Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 8th intake DSTA

YANGON, 24 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the dinner to mark the 8th intake graduation of Defence Services Technological Academy held at the DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 6 pm on 23 December.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Mandalay Mayor, the commander and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, the rector of DSTA, officials, commandants, professors and heads of departments, teachers, cadets and their parents and relatives.

MNA

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

YANGON, 24 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the dinner to mark the 8th intake graduation of Defence Services Technological Academy held at the DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 6 pm on 23 December.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Mandalay Mayor, the commander and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, the rector of DSTA, officials, commandants, professors and heads of departments, teachers, cadets and their parents and relatives. MNA

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

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

INSIDE

More progress has been made in road transport now if compared with 1988. The Ministry of Transport has opened flights of jets and Fokker aircraft from Kengtung to Yangon-Mandalay-Taunggyi. Private-owned Air Bagan and Yangon Airways have also been established for better air transport.

PAGE 6

SAI THEIN (KENG TING)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 25 December, 2005

**Strive for building of a modern Tatmadaw**

The government is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the process, it is trying its utmost for the emergence of a modern Tatmadaw. Tatmadaw must be a patriotic Tatmadaw that has been upholding the four oaths. Being a mercenary force but a patriotic Tatmadaw is advancing with acceleration. 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. Therefore, the capabilities of new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are imperative in building a modern Tatmadaw.

The graduation parade of No 8 Intake of Defence Services Technical Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin on 23 December morning with an address by Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe said: You are engineers as well as Tatmadawmen. Tatmadawmen 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 sector. In the history of Tatmadaw, military engineers participated in battles like infantry man. This is the duty of soldiers. That is why you must be junior military officers who have fine traditions of good soldiers.

At a time when efforts are being made for transforming the nation into an industrial one, the new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are needed to lend themselves to the drive.

Thanks to the innovation of engineers, the industrial sector has made progress very significantly in the world today, benefiting the entire humanity.

Constantly learning the changing world, the new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are to make innovative ways to adapt to the changing situations of the world.

Since its birth, the Tatmadaw has not been a mercenary force but a patriotic Tatmadaw that has been upholding the four oaths. Being equipped with esprit de corps, the Tatmadaw members are sacrificing lives for each other in the Tatmadaw that has possessed fine traditions.

The Tatmadaw always upholds Our Three Main National Causes that is not just a policy that cultivates Union Spirit in the interests of the national races but nationalistic spirit based on patriotic fervour and a national policy that can shape the brighter future of the State.

Therefore, the new generation Tatmadawmen engineers are to take part in the drive for building a modern and developed nation while striving for the emergence of a modern Tatmadaw.

---

**Information Minister receives British Researcher, Chinese Cultural Attache separately**

**Prizes awarded to winners of snooker and billiards events**

**MICB staff take part in December sports activities**

Staff of MICB participate in December sports activities. — **MNA**

---

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeared
S Korean southern areas hit by heavy snowfall

SEOUL, 23 Dec — South Korean southern regions suffered greatly from record snowfall that blanketed the regions recently, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

Heavy damages were reported in most of South Korea's southern coastal regions where up to a metre of snow has fallen in the past two weeks.

So far, three deaths have been reported due to the snow storm, said Yonhap.

The local government in Gwangju, a major city in the South Jeolla Province, said about 40 centimetres of snow had fallen overnight in the region.

About 1,200 schools in the affected regions temporarily shut down, with some elementary schools starting their winter vacation earlier than scheduled, reported Yonhap.

Education officials in North Jeolla Province said 98 elementary schools will remain closed till Friday due to the heavy snow storm. Also 18 schools will commence their winter vacation earlier than expected.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy issues arrest warrants against CIA agents

Rome, 24 Dec— An Italian court on Friday sentenced to life in prison for an alleged crime 22 alleged CIA agents accused of kidnapping a Muslim cleric in Italy, as well as an Italian police officer.

The warrants were issued by a Milan court, they said. Egyptian cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, whom Italian investigators have accused of ties to al-Qaeda and recruiting combatants for Iraq, was allegedly kidnapped by 22 CIA agents in a Milan street in February 2003 and flown to Egypt for interrogation.

The former Imam, who is also known as Abu Omar, alleges he was tortured and beaten while being questioned in prison in Egypt. The Italian move means the American agents may be arrested in any of the European Union's 25 member states.

A European Union warrant, which was issued arrest warrants for 22 alleged CIA agents, agreed by the European Union in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001, is automatically valid across the European Union and does not require approval of any government.

A recent report by the Washington Post alleges that the CIA agents had lied to Italy about the suspect's whereabouts and that they had briefed their Italian counterparts about his abduction.

MNA/Xinhua

China hopes to further pragmatic cooperation with Kyrgyzstan

BEIJING, 23 Dec — Chinese top political advisor Jia Qinglin said here Thursday that China highly values its ties with Kyrgyzstan and will make more efforts to boost China-Kyrgyzstan good-neighbourly friendship and cooperation.

"To develop the China-Kyrgyzstan cooperation relations is an established policy of China," Jia said in a meeting with Alikbek Jekshenkulov, Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said that China-Kyrgyzstan ties have developed smoothly and produced remarkable results over the past 14 years.

He said China and Kyrgyzstan have settled border disputes, which have laid a solid legal foundation for friendly ties.

He also expressed his delight with the effective cooperation between the two countries in the economic and trade areas.

"We have also maintained close cooperation in the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and made contributions to world peace and stability," Jia said.

Jia expressed China's appreciation for Kyrgyzstan's firm support for China on the issues including Taiwan, Tibet and the fight against the East Turkistan pro-independ-
Strong quake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Dec — An earthquake measuring 6.4 Richter Scale hit North Sulawesi Province Wednesday, but no casualties has reported so far, an official of Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

The quake occurred at 07:07 GMT, or 14:09 local time, with epicentre 0.1 degree South Latitude and 124.9 degree North Longitude, an official in charge named only Subagio told Xinhua in telephone.

The quake centre was in Maluku Sea, some 2,025 kilometres northeast Jakarta, south of Manado, the capital city of North Sulawesi Province.

Gunmen kidnap 3 women employed in Baghdad’s Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — Gunmen kidnapped three Iraqi women working in Baghdad’s Green Zone on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“Unknown armed men in three BMW cars ambushed the car of three sisters working in the Green Zone, while they were leaving their house in Al-Jalam District in southern Baghdad,” the source said. “The gunmen attacked the car and dragged the three women and the driver out of the car and took them away,” the source said.

The heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad is housing government offices and US Embassy. Guerrillas frequently attack Iraqis working with the US forces and those who work with the government, accusing them of collaboration with the US occupation of Iraq.

Gunmen attack Iraqi security checkpoint in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — Gunmen attacked an Iraqi security checkpoint in southern Baghdad on Thursday, killing four policemen and wounding six others, a police source told Xinhua.

“Armed men opened fire at about 7:10 am (0410 GMT) at a police check-point erected under a bridge in Doura District,” Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police said.

“Four policemen were killed in the attack and six others were wounded,” he added. According to the source, the policemen were sleeping when the gunmen surprised them.

MALAYSIAN police crack int’l drug ring

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec — Malaysian police have crippled an international drug trafficking channel in separate raids here in the past two weeks, seizing a total of 170 kilos of ketamine and arresting at least five suspected traffickers, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

The contraband was worth of 15 million ringgit and believed bound for China, the News Straits Times said.

The latest success came when police raided a hotel over the weekend, capturing 15 kilos of ketamine and detaining the suspected traffickers, the daily said.

A few days earlier, police detained a couple who were attempting to smuggle 3.4 kilos of ketamine out of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the newspaper said.

On December 10, police raided an unoccupied apartment after receiving a tip-off, seizing 150 kilos of ketamine, an anesthetic primarily used on animals, it added. Police declined further comment on the cases as investigations were underway.

Chinese electronics goods sell well in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Dec — Chinese electronics and electrical appliances are selling very well in Vietnam’s northern provinces, local newspaper Youth reported Thursday.

More and more Vietnamesse people, in the last weeks of this year, have been going to markets in the provinces bordering China like Quang Ninh to buy such Chinese goods as VCD and DVD players, magnetic cookers, and fans which blow hot air.

Hot air fans are selling like hot cakes, since this winter is forecast to be colder. In Quang Ninh, the fan is priced 22 US dollars, compared with 34.6 dollars for a similar South Korean product.

Vietnam is expected to see stronger flows of foreign electronics goods from 1 January, 2006, when their import taxes, under regional tariff reduction roadmaps, are to decrease to 0-5 per cent from current 15-30 per cent.

Foreign products, originating mainly from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, such as large-screen TV sets, DVD players, fridges, air-conditioners, washing machines and microwave ovens are also likely to sell well in Vietnam next year, the report said.

Sino-Thai Trade Fair opens to boost bilateral ties

BANGKOK, 23 Dec — The Fourth Sino-Thai Trade Exhibition Fair opened here on Thursday as Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak vowed to upgrade the Sino-Thai relations into a “more-than-brotherhood level”.

Presiding over the fair held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-Thailand diplomatic ties, Somkid, also the Commerce Minister, said he was determined to make a visit to one province of China on a monthly basis to boost trade cooperation.

Somkid said Thailand and China had focussed relations on trade, investment and tourism in the past. In the future, he noted, the two countries would develop ties to a stage where they are close partners and play supporting role in boosting the regional economy.

“I’m 52 years old now. I don’t know how many years I will live in the rest of my life. But I have strong intention to achieve that goal and want to see the bilateral ties of the two countries develop into more than a brotherhood.”

“My name Somkid means flying knife with no missing target. My nickname is Khuang which means cheerful whenever met with each other. So, I am confident the success the two countries can make will be something more than the brotherhood level,” he said.

The four-day fair was held by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Thai-Sino Business Committee of Thailand. Thousands of products from the two countries were being shown and several meetings which aim bilateral investment will be held during the expo.

Gunmen kidnap 3 women employed in Baghdad’s Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — Gunmen kidnapped three Iraqi women working in Baghdad’s Green Zone on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“Unknown armed men in three BMW cars ambushed the car of three sisters working in the Green Zone, while they were leaving their house in Al-Jalam District in southern Baghdad,” the source said. “The gunmen attacked the car and dragged the three women and the driver out of the car and took them away,” the source said.

The heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad is housing government offices and US Embassy. Guerrillas frequently attack Iraqis working with the US forces and those who work with the government, accusing them of collaboration with the US occupation of Iraq.

Gunmen attack Iraqi security checkpoint in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Dec — Gunmen attacked an Iraqi security checkpoint in southern Baghdad on Thursday, killing four policemen and wounding six others, a police source told Xinhua.

“Armed men opened fire at about 7:10 am (0410 GMT) at a police check-point erected under a bridge in Doura District,” Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police said.

“Four policemen were killed in the attack and six others were wounded,” he added. According to the source, the policemen were sleeping when the gunmen surprised them.

MALAYSIAN police crack int’l drug ring

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec — Malaysian police have crippled an international drug trafficking channel in separate raids here in the past two weeks, seizing a total of 170 kilos of ketamine and arresting at least five suspected traffickers, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

The contraband was worth of 15 million ringgit and believed bound for China, the News Straits Times said.

The latest success came when police raided a hotel over the weekend, capturing 15 kilos of ketamine and detaining the suspected traffickers, the daily said.

A few days earlier, police detained a couple who were attempting to smuggle 3.4 kilos of ketamine out of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the newspaper said.

On December 10, police raided an unoccupied apartment after receiving a tip-off, seizing 150 kilos of ketamine, an anesthetic primarily used on animals, it added. Police declined further comment on the cases as investigations were underway.

Chinese electronics goods sell well in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Dec — Chinese electronics and electrical appliances are selling very well in Vietnam’s northern provinces, local newspaper Youth reported Thursday.

More and more Vietnamesse people, in the last weeks of this year, have been going to markets in the provinces bordering China like Quang Ninh to buy such Chinese goods as VCD and DVD players, magnetic cookers, and fans which blow hot air.

Hot air fans are selling like hot cakes, since this winter is forecast to be colder. In Quang Ninh, the fan is priced 22 US dollars, compared with 34.6 dollars for a similar South Korean product.

Vietnam is expected to see stronger flows of foreign electronics goods from 1 January, 2006, when their import taxes, under regional tariff reduction roadmaps, are to decrease to 0-5 per cent from current 15-30 per cent.

Foreign products, originating mainly from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, such as large-screen TV sets, DVD players, fridges, air-conditioners, washing machines and microwave ovens are also likely to sell well in Vietnam next year, the report said.

Sino-Thai Trade Fair opens to boost bilateral ties

BANGKOK, 23 Dec — The Fourth Sino-Thai Trade Exhibition Fair opened here on Thursday as Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak vowed to upgrade the Sino-Thai relations into a “more-than-brotherhood level”.

Presiding over the fair held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-Thailand diplomatic ties, Somkid, also the Commerce Minister, said he was determined to make a visit to one province of China on a monthly basis to boost trade cooperation.

Somkid said Thailand and China had focussed relations on trade, investment and tourism in the past. In the future, he noted, the two countries would develop ties to a stage where they are close partners and play supporting role in boosting the regional economy.

“I’m 52 years old now. I don’t know how many years I will live in the rest of my life. But I have strong intention to achieve that goal and want to see the bilateral ties of the two countries develop into more than a brotherhood.”

“My name Somkid means flying knife with no missing target. My nickname is Khuang which means cheerful whenever met with each other. So, I am confident the success the two countries can make will be something more than the brotherhood level,” he said.

The four-day fair was held by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Thai-Sino Business Committee of Thailand. Thousands of products from the two countries were being shown and several meetings which aim bilateral investment will be held during the expo.
CPC, Chinese Govt attach importance to Sino-Cuban ties

HAVANA, 22 Dec — The Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese Government attach great importance to the development of Sino-Cuban relations, a senior CPC official said.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro here on Tuesday evening.

Luo said China and Cuba, both socialist countries sharing the common ideal and are making efforts to explore socialist development paths with their own characteristics.

He said that in recent years, China-Cuba relations have entered a new period of overall development with more exchanges and cooperation in politics, economy, trade, science and technology, culture and education.

He said this year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Cuba, noting that China is determined to implement the consensus reached between leaders of the two countries aiming to further develop the friendly and cooperative relationship of mutual benefit.

Luo also expressed his appreciation for Cuba's support to China on such issues as Taiwan, Tibet and human rights.

Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, said bilateral relations have progressed smoothly in recent years with frequent exchanges of high-level visits and sound cooperation in various fields.

Castro, also president of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, said the Cuban side will further promote cooperation with China, especially in medical and health fields.

Philippines urges for creation of lessons learned unit at UNSC

MANILA, 22 Dec — The Philippine Government called the UN Security Council to assess and improve itself as the country began winding up its two-year membership in the organ, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Wednesday.

According to the DFA report, Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Lauro Baja told the 751 Sanctions Committee on Somalia and the 1,566 Working Group on Terrorism, which he chairs, that there is a need for the Security Council to “assess itself and improve its structures and practices if it is to serve the interest of the international community”.

The Philippines was elected as one of ten non-permanent members of the Security Council in 2003 and will end its term on 31 December, 2005.

Baja called for the creation of a Lessons Learned Unit that will analyze and consider the effectiveness of the measures the Council implements and the practices and procedures it employs, particularly in the area of sanctions and the mandates of the sanctions committees and other subsidiary bodies.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico seeks int'l action against US migration plan

MEXICO CITY, 23 Dec — The Mexican Government is seeking a common strategy to fight the US anti-immigrant plan, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez said on local media on Wednesday.

Colombia, the Dominican Republic and the Central American nations will be Mexico’s allies, and the plan will be pushed at a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick next week, he said.

The US Senate is currently considering an anti-migrant bill, which will build 1,200 kilometres of new fencing on the 3,200-kilometre border between Mexico and the United States. If approved, the new bill will intensify measures available to courts against undocumented migrants and make it more difficult for employers to hire undocumented workers.

The Republican party’s initiative has been opposed by all the Latin American countries with substantial numbers of people in the United States, as well as by human rights groups that defend immigrants.

There is a possibility that the US Senate might reject the bill, because public opinion is against the plan, Derbez said.

Mexican President Vicente Fox described the bill as shameful, and added that he is sure it will eventually be rejected.

The Mexican Government has offered a migrant reform proposal that includes provisions to transform illegal Mexican migrants into documented workers. Around 10 million Mexicans live in the United States, sending home 400 million dollars each year, according to Mexican Government statistics.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow causes blackout in western Japan

TOKYO, 23 Dec — Blackout hit four prefectures in western Japan on Thursday morning because of heavy snow, the Kansai Electric Co Inc said.

The power line from a nuclear power station in the Fukui Prefecture was hit by snow storm, which led to the halt of electricity transmission for about 40 minutes from 8:50 am (GMT 2350 Wednesday) in prefectures of Osaka, Shiga, Kyoto and Nara.

More than 690,000 households were affected by the blackout in the region, the company said.

Van-lorry collision leaves 4 killed, 3 injured in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec — Four people were killed and three others seriously injured when a van collided with a lorry in northern Malaysia on Thursday.

The accident happened Thursday morning in the southern part of the Perak State, according to local media reports. The driver of the van was killed, and all other victims, either killed or injured, were passengers in the van.

A seven-year-old girl was among the dead while a 19-month-old baby was injured. One of the injured passengers was still in a coma in a local hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen wound senior official in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec — Gunmen attacked the car of a senior Iraqi official in the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad’s western district on Wednesday, wounding him and killing his driver, police source said.

“Unknown armed men opened fire at about 8:15 am (0515 GMT) at the car of Hamid Muhammed Jawad, director general in Agriculture Ministry, near the Naftaq al-Shurtta,” Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police told.

MNA/Xinhua

Eight killed in van accident in Peru

LIMA, 23 Dec — At least eight people were killed and two others injured when a van plunged into a 300-metre ravine in the mountains near Lima on Wednesday.

The driver lost control of the vehicle at a turn while travelling from Huansa to Chosica, 50 kilometres east of Lima. In a similar accident on Tuesday, 17 passengers died and 28 others were injured when a bus fell into a ravine in Ancash, 400 kilometres northeast of Lima.

The Peruvian Government is failing to tackle the problem of traffic safety, with nine people being killed on the roads every day, said Peruvian transport expert Federico Battifora.

MNA/Xinhua

Cargo ship sinks in E China sea, leaving 13 missing

HANGZHOU, 23 Dec — A cargo ship carrying 3,400 tons of china clay sank in the Longkou Sea area in east China’s Shandong Province at around 8 pm Wednesday, leaving 13 people missing.

The ship was trying to anchor at Longkou Port Wednesday evening when it was sheered by strong winds and tilted by huge wave, spilling all of the 14 people onboard into the sea.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops unload a wounded Iraqi soldier from a US Army blackhawk air ambulance at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
It was nearly noon when I returned from office of Shan State (East) Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. The purpose of my visit to Shan State (East) was to learn the progress in communication services in the area.

On arrival at the apartment where I was staying, I received a phone call from a National Convention delegate from Ayeyawady Division. Over the phone, he said he gained knowledge from my article in Pyi Myanmar journal featuring a network of roads in Shan State. And he urged me to write progress in communication services including air transport.

In this context, I would like to write about the area in the east of Thanlwin with attractive characteristics. Kengtung region of Shan State (East) is in the eastern Myanmar.

Besides, geographically, it shares 217 miles of borderline with the People’s Republic of China in the north-east, 155 miles of borderline with Laos in the east and 182 miles of borderline with Thailand in the south-east.

Shan plateau, hills and mountain ranges are part of the topographical features of Shan State (East). Creeks and streams called in various local names flow and the area is covered with thick forests.

Economists have recognized that the thick forests of Shan State (East) are proof of wealth of Myanmar valuable teak.

It is learnt that diverse ethnic groups with various religions live in such significant area in the east of Thanlwin, Shan State (East). I also write this article in honour of those ethnic groups such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Akha, Lahu and Wa.

In late 1988-89, local nationals had to cooperate with the government for all-round development of Shan State (East).

More progress has been made in road transport now if compared with 1988. The Ministry of Transport has opened flights of jets and Fokker aircraft from Kengtung to Yangon-Mandalay-Taunggyi. Private-owned Air Bagan and Yangon Airways have also been established for better air transport.

I would also like to present progress in communication services in 2005 compared with that in 1988. In 1988, there were only two communications stations in Kengtung and Tachilek. However, nine communications stations have been opened in Kengtung district, five in Tachilek district, seven in Monghsat district and five in Mongphyat district so far totalling 26. Although there were only two telegraph offices in Kengtung and Tachilek, now six offices have been opened in Kengtung district, four in Tachilek district, seven in Monghsat district and four in Mongphyat district numbering 21.

Thanks to the efforts of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, two auto telephone exchanges have been established in Kengtung district and one each in Tachilek district, Mongphyat district and Monghsat district.

The number of manual telephone exchanges has reached 14 in Kengtung district, six in Tachilek district, three in Mongphyat district and eight in Monghsat district.

As for the improvement of modern communications, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has launched satellite communication system in Mongla, Mongton and Mongyawn. Two telephone carrier board offices have also been opened in Kengtung district. In addition, four microwave stations have been opened in Kengtung district, two in Tachilek district, five in Monghsat district and one in Mongphyat district.

The following table shows the development of communications stations of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>post office</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>telegraph office</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>auto phone exchange</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>manual phone exchange</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>phone carrier</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>board office</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>microwave station</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above-mentioned stations and offices have been extended up to the townships of the areas in the east of Thanlwin. So local nationals can make local as well as overseas phone calls at any time.

All in all, the State is building infrastructures to develop all regions across the Union and to improve living standards of all national people. That is why realizing the goodwill of the State, I write this article about the developing transport and communications sector in Shan State (East).

(Translation: ST)  
Kyemon:24-12-2005
Emerging schools and agricultural development in border areas

Prevalence of peace and stability in border areas is the contributing factor for development of remote areas of the Union of Myanmar.

With stability and peace in the respective regions, mutual friendship, understanding, mutual assistance, cooperation and coordination have taken root among national brethren.

The Tatmadaw government, placing emphasis on serving the interests of national brethren, is implementing border area development projects in each and every region as well as in remote areas.

Thanks to the endeavours made by the government in 22 border area development regions, these areas have developed rapidly and markedly.

The table shows the development of schools, agricultural camps and dams and reservoirs among others in the border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Middle school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>High school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Agricultural office</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agricultural camp</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dam completed and under construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dam to be built</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Canal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tractor station</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bangladesh exports up 12.47% in July-October

DHAKA, 24 Dec — Bangladesh earned 3.346 billion US dollars by exporting goods in the first four months of the current fiscal showing a 12.47-per-cent growth over the same period of last year, official sources said.

Increased export of knitwear and positive growth of woven garments contributed to the growth in exports during the period, local daily, The Independent, quoted Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) sources as saying on Friday.

The knitwear export grew 26 per cent to 1.23 billion dollars exceeding the growth target by 3 per cent set for the first four months of the current fiscal (July 2005-June 2006). EPB officials said export of woven garments increased by 0.18 per cent earning 1.286 billion dollars in July-October period. The country earned 13 million dollars in exports of textile fabrics during the period, registering the highest growth of 217 per cent among the different export items.

The higher growth in export earnings was mainly due to the volume of export increased by 16 per cent both in primary products and manufactured goods although price index fall by 3.89 per cent.

Export of primary products in terms of price decreased by 10.97 per cent and volume increased by 17.15 per cent in the first four months on a month-to-month basis.

Export of manufactured goods fell by 3.31 per cent in terms of price but increased by 16.33 per cent in volume. MNA/Xinhua

Water supply enough in S China cities

GUANGZHOU, 24 Dec — Local officials said on Thursday the potable water supply is enough in the southern cities of Guangzhou, Foshan and Yingde, despite a water crisis caused by smeltery waste.

The toxic slick, resultant from excessive cadmium discharges from a smelting works in Shaoguan City on December 15, has polluted the Beijiang River in Guangdong Province. The downstream cities of Guangzhou and Foshan have launched emergency plans to ensure safe drinking water supplies to their residents as a toxic slick approaches.

Besides Beijiang, Guangzhou, provincial capital of Guangdong with a population of over 10 million, also use water from the rivers of Dongjiang and Liuxi, said an official with the city’s work team to deal with the water crisis, who declined to give his name.

"Only one waterworks sources from Beijiang in Guangzhou. Even if it is closed, the daily water supply will be little affected," said the official.

However, he noted, Guangzhou has ordered all its waterworks to increase storage and prepared backup bottled water and water carriers.

The urban district of Yingde City, which is about 90 kilometres from Shaoguan, began tapping water from a nearby reservoir through a 1.4-kilometre-long water pipe linking the city’s waterworks and the reservoir that was built on early Thursday morning.

The city has stopped taking water from Beijiang River since Wednesday night. The reservoir can provide up to 48,000 tons of water by the pipe daily, which is enough for the use of 100,000 residents in the district, according to local government.— MNA/Xinhua
Strive to do research...

(from page 16)

In response, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that there was a single department of medical research, and now there has been a department of medical research each in Lower Myanmar, Central Myanmar, and Upper Myanmar.

The departments are to make efforts to do research for production of reliable and potent traditional medicines. In the process, the department concerned is to carry out research with respective own styles for achieving success.

He stressed the importance of categorizing research work — major research, normal research, and special research — to manufacture traditional medicines in accord with the standards set to cure such major diseases as cancer, HIV/AIDS, and cardiac disease apart from the six common major diseases in Myanmar — dysentery, diarrhoea, hypertension, diabetes, malaria and tuberculosis.

He said in keeping records of a variety of herbal plants it is required to do research region-wise, based on salient points of which kind of herbal plant has strengths in curing what sorts of diseases.

Next, the Senior General observed the herbal plantations. He also inspected the stock-piling of herbal plants that can cure the six common major diseases.

The minister and officials conducted the Senior General round the herbal plantations that can cure renal disease, uterine disease, oral disease, neuritis disease, osteitis disease and many other diseases. The Senior General gave guidance, assessing the reports.

It is learnt that the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) was established under the guidance of the Head of State to do research on a wider scale on the diseases and health problems that are common in Upper Myanmar with the aim of providing equal health care for the people in Lower Myanmar and those in Upper Myanmar. So far, the department has stockpiled 412 kinds of herbal plants.

The pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) was on test run in March 2005 and it is now producing pills and tablets. And it will manufacture injections, fluids, lotions and powders around December 2006 in the second stage.
Strive to do research…
(from page 8)
pills and tablets, arrange-ments being made in ac-cord with the guidance for production of qual-ity products and distribu-tion of them at reason-able prices, and prepara-tions for production of injec-tions, fluids, lotions, and powder in the sec-ond stage.
The Senior General gave guidance on main-taining the quality of the products, seeking better ways to distribute the products to the people directly, and speedy pro-duction and distribution of the sorts of medicines handed over by the de-partments of medical re-search after achieving success in doing re-search.
The minister also reported on the new models of sewing ma-chines innovated from the old ones of the Sew-ing Machine (Kyaukse).
Next, the Senior General inspected the buildings under con-struction in the com-pound of the factory.
The pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) was on test run in March 2005 and it is now pro-ducing pills and tablets. And it will manufacture injec-tions, fluids, lotions and powders around De-cember 2006 in the sec-ond stage.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs back from China

YANGON, 25 Dec — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air yester-day after attending the diplo-matic consulta-tion held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China from 18 to 24 December 2005 at the invitation of Mr Wu Dawei, Deputy Minister of Foreign Af-fairs of PRC.
The deputy minister and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ambas-sador Mr Guan Mu and embassy staff.
While in China, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxing, and held diplomatic consultation with Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Wu Dawei. They discussed matters concerning the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations, cooperation in the ASEAN-China programmes, exchange of visits of foreign service personnel and exchange of students from foreign ministries for diplo-macy and language training and cooperation in eradication of narcotic drugs between Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China as well as international and regional issues.
U Kyaw Thu also held discussion with Assis-tant Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Tang Lulu in Kunming on matters concerning bilateral secu-rity and economic cooperation at the border areas.
Along with the Deputy Foreign Minister, mem-bers of the Myanmar delegation Deputy Director-General of Political Department Daw Than Than Htay and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back.
Paragu Shantiniketan Library put into service

YANGON, 24 Dec — Paragu Shantiniketan Library established by Writer Paragu who won Life-Long National Literary Award and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-Long Literary Award was put into service at 998/990, U Pon Nya Road, Ward 16, Shwe Paukkan Myothit in North Okkalapa Township this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD formally opened the library. The minister and party viewed rare books displayed at the Paragu Shantiniketan Library.

Buddhism treatises in Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit versions, Pitakat literature, books in Hindi version including Ramayana treatise, copies of Encyclopedia in English, dictionaries, English, Myanmar law books, books on psychology, Myanmar classic literature, books written by Writer Saya Paragu, totaling over 10,000 are kept at the library for public and researchers.

Also present on the occasion Director-General U Khin Maung Huy of Myanmar Radio and Television, Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Aung Nyin of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, Adviser to the Ministry of Information U Myo Thant (Maung Hsa Shin), Chief Editor Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Reid) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), departmental personnel, local authorities and guests.

Classical Songs Scrutinizing and Music Note Compilation Committee holds 10th Anniversary Ceremony

(from page 16) certificates of honour and cash to U Min Kyi (musical note writer), U Myo Nyunt (Lecturer), U Kyi Thwin (musician), Daw Tin Tin Mya (Assistant Director), Daw Thin Thin Myat (musician), Daw Yi Yi Thant (musician), Daw Sein Htay (musician), U Tin (musician), U Zaw Htay (Director-Production), U Yi Nwe (Lecturer-Music), and U Sein Hla Myaing (Myanmar Thabin Asyain).

Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung handed over certificates and cash to families of late artists Brig-Gen Khin Ohn (Reid), Thanlyin U Mya Oo, Pianist U Hla Htut, Harpist U Khin Myint, Harpist U Myint Maung, and Pantaya U Kyaw Nyunt.

Member of Myanmar Language Commission Saw Mon Nyin expressed gratitude.

After the ceremony, all the participants were served with dinner. — MNA

Anniversary ceremony of E Emperor Media Group held

YANGON, 24 Dec — E Emperor Media Group organized its anniversary at Seinlak Myothit on Inya Road, here, yesterday evening.

Chief Executive Officer U Ko Ko (Ko Ko YIT) extended greetings, and presented prizes and medals to Editor U Kyaw Swa Min of Flower News journal who won the best staff award, and Assistant Editor Daw Kyaw Hsu Mon of the Yangon Times journal who secured the best newspaper award, and prizes to other employees. On behalf of the guests, U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thak Kyar) gave a speech. Later, the dinner was hosted to the guests.

E Emperor Media Group publishes the Yangon Times, Flower News and the Tech-Dis journals.

Ceremonies in support of National Convention held in Natogyi, Taungtha, Ngazun

YANGON, 24 Dec — A ceremony haileding the National Convention was held at the town hall in Natogyi Township on 18 December morning. It was attended by 1,200 people from five columns of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization and townsenders.

Townswnder U Bi made a speech. Joint Secretary of Township USDA U Soe Myint talked a motion in support of the National Convention. Secretary of Township WVO U Khin Maung Htwe townsenders U Win Aung and U Thein Naing Tun, member of Township WAO Daw Than Than Maw and Permanent member of MCWA Daw Than Than Hsein seconded the motions.

All the participants approved the motion in support of the National Convention, and the ceremony ended with the chanting of the slogans.

DONATE BLOOD
China vows to enhance cooperation with OPEC

BEIJING, 24 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan said here on Thursday that China will increase dialogue with the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) in order to contribute to the stability of the world oil market.

In a meeting with OPEC President and Kuwait Oil Minister Ahmed Fahd al Sabah, Zeng said China has maintained good relations with the OPEC members and will increase communication and dialogue with the important oil producer union. As a big oil and gas consumer, China is ready to cooperate with oil-rich Kuwait on oil exploitation and development, oil refining, petrochemical engineering and oil trading, Zeng said.

Zeng hoped China and Kuwait could deepen energy cooperation to achieve mutually beneficial, win-win outcomes. The two countries have established good cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and sports fields, said Zeng. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to invest heavily in power industry in 2006

HANOI, 24 Dec — Vietnam will spend nearly 37.56 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (over 2.36 billion US dollars) on developing power projects next year to meet its increasing demand for electricity.

The Electricity of Vietnam (EVN), the state-owned power monopoly, will pour the money mainly into completing the construction and upgrading of four power plants, building seven new plants, and accelerating the implementation of 32 major power generation and transmission projects, local newspaper Investment reported on Friday.

Early this month, the EVN started to build Southeast Asia’s largest hydroelectric plant with capacity of 2,400 megawatt in the northern province of Son La. The plant’s first turbine is scheduled to go into operational in late 2010, the corporation said, noting that all of its six turbines will annually generate an average of 10 billion kilowatt hour.

Power demand has annually increased 13-15 per cent in recent years in Vietnam, where 60 per cent of the electricity output comes from hydroelectricity. Vietnam’s demand for electricity is estimated at 53 billion kilowatt hour next year, up around 17 per cent against this year. Now, 96 per cent of communes in Vietnam have access to the national power grid, the EVN said.

In a meeting with Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan, the EVN hoped China and Kuwait could deepen energy cooperation to achieve mutually beneficial, win-win outcomes. The two countries have established good cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and sports fields, said Zeng. — MNA/Xinhua

Top Iranian cleric vows to defend nuke rights to last drop of blood

TEHERAN, 24 Dec — A top Iranian cleric vowed here Friday that Iran would not give up its right to access to peaceful nuclear technology, saying the nation prepares to defend the right “to the last drop of blood”.

Ahmad Khatami, Tehran’s substitute Friday Prayers Leader, made the remarks in a speech to the nation preparing to defend its inalienable rights, agreed to hold further negotiations in January and be completed by the end of next year.

The deal is believed to be worth 1.4 billion US dollars and is the biggest ever arms deal between Russia and Iran. The Tor-M1 system is capable of identifying up to 48 targets and tracking and firing at two targets simultaneously at a height of up to 6,100 metres. US officials have called the deal a source of concern and said the US has opposed it.

Moscow, 24 Dec — Russia will fully comply with a deal with Iran to supply it with the Tor-M1 air defence systems despite US objections, a senior Defence Ministry official said Friday.

The Russian side, despite objections from the United States, will honour its contract with Iran for the supply of the upgraded version of the Tor system, the official was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

The deal means that countries still have the right to export material to Iran, something the US has opposed in the past. Russia is the latest country to see the benefits of the deal, having sold the Tor-M1 system to Iran.

Expert suggests gene bank for wildlief be built in Tibet

BEIJING, 24 Dec — An expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggested a gene bank for rare animal species be built in Tibet.

“Their genes should be collected for molecular biological studies,” he said. Tibet is home to many drought-resistant and cold-resistant plants and animals.

Zhang said ecotourism in Tibet should be given national priority as the region is home to many species like the Tibetan antelope which lives at an elevation of 5,000 metres. He also wants outlawed and labour-intensive agriculture production stopped, stressing “we should rationally develop ecotourism, mineral and tourist resources in Tibet”. He added that “this place has huge potential to develop ecotourism”.

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Two US soldiers were killed in Baghdad on Friday, said the US military in a statement.

The soldiers, assigned to Task Force Baghdad, died when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, the statement said.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin and the incident is under investigation, it added. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia says to honour Iran arms deal despite US objection

Two US soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerrillas in Adhaim. — MNA/Xinhua

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerrillas in Adhaim. — MNA/Xinhua

Motorist speed along the Patong beach road in Phuket, Thailand, on 25 Dec, 2005. Foreigners and Thais alike are set to gather in Phuket, Khao Lak and other beach areas in Thailand on 26 Dec, 2005, to observe the first anniversary of the Asian Tsunami. — INTERNET

Expert suggests gene bank for wildlief be built in Tibet

BEIJING, 24 Dec — An expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggested a gene bank for rare animal species be built in Tibet.

“Their genes should be collected for molecular biological studies,” he said. Tibet is home to many drought-resistant and cold-resistant plants and animals.

Zhang said ecotourism in Tibet should be given national priority as the region is home to many species like the Tibetan antelope which lives at an elevation of 5,000 metres. He also wants outlawed and labour-intensive agriculture production stopped, stressing “we should rationally develop ecotourism, mineral and tourist resources in Tibet”. He added that “this place has huge potential to develop ecotourism”.

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerrillas in Adhaim. — MNA/Xinhua

Expert suggests gene bank for wildlief be built in Tibet

BEIJING, 24 Dec — An expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggested a gene bank for rare animal species be built in Tibet.

“Their genes should be collected for molecular biological studies,” he said. Tibet is home to many drought-resistant and cold-resistant plants and animals.

Zhang said ecotourism in Tibet should be given national priority as the region is home to many species like the Tibetan antelope which lives at an elevation of 5,000 metres. He also wants outlawed and labour-intensive agriculture production stopped, stressing “we should rationally develop ecotourism, mineral and tourist resources in Tibet”. He added that “this place has huge potential to develop ecotourism”.

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerrillas in Adhaim. — MNA/Xinhua

Expert suggests gene bank for wildlief be built in Tibet

BEIJING, 24 Dec — An expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggested a gene bank for rare animal species be built in Tibet.

“Their genes should be collected for molecular biological studies,” he said. Tibet is home to many drought-resistant and cold-resistant plants and animals.

Zhang said ecotourism in Tibet should be given national priority as the region is home to many species like the Tibetan antelope which lives at an elevation of 5,000 metres. He also wants outlawed and labour-intensive agriculture production stopped, stressing “we should rationally develop ecotourism, mineral and tourist resources in Tibet”. He added that “this place has huge potential to develop ecotourism”.

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerrillas in Adhaim. — MNA/Xinhua

Expert suggests gene bank for wildlief be built in Tibet

BEIJING, 24 Dec — An expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggested a gene bank for rare animal species be built in Tibet.

“Their genes should be collected for molecular biological studies,” he said. Tibet is home to many drought-resistant and cold-resistant plants and animals.

Zhang said ecotourism in Tibet should be given national priority as the region is home to many species like the Tibetan antelope which lives at an elevation of 5,000 metres. He also wants outlawed and labour-intensive agriculture production stopped, stressing “we should rationally develop ecotourism, mineral and tourist resources in Tibet”. He added that “this place has huge potential to develop ecotourism”.

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec — Eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a guerilla attack on an Iraqi Army checkpoint north of Baghdad on Friday, police sources said.

The attack took place near Adhaim, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on a main road between Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on early Friday morning, police said.

On 3 December, 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a roadside bomb attack and the following clash with guerrillas in Adhaim. — MNA/Xinhua
Four boats of illegal immigrants intercepted in southern Italy

ROME, 23 Dec—After a hull lasting several weeks, over 500 illegal immigrants in four boats were reported to be heading towards Sicily of Italy on Wednesday.

The boats crammed with immigrants on Wednesday were believed to be the first since early December. Bad weather in recent weeks is thought to have discouraged would-be immigrants in North Africa from taking to sea.

A boat with 177 immigrants on board was spotted during the night a mile and a half off Lampedusa, which is about 150 miles southwest of Sicily and 100 miles from the coast of North Africa.

Two Coast Guard boats were immediately dispatched to intercept it and tow it to Sicily or Lampedusa, where there are illegal immigrant holding centres used to check ID and handle asylum claims.

Later, a commercial liner reported sighting two other boats carrying a total of 330 people about 40 miles south of Lampedusa.

On Wednesday afternoon, Italian Coast Guards were towing one of the boats towards Lampedusa and assisting the other as it began to list in worsening weather. A fourth boat, with 150 immigrants on board, was intercepted between Lampedusa and Sicily.

Human rights’ groups estimate that at least 10,000 people have died in the past ten years attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach European countries. At least 600 are known to have died so far this year.

Two killed in bank robbery in eastern Uganda

KAMPALA, 23 Dec—Two private security guards escorting a bullion van transporting 1.2 billion Ugandan shillings (651,000 US dollars) of Stanbic Bank were gunned down by police in the eastern district of Kumi on Tuesday when their attempt to steal the cash backfired.

This was the second time since this year that Stanbic Bank of South Africa had its money stolen while transit. On February 7, three guards stole 700 million shillings (380,000 dollars) they were transporting from Mbaale to Iganga in the eastern part of the country. — MNA/Xinhua

China seeks mutual benefit, common development with other countries

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China seeks mutual benefit and common development with other countries while developing its economic and trade relations with them on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and reciprocity, said a white paper released here on Thursday.

Since its accession to the WTO in December 2001, China has strictly kept its commitments to create more favourable conditions for international economic and technological cooperation, said the white paper, titled “China’s Peaceful Development Road” and published by the Information Office of the State Council.

China has continuously stepped up participation in regional economic cooperation, with the building of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area going full steam ahead, the paper said.

At present, the building of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is proceeding with comprehensive and pragmatic cooperation, and its process to facilitate trade investment has been launched in an all-round way, it said.

China has also initiated negotiations on such free trade areas as the China-Southern Africa Development Community, China-Gulf Cooperation Council, and China-New Zealand, China-Chile, China-Australia and China-Pakistan, and signed relevant agreements with its partners, the paper said.

China is also an active and pragmatic participant in the activities of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum, Asia-Europe Meeting and Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Programme, said the white paper.

China sticks to the principle of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, tries to find proper settlement of trade conflicts and promotes common development with other countries, said the paper.— MNA/Xinhua

Home-made films reach new records in China

BEIJING, 23 Dec — As the Chinese film industry celebrated its centennial anniversary, both film production and box office records were set in 2005, the People’s Daily said here Wednesday.

This year 260 indigenous films made it into China’s cinema’s, 48 more than last year. Box office revenue was up 30 per cent bringing in two billion yuan (125 million US dollars), according to statistics from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT).

SARFT says the film industry, including spin-offs from T-shirts to soundtrack CD’s, generated the total revenue of 4.8 billion yuan (600 million US dollars), up 1.2 billion yuan over the previous year.

A number of hits were traditional movies such as “For the Victory”, “On the Taibai Mountain” and “Ren Changxia” which commemorated the 60th anniversary of the revolution.

Almost 50 films used advanced digital effects in post production including the blockbusters “The Myth”, “The Promise” and “Walking Along for a Thousand Miles”, the paper said.

For the second consecutive year, revenue from the home-made movies exceeded those of imported blockbusters.

Some 50 new modern cinemas equipped with advanced projection systems helped bring more people to movie theatres. — MNA/Xinhua

Invitation to TENDER

Sealed bids are invited under International Competitive Bidding Procedures, the Turnkey Basis for establishing of a 60 tpd Caustic Soda (as 100%) Plant, 65 tpd Calcium Carbide Plant and 50 tpd Poly Vinyl Glyceride Plant Project (Nyangundo) to be built at Nyangundo Area in Ayeyawaddy Division, Myanmar.

Tender documents are available at the Office of the Planning Department Myanmar paper and Chemical Industries of the Ministry of Industry (1), No 16 (B), Thakawaddy Road, Yankin Township, Yangon commencing on (28-12-2005), on payment of ky 3000 per set. For further information, please contact Phone 359226.

Tenders will be accepted only from Tenderers who purchased Tender Documents officially.

Managing Director
Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries

ADVERTISEMENTS
Human Ice Age prints found in dry Australian lake

SYDNEY, 23 Dec — Hundreds of human footprints dating back 20,000 years to the Ice Age have been discovered in a dry lake bed in Australia, scientists said on Thursday.

University of Melbourne archaeologist Matthew Cupper told Australian radio they were the earliest footprint fossils found in the country.

“It’s really quite a remarkable find. It’s a little snapshot in time. The possibilities are endless in terms of getting a window into past aboriginal society.”

They were left by adults, teenagers and children walking or running across moist clay flats near Willandra Lakes, southwest of Sydney, the university archaeologists who made the discovery said.

The prints, ranging in size from 5.1 to 11.8 inches provide an insight into the anatomy and behaviour of the people who left them, they said in an on-line report in the Journal of Human Evolution.

“The size of the prints and the pace lengths in most trackways indicate tall individuals who were able to achieve high running speeds.”

Some of the people appeared to be hunting, with emu and kangaroo footprints also in the area and what appeared to be spear holes in the ground, they said.

The man, estimated at two metres (six feet) tall, appeared to be sprinting at about 12-mile per-hour.

Australia’s oldest human remains are 40,000 years old and were found in Lake Mungo in Mungo National Park, where the footprints were discovered.

The on-line report said 457 footprints, “the largest collection of Pleistocene human footprints in the world”, had been discovered since the first were found in 2003.

The Pleistocene period is from around 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago and includes the most recent Ice Age. The footprints were dated at between 19,000 and 23,000 years old.

A stolen marble head statue, representing Roman emperor Traiano and dating to 1500, is displayed during a news conference in Rome on 25 Dec, 2005.

Atrocities being planned by terrorists in Britain

LONDON, 23 Dec — Terrorist groups are “currently planning atrocities in the United Kingdom”, Metropolitan Police Chief Commissioner Sir Ian Blair warned on Thursday.

The police chief told a BBC programme that he knew this was the case because “we are listening to some of them, and we are watching some of them”.

The key question, he said, was whether they were tracking “all of them”.

Sir Ian said three plots had been disrupted since July, adding: “The threat is real. It’s present with us.”

He told the BBC that police were “carrying out 75 per cent more” anti-terror operations than before the 7 July attacks in London which killed 52 and injured 700. Unlike bombers of the 1970s and 1980s, groups were capable of “mass atrocities without warning”, he added.

There are people in the United Kingdom who are currently planning atrocities in the United Kingdom...It doesn’t mean that they will get through but it does mean that we are facing a new morality,” said Sir Ian.

The four culprits of the aborted bombings in London on 21 July remain “on the loose”, — MNA/Xinhua

Russia tests new ballistic missile

MOSCOW, 23 Dec — Russia test-launched a newly developed long-range ballistic missile on Wednesday, sending it streaking almost the length of the country from the White Sea to Kamchatka Peninsula in the far east, the Navy said.

Naval spokesman Igor Dygalgoti told Ekho Moskvy radio station that the Bulava missile was fired from the submerged nuclear submarine, Dmitry Donskoi, and hit its target at the Kura site on Kamchatka.

Dygalo said it was only the second time the new generation of Bulava missile had been fired and the first time from a location under water.

A stolen British war medal found on Australian beach

ST PETERSBURG, 23 Dec — Fire gutted one of the buildings at Russia’s world-famous Peterhof Palace complex on Thursday, emergency officials said.

Peterhof, on a bluff above the Finnish Gulf outside Russia’s second city of St Petersburg, is a magnet for tourists from around the world who flock to see its ornate palaces and giant golden cascade of fountains.

The fire brigade took four hours to subdue the fire in the so-called Farmer’s Palace, a 19th Century outlying building at the complex, which was founded in the early 18th Century by Russian Tsar Peter the Great.

“Around 1,200 square metres (12,900 square feet) of the Farmer’s Palace was burned. This is more than half of the ground floor, around a third of the first floor and around a third of the attic,” said a spokesman for the Emergencies Ministry.

Fire guts palace near Russia’s St Petersburg

Stolen British war medal found on Australian beach

Stolen British war medal found on Australian beach

Earthquake hits Ecuador

Earthquake strikes Quito, Ecuador, on Wednesday, sending it streaking across the city from the north to the south, the capital city in the north of the country.

The earthquake occurred at 16:47 local time (21:47 GMT), the epicenter was close to Payo, capital of Pastaza Province, 161 km southeast of Quito. Only wpeole at the top of tall buildings felt the quake, which caused scant damage. The institute said that a collision between the Bazac ocean plate with the Ecuadorian continental plate caused the quake, forcing a noisy phenomenon called subduction. — MNA/Xinhua

This picture released on 23 Dec, 2005, by the European Space Agency and dated on 21 Dec, 2005, shows the Ariane-5 space rocket lifting off from the Kourou Space Centre, French Guiana. — Internet
Benitez says Liverpool priced out of Owen bidding


Benitez was keen on signing Owen in August, just 12 months after letting him join Real Madrid for 8.5 million pounds. He held talks with the England forward, who was keen to sign for Liverpool, but was unable to match Newcastle’s transfer bid and Owen moved to St James’ Park instead.

“I tried to sign him and he knows I tried to sign him, he’s said in the past few days,” Benitez told reporters on Friday. “It even went to the last day of the deadline. In the end it was just impossible for us as another club bid a large amount of money for him.”

Owen returns to Liverpool for the first time since leaving for Spain in August 2004 when Newcastle travel there on Monday at the beginning of a busy holiday programme. Owen has scored seven goals in eight games for his new club, including a hat-trick against West Ham United on Saturday, but Benitez is backing Owen’s good friend, Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher, to stop him.

“It’s a special situation for Carra (Carragher) to be playing against his former employers. He is a very good player and he can be dangerous for us so we will try not to let him score.”

Bayern chairman believes Ballack will leave at end of season

BERLIN, 24 Dec — German First Division soccer powerhouse Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge believes Germany captain Michael Ballack will leave at the end of the season.

“I think he will go. If you can’t extend your contract inside six months, then you also won’t manage to do so afterwards. That’s my experience. We’ve been speaking to Ballack from May to November,” Rummenigge told Germany’s top-selling Bild newspaper on Friday.

Ballack says he has not yet decided whether he will remain at Bayern after the 2005-06 season.

The playmaker’s agent has fuelled speculation of a possible move on a free transfer to a top club in Spain, Italy or England next season after his Munich contract expires. Real Madrid are favourites to sign him.

Charlton blames Manchester United players

LONDON, 24 Dec — Bobby Charlton urged Manchester United players to play to their full on Friday by blaming the Red Devils’ Champions League exit on their lack of commitment.

United failed to even gain a place in the UEFA Cup after finishing bottom of their group.

“The Old Trafford director said: “United do not have the players to go up there and find themselves nine points behind runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea.”

The playmaker’s agent has fuelled speculation of a possible move on a free transfer to a top club in Spain, Italy or England next season after his Munich contract expires. Real Madrid are favourites to sign him.

Charlton blames Manchester United players

LONDON, 24 Dec — Bobby Charlton urged Manchester United players to play to their full on Friday by blaming the Red Devils’ Champions League exit on their lack of commitment.

United failed to even gain a place in the UEFA Cup after finishing bottom of their group.

“The Old Trafford director said: “United do not have the players to go up there and find themselves nine points behind runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea.”

The playmaker’s agent has fuelled speculation of a possible move on a free transfer to a top club in Spain, Italy or England next season after his Munich contract expires. Real Madrid are favourites to sign him.

Brazilian defender Cicinho joins Real in five-year deal

MADRID, 24 Dec — Real Madrid have bought Brazilian defender Cicinho from world club champions Sao Paulo, the Spanish side announced on Friday.

Real said the 25-year-old attacking right back had signed a five-year deal and would begin training with his new team on December 29 when they returned from their Christmas break.

Cicinho, who has an Italian passport and so will not employ the Red Devils’ Champions League exit on their lack of commitment.

United failed to even gain a place in the UEFA Cup after finishing bottom of their group.

“The Old Trafford director said: “United do not have the players to go up there and find themselves nine points behind runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea.”

The playmaker’s agent has fuelled speculation of a possible move on a free transfer to a top club in Spain, Italy or England next season after his Munich contract expires. Real Madrid are favourites to sign him.
Industrial new orders slightly down in euro-zone

**BRUSSELS, 24 Dec —** The euro-zone industrial new orders index fell by 0.5 per cent in October 2005 — in contrast to a 1.6-per-cent rise in September, said Eurostat, the statistical service of the European Union (EU), on Thursday.

In October 2005 compared to October 2004, industrial new orders increased by 4.4 per cent in the euro-zone and 4.9 per cent among the 25 members of the EU.

New orders remained stable EU-wide in October, after rises of 0.7 per cent in September and 0.2 per cent in August.

In October 2005 compared to September 2005, machinery and equipment grew by 2.1 per cent in the euro-zone and by 3.1 per cent in the whole EU.

Manufacturing of textiles and textile products increased by 0.4 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively.

Transport equipment fell by 0.8 per cent in the euro-zone and by 2.7 per cent EU-wide. Chemicals and chemical products declined by 1.2 per cent in the euro-zone but increased by 0.3 per cent EU-wide.

Basic metals and fabricated metal products decreased by 1.5 per cent in both zones. Electrical and electronic equipment dropped by 2.8 per cent in the euro-zone and by 0.4 per cent in the whole EU.

On a monthly basis, the highest increases of total manufacturing working on orders were recorded in Latvia (27.9 per cent), Denmark (8.8 per cent), Sweden (8.4 per cent) and Germany (2.6 per cent). The largest decreases were registered in Malta (7.6 per cent), Ireland (6.0 per cent), the Netherlands (4.2 per cent), Estonia and Portugal (both 4.0 per cent).

On a yearly basis, machinery and equipment grew by 10.3 per cent in the euro-zone and by 10.7 per cent EU-wide. Manufacturing of electrical and electronic equipment rose by 6.5 per cent and 8.9 per cent respectively. Transport equipment increased by 5.7 per cent in the euro-zone and by 6.0 per cent in the whole EU. Manufacturing of basic metals and fabricated metal products gained 3.5 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively. Chemicals and chemical products grew by 1.9 per cent in the euro-zone and by 2.4 per cent in the whole EU. Manufacturing of textiles and textile products decreased by 3.4 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively.

Again on a yearly basis, the highest increases in industrial new orders were registered in Latvia (40.7 per cent), Hungary (24.8 per cent), Denmark (13.5 per cent), Sweden (13.4 per cent) and Lithuania (11.0 per cent). The only falls were recorded in Malta (35.8 per cent), Belgium (4.2 per cent) and Ireland (2.4 per cent).

---

**WEATHER**

Saturday, 24 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and Yangon Division, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Mindat (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyaykkyo (1.73) inches, Sittwe (1.58) inches, Mindat (1.49) inches, Meiktila (1.45) inches, Magway (1.34) inches, Minbu and Pyay (1.30) inches each and Yamethin (1.02) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2005 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 24-12-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 23-12-2005 was (4.5) hours (approx).

Rainfalls on 24-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2005 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 Southeast at (14:30) hrs MST on 23-12-2005.

Bay influence: Yesterday’s tropical depression over Each Central Bay is crossing north Rakhine coast between Sittwe and Kyaukpyu by early morning today and according to be observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, it has weakened into a low pressure area. It is expected the low pressure area will weaken within next (12) hours.

Under the influence of the low pressure area, isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers will be in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions within next (24) hours commencing this morning.

---

**Radio Myanmar**

Sunday, 25 December

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: -X’mas country style
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: -My’X’mas love
8:50 am National news & Slogan
9:00 am Music: -X’mas holiday International news
9:10 am Cural Images of Myanmar Music
9:20 am Music: -X’mas is the -best of all
1:30 pm News & Slogan
1:40 pm Children’s Delight -Story for -Children -Songs for -Children
9:00 pm Weekly News Review Article
9:20 pm Let’s improve English through songs -Jingle bell -Rach is love to give
9:45 pm News & Slogan
10:00 pm PEL.
Strive to do research for production of reliable and potent traditional medicines

Senior General Than Shwe visits Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 24 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected the herbal plant farm of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health, and the pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) of the Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 in PyinOoLwin on 22 December morning.

Together with Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and party, and officials, the Senior General arrived at the Department of Medical Research at 10.30 am. They were welcomed there by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials.

The minister gave an account of progress in implementing the guidance given on 23 December 2004 by the Senior General during his inspection tour of the Department of Medical Research.

Director-General of the department Dr Thein Tun reported on the sending of experts and staff abroad for further studies, the holding of seminars and workshops on traditional medicines, research work, and the growing of herbal plants.

(See page 8)

Classical Songs Scrutinizing and Music Note Compilation Committee holds 10th Anniversary Ceremony

YANGON, 24 Dec — The ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of Classical Songs scrutinizing and Music Note Compilation Committee of the Ministry of Culture was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

Before the ceremony, vocalists entertained the guests with classic songs.

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivered an opening address. Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung made a speech.

Director-General U Ngwe Tun of the Fine Arts Department reported on accomplishments of the committee during the 10 years period.

Afterwards, the commander presented certificates of honour and cash to committee members U Myint Kyi (Myanmarsar Professor-Retd), Saw Mon Nyin (member of Myanmar Language Commission), Bogale Tint Aung (Musician), Gitalulin U Ko Ko (Musician), and U Maung Maung Latt (Naung) (Musical note writer).

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung also gave away certificates of honour and cash to U Khin Maung Tin (Retd), U Aung Ba Than (Bago) (Musician), U Thwin (Violinist), U Thein Han Gyi (Harp-ist), and U Mya Gyi (Oboist).

Likewise, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin presented (See page 10)