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Established 1914

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint calls for production of 80m baskets of paddy in Sagaing Division

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and officials left Mandalay for Myinmu in Sagaing Division on 2 December. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and officials. They inspected beans and pulses and oil crops plantation and section of the detour road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected long staple cotton plantations of farmer U Khin Maung Tint in Alakappa model village in Myinmu Township.

Although the targeted acres were 17,724 for 2007-2008, 21,365 acres of cotton have been grown in the township. Lt-Gen YeMyint gave instructions on dissemination of quality cotton and its seeds and cultivation techniques to farmers. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the measures for water supply to the farmlands in Wanpye Village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for production of 80 million baskets of paddy in Sagaing Division. They inspected pigeon pea plantation and Ayadaw river water pumping stations in the township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects vegetable production and livestock breeding zone at Nyaunghnapin

YANGON, 5 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected the vegetable production and livestock breeding zone-at Nyaunghnapin Village, Hmaubwe Township, on 2 December and gave instructions. During his tour of inspection, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials, visited the crops plantations of Marlarmyaing Enterprise Ltd and Super One Co Ltd in the vegetable production and livestock breeding zone-1. On his inspection tour of the vegetable production and livestock breeding zone-2, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party also visited the poultry farm where 4,580 layers are being reared and over 3,900 eggs produced per day. They also inspected the raising of 3,000 layers at the farm of U Aik Pi. At the briefing hall of the vegetable production and livestock breeding zone-2, officials concerned reported to Lt-Gen Myint Swe on cultivation and achievements in livestock breeding tasks in the zones.

At the meeting, U Hla Soe, Commissioner of Yangon Division General Administration Department, reported on progress of the zones and plans for disbursing agricultural loans to the farmers. (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**Speed up combating infectious diseases**

Nowadays about 33.2 million people of the world are HIV positive. In 2007 alone there are some 2.5 million people infected with HIV and about two million have died.

Tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS hinder socio-economic life and progress of the people. The Ministry of Health is launching programmes on control of such diseases as the national duty for uplift of health and fitness of the people.

Infection of AIDS is planned to stop in 2015 and all out efforts are being made for gradual decline of AIDS infection under the UN Millennium Development Goals.

A study on AIDS has been conducted since 1985. The Central Board for Prevention and Control of AIDS including local social organizations was formed in 1989. The board organized workshops and launched educative programmes.

In Myanmar the government is joining hands with the UN agencies and international social organizations for realization of strategic plan against AIDS from 2006 to 2010.

The government is providing effective treatment to HIV and AIDS patients and rendering spiritual and social assistance to them through consoling and diagnosis programmes and providing medicine.

It is believed that health standard of the people and life expectancy will considerably be raised by speeding up the combating programmes on TB, malaria and AIDS.

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**MWAF marks World AIDS Day**

**Yangon, 5 Dec** — A ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at its meeting hall on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township at 9 am today.

Present were Deputy Minister for Health Professor Dr Paing Soe, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-Presidents of MWAF, CEC members, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-Presidents of MMCWA, CEC members, the patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization and members, representatives of the UN agencies, officials and invited guests.

The deputy minister and President Daw Khin Khin Win delivered addresses.

MWAF was presented with audio-visual aids.

**Eight Myanmar sports teams leave for Thailand**

**Yangon, 5 Dec** — The Myanmar Men’s Volleyball Team led by Vice-President U Thein Win of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation left here by air yesterday morning to take part in the XXIV SEA Games in Nakorn Ratchasima of Thailand from 7 to 14 December.

Myanmar will compete in the volleyball event together with host Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Laos.

Likewise, boxing team, Futsal men’s and women’s teams, tennis team, Pencak Silat team, traditional (Muay) team and diving team left here by air this morning to participate in the SEA Games.

The sports teams were seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of respective sports federations and officials.

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**“Glory of Emotion” at Parkroyal on 7 Dec**

**Yangon, 5 Dec** — A pre-press meeting for opening ‘Glory of Emotion’ Art Exhibition to display over 800 paintings of 10 great artists in Myanmar, organized by Parkroyal Yangon, was held at Parkroyal Yangon Hotel on 3 December afternoon.

Six artists will demonstrate on artistic works at the exhibition from 7 to 20 December. Anyone may visit the exhibition free of charge. Parkroyal Yangon Hotel opened the exhibition for the first time. Similar art exhibitions and painting competitions will be held in the future occasionally.

Present at the press meeting were officials of Parkroyal Yangon and Oasis Gallery, media persons, guests and 10 artists aged over 70.

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**“Work of Artist U Lun Gywe” at Parkroyal on 7 Dec**

Rector, faculty members and staff of Kengtung University donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently to be spent on making miniature flags to mark the International Day of Older Persons. Treasurer U Aung Than of the Home accepts the donation presented by wellwishers.
Three Malaysian paratroopers drowned in exercise

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Dec—Three Malaysian paratroopers were killed and five injured on Sunday in an exercise ahead of a maritime and aerospace exhibition on the country’s Langkawi Island, a popular resort destination.

Strong winds pushed the paratroopers into the sea away from the landing spot, state news agency Bernama said quoting a police spokesman. “Three of them drowned while five others were rescued,” the official was quoted as saying.

The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition, which opens on Monday, will have top global players such as European plane maker Airbus, BAE Systems and Boeing Co participating.

The show will witness several agreements being signed between aircraft manufacturers and Asian Airlines.—MNA/Reuters

Environmentalists dressed as polar bears perform during a campaign against CO2 emissions in Seoul on 3 Dec, 2007. The campaign was organized in conjunction with the UN talks in Bali which started Monday to sharpen the fight against climate change by involving outsiders such as the United States to China in a long-term UN-led pact.—INTERNET

Asia-Pacific policy makers call for water security in region

BEPPU (Japan), 4 Dec—Government heads, ministers and other policy makers of the Asia Pacific Region Monday gathered here to discuss water-related issues and call for water security in the region.

“While enjoying rapid economic development, the Asia-Pacific Region is faced with all kinds of issues in relation with water,” said Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda at the opening ceremony of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Oita prefecture of southern Japan.

“More than half of the problems related with water in the world are here in the Asia-Pacific Region,” Fukuda said, noting that the security of safe and clean water resources, water-related disasters and water for agriculture are among the most important issues in Asia.—MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu meeting in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 5 Dec—A three-day inter-ministerial meeting on avian influenza or bird flu is taking place in capital New Delhi, local TV channel NDTV reported Tuesday. The meeting is being attended by nearly 100 countries.

This meeting is an attempt to put animal health in focus as emerging diseases like avian flu and mad cow disease are all related to animals.—MNA/Xinhua

Brown accused over rising child poverty

LONDON, 4 Dec—Tens of thousands more children in Britain are living below the poverty line, a report found on Monday, as MPs questioned Gordon Brown’s commitment to eradicating child poverty.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation said one in three children live in poverty and that little progress has been made in the past three years. It recommended increasing public sector pay.

Meanwhile the cross-party Treasury Commons Select Committee found that ministers had “drawn back from a wholehearted commitment” to halve child poverty by 2010.

In 1999, former prime minister Tony Blair promised to halve the number of poor children in a decade before completely eradicating the problem in 20 years.

Brown has taken up the cause, appointing Schools Secretary Ed Balls to head a unit designed to produce ideas to tackle child poverty.

The Rowntree foundation found that one in three children—or 3.8 million youngsters — actually live below the poverty line and urged a radical re-think on ways to tackle poverty.—MNA/Reuters

Policy say adviser to Iraqi Interior Minister killed

BAGHDAD, 4 Dec—Gunmen killed a senior adviser to Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani in western Baghdad on Monday, police said.

Major-General Fawzi Mohammed Hussein was killed and his driver wounded in the attack in Baghdad’s al-Jamea District. Bolani is an independent Shiite in Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s divided, Shiite-led government. Violence across Iraq has dropped sharply in the past two months but US military commanders say it remains too high, with sectarian attacks and indiscriminate bombings an almost daily occurrence.— INTERNET
Zimbabwe biodiesel plant to go into operation soon

HARARE, 4 Dec—Zimbabwe has increased the Jatropha crop selling price to 300 US dollars a ton in preparation for the opening of the Finealt biodiesel plant under construction in Mutoko, local media The Sunday Mail reported.

Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono said growers of the crop deserved more credit, adding that the Finealt bio-diesel plant was in its final stages of construction and was expected to be commissioned in February next year. Gono, together with delegates from the central bank, on Saturday embarked on a familiarization tour of Jatropha farms in Mashonaland East Province in east Zimbabwe.

He dubbed the strategic crop “diamond” of Mashonaland East and encouraged farmers to consider farming the crop. “We are pegging the price of Jatropha at 300 US dollars per ton,” he said.

“If you haven’t started farming Jatropha then you do not know where the money is,” said the Governor who took time to water some Jatropha plants at the Chitora Dam site seedling plantation.

One hectare of land can carry 1,000 Jatropha trees that will in turn produce between five and 10 tons of yield. One ton of Jatropha seeds can produce up to 300 litres of biodiesel, 1,600 kilos of organic fertilizer and 100 kilos of glycerine. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan experts find way to block allergic reactions

HONG KONG, 4 Dec—Scientists in Japan may have found a way to stop reactions such as wheezing, itching and swelling after identifying a key molecule which is crucial for the body to mount an allergic response.

They discovered the STIM1 molecule and found that when it was gone the body was no longer susceptible to allergens, the latest issue of Nature Immunology reported.

“If we can block STIM1 function, then we can block allergic reactions because STIM1 is very important for inducing allergies,” Tomohiro Kurosaki, group director of the Laboratory for Lymphocyte Differentiation at the RIKEN Research Centre for Allergy and Immunology said in a telephone interview.

Some people are allergic to common allergens such as dust and pollen, although sensitivities vary from person to person and it is possible to be allergic to just about anything.

Prior studies have established that allergens cause a build-up of calcium in what are called mast cells, located near the skin — kickstarting the process which leads to rashes, sneezing, itching and swelling.

What Kurosaki’s team found was that the concentration of calcium was dependent on the presence of STIM1.

Using specially bred mice that lacked STIM1, the researchers found that they were resistant to stimuli normally capable of provoking severe allergic reactions.

Hungarian amateur glider dies in Vietnam

HANOI, 4 Dec—A Hungarian construction engineer working in Vietnam died when his glider hit a coalmine in eastern China’s Zhejiang.

Five killed, 30 injured in new blast at Ukrainian coal mine

KIEV, 4 Dec—Another explosion occurred on Sunday at the same coalmine in eastern Ukraine hit by the country’s worst mining accident two weeks ago, killing five workers and leaving 30 injured.

“Five maintenance workers trying to clear the affected section were killed, 30 others have been hospitalized due to gas inhalation,” the Press service of the Donetsk regional administration said Monday in a statement.

A total of 231 people were working at the mine when the blast occurred and they have been evacuated to the surface by now, the statement said.

It was the third accident in the two weeks at the same section of the Zasyadko coalmine in Donetsk, about 640 kilometres southeast of the capital Kiev.

The 18 November explosion killed 101 miners at Zasyadko, another methane blast on 1 December left 52 miners hospitalized.

Acting Prime Minister Victor Yanukovych has rushed to Donetsk early Monday, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency said. —MNA/Xinhua

Four pupils poisoned to death in S-W China

KUNMING, 4 Dec—Four pupils were poisoned to death in southwest China’s Yunnan Province on Monday morning, local government reported.

The four, three girls and a boy, were from Lehong Township, Ludian County of Zhaotong City. They developed symptoms of poisoning and died after arriving at school between 6.30 and 7 am, according to Ma Jilin, Party Secretary of Ludian County.

One died in the classroom, one on the way to a clinic in Lehong Township, where the other two also died. The oldest of the four is about 11 and the youngest only about seven. —MNA/Xinhua

Fourweddingcars decorated with 150 kilograms of beautiful fruit surprised residents on the streets of Wenzhou City, in eastern China’s Zhejiang.

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A boy rolls down a hill in the deep snow while playing near the course for the men’s World Cup giant slalom in Beaver Creek, Colorado, on 2 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Afghan policemen inspect the site of an explosion as smoke blows from a car used by a suicide bomber in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 4 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET
EU says no end to financial turmoil in sight

BRUSSELS, 4 Dec—There is no end to the financial turmoil in sight, the European Union’s (EU) Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said on Monday, warning the persistent uncertainty has resulted in a collapse in investor confidence.

Speaking at a finance conference here, Almunia said although the financial turmoil, triggered by the sub-prime mortgage market crisis in the United States this August, has lasted four months, there is still “no end to the volatility yet in sight.”

“Uncertainty about the scale and location of losses has resulted in a general collapse of confidence,” he said, adding several key financial markets, including inter-bank deposit markets, have either stopped functioning altogether or have experienced severe stress.

With more financial institutions coming to terms with significant losses, Almunia said global credit conditions have tightened and are set to tighten further, which implies fewer borrowing opportunities and in turn has raised the prospect of slower economic growth in the coming years.—MNA/Xinhua

EU, China to set up high-level eco, trade dialogue

BEIJING, 4 Dec—China and the European Union (EU) will establish a high-level economic and trade dialogue by the end of March next year to address issues including trade imbalance and China’s market economy status.

According to a Joint Statement of the 10th China-EU Summit issued on Monday, the dialogue is designed for Vice-Premier level discussions on strategies in China-EU trade, investment and economic cooperation and coordinate bilateral projects, studies and development plans in priority sectors.

It will cover issues affecting the trade imbalance, including effective market access, intellectual property rights, environment, high technology and energy, among others.

Statistics with China’s Ministry of Commerce indicated China’s surplus with the EU, China’s largest trading partner, reached 91.7 billion US dollars in 2006, but a paper issued by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, predicted China’s trade surplus to the EU could top 200 billion euros (about 260 billion US dollars) by the end of this year. The statement said the Chinese Minister of Commerce and the EU Trade Commissioner will meet as necessary to prepare this mechanism and its agenda.

It said the dialogue also includes sessions to review the concerns of China including progress on the issue of Market Economy Status (MES) made on other occasions.

MNA/Xinhua

India’s export increases in first 10 months

JAKARTA, 4 Dec—Indonesia’s export in the first ten months of this year increased by 13.36 per cent to 93.26 billion US dollars, he said.

The head of the bureau Rusman Heriawan said that the rise was contributed by the increase of export of non-oil and gas products to 17.31 per cent to 75.91 billion US dollars.

The export of oil and gas products decreased by 1.18 per cent to 17.36 billion US dollars said Heriawan.

Japan, followed by the United States and Singapore, was the most designated country for the export of Indonesia’s non-oil-and-gas products in October, Heriawan said.

At the same time, the country’s import rose by 19.31 per cent to 60.06 billion US dollars, he said.

The rise was contributed by the increase of import of non-oil-and-gas products by 26.12 per cent to 42.98 billion US dollars and oil and gas-products by 4.98 per cent to 17.05 billion US dollars, said Heriawan.

The head of the bureau said that China, followed by Japan and the United States, was the most contributory country for supplying non-oil-and-gas products to Indonesia during the period.

MNA/Xinhua

GCC, EU fail to deal with free trade obstacles

DOHA, 4 Dec—The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the 27-member European Union (EU) have failed to overcome obstacles to a bilateral free trade agreement which has been under negotiation for nearly 20 years, local daily Gulf Times reported on Monday.

Qatar’s Finance Minister and Acting Minister of Economy and Commerce Yousef Hussein Kamal disclosed the failure after a meeting between GCC negotiators and European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson in the Qatari capital of Doha on Sunday.

“We discussed with Mr. Mandelson the free trade accord...but certain points have still to be reformulated to meet the demands of the two sides,” Kamal said, without giving details. The conclusion of the GCC-EU free trade agreement is periodically announced as being imminent but continues to remain elusive.

The EU had been negotiating with the GCC since 1988, which includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, but limits on European investment and laws that forbid Europeans holding majority stakes in Gulf companies have stalled a deal. European business wants access to sectors such as banking, telecoms and infrastructure projects, particularly ports, which are booming in the GCC region.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s investment abroad reaches $390m in first 11 months

HANOI, 4 Dec—Vietnam invested abroad over 390 million US dollars in the first 11 months of this year, up 30.3 per cent over this year’s target, local newspaper People’s Army reported Monday.

The investment was poured into 61 projects, the paper quoted a report of the country’s Ministry of Planning and Investment. Vietnam is expected to invest overseas with total capital of about 500 million dollars in 2008, said the paper.—MNA/Xinhua

ECOnOMIC NEWS

Residents walk among metal frames draped in pink fabric, part of the Pink Project art installation, in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans on 3 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET
China, Greece sign protocol of cultural exchanges


Sharing grand ancient civilizations and rich cultural heritage, both countries will increase cooperation in the protection of cultural relics as well as exchanges in fine art, theatre, cinema, music and traditional culture, according to the protocol.

Zhao Weisi, China’s Vice-Minister of Culture, said the protocol is the first bilateral cultural exchange agreement after the two countries decided to set up a strategic partnership in 2006.

“The Cultural Year of Greece, started this October in Beijing, gave a chance to the Chinese people to know splendid ancient Greek civilization as well as the modern Greece,” said Zhao.

Greek Minister of Culture Mihalis Liapis expressed his thanks to the Chinese Government for holding the Greek cultural year on the eve of the Beijing Olympic Games, which are to be held in August, 2008.

The two ministers also showed their readiness to cooperate in the prevention of theft, illegal imports, exports and the transfer of cultural properties and works of art.— MNA/Xinhua

Agro-prodices fair to be held in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 4 Dec — Entrepreneurs based in Chitwan District in central Nepal is going to organize a five-day long Agro Expo-2007 on 14-18 December. The Himalayan Times reported on Monday.

According to Uday Kumar Shrestha, president of Narayangarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), the chamber has been organizing such fairs to promote overall socio-economic development of Chitwan and its surrounding districts for last 12 years.

Different government agencies including the Department of Livestock, Department of Agriculture and Regional Directorates are co-organizers of the event, while the Federation of Nepali Chambers of Commerce and Industry is one of the promoters.

Commercial agro farming of Chitwan, which is pioneer in the country, will be the major highlight of the event. “Poultry, dairy, bee keeping and honey production, fishery, livestock and seasonal and off seasonal vegetable farming are also rapidly booming in the district,”

MNA/Xinhua

Ho Chi Minh needs $22b for transport development

HANOI, 4 Dec — Ho Chi Minh city, the southern economic hub of Vietnam, needs 22 billion US dollars to develop transport infrastructure and ease traffic jams, according to newspaper Vietnam News on Monday.

The money will mainly fund construction of metro lines, ring roads, elevated roads, expressways and flyovers, Tran Quang Phuong, the director of the city’s Transport and Public Works Department was quoted as saying.

Under an urban transport development plan submitted recently by the city administration to the municipal People’s Council, the existing railway line running through the city will be rebuilt into a monorail line connecting major parts of the city. Five metro lines to be built will be prioritized for receiving official development assistance (ODA).

Over 100 transport projects will be undertaken with cost of eight billion dollars in the next three years, said the paper.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says older mothers face greater health risk

LOS ANGELES, 3 Dec.— More dangers including the development of high blood pressure and low-birth-weight babies could occur to both mothers and babies if the mothers give births after 40, according to the study by the Public Policy Institute of California, a nonpartisan think tank.

The study showed older mothers are more likely to develop high blood pressure and gestational diabetes and to give birth to premature and low-birth-weight babies.

Even the use of donor eggs does not guarantee a healthy child or pregnancy itself, warned the study published by the Los Angeles Times on Monday.

Although they make up only about 5 percent of overall births in California, births for US-born women ages 40 to 44 have increased three fold since 1982, according to the study.

Despite the advantages of using donor eggs, admitting to doing so is one of the few remaining reproductive taboos — among celebrity and regular moms alike, said the study. — Internet

A piece of a throne found in an ancient Roman settlement near Naples is shown in a photo released on 4 Dec, 2007. — Internet

Mother
Smoke-Free Environments in Myanmar

Dr Nyo Nyo Kyaing

Myanmar and the global movement for tobacco control
In July 1998 when WHO reorganized its tobacco control efforts within a new structure, the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), this movement greatly enhanced the momentum of the anti-tobacco activities in Myanmar. The National Health Committee which is the highest inter-ministerial advisory group of all concerned ministries at the national level issued guidelines for prevention and control of smoking related diseases at its 26th meeting held in September 1998. The National Programme on Tobacco Control was officially launched in January 2000 with the blessing and approval of the National Policy on Tobacco Control and Plan of action. The National Tobacco Control Committee was formed in March 2002, headed by the Minister for Health and included heads of related departments and chairpersons of several national NGOs as members. The Committee set guidelines for the tobacco control measures to be implemented in the country.

The Ministry of Information prohibited advertisement of tobacco products on all electronic media in the year 2000. Tobacco advertising billboards were banned from the vicinity of schools, hospitals, health facilities, sports stadiums and maternity homes in May 2002 and from other places in April 2003. Tobacco advertisements were also banned from the newspapers, journals and magazines in early 2003. Smoking was prohibited at all hospitals and health departments, at all basic education schools, all stadiums and sports fields, and at some workplaces.

In May 1999, the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organization, adopted a resolution (WHA 52.18) which paved the way for starting multi-lateral negotiations on the WHO FCTC and possible related protocols. Myanmar along with 172 Member States actively participated in the negotiating process of the WHO FCTC and strongly supported the convention. Myanmar delegates expressed their strong commitment towards comprehensive tobacco control measures and voiced for the need of a comprehensive ban on all forms of tobacco advertisement including cross-border advertising. Myanmar proudly hosted the 4th Inter-country Consultation Meeting of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) August 2002, where the countries of South-East Asia Region issued the “Yangon Declaration”. Myanmar became a signatory to the FCTC on the 23rd of October 2003 and became a Party to the Convention on 30th April 2004; it was the 11th country to become Party to the Convention. Minister for Health, Professor Dr Kyaw Myint, received the “World No-Tobacco Day 2004” award for his excellent leadership in the area of tobacco control in Myanmar.

National Legislation on Tobacco Control
The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law was adopted on 4th May, 2006 under the State Peace and Development Council Law 5/2006. The adoption of the law was very significant milestone in the history of public health of Myanmar and was highly appreciated by the World Health Organization and anti-tobacco advocates.

According to this law many public places including hospital buildings, offices, medical treatment centres and clinics; stadiums and indoor playing fields; children drill sheds and playgrounds; teaching buildings, classrooms, offices, compounds, opera houses, cinema halls, video halls and other buildings of entertainment; markets, department stores, stores and market sheds; museums, archives, public libraries and reading rooms; elevators and escalators; motor vehicles and aircraft for passenger transport; air-conditioned public rooms; public auditoriums etc are non-smoking areas.

Places to which the public have access in certain buildings, vehicles and crafts are non-smoking areas except the private offices and rooms. However, specific places where smoking is allowed, shall be arranged in such areas which include buildings of offices and departments; building of factories and workshops; building of hotels, motels, guest houses and lodging houses; building of railway stations, airports, ports and highway bus terminals; restaurants; trains and vessels for passenger transport.

The tobacococontrol law which came into force one year after its adoption strictly prohibits tobacco advertisement in all forms; it also prohibits sale of tobacco to and by minors, sale of cigarettes singly or in a package containing less than 20 to enable easy purchase and smoking. The law also states that it is an offence to produce, distribute or sell cigarette and other smoking tobacco products without a health warning in Myanmar language. Smoke-Free Environments
The World No-Tobacco Day 2007 focuses on Smoke-Free Environment as the only effective measure to protect the public from exposures to second-hand tobacco smoke. WHO encourages countries to enact and enforce law declaring all indoor workplaces and public places as 100% smoke-free. Many places around the world are now 100% smoke-free.

However, it is still required to put up joint efforts to establish 100% smoke-free places. Emphasis should be put on conducting awareness campaigns and education sessions for the public on dangers of second-hand smoke. Public should also be informed that they have the responsibility to abide by the law by refraining from smoking at public places.

We can create 100% smoke-free environments through coordinated efforts of law-abiding citizens, health professionals, education personnel, law enforcement personnel and NGOs. Everyone has the right to breathe clean fresh air free from tobacco smoke and other pollutants. It is time to join hands to create smoke-free environment in our beautiful country.

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A non-smoking sign at Yangon International Airport
Head of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein reported on supply of irrigation water to farms in the zones from Kalihtaw and Ngamoeyeik dams. After hearing reports of farmers, Lt-Gen Myint Swe fulfilled the requirements.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe also inspected irrigation canals No 1 and No 2 which carry river water from Kalihtaw Creek to Nyaunghnapin vegetable production and livestock breeding zone. Head of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein reported on matters related to irrigation tasks and Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions.

He also visited the pig farm in the zone and gave instructions to officials concerned.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and the commander inspected medicine store, the lab of the hospital in the town and donated cash to the hospital. Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected Basic Education High School in the town where he fulfilled the requirements of the school.

Afterwards, they went to Khema Wintha Monastery in the township and offered provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsa of the monastery. During his tour, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party also went to Dakkinarama Monastery and Sandarama Monastery and donated provisions to the Sayadaws of the monasteries.—MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects PhaungtawU Jetty in Sittway.—MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects development tasks in Taungpyo Letwe

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized the international trade course No 6 at UMFCCI Training Centre on Bo Sun Pat street in Pabedan Township, here, on 20 November. General Secretary of the Federation Chairman of the educational work committee U Sein Win Hlaing made an opening speech.

Member of the educational work committee U Tint Swe explained matters on the course. Altogether 57 trainees are attending 13-day course.

MNA

International Trade Course opened

YANGON, 5 Dec — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized the international trade course No 6 at UMFCCI Training Centre on Bo Sun Pat street in Pabedan Township, here, on 20 November. General Secretary of the Federation Chairman of the educational work committee U Sein Win Hlaing made an opening speech.

UMFCCI

Communal Kathina robes offered in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 5 Dec — PyinOoLwin Township held its 41st Communal Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony at YMBA Hall of the township on 24 November.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Yadana Manaung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda and Sayadaws of the remaining five monasteries. It was also attended by local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and wellwishers.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda. On behalf of the donors, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Aye Lwin offered Kathina robes and offertories to the Sayadaws. The congregation shared the merits gained.

The donations to the remaining five monasteries came to K 10,007,555 in total.—H

U Kyaw Hlaing & Daw Wint Thu Thu Maung, Daughter Ma Shiwin Le Le Hlaing and Son Maung Thukha Kyaw Hlaing recently donated K 200,000 to International Institute of Abhidhamma at Thadukari Dhammayon on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township to spend it on tasks for propagation of Abhidhamma across the world. Pro-Rector and Chairman of Management Committee of the institute Ambassador U Mya Than (Retd) accepts the cash donation. — หน้าที่ 11

General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of UMFCCI delivers an address at opening of International Trade Course.

UMFCCI

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects vegetable production...
Li-Gen Myint Swe being welcomed by Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Bunsarn Bannang at the reception to mark the birthday of the King of Thailand on 5 December 2007.

Delegates to ASEAN-COCI Information Subcommittee Meeting visit Gems Mart, MRTV, Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 5 Dec—Delegates from ASEAN countries—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—and ASEAN Secretariat who attended the 9th Information Subcommittee Meeting of ASEAN COCI visited Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

At Myanmar Radio and Television, Director-General U Khin Maung Htay extended greetings and explained functions of MRTV being carried out in accord with the State policies. They visited studios of the

One dead, four arrested in teak smuggling

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Local authorities in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State arrested altogether four men who illegally logged teak trees in the township on 26-27 November.

At about 7 pm on 26 November, the local police force in Maungtaw Township opened fire one time on five men who were transporting teak logs illegally as they fought back with knives when the police stopped them. One was dead and four managed to escape. Police seized four teak logs.

On 27 November evening, the troop led by Capt Win Khaing arrested four men in Maungtaw as they were illegally transporting teak logs. Shwe Nu, 40, of Thayagon Village, Maungtaw Township, was wounded in his left thigh and left knee as a troop member opened fire on him when he fought back with knife.

Similarly, a troop led by Maj Than Naing stopped a suspect boat in Shwedaw Creek in Maungtaw Township on 27 November. But, those on board sank the boat and managed to escape.

Moving the camera to the field, Maj Than Naing and his team swooped on the hill, east of Mongpun—Loilem Road at about 6 am on 29 November, and destroyed about 30 acres of 3-to-4-foot poppy plants in bloom. It seized Khun Tun Thu, San Maung, Soe Lwin and Maung Nge who were in a hut in the poppy fields at the time.

At 7.30 am the same day, the team combed a ridge, and found out a 60-acre poppy field. It destroyed about 20 of the 60 acres of poppy plants and arrested Ko Ko Htwe, Maung Win and Maung Hla staying in a hut in the field.

At 8 am, the team raided another ridge and found out about 50 acres of poppy plants in bloom, and destroyed about 20 of the 50 acres of poppy fields. Members of the team found Sai Swe (a) Sai Twe in a hut and searched the site and found 326.6 grams of raw opium in a nearby bush.

The seven men are now being interrogated separately, and a lawsuit was filed against Sai Swei (a) Sai Twei. Plans are under way to destroy the remaining poppy fields.—MNA

80 members quit NLD

YANGON, 5 Dec — A total of 80 members of Dagon Myothit (South) Township National League for Democracy resigned yesterday.

They held a ceremony to submit their resignation letters to Chairman of the township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission at Industry Zone No 2 in the township.

At the ceremony, ward/village organizer of the township NLD U Myo @ U Myo Aung said that they no longer wanted to stand as NLD members and quit NLD on their account. Then, they presented the letters to the chairman. It is learnt that they also sent the letters to NLD (Headquarters).


Departmental officials urged ...

(from page 16)

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected the export and import licence office, the Myoma bridge and the retaining walls along the Strand Road. They also viewed construction of Myoma Market.

While in Kawthoung, Maj-Gen Tha Aye visited 555 Shikinthu Hill and instructed officials to carry out tasks for greening of the hill.

At the hall of Kawthoung Station, they met servicemen and family members and gave necessary instructions.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party visited the 200-ton ice factory, trawlers and jetty of Golden Bear Co and the 80-ton ice factory of Aungchanta Co. They also visited the construction site for the Home for the Aged. At Kawthoung People’s Hospital, Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected installation of equipment in the operation theatre and X-ray room.

At the local battalion, they viewed agricultural and livestock breeding farms.

In the evening, they met with members of the Agricultural Supervisory Committees of Taninthayi Division, Kawthoung District and Township.—MNA
Inida to have N-submarine in two years

NEW DELHI, 5 Dec — India's first indigenously-built nuclear submarine will be ready by 2009, Indian naval chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta announced on Monday.

"Advance Technology Vessel (as the Nuclear powered submarine is classified) would be ready in two years," local news agency Press Trust of India quoted the Indian naval chief in his first public comments about the project being undertaken by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), at a Press conference in capital New Delhi.

"The scientists have confirmed that they would have the project ready for trials by 2009," Mehta said, even as he sought to label the project as a technology demonstrator.

Building of indigenous nuclear submarine will mark a leap forward in the country's defence preparedness. "In our credible minimum nuclear deterrent plans, placing of nuclear weapons under sea is the third triad. We haven't been able to give more time to it recently. But I am hopeful that in the times to come, more attention would be paid to it," he said.

In the next two years, India will also acquire a Russian SSBN (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear) Akula-class submarine on long lease, Mehta said.

"We want the Russian Nuclear submarine to enable our boys to train on how to operate nuclear reactors and platforms and other systems," he said.

Suicide attack in Afghan capital injures 22

KABUL, 5 Dec — A NATO convoy consisting of two vehicles was attacked by a suicide car bomber in Kabul Tuesday morning in which 22 civilian were injured, said a statement from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

No ISAF soldiers were injured but at least 22 local residents of Kabul were wounded during the suicide attack, the statement said.

"This suicide attack is just another example of insurgent extremists recklessly endangering the local population," said General Carlos Branco, the ISAF spokesman.

"As we have stated before, these barbaric bombings rarely cause ISAF casualties but almost always result in indiscriminate innocent civilian casualties," he said. There were no reports of death so far.— MNA/Reuters

Bomb kills six, wounds 25 in south of Thailand

PATTANI (Thailand), 5 Dec — A motorcycle bomb exploded outside a busy restaurant in Thailand’s rebellious Muslim south on Tuesday, killing six people, including two boys, government officials said. Two Muslim men died instantly when the bomb, left in a motorcycle parked in front of the restaurant, exploded in Pattani, one of four southern provinces where more than 2,600 have been killed in nearly four years of insurgency, an Army spokesman said.

"We suspect the two dead men might have been the bombers who failed to escape before the bomb exploded," Acra Tiproch said by telephone from the Muslim south.

Two women and two boys died at the hospital where 25 wounded people were being treated, Pattani’s Deputy Governor Vinai Kruvanapat told reporters at the hospital.

The southern violence is centred in the region bordering Malaysia, a Malay-speaking former sultanate annexed by Thailand about a century ago.— MNA/Reuters

Afghans’ support for US military drops

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec— Unhappiness amid Afghans towards the US military in their country has grown alongside the frustration at the increasing violence, a poll result showed.

According to the result, 42 per cent of respondents approve of US efforts, down from 68 per cent in 2005 and 57 per cent last year.

In southwestern Afghanistan, two-thirds of people are critical of US forces, and support for NATO-led forces has fallen to 45 per cent this year, compared with 83 per cent a year ago.

Whereas in the same region, 23 per cent of respondents voiced support for the Taleban six years after it was ousted by US-led coalition forces, a year ago 81 per cent said the Taleban had "no significant support at all" in the area.

"Civilian casualties blamed on these forces is a prime complaint," analysts said.

The poll also indicated that Afghans' confidence in the ability of US and NATO forces to provide security has slipped from last year's two-thirds to just half this year.

World’s first artificial heart man dies in Britain

LONDON, 5 Dec — A Briton who became the first man in the world fitted with a permanent artificial heart seven years ago has died at the age of 68, according to a BBC report on Monday.

Peter Houghton, from Edgbaston, Birmingham was fitted with the artificial pump in June 2000, died on November 25 at Birmingham’s Selly Oak Hospital, the BBC report said.

The cause of death was given as multiple organ failure.

Houghton, before the operation, was given only weeks to live as his own heart was working at 10 per cent of normal capacity.

After his operation Houghton helped raise awareness of the treatment by taking part in charity walks. He was also involved in helping start research into using the method on children.— MNA/Xinhua

Seven kilos of baby born in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 5 Dec— A newborn baby boy shocked a Jakarta hospital as he weighed nearly seven kilos when delivered by Caesarean section, local Press said Tuesday.

The baby measured 6.9 kilos in weight and 62 centimetres in length when he was born at the Fatmawati Hospital late Monday.

He is the fourth son of a couple living in South Jakarta.

"He has the weight of a four-month-old infant. Normally, a newborn baby measures two to three kilos in weight and 48 to 50 centimetres in length," the hospital’s spokesperson Lily Amalia was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying. Doctors were still performing thorough medical checkups on the baby to find any abnormalities, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

A competitor flies a simple, self-made aircraft on September 15, 2007. The second Birdman competition was held in China’s Hunan province, featuring 29 birdmen from home and abroad. Liu Chang, a competitor from Hunan Province, won the title of China’s No. 1 Birdman for flying a distance of 24.52 meters.— Xinhua
Images of the Day

The bended house in Poland is changing most people’s impression on Polish buildings, which are archaic and dull. The design inspiration came from a Swedish artist works, who sojourned in Poland. His works is famous for no direct lines. The bended house is a three-storeied one and has an attic.

A Sotheby’s employee holds the largest brilliant-cut D-colour flawless diamond during a preview at Sotheby’s in Geneva, Switzerland, in this 1 Oct, 2007 file photo. The 84.37-carat white diamond touted by Sotheby’s for its unprecedented size and beauty could beat the record for the most expensive jewel ever sold when it is put up for auction Wednesday evening, on 14 Nov, 2007. Sotheby’s has estimated the largest top quality, brilliant-cut white diamond ever to appear in an auction at US$12 million (euro 8.2 million) to US$16 million (euro 11 million). — Internet

Stunt performer Wang Chuntai pulls four people in a minicar with a rope attached to his nose on a street in Haikou, South China’s Hainan Province, on 13 Sept, 2007. He pulled the car nearly 10 meters in 10 seconds. — Internet

First News, the UK’s award-winning national newspaper for children aged 7-14, was published in the Guiness Book of Records on 8 Nov, 2007. First News delivers stories in an easy and digestible format; and in a voice aimed at inquisitive children. — Internet

Toothless kangal, or “doctor” fish, nibble at the dead skin of a customer’s feet at Malaysia’s first fish spa in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur’s main shopping area, on 13 Nov, 2007. — Internet
**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

M/V KOTA TAMAN VOY NO (158)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V KOTA TAMAN VOY NO (158) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 6.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to discharge into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/373816/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

M/V GATI ZIPP VOY NO (81308)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V GATI ZIPP VOY NO (81308) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 5.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will be declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST LTD

Phone No: 256908/373816/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

M/V GLARING PESCADORES VOY NO (46)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V GLARING PESCADORES VOY NO (46) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 6.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL THILAWA where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to discharge into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will be declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: TOKO KAUN KIAI SHA LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

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**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

Notice is hereby given that TKD KABUSHIKI KAISHA (TKD CORPORATION), a Joint Stock Company, organized under the laws of Japan, of 1-1, choho, Nihonbashiki Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, are the owners and sole proprietors of the following Trademarks:-

Reg.No. 4/669/1980

Reg.No. 4/650/1980

**INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL THILAWA**

The said trademarks are used in respect of the description of goods, following, that is to say:-

- *Memory apparatus and their parts, including electronic computers, memory cores, memory planes and memory stacks, pulse transformers.*
- *Magnetic tapes, magnetic sheets and their accessories, including magnetic recording tapes including audio tapes, video tapes and tapes for computers and measuring instruments, reels for magnetic tapes, cassettes and cartridges for magnetic tapes.*
- *Parts and accessories for electronic and electrical implements, including inverter ballast, inverters and converters, circulators, isolators and humulators, ceramic electrostatic transducers, micro inductors and variable inductors, head cores for recorders, capacitors and assembled elements composed of capacitors, resistors and coils, choke coils, molded coils and horizontal linearity coils, thermistor, transformers, noise filters, line filters and band passfilers, ferrite magnetostuctive resonators, magnetic delay lines, splitters for television communicating apparatus.*
- *High frequency magnetic substances, including ferrite cores for radio and television sets, communication devices, microwave apparatus and memory stack apparatus, iron core magnets.*
- *Magnificent necklaces (plated magnets strong as necklaces and worn for therapeutic effect) Any imitation of fraudulent use of the said trademarks will be dealt with according to law.*

**BANGKOK, 4 Dec—**The number of tourists entering 10 marine and forest national parks throughout Thailand will be limited from 1 July, 2008, said a senior officer at the National Resource and Environment Ministry on Sunday.

Preecha Chansiritanon, deputy director-general of the Ministry's National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, said his department had issued an order limiting the number of visitors to 10 national parks throughout the country, particularly on weekends and public holidays.

It was an attempt to protect national parks from damage caused by mass tourism, Preecha said. It was also aimed at boosting park security for tourists.

Among the national parks to be covered by the new limitation were Doi Suthep-Pui and Doi Inthanon in Chiang Mai Province, Phu Kradueng and Phu Pha Surin and Koh Similan in Phang Nga Province.

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China’s Customs revenue reaches 688.3b yuan by November

Beijing, 4 Dec—China’s Customs revenue hit 688.35 billion yuan (about 93.02 US dollars) by 28 November this year, fulfilling yearly target of 688 billion yuan more than a month earlier, according to customs sources.

The customs revenue of the entire year is expected to exceed 700 billion yuan, 100 billion more than last year’s record high of 610 billion yuan (about 78 billion US dollars).

The large-scale increase of customs revenue came from strong growth in consumption and exports supported by the country’s fast growing economy, said a Customs official. Total imports rose 19.8 per cent to 773.48 billion US dollars in first ten months as domestic demands grew, providing a major tax source.

Revenue from import sector also rose upon the launch of a consumption tax on luxury goods, such as watches, golf balls and clubs, yachts and wooden floor panels in April last year. The adjustment of tariff policies since the end of last year boosted the revenue from the imports, which jumped 26.9 per cent to 985.84 billion US dollars in the first ten months this year.—MNA/Xinhua

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Xinjiang freeway accident leaves three dead, five injured

UXUQI, 4 Dec—Three people died and five others were injured when a sleeper bus ran into a long-haul truck early on Monday in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, local sources said.

The bus, which had 37 people aboard, was heading toward Urumqi, the Xinjiang regional capital, from Aksu, said sources from the Mongolian Autonomous Prefectural Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) of Bayingolin. When the bus reached the 391-kilometre mark of the freeway connecting Hoxud and Korla, both situated in the southern part of the Tianshan Mountains, it slammed into the rear portion of the truck around 1:40 am, killing the driver and two others instantly.

Five passengers were slightly injured. Following the crash, a joint working group consisting of personnel from the public security, work safety and medical services rushed to the site to attend to the accident.—MNA/Xinhua

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**Thai national parks to limit visitors from July ‘08**

**BANGKOK, 4 Dec**—The Thai government is to limit the number of visitors to 10 national parks throughout the country, particularly on weekends and public holidays.

It was an attempt to protect national parks from damage caused by mass tourism, Preecha said. It was also aimed at boosting park security for tourists.

Among the national parks to be covered by the new limitation were Doi Suthep-Pui and Doi Inthanon in Chiang Mai Province, Phu Kradueng and Phu Pha Surin and Koh Similan in Phang Nga Province.

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**Stretch of China’s Yangtze River caves in**

BEIJING, 4 Dec—A 100-metre (330 feet) stretch of the Yangtze River’s bank collapsed in eastern China on Saturday, sending some 10 warehouses and several cranes into the river, the official Xinhua news agency said on Sunday.

The landslide happened near the city of Wuhu in Anhui Province, which lies roughly 100 kilometres (60 miles) southwest of Nanjing, capital of the relatively prosperous province of Jiangsu on the eastern seaboard. Wuhu lies hundreds of kilometres (miles) down-stream from the Three Gorges Dam, the world’s largest hydro-power project, which officials have said would help control flooding in downstream areas.

Xinhua cited a local official as saying the collapse, which has been called a vortex of water. It said others believed construction at a nearby shipyard might have loosened the foundations of a dyke and caused the collapse.—MNA/Reuters

Visitors take pictures of food in the 2007 Wuxi Taihu Lake Food Festival in Wuxi city, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 2 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA
Peru, China agree to boost investment at business forum

LIMA, 4 Dec — Peru and China held an investment forum here Tuesday to shore up bilateral trade and investment.

Around 200 entrepreneurs and business people from both countries took part in the gathering to discuss more opportunities in two-way trade and investment. Peru’s Cabinet Chief Jorge del Castillo said in the opening speech that Peru welcomes Chinese investments in such sectors as mining and setting up new factories. Chinese Ambassador to Peru Gao Zhengyu said bilateral trade and investment developed at a fast pace and China has become Peru’s second largest trading partner and exporting market.

The two countries’ trade has reached 4.4 billion US dollars so far this year, up 800 million dollars from the total of 2006, according to the ambassador.

Britney Spears tops list of Yahoo! searches for 2007

BEIJING, 5 Dec — Love her or hate her, Britney Spears fascinated people in 2007 with the disgraced pop princess heading a list of the top 10 searches on Yahoo! Spears, a former Disney Mouseketeer who turned 26 on Sunday, continued to draw attention as she shaved her head, attacked a photographer’s car with an umbrella, went to rehab, fought with ex-husband Kevin Federline over the custody of their two sons, and released her first album in four years.

“People do not know what to expect from her any more and the searches would spike every time she was back in the news,” Vera Chan, senior editor at Yahoo!, told Reuters.

Indonesia, Australia may conclude FTA study by May

JAKARTA, 4 Dec — A joint team from Indonesia and Australia is expected to conclude the feasibility study on bilateral free trade agreement by May next year. Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said here Monday.

“Hopefully the study will be concluded in April or May. Afterwards we can decide whether or not the FTA negotiations will continue,” she told reporters on the sidelines of the Indonesia-Australia Policy Research Forum.

If the team suggests that an Indonesia- Australia FTA is feasible, further negotiations would take one to two years, she added.

The two countries began the FTA talks when Pangestu met with his Australian counterpart Warren Truss in June this year. The two agreed to appoint entrepreneurs and experts from their respective country to conduct the FTA study, which focuses on the growing investment and trade between the two countries that may lead to an FTA.

Nokia predicts 10% growth in mobile phone market

H. S. SINKK, 4 Dec — Nokia, the world’s largest mobile phone producer, predicted that the mobile phone market would grow by 10 percent next year to more than 1.2 billion units.

Nokia said Tuesday that it was now targeting a one to two-year group operating margin (the proportion of revenue after production costs are subtracted) of 16-17 percent, up from its previous target of 15 percent. It also predicted that the worldwide market for internet services would reach 100 billion euros (145 billion US dollars) by 2010, and announced the acquisition of Avvena, a US-based company that specializes in online services and access to PCs and handsets.

Britain launches five-year plan to improve cancer care

LONDON, 4 Dec — Greater restrictions on smoking and the use of sunbeds are among the measures being considered by the British Government in a sweeping plan to improve cancer care and survival rates in the UK.

The five-year-plan announced by Health Secretary Alan Johnson Monday is being supported by a 370-million-pound (766-US-dollar) investment. “I want to build world-class cancer services that give NHS patients access to top quality treatment at every stage,” Johnson said.

Other measures include earlier diagnosis and treatment, extending cancer screening, fast-track drug approval and extended services for cancer survivors, according to the Health Department. Johnson added that the government will help people quit smoking, tighten cigarette sales, as well as control the use of sunbeds to help reduce cases of skin cancer.

Money will also be spent on an extension of breast cancer screening with state-of-the-art digital mammography equipment.

The NHS Bowel Screening Programme will be rolled out to cover larger groups of people. The government also pledged to increase radiotherapy capacity over the next three years by investing 200 million pounds (some 414 million US dollars) in new equipment and staff.

According to government statistics, the NHS has significantly improved the quality of care for cancer patients since Labour came to office 10 years ago. Mortality rates in the under 75s have fallen by 17 per cent between 1996 and 2005, saving 60,000 lives.
**SPORTS**

**Struggling Coventry City facing administration**

**LONDON, 4 Dec —** Coventry City have filed a court notice to go into administration, the 1987 FA Cup winners said on Monday.

"This is merely a legal process protecting the bank and its creditors and should speed up the potential takeover of the club and therefore take Coventry City into a solvent financial situation," said a statement on the club's Web site (www.ccfc.premiumtv.co.uk).

"The legal notice gives Coventry City a 10-working day window to complete the takeover talks with Ray Ranson and Siwu Capital, among other parties." Coventry, who have struggled since relegation from the Premier League in 2001, are 14th in the Championship (second division) and have been actively seeking a buyer.

**MOURINHO IS TERRY’S CHOICE FOR ENGLAND JOB**

**LONDON, 5 Dec —** Jose Mourinho would be the best choice as England coach, national team captain John Terry said on Tuesday.

"He's the one that really stands out for me and could make a big difference," Terry told Sky Sports.

England have begun the search for a new coach following Steve McClaren's sacking after their failure two weeks ago to qualify for Euro 2008 in Austria and Switzerland.

"(Mourinho) is a great guy tactically, he's very aware and he understands the game very well," added central defender Terry of his former manager at Chelsea.

"He came in and took us (Chelsea) to a new level. I'm very lucky to have been able to work with Jose, he's a fantastic manager and a fantastic guy."

The Portuguese coach, who steered Chelsea to the Premier League title in 2005 and 2006, has been enjoying a break from the game since leaving Chelsea in September over differences with club owner Roman Abramovich.

"It's down to the FA to contact him if they want to speak to him," said Terry, who was appointed England captain by McClaren in succession to David Beckham after the 2006 World Cup.

Terry, who will be 28 on Friday, said FA chief executive Brian Barwick had consulted him about a new England coach.

"I've had a meeting with Brian Barwick, but that will stay private between me and him. Not just about managers, it's about many things," Terry said. —MNA/Reuters

**ROMARIO FAILS DOPing TEST, BLAMES HAIR MEDICINE**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Dec —** A hair loss medicine was responsible for former Brazil striker Romario failing a doping test after a club match, the player said on Monday.

The Vasco da Gama striker, who has played sporadically since scoring what he claimed to be the 1,000th goal of his career in May, said he had tested positively for Winolisteride after the game against Palmeiras on October 28.

"I'm losing some hair and I have been taking this product for a while," the 41-year-old told a news conference.

Brazil's disciplinary tribunal has not said when it would rule on the case. The 1994 World Cup winner said he planned to keep playing until early next year and did not expect a stiff punishment.

"I don't think it's going to disrupt my career," he said.

"It's not really doping. As far as I'm concerned, it's something which has never influenced my performance. It isn't the first time I've used it." —MNA/Reuters

**CARDozo DOUBLE FIRES BENfica INTO UEFA Cup**

**DONETSK (Ukraine), 5 Dec —** Oscar Cardozo scored twice for Benfica who claimed a place in the UEFA Cup after a 2-1 win over Shakhtar Donetsk in their final Champions League Group D tie on Tuesday.

Shakhtar had entertained hopes of still qualifying for the knockout stages of the Champions League for the first time but needed a victory, coupled with a Celtic defeat at already-qualified Milan to go through.

Paraguay striker Cardozo pounced on a poor backpass to smash in the first after six minutes and powerfully headed in a second midway through the first half.

**VAN Basten to quit Dutch team after Euro 2008**

**AMSTERDAM, 5 Dec —** Netherlands coach Marco van Basten will step down after the Euro 2008 finals, the Dutch FA (KNVB) said on Tuesday.

Van Basten and his assistant John van’t Schip will not extend their contracts which expire on 30 June.

"After the World Cup finals last year we considered the coming Euro finals as a new challenge and after four years it will be time to work in a new environment," Van Basten was quoted as saying in a Dutch FA statement.

"John and I have no idea what the future will bring but it was our duty to inform the KNVB, a good employer, in time."

—MNA/Reuters
Pregnant Iraqi woman, Africans attacked in Germany

Berlin, 5 Dec — A pregnant Iraqi woman and a group of African immigrants were attacked over the weekend in the eastern German city of Magdeburg in separate incidents police believe were racially motivated.

Police in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt said they had arrested two men suspected of shooting and punching the Iraqi woman in the face as she rode on a bus with her two-year-old daughter and four other Iraqi immigrants late on Saturday night.

The woman was taken to hospital with lower abdominal pain and was still there on Monday.

In a second attack early on Sunday, six to seven German men shouting racial slurs attacked three men and a woman from Niger.

Two of the men were injured, as was a young German and a policeman who tried to intervene. The attackers escaped into a crowd of about 30 people that had gathered to watch the scuffle, police said.

Interior Ministry figures published last month showed the number of victims of far-right violence in Germany jumped by more than 25 percent in the first nine months of 2007. — MNA/Reuters

Report says US jails more Blacks than Whites for drugs

What you keep seeing is this towering drug admission rate for African Americans and a very small rate for Whites. In many cases, the admission rate for Whites is smaller than the percentage of Whites in the whole population," said Jason Ziedenberg, the institute’s executive director.

The reasons for the disparity include federal mandatory minimum jail terms for drug crimes, which he said hit Blacks harder. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Wednesday, 5 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

Mongabay — Chiang Mai: 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 5-12-2007 was 74%. Total sun shine hours on 4-12-2007 was 74%. Minimum temperature on 5-12-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 5-12-2007 was 74%. Total sun shine hours on 4-12-2007 was 74%.

Maximum temperature on 4-12-2007 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 5-12-2007 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 5-12-2007 was 74%. Total sun shine hours on 4-12-2007 was 74%. Minimum temperature on 5-12-2007 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 5-12-2007 was 74%.

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Two of the men were injured, as was a young German and a policeman who tried to intervene. The attackers escaped into a crowd of about 30 people that had gathered to watch the scuffle, police said.

Interior Ministry figures published last month showed the number of victims of far-right violence in Germany jumped by more than 25 percent in the first nine months of 2007. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

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People’s Desire

☆ We favour stability.
☆ We favour peace.
☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

Departmental officials urged to ensure food surplus in Taninthayi Division

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec
— Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence inspected all-round construction tasks at Pyidawase Pagoda in Kawthoung on 30 November morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and officials, Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended the ceremony to offer rice and alms to members of the Sangha of monasteries in Kawthoung at Dhamma Beikman of the pagoda.

At Myinzathaka Hall, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met local authorities, departmental personnel, social organization members and local people. Chairman of Kawthoung District PDC U Min Aye Lwin reported on progress of the district. Departmental officials submitted reports on development matters.

Speaking on the occasion, Maj-Gen Tha Aye instructed them to strive for ensuring food surplus in Taninthayi Division.

At the Cape of Bayinnaung, Maj-Gen Tha Aye instructed officials to keep the statue of King Bayinnaung and its environs pleasant and green. They also inspected issuing of temporary border passes at the checkpoint on the Strand Road in Kawthoung.

(RSee page 9)

Smoke-Free Environments in Myanmar

The persons in charge of the non-smoking areas have the responsibility to let the public know that the area is a non-smoking area by keeping the caption and mark referring that it is a non-smoking area, he or she has responsibility to supervise and carry out measures so that no one shall smoke at the non-smoking area.

RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
The public be warned of killers in the air waves — RFA, VOA and BBC