Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulatory message to Polish President

**Yangon, 24 Dec**—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Lech Kaczynski, who has been elected as President of the Federal Republic of Poland. — MNA

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**Tatmadaw not mercenary force, but a patriotic one**

**Never hesitates to sacrifice lives whenever necessary**

Being equipped with esprit de corps, Tatmadaw members are sacrificing lives for each other.

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**Excerpts**

- Strive to become reliable technicians capable of discharging national defence duties.
- Make sustained efforts to promote the science and technology of the Tatmadaw and modernize the Tatmadaw.
- Try best to become new generation leaders who preserve the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw even in the face of death threat.
- Collectively participate in building a modern and developed nation, while raising the role of science and technology of the Tatmadaw.

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**Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy**

**Yangon, 23 Dec**—The graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 9 am today, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council.

(See page 5)
Run factories and mills at full capacity

The State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the strength of natural resources and human resources, is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Being an agro-based nation, Myanmar is relying on the agricultural sector in establishing the national economic life. Systematic steps are being taken for the development of national economy, making better use of land and water resources.

In the meantime, efforts are being made for development of the industrial sector, which plays a pivotal role in building the nation into a modern and developed one. At present, more factories and mills are being built while striving for the development of industries and industrial technology.

The High Heat Duty Fire Brick Factory of Myanmar Ceramics Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 was opened in Kyaukse factory area in Kyaukse Township on 21 December 2005, attended by Prime Minister General Soe Win.

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspected machines of the respective production sectors, production process, the Bicycle Factory and human resources, is making efforts in all sectors, production process, the Bicycle Factory and human resources, is making efforts in all sectors for development of industries and industrial technology.

Speaking at the 12th annual meeting of the Myanmar Industrialists Association held at Sedona Hotel here, he also called for development of small and medium industries in the nation.

Present at the meeting were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Then, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, deputy ministers and departmental officials, chairman and members of the association. At the meeting, industrialists contributed to K 12.9 million to the fund of the association.

According to the commander, out of 19 industrial zones in the country, four are established in Yangon Division. The number of the private industries reach over 80,000 and, small and medium industries account for 95 per cent of the private industry.

The annual meeting ended with concluding remarks by the association’s chairman U Myat Thin Aung.

Chinese guests visit National Defence College

YANGON, 23 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged industrialists to manufacture high-quality products meeting the international set standard in the hope of substituting the import materials and penetrating the foreign market.

Speaking at annual meeting of the Myanmar Industrialists Association held at Sedona Hotel here, he also called for development of small and medium industries in the nation.

Present at the meeting were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Then, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, deputy ministers and departmental officials, chairman and members of the association. At the meeting, industrialists contributed to K 12.9 million to the fund of the association.

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The annual meeting ended with concluding remarks by the association’s chairman U Myat Thin Aung.

YMCA hosts X’mas dinner

YANGON, 23 Dec — The YMCA hosted a dinner to mark the Christmas Day at M-3 Food Centre in Bahan Township yesterday evening, with an address by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Maung.

Also present at the dinner were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, heads of department, the Chairman of YMCA and members of trusteeship board, Christians and guests.

YMCA Chairman Dr Tin Hla extended greetings, and Rev U Aung Myint Sein said prayers.
A man wades through a flooded street as the shops remain closed in downtown Alor Setar, Kedah, northern Malaysia, on 22 Dec., 2005. Peninsular Malaysia’s northern states usually suffer floods during the monsoon season between November and March, but the flooding in Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Kelantan and Terengganu states this year has been deemed the worst in 30 years. — INTERNET

**Iranian FM warns against preconditions in nuke-talks**

TEHERAN, 22 Dec — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki warned the European Union (EU) on Wednesday not to set preconditions to the ongoing nuclear negotiations, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"There could be no preconditions to Iran entering into nuclear talks with the European countries. Iran’s stand has been well defined, and we do not want the talks just for the sake of holding talks," Mottaki was quoted as saying.

 Negotiators of Iran and the EU kicked off a new round of one-day negotiations in Vienna, Austria, but diplomatic sources had expressed pessimism over the result, holding that it was hard for the two sides to reach agreement on Iran’s sensitive uranium enrichment activities.

Mottaki also underlined the necessity of enriching and completing the natural fuel cycle in the Iranian territory, saying the nuclear technology "has become a local science" of Iran.

Iran’s powerful Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called on the EU on Tuesday to drop threats, referring to the EU leaders warning on Saturday that time was running out for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear dispute.

**Bomb explodes near Spanish club**

MADRID, 22 Dec — A bomb exploded outside a nightclub in northern Spain on Wednesday after a warning from Basque separatist group ETA, but caused no injuries, Spanish media reports said.

The telephone warning to a Basque newspaper and the Basque highway authority gave police time to evacuate the discotheque in the small town of Santesteban in the northern region of Navarre, newspaper El Mundo’s Web site said.

Police in Navarre said they could not immediately confirm the report and government officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Europa Press news agency said the bomb exploded at the rear of the nightclub, damaging the building.

The bomb exploded a day before Spain is due to launch a special Christmas security plan, mobilizing 40,000 police officers to guard against attacks over the holiday.

ETA, branded a terrorist organization by the European Union and the United States, has killed nearly 850 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France. — MNA/Reuters

**Gunmen shoot five in Mexico City on US border**

NUEVO LAREDO (Mexico), 22 Dec — Gunmen shot dead five men in a vehicle workshop in this violent city on the US border in a brutal resurgence of suspected drug violence, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Hitmen toting pistols surprised the five men late on Monday night at the workshop in Nuevo Laredo, which lies over the Rio Grande from Laredo, Texas, firing at least 15 shots at close range.

The city of 300,000 people is the front line of a war between traffickers from the western Mexican state of Sinaloa and the local Gulf cartel for control of the lucrative cross-border trade in cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

At least 175 people have been murdered in the city this year and President Vicente Fox sent in hundreds of federal troops and police in June to try to restore order. The latest killings occurred in the city’s Anahuac District, which is notorious for drug dealing, and ended an 11-day stretch without a fatal shooting.

Witnesses said one man was shot several times in the face, usually a coded message signifying betrayal in the language of the war-ring cartels. Another victim attempted to hide beneath a truck in the workshop, but was shot regardless. — MNA/Reuters

**US soldier killed south of Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec — A US soldier was killed in a roadside bomb blast south of Baghdad on Monday, the US military said on Wednesday.

"A soldier assigned to Task Force Baghdad was killed when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle in south of Baghdad on 19 December," the military said in a statement. The name of the soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added. The death has brought to about 2,160 the number of US military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally.

**Pakistan, India agree to launch two bus services early next year**

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec — Pakistan and India on Wednesday signed two agreements on the commencement of two bus services, one will be launched next month, according to a joint statement.

The statement, issued at the end of round of India-Pakistani technical level talks, said that a bus service between the Indian city of Amritsar and the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore will begin on 20 January.

Another bus service between Amritsar and the Pakistani city of Nankana Sahib in the Punjab Province will be launched in February with holding its trial on 27 January, 2006, the statement said.

The town of Nankana Sahib is the birth place of the founder of Sikh religion Baba Guru Nanak Devji Sahib.

Therefore, this bus service will begin on every Friday and return on Saturday while the Indian bus would ply from Amritsar to Lahore on every Tuesday and return on Wednesday.

Regarding Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service, two sides decided that the trial run would take place from Amritsar on 27 January and from Nankana Sahib to Amritsar on 29 January, 2006.

Regular operation of the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service would commence within a month from the trial run.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Communication Muhammad Abbas led the Pakistani side at the talks in Lahore, some 300 kilometres south of Islamabad, while India was led by Joint Secretary of the Department of Road Transport and Highways Saroj Kumar Dash.

**St Paul police officer killed In Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec — A St Paul police officer working for a private security company was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq on Thursday, his department and the company announced.

Officer Kyle M Kaszynski, 39, was working for Kroll Inc and was in a convoy that was escorting correctional advisers from Baghdad to Baquba for prison inspections when it was attacked on Thursday morning. — Internet

**Civil Guards block the road near the scene of a bomb blast outside of a nightclub in the Pyrenees village of Santesteban, Spain, on 21 Dec, 2005.** — INTERNET
Death toll in US plane crash reaches twenty

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—The death toll from a seaplane crash on Monday afternoon off the coast of Miami Beach, Florida, has risen to 20, including three children, officials said.

They were killed when the propeller seaplane broke apart in mid-flight and plunged into the Atlantic Ocean.

Nineteen bodies had been recovered and one was still missing when the Coast Guard halted its search late Monday, Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the US National Transportation and Safety Board, told reporters.

He said rescue crews hoped to raise the plane and recover its flight data recorders, humanoid devices that record everything that occurs on a flight.

Coast Guard officials said three infants were among the 18 passengers and two crew members aboard the seaplane.

The charter aircraft, which belonged to Chalk’s Ocean Airways, crashed in shallow waters at the entrance to Biscayne Bay, which separates the cities of Miami and Miami Beach, soon after taking off Monday afternoon.

Reports said it is the 86th year-old company’s “only crash with survivors.”

The airplane, a 17-passenger Grumman G-73T Turbine Mallard and a twin-engine amphibious aircraft manufactured in 1947 capable of operating from water as well as land-based airports, was upside-down under several feet (metres) of water and visible from the air.

The Chalk’s website said its fleet of 7-G-73T planes “is undergoing an extensive refurbishment programme which includes complete mechanical overhaul and cosmetic renovation”.

Coast Guard officials said earlier that there were survivors in the accident, but so far no sign of survivors had been found.

Heavy snow hits eastern Chinese cities

YANTAI, 21 Dec — School children in Yantai were told to stay home again on Wednesday as another heavy snow started to hit the city, already snow-covered, in eastern Shandong Province on Tuesday evening.

Yantai reported 5.8 millimetres of snowfall on Tuesday night and fallen snow on the ground has averaged 28 millimetres by Wednesday.

In the neighbouring city of Weihai, which was formerly a part of Yantai, the fallen snow has added up to 35 millimetres plus the 8.3 millimetres reported on Tuesday night.

The meteorological bureaus of both cities have issued a “red” warning (the most severe in the local weather warning system) for the snow and another “red” warning for frozen road conditions.

The meteorological authorities have predicted moderate snowfall in both cities on Wednesday.

Yantai Meteorological Bureau officials said the snowy weather, starting on 3 December, has resulted in the heaviest snowfall in the city’s history since 1961 when Yantai first had meteorological records.

The local education authority has called off classes in kindergartens, primary and middle schools in the downtown areas for Wednesday, resumption dependent on weather conditions.

A soldier and vehicles from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are seen near a blast site in Herat, Afghanistan, on 20 Dec, 2005.

Nigeria pipeline still blazing, output down

AGABE OYAKAN ASARAMA (Nigeria), 22 Dec—Oil workers in boats and a helicopter circled a huge pipeline blaze in remote southern Nigeria on Wednesday, surveying the damage caused by a suspected dynamite attack that killed at least eight people.

Tuesday’s attack by unknown gunmen on the pipeline operated by Royal Dutch Shell, located in the Opobo Channel in the Niger Delta, caused a major slick and fire, cutting output by 170,000 barrels per day (bpd).

“The fire is still blazing. It’s as high as a 10-storey building. There is thick black smoke billowing,” a Reuters witness said.

A man walks past trees amid thick fog in New Delhi, on 21 Dec, 2005. A thick blanket of fog enveloped India’s capital early this morning, reducing visibility to as low as 200 metres, while cold conditions persisted with temperature hovering below five degrees Celsius in most parts of northern India. — Internet

Three bodies of kidnapped policemen found in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 Dec — Iraqi police found three bodies of policemen kidnapped earlier in western Baghdad on Tuesday, a police source said.

“We have found three of Iraqi policemen on the highway near the al-Bakriyah District,” Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

According to residents, unknown car threw the bullet-riddled bodies, Abdullah said, adding that the victims’ jobs were guarding a facility of a Saudi company working in building barricades for US troops and Iraqi security forces. — MNA/Xinhua

A soldier and vehicles from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are seen near a blast site in Herat, Afghanistan, on 20 Dec, 2005.

Kikwete sworn in as Tanzanian President

DA-SSESALAMA, 22 Dec—Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was sworn in here on Wednesday as the fourth elected President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Msekw, President of Wednesday’s inauguration as the one Tanzanian swear-in ceremony witnessed by most foreign dignitaries.

The African Union, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the World Bank as well as China, the United States, Egypt, Japan and South Korea sent their well-wishers.

The hitherto Foreign Minister was sworn in by the country’s Chief Justice Honorary Barnabas Samata in the presence of outgoing Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa, Tanzanian National Assembly Speaker Plus

WITNESSES said there was an explosion before the propeller-driven seaplane crashed, but the CoastGuard said the cause of the crash was not immediately known and that it could not confirm there had been an explosion. The National Transportation Safety Board said it would investigate into the accident, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had sent agents to assist in the probe. — MNA/Xinhua

A man walks past trees amid thick fog in New Delhi, on 21 Dec, 2005. A thick blanket of fog enveloped India’s capital early this morning, reducing visibility to as low as 200 metres, while cold conditions persisted with temperature hovering below five degrees Celsius in most parts of northern India. — Internet

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“The fire is still blazing. It’s as high as a 10-storey building. There is thick black smoke billowing,” a Reuters witness said.

A Shell spokesman said work was ongoing to determine the extent of the damage, and there was no estimate yet of how long the outage would last. It represents a per-cent cut in output from the world’s eighth biggest exporter of crude. The nearby community of Asagba Okwan Asarama was deserted. — MNA/Reuters
In striving for narrowing the development gap among states and divisions of the Union, emphasis is being placed on socio-economic progress of people living in border areas. These endeavours are being made effectively in 22 border area development regions namely Kachin Special Region 1 and 2, Kokang, Wa, Shan, Kachin North East, Palaung, Kengtung East, Homein, Monghtaw Mongha, Mawhpa, Pago, Kayah, Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing (Naga), Kabaw Valley, Kayin, Taninthayi, Mon regions including Yangon and Magway Divisions.

In these regions, roads and bridges are being built, hospitals, clinics and schools established, agricultural, forestry and water supply tasks carried out and such services as electricity, post office, telegram and telephone provided as well as TV re-transmission stations opened. As a result, national people living in these areas are enjoying fruits of development. Border areas lagged behind in development in the past but now peace and stability prevails in these areas and development infrastructures have been established well. This is due to dispelling the misconception and reconsolidation of national unity and cooperating with the State. As the national people have come to realize the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw government, they are now taking part in regional development drives hand in hand with the government.

With marked development in border areas, the socio-economic life of national people have improved significantly. The table shows the development of roads and bridges and hospitals and clinics out of other developments in the border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

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<td>Tarred road (mile)</td>
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Langkho Bridge built on Namhsan-Mongton-Monghsat Road in Langkho Township, Shan State (South).
After regaining independence in 1948, Myanmar exercised the 1947 Constitution. However, the parliamentary democracy system prescribed in the constitution could not be put into reality successfully. Under the pretext of exercising the right of states prescribed in the constitution to secede from the Union, some attempted to secede from the Union, and that was leading the Union to its collapse. The Tatmadaw had thus to take over the State duties on 2 March 1962, putting an end to the 1947 Constitution that prompted the federal movement, which later posed a grave danger to the Union.

It was followed by attempts to introduce the Socialist in the nation as aspired since the independence struggles. Therefore, the 1974 Constitution was adopted through a referendum to practise the one-party system. The constitution gave birth to the one-party system and the centralized economic system that could not contribute towards the national development, causing mass demonstrations in August 1988.

The people’s discontent over the weaknesses and shortcomings of the political and economic sectors laid down by the Myanmar Socialist Pro-gramme Party was part of the incitement to the 1988 unrest. However, the instigation and intervention of the international leftist and rightist groups and neo-colonialists brought the people’s general dissatisfaction about the unrest.

In fact, certain persons, parties and organizations that are now shouting democracy and human rights and claiming themselves as democracy activists, exploited the people’s desire with the intention of seizing the State power. In this way, they incited the rivalry for the State power or anarchistic massive destruction.

Looking back to the then situations, anarchy and neo-colonialists brought the people’s general dissatisfaction about the unrest. However, the instigation and intervention of the international leftist and rightist groups and neo-colonialists brought the people’s general dissatisfaction about the unrest.

In fact, certain persons, parties and organizations that are now shouting democracy and human rights and claiming themselves as democracy activists, exploited the people’s desire with the intention of seizing the State power. In this way, they incited the rivalry for the State power or anarchistic massive destruction.

The 1947 Constitution the nation had practised from 1948 to 1962 met its end due to its own weaknesses. And the nation has seen no reason to readopt the 1974 Constitution as its proclamation of the single party system has no longer suited the public wish. Hence, a new constitution has become a must. Since the time, the entire nation has firmly believed that a new constitution must be drawn without fail.
The task of convening of the National Convention covering the wish of the entire nation is more comprehensive than the NLD’s repeated demands for a dialogue, and also reflects the sovereignty of the nation and the essence of democracy.

At the end of the third meeting, State and Tatmadaw leaders headed by Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe cordially and warmly greeted the delegates to the meeting.

It can be said that the three meetings can be described the preliminary negotiations for a dialogue the NLD was demanding repeatedly. The task of convening of the National Convention covering the wish of the entire nation is more comprehensive than the NLD’s repeated demands for a dialogue, and also reflects the sovereignty of the nation and the essence of democracy.

After holding the meetings successfully, the Steering Committee presented a report to the government on 7 August 1992. The government formed the 18-member National Convention Convening Commission under Order No 13/92 on 2 October 1992. The Order also prescribed the duties, functions and powers of the Commission and also to lay down basic principles for the constitution of the National Convention. The Commission formed the 27-member National Convention Convening Management Committee and the 36-member National Convention Convening Management Committee for work facilitation and efficiency.

With consensus, the meeting for convening the National Convention also laid down the following six objectives of the National Convention:

1. Non-disintegration of the Union
2. Non-disintegration of national solidarity
3. Perpetuation of sovereignty
4. Flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system
5. Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State
6. For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State.

The government issued the Notification No 14/92 to convene the National Convention on 9 January 1993. It invited 49 representatives from 10 legally existing political parties to attend the Convention. The parties chose their own delegates to the Convention, who were approved by the Commission according to the list of the respective parties. The government also approved the lists presented by the respective parties in inviting 99 representatives-elect of six legally existing political parties. It also invited eight independent representatives-elect to the Convention.

The government also invited 215 national race delegates, 93 peasants delegates, 48 workers delegates, 92 State service personnel delegates, 41 intellectual and intelligentsia delegates, and 57 other invited persons. The list included 42 from armed groups that returned to the legal fold and 15 who had experience in political, economic and administrative and social affairs. A total 702 delegates were invited to the National Convention.

The National Convention, the most basic foundation of the national goal — peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation — successfully began on 9 January 1993 with the participation of delegates from all walks of life and of the national races. It was an objective situation in which the political parties and the nationalities including the Tatmadaw energetically convened the National Convention for the benefit of the future state.

(Translation: MS+TMT)
Comrades,

Today you are about to be commissioned as junior military engineers in the Tatmadaw. Today's battles are fought with the use of advancing science and technology. Military science and technology has become sophisticated as now is the age of revolution in military affairs. This is why the capabilities of you, military junior leaders, are required to improve as we are trying to build a modern Tatmadaw.

Moreover, your initiatives and innovations are necessary for our agro-based country that is striving to turn itself into an industrial one.

Comrades,

Thanks to the innovations of engineers, industrial sector has improved very significantly in the world today, benefiting the entire humanity. However, from the natural phenomenon point of view, everything has its pros and cons. The world and its all living things are now very much concerned about environmental pollution. Greenhouse effect has become a critical condition due to heat-trapping gases including carbon dioxide emitted from factories, workshops and motor vehicles.

If the greenhouse effect is not kept under control in time, there would be climate changes such as floods and storms following the global warming. Consequently, icebergs from the North Pole would melt resulting in the rise of sea level.

Therefore, in 1992 global nations signed a UN Convention on climate change in a bid to get the developed nations reduce greenhouse gases. Then Kyoto's binding follow-up agreement was concluded in 1997.

While seeking means and ways to reduce greenhouse gases, the world was able to establish a carbon credit trading. In particular, owners of factories, airplanes and cars are duty-bound to reduce carbon emission. Released carbon can be consumed only by plants and forests. So, those responsible firm owners have to grow required amount of plants and trees to dispose of MT volumes of their carbon emission. Otherwise, they will have to pay for services of those who undertake afforestation. That is why industrialists of today have to go to the countries with vast tracts of forests for carbon credit trading in order to show they have forests to cope with their carbon emission.

Comrades,

Now the age of petro-chemical is on the brink of extinction. So oil will hardly be used in energy sector soon and the use of fuel oil will be reduced in different ways. Cars, despite their small size, consume a greater amount of petrol, an energy product of oil. Although we have oil reserves, petrol-powered cars are now being substituted and they will be outdated as the use of petrol and diesel is being objected. So our country has begun to convert petrol-powered cars into CNG ones, which emit little carbon dioxide.

As engineers, you are urged to constantly learn the changing world and to make innovative ways to adapt to the changing situation of the world.

Comrades,

You are engineers as well as Tatmadaw members. Tatmadaw members must be duty-conscious whatever sectors they are assigned to. You shall have to discharge your duties not only in science and technological sector but also in State defence and security sectors. Tatmadaw history has it that military engineers by themselves participated in battles like infantry regiments. This is the good duty of soldiers. This is why you must be junior military officers who have good traditions of good soldiers.

Comrades,

A military leader has to get involved in a battle at risk to his life, while giving military...
The role a leader has to play is important because his subordinates must abide by his orders exactly without any fear and hesitation even if they know they are going to have to sacrifice their lives very soon. The conviction that only when a leader wins the trust and admiration of his subordinates, will they stand firmly by their leader to sacrifice their lives first, will immediately generate the spirit of sacrificing own lives in unison in the interests of the State. So, you must win the trust and admiration of your subordinates.

Comrades,

Since its birth, our Tatmadaw has not been a mercenary force, but a patriotic Tatmadaw that has been upholding the four oaths. As you know, we Tatmadaw members are the ones who do not regard any entitlements as privileges and do not care much whether we get salaries and ration or not. But, inspired by our patriotic fervour, we will never hesitate to sacrifice our lives whenever necessary. Being equipped with esprit de corps, we Tatmadaw members are sacrificing lives for each other in the Tatmadaw that exists with patriotic spirit. So, our Tatmadaw has possessed fine traditions.

Only when you know the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, will you be able to be convinced of the 16 characteristics of leadership thoroughly. As a matter of fact, these characteristics are just primary qualities, and a leader has to enhance his military experience if he wishes to be a good leader.

Comrades,

A military leader must be capable of building a force he leads to ensure its cohesion forever. The unity of a force must be built with conviction and concept, and only then, will it be strong. Our Tatmadaw is the one that always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

Our Three Main National Causes namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty bears testimony to historic necessities of our nation.

— to try to become new generation leaders who preserve the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw even in the face of death threat, and
— to collectively participate in building a modern and developed nation, while raising the role of science and technology of the Tatmadaw.

— Senior General Than Shwe
Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying Plant

Upon completion, the project is expected to supply 230 million gallons of water a day to the city. The State Peace and Development Council is striving for the development of the nation in order to keep abreast of other nations while making concerted efforts for improvement one that can perform trade, monetary and banking services, education, health and social services to the dwellers. Furthermore, YCDC had laid down and is implementing the urban plans for the city dwellers. Supply of potable water plays a vital role in hygienic living status of the people.

Vice-Senior General
Maung Aye
Vice-Senior General
Maung Aye greets
Deputy Commander of
Chengdu Military Area
Command
Lt-Gen Gui Quanzhi of
China at Zeyathiri Beikman.
(News on Page 16)
MNA

There are three phases in the project and as the first phase of the project, the water purifying plant will supply 45 million gallons of water to the city. Therefore, daily supply of water to Yangon City will reach 140 million gallons. Upon completion, the project is expected to supply 230 million gallons of water a day to the city.
Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying…

(from page 10)

Nowadays, 140 million gallons of potable water from water supply projects including 45 million gallons of potable water from Ngamoeyeik Dam will be supplied daily to Yangon City for the first phase.

Among 45 million gallons of water from Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project for the first phase, 10 million gallons of water will be supplied to water tank at Shwedagon Pagoda. In addition, 18 million gallons of water will be added to the water supply functions of Ngamoeyeik, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Thawunna, Thakayta and Dawbon Townships through 36 inches diameter water pipeline from Padamya Myoht to the roundabout in North Okkalapa Townships.

Furthermore, tasks are to be undertaken for extending supply of five million gallons of water to Thakayta and Dawbon Townships and Thilawa Special Industrial Park. On completion of the second and third phases of Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project, 220 million gallons of water will be supplied to Yangon City daily.

The Secretary-1, on behalf of the Government, praised YCDC and Myanmar engineers, architects and geologists for their performance in implementing the water supply project within over one year meeting the set standard. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 wished city dwellers peace of mind enjoying fruitful results of the Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project thanks to farsighted guidance given by the Head of State, genuine goodwill of the Government, concerted efforts of the YCDC Chairman and officials.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn presented gifts marking the opening ceremony to the Secretary-1 and party. Next, the Mayor gave away gifts to those who contributed to implementation of the project. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the documentary photos and the lay-out plan of the plant.

The Secretary-1 and party went to the plant and inspected functions and units of the station.

MNA

NC Delegate groups hold meetings

YANGON, 23 Dec — Meetings of Delegate Group of Political Parties, Delegate Group of representatives-elect, Delegate Group Peasants, Delegate of Group of Workers and Delegate Group of State Service Personnel were held at the designated places of Nyaungnapu Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

The meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties took place at the meeting room-6 this morning.

U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party presided over the meeting together with Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu of Working Group-3 of the National Convention Convening acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director U Khin Sein.

The Secretary-1 wished the meeting the set standard. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 wished city dwellers peace of mind enjoying fruitful results of the Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project thanks to farsighted guidance given by the Head of State, genuine goodwill of the Government, concerted efforts of the YCDC Chairman and officials.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn presented gifts marking the opening ceremony to the Secretary-1 and party. Next, the Mayor gave away gifts to those who contributed to implementation of the project. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the documentary photos and the lay-out plan of the plant. The Secretary-1 and party went to the plant and inspected functions and units of the station.

MNA

FM sends message of congratulations to Polish counterpart

YANGON, 24 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Stefan Meller, who has been appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Poland. — MNA

Rakhine State of Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Independent representatives-elect—Dr Hmu Hian of Thantlang Township constituency of Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency of Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namsan Township constituency of Shan State (North) read out the proposals akin to detailed legislative tasks of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in writing the State Constitution.

The alternate chairman gave concluding remarks and the meeting was adjourned at 10.10 am.

(See page 15)
The government had envisioned Hong Kong’s position as a leading exhibition and special events hub, and to give Hong Kong's biggest exhibition centre AsiaWorld-Expo opens

Hong Kong, 22 Dec—AsiaWorld-Expo, the Hong Kong's largest exhibition and events complex at the Hong Kong International Airport, opened Wednesday by Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Donald Tsang and representatives of the shareholding and management companies.

The 300-million-US-dollar state-of-the-art facility, which is one of the largest in the region, is designed to further enhance Hong Kong’s position as a leading exhibition and events hub, and to give Hong Kong an opportunity to host world-class entertainment and special events with a truly regional reach, according to the Hong Kong Government.

At the opening ceremony, Tsang said that this new addition to Hong Kong's infrastructure was one of the many initiatives which the government had been undertaking in recent years.

"When we adopted the brandname 'Asia’s World City' for Hong Kong a few years ago, it was intended to be partly descriptive and partly aspirational. We have since been working hard to live up to the promise of being a premier city in the region and beyond. With the opening of AsiaWorld-Expo, we have turned another small part of our vision into reality," Tsang said.

The venue provides 70,000 square metres of rentable space, with 10 state-of-the-art grand level exhibition and events halls, including the 13,500-seat AsiaWorld-Arena, the biggest purpose-built indoor seated entertainment arena in Hong Kong.

"AsiaWorld-Expo has already established an impressive event calendar with more than 50 major international exhibitions and events scheduled for 2006."

China hands over bird flu virus strains to WHO

Beijing, 22 Dec—The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday handed over HSNI human case isolates to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Two strains of bird flu isolated from human infections in China were forwarded to Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO western Pacific regional director, by Wang Yu, director of the Chinese CDC, along with relevant virus information on Chinese human cases.

Offered to the organization for further research, the strains will help trace the virus’ mutation and development of anti-retroviral drugs. It is a major contribution made by China to the global fight against the epidemic, said Omi. Omi said good collaboration in the international community will be crucial in dealing with the immense challenge posed by bird flu, and China, as one of the centres of the global fight, can play an important role in this regard.

Chinese experts will join in the WHO’s research of these isolates.

On his visit to the Chinese National Influenza Centre, also on Tuesday, Omi was introduced to the monitoring, lab testing and control of human bird flu. China has announced six human cases of bird flu since 16 November, including at least two fatalities, according to the Ministry of Health.

Lab tests show that the genotype of HSNI seen in human bird flu infections in China are different from those spotted in humans in Vietnam, indicating that the virus has mutated.
**“Ariane” rocket launches satellites for India, Europe**

KOUROU (French Guiana), 22 Dec—A European Ariane-5 rocket sent satellites for India and Europe into orbit after a textbook launch from French Guiana late on Wednesday.

The rocket blasted-off from Europe’s space base in Kourou, on the northeast coast of South America at 7.33 pm (2233 GMT). It lit up the equatorial night sky but quickly disappeared behind thick clouds.

Twenty-nine minutes after launch, the rocket released into an preliminary orbit the INSAT-4A satellite for India's Space Research Organization (ISRO).

**Japan to develop spacesuit for moon spacewalks**

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Japan plans to produce a spacesuit, which may be worn by astronauts on their moon surface exploration, the Kyodo News reported on Wednesday, quoting officials from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency as saying. With the high-tech suits, Japan hopes to participate in a US project, which is designed to send astronauts to the moon in 2018. The agency aims to manufacture a spacesuit of about 20 kilos, down from around 120 kilos of the US-made outfit, and to upgrade the built-in life support mechanisms to enable continued use of the suit for up to one week, the officials say.

The agency plans to design a spacesuit for trial uses by 2008 and start after the officials say.

**Russia launches communications, military satellites**

MOSCOW, 22 Dec—Russia successfully put a communications and a military satellite into orbit Wednesday, the Space Troops said. A Cosmos-3M rocket, carrying the two satellites, blasted off from the Plesetsk space centre in northern Russia at 22:34 (1934 GMT) and has successfully put two spacecraft into orbit, Space Troops spokesman Alexei Gaudenzi said.

One of the satellites, the Gonets-M, can transmit digital, speech, text and video data and is designed to deliver urgent reports of environmental disasters, provide telecommunications as well as monitoring natural resources, INSAT 4A weighed 3.1 metric tons (6,800 pounds) at launch and was built in India’s high-tech capital Bangalore.

“India spreads across 1,875 miles and to reach each and every village satellite technology is the only possible way,” Nair Madhavhan ISRO’s President told Reuters after the launch.

**China makes policy to encourage low-emission economical cars**

BEIJING, 22 Dec—China on Wednesday listed low-emission, economical cars as “encouraged” in a document, aiming to reduce the increasing oil consumption partly due to its soaring number of cars.

Lu Zhi, a senior official with the National Development and Reform Centre (NDRC), made this announcement at a Press conference of the Information Office of the State Council, noting that cars using new energy, like electricity and liquid petroleum gas, are also on the same list.

The document, an attempt to guide the industrial restructuring, were released by the NDRC on Wednesday. This document provides clear requirements for the encouraged, restricted or to-be-eliminated categories.

Investment projects are categorized largely based on energy consumption, he said, adding that those using less energy with high-technology are welcome.

According to the official, projects falling into the encouraged category enjoy preferential taxation and financial treatment.

New policies will be issued soon to cancel local restrictions on low-emission cars to encourage higher economic efficiency, he told reporters early this November.

Small cars were hitherto not allowed to run in over 80 cities of the country despite Premier Wen Jiabao’s call for cancelling restrictions on cars with low emission, low oil consumption and high efficiency this summer. —MNA/Xinhua

**Brazil’s astronaut to do engineering, physics, biology tests in space**

BRASILIA, 22 Dec—Brazil’s first astronaut Marcos Cesar Pontes will do experiments in engineering, physics and biotechnology on Russia’s Soyuz spacecraft next year, Brazilian Space Agency president Sergio Gaudenzi told the media on Tuesday.

The first space flight by a Brazilian is important, because he can perform experiments for eight days, much more than the few minutes Brazil normally has for experiments in test rockets, Gaudenzi said.

Pontes will spend eight days on the International Space Station, and he will be able to carry 15 kilos of material for experiments, of which only five kilogrammes can be returned to earth.

With Pontes, Brazil enters into the select club of nations that has sent men to space, he added. —MNA/Xinhua

**Russia sends cargo ship to “International Space Station”**

MOSCOW, 22 Dec—A Russian cargo spaceshuttle blasted off on Wednesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, starting a journey to bring supplies — and Christmas gifts — to the International Space Station, the Mission Control outside Moscow said.

The Progress M-55 ship lifted off at 21:39 (1739 GMT) on a Soyuz U rocket with 2.5 tons of fuel, water, food, equipment. The astronauts on the ISS, Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and US astronaut William McArthur, will also get a wooden Santa Claus, two red caps and gifts from their families.

Tokarev and McArthur have been working on the space station since October. The ship also carried new sensors for the European mannequin Mr Rando and Russia’s Matreshka, devices that are designed for monitoring effects of space radiation on humans.

The Progress ship is scheduled to hook up with the orbiting space lab two days later. —MNA/Xinhua

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*This photo provided by the National Zoo shows Tai Shan, the giant panda cub at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo, above, with his mother Mei Xiang as he ventured outside for the first time this, on 22 Dec, 2005, at the zoo in Washington. —INTERNET*
**Wenger warns Barcelona to show respect over Henry**

**LONDON, 23 Dec—** Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has told Barcelona to show respect if they are interested in signing striker Thierry Henry.

Wenger is upset by quotes attributed to Barcelona president Joan Laporta in English newspapers, particularly by his assertion that “we will do all we can to sign Henry. ‘I am worried about it,” Wenger told a news conference on Thursday.

“If they want to sign him they have to call us up because he is under contract for another 18 months. I hope to do something about it because it is unfair and unsettling.

“It shows a lack of respect. I feel every chairman, be it from Barcelona or Doncaster, should respect the rules in football.”

The French striker has delayed talks about a new contract until the end of the season, triggering concern among Arsenal fans that he wants to move clubs.

Wenger says no official complaint has been made by Arsenal and he is still uncertain about Laporta’s intentions.

“I have to check if that (Laporta) statement was really made. If so I feel it’s not very respectful to Arsenal Football Club. But I must speak to my directors about it.”

Henry joined Arsenal from Juventus in August 1999 and became the top scorer in the club’s history this season.

He has, however, suffered injury problems over the past year and is struggling to be fit to face Charlton on 26 December.

“I don’t know if he will play or not, he will be assessed on Saturday. He has a slight recurrence of Achilles pain, but there is no major problem. Ideally I want him to play,” Wenger said.

Arsenal reached the League Cup semi-finals on Wednesday by beating Third Division Doncaster on penalties, ending a run of three successive defeats. They are now eighth in the Premier League, 20 points behind leaders and champions Chelsea. — MNA/Reuters

**Osasuna’s victory turns up heat on Barcelona**

**MADRID, 23 Dec—** Osasuna moved within two points of leaders Barcelona after a 2-1 comeback victory over Atletico Madrid in the final Primera Liga game of the year on Thursday.

Second-placed Osasuna’s club record ninth home victory in a row gave them 38 points from 17 matches.

Champions Barcelona chalked up their 13th consecutive win in all competitions when they beat Celta Vigo 2-0 on Tuesday.

Valencia, on 32 points, overcame Real Mallorca 3-0 on Wednesday. Fourth-placed Villarreal have 30 points while stricken Real Madrid are far behind after a 2-1 defeat at home to Racing Santander the same night.

There was little to separate Osasuna and Atletico in the opening minutes at a freezing El Sadar.

The Navarrans suffered an early setback when striker Saso Milosevic went off injured after a quarter of an hour but his replacement Bernardo Romero went on to play a decisive role in the home side’s victory.

The game sparked into life after 26 minutes when Atletico snatched the lead after a speculative shot from Gabi.

The midfielder’s shot caught keeper Ricardo off guard as it skidded off the icy pitch, hit the post and fell into the path of Martin Petrov who fired high into the net.

It took Osasuna three minutes to equalize, in-form midfielder Raul Garcia curling a shot past Atletico’s stand-in keeper Roberto Jimenez after a speculative shot from Romeo.

Five minutes later they were in front, this time Romeo providing the finishing touch to a devastating counter-attack by dinking the ball over Jimenez after French winger Ludovic Delporte had curled a pass in from the left. — MNA/Reuters

**FIFA call for file on Di Canio after facetist salute**

**LONDON, 23 Dec—** FIFA has asked the Italian federation to submit its file on Lazio’s Paolo Di Canio who was banned for a game and fined 10,000 euros (11,800 US dollars) after a facetist salute in a match this month.

The 37-year-old striker made the raised-arm salute during the 2-1 Serie A defeat at Livorno on December 11. The gesture was criticized by politicians, players, fans and Jewish groups in Italy.

“FIFA now wishes to determine the extent to which Di Canio’s racist gestures not only violated the FIFA code of ethics, which came into force in 2004, but also the relevant disciplinary procedures,” world soccer’s ruling body said in a statement on its website on Thursday.

At the end of year news conference on Tuesday, FIFA president Sepp Blatter called for a stricter and more unified procedure against racism in soccer.

— MNA/Reuters

**Adriano suffers no ill effects after head clash**

**RIO, 23 Dec—** Italian soccer team Inter Milan star Adriano has suffered no ill effects from a violent clash of heads in Wednesday night’s match against Empoli, doctors said in Milan on Thursday.

The accidental blow from an Empoli defender sent the Brazil striker to the ground unconscious, unmoving and apparently breathing shallowly.

The doctors at a Milan hospital have given the striker the all-clear after two sets of scans, ruling out any permanent damage.

They said Adriano had only been temporarily concussed after Andrea Raggi rammed into him after unsuccessfully challenging for a cross into Empoli’s penalty area.

Adriano was up, alert and smiling early Thursday morning, surrounded by friends and well-wishers, the local media reported.

As a pure precaution, doctors said, he had spent the night under observation.

Adriano was soon able to telephone his mother in Rio de Janeiro, as well as Inter president Massimo Moratti, to let them know all was well, hospital sources said.

The incident came in the 14th minute of Inter’s 4-1 win, after Adriano set the home side on its way to victory with a third-minute goal.

The win kept the Milanese team in the hunt for the scudetto two games ahead of the halfway stage in the Serie A season, eight points behind runaway leaders Juventus. — MNA/Xinhua

**Ayala out until march**

**BUENOS AIRES, 23 Dec—** Argentine defender Roberto Ayala has had an operation on his right knee and should be able to play again in March, according to team doctor Donato Villani.

The 32-year-old centre back twisted his knee in training with Valencia last week. He had surgery on the same knee in August 2004 following a dislocated kneecap.

Villani said the surgery had gone well. “He should be able to play around mid-March,” he told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

**Stoichkov to coach Bulgarian national team for two more years**

**SOFO, 23 Dec—** Hristo Stoichkov will keep his job as the coach of the Bulgarian national football team for two more years, said the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) president.

Sasa Stojanovic scored Eindhoven’s consolation. The visitors struck four times in the second half in the Dutch Cup quarterfinals of the Dutch Cup.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Ajax cruise into last eight of Dutch Cup**

**AMSTERDAM, 23 Dec—** Ajax Amsterdam thrashed Second Division Eindhoven 6-1 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Dutch Cup.

The visitors struck four times in the opening 20 minutes through Angelo Charisteas, Wesley Sneijder, Frank Demouge (own goal) and Nourdin Boukhari.

Sneijder grabbed his second goal on the hour before Thomas Vermaelen completed the rout with nine minutes to go.

It was Groningen’s final match in their 72-year-old Oosterpark Stadium before they move to their new Euroborg ground next month.

In Wednesday’s matches, Roda JC Kerkrade defeated Feyenoord 1-0 while AZ Alkmaar overcame NEC Nijmegen 2-0. — MNA/Reuters
NC Delegate groups... (from page 11)

The meeting of Delegate Group of Peasants was held at the room-4 this morning.

U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division presided over the meeting together with the members of panel of chairman U Kyi Tin of Ayeayawady Division and U Mya Aye of Yangon Division. Deputy Director U Myint Kyaw of the Working Group-6 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director Daw Myant Sein.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 89 out of 93 delegates or 95.07 percent.

The meeting chairman delivered an opening speech. U Min Lun Maung of Kyakmaraw Township, Mon State read out the proposal to be submitted by Delegate Group of Peasants related to detailed basic principles for legislative tasks of Pyidaganus Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting was adjourned with the concluding remarks by the alternate chairman at 9.45 am.

Delegate Group of Workers held its meeting at the room-5 this morning.

U Kyaw Myo Win of Bago Division presided over the meeting together with the members of panel of chairman Dr Myo Than Tin of Yangon Division and U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division. Deputy Director U Zaw Win of the Working Group-7 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director U Aung Win.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 47 out of 47 delegates or cent percent.

Saturday, 24 December

View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ota-tum-matha
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. 
8:05 am
6. Musical programme
8:20 am
7. 
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Grammar Made Easy
11:00 am
10. Musical programme
11:15 am

The meeting chairman made a speech.

Dr Nyein Maung of Lashio Township, Shan State (North), U Min Myint Mang Lay of Chaungzon Township, Mon State, U Poe Ye Aung Thein of Loikaw Township, Kayah State and U Than Aye of Yanbye Township, Rakhine State read out the proposals to be submitted by Delegate of Workers Group concerning detailed basic principles for legislative tasks of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in drafting the State Constitution.

The delegates took part in the discussions and the meeting chairman gave concluding remarks.

The meeting of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel was held at the room-7 this morning.

Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the Ministry of Health pressed over the meeting together with the members of panel of chairman U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs and U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce. Deputy Director U Htay Win of the Working Group-9 of NCC Work Committee acted as MC together with co-MC Assistant Director U Hsein Min.

The MC declared the validity of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as there had been 108 out of 109 delegates or 99.08 percent.

The alternate chairman delivered an opening speech.

U Ba Hein of the Ministry of Religious Affairs read out the proposal to be submitted by Delegate of State Service Personnel as to detailed basic principles for legislative tasks of region or state Hluttaw to be included in legislative sector in writing the State Constitution.

The delegates held discussions and the alternate chairman gave concluding remarks.—MNA

WEATHER

Friday, 23 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, Weather has been partly cloudy in Ayeayawady Division, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State, upper Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in lower Sagain Division and Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Rakhine and northern Shan States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagain, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant maximum temperature was in Mawlamyine (66°C). The proportionality amount of rainfall recorded were Sittway and Coco Island (1.18 inches each) Mawlamyine (0.95 inch), Homalin and Chauk (0.63 inches each), Kalaw and Nuangyi (0.52 inch) each and Kalalaw and Pakokku (0.39 inch) each.

Maximum temperature on 22-12-2005 was 81°F. Minimum temperature on 23-12-2005 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:00 hrs MST on 23-12-2005 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 22-12-2005 was nil.

Rainfalls on 23-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (103.62) inches at Mingaladon, (102.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (107.44) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from East at (06:30) hours MST on 23-12-2005.

Bay influence: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s tropical depression over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay had moved North-North-eastwards and is centered at about (320) miles East-Northeast of Chensuy, India. It is forecast to move North-Northeastwards slowly. Weather is cloudy in West Central and North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-12-2005:

Weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin and Kayah States and isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy rainfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the seas: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-12-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of December 2005:

During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

“Storm Warning” (Issued at (15:00) hrs MST on 23-12-2005)

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, tropical depression over West Central Bay had moved north-eastwards and is centered over the sea at about (320) miles southwest of Thandwe, Rakhine State. It is forecast to move north-eastwards and is located north-west of Rakheik State within next (24) hours commencing noon today. During crossing the coast, squalls with rough seas are often likely northern Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (550) to (600) mph.

Under the influence of this depression, the height of storm surge may reach about (3) feet above normal tide along northern Rakhine coasts.
**Four economic objectives**
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

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

**Four 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

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**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Deputy Commander of Chengdu Military Area Command of PRC**

**Yangon, 23 Dec**

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received the visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Commander of Chengdu Military Area Command Lieutenant-General Gui Quanzhi of the People’s Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha, here, this morning.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Brig-Gen Zin Yaw of Mingaladon Air Base, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong.

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**Prime Minister sends message of congratulations to Polish counterpart**

**Yangon, 24 Dec**

General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, who has been appointed as Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Federal Republic of Poland.

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**Ngamoeik Water Purifying Plant to supply 140m gallons of water to Yangon City daily for first phase**

**Yangon, 23 Dec**

As a gesture of hailing the National Convention, Ngamoeik Water Purifying Plant constructed in Hmawby Township by Yangon City Development Committee-YCDC was inaugurated this morning.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an opening address and unveiled the stone plaque of the plant. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn formally opened the plant. Under the guidance of the Head of State, the plant was constructed to be able to supply potable water to Yangon City and it will supply additional 45 million gallons of safe drinking water to Yangon City a day, said Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn at the opening ceremony.

Construction work of Yangon City water supply project began in May last year. The plant, a part of the project, was constructed at a cost of K5628.5 million, he added. Thanks to the plant, supply of water to Yangon City increases from 95 million gallons to 140 million gallons a day. On completion, the project will be able to supply 230 million gallons of safe drinking water to the city a day, he said. (See page 10)