after him and all of a sudden there were four or five shots," passenger Mary Gardner told the station by telephone.

Federal officials said they could not comment on the allegation that the suspect might have been mentally ill.

MNA/Reuters

China's mine blast kills 74

TANGSHAN (China), 9 Dec — A gas explosion at a Chinese coal pit has killed at least 74 miners, state media said on Thursday, the latest in a grimly predictable series of statistics to emerge from the world's deadliest mining industry.

Thirty-two were still missing in freezing temperatures at the Liuguantian colliery in Tangshan, 108 miles east of Beijing in Hebei province, after Wednesday's blast.

Xinhua news agency said initially that 186 miners had been working in the pit at the time but later revised the figure to 106. The State Administration of Work Safety put the number in the pit at 123.

Police struggled to hold back hundreds of relatives crowding around the mine's entrance hoping for information. But with high gas levels inside the shaft, rescue efforts were going slowly.

Families of the dead would each be compensated 200,000 yuan ($24,770), state television said.

China has been struggling to clean up its mining industry, which killed 2,700 people in the first half of 2005 alone, but a string of accidents in recent weeks has made a mockery of safety campaigns. — MNA/Reuters

China and ASEAN-China relations

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Dec — Senior officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China held a meeting here Wednesday and both sides expressed satisfaction over the positive development of ASEAN-China relations, a high-ranking Chinese official said.

Cui Tiankai, director-general of the Asian affairs department under the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told Xinhua that the ASEAN-China Senior Official's Meeting focused on the preparation of the 9th ASEAN-China summit scheduled to be held here on 12 December. With the joint efforts, Cui said, both sides believe the forthcoming summit will achieve fruitful results and further enhance ASEAN-China strategic partnership for peace and prosperity.

In a related development, the preparatory Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) was also held here Wednesday. The SEOM finalized the documents to be signed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers as follows: The Mutual Recognition Arrangements on Engineering Services, Agreement on the ASEAN Harmonized Electrical and Electronic Regulatory Regime, and Agreement on ASEAN Single Window.

The meeting also discuss a report to be presented to the economic ministers on the current status of the Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN Dialogue partners, namely South Korea, India and Japan and on the mechanism to enhance ASEAN+3 linkages.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN-China Senior Official's Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur

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MNA/Xinhua

Two killed, five injured in traffic collision in Hefei

HEFEI, 8 Dec — Two people were killed and five others injured after a flattened truck bumped into a limousine on Tuesday in Hefei, capital of east China’s Anhui province, local police said on Wednesday.

The accident took place at about 11:50 am Tuesday when the truck collided with the sedan at the crossroad of a crowded street in downtown Hefei.

Two men in the sedan died on the spot while the two drivers and three passengers were wounded. Of the five injured, a woman is in critical condition and is undergoing brain treatment in a local hospital, doctors said.

Traffic police attributed the accident to possible overspeeding of both vehicles. Investigation into the cause of the traffic accident is still underway.

The truck still knocked down a roadside wire pole, causing black-out in an adjacent economic development zone, officials with the city’s power supply department said.— MNA/Xinhua

China's mine blast kills 74

TANGSHAN (China), 9 Dec — A gas explosion at a Chinese coal pit has killed at least 74 miners, state media said on Thursday, the latest in a grimly predictable series of statistics to emerge from the world’s deadliest mining industry.

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Families of the dead would each be compensated 200,000 yuan ($24,770), state television said.

China has been struggling to clean up its mining industry, which killed 2,700 people in the first half of 2005 alone, but a string of accidents in recent weeks has made a mockery of safety campaigns. — MNA/Reuters

Thailand to produce its own version of anti-bird flu drug

BANGKOK, 8 Dec — Thailand’s Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) can successfully produce its own version of anti-bird flu capsules with imported raw materials, according to the Minister of Public Health.

Speaking after a meeting of senior officials on the drug production and establishment of an anti-bird flu vaccine plant, Public Health Minister Pinyo Jarusombat said it is good news that the Government Pharmaceutical Organization could make Oseltamivir — the primary anti-bird flu treatment — with a quality equivalent to the original drug.

Made of the same ingredients, Oseltamivir manufactured in Thailand is 50 per cent cheaper than imported Oseltamivir, the generic name of Tamiflu.— MNA/Xinhua

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Thirty-two were still missing in freezing temperatures at the Liuguantian colliery in Tangshan, 108 miles east of Beijing in Hebei province, after Wednesday’s blast.

Xinhua news agency said initially that 186 miners had been working in the pit at the time but later revised the figure to 106. The State Administration of Work Safety put the number in the pit at 123.

Police struggled to hold back hundreds of relatives crowding around the mine’s entrance hoping for information. But with high gas levels inside the shaft, rescue efforts were going slowly.

Families of the dead would each be compensated 200,000 yuan ($24,770), state television said.

China has been struggling to clean up its mining industry, which killed 2,700 people in the first half of 2005 alone, but a string of accidents in recent weeks has made a mockery of safety campaigns. — MNA/Reuters

Thailand to produce its own version of anti-bird flu drug

BANGKOK, 8 Dec — Thailand’s Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) can successfully produce its own version of anti-bird flu capsules with imported raw materials, according to the Minister of Public Health.

Speaking after a meeting of senior officials on the drug production and establishment of an anti-bird flu vaccine plant, Public Health Minister Pinyo Jarusombat said it is good news that the Government Pharmaceutical Organization could make Oseltamivir — the primary anti-bird flu treatment — with a quality equivalent to the original drug.

Made of the same ingredients, Oseltamivir manufactured in Thailand is 50 per cent cheaper than imported Oseltamivir, the generic name of Tamiflu.— MNA/Xinhua
Information Minister expresses gratitude to doyen literati, calls for guarding against the incitement of foreign media

YANGON, 9 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan praised the doyen literati for their performance in the service of the nation and the people in the history of Myanmar at a ceremony to mark Myanmar Sarsodaw Day for 1367 ME this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that efforts of the doyen literati not only serve in the interests of the country but also make valuable contributions towards the development of culture and improvement of knowledge of the people. Therefore, the State owed the literati a great deal of gratitude.

The Sarsodaw Day falls on the first waxing day of Naidaw. It is only Myanmar in the world that observes the Sarsodaw Day to honour the literati and to pay respects to doyen literati like other countries.

Myanmar’s press scrutinizing policy bans the publishing that is not in the public interest, he said.

He also called on the literati to make the best use of a pen to guard against the incitement of foreign media in this Information Technology Age. In conclusion, he thanked officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, publishers and well-wishers.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and officials presented cash and kind to doyen literati. At the respect paying ceremony, 92 out of 102 doyen literati, attended the ceremony and others will be paid respects at their homes. Supreme Court Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye, departmental officials, journalists, writers and well-wishers also attended in the respect paying ceremony.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presents gift to a doyen literati. MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents gift to a doyen literati. NLM

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein presents gift to a doyen literati. MNA

A ceremony to pay respects to the doyen literati in progress. — MNA

Those present at the ceremony to pay respects to the doyen literati. MNA

Regarding the press freedom in Myanmar, the minister said that nowadays, the publishing policy is made in the hope of publishing journals and magazines available to the public.

A total of 990 publishing permits including 157 journal publishing permits and 231 magazine publishing permits have been issued.

Press Scrutiny Board scrutinized over 1,700 novels in 1988 and the number scrutinized in 2004-2005 reached 10,433.

Therefore, it was totally fabricated by saying that there is no freedom of press in Myanmar. Every country shall not permit publishing that is against the public interest.

There is the freedom of press in Myanmar, but...
Forestry sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of forestry in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Increased forest plantations

The three main economic sectors of the State—the agriculture sector, the meat and fish sector and the forestry sector—not only fulfil the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people but also contribute much towards national development.

The Tatmadaw government, since its assumption of the State’s duties, has paid serious attention to fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people which is the third duty out of the four main duties it has been discharging.

In an effort for the development of the forestry sector, the tasks for extended growing of trees which can attract markets have been successfully carried out, and these tasks are conducive to people as well as environment conservation.

As Myanmar’s forestry policy contributes to national economic development, stability of natural environment and balance of ecology, it wins support of United Nations Conference on Natural Environment and Development.

In translating the State’s objectives into action, efforts are being made for development of the forestry sector by conserving forests for its perpetuity, fulfilling basic needs of the people, enhancing work efficiency, encouraging people’s participation.

Nowadays, with the assistance of the State and public participation, reserved forests have been established, protected public forest conserved, natural area extended, forest plantations nurtured and trees planted as public activities. As a result, Myanmar becomes green and lush and forest areas have increased year after year.

The table shows increase in growing trees and forest plantations in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserved forest (square mile)</td>
<td>38839</td>
<td>46889</td>
<td>8050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protected public forest (square mile)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12540</td>
<td>12540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural area (square mile)</td>
<td>2073.93</td>
<td>12433.26</td>
<td>10359.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting up of forest (acre)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- teak special plantation (acre)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>140000</td>
<td>140000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of commercial plantation</td>
<td>42083</td>
<td>493125</td>
<td>451042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of village plantation</td>
<td>16630</td>
<td>286854</td>
<td>270224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of industrial plantation</td>
<td>13690</td>
<td>126095</td>
<td>112405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of watershed plantation</td>
<td>6712</td>
<td>255384</td>
<td>248672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Thitseint plantation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19250</td>
<td>19250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree planting through community movement (million)</td>
<td>4.51</td>
<td>210.25</td>
<td>205.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the assistance of the State and public participation, reserved forests have been established, protected public forest conserved, natural area extended, forest plantations nurtured and trees planted as public activities. As a result, Myanmar becomes green and lush and forest areas have increased year after year.
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects regional…

On arrival at vegetable plantations of North East Command, Lt-Col Myo Chyi of the command reported on the plantations to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, who attended to the needs. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also oversaw sunflower, pineapple and orange plantations of the command. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party spent the night in Lashio.

National Convention delegate groups’ meetings continue…

The delegate group of national races held its meeting at Pyidaungsu hall at 9 am today. The delegate group of national races held its meeting at Pyidaungsu hall at 9 am today. Dur-
Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa receives Chinese Ambassador

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa meets Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu. — MNA

Coord meeting of panel of chairmen of delegate group of Other Invited Persons held

YANGON, 9 Dec — The Coordination meeting of the Panel of Chairmen of delegate group of other invited persons held at the meeting hall at 9 am today. It was attended by members of panel of chairmen, Secretary of Myanmar History Commission U Tun Aung Chein, U Aung Chit Htun of Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Dr Thura Myint of Kachin State Special Region-2, U Aung Khaing Htun of Shan State (South) Special Region-6, delegates of other invited persons, Deputy Director of the working group-10 under the National Convention U Aung Kyi and Assistant Director U Win Myint.

Home Affairs Minister meets Chinese Ambassador

YANGON, 9 Dec — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu at the ministry this afternoon. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Myint Sein Taung, departmental officials and head of office. — MNA

Myanmar Hajis honoured

YANGON, 9 Dec — A ceremony to honour Hajis organized by Haji Selection Leading Committee of the Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs took place at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road this afternoon. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addressed the ceremony. It was also attended by departmental heads of the ministry, members of the leading committee, representatives of states and divisions and officials.

Firstly, the minister delivered a speech and leader of Myanmar Hajis Association U Sai Yu Sein of Yangon Division spoke words of thanks. Next, U Nyi Nyi Tun, a member of the leading committee read out rules and regulations to be followed during Hajj tour programmes.

Later, the minister presented a certificate of honour to Haji U Soe Than who gave help to 300 Myanmar Hajis for their free accommodation.

Winners of lucky draws of Meilin shampoo awarded

Ministers of lucky draws of Meilin Shampoo announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as 92 out of 93 delegates were present, accounting for 98.92 per cent. Next, U Saing Tint Aung of Shan State (North) made an opening speech on the occasion.

U Mya Aye of Yangon Division and U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division read out Panel of Chairmen’s compilation as to the proposals of delegates group of peasants regarding the detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial power to be included in the writing of the State Constitution.

After the concluding remarks of the alternate chairman, the meeting adjourned at 9.15 am. — MNA

Winners of lucky draws of Meilin Shampoo won certificates of honour to Haji U Soe Than and extended greetings and thanks. A total of 150 consolation prizes will be taken out at No 61, Shwetaungdan Street in Lamadaw Township.

Home Affairs Minister meets Chinese Ambassador

Special Investigation, Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Thein of General Administrative Department, Head of Department of Transnational Crime Police Col Sit Aye, Director U Than Oo of Prisons Department and Head of Office U Kyaw San. — MNA

Matriculation exam timetable announced

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education today announced the timetable for 2005-2006 Academic Year Matriculation Examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>16-3-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-3-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-3-2006</td>
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<td>22-3-2006</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-3-2006</td>
<td>0900-1200</td>
<td>(Optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Production Manager U Mein Thet extends greetings at prize presentation ceremony to award the winners of lucky draws of Meilin Shampoo. — MNA

Coordination meeting of panel of chairmen of delegates group of other invited persons in progress. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 10 December, 2005 9
The State is responsible to...

(from page 16)

by the Chairman of NCC Work Committee should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The group submitted by the delegate group of representative-elect, political parties that include the delegate group of political parties discussed attitude and views of the representatives of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization. The respective delegates also made similar discussions.

Independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township Constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Twante Township Constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingalardon Township Constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingalardon Township Constituency-2 discussed that the Chairman of the NCC Work Committee explained matters related to the State service personnel, that the State service personnel were to abide by five points clarified by the Chairman of NCC Work Committee. The service personnel who are free from the party politics can run the government machinery with stability. Hence, the clarification of the NCC Work Committee is reasonable.

The delegate group of national races also made discussions that five points concerning the State service personnel clarified by the Chairman of the NCC Work Committee should be laid down as detailed basic principles.

Similarly, the delegate group of peasants supported that five points regarding the State service personnel clarified by the Chairman of the NCC Work Committee should be laid down as detailed basic principles.

Likewise, the delegate group of workers discussed clarification concerning five points made by the Chairman of the NCC Work Committee should be laid down as detailed basic principles.

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia submitted that matters related to the occupational guarantee for the State service personnel are not mentioned precisely in the post-Constitutions enacted after regaining independence of Myanmar. Hence, the delegate group supported that five points regarding occupational guarantee for service personnel clarified by the NCC Work Committee are appropriate.

The group submitted a separate suggestion that as matters related to appointment, promotion, retirement, enforcement of rules, and the taking of action against service personnel included existing law, by-law, rules and regulations and directives. Likewise, it should consider the above-mentioned points in drawing the law to be prescribed by the State in the future.

The group added one more suggestion that in the service personnel, on page 56, the right for explanation of any service personnel in the action to be taken due to a reason clarified by the Chairman of NCC Work Committee include the existing law, by-law, rules and regulations, and directives. Similarly, these facts should be included in the law in the future.

They gave another suggestion that appointment of new service personnel and transfer of them to the remote areas causes difficulties to the respective departments and enterprises. It is necessary to grant occupational security to the personnel who are discharging duties in the remote areas for many years and manage to assign duties to them in the limited period, but not for many years. When appointment, transfer and promotion of employees to regions or states will be performed, necessary assistance and rights are to be fixed for the service personnel, based on significant situations of the regions. These facts are included in the existing law, by-law, rules and regulations and directives. Likewise, these facts should be considered in prescribing the law in the future.

Furthermore, the law granting occupational security for State service personnel to be able to discharge duties of the State and the citizens should be enacted.

In the existing law, by-law, rules and regulations and directives, any working citizen will have the opportunities to discharge duties in the health care services and to ensure sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter when he is injured in the worksite accident, and when he has retired from service. Therefore, the State should consider these facts in enacting the law in the future.

As regards security and protection for the State service personnel the occupational security for the State service personnel who are discharging the duties at the worksites facing danger in which there may affect health, in the existing law, by-law, rules and regulations for the State service personnel should be taken into consideration in enacting law in the future.

The maternal right to enjoy for the women in service is very important not only to benefit the health of mother but also the babies physically and mentally.

In some countries, with a view to turning out the new good generations for the country and health of mother, the maternal leave can be enjoyed up to one year after delivery according to law. Being a Myanmar state, it is desired for the increase of the birth population, the increased birth population are needed to be intelligent generation. This is why, instead of 42 days before and after delivery, 42 days before delivery in the existing laws and 120 days after delivery should be in the law in the future.

Besides, as a result of increasing the number of the new generation with low intelligence quotient of the women in service, the care centres are needed to rehabilitate them during the duty working hours. It can be found that the birth-rate of the intelligent families declines due to the troubles of worrying about their infants. I have heard that there are the customs of awarding the apartments to the service personnel giving birth in some countries. Thus, in the proposal of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, it is expressed for taking consideration in prescribing law of western country to open the nurseries and primary school at the departments where most women in service are discharging the duties.

The Delegate group of State Service Personnel discussed the five points clarified by the Chairman of the NCC Work Committee regarding the matters related to the occupational security for State service personnel that do not mention precisely in the post-Constitutions to adopt for laying down as the detailed basic principles concerning the occupational security for the State service personnel.

Delegate group of other invited persons discussed that the study of Work Committee regarding the State Service Personnel is right to describe the true situation.

It could be found that there were discontentment among the service personnel because of no leadership to handle service personnel affairs conveniently in the periods of British Colony, Parliament Democracy, Revolutionary Council and Lanzin Party of Myanmar. Paying attention to managing the public authority, there was also disadvantage in productivity.

As regards the State service personnel, there are two parts: the State part and the service personnel part. The State is responsible for the service personnel with everything they deserve. And the service personnel, on their part, must be loyal to the State and the citizens, and carry out their responsibilities with full qualification. In carrying out their responsibilities, the service personnel should be honest and should uphold their moral.

It is therefore assumed that the Constitution should prescribe qualification and dutifulness, honesty, emergence of law-abiding employees capable of implementing the tasks, and occupational guarantees.

The National Convention held on 8 March, 2005 laid down the following basic principles concerning the judicial sector:

1. The judicial power of the State is distributed among the Supreme Court of the Union, region high courts, state high courts, and law courts of different levels including law courts of self-ad-ministered areas:
   (1) The Union is constituted one Supreme Court of the Union. The Supreme Court of the Union is the highest law court of the State:
   (2) The Supreme Court of the Union has powers to make laws:
   (3) A region high court is constituted in each of the regions, and a state high court is constituted in each of the states:
   (4) The following are stipulated as judicial principles:
       — independent administration of justice in accordance with law:
       — administration of public in open, except where restricted by law:
       — giving of right of defence and right of appeal by law in cases.

Moreover, the National Convention has laid down the following detailed basic principles for the formation of the judicial power that should be included in writing the Constitution as basic principles:

The judicial power of the State is distributed:

(a) in accordance with the State Constitution or the other laws, among the Supreme Courts of the Union, High Courts of the Regions, High Courts of the States, Courts of the self-administered divisions, Courts of the self-administered zones, District Courts, Township Courts, and other courts constituted by the law and judges appointed in accord with law;
(b) in accord with the State Constitution and by other laws among Courts Martial;
(c) in accord with the State Constitution, to the Constitutional Tribunal.

In connection with the above-mentioned explainations, delegates will have to discuss and suggest whether or not the following detailed basic principles should be laid down:

I will now sort out the detailed basic principles that should be adopted in connection in the distribution of judicial power that shall be embodied in the writing the Constitution based on the studies I have presented.

1. “(a) The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the exclusive original jurisdiction —
   (1) in all matters arising under any treaty made by the Union;
   (2) the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, between the Union Government and region or state governments,
   (3) the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, among the regions, among the states, between regions and states and between Union territories and regions or states
   (4) other matters prescribed by any laws
   (b) as the Supreme Court of the Union is the highest court of the State, it is also the final appellate court

   (c) as the judgement passed by the Supreme Court of the Union are final and conclusive, no right of appeal shall be permitted

   (d) The Supreme Court of the Union, subject to any provisions of this Constitution or any provisions of other law, shall have the appellate jurisdiction to decide on the judgments passed by the state or region high courts. The Supreme Court of the Union shall also have the appellate jurisdiction to inspect and decide on, according to the law, the judgments passed by other courts.

   (e) The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the jurisdiction of revision according to law.”

2. “(a) The Supreme Court of the Union has the power to issue the following writs:
   (1) Writ of habeas corpus
   (2) Writ of mandamus
   (3) Writ of prohibition
   (4) Writ of certiorari
   (5) Writ of mandamus

   (b) The submission for issuance of writs shall be suspended in the areas where the state of emergency is declared.

3. “The courts of regions or states are vested with the following jurisdiction in accordance with law:
   (1) adjudicating on original case
   (See page 11)
The State is responsible to... (from page 10)
(2) adjudicating on appeal case
(3) adjudicating on revision case
(4) adjudicating on matters vested by any law with regard to the judicial matter, Yangon Region High Court is the high court of the courts situated in Yangon City and Cocogyun Township.

(b) In case any area located in regions or states is designated to be a Union territory, the regional or state high court concerned shall have jurisdiction over the judicial matter in the high court of the courts situated in the said Union territory.

5. “District courts, self-administered division courts and self-administered area courts have the jurisdiction over original civil cases, or appeal cases and revision cases, or the matters vested by any law.”

6. “Township courts have the jurisdiction with regard to original criminal cases, original civil cases, or cases in respect of a matter concerning the person, property, to which the provisions on jurisdiction made in this Constitution.”

7. “The judges appointed in accordance with law are to take charge of the entire judicial affairs across the whole Union of the courts formed according to this Constitution or any other laws.”

8. “The Union Supreme Court shall submit judicial budget to the Union government to express them in the Bill of the Annual Union Budget in accordance with the provisions embodied in this Constitution.”

9. “The Chief Justice of the Union shall have the right to submit the important judicial condition concerning the State or the public in writing to the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or to the session of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw.”

The Supreme Court of... (from page 16)

villages to save money and loss of working hours. Therefore, ways and means should be sought for addressing the cases that can be handled at village and ward.

Union Pa-O National Organization discussed that the classifications made by the Chairman of the NCC Work Committee regarding sharing of judiciary powers to regions and states are designated to be a Union territory.

The group of other invited persons also said the points in the division of judicial power are consistent with already laid down basic principles; they help realize the six objectives of the National Convention, they are consistent with the distribution of judicial powers included in the constitutions of global countries; and they are appropriate in deciding fair and healthy judicial affairs. That is why they seconded the nine-point detailed basic principles clarified by the Chairman.

Regarding detailed basic principles to be laid down for the division of executive and judicial powers clarified by the Work Committee Chairman, findings of panel of alternate chairmen concerning the proposals of the delegate groups and delegate groups of political parties have been submitted to the plenary session. Assessing the proposal papers, it is found that the detailed basic principles clarified by the Chairman are appropriate to be adopted and they are consistent with the proposals supported by the delegate groups. Moreover, it is found that some delegates made some suggestions regarding the matter. — MNA

Survey of ancient city and artifacts conducted in Myaungmya

Artskis including ancient Mon stone inscription (AD 16th Century) — CULTURE

YANGON, 9 Dec — Under the arrangements of Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Director-General U Kyaw Win of Archaeology Department and party arrived Myaungmya on 2 December to conduct survey of archaeological tasks.

Chairman of Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Htut Win and officials explained cultural heritage buildings in the ancient Myaungmya city and preservation tasks.

On 2 December, Director-General U Kyaw Win and party performed some religious edifices, the site of royal palace, the walls, the moat and ancient glaze kilns built in Bagan, Inwa and Hanthawady periods, and chose the sites for carrying out excavation tasks.

On 3 December, the talks on preservation of cultural heritage was held at the Dhammayon in the ancient city of Myaungmya. After the talks, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda of Shwesikhon Monastery handed over 12 items of artifacts including a part of Mon stone script made in 16 Century AD and rare glassware to the Director-General of Archaeology Department.

According to the records of the local researchers, there are 492 pagodas built in the period of King Anawratha from 1113-1167 AD. Of them, 278 pagodas had been unearthed. Some bricks made in Pyu period and votive tablets and religious edifices of Bagan period, the part of laterite walls and other items of cultural heritage were found. At present, the Archaeology Department plans to systematically preserve the cultural heritage in ancient city of Myaungmya.

The Minister for Culture sent a preliminary survey team led by Deputy Director U Min Wai (Research & Training) of Archaeology Department to ancient Myaungmya city on 22 April 2005. — MNA
**Vietnam to gain bigger export earnings this year**

**HANOI, 8 Dec—** Vietnam is expected to reap export revenues of three billion US dollars in December, raising this year’s total to 32.1 billion dollars, up from 26.5 billion dollars last year.

The expected hike is mainly due to increasing prices of many exports, including coffee, rice and seafood, and higher demand of China for such local products as rubber, coal and seafood, the Information Centre under Vietnam’s Trade Ministry said Monday.

In the first four days of this month alone, Chinese enterprises ordered 5,000 tons of seafood, 3,000 tons of fragrant and sticky rice, and 100,000 tons of powder coal from Vietnam, the centre noted.

Vietnam earned 26 trillion dollars from supplying its goods to the world market in the first 11 months of this year, posting a year-on-year surge of 21.5 per cent, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

During the period, the United States was the biggest importer of Vietnamese products, with turnovers reaching 4.8 billion dollars, followed by the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations with 4.4 billion dollars, the European Union with 4.3 billion dollars, Japan with 3.5 billion dollars, and China with 2.7 billion dollars.

**China aims to introduce general assembly line from Airbus**

**BEIJING, 8 Dec—** China, the fastest growing aviation market in the world, has reportedly signed a memorandum of understanding with European aircraft manufacturer Airbus in importing a general assembly line, the Economic Information Daily reported on Tuesday.

The memo, signed by China’s National Development and Reform Commission and Airbus, talked about a feasibility study on building a general assembly line for Airbus single-aisle planes in China.

This will be the highest-level cooperation between China and Airbus in the history of Chinese aviation industry, the report said. China and France signed on Monday 16 cooperation agreements concerning various sectors during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao’s ongoing visit to France.

The biggest deal was a framework agreement on the Chinese purchase of 150 aircraft from Airbus’ A320 family of single-aisle planes, signed by Airbus’ chief executive, Gustav Humbert and Li Hai, president of the China Aviation Supplies Import and Export Group.

Airbus is seeking to supplant US rival Boeing’s dominance of the Chinese civil aviation sector by clawing its way up to a 50-per cent market share.

Boeing last month matched up firm orders for 70 of its mid-range planes, the 737s, and options for another 80 during a visit to China by US President George W Bush.

China said it would be buying between 1,800 and 2,700 planes from the two companies, which are the world’s leading commercial aircraft manufacturers, over the next two decades.

The Natural Disaster Management Office (NDMO) said that the current situation of Manaro volcano has reached Level 2, which indicates that it is a danger to approach the vent of the volcano as it signals continued eruptions.

The police operation center has been on 24 hours daily monitoring the situation since Friday.

Vananu is a chain of 83 islands, some with active volcanoes, one of which is inhabited.

**Internet users base up by 54% in India**

**NEW DELHI, 9 Dec—** Indians are increasingly becoming net savvy with the Internet users base registering a 54-per cent growth, with 38.5 million people using the medium this year, the Internet-Asia New Service reported.

According to a survey by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), more and more people are using the Internet against 25 million users in 2004, this year has recorded 38.5 million users till November. Internet penetration has been facilitated by low rates for broadband connections, now available for 199 rupees. (four US dollars)

**Ford to cut 30,000 jobs**

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec— Ford Motor Co, the second largest auto maker in the United States, is preparing to cut as many as 30,000 jobs and close 10 plants as part of a broad restructuring plan, the Detroit News reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, said the measure aims to restore profitability of the company, whose market share is declining.

Ford reported a pretax loss of 1.2 billion US dollar in its North American automotive operations in the third quarter.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported the automaker was preparing to close five plants and slash 7,500 workers.

Ford has a total of 122,877 North American employees at the end of last year and 324,000 employees worldwide.

The automaker has already cut 2,730 workers this year and outlined plans for slashing another 4,000 workers in the first quarter of 2006. Ford has 23 assembly plants in North America, but is only using around 86 per cent of the capacity as compared with 107 per cent of its major rival Toyota Motor Corp.

Microsoft fined $32m in S Korea

**SEOUL, 8 Dec—** South Korean antitrust regulator delivered its ruling Wednesday against Microsoft Corp, demanding 33 billion won (32 million US dollars) in fines for Microsoft’s violations of fair trade rules and separation of the company’s MSN instant messenger as well as Media Server programmes from its personal computer operating system Windows.

The South Korean Fair Trade Commission (FTC) announced its ruling at a Press conference held on Wednesday, after its four-year investigation over Microsoft, the world’s biggest software producer.

The “corrective measure” will last over the next 10 years and the FTC will monitor Microsoft to see whether the US-based multinational company implements the ruling to separate the bundling programme from Windows, said a statement of the FTC released at the Press conference.

“Microsoft’s practice of bundling programmes into Windows have hurt consumers’ interests by limiting fair market competition,” said FTC Chairman Kang Chul-kyu at the Press briefing.

The FTC started investigation on Microsoft in September 2001, when a local Internet portal Daum Communications Corp lodged a complaint with the commission over Microsoft’s bundling of its instant messenger software with some versions of its dominant Windows operating system.

Daum offers its own chatting software — Daum Messenger — in local market. Daum claimed Microsoft’s bundling sale of MSN Messenger, one of the most popular instant messenger software in the world, in South Korean market has hurt its business in such field.

The FTC’s investigation was widened after US software company RealNetworks Inc filed a complaint with the commission in November 2004, condemning Microsoft for tying its audio and video software with Windows, allowing the company to have an unfair advantage over rival music and video software companies.

Both Daum and RealNetworks filed suits against Microsoft to local courts, accusing its violation of local trade laws in South Korea. However, the FTC’s ruling came about one month after Microsoft, Daum and RealNetworks reached out-of-court settlement on the antitrust dispute.

Microsoft agreed to give a total of 30 million dollars to Daum, and 761 million dollars to RealNetworks.

**Thousands flee Vanuatu for fear of volcanic eruption**

**WELLINGTON, 8 Dec—** Thousands of Vanuatu residents were evacuated from homes for fear of volcanic eruption, according to Wednesday’s reports from this South Pacific island nation.

Mount Manaro, on the island of Ambae, reportedly began spewing out ash and steam on 27 November and is said to be continuously shaking.

There are fears that Manaro will erupt it may also unleash a mud stream from a lake inside its crater.

According to the official website of the country, community leaders including chefs on Ambae are currently enforcing provincial disaster preparedness plan in the face of threats from Manaro's continuing eruption.

The police operation center has been on 24 hours daily monitoring the situation since Friday.

Vananu is a chain of 83 islands, some with active volcanoes, one of which is inhabited.

**Chinese auto brand debuts in Italian Motor Show**

**SHIJIAZHUANG, 8 Dec—** Great Wall Motor, a leading pickup truck maker in China, will debut at the 30th Motor Show Bologna in Italy, making it the first Chinese auto company to participate in this international motor show.

During the eight-day exhibition, six Great Wall Company model autos will be displayed, including the state-of-art Hover CUV and the double-cabin pickup DEER. Its exhibition floor covers more than 340 square metres.

“We hope to use the opportunity to showcase the image of Chinese carmakers and to promote our brand overseas, an international profile,” an official with the company’s international marketing department said.

**Internet users base up by 54% in India**

**NEW DELHI, 9 Dec—** Indians are increasingly becoming net savvy with the Internet users base registering a 54-per cent growth, with 38.5 million people using the medium this year, the Internet-Asia New Service reported.

According to a survey by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), more and more people are using the Internet against 25 million users in 2004, this year has recorded 38.5 million users till November. Internet penetration has been facilitated by low rates for broadband connections, now available for 199 rupees. (four US dollars)

**Ford to cut 30,000 jobs**

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec— Ford Motor Co, the second largest auto maker in the United States, is preparing to cut as many as 30,000 jobs and close 10 plants as part of a broad restructuring plan, the Detroit News reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, said the measure aims to restore profitability of the company, whose market share is declining.

Ford reported a pretax loss of 1.2 billion US dollar in its North American automotive operations in the third quarter.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported the automaker was preparing to close five plants and slash 7,500 workers.

Ford has a total of 122,877 North American employees at the end of last year and 324,000 employees worldwide.

The automaker has already cut 2,730 workers this year and outlined plans for slashing another 4,000 workers in the first quarter of 2006. Ford has 23 assembly plants in North America, but is only using around 86 per cent of the capacity as compared with 107 per cent of its major rival Toyota Motor Corp.
NASA seeks private replacements for shuttle trips

CAPE CANAVERAL, 8 Dec— With the space shuttles due to retire, NASA is looking for private companies interested in taking over the potentially lucrative business of flying cargo and crew to the International Space Station.

The US space agency issued a solicitation for proposals on Tuesday for firms interested in handling delivery services now provided by the three shuttles, which are due to stop flying by 2010.

“Certainly this is an opportunity for the new space companies,” said Jim Banke, head of Florida operations for The Space Foundation industry trade association. “They’ve been lobbying NASA hard for something like this for years.”

NASA hopes to supplement, and eventually replace, crew and cargo flights to the space station that had been planned for the shuttle fleet. The agency also may have to pare down the number of shuttle flights to the station even before they retire to pay for development of a new spacecraft.

In addition to flying to the station if no commercial providers are available, the new NASA ships are being designed to carry astronauts to the moon.

“We’re excited about this opportunity,” said Larry Williams, who handles international and government affairs for California-based Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, which plans its debut rocket launch this month.

SpaceX was founded and funded by Internet entrepreneur Elon Musk, who sold his online payment services firm PayPal to eBay for 1.5 billion US dollars.

Musk is developing a series of launchers, called the Falcon, which, if successful, could significantly undercut the price routinely paid to aircraft to space stations.

Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co. to send payloads into orbit.

A bus passes a billboard for the Miss World finals in downtown Sanya on China’s Hainan Island, 9 Dec. 2005. —INTERNET

Ness Display opens “OLED” plant in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 8 Dec— Ness Display, a South Korea-based manufacturer and developer of Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) technology, opened a new plant in Singapore on Wednesday.

The new facility has an investment of 100 million Singapore dollars (about 60 million US dollars) is not only Ness Display’s first manufacturing plant outside South Korea, but also Singapore’s first OLED factory.

Currently, the plant provides high quality one-inch OLED display panels used in mobile phones and MP3 players, which will be exported to countries in the Asia Pacific Region including China and Japan. It will start producing 1.5-inch and 1.8-inch OLED display panels from next year.

Kim Myung Jin, Chief Executive Officer of the new plant, was quoted as saying that OLED will become the next generation of flat panel display for most consumer electronic appliances due to its cost advantages and enhanced capabilities.

It is expected that the new facility will help reinforce Ness Display’s leading position in OLED technology and meet the demand for high quality OLED panels and modules worldwide, especially in East Asia.

Singapore identified OLED as a “potentially disruptive technology” five years ago, according to Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, who officiated at the opening ceremony.

Uganda supports modernizing telecom in Africa

KAMPALA, 8 Dec— Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) on Wednesday expressed its strong support to various African regional initiatives aimed at modernizing the telecommunications infrastructure.

The remarks were made by UCC Executive Director Engineer Patrick Masambu in a statement to mark this year’s Africa Telecommunications Day which falls on 7 December with the theme “Next Generation Networks (NGN): Challenges and Opportunities for Africa.”

Masambu said Uganda supports the Submarine Fibre Optics System for Eastern and Southern Africa (EASSY project), adding that this project aims to provide a backbone for Uganda’s ICT infrastructure.

The UCC chief said Uganda has made significant progress in ICT services in the last one year.

“The network coverage of telecommunications service in all the districts of the country. The June 2005 figures for fixed telephone lines stood at 87,513, cellular phones 1,405,395 and pay phones 61,914,” he said.

Masambu pointed out that in line with achieving the Millennium Development Goals as set out by the United Nations in 2000, Uganda has gone a long way in ensuring sustainable national development through availability and access to reliable, cost effective, and affordable communications services largely delivered through an enabled private sector.”

China donates medical facilities to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Dec— A signing ceremony was held on Wednesday regarding China’s donation of medical instruments and other facilities worth 60,000 dollars to Pakistan.

Present at the ceremony on behalf of their respective governments were Mao Siwei, China’s Charge D’affaires to Pakistan and Ahmed Jawad, Additional Secretary of Pakistan’s Economic Affairs Division.

The donation of the medical facilities was among the pledges made by the Chinese Government at the international donors’ conference held in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on 19 November.

At the conference, China announced a concessional loan of 300 million US dollars for reconstruction and rehabilitation plans in earthquake-hit areas of Pakistan, including herepair of Karakoram Highway, the provincial roads network and educational facilities in Balakot of the North-West Frontier Province, and the establishment of a network of seismic stations throughout Pakistan.

China and Japan. It will.

Masambu pointed out that in line with achieving the Millennium Development Goals as set out by the United Nations in 2000, Uganda has gone a long way in ensuring sustainable national development through availability and access to reliable, cost effective, and affordable communications services largely delivered through an enabled private sector. — MNA/Xinhua
Eriksson wary of Australia in World Cup draw

LISBON, 9 Dec — Sven-Goran Eriksson says England will have no fear of Brazil or Argentina at next year’s World Cup but he does want to avoid Australia in Friday’s draw.

Though he believes a seeded England are better-equipped to face the world’s elite in 2006 than they were in 2002, Eriksson is bracing himself for a tricky draw in Leipzig.

“Holland, Australia and the United States would be the worst for us,” the England coach told reporters.

“On paper, Holland are the best non-seeded team. Marco van Basten is building a new team and has been very successful with it.”

Looking at the other pots from which England’s group rivals will emerge, Eriksson said: “The United States and Australia desperately want to beat England in a big tournament.

That would be a big boost for their countries.”

England’s long-standing sporting rivalry with Australia has reached new heights in recent years with their cricketers’ victory in the Ashes and their rugby triumph over Australia in the 2003 World Cup final.

However, Eriksson has unhappy memories of their last meeting on a football pitch. England lost 3-1 in a sharply-contested friendly in February 2003 at Upton Park which he now regrets having organized.

“It was far away from a friendly match,” he recalled. “They desperately wanted to beat us and they did.”

Unaware of the intensity of the old rivalry, he admitted: “I never knew. If I had known about it, I wouldn’t have played Australia because it was not a friendly game at all.”

Whatever the draw, if David Beckham’s men make headway they are likely to face the big guns of South America.

Knocked out in 1998 by Argentina and in 2002 by eventual champions Brazil, England have now added the likes of Frank Lampard, Joe Cole and more importantly, 20-year-old sensation Wayne Rooney.

“The squad, the team is much, much stronger than it was three-and-a-half years ago,” said Eriksson.

“I think we are technically much better and we are more experienced.

“We are one of four or five teams who can win it and we will have one week’s more preparation, which I think will mean a lot to the squad.”

The Swede also pointed to Lampard and fellow midfielder Steven Gerrard coming second and third behind Ronaldo in last month’s European Footballer of the Year award and highlighted England’s 3-2 friendly win over Argentina last month as evidence of the team’s increasing quality.

He dismissed any idea of England being frightened by eventual champions Madrid and England.

“If you look at the list I don’t think we need to be afraid of any of them — any more than they are of us — and the right word is not ‘afraid’ it’s ‘respect’, ” he said.

“You have to respect Brazil or Argentina or Holland if you meet them and you have to play very well. But I know that we can do that.”

As for having the right temperament, Eriksson said: “All the players picked, from Real Madrid or wherever, will come into the World Cup wanting to win it.

“I’m not worried about the temperament of Beckham or Rooney. They will do everything right at the World Cup.”

German coach sacked for headbutting rival player

LEIPZIG (Germany), 9 Dec — MSV Duisburg sacked coach Norbert Meier on Thursday one day after the league suspended him indefinitely for headbutting Cologne player Albert Streit and then pretending to be the victim of the attack.

Duisburg, 17th in the 18-team Bundesliga, said they felt compelled to sack Meier because his suspension could last months following the incident which took place in Tuesday’s match.

“The pressure on the coach has become enormous because of the incident,” said Duisburg chairman Walter Hellmich, who added Meier was in agreement with the club’s decision. “That’s why we decided to take this step.”

He said assistant coach Heiko Scholz would lead the team on Saturday against Arminia Bielefeld.

“We’ll find a new coach in the foreseeable future but we’re not going to put pressure on ourselves,” said Scholz.

The German football association’s (DFB) control committee announced on Wednesday that Meier, 47, was banned indefinitely from training the club and taking part in meetings.

Agony for 57,000 Napoli crowd as Roma win 3-0

ROME, 9 Dec — A crowd of 57,000 were sent home disappointed when Third Division Napoli slid to a 3-0 defeat by AS Roma in the first leg of their last-16 tie in the Italian Cup on Thursday.

Roma’s city rivals Lazio defeated Cittadella 2-0 while a late goal by 19-year-old striker Andrea Cocolo earned Cagliari a 1-1 home draw with Sampdoria.

The second legs are scheduled for 11 January.

Napoli, Italian soccer’s fallen giants, attracted a home team could not compete with a Roma side decimated by injury and suspension.

Twice Serie A champions Napoli started aggressively, Brazilian striker Pia firing narrowly wide at the end of a solo run down the left.

Gradually Roma took control and went ahead in the 34th minute when Napoli keeper Gennaro Iezzo spilled Rodrigo Taddei’s slow cross into the path of midfielder Alberto Aquilani, who poked the ball in from close range.

Taddei also set up Roma’s second goal, threading a neat pass through the defence for Shahani Nonda to hammer home four minutes before the interval.

Napoli almost pulled one back midway through the second half when Gianluca Curci beat away Roberto De Palma’s close-range shot but a Stefano Okaka strike seven minutes from time completed a comfortable victory.

Hosts Napoli were reduced to 10 men following the last-minute dismissal of defender Ruben Maldonado for a foul on Okaka.

Lazio’s home victory over Third Division Cittadella came courtesy of a first-half penalty by Simone Inzaghi and a late goal by Goran Pandev.

Simone Pavan headed Sampdoria in front in the 68th minute at Cagliari but Cocolo’s equalizer two minutes from the end rewarded a strong second-half performance by the home side.
Study shows fruitfly has human-like stem cells

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec — Adult fruitflies have the same stem cells controlling cell regulation in their gut as humans do, a research team reported on Wednesday. The study is important for understanding digestive disorders, including some cancers, and for developing cures, said scientists at the Carnegie Institution. Their findings appeared on 7 December early online edition of the journal Nature. “The fact that fruitflies have the same genetic programming in their intestines as humans, strongly suggests that we were both cut from the same evolutionary cloth more than 500 million years ago,” stated Benjamin Oehstein, leading author of the paper. It may come as a surprise, but insects have the same basic structure to their gastrointestinal tract as vertebrates. They have a mouth, an esophagus, the equivalent to a stomach, and large and small intestines.

The researchers looked at their small intestines, where food is broken down into its constituent nutrients for the body to absorb. They focused on two cell types — cells that line the small and large intestines in a single layer to help break up and transport food molecules, called enterocytes; and cells that produce peptide hormones, whose functions include regulation of gastric motility as well as growth and differentiation of the gut (enteroendocrine cells).

A map showing the host cities and the bowls that will be used in the final draw for the 2006 Soccer Cup are seen during a hpotocall in Leipging, Germany on 8 Dec. 2005. — Internet

WEATHER

Friday, 9 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan State and Mandalay Division, scattered in Rakhine State, lower Sagyin and Magway Divisions, isolated in Chin, Kayah States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mandlay Division. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Shan, Kayah and Mon States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagyin, Mandala- dy, Bago and Awyaywady and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were PynOodwin (2.52) inches, Kyankiaw (1.09) inches, Mandalay (1.22) inches, Sagyin (1.06) inches and Monywa (0.63) inch.

Maximum temperature on 8-12-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 9-12-2005 was 65°F. Relative humid- ity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-12-2005 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 8-12-2005 was 8 hours and 14 minutes.

Rainfalls on 9-12-2005 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba- Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (103.62) inches at Mingladon, (102.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (107.44) inches at central Yangon. Maxi- mum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast (12.30) hours MST on 8-12-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s tropical storm ‘Fanous’ over Southeast Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay has moved weswards and lies over SouthWest Bay. It is centred at about 300 miles Southeast of Chennai, India and forecast to move Westwards. Weather is cloudy in South and Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 10-12-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin States, upper Sagyin Division and rain or thundershowers will be scat- tered in Rakhine State, Awyawady, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon and Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speeds in strong wind may reach (30 to 35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thun- dershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thun- dershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for weekend of Decem- ber 2005: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Yangon and Mandalay Divi- sions.

“Storm News”

(issued at (10:30) hrs MST on 9-12-2005)

According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s tropical storm ‘Fanous’ over Southeast Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay has moved weswards and lies over Southwest Bay. It is centred at about (300) miles Southwest of Chennai, India and forecast to move Westwards.

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The State is responsible to assist service personnel with everything they deserve; State service personnel, must be loyal to the State and the citizens, and carry out their responsibilities with full qualification.

Policy-making organ and persons play a very significant role in realizing the policy. Hence, rights, codes of conduct and moral of service personnel were included in the clarification of the Chairman of NCC Work Committee.

The Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of Regions, High Courts of States, Courts of self-administered division and Courts of self-administered zones, District Courts, and Township Courts are to be established.

The Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of the Regions and High Courts of the States, Courts of the self-administered division and Courts of the self-administered zones, District Courts, and Township Courts are the top of the judicial pillar and also the centres that safeguard the rights of the people.