Strength and prowess of Myanmar is glorious in history

It has been placed on record with many concrete and profound evidences that Myanmars are people who have successively inherited and preserved the pride of their origin and lineage and safeguarded their freedom with heroic spirit. In the course of their struggles for regaining national independence without letting themselves get bogged down in the quagmire of slavery in the aftermath of lawless aggression of colonial forces, Myanmars on the strength of their love of lineage and nation had fought back against the colonialists politically and militarily in various ways. We should never forget that the proud strength and prowess of Myanmars who had forged strong unity and striven in unison throughout the course of the struggle for Independence, sacrificing lots of lives, blood and sweat, is glorious in Myanmar history.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(Message sent on the occasion of the 51st Anniversary Independence Day)

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Cuba

YANGON, 1 Jan— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2006. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Sudanese President

YANGON, 1 Jan— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Lt-Gen Umar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Sudan which falls on 1 January 2006. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of Central Committee for observance of 58th Anniversary Independence Day

YANGON, 31 Dec — The Central Committee for observance of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day for 2006 held its coordination meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this afternoon. Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that today’s coordination meeting was the second to be held to organize the 58th Anniversary Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2006 on a grand scale in line with the Independence Day Objectives. (See page 10)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Health Minister on inspection tour of Kayin, Mon states

YANGON, 31 Dec — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected construction of the annex of Kawkareik District Hospital in Kawkareik.— HEALTH

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 31 Dec — Vice-President of Tokyo Enterprise Co. Ltd Mr Shigeo Hana scored an ace from 180 yards using Tour Stage (7) Wood and Prestep No 22 ball at the hole No 8 while playing together with partners Mr Takashi Endo, Mr Yusuke Ohmi and Mr Hiroyuki Sakurai at Yangon Golf Course on 18 December morning. — MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Cuban Counterpart

YANGON, 1 Jan — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Felipe Perez Roque, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2006. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Sudan

YANGON, 1 Jan — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Sudan, which falls on 1 January 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Lam Akol Ajawm, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan. — MNA

In memory of late U San Lwin, Maung Kyaw Sithu Wai and Maung Min Sithu Wai of Kamayut Township present K 100,000 to Treasurer U Aung Than of Hninzigon Adult Home for the Aged.

All this needs to be known

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

RESPECTS PAID: Old students of Institute of Medicine-2 (Mingaladon) for 1970-1971-1973 academic year held the ceremony to pay respects to retired faculty members at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on 31-12-2005. An old student presents gifts to a retired faculty member.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 January, 2006

Safeguard cultural heritage and national character

In the long history, Myanmar stood tall among the international community under its own monarchs for years countable by the thousand. Myanmar has been recognized by the world in its preservation of national culture. Myanmars being civilized peoples are to value their nation, race and culture. They are to keep a constant vigilance against the penetration of alien culture and character. It is incumbent upon all the national people including artistes to safeguard cultural heritage and national character.

The government is making efforts in all seriousness for developing Myanmar film world. In this regard, genres of academy award have been extended and now there are a total of 11 genres. So far, altogether 279 awards have been presented. Besides, measures are being taken to raise the quality of Myanmar films and to ensure the participation of Myanmar in foreign film festivals and the penetration of Myanmar films into foreign nations. Myanmar films of high class were shown and Myanmar artistes and technicians took part in Myanmar Film Festival held in Singapore this year and the festival held to mark the 30th anniversary of establishing Myanmar-Korea diplomatic relations.

In the meantime, some of Myanmar films were shown at Cape Town Film Festival in South Africa and Golden Cock Film Festival in the People’s Republic of China. Myanmar films could be introduced in Malaysia and Australia. While striving for development of the Myanmar film world and improvement of Myanmar movie standard, the government has constituted Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on which those from the film world have to rely.

At present, foreign movies and CDs are flooding into Myanmar and they outnumber domestic films. They are a grave threat to Myanmar film and video industries as well as to national culture, nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit.

Only when this threat is removed will there be improvement in Myanmar film and video industries. Nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit will flourish and can be preserved.

At a time when efforts are being made for improvement of Myanmar movie standard, those from the film world are to try their utmost in safeguarding the cultural heritage and national character.
Top Russian, Cuban military huddle in Havana

Havana, 30 Dec — Cuban Defence Minister Raul Castro has met in Havana with Russia’s second-ranking military officer, official media said on Thursday.

The chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Army General Yuri Baluyevsky, arrived on Monday for a two-week visit. Baluyevsky’s delegation is the highest-ranking to visit Cuba since 1998. The trip comes amid an increase in Cuban defence spending and concerns over the US military posture after the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The entire front page of the Communist party daily, Granma, was taken up with a photo of Wednesday’s meeting and commentary describing the encounter as one between old friends.

“The conversation between the two military leaders was cordial and friendly, with both recognizing the historic ties between their two countries,” Granma said.

Baluyevsky is touring military units and installations equipped with vintage Soviet hardware and was expected to return soon to the island as well. The Cuban economy has been recovering from a more than decade-long crisis during which the military budget was cut by at least 50 per cent, according to the government.

But defence spending has steadily risen since 2003, as always-tense relations between the Communist nation and the United States deteriorated further.

At least 12 killed as landslides destroy Yemeni village

SANAA, 30 Dec — Landslides in Yemen have destroyed a small village southwest of the capital Sanaa, killing at least 12 people including women and children with dozens more missing, a government official said on Thursday.

He said large rocks fell down a mountain — about 12 miles southwest of Sanaa — into the village, destroying its 27 houses.

Police cordoned off the area and are searching for survivors. About 10 people were injured — some seriously — and have been taken to hospital.

Landslides are rare in Yemen, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, but the country is prone to floods in spring and summer.

Ten killed in US air strike on Iraqi village

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec — US fighter jets dropped two 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs on a village in northern Iraq, killing ten Iraqis they suspected of planting explosive devices on a nearby road, the US military said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Tuesday in a small village near the town of Hawija, 30 miles southwest of Kirkuk, the military said.

The pilots were flying a routine patrol when they saw three men digging holes by the side of major road and planting bombs in them, a statement said.

When they heard the planes overhead, the men jumped in a car and fled. They were soon joined by another car as the jets tracked them. They drove the cars into the village and tried to hide by parking between two buildings, the statement said.

The pilots then dropped two 500-pound laser-guided bombs.

They were able to destroy the vehicles while causing only minimal damage to surrounding structures,” the military said.

US small plane crash kills three

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — A small plane crashed in a cornfield in Midwestern US state of Nebraska Thursday morning, killing all three people on board, US media reported. The crash occurred shortly after 10 am local time when dense fog blanketed that area.

The wreckage was later found in the cornfield near a highway.

Police have not identified the victims and could not immediately confirm whether mechanical problems played a part in the accident.

Two more GIs killed in Iraq; toll at 841

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec — Two more US soldiers were killed in Iraq as the year wound down Friday.

The two new deaths of US military personnel were announced Friday by the American military. A bomb killed one soldier when it struck his vehicle in Baghdad on Friday, while the second soldier was shot and killed in the western city of Fallujah.

Their deaths brought the number of US military members killed so far in 2005 to 841, of whom 64 died in December. A total of 846 troops died in 2004 and 885 in 2003. The worst month in 2005 was January with 106 fatalities, followed by November with 96 and August with 85. The US government hopes that as more Iraqi police and army forces are trained, they will slowly take over responsibilities for security from American troops.

Study shows about one in ten US teens face major depression

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — Nearly one in 10 American teenagers experienced major depression last year and fewer than half were treated, according to government statistics released on Thursday that doctors say confirm the problem is still overlooked among young people.

Overall, 9 per cent of teenagers, or 2.2 million, were depressed, with older teens more at risk than their younger peers, said the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA.

About 12 per cent of youth aged 16 or 17 faced severe depression in 2004, compared with about 5 per cent of those 12 or 13 years old. Among those aged 14 or 15,9.9 per cent experienced a major episode.

“These new data serve as a wake-up call to parents. Mental health is a critical part of the overall health and well-being of their children,” said SAMHSA Administrator Charles Carr.

Major depression was considered a period of at least two weeks that included a loss of interest, depressed mood and at least four other symptoms such as a change in sleeping, eating or concentration.

Doctors said the findings showed more needed to be done to help teenagers early on, but were not surprised.

“The real tragedy, as the report notes, is that there are still so many young people who aren’t receiving the appropriate and effective treatment they need and deserve,” Dr David Fassler, a psychiatry professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago, said in an e-mail to Reuters.

Dr Bennett Leventhal, a professor of child and adolescent psychology at the University of Illinois in Chicago, said the number of depressed teens had hovered at about 10 per cent for 15 to 20 years.

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India to launch South Asia free trade pact from January

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec— The Indian Cabinet approved on Thursday the introduction of a pact with its neighbours from 1 January to promote free trade and economic ties in South Asia, home to nearly one-fifth of the world’s population.

Commerce Minister Kamal Nath said India would initially cut Customs duties by 5 per cent for goods imported from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Nepal after the launch of the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement.

Although some member countries are yet to ratify the pact, Indian officials said New Delhi would go ahead with implementing the agreement from 1 January and was hopeful its neighbours would follow suit.

“This is a first major step for a free-trade agreement with the meeting.

The trade pact was first mooted in 1995 by the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), an economic grouping formed to reduce poverty, promote trade and fight terrorism.

Under the pact, SAARC’s developing states — Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka — will cut tariffs to between zero and 5 per cent within seven years of the start of the agreement. Its least developed countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives — have 10 years to complete the process, though all members can maintain a list of sensitive products on which tariffs will not be reduced. “There is a special dispensation for the least developed countries for the revenue loss,” Nath said.

Free trade is expected to boost economic activity and growth in the region, home to about 1.5 billion people, more than 400 million of whom live on less than a dollar a day.

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“Frosty restaurant draws diners in China’s ice city

BEIJING, 30 Dec — Harbin, China’s “ice city”, has opened a sub-zero eatery — one with ice brick walls, a vaulted ice dome and a hot pot.

The restaurant, located on the Sun Island, a tourism resort north of the Songhua River, is arousing huge interest among visitors to the area.

Diners are greeted with a frosty reception as they walk through the eatery, which is so cold, said to be made of ice.

Not surprisingly, one of the most popular choices there is “huoguo”, the hotsauce.

Sudan shuts Iraq Embassy to aid hostages

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec—Sudan will close its embassy in Baghdad in an effort to win the release of six kidnapped employees, a Sudanese diplomat said Friday, a day after al-Qaeda in Iraq threatened to kill the captives if the diplomatic mission remained.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq, which has kidnapped and killed a string of Arab diplomats and embassy employees in a campaign to scare Arab governments from setting up full diplomatic missions in Iraq, had set a Saturday deadline for Sudan to “announce clearly that it is cutting its relations” with the Iraqi government, or it would kill five Sudanese hostages.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry reported on 24 Dec that six of its embassy employees were kidnapped — including the mission’s second secretary. It was not immediately clear if the al-Qaeda statement referred to the same group.

A statement was issued by the Sudanese government to close the embassy in Iraq to win the release of our kidnapped citizens, “the embassy’s ‘charged’ affairs, Mohamed Ahmed Khalil, told The Associated Press.

He added that the embassy’s 12 employees would leave on Monday.— Internet

Ten from neighbouring families killed in South Egypt

ASSUIT (Egypt), 30 Dec — Ten people from three neighbouring families were murdered in a south Egyptian village on Thursday and their corpses mutilated, police sources said.

The killer or killers slit their throats at dawn and disappeared without anyone noticing them, leaving the bodies lying in the houses in the same street in the village of Ezbet Shamseddin, 110 miles south of Cairo, they said.

The victims were a lawyer, 40, and his 60-year-old mother in one house, and a teacher, 35, his wife, 25, and their two sons, aged three years and nine months, in another, they said.

The victims in the third house were a farmer, 50, his 45-year-old wife and their son and daughter, aged 10 and eight, they added. Other sources gave slightly different details earlier.

All of the victims had Muslim names.

“We are not aware of any disputes or matters of honour involved in this crime. So we’re working on the assumption it was someone mentally deranged, “ one police source said.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia aims for 5.5 m tourist visits in 2006

JAKARTA, 30 Dec — The Indonesian Government has targeted to accommodate 5.5 million tourist arrivals and earn 5 billion US dollars from this sector next year, an official said Thursday.

“The targeted 5.5 million arrivals are our moderate figure. We also set a more optimistic target of 6 million arrivals,” Minister of Culture and Tourism Jero Wacik told reporters here.

He said the estimated tourist arrivals dropped to 5.1 million this year from 5.32 million in 2004 and foreign exchange revenue from the sector also fell to 4.5 billion US dollars against last year’s 4.7 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Road accident kills six in central Iran

TEHERAN, 30 Dec — Six people were killed and 22 others injured when a bus and an automobile collided in the central Iranian province of Yazd on Wednesday afternoon, the official IRNA news agency reported on Thursday. Abbas Heydari, local transportation police officer, was quoted as saying that the driver of the automobile, who overtook inappropriately, was to blame for the accident.

Iran has one of the highest rates of road accidents in the world. Official statistics show that in every 24 minutes there is one person dead in a road accident.

All transport experts blame most of the accidents on hazardous roads and reckless driving.

According to the latest figures, more than 15,000 people have been killed in traffic accidents in Iran since March 2005, 6.3 per cent up from that of last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Sudanese officers check on a photo journalist’s identification outside the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 30 Dec, 2005. — Internet

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Iran, Russia to discuss uranium enrichment

TEHERAN, 30 Dec—Top Iranian and Russian officials agreed on Thursday to hold talks on a Russian proposal aimed at resolving Teheran's nuclear standoff with the West, an Iranian diplomat close to the talks said.

The proposal, which is backed by Washington and the European Union, involves the creation of a joint Iranian-Russian company to enrich uranium in Russia.

The plan has been put forward by Moscow in a bid to allay international concerns that Iran could manufacture highly-enriched uranium on its own soil to build atomic weapons. Iran says it only wants to enrich uranium to a low-grade, suitable for use in atomic power reactors.

Iranian officials had previously said they would reject any plan which denied Iran the right to build its own enrichment facilities.

But, in a sudden change of tone, a senior official had said on Wednesday Teheran would "seriously and enthusiastically" study the Russian plan.

The diplomat, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the agreement for talks on the proposal came during a telephone conversation between Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and Russian Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov.

Larijani told Ivanov there were "ambiguities and problems" with the Russian plan but that "the outline of the proposal can be reviewed", the diplomat said.

Ivanov agreed to send a delegation to Teheran led by one of his deputies for further talks, the diplomat said, without specifying when they would travel to the place. Ivanov, who has a record of holding unofficial talks on tricky foreign policy issues for the Kremlin, was not immediately available for comment.

MNA/Reuters

2.2 tons of cocaine seized in Madrid

MADRID, 30 Dec—Spanish police seized 2.2 tons of cocaine in Madrid on Wednesday night in the biggest bust in Spanish history, police said on Thursday.

According to police, the drug was hidden in one-kilo packs in several tanks at the Barajas International Airport and in the Loeffers community in Madrid. The drug was brought in from Venezuela to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with a stopover in Miami of the United States, and was supposedly bound for a firm of Seville.

Three Spanish men, aged 25 to 33, were arrested Wednesday night when they went to pick up five tanks of drug hidden in Loeches. The remaining drug was found at Barajas.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq suspends oil minister as gasoline fears deepen

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec—A fuel crisis in Iraq deepened Friday as the nation's oil minister was suspended for objecting to steep government-imposed gasoline and cooking fuel price increases.

Drivers formed lines 400 meters, or a quarter of a mile, long at gasoline stations in Baghdad, spurred by fears of more price hikes, electricity outages that have forced them to siphon gas for use in power generators, and talk of refinery outages in Baiji and Baghdad.

The oil minister, Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum, had been outspoken in opposition to the decision to triple prices for the most common type of gasoline. He said that while some increases were needed, a change of that magnitude would put far too heavy a burden on most Iraqis.

But upon returning from a vacation abroad this week, Bahr al-Uloum found a note waiting for him in which Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari ordered him to give up his post for the next 30 days, according to an Oil Ministry spokesman.

"When he came back he was astonished to find that the prime minister issued a letter ordering Dr. Ibrahim to stay 30 more days on holiday because of his disagreement and his threats to resign from office," the spokesman, Asim Jihad, said in an interview Friday.

The ministry shut down a major refinery in Baiji, north of the capital, after insurgents threatened to kill tanker drivers who truck gasoline and other refined products from the refinery to markets across Iraq, the Oil Ministry spokesman said.

France urges kidnappers to free Frenchman in Iraq

PARIS, 30 Dec—France on Thursday urged a militant group holding a French engineer hostage in Iraq to release him and reminded the kidnappers that it had no military presence in the Arab country.

"Nothing justifies Bernard Planche being held in captivity," Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said in a statement. "I again call on the kidnappers to release our fellow countryman immediately."

"France has no military presence in Iraq and has always pleaded for this country's full sovereignty to be restored," he added.

A little-known militant group has threatened to kill the engineer unless France ends its "illegitimate presence" in the Arab country, Al Arabiya television reported on Wednesday.

The Dubai-based station aired a black-and-white video from the "Surveillance for the Sake of Iraq Brigade" showing a man seated in front of militants who pointed rifles at his head. The man identified himself as Bernard. — MNA/Reuters

Heavy snow partly closes Prague airport

PRAGUE, 30 Dec—The main Czech airport at Prague-Ruzyn was partly closed on Thursday after heavy snow overnight.

A spokeswoman for Airport Prague, the airport authority, said planes could not take off and only 15 per hour could land. She could not say when the airport would be fully re-opened.

Heavy snow across the Czech Republic disrupted transport, with accidents closing some highways. Snowstorms are forecast until at least Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

S Korean boat capsizes, one killed, 10 feared dead

SEOUL, 30 Dec—A South Korean fishing boat capsized and sank off the country's southern coast, killing one crew member and leaving 10 others missing, feared dead, a Coast Guard official said on Thursday.

The boat, identified as the 1001 Hanil by Yonhap news agency, capsized late on Wednesday. The captain was rescued but died early on Thursday in hospital.

Earthquake jolts India-Pakistan border

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec—An earthquake of moderate intensity jolted the India-Pakistan border in the Kashmir Region early Thursday morning.

According to the Meteorological Department, it measured 5.2 on the Richter Scale. No casualties or damage was, however, reported. — MNA/Xinhua

One dead, four injured in Ukraine gas blast

KIEV, 30 Dec—Rescuers have retrieved one body and rescued four people after a gas explosion tore through an apartment building in the southern city of Odessa, Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry said on Thursday.

Emergency crews ended their rescue efforts early on Thursday, more than 16 hours after the gas blast, the ministry said in a statement. — MNA/Xinhua

Pedestrians walk past a department store decorated with various toy dogs in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 30 Dec. 2005. 2006 is the year of the dog, according to the Chinese lunar calendar, which starts on 29 Jan. 2006. —INTERNET

7 dead in Russian hospital fire, 12 injured

MOSCOW, 30 Dec—Seven people were killed and at least 12 suffered burns when fire broke out early on Thursday at a hospital near Moscow that treats people for nervous disorders, officials said.

A spokesman for Russia's Emergencies Ministry said the fire started at about 4 am (0100 GMT) at the two-storey hospital at the village of Dmitrovsky Pogost 93 miles southeast of Moscow. — MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi soldier armed with a Kalashnikov automatic rifle is silhouetted against the sky as a US helicopter flies overhead in Baqouba, Iraq, on 30 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

The new light of myanmar  Sunday, 1 january, 2006  5
**Castro welcomes Bolivia’s new leader**

HAVANA, 31 Dec — Cuban President Fidel Castro welcomed on Friday Latin America’s latest leader, Bolivian president-elect Evo Morales, to discuss political, economic and social cooperation.

A beaming Castro greeted Morales at the Havana Airport with a warm embrace. The two have known each other for years.

“Terrorism has changed, but one has to be reflective,” Castro told reporters before the two men were whisked away in a black limousine. “This is a gesture of friendship with the Cuban people,” Morales said.

Morales, an avowed socialist, chose Communist Cuba for his first trip abroad since his overwhelming victory at the polls two weeks ago.

“The Cubans are going to offer massive medical and educational assistance and whatever else they can, like they did with Venezuela when Hugo Chavez became president,” a Latin American diplomat said.

A government statement hailed Morales’ arrival on the eve of the 47th anniversary of the Cuban revolution that brought Castro to power on 1 January, 1959.

“The presence of comrade Morales in Cuba fills our people with satisfaction and is an important stimulus to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the Cuban Government and the future Bolivian government,” the statement said. Much to the chagrin of the United States, a still feisty Castro at 79 is less and less isolated in Latin America and the Caribbean as left and centre-left parties come to power and strengthen their political and economic ties with Cuba. — MNA/INTERNET

**Drivers trapped as snow hits Britain**

LONDON, 31 Dec — Snow and freezing weather struck parts of Britain on Friday, trapping up to 50 vehicles in one area of East Yorkshire.

Up to 20 centimetres of snow was expected to fall in some higher areas in the north of the country and strong winds were causing drifting.

“Drivers are advised to delay their journey if they can in falling or lying snow,” the agency said.

“Drivers in these parts are likely to be difficult during Friday morning’s rush hour.”

It said the snow could lead to severely reduced visibility and the settling of snow on roads could make conditions hazardous.

“Drivers are advised to delay their journey if you can until the weather improves.”

The Met Office said the snow will become heavier and more persistent as it crosses the country on Friday before it starts to ease when rain sweeps in later in the day.

— MNA/Reuters

**BG to invest another $22m in Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 31 Dec — South Korea’s LG Electronics plans to add investment in Indonesia by 22 million US dollars in 2006, bringing the total amount of investment to 114 million dollars in the country, reports said on Friday.

LG Electronics Indonesia (LGEI), has informed planned spending on research and development amounting to 200 million dollars, an official said.

LGEI plans to boost investment in Indonesia in line with the successful sales this year,” LGEI president Lee Kee Ju was quoted as saying.

— MNA/Reuters

**Snowstorm helps German police catch burglars**

BERLIN, 31 Dec — German police on Thursday captured two men suspected of stealing from 15 cars and two garden sheds by following their footprints in the snow for several kilometres (miles). Policemen were checking up on a car whose alarm had been set off just after midnight in the town of Hoentrop when they found a smashed window and two sets of footprints which they followed more than ten streets.

“At one point the tracks disappeared because someone had cleared the pavement outside their home in the middle of the night,” police said in a statement.

After this minor setback, the officers picked up the trail again. The two sets of footprints led them directly to the entrance of a flat where the burglars not only stored their booty but also left their shoes and gloves to dry. — MNA/Reuters

**Budapest-Vienna motorway shut by pile up in snow**

BUDAPEST, 31 Dec — The motorway connecting Budapest with Vienna has been closed after about 60 vehicles crashed in a pile-up due to a heavy snowfall that hit Hungary overnight, police said on Friday.

The accidents happened on the M1 motorway at the city of Gyor amid 30-40 centimetres of snow on the road, and police said at least 14 people were injured, five seriously.

No deaths were reported. Due to the heavy snowfall, only one runway was open at Budapest’s main international airport, which was expected to cause flight delays, the airport authority said in a statement.

— MNA/Reuters

**US Embassy in Malaysia closed after threat**

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Dec — The US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was closed on Friday due to a security threat, a spokeswoman in the Malaysian capital said.

“We got some information indicating there was a threat to the embassy and decided to close at 11.40 (0340 GMT) this morning,” Kathryn Taylor said. “I’m afraid I can’t be more specific”.

Taylor said the embassy would remain closed at least until Tuesday because Monday is a public holiday in the United States. “We’ll reassess on Monday whether to open on Tuesday,” she said.

The US Embassy was closed briefly in September 2004 after a white powder was discovered in a mailed envelope. The powder was later found to be non-toxic.

In October this year suspicious packages containing a yellow, oil-like liquid — and in one case a powder — were delivered to about a dozen embassies, including the US, British, French, German, Australian, Canadian and Russian missions.

Analysts said the packages, which included a message condemning the countries for mistreating Muslims, were probably sent by scaremongers with no serious ties to well-known terrorist groups.

— MNA/Reuters

**Firefighters and rescuers search through the rubble of a collapsed building destroyed by a gas explosion, in Quarrata near Pistoia, Italy, on 29 Dec, 2005. Two people died in the explosion police said.—INTERNET**
**Communication sector witnesses sustained progress**

**Development in domestic and overseas communication services**

The domestic and overseas communication services play a leading role in striving for the success in economic, social and administrative sectors of the Union of Myanmar.

People can widely use not only domestic communication services but also overseas ones with the improvement of communication services in the nation. Of the communication systems, satellite communication system is the best.

Satellite links and new auto exchanges were introduced in the satellite communication system, and now the system covers 97 towns.

In overseas communication system, 1,012 telephone channels have been installed through Submarine cable system in communicating with Singapore. Besides, more overseas ground satellite stations and new channels, overseas submarine cable systems and new channels, and new international telephone channels were installed to link with other nations.

To keep pace with changes and developments in the world today, more modern satellite communication systems were installed in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

**Progress of Myanmar Telecommunication services**

<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>Construction of MPT satellite terminal</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Installation of overseas satellite channel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Overseas Submarine cable station</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1012</td>
<td>1012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Installation of external overseas cable communication channel</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1613</td>
<td>1587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows the increased number of communication services.

**Zimbabwe receives 166 vehicles from China**

**KAMPALA, 31 Dec — Uganda’s economy will grow by 6% in 2006**

Sydney Gata said the consignment came following a strategic swap deal ZESA entered into with China which would see the power utility funding and supporting the production of tobacco and cotton for export in exchange for equipment and vehicles worth 11.6 million US dollars.

Zimbabwe is facing acute foreign currency shortages compounded by sanctions imposed on the country by Britain, the United States and other Western countries. This has negatively affected the operations of several companies and essential service providers such as hospitals who are finding it difficult to import drugs.

Part of the consignment including transformers and cables among other things, is already in Zimbabwe while the rest awaits clearance.

Gata said the equipment and vehicles would be used in the rehabilitation and expansion of the urban electricity distribution infrastructure.

"We received a consignment from China during the Christmas holiday and some of the equipment is ready for installation in our major urban areas, particularly Harare and Bulawayo," he said.

Electricity infrastructure in Harare and Bulawayo, which was installed about 60 years ago, has become too old resulting in power cuts whenever it rains.

**Microwave Station in Loikaw, Kayah State shows the development in domestic and overseas communication services.**

Tatmadaw government.

**Uganda’s economy to grow by 6% in 2006**

**KAMPALA, 31 Dec — Uganda’s economy will grow at a projected average of 6.1 per cent in 2006 despite a cut back in donor budget support and high energy costs, a financial expert has said.**

Releasing a report of the State of Uganda’s Economy January-November 2005 available here on Friday, Executive Director for Research in Bank of Uganda Michael Atungi-Ego said that this calendar year, the country’s economy grew at an average of 6.1 per cent surpassing the projected 5.5 per cent.

He said that though there have been cuts in donor support given to Uganda, the economy will not be affected in the short run.

"The total donor cuts to the budget have amounted to 73 million US dollars. While there are implications of these developments on the conduct of monetary and fiscal policies, its impact to the real economy, at least this financial year 2005/06, should be insignificant," said Atungi-Ego.

He said because the Parliament had already passed the 2005/06 budget, expenditures on priorities like education and health could not be reduced.

He noted that following the donor cuts, government will resort to domestic borrowing to meet the expenditure.

He said the borrowing would not become inflationary because the monetary aggregates would remain the same.

"You have one part of the aggregate which is the foreign assets reducing because of cuts in donor disbursement. So you cannot build up the equivalent foreign currency. But you have domestic assets increasing because the government is borrowing from the banking system," he said.— MNA/Xinhua

**Safeguard Independence**

- Under colonialism
  - We were guanmired, enslaved
  - Over a century, were subjugated
  - Land of Myanmar, was impoverished
  - Few were the bridges
  - Difficult was the transportation.
- Teak, oil, rice and cereals
  - Gems, minerals, they took away
  - And they grew rich, prospered
  - As for Myanmar nationals
  - Their livelihood was uneven
  - Poor was our plight then.
- Among nationals of the Union
  - Had occasion to communicate
  - Were awake and alert
  - But the colonialists fretted much
    - The opening of eyes and ears
    - Even the distance was not pronounced
    - They made it look like it was far
    - And whatever wide roads they made were simply scant.
- The Myanmar nation regained independence
  - And then the Tatmadaw
  - With much foresight, went into building
  - And made transport and communications easy
  - Spanning wide rivers with bridges
  - And caused the beloved kinsfolk’s land
  - Communicable at all times
  - Border areas were beautified and developed
  - With schools and hospitals
  - There was all-round prosperity.
- O, Citizens, beware
  - Our nation’s development
  - They want not and disdain
  - With much contempt
    - “If unobtainable, will whittle, if obtainable will expand”
  - With clear sense of discern
  - Safeguard Independence
  - "Tis our duty, Citizens all."

(Hailing the 58th Anniversary Independence Day)

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)
Now, the delegates, representing the entire Union and all national races, are playing an active role in the discussions and coordinating at National Convention, the first as well as the most crucial stage of the State’s seven-point Road Map. It is also adopting the detailed basic principles to be included in the State Constitution.

I have presented in my previous article the structure and essence of future state that will emerge according to the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention.

According to the new State Constitution that will prescribe sovereignty of the State, three branches of sovereignty — legislative, executive and judicial powers — will be exercised as separately as it can, and there will be check and balance. In this article, I would like to present the discussions Bagyi Soe, Kyee Kyee Mya and I have held, to enable the national people to visualize the structure and essence of legislation to be practiced in the future nation.

Bagyi Soe: Hi, Maung Kyaw. It’s a pleasure to welcome you to our home. Today, shall we talk about the sharing of legislative power of the Union of Myanmar democratically and equally?

Kyee Kyee Mya: Your uncle has searched notes and references since yesterday to support his explanations.

Soe Mya Kyaw: That’s why I rely on you, Bagyi and Kyee Kyee.

Bagyi Soe: As you know, Maung Kyaw, a nation must be complete with three pillars. A nation can exist stably in the longrun only if its legislative, executive and judicial pillars are firm and strong.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, I agree with you. I’ve learnt that in a nation, the Hluttaws that engage in the legislative pillar have to hold discussions to enact necessary laws. And they have to amend or revoke the old laws that are no longer applicable. Moreover, they have to lay down important policies of their nation. So, would you please explain the legislation of the future Myanmar to me?

Bagyi Soe: Regarding the legislation, one of the basic principles the National Convention has adopted said that the State’s legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw. The legislative power prescribed by the State Constitution is vested in self-administered areas.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Very well, Bagyi. How should the Hluttaw members known to the people as legislative bodies be formed?

Bagyi Soe: At the Hluttaw level, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is at the central level and it will be constituted with the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. Moreover, there will be seven Region Hluttaw, seven State Hluttaw, one self-administered division leading body, and five self-administered zone leading bodies.

Soe Mya Kyaw: As far as I know, the legislative structure of the future state will be constituted with seven legislative bodies. They are:

1. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
2. Pyithu Hluttaw
3. Amyotha Hluttaw
4. Region Hluttaw
5. State Hluttaw
6. Self-administered Division Leading Body
7. Self-Administered Zone Leading Body.

Bagyi Soe: You’re right if it’s to be easily comprehensible to the average reader. But, to say under the central level, there will be (1) the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw) (2) Region Hluttaw/State Hluttaw, and (3) Self-administered Division Leading Body/ Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies.

Kyee Kyee Mya: The structure of the State you’ve discussed is constituted with two Union territories, isn’t it? And do these two Union territories have separate legislative bodies?

Soe Mya Kyaw: I’d also like to know that, Bagyi Soe.

Bagyi Soe: The previous day, we discussed the two Union territories, and I said Yangon City and Cocogyun would be formed as Union territories. These two Union territories will be under the direct rule of the Union President. But the Union President will form the Yangon City Council to rule Yangon City, and to jointly rule Cocogyun with the Yangon City administration.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Which will be responsible for the legislation of the two Union territories: the Union President or the Yangon City Council assigned duties by the Union President?

Bagyi Soe: If it were as you said, it would be neither democratic nor in conformity with the basic principle that sovereignty will be exercised as separately as it can. That’s why a detailed basic principle has been adopted that the legislative power of the two Union territories shall be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw instead of in the Union President.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh, I see, I see. I’d also like to know the terms and formation of the seven legislative bodies you have explained.

Bagyi Soe: The Pyithu Hluttaw is the Hluttaw that will be constituted with the Hluttaw members who are elected based on the population of the nation, and the Hluttaw members the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services nomimates in accord with the law.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What about the Amyotha Hluttaw?

Bagyi Soe: The Amyotha Hluttaw is the Hluttaw that will be constituted with an equally fixed number of the representatives from each Region and State.

Bagyi Soe: The Pyithu Hluttaw shall not be formed through a separate election. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be formed through the combination of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The legislative affairs of the whole nation will be taken by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Is it true that the Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw have been formed for delegating legislative power. Bagyi Soe?

Bagyi Soe: Yes it is. The Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw will have the power to enact laws necessary for the region or the state concerned within the framework of powers prescribed by the State constitution.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The seven regions and seven states will be able not only to form the Hluttaw concerned or legislative bodies but also to share legislative power. This is a new chapter of the present era, Kyee Kyee.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Of course, Maung Kyaw. According to the 1947 Constitution, there were the Pyithu Hluttaw (Chamber deputies) and the Chamber of Nationalities as legislative bodies. There was the Parliament that was the combination of the two Hluttaws and the Kachin, the Kayah, the Kayin and the Shan State councils. Under the 1974 Constitution, there was only one Pyithu Hluttaw. For the future nation, there will be the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw as legislative bodies as well as seven Region Hluttaw, seven State Hluttaw and leading bodies of self-administered areas. As basic principles and detailed basic (See page 9)
Legislative structure and essence of future state (1)

(from page 8)

principles have been adopted for the sharing of legislative power, it is obvious that all the national races will have the power to promulgate laws democratically.

Bagyi Soe: This is a matter of sharing of power, and it is sure that the entire national people will heartily accept it.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Certainly, they will accept it with delight. And although legislative bodies of the Central, regions and states are termed as Hluttaws, legislative bodies of self-administered divisions and areas are termed as such. Can you explain that point to me, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: The legislative powers of the Pyidaungsu, regions and states are exercised by the respective Hluttaws and executive powers by government bodies. The legislative powers and executive powers are shared. In the self-administered division and self-administered zones, the leading body concerned has the right to exercise legislative powers and executive powers. This being so, for the self-administered division and self-administered zone, legislative bodies are termed as leading bodies instead of Hluttaws. It is significant both in form and in essence.

Kyee Kyee Mya: It is safe to say that right to exercise legislative powers and executive powers objectively has been granted to the national race groups who reside in contiguous regions with appropriate number of population to be able to effectively serve the interests of self-administered division and self-administered zones.

Soe Mya Kyaw: That’s right, Kyee Kyee. It is a new opportunity created, for the national race groups to effectively serve the interests of own regions and races by themselves. How delightful it is!

Bagyi Soe: Of course, it is a significant legislation of the future nation in form. In essence, there emerge democracy rights on a wider scale for the national races.

Kyee Kyee Mya: According to the 1947 Constitution, only the four state councils had the power to enact the law state-wise. The Special Division for the Chins has no such right. And now all the regions and states have the right to form Hluttaws and will be able to share the legislative power. Moreover, the goodwill of the National Convention delegates who are paving the way for the self-administered division and self-administered zones to share the legislative power is enormous.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Right, Kyee Kyee. We fully realize the goodwill of the Head of State as we are daily engaged in the drive for implementing the guidance, work guidance, line, attitude and outlooks of the latter. Likewise, the entire national people who are practically enjoying the fruitful results of the goodwill of the State have come to realize the functions and activities of the State.

Bagyi Soe: Of course, as the people have realized the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention, the most important step of the seven-point Road Map, it is sure that the future of the State will be much brighter.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Certainly, Bagyi. It is fair and logical that legislative powers are shared with from the Central right down to the self-administered areas. It is learnt that legislative powers for Pyidaungsu territories have been vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And can you explain to me whether there is any limitation to introduce laws?

Bagyi Soe: As legislative powers for Pyidaungsu territories have been vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, any law enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will come into force in Pyidaungsu territories. One of the detailed basic principles said that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall promulgate the necessary law for Pyidaungsu territories concerning matters included in the regions/state legislative lists and self-administered areas legislative lists whenever necessary. Hence, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall exercise the legislative power, and the State President who directly governs Pyidaungsu territories or the Pyidaungsu territory councils shall not have the right to do so.

Soe Mya Kyaw: It is clear that priority has been given to the interest of the entire national people by distributing legislative power covering all regions of the Union.

Kyee Kyee Mya: If there come clashes over the sharing of different legislative powers, how can it be decided and which law is to be referred to for final decision?

Bagyi Soe: No problem! A systematic democratic system has been shaped to make sure that there comes no ambiguity about this. For instance, if laws enacted by the leading body of a self-administered division or by that of a self-administered zone go against the laws prescribed by the Region Hluttaw or the State Hluttaw concerned, only those of the Region Hluttaw or the State Hluttaw shall be referred to as final.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What a great democratic system in which the minority has to respect and follow the wishes of the majority!

Bagyi Soe: Similarly, if laws enacted by a State Hluttaw or a Region Hluttaw go against the laws prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw only those of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be accepted as final.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Ah, this also is the essence of democracy as all parts of the country have to respect the decision of the State.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Again, if laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, State / Region Hluttaw and the leading body of a self-administered area are in contrast to the State constitution, what measures will be taken to solve the problem?

Bagyi Soe: It’s just a simple matter too. The State constitution prescribes how the three branches of State power shall be distributed and to whom they should be entrusted. The State constitution is of utmost importance for the Union of Myanmar. Thus, only prescriptions of the State constitution are to be accepted as final. Everything needs to be judged by a constitutional criterion alone. Any laws that contrast with the State constitution cannot be enacted.

Kyee Kyee Mya: I’m so delighted that democratic rights that have never existed in the previous eras will go into the hands of new generation of smaller ethnic groups.

Soe Mya Kyaw: That’s right, Kyee Kyee. By the way, how will you compare the present constitution with the previous ones that you have experienced?

Kyee Kyee Mya: In the age of parliamentary democracy, only the parliament that was a combination of Pyithu Hluttaw (Chamber of Deputies) and Chamber of Nationalities and four State Councils had the legislative powers. Likewise, only the Pyithu Hluttaw wielded the legislative powers in the era of Myanmar Socialist Programme Party. By contrast, the present National Convention is opening the way for extensive distribution of legislative powers based on prevailing conditions of the State and the national people. Hence, in my opinion, the present constitution is fairer and more appropriate than the previous ones.

Bagyi Soe: Actually, the present constitution is more than that. It has reasonable points and it is a good one in both essence and form.

Soe Mya Kyaw: You’re right. We are sure that the forthcoming constitution will reflect the goodwill of the Tatmadaw government towards the future State to create a good atmosphere with fair democratic rights, multiparty democratic system and freedom and equality.

Bagyi Soe: Well done! OK, let’s continue our talks the next week on how our leaders of the State and the National Convention are shaping the pillars of legislation.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Thank you very much, Bagyi and Kyee Kyee. May I pay respects to both of you. I have gained much knowledge from today’s talks and I will share it with the public.

(Translation: MS+TS+ST)  
** **
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends meeting ...
(from page 1)

He added the first coordination meeting was held on 12 November 2005, and the National Objectives of the Independence Day were laid down. Furthermore, the Central Committee and 10 sub-committees have been set up. Therefore, the sub-committees are making preparations for organizing the Independence Day ceremony.

The Secretary-1 urged officials from respective sub-committees to submit their preparatory tasks, and to take part in the discussions.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and chairmen of the sub-committees, deputy ministers and officials briefed Secretary-1 on progress in making preparations for Yangon City State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony, Independence Day Reception and Dinner, security, information, essay contests, TV quiz and computer arts contest, compilation of the messages of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Independence Day Exhibition, entertainment, health, and sports meets.

The ministers, the deputy ministers and officials gave supplementary reports.

After holding discussions related to the reports, the Secretary-1 gave the concluding remarks.

In the evening, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected preparatory tasks at the 58th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition to be organized by the exhibition sub-committee at Tatmadaw Convention Hall, here, and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Government striving for ...
(from page 16)

Panlaung Bridge is 400 ft long and it is the 210th one which is 180 ft and above long built in the time of the Tatmadaw government. The bridge can withstand 60 tons of load and 24 ft wide. It has three-foot long walkways.

The bridge was constructed at a cost of K 140 million and US $ 0.007 million. Before 1988, in Mandalay Division there were 18 bridges which were 180 ft and above. At present, the number of bridges which are above 180 feet reaches 27 and five are under construction.

— MNA

Mandalay Mayor inspects upgrading tasks of tar road

YANGON, 31 Dec—Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and party inspected the upgrading tasks of 62nd Road for extending up to 48-foot width in Chanmya Thazi Township on 28 December morning and gave instructions on meeting the set standard of the tasks.

Afterwards, the mayor and party looked into the sinking of tube-well in the compound of water work on 35th Street and left necessary instructions.

— MNA

Doh Kyeywa Journal published


The journal carries articles on agriculture and livestock breeding, use of bio-gas, other features, short story, humour, cartoon, poem and news.

The journal is available at Information and Public Relations Departments, the book stall of Sarpay Brekman, Wah Moe Aung Sarpay in Yangon and Tun Oo Literary House in Mandalay.

Manuscripts and advertisements may be sent to No 30-32, 10th Street, Lannmadaw Township, Tel: 372342, 252452 and 379768. — MNA
Wai Zeyanda Shopping Centre opened in Thingangyun Township

Yangon, 31 Dec — The opening ceremony of Wai Zeyanda Shopping Centre took place at the avenue on Wai Zeyanda Road in Thingangyun Township this morning, attended by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, officials of Township Peace and Development Council Office and guests.

The Yangon mayor and special guest Brig-Gen Win Myint and Sky World Construction Company Managing Director U Aung Than formally opened the shopping centre. The shopping centre will be kept opening daily from 6 am to 9 pm together with Internet Cafe and Feel Restaurant and the various kinds of foodstuff, fashionable clothes, household stuff, foodstuffs and kitchen utensils are available.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and Sky World Construction Company Managing Director U Aung Than open Wai Zeyanda Shopping Centre.— MNA

Hydel power projects in Pyu, Kyaukdaga, Shwegyin inspected

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects Kunchaung Hydel Power Project in Pyu Township. — MNA

Over 2,000-year-old tombs unearthed in Inner Mongolia

Hohhot, 31 Dec — Archaeologists in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region have unearthed about 500 tombs dating back more than 2,200 years in Horinger County and excavated a large number of relics.

The 500 tombs of the Warring States Period (475 B.C.-221 B.C) were excavated at the ruins of the ancient Tuchengzi City from April to December, said Li Qiang, a work staff with the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional Institute of Archaeological Research.

Li said that archaeologists found that dead people buried in these tombs lie on their back, some with limbs straight and others with limbs bended. There are also some who lie on their side.

What is noteworthy is that archaeologists found five tombs with many bodies buried randomly together. One of the five tombs is buried with more than 50 bodies. Experts said that more than 96 per cent of the dead people buried in these tombs are men, aged around 25.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspected construction of the water control tower and approach road, building of the main embankment, dredging of the No 1 approach tunnel, preparation for installation of the steel pipeline, and dredging of No 2 approach tunnel at Kunchaung Hydel Power Project in Pyu Township yesterday.

In Kyaukdaga Township, the minister and party oversaw completion of the power station at Yenwe Hydel Power Project, installation of steel pipeline, dredging of the inlet water tunnel, building of the main embankment, tasks of the sluice gate and flow of water into the dam.

This morning, the minister and party proceeded to the construction project site of 230-kv Thayagon (Kyaukdaga) Sub-Power Station. The minister viewed round the completion of the station and the power control station. He instructed officials to take safety measures in supplying power to the surrounding areas. At Shwegyin Hydel Power Project site, six miles northeast of Shwegyin, the minister and party looked into construction of the water intake building, the main embankment, and the emergency spillway and progress of tasks. The minister left instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standard. — MNA

Soe Kyaw Naing emerges champion in Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour

YANGON, 31 Dec — The fourth day events and prize presentation of the fourth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour 2005-06 organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd continued yesterday at Bagan Resort Golf Club in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division.

After the 18-hole events, the prize presentation ceremony was held. Executive U Ko Ko Lay of MPGA and MGF presented first prize winner of Tiger Putting Challenge to Professional Golfer Myo Khairn (KM Golf Centre); Professional Golfer and Sole Agent of Srixon U Aung Hla Han presented US$ 100 to third prize winner Zaw Zin Win and US$ 200 to second prize winner Than Naing; Manager Capt Aung Myint (Retd) of Bagan Resort Golf Club and Director U Min Thein of Air Bagan Ltd presented awards to Derek Htet Doe who scored hole-in-one.

Tournament Director U Min Thein presented Daily Best Awards in Amateur level to winners and Vice-President U Zaw Min to winners in professional golfers.

Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Te Za presented first, second and third prizes in Amateur Level to Aung Win (Monywa) with 299 strokes, Kyaw Tha Ha with 302 strokes and Bo Bo with 303 strokes.

President of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented first prize in Professional Golfers to Soe Kyaw Naing of Srixon with 276 strokes, second to Than Naing of Srixon with 284 strokes and third to Zaw Zin Win of Srixon with 287 strokes.

Soe Kyaw Naing also won US$ 300 presented by U Aung Hla Han, K 500,000 each by U Ja Rit, U Win Kyi and U Zaw Min and K 1.2 million by U Te Za.

Next, Tournament Director U Min Thein presented a souvenir to Manager Capt Aung Myint (Retd). The main sponsor of the Golf Tour is Air Bagan and official bank is KBZ Bank Ltd.

The co-sponsors are Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd, Kachin Golfers Group, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, London, Imperial Jade Drinking Water and Bagan Resort Golf Club and Han Event Management.

Highlights of the Golf Tour may be accessed to www.golfingmyanmar.com. — MNA

Champion and winners of Air Bagan Golf Tour seen after prize-distribution ceremony.— MNA
Guatemala slashes US immigration bill

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—On Wednesday, a US federal judge ordered John Demjanjuk, accused of being a Nazi concentration camp guard, to be deported back to his native Ukraine, according to Press releases.

Demjanjuk has been fighting for almost 30 years to stay in the United States. The 85-year-old retired auto worker was found guilty of lying to gain entry to the country and has been stripped of his US citizenship.

The judge ruled that Demjanjuk should be deported to Germany or Poland if Ukraine would not accept him. Demjanjuk can appeal the ruling with the Board of Immigration Appeals within 30 days. Demjanjuk was accused of being a Nazi concentration camp guard in 1977 by the US Justice Department.

The current case is based on evidence uncovered by the US Justice Department alleging he was a different guard.

Demjanjuk has denied the charges, saying that he spent much of his war time as a German prisoner.

The commission will also use its connections to the medical community to ensure that persons in need of medical treatment are taken care of.

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Five killed in traffic accident in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 30 Dec—Five people were killed and 21 others injured near Ladybrand in South Africa's eastern province of Free State when their taxi hit a cow, police said on Thursday.

Constable Christopher Mopharing said that the taxi overturned when it hit a cow at 10 pm on Wednesday between Kommissaport and Hobhouse near Ladybrand while travelling from Embalinhle in Mpumalanga. The injured were taken to the Mampila Hospital in Ladybrand, but were later transferred to Pelanompi Hospital in Bloemfontein because of the seriousness of their injuries.

The 26 were travelling in a group to visit a friend when their taxi ran off the road and hit a cow on the side of the road. The driver was killed instantly, and five others were seriously injured. The others were treated at the scene and then taken to hospital.

The accident occurred on the R39 road between Kommissaport and Hobhouse near Ladybrand.

Bank of Beijing to increase 30b yuan loans to SMEs

BEIJING, 30 Dec — Bank of Beijing promises here Thursday to increase 30-billion-yuan (3.7-billion-US-dollar) loans to the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the next three years.

In line with the agreement, Beijing municipal development and reform commission will establish a financing service platform to enlarge the financing channels for the SMEs.

All the SMEs registered at the municipal industrial and commercial commission will chiefly go to the short-term loans.

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Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 4th January (Wednesday), Independence Day 2006, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Management Committee
Hninzigone Home for the Aged
21-Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan, Yangon. Ph. 541796, 541797.

New Year Greetings
Hninzigone Home for the Aged wishes happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year to all donors and well-wishers.
Meats differ in effect on colon cancer risk

New York, 30 Dec — People who eat a lot of processed meats may have a higher risk of developing pre-cancerous growths — polyps — in the colon, while the opposite may be true for fans of chicken, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that among 1,520 adults with a history of colon polyps, those who ate a diet heavy in processed meats had a higher risk of polyp recurrence than those with the lowest intake. On the other hand, patients who favoured chicken had a lesser risk of new polyps than those who ate the least.

Colon polyps are growths that, while usually benign, can become malignant. Patients in the current study had all had polyps removed and were then followed for 4 years to detect any recurrences.

Overall, the one-quarter of patients with the highest intake of processed meat were 75 percent more likely to develop an advanced polyp compared with the one-quarter of patients who ate the least processed meat, the researchers found.

No 1 glacial “data bank” melting more quickly in N-W China

Urumqi, 30 Dec — The thawing of the No 1 glacier of the Tianshan Mountains in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyguy Autonomous Region has accelerated, due largely to global warming, local scientists say.

The trend indicates the affluent data the glacier carries about climate and environment in both modern and ancient times are losing at a quicker rate, the scientists added.

Salt tide threatens water supplies in south China

Beijing, 30 Dec — A severe drought in southern China’s Guangdong Province is letting sea water flow further up rivers than usual, contaminating fresh water with salt and disrupting normal supplies, state media said on Thursday.

Water flows through one of the main tributaries of the Pearl River are less than half of last year because of the drought, which began in 2004, the newspaper said.

Three water plants in Dongguan City, where many Hong Kong and Taiwanese investors have factories, have been shut because salinity levels are five times higher than normal, the Guangdong Daily added.

But the financial hub of Hong Kong should not be impacted, a government spokesman said, as the territory gets its water from a place in Guangdong which has never been affected by salinity.

“Salt water supplies in south China are fast approaching a crisis.” — MNA/Reuters

Mexican scientists to launch HPV vaccine

Mexico City, 30 Dec — Scientists in Mexico announced on Wednesday that by next June they plan to present a vaccine which can prevent and control the human papilloma virus (HPV), the virus that causes cancer in cervical tissue. The main advantage of the vaccine is the possibility of using it on women who have pre-malignant lesions to prevent and revert the HPV infection, Gabino Vaca, chief of the Endoscopy and Gynecology Service of the Fray Antonio Alcalde Civil Hospital, told the Press. The vaccine has been shown to be able to reduce the chance of developing uterine cancer by 97 per cent, and is now being processed in the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the most renowned institution of higher learning in the country, said Vaca.

Vaca said that every two hours, one woman dies of uterine cancer in Mexico, and of the women who die of the disease every year, 4,000 could have been saved by early-detection tech-
Huntelaar helps Heerenveen trounce future club Ajax 4-2

AMSTERDAM, 31 Dec—Klaas Jan Huntelaar scored one goal and set up another to inspire Heerenveen to a stunning 4-2 win over his future employers Ajax Amsterdam on Friday.

Huntelaar, the Dutch First Division’s leading scorer with 17 goals, doubled Heerenveen’s lead in the 38th minute, three minutes after Greek Georgios Samaras had opened the scoring.

Midway through the second half Andre Hansen added a third after being set up by Huntelaar and Samaras scored his second to put Heerenveen 4-0 up.

Defender Thomas Vermaelen pulled one back from close range 11 minutes before time and Tomas Galasek converted a disputed penalty for Ajax in injury time.

Heerenveen finished with 10 men after Paul Bosvelt’s late dismissal. The 22-year-old Huntelaar will join Ajax in January in a nine-million-euro (10.65-million-US-dollar) transfer deal.

PSV Eindhoven are top with 42 points and a game in hand as their match against Feyenoord, who thrashed Willem II Tilburg 6-1, was postponed due to adverse weather conditions.

Ajax remain fourth with 30 points, one above Heerenvee, Utrecht and Groningen.

Groningen fought back from a goal down to score three in the final 18 minutes and beat Roda JC Kerkrade 3-1.

Wenger all but gives up hope of Premier League title

LONDON, 31 Dec—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has virtually written off their chances of winning the Premier League and is focusing on cup competitions in their final season at Highbury.

The Frenchman said on Friday that his side had only a “small chance” of winning the English championship this season.

They trail champions Liverpool by 20 points.

“THERE isn’t a small chance, let’s be realistic, but we want to finish as well as we can, as close as we can,” said Wenger at a news conference on Friday.

“I’m not interested in Liverpool or anyone else. I want us to be the top team after is it Liverpool or Chelsea, I don’t mind.

“THERE are still exciting challenges in front of us in the Champions League, Carling (League) Cup and FA Cup. In the championship we want to show again that we can be consistent.”

Arsenal are sixth in the Premier League and need to improve on their away form in particular to qualify for next season’s Champions League.

On Saturday, the Gunners travel to Aston Villa in search of their third win of the season away from home.

“I agree that it has been a difficult season away from home, but in the Champions League, Carling (League) Cup and FA Cup. In the championship we want to show again that we can be consistent.”

Wenger said, “We have never had a period where we are not consistent, we are always consistent.”

Huaqiao University stuns CBA's Shandong 65-52

WUHAN (Central China), 31 Dec — Huaqiao University stunned CBA’s Shandong youth team 65-52 at the CUBA vs CBA youth team basketball tournament here on Friday.

Forward Chen Liwei grabbed 16 points and 10 rebounds, dishing out six assists to give Huaqiao their first win from as many games.

Huaqiao, the defending champion of CUBA (China’s NCAA), controlled the game from the very beginning, leading 11-9 in the first quarter.

Shandong fought back from the second quarter by sending their big forward Zhang Zhaoxu to the court.

Zhang, a 2.15-metre giant, dominated the game inside the key, giving Huaqiao enormous pressure in defence.

Thanks to Zhang’s height, Shandong took the lead 45-44 in the third quarter.

“Zhang gave us lots of trouble. He is so tall that it was really difficult for us to block him. When you face a guy a head above your shoulders, you can feel the pressure,” said Chen.

At the crucial moment, Chen of Huaqiao stood out to make two three-point shots, inspiring his teammate to counter the surge in the final quarter.

“Thanks to our cooperation, we could finally win the game. If we lost our concentration at that moment, we would have lost.”

Puerto Rico's U-20 team leaves for Chile

LIMA, 31 Dec—Puerto Rico’s Under-20 women’s team will travel on January 2 to Chile to participate in the South American championship slated for January 4-20 at American championship.

The next games will be against the Venezuelans, on January 8; the Brazilians, January 10; and Chile January 12.

Group B includes Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1. Cherished
2. Surround
3. Holm-oak
4. Rapacious money-lender
5. Single
6. Attempted
7. Lese-majesty
8. Boy’s name
9. Vocalist
10. God of love
11. Forerunner
12. Group B includes Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay
13. Abundance
14. Incriminated
15. Self-satisfied
16. Midfielder Kennedy
17. One-mastered vessel
18. Lies (anag.)
19. God of love
20. Imprisoned
21. Prized
22. Butterworth
23. Black wood
24. Climbed

**DOWN**

1. Portion
2. Home
3. 4-metre-tall thing
4. 8-metre-tall thing
5. 10-metre-tall thing
6. 12-metre-tall thing
7. 15-metre-tall thing
8. 18-metre-tall thing
9. 20-metre-tall thing
10. 22-metre-tall thing
11. 24-metre-tall thing
12. 26-metre-tall thing
13. 28-metre-tall thing
14. 30-metre-tall thing
15. 32-metre-tall thing
16. 34-metre-tall thing
17. 36-metre-tall thing
18. 38-metre-tall thing
19. 40-metre-tall thing
20. 42-metre-tall thing
21. 44-metre-tall thing
22. 46-metre-tall thing
23. 48-metre-tall thing
24. 50-metre-tall thing

Japan’s Daito Takahashi is airborne during the Nordic Combined World Cup event in Oberhof, eastern Germany, on 30 Dec, 2005. Takahashi leads after the jumping portion.
Survey shows most Britons back total smoking ban

LONDON, 31 Dec — Most Britons back an outright ban on smoking in all workplaces and support action to ensure all pubs and bars are also smoke-free, according to a poll released on Friday.

Anti-smoking campaigners said the findings would add to pressure from health officials and parliamentarians for Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government to bring in a total ban because it could no longer argue such a move.

Earlier this year, amid an unusually open bout of ministerial squabbling, the government said it would bring in a partial English ban, outlawing smoking where food is served but exempting those not serving food.

The proposal would put England at odds with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which have either banned smoking in public places or have proposals to do so.

The YouGov survey, commissioned by the Cancer Research British charity and the anti-smoking lobby group ASH, found that 72 per cent of Britons supported legislation for a blanket smoking ban covering all workplaces, restaurants and bars.

The figure for England was 71 per cent, while the poll of 3,600 adults also found that 66 per cent of English respondents specifically backed a smoking ban in bars and pubs — up from 51 per cent in April 2004.

*INTERNET*

People waiting to get on a bullet train at Tokyo station on 30 Dec, 2005. Many Japanese go back to their hometowns for the year-end holidays, known in Japan as ‘Shogatsu’.

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*INTERNET*
Yangon Division plans to grow 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas

Yangon, 31 Dec — The Government is seeking ways and means to save use of fuel with substitution of the oil from Jetropha curcas that can grow not only in the tropical regions but also in temperate areas, Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe said at the meeting to put 500,000 acres of land under jetropha curcas in Yangon Division, at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

At present, the Supervisory Committee for Growing 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas in Yangon Division has been set up, he added. He urged all to make utmost efforts for cultivation of jetropha curcas to fulfill the commander on the plan to grow 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas from 2006 to 2008. Officials presented reports on growing of jetropha curcas and use of its oil.

After the meeting, the commander and party inspected saplings, seeds, flowers and fruits of jetropha curcas and demonstration of running Leyar-16 brand power-tiller and harvester using the oil. — MNA

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe speaking at the meeting to grow 500,000 acres of jetropha curcas in Yangon Division. — MNA

Pay Road between Ahlon and Shin Saw Pu Roads to be closed temporarily on 4 Jan

Yangon, 31 Dec — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council today announced that the Yangon City Flag Hoisting and State Flag Saluting Ceremony in commemoration of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day will be held at the People’s Square, here, on 4 January 2006. The Pay Road near the People’s Square between Ahlon and Shin Saw Pu Roads will be closed from 4 to 9 am on that day. — MNA

Government striving for equitable development of regions and development of the economy of the people

Yangon, 30 Dec — Panlaung Bridge across Panlaung River in Singu Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division was inaugurated this morning.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge.

The bridge located on Paleik-TadaU Road was constructed by the Bridge Construction Special Group-14 of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said he was glad to see the emergence of Panlaung Bridge that will benefit the people in the region and residents will enjoy fruits of the social and economic development.

In an effort to improve the living standard of the people, the Government has been striving for equitable development of regions and development of the economy of the people, he added.

He continued to say that thanks to the bridge, residents will be able to travel directly from Mandalay to TadaU by car and transport commodities easily to other regions.

In conclusion, he thanked the Government for construction of roads and bridges across the country and called on local people to help maintain the facility for its durability.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun also made an address. He said the Government has built road network and bridges for smooth transportation and for development of economic. (See page 10)

INSIDE

At the Hluttaw level, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is at the central level and it will be constituted with Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. Moreover, there will be formed seven Region Hluttaws, seven State Hluttaws, one self-administered division leading body, and five self-administered Zone leading bodies.

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SOE MYA KYAW