Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project, Upper Paunglaung and Nancho Hydel Power Projects in Pyinmana

(Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Senior General arrived at Senior General Than Shwe inspects Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam by helicopter at 9.15 am today. The Senior General and party were welcomed by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials. (See page 8)

Built on Paunglaung River, Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project has been installed with four 70-megawatt turbines at the underground power station to generate 280 megawatts

Yangon, 21 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyinmana Township today. Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung, Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Bagan golden palace: the pride of posterity

Myanmar people have stood tall in the world with their culture, traditions and customs dating back thousands of years. The government of Myanmar is building the nation according to the four political, four economic and four social objectives. Out of the four social objectives, special priority has been given to "uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation of and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character". And efforts are being made in accordance with the guidance by the Head of State for preservation of ancient cultural heritage.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 17 December visited the Bagan Archaeological Zone in NyaungU in Mandalay Division and inspected the Nannmyint Tower and the construction site of Arimaddanapura Bagan golden palace of King Anawrahta. In his meeting with responsible officials at the construction site, Senior General Than Shwe said that, in building Arimaddanapura Bagan golden palace, it was important to obtain firm historical evidence and carry out construction work systematically and that the purpose of the construction of the palace was to reinvigorate patriotic spirit in posterity.

In accordance with the guidance by Head of State, the Arimaddanapura Bagan golden palace, which is now being carried out by Myanmar architects.

The Nannmyint Tower with thirteen storeys is 198 ft high and 54 ft wide can stand against strong wind and earthquake. On the ground floor, there are kitchens, a business centre and souvenir shops, on the first floor Myanmar handicraft shops, on the second floor a cinema and a coffee shop, a seminar room and a conference room and on the third floor a viewing deck. The rooms from the fourth to seventh floors can be rented as offices. The eighth floor has the rest rooms, the ninth and tenth floors have restaurants. There is another viewing deck on the 11th floor and construction work of the tower began on 27 April, 2003 and it took two years and nine months to complete. Moreover, the Nannmyint Hotel is being built.

We would like to urge architects and construction workers to build the Bagan golden palace according to historical records and in such a grand way that posterity can be proud of it and their own nation and race.

Chinese delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Dec — A Chinese delegation led by Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of Nippon Foundation, arrived here by air this afternoon to attend the 6th Meeting on the Implementation of the Myanmar-China Border Areas Management and Cooperation Agreement.

The Chinese delegation was welcomed at the airport by Director-General U Nyan Lin of the Political Department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff of the Chinese Embassy.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 22 December, 2005

YANGON, 21 Dec — As part of health care services, Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held the ceremony to provide assistance for disabled children at Yankin Education College in Yankin Township this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay explained health care for disabled children in Yangon Division and work to be done.

Next, the Chairperson accepted 14,000 membership applications handed over by Yangon East District MCWSC Daw Nan Shwe Yin.

The cash donation for the disabled children followed. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 1 million, four wheel chairs and 10 pairs of crutches donated by Managing Director U Aung Myitta of Mother Trading & Construction Co Ltd; K 1 million by Managing Director U Thein Aung of Aung Myitta Dealers Association; stationery worth K 387,000 by Managing Director U Thein Aung of Aung Myitta Co Ltd; 23 pairs of glasses worth K 200,000 by U Zaw Naing-Daw Khin Min Swe; K 200,070 by U Thein Maung-Daw Pa Pa (Sandi Traditional Medicine); and 109 dozens of exercise books worth K 120,000 by Managing Director U Thein Tun of Unicolor exercise book industry.

Afterwards, the commander presented wheel chairs, crutches and stationery to disabled children Ma Sithu Aung, Maung Thein Aung, Maung Min Ko and Ma Htoo Htoo Wai.

Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay also gave away crutches, other assistance and stationery to 13 disabled children.

After the ceremony, Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay and party viewed health care services being provided by physicians, specialists and health staff for disabled children at the college.

Today’s donation to 109 disabled children from Yangon East District amounted to K 4,067,070. — MNA

USDA Joint Secretary-General receives Chairman of Nippon Foundation

YANGON, 21 Dec — Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Zaw Min received Chairman of Nippon Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa at the association headquarters on University Avenue in Bahan Township this morning.

Also present at the call were officials of the headquarters.

Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min explained the history of the association, the aims, and participation in development tasks of the nation, and answered the queries.

Next, U Zaw Min and Mr Yohei Sasakawa exchanged souvenirs and posed for the documentary photo.

MNA
Namibian President says China a “friend indeed”

BEIJING, 20 Dec—President Hifikepunye Pohamba of the Republic of Namibia praised China as a true friend of Namibia in an interview with Xinhua here on Monday evening.

China and Namibia enjoy an excellent relationship based on a long-term friendship forged prior to Namibia’s independence in 1990 and has been strengthened since then, said Pohamba. “A friend in need is a friend indeed,” Pohamba used a traditional saying to describe the long-term friendship with China.

China stood firm and provided political, material and diplomatic support to Namibian people who struggled for freedom and independence, Pohamba said adding, “China was a true friend of Namibia during our time of serious need.” He appreciates assistance China provided to Namibia as well as other South African countries for their economic development.

“We have worked together closely and will keep working together with China,” he said. Pohamba kicked off his China visit on last Friday in Hainan.

Namibia praised China as a true friend of Namibia in an interview with Xinhua here on Monday evening.

Moraes slams US drug policies

COCHABAMBA (Bolivia), 20 Dec—Evo Morales, who won Bolivia’s presidential election on vows to end a US campaign against coca growing, stepped up his criticism of American anti-drug policies on Monday, accusing Washington of using drug fighting efforts to militarize the region.

In his first news conference since claiming victory on Sunday, Morales—who took a surprisingly strong majority and will be Bolivia’s first Indian leader—insisted he was opposed to drugs but disputed Washington’s methods. “The fight against drug trafficking is a false pretext for the United States to install military bases and we’re not in agreement,” he told reporters.

“We support an effective fight against drugs. Neither cocaine or drug trafficking are part of the Bolivian culture,” he said in his stronghold of Cochabamba as the first official results from Sunday’s vote trickled in.

Washington considers Morales, who first rose to power as the leader of the country’s coca leaf farmers, an enemy in its anti-drug fight in Bolivia, the third biggest cocaine producer after Colombia and Peru.

The US Government insists much of Bolivia’s coca is processed into cocaine, but farmers say they grow the plant for traditional medicinal uses, herbal teas and religious ceremonies. According to UN statistics, Bolivia put 107 tons of cocaine on world markets last year. The United States spends 150 million US dollars a year on anti-drug efforts in Bolivia. Some analysts said the United States should move quickly to engage Morales and discuss ways to bridge their differences.

“I would hope that Morales’ position would lead to the US taking a more realistic policy because if there’s one thing we’ve learned in last 20 years is we can’t stop the drug trade,” said Nicolas Shumway, director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin.

“What I’m hoping is the US will listen to him and try and hear his concerns and not just try to impose a policy on Bolivia unilaterally,” Shumway said. MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh’s manpower export declines

DRAGA, 20 Dec—High cost of migration coupled with reduction of international demands are thwarting the promotion of manpower export of Bangladesh. The country’s man power export to traditional markets like the Middle East countries is declining and an unhealthy competition among the recruiting agencies is increasing the cost of migration, The Daily Star reported on Sunday. A worker now pays 200,000 to 230,000 taka (3,077 to 3,538 US dollars) for a job of a cleaner in Saudi Arabia whereas the cost was 14,000 to 170,000 taka (2,153 to 2,615 dollars) only a few months ago. The crises have been aggravated as the importing countries are now encouraging the employers to hire non-unionised unemployed youths. The mass exodus in Saudi demand has pushed down overall manpower export 15.45 percent in 2005 compared to 2004. Malaysia, which had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh to hire its workers back in October 2003, reportedly shed away from the commitment. MNA/Xinhua

Five US soldiers plead guilty to detainee abuse

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec—Five US Army Rangers court-marrialed over charges of detainee abuse in Iraq have pleaded guilty and been given punishments varying from 30 days to six months in confinement, the military said on Monday.

Two of the soldiers would receive a bad conduct discharge over the charges, which resulted from an investigation into allegations of abuse that took place on 7 September, a statement said. It said the sentences were passed at courts-martial conducted between 8 and 13 December.

In November, the military said five soldiers from the 75th Ranger Regiment had been charged after allegations they had punched and kicked Iraqi detainees and hit them with a broomstick on 7 September in Baghdad, between arresting them and taking them to prison.

It was not immediately clear whether Monday’s statement described the outcome of the November charges. —MNA/Reuters

Explosion kills two aboard Spanish warship

MADRID, 20 Dec—An accidental explosion on an ageing Spanish warship killed two sailors on Monday, the Defence Ministry said.

The Navy frigate Extramadura suffered an explosion in a pipe leading from her main boilers in the port of El Ferrol in north Spain, the ministry said in a statement. Two sailors, aged 20 and 28, died in the explosion. A number of sailors were also injured in the blast, the cause of which is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

2,157 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—As of Tuesday, 20 Dec, 2005, at least 2,157 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,692 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is one fewer than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Tuesday.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,018 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,583 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 16,155 US service members have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally on Tuesday.
For a long time, I have not gone back to Mawlamyine, my native town where various religious festivals are celebrated in the month of Tazaungmone such as pagoda festivals, Kathina robes offering ceremonies, meals offering ceremonies, offering of alms-food to members of the Buddhist Order, ceremonies to offer alms to monks by lot, and ceremonies to give feast in charity to all guests. We five sisters moved to other suitable regions in search of greener pastures. Even though we love our native town, we seldom pay a visit to it due to various reasons. Then, we never got together at home. Another reason why we could not get together at home was that we had to take a ferry boat across Thanlwin River if we wished to get to Mawlamyine from the bank of Mottama. I still remember that when I was a schoolgirl, we had to spend a lot of time and energy to get to the other bank.

Near the confluence of the Thanlwin River, by contrast, now is Mawlamyine Bridge that contributes towards smooth transport of the region. Moreover, my heart is filled with delight and pleasure beyond words, and I simply believe such feelings will always be with me.

For me, I am deeply convinced that the construction of bridges and roads not only contributes towards smooth transport but also makes commodity flow swift, thereby raising the economy of respective regions. Moreover, our heart is filled with delight and pleasure beyond words, and I simply believe such feelings will always be with me.

For more than three decades. I wish my father would say well-done for the generous donation we made.

We preserve a fine tradition of our grandparents and parents such as doing meritorious deeds and visiting the monasteries and the Sayadaws paying obeisance with a view to upholding the lineage of our ancestors.

Taking a long gaze with rapture at the magnificent Thanlwin Bridge from the lawns of the Attayan Hotel on the bank of the Thanlwin River, my sincere thanks went to those who had contributed towards the project.

While passing the mountain range in the city centre, we enjoyed impression geographical features and ancient edifices of the native town alongside the beauty of the Mawlamyine Bridge.

With a serene beauty, Mawlamyine is situated near the confluence of the Thanlwin River and Attayan River with lush and green vegetation along with the buildings constructed seventy to a hundred years ago.

Thanks to the emergence of such a fine transport facility, we had a golden opportunity to hold a reunion with my family members, relatives and old friends, to enjoy ourselves and to repay the gratitude of our parents.

For me, I am deeply convinced that the construction of bridges and roads not only contributes towards smooth transport but also makes commodity flow swift, thereby raising the economy of respective regions. Moreover, my heart is filled with delight and pleasure beyond words, and I simply believe such feelings will always be with me.

Translation: MS

Native town blending in with Mawlamyine Bridge

Khin Swe Myint (Myanmarsar)

For a long time, I have not gone back to Mawlamyine, my native town where various religious festivals are celebrated in the month of Tazaungmone such as pagoda festivals, Kathina robes offering ceremonies, meals offering ceremonies, offering of alms-food to members of the Buddhist Order, ceremonies to offer alms to monks by lot, and ceremonies to give feast in charity to all guests. We five sisters moved to other suitable regions in search of greener pastures. Even though we love our native town, we seldom pay a visit to it due to various reasons. Then, we never got together at home. Another reason why we could not get together at home was that we had to take a ferry boat across Thanlwin River if we wished to get to Mawlamyine from the bank of Mottama. I still remember that when I was a schoolgirl, we had to spend a lot of time and energy to get to the other bank.

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Kyot Shar Soon wins International Quality Crown Award 2005

YANGON, 21 Dec—Business Initiative Direction (Spam) presented International Quality Crown Award 2005 to KSS (Kyot Shar Soon) Co.Ltd in a ceremony held at Thistle Tower Hotel in London on 2 December. Managing Director U Tun Myint of KSS Co.Ltd accepted the award.

The company won the award as it has ensured quality by achieving customer satisfaction together with positive business results, met the quality levels established in the company in accordance with the QC 100 points of quality, encouraged participation and teamwork for decision making, satisfied clients’ needs and met their expectations, provided workforce with the technical infrastructures and economic means to achieve continuous improvement and respect for the environment, managed human resource to achieve maximum potential and heightened in-house awareness of the importance of concentrating on the most profitable areas of activity to achieve the best business result.

MNA

Managing Director of KSS Co Ltd accepts the International Quality Crown Award 2005.

MNA

Theingyi Market holds its centenary

YANGON, 20 Dec—A and B Complexes of Theingyi Market here celebrated its centenary on 18 December. Member of the Yangon City Development Committee Col Hla Aye and members of the market welfare committee presented offertories to 100 Sayadaws and members of the Sangha to mark the centenary celebration. Sitaga Sayadaw Dr Ashin Namissara delivered a sermon at the pandal where the centenary was celebrated.

MNA

Members of Theingyi Market Welfare Committee celebrates the market’s centenary on 18 December. — MNA
Transport sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of transport in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Emerging railroads and stations across the country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Miles of railroad</td>
<td>1976.35</td>
<td>3042.39</td>
<td>1066.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Miles of rail track</td>
<td>2793.86</td>
<td>3952.90</td>
<td>1159.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Station</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major bridges on railroad</td>
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<td>735</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Small bridges on railroad</td>
<td>5103</td>
<td>8484</td>
<td>3381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Smooth and secure transport contributes much towards people’s socio-economic development. Moreover it helps consolidate friendship among national brethren residing in various parts of the nation. Therefore, roads and bridges as well as railroads are being built across the country to link one region and another.

Starting from 1989, the Tatmadaw government has been building new railroads in states and divisions with few railroads and regions where there are no railroads. This is aimed at ensuring equitable development of every part of the country and smooth transportation. Tatmadawmen have been lending a helping hand to these endeavours.

Railroads are being built not only in the hilly ones like Shan State. Thanks to the emergence of Shwe-nyaung-Taunggyi-Saikkhaung-Namsam rail roads, goods from hilly regions can now be transported to the plains and vice versa.

Now, Ye-Dawei railroad is under construction with the aim of transporting goods from Taninthayi Division where natural resources are abundant.

In building new railroads, bridges large and small are also being built and along with the emergence of new railroads, stations have also been built in every region. In 1988, there were only 2700 miles of rail track but at present there are nearly 4000 miles of rail track and thus it can be said that nearly 1200 miles of rail track have been added in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

The table provides the readers with increasing facts and figures of stations, bridges and railroads in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Jordanian Embassy driver abducted in Baghdad

Baghdad, 20 Dec—A Jordanian embassy driver was kidnapped as he left his home in Baghdad on Tuesday, Iraqi police and Jordan’s state news agency said.

Gunmen in three cars pulled up at the Jordanian’s home in the south of the Iraqi capital and seized Mahmoud Saedat, who was described by Jordan’s Petra news agency as a driver for the embassy and by police as the ambassador’s personal driver.

Jordanian diplomats in Baghdad declined to comment but Petra said officials were in contact with Iraqi authorities to begin efforts to rescue the missing employee. Several Arab diplomats and embassy workers have been kidnapped and killed in recent months by Islamist militants, worsening the already frosty relations between Iraq’s US-backed Shiite-led government and Sunni-dominated Arab states.

Egypt’s envoy and two Algerian diplomats were killed in July after being abducted by al Qaeda in Iraq, led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The group said last month it had killed two Moroccan embassy staff who were also abducted. — Internet

US seizes counterfeit Tamiflu drug

San Francisco, 20 Dec—US authorities have seized 51 packages of counterfeit Tamiflu, a drug that can be used to treat potentially deadly Avian flu, a Customs service spokeswoman said on Monday.

Agents seized the shipments at a US airmail facility in South San Francisco in an operation that began in late November and anticipate more coming into the United States by mail, said Roxanne Hercules, a spokeswoman for the US Customs and Border Protection service. "It’s our expectation that we would probably see more," said Hercules, noting the substances seized by federal agents had only trace elements of Tamiflu. The substances had been ordered over the Internet and shipped from Asia. Hercules said, but gave no more details.

Tamiflu, manufactured by Roche is being stockpiled worldwide amid fears of a flu pandemic. Doctors believe the drug would help to control H5N1 avian influenza, more widely known as bird flu. — MNA/Reuters
The day the term of Region or State Hluttaw comes into force is that of the Pyithu Hluttaw

YANGON, 21 Dec—The following is the clarification made by National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe on detailed basic principles for legislation of Region or State Hluttaws to be included in the judicial sector in formulating State Constitution at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 15 December.

I have discussed the adoption of detailed basic principles regarding the legislative functions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. Now, I would like to make clarification to the legislative functions of region and state Hluttaws. First and foremost, I will deal with matters on the first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws.

The National Convention has adopted detailed basic principles for formation of Region or State Hluttaws. In the detailed basic principles, it is said that the tenure of Region or State Hluttaws is the same as that of the Pyithu Hluttaw. There is also a detailed basic principle that says on the day the tenure of Pyithu Hluttaw is over, that of Region or State Hluttaws ends. According to this detailed basic principle, on the day the tenure of the Pyithu Hluttaw comes into force, that of Region or State Hluttaws comes into force. So, in fixing the tenure of Region or State Hluttaws, the first regular session will be convened on the day the tenure of Region or State Hluttaws comes into effect.

According to the detailed basic principles adopted for the executive formation, matters on nomination and judgment of the members for formation of bodies at region or state level including region and state governments with the permission of respective Region or State Hluttaws, will be discussed at the first regular session of respective Region or State Hluttaw. It is required to convene respective first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws as soon as possible just after the tenure of the Hluttaw has come into effect. And we will have to take into time if it is needed for the convening of sessions with respect to the formation of the bodies at region or state level of seven regions and seven states. I think it would be appropriate if respective first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws begin in 15 days after the commencement of the tenure of those Hluttaws.

Therefore, in regard to the convening of respective first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws, discussions are to be held and proposals to be submitted to assess the fact that the detailed basic principle:

“(a) The day the term of Region or State Hluttaw comes into force is that of the Pyithu Hluttaw.
(b) The first regular session of Region or State Hluttaw shall be convened within 15 days after the commencement of the term of the Hluttaw.”

should be adopted or not.

I would like to continue my explanations on an organ or person to whom the responsibility for convening the first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws should be distributed.

In connection with the sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, I have discussed investing with duties for convening the first regular session after the Constitution has come into effect as well as the first regular sessions of the People’ Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw in the next terms. I have also dealt with matter on a detailed basic principle should be adopted that the State Peace and Development Council shall convene the first regular sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw after the Constitution has come into force.

And respective Hluttaw chairmen, who will have to carry on their responsibilities according to the Constitution, should convene the first regular sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw for the next terms.

A similar principle should be adopted for region and state Hluttaws. The State Peace and Development Council, a governing body, that has to exercise the three forms of State’s sovereignty under various circumstances. Hence, the State Peace and Development Council shall convene the first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws after the State Constitution has come into force.

One of the detailed basic principles adopted for legislative formation said that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of Region or State Hluttaws shall discharge their duties until the first sessions for the next term take place. According to that detailed basic principle, after the expiry of the term, the present Hluttaw Speaker shall convene the first regular session for the next term.

In relation to the convening of the first regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws, discussions are to be held and suggestions to be made to assess the fact that the detailed basic principle:

“(a) The State Peace and Development Council shall convene the first regular session of Region or State Hluttaws after the Constitution has come into force.
(b) The Speaker of Region or State Hluttaw who continues to perform his duties in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution shall convene the first regular session for the next term of Region or State Hluttaw.”

should be adopted or not.

I also would like to explain matters for the adoption of the detailed basic principles for members of region Hluttaws and state Hluttaws to take oaths at the first regular session.

I explained in the section on the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw that Hluttaws of world nations practise members’ taking of oaths in respective Hluttaws. And it is also found that in the nations that form state level legislative bodies, members of state Hluttaws will have to take oaths in respective Hluttaws. So, for Myanmar, a similar detailed basic principle should be adopted for the members of future region and state Hluttaws. A detailed basic principle has been adopted that a Hluttaw representative shall be elected as speaker at the first regular session in the tenure of region and state Hluttaws. So, it should be designated that representatives of region and state Hluttaws shall swear oaths in the presence of the chairman of the first regular Hluttaw session.

The members of region and state Hluttaws who failed to attend the first regular session for various reasons shall take oaths at the session they attend first. Respective Hluttaw speakers would have been elected by that time, so the taking of oaths should be held before the Hluttaw speaker.

This being the case, as regards the taking of oaths by members of Region or State Hluttaw, discussions are to be held and suggestions to be made to assess the fact that the detailed basic principle

“(a) Members of Region or State Hluttaws shall take oaths before the chairman of Region or State Hluttaw at the first regular session of Region or State Hluttaw.
(b) Members of Region or State Hluttaw who have not taken oaths, shall take oath before the Speaker of the Hluttaw at the session of the Region or State Hluttaw they first attend.”

should be adopted or not.

I would like to deal with matters as to how many times regular sessions of region and state Hluttaws should be convened in a year.

It is learnt that many nations have fixed how many times legislative bodies should convene regular sessions annually. And there is difference among world nations in the number of regular Hluttaw sessions held in a year.

It was prescribed in respective sectors of the 1947 Constitution that respective state councils had to hold the conference at least once in a year, and the interval between the last meeting of a conference of a state council and the first session of the next conference shall not exceed 12 months. Article 133 of the 1974 Constitution said that the People’s Council at different levels shall hold meetings as prescribed by law. Article 42 of the People’s Council Law said that regular meeting of state and region People’s Councils should be held two times a year without fail, and the interval between two regular sessions shall not exceed eight months.

Future region and state Hluttaws will focus on legislative and financial matters, and the matter for which approval should be sought from region or state governments. So, it would be appropriate if regular session is held at least once a year. If a principle is adopted that regular session shall be convened at least once a year, there would be no difficulties in holding regular sessions as regular session can be convened more than one time if necessary. The interval between two regular sessions should not be more than 12 months so that there could be no disputes in fixing the longest interval between two

(See page 7)
The Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw shall convene the regular session of the Region or State Hluttaw at least once a year.

(from page 6)

regular sessions to be held in a year. The responsibility for convening sessions should be assigned to the head of Hluttaw or the speaker of Hluttaw.

Therefore, in relation to how many times Region or State Hluttaws should convene regular sessions at least in a year, discussions are to be held and suggestions to be made to assess the fact that the detailed basic principle:

"The Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw shall convene the regular session of the Region or State Hluttaw at least once a year. The interval between two regular sessions shall not exceed 12 months."

should be adopted or not. I would like to go on my explanation about the detailed basic principles to be adopted to carry out matters at the sessions of region and state Hluttaws.

I clarified in presenting functions of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw that State President or Head of State has the right to deliver speeches or send messages to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw with regard to the situation of the State or the policy of the government. It is required that State President should have the right to address or to send messages at Region or State Hluttaw level if necessary. If so, it can enhance relations between the Head of State and region or state level Hluttaws.

Moreover, State President can have an opportunity to let respective Hluttaws know State policies and attitude regarding a region or state. So, a detailed basic principle should be adopted to put on record the addresses delivered and to read messages sent by State President to Hluttaw sessions.

A speaker of a Region or State Hluttaw may send a message to another Region or State Hluttaw, or to Hluttaw sessions through Speakers of respective Region or State Hluttaw. Such messages should be put on record and read at Hluttaw sessions.

According to the detailed basic principles adopted for executive formation, the chief ministers of regions or states are representatives of those regions or states. Therefore, the chief ministers of regions or states have the right to deliver speeches at Hluttaws. Only then, can the chief ministers let Hluttaws know the policies of respective region or state governments and situations of respective regions or states, and he can also inform the people of respective regions or states through Hluttaws.

As the major task of Hluttaws is legislation, Region or State Hluttaws will have to deal with or approve, at the sessions of Region or State Hluttaws, the bills submitted by region or state level bodies formed in conformity with the Constitution or members of respective Hluttaws. Thus, submission, discussing, and approval of bills should be designated as the matters to be carried out at the sessions of Region or State Hluttaws. I will further clarify matters relating to submission and approval of bills in respective sessions.

In the Constitution and existing laws, there might be matters prescribed that region and state Hluttaws have to carry out. The matters to be carried out in line with the provisions in the Constitution and an existing law are to come up for discussion at the sessions of Region or State Hluttaws.
Paunglaung Hydel Power Station is the most modern and greatest among the ones built by the State. Afterwards, Upper Paunglaung Hydel Power Project is also being implemented, and relating to it, the arrangements are being made to build Nancho Hydel Power Project.

Senior General Than Shwe inspects spillway of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project.

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 1)

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on facts about the dam project, construction of the main embankment and spillway, progress in building the diversion dam near the dam and benefited acres. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo continued to brief the Senior General and party on implementation of Chaungmange Dam Project in Lewe Township and progress of tasks.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power

(See page 9)
U Myo Myint also reported to the Senior General on facts about the Paunglaung Hydel Power Project, and the underground power station equipped with four 70-megawatt turbines.

He submitted reports on the main facts related to construction of Upper Paunglaung Hydel Power Project on Paunglaung River, 26 miles east of Pyinmana, generating of electricity at Upper Paunglaung Hydel Power Project to be installed with two 70-megawatt turbines, supply of water to Paunglaung Dam, installation of power lines, progress of the project tasks, and matters concerning Nancho Hydel power project that can produce 48 megawatts.

In response, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on extended cultivation of paddy in the region with the use of irrigation facilities, and efforts to be made for completion of the Upper Paunglaung and Nancho Hydel Power Projects as soon as possible.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the water storage and the spillway from the main dam. Next, the Senior General and party looked into the underground power station.

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project was implemented on Paunglaung River near Kyitaung-Khawma Village, 10 miles east of Pyinmana.

The tasks of the project were undertaken by Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Hydroelectric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power sector-wise.

As a result of constructing the dam on Paunglaung River, Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project could be implemented for installation of the four 70-megawatt turbines at the underground power station to generate 280 megawatts, the protection of Paunglaung river flooding to some extent and the supply of irrigation water to 35,000 acres of land. Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project was inaugurated on 25 March 2005.

Paunglaung Hydel Power Station is the most modern and greatest among the ones built by the Government. Upper Paunglaung Hydel Power Project is also being implemented, and relating to it, arrangements are being made to build Nancho Hydel Power Project.

Senior General Than Shwe inspects spillway of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project.
construction of the factory. He said there are 17 factories including the present one. Out of them, 12 factories use pyro-processing. The factory can produce 2,500 tons of bricks annually.

Managing Director U Soe Yi said the factory was built at a cost of K 1,737.81 million in cooperation with China National Building Materials and Equipment Import Prime Minister General Soe Win attends opening...

The newly-opened High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory is located at a place of five miles and two furlongs, east of Kyaukse and it was built on a 49.97-acre plot.

The purpose of opening the factory is to reduce brick imports from abroad by producing high heat duty fire bricks at home to save foreign exchange, to manufacture the bricks by the efficient use of local raw materials, to increase local technicians regarding the production of the bricks, to produce quality bricks, and to generate job opportunities.

Moreover, high heat duty fire bricks are being provided to 7 state-owned cement factories and four private ones in the country. Danyingon factory and private factories.

On arrival at Bicycle Factory (Kyaukse) of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries and Export Corporation (CBMEC) of China.

Managing Director of MCI U Soe Yi, Chairman of Kyaukse District PDC Lt-Col Tin Ohn and President of CBMEC Madam Fang Fang cut a ribbon to open High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory (Kyaukse).
Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents trophy to Yangon Command team in Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament

YANGON, 21 Dec — A ceremony to present prizes to winners of the 44th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament was held at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), here, this afternoon.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Management Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented the trophy to the first prize-winning team.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, senior military officers, military attachés of foreign missions, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Tatmadawmen and family members.

In the final match, Yangon Command team beat Camp Commandant’s Office team 1-0. At the prize presentation ceremony, Brig-Gen Zin Yaw of the Commander-in-Chief (Air’s) Office gave away individual prizes to players of second prize winning Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence and third prize winning No 11 LID.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun presented individual prizes to first prize winning Yangon Command team. Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe awarded best player awards for respective places to the winners and fairplay award to No 11 LID team. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy and a small trophy to Yangon Command team.

National Convention Convening Commission...

Meeting of delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia held

YANGON, 21 Dec — The delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, a National Convention group, met at the meeting hall-6 in Nyaungshapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, commencing at 9 am today.

Chairman of the Myanmar Academy of Technological Science Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw presided over the meeting together with Professor (Head of Department) Surgeon Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai, Katha) and Head of Office U Hla Myint (of the Ministry of Rail Transportation. Deputy Director U Than Win of the work group-8 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MC and Assistant Director U Nyein Myint as co-MC.

Of 56 delegates who have the right to attend the meeting, 55 were present.

Regarding the legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw to be included in the legislative section in formulating the State Constitution, Deputy Chief Engineer (Electrical) U Aung Thein of Public Works read the proposals to be submitted by the delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia on detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and Professor (Head of Department) Daw Mya Mya Win of Yangon East University on detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the legislative functions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The delegates gave advice and made suggestions about the proposals.

The meeting chairman delivered concluding remarks.

MNA
Court rules British tycoon “responsible” for killing  

LONDON, 20 Dec—A London High Court judge ruled on Monday that property tycoon Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, cleared on appeal of the manslaughter of a business rival, was responsible for ordering the killing.

Hoogstraten was jailed for six years in 2002 over the manslaughter of businessman Mohammed Sabir Raja, 62, who was shot dead with a saw-off shotgun and then stabbed on his doorstep in June 1999.

But just over a year later he was cleared after the Court of Appeal ruled the conviction was unsafe and that Hoogstraten had only intended that Raja should be frightened.

The two hitmen, David Croke and Robert Knap, who prosecutors had said were hired by 60-year-old Hoogstraten, are each serving life sentences for the murder.

Justice Lightman’s ruling on Monday paves the way for four forthcoming civil cases, in which the family of the murdered man are suing Hoogstraten for damages, to continue.

The judge had been asked to decide whether, in the eyes of the law, Hoogstraten “was party to the murder of Mr Raja”.

Bank of Italy chief resigns  

ROME, 20 Dec—Bank of Italy Governor Antonio Fazio, who is under investigation by Italian prosecutors for insider trading in Milan, resigned on Monday, the Bank of Italy said.

In a statement, Fazio said he was resigning “in the supreme interest of the country and the Bank of Italy.”

He added his decision has been taken “independently and with a clear conscience.”

The move came on the eve of an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss ways of forcing the central banker to step down.

Italian prosecutors have been investigating Fazio’s role in the Banka Popolare Italiana’s (BPI) failed takeover war with Dutch bank ABN Amro Holding NV for Banca Antonveneta SPA.

The prosecutors are also reportedly investigating Fazio for insider trading in connection with the case.

Fazio’s reputation was badly tarnished after published transcripts of wiretaps ordered by magistrates appeared to show that he and his wife worked behind the scenes to help BPI against Dutch rival ABN Amro.

He unequivocally ruled that Van Hoogstraten had been involved even though the evidence had been insufficient for his manslaughter conviction to be upheld by the criminal courts.

Civil courts require less burden of proof than criminal courts.

Lightman said he was satisfied on the balance of probabilities that Van Hoogstraten recruited two “highly dangerous thugs” to murder his rival in order to halt a High Court claim Raja was bringing against him.

He said Hoogstraten had later "boasted" about the killing.

"The evidence pointing to this conclusion is overwhelming," Lightman said.

"I am satisfied that the recruitment of the two thugs was for the purpose of murdering Mr Raja and not merely frightening or hurting him," Lightman said.

"Mr Raja had at all times shown himself resilient. Ready to resist threats and to complain to the police. Nothing less than murder would rid Mr Van Hoogstraten of this thorn in his flesh.

Hoogstraten, who made his fortune by buying cheap properties with sitting tenants, forcing them to leave, and selling at a big profit, was not at court and not represented by lawyers.

He "was party to the murder of Mr Raja".

Claim rules British tycoon “responsible” for killing  

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He “was party to the murder of Mr Raja.”
Face-lifting campaign launched to protect damaged Great Wall

BEIJING, 20 Dec—Great Wall protectors have launched a face-lifting campaign to clean up marks left by tourists, but they admitted the damaged wall cannot be repaired for the moment.


About five million Chinese and foreign tourists visit the Badaling section of the Great Wall every year, according to official statistics. Many of them carve or write their names, or words like "I have toured the Great Wall", on its bricks.

In addition, computer prices have come down dramatically, ensuring that one can pay as little as 4,000 rand for a laptop that would have cost more than 8,000 years ago.

IPTV

Germany is making adjustments to its development strategy, especially 3G.

"UT-Starcom has not given up WCDMA, the European technology of communication (3G), and turn to turn from European to Chinese technology with obvious advantages which could bring direct profits to the company, such as CDMA2000, Wu said.

South Africans to have high tech Christmas

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Dec—South Africans are having a high-tech Christmas as retailers make merry through the increase in sales of electronic goods, some of which have plummeted in price.

Topping the list are music systems, plasma-screen television sets, mp3 players, including the Apple iPod, and the new PlayStation, among other digital attractions.

Retailers expect to rake in 45 billion rand (about 7 billion US dollars) in sales over December, according to local paper Sunday Independent.

In addition, computer prices have come down dramatically, ensuring that one can pay as little as 4,000 rand for a laptop that would have cost more than double that a year ago. A premium-brand home-theatre systems and DVD players have also come down, ensuring that retailers are doing good business.

The prices of home-theatre systems and DVD players have also come down, ensuring that retailers are doing good business. A quality brand 27 centimetres television that once cost more than 5,000 rand is now selling for less than 1,800 rand.

Cellular telephones are also creating good business in some instances because of special offers from Vodacom, MTN and Cell C, the big three service providers. With some contract options, consumers are given the option of a free video camera, PlayStation, TV set or the opportunity to win a car.

Danish mountain climber sets seven summits record

STOCKHOLM, 20 Dec—Soeren Gudman of Denmark has climbed the highest peaks on the seven continents faster than anyone else, Ritzau news bureau reported on Monday.

Gudman became not only the first Dane to complete the Seven Summits challenge last week, he also did it faster than anyone else.

According to Ritzau, Gudman completed the feat of ascending the highest mountains on the seven continents last Wednesday, as he reached the summit of Antarctica's Mount Vinson.

Gudman, a 44-year-old engineer, began his quest 194 days earlier, reaching the summit of Mt Everest on 4 June. On 2 July, he ascended Alaska’s Mt McKinley, Europe’s highest peak, Mt Elbrus in Russia, fell on 24 July. The next high point came on 5 September, when he topped Australia's Kosciuszko.

Twenty-five days later, on 30 September, he was looking out from Africa's highest peak Mt Kilimanjaro. After ascending Aconcagua in Argentina less than a month later, on 26 October, only Mt Vinson remained.

France vows to fight digital piracy

PARIS, 20 Dec—French Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres said on Monday that a bill on copyright protection would be examined by Parliament to make “good balance” for protecting cultural works from widespread piracy.

“Totally free culture on the Internet is deceiving, because remunerating creators is not only legitimate, it is also necessary for the renewal of creativity and cultural diversity,” he told a news conference. He said the law bill was only aimed at people “who profit financially” from illegal copying and that individuals who ignore copyright by downloading commercial files for free from peer-to-peer or other Internet sites would be subject to a “graded” enforcement procedure that would see them first sent a warning letter or e-mail to stop the activity.

Many consumer groups have called for a model under which users pay for the right to make non-commercial copies from whatever source.

The draft law is to be debated first at the lower house of the French Parliament Tuesday and Wednesday before being sent to the Upper House.

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Mainz beat Kaiserslautern on penalties in German Cup

Frankfurt, 21 Dec—Mainz beat fellow Bundesliga strugglers Kaiserslautern 4-3 on penalties to reach the quarter-finals of the German Cup.

Germany midfielder Marco Engelhardt put Kaiserslautern ahead in the 29th minute with a powerful header from a Mihail Mikic cross, before the Brazilian Antônio da Silva equalized with a powerful swerving free kick to force extra-time. Kaiserslautern, who had Ervin Skela sent off in the 97th minute, looked well set in the penalty shoot-out when Mainz missed from their first two attempts but nerves then got the better of them.

For their part, Kaiserslautern missed two out of three from set-pieces. They were also denied a first-minute penalty.

Mikic scored again on 29 minutes from a clear run on goal before the closing of the match. The visitors were penalized for offside again on 33 minutes.

Mainz's second goal came on 62 minutes, followed by a Kubala goal on 78 minutes.

The penalty shoot-out was a tense affair, with both sides missing their first two attempts. The home team's third goalkeeper, Esteban, was on target for the 3-1 win.

Barca beat Celta for 13th successive win

Madrid, 21 Dec — Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o and Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho inspired Barca to their 13th successive victory in all competitions on Tuesday following a 2-0 win over Celta Vigo in the Primera Liga.

Eto'o scored both goals, in the 38th and 57th minutes, to take his tally for the season to 17, with Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho involved in the build-up to both.

The Primera Liga enters its winter break after this round of games.

Laslandes double sends Bordeaux into last eight

Paris, 21 Dec — Lilian Laslandes twice helped in-form Girondins Bordeaux beat Nantes 3-1 and reach the quarter-finals of the French League Cup on Tuesday. Colombien striker Edisson Perea headed home a cross from midfielder Alejandro Alonso in the 23rd minute and striker Laslandes beat goalkeeper Mickael Landreau from close range with seven minutes left in the first half.

It was the second match within four days between the two clubs after they drew 0-0 in a Ligue 1 match at the weekend.

The visitors, eager to repeat a good performance on the turf of their west coast rivals, reduced the deficit with a penalty by midfielder Mamadou Diallo in the 67th minute.

Laslandes, only considered for the bench in the league matches, wrapped it with a stoppage time goal.

Man Utd, Wigan through to League Cup semis

London, 21 Dec — Manchester United won 3-1 at Birmingham City to reach the League Cup semi-finals on Tuesday and Wigan Athletic continued their run of five successive victories in all competitions on Tuesday after a 2-0 win over Celta Vigo in the Primera Liga.

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Nantes, who eliminated league leaders Olympique Lyon in penalty shootout in the previous round, had come close to equalising when defender Franck Sognorino shot wide three minutes from time.

Two goals for Louis Saha and one for Park Ji-sung gave United their comfortable success and a place in the last four for the second successive season, while two for Jason Roberts late in the first half sent Wigan into their first major semi-final in their first season in top flight football.

United, out of Europe and nine points adrift of Chelsea in the Premiership, fielded a strong side in a competition that has suddenly become an important part of their season.

They started well and Giuseppe Rossi hit the bar in an early attack but Birmingham settled and held their own until halftime. It all changed at the start of the second half, with the introduction of Wayne Rooney adding spark to the United attack.

The goals came from less familiar sources, however. Injury-ravaged French striker Saha slid in to convert a Cristiano Ronaldo cross two minutes after the restart and then turned provider as he set up Kooi midfielder Park to shoot home his first goal for the club.

Saha, whose season began a month ago following a string of injuries, then smashed in the third in the 63rd minute before Jiri Jarosik headed a consolation for Birmingham in the 75th.

“I’m satisfied, I thought we played well,” United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports TV.

“I’m delighted for Park, he’s been ever so close a few times and he deserved it.”

Looking ahead to the semi-finals of a competition United have won only once, the Scot added: “When the opportunity is there you must take it.

“Last year I thought we were very unlucky against Celta. It depends on where we are, which team we’ll play in January, but we will certainly give it a good shot.”

Wigan, who ended a run of five successive league defeats with a 3-0 win over Charlton on Saturday, continued their recovery with an impressive victory over a Bolton side fresh from beating Everton 4-0 in the league.

Roberts turned the match late in the first half, firing in the opening goal from 10 metres out after 40 minutes and doubling Wigan’s tally with a similar effort five minutes later.

Kenyan soccer coach pulls out of national team

Nairobi, 21 Dec — Kenyan head Coach Jacob Mulee resigned on Monday after being re-appointed last week to take charge of the national team for the four-nation tournament which begins later this month in Egypt.

Mulee announced his withdrawal from the controversy-ridden team on Monday following an order from local club officials at Tusker FC who signed him last month.

The Tusker FC signed Mulee one month ago and they are the only club willing to engage him.

Mulee was last week appointed Harambee Stars coach by a faction of the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) to lead the team to the LG Cup tournament in Egypt next month.

But his reappointment was resisted by another faction led by Moni Wekesa who insists that Mohamed Kheri will lead Stars to the tournament.

Wekesa, who is recognized by world soccer governing body, FIFA, has dismissed the changes, terming them “illegal and inconsequential”, telling the newly re-appointed coach to deal with the “right people” if he wanted to handle Harambee Stars.

Lastslandes double sends Bordeaux into last eight

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Cuba launches verbal assault on top US diplomat

HAVANA, 21 Dec — Cuba launched a blistering verbal attack on the top US diplomat in Havana on Tuesday and on dissidents it accused him of organizing to overthrow the government.

A daily state-run television talk show dedicated its 90-minute broadcast to accusing US mission chief Michael Parmy, who arrived in the country in September, of being the new point man for the Bush Administration’s declared goal of ousting President Fidel Castro from power. “Michael Parmy has quickly begun to carry out his job as the ruthless guardian and springboard of the anti-Cuba Bush policy, having frequent contacts with his mercenaries, guiding them, supplying them and exhibiting them to the Press,” programme moderator Randy Alonso said.

The United States and Cuba, bitter foes since President Fidel Castro led a revolution to power in 1959, do not have diplomatic relations but maintain lower-level interests sections in each other’s capitals.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 21 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Yagon Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Rakhine and Chin States, lower Sagaina Division, (7°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Namsam (6°C). Maximum temperature on 20-12-2005 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 21-12-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-12-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 20-12-2005 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 21-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (103.82) inches at Mingaladon, (102.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (107.44) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from East at (11:25) hours MST on 21-12-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, today’s tropical depression over Southwest Bay centred at about (270) miles Southeast of Chennai, India, and is forecast to move Northnortheast direction. Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay, West Central Bay and North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Special feature: According to the observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, yesterday’s tropical depression over South China Sea has downgraded to low pressure area. Forecast valid until evening of 22-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain in Khan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Tannithu Division, partly cloudy in Shan State, upper Sagaina and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 60%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of night temperatures in eastern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2005: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2005: Partly cloudy.

“The Storm” News (Issued at (13:00) hrs MST on 21-12-2005)

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s tropical depression over Southwest Bay is forecast to move Northeast ward. Under the influence of the depression, isolated to scattered rain is likely in Khan. Chin and northern Rakhine States and upper Sagaina Division within next (48) hours, commencing noon today.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Brief news</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:35 am</td>
<td>Music: - Xmas song</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:40 am</td>
<td>Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Music: - Wipe Xmas</td>
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<td>8:50 am</td>
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<td>Music:</td>
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<td>News / Slogan</td>
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<td>9:40 pm</td>
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<td>9:50 pm</td>
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<td>10:10 pm</td>
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<td>News / Slogan</td>
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**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Prime Minister General Soe Win attends opening of High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory (Kyaukse)**

Yangon, 21 Dec — The High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory (Kyaukse) of Myanma Ceramics Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 was opened in Kyaukse factory area five miles east of Kyaukse Township this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Soe Win.

Also present were Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, members of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and CEC members, secretaries of Kyaukse District and Township USDAs and EC members, chairpersons of District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations and members, departmental officials and members of social organizations. Managing Director of Myanma Ceramics Industries U Soe Yi, Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn and President Madam Fang Fang of China National Building Materials and Equipment Import and Export Corporation (CBMEC) formally opened the factory.

Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win formally unveiled the signboard of the factory. The Prime Minister and guests inspected the machines, production process, electrical and laboratory equipment.

Minister U Aung Thaung reported on (See page 10)

The newly-opened High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory is located at a distance of five miles east of Kyaukse and it was built on an area of 49.97 acres.

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**National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee meet**

Yangon, 21 Dec — The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee held a meeting at Nyaungmapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the NCCC Management Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Secretary-1 said that the National Convention resumed on 5 December has entered the third week. Thanks to the harmonious efforts of the respective committees and subcommittees, the Convention has been doing all its work smoothly and successfully. The task of the Convention has two parts. Concerning the completed part, the detailed basic principles for sharing executive and judicial power to be contained in the constitution have been laid down successfully on 12 December.

The ongoing task covers the links between the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the

(See page 11)

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Thanks to the emergence of such a fine transport facility, we had a golden opportunity to hold a reunion with my family members, relatives and old friends, to enjoy ourselves and to repay the gratitude of our parents.

Khin Swe Myint
(Myanmarsar)

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