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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye takes part in State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Cup Golf Tournament 2007
Ministry of Defence secures champions in team handicap and scratch events

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Cup Golf Tournament 2007 took place at the City Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At 6.40 am, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the City Golf Course. He was welcomed by SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members, Chairman of the Organizing Leading Committee of Tournament Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye took part in the golf tournament.

The golf tournament was attended by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, departmental heads, members of the Organizing Leading Committee and golfers from 36 teams representing the Prime Minister’s Office and ministries.

Before the opening ceremony, the golfers took the designated places. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of the Organizing Leading Committee Minister U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Mayor Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt opened the tournament by firing Tracer balls.

Next, the first round of the tournament commenced.

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

**Monday, 10 December, 2007**

Ancient cultural heritage promotes tourism industry

Myanmar is a nation of natural beauty with mountains and forests and it is rich in natural resources and it also has plenty of ancient cultural heritage. National races are sincere, friendly and hospitable. These are the basic foundations for development of tourism industry.

The majority of the tourists visit Bagan where a lot of ancient arts and crafts exist. Myanmar ancient cultural heritage is concentrated in Bagan region. Ancient structures have been renovated according to the original style. It is an interesting place for many tourists.

Inlay Lake in Shan State (South), landscapes of Pindaya region, islands along the coasts, corals, rare animals of biodiversity from underwater and production of traditional handicrafts of national people attract tourists.

Tourists can gain knowledge about the new year festivals of national races, regional festivals and cultural dances. Arrangements have been made for tourists who like to study the life of villages along the Ayeyawady River by boat. Package tours are organized by tour operators.

The government is laying emphasis on development of tourism as it has become a popular industry in the world.

It is believed that utilization of natural resources and promotion of eco-tourism will contribute towards development of the tourism industry.

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**MPMEEA to hold Annual Meeting**

YANGON, 9 Dec — The Annual Meeting of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs’ Association will be held at Myanmar Medical Association on Theibynu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 1 pm on 19 December.

Invitation letters have already been sent to heads of departments.

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**Transport Minister receives DPRK Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with Ambassador of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol and party at his office here on 7 December afternoon.

They discussed cooperation in flights, resolution of issues between the two countries, increase of tourist arrivals to Myanmar, marine cooperation, promotion of bilateral economic cooperation and participation of Korean companies in construction sectors in Myanmar.

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*Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects construction of Myeik Myothit Jetty*

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Tanintharyi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and departmental officials, on 3 December paid homage to the Buddha Image of Laykyunhsime Pagoda in Myeik, Tanintharyi Division.**

After making cash donations to the pagoda, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party attended a ceremony to offer provisions to monasteries in Myeik held at the Buddha Sasana Bhikshun of the pagoda.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party met with departmental personnel, social organizations, townships and enterprises of Palayadon Hall in Myeik.

Secretary of Tanintharyi Division PDC U Than Win presided on a discussion on development of education, health and agriculture sectors and the implementation of the five rural development tasks, and the commandant gave a supplementary report.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the commander and party looked into the development of Myeik.

On arrival at Taingyanaung Hall of Myeik station, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen and their families, and urged them to fully engage in building tasks of the station and regional development tasks in cooperation with departments concerned.

At the Technological University (Myeik) construction project site, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party headed to the salient points of the project and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks.

Next, they proceeded to Myeik Myothit developing project where they headed to the development tasks and future tasks.

After inspecting the jetty built by the Laypyae Co., handling of loads and upgrading of the approach road to Myeik Myothit, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party paid homage to Maha Thiddhizaya Pagoda and looked into the development tasks in the presence of the pagoda.

Later, they proceeded to Pansang and Daw of Sandayon Kamihmyut Monastery Bhaddanta Chandsrath and made cash donations.

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All this needs to be known

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

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* Oppose those relying on external elements as the common enemy
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects Myeik Myothit Jetty in Myeik.**

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Mr Kim Sok Chol, Ambassador of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.
Russian FM rejects US call for further sanctions against Iran

BRUSSELS, 8 Dec — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed a call by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for further UN sanctions on Iran concerning its ambitions nuclear programme.

In meeting Lavrov, Rice aimed at persuading Russia to support new sanctions on Iran, despite the fact that a US intelligence report released recently found Iran actually stopped a nuclear weapons programme in 2003. NATO foreign ministers agreed that adopting a two-track approach in dealing with Iran, who refuses to halt uranium enrichment as it insists the programme is for civilian use.

The United States is pushing for a new sanctions resolution in the UN Security Council.

A sand sculpture of artist’s depictions of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is seen during an annual sand sculpture event in the northeast Italian town of Jesolo on 8 Dec, 2007. — Reuters

I N T E R N A T I O N A L   N E W S

US State Dept Inspector General quits over Blackwater incident

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — US State Department Inspector General Howard Krongard, who came under fire for his role in handling an investigation of security firm Blackwater, announced his resignation on Friday.

State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said Krongard told co-workers in his department that he was leaving. Gallegos did not give any details such as the date of Krongard’s last day at work.

However, Mr. Chelsey News reports that it obtained an e-mail from Krongard to his staff in which Krongard says he plans to leave by 15 January.

Blackwater, which provides security in Iraq for US State Department officials and US diplomats, became the subject of federal and Congressional investigations after some of its guards fired on civilians in a Baghdad intersection on 16 September, killing 17 Iraqis.

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Britain to take three Guantanamo detainees

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec — Three Guantanamo inmates who are British residents will be released under an agreement between Britain and the United States, their lawyer said on Friday.

Jamal El Banna of Sudan, Omars Debayeh of Libya and Abdelrasul Sameer of Algeria are expected to be returned to Britain shortly and are not expected to remain on the island, said Zachary Katznelson, a lawyer with the British organization Reprieve that represents the three men.

He was not able to say when the release would happen.

MNA/Reuters

21 DPRK sailors rescued on slanting cargo ship off E China

JEJU, 9 Dec — Twenty-one sailors from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) were rescued by Chinese vessels after their cargo ship slanted due to strong winds off the coast of east China’s Shandong Province.

The DPRK ship, Zong Ming 3, leaned Friday afternoon at the sea about 20 nautical miles north of Weihai port after seawater entered two cargo cabins.

This photo, published by eastday.com on 8 Dec, shows a Chow Chow pulling a vehicle with its little master on board along a street in Tianjin’s Heping district. — Internet

The bureau said it received a distress call from the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre around 9:40 pm saying the DPRK vessel was leaning sharply and in danger of sinking and requested operation should be immediately launched. — MNA/Reuters
Robert Hawkins, took his own life Wednesday inside the store. —INTERNET

A private security officer patrols outside the food court of the Westroads Mall near the Von Maur Department Store in Omaha, Neb on 8 Dec, 2007. Eight people were killed and five wounded in a shooting attack before the gunman, Robert Hawkins, took his own life Wednesday inside the store. —INTERNET

China to launch first environment monitoring satellite

BEIJING, 1 Dec — China is to launch its first satellite to monitor the environment in the first half of next year, the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) said on Friday.

The satellite will be used to monitor the environment and report on natural disasters, said Wu Xiaoqing, the SEPA deputy director, at a press conference.

"One capability to manage the environment and forecast natural disasters will improve considerably with the operation of the satellite," Wu said.

So far, China has set up more than 2,000 stations on the ground to monitor the air, rivers and lakes, and the overall ecosystem. But the ground network still cannot meet the demand of timely and dynamic monitoring on the fast-changing environment, Wu said. "We did not elaborate on the details of how the satellite will operate," he said.

In this 10 October, 2006 file photo, a black spiny-tailed iguana suns itself next to a canal in Miami, Florida. —INTERNET

Arsonist admits setting deadly N China karaoke bar fire

SHIJIAZHUANG, 8 Dec — Police have arrested an arsonist for a karaoke bar fire last month in north China’s Hebei Province that killed 11, the local government said on Friday.

A 19-year-old said he was retaliating for frequent scoldings by the bar staff.

He then poured the gas, parked inside the bar and admitted to setting the bar floor and ignited it. The blaze killed 11 people and injured 10.

The Chengde government said families of the victims have been compensated 100,000 yuan ($26,666 US dollars) each. The Chengde government also arrested representatives of the bar and its operators.

Vivica Fox reaches plea deal for drunken driving

LOS ANGELES, 9 Dec — Actress Vivica A. Fox has pleaded no contest Friday to drunken driving and must serve three years probation and complete an alcohol education program, an official said.

Arsonist admits setting deadly N China karaoke bar fire

Argentina’s president, Nestor Kirchner, said the Protestant Church would not try to stop the tango dance, which has long been associated with the country's history of social revolution.

The tango is a traditional dance that originated in Buenos Aires in the late 19th century and has since become an international symbol of Argentina’s culture.

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Vietnam Airlines, which carries, including of 86 by 2015 and 110 by plans to have a total fleet aircraft of different kinds, currently operating 46 region.

biggest newspaper according to local be delivered in late 2009, ATR72-500s French aircraft maker signed a contract with Vietnam Airlines has National flag carrier ATR72-500s, currently having seven flights in 1992 and planes on short-haul starting to operate ATR planes, Vietnam Airlines, and Qatar, Indonesia to set up

HANOI, 8 Dec—Bangladesh and Switzerland will sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation next week to bolster bilateral trade, commerce and investment. local newspapers The Financial Express reported on Friday.

Assurance of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) was quoted as saying the measure will help Bangladesh attract more foreign direct investment from Switzerland.

Besides, the source said, such agreement with any country, especially within the EU country will benefit the exporters to a large extent.

He said Bangladesh expects to receive foreign investment from Switzerland.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Qatar, Indonesia to set up $1b joint venture

JAKARTA, 9 Dec—The Indonesian Government and Qatar’s Investment Authority (QAI) have agreed to establish a joint venture to finance a number of infrastructure projects in Indonesia, according to a report Saturday.

QAI will own 55 per cent stake of the joint venture, which will have initial capital of about one billion US dollars. The Indonesian Government, through the Finance Ministry, will own the remaining 15 per cent, according to local newspapers. 

The Jakarta Post, QAI, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, owns the world’s biggest gas field, and channels surpluses from energy sales to the CIA.

Vietnam Airlines buys five more planes

HANOI, 8 Dec—National flag carrier Vietnam Airlines has signed a contract with French aircraft maker ATR to purchase five new ATR72-500s, which will be delivered in late 2009, according to local newspapers. Youths on Friday.

After receiving the five planes, Vietnam Airlines, starting to operate ATR planes on short-haul flights in 1992 and currently having seven ATR72-200s and three ATR72-500s, will have the biggest ATR-72 fleet in the region.

Vietnam Airlines, currently operating 46 aircraft of different kinds, plans to have a total fleet of 110 by 2030.

Now, Vietnam has three operational domestic carriers, including Vietnam Airlines which holds a domestic market share of over 60 per cent; joint-stock Pacific Airlines; and Vietnam Air Services Company, an affiliate of Vietnam Airlines.

Vietnam’s six airlines served nearly 7.9 million domestic and foreign passengers in the first 11 months of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 15.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, the industry transported 119,700 tons of cargoes, up 4 per cent, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

Chinese commodity fair opens in Chile

SANTIAGO, 9 Dec—A three-day Chinese commodity fair was opened in Chile’s capital on Thursday in a bid to promote bilateral trade.

With over 60 companies in the automobile, telecommunication, machinery, construction materials and garment industries participating the ExpoChina 2007 fair is expected to have 100 million US dollars in trade volume.

Cai Jiaxiang, deputy director of China Shipper’s Association, said at the opening ceremony that he hoped the fair would serve as a link between companies from China and Chile and help promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

China has become the second largest trade partner for Chile, which has the third largest trade partners in Latin America for China. A free trade agreement between the two countries took effect in 2006.

India cancels $600m chopper deal with EADS

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec—India has cancelled a $600 million US dollars deal to buy 197 military helicopters from EADS and may offer the contract to other bidders, newspapers said on Friday.

Besides being a setback for EADS, the maker of the Airbus family of commercial jets, the deal’s collapse will also further delay India’s plans to replace its ageing helicopter fleet by at least two years, newspapers said. India will issue a fresh tender next year, a Defence Ministry source told the Hindustan Times.

EADS’ India office said it was not commenting on the Defence Ministry’s decision.

Bangladesh to sign on avoiding double taxation with Switzerland

DHAKA, 8 Dec—Bangladesh and Switzerland will sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation next week to bolster bilateral trade, commerce and investment. local newspapers The Financial Express reported on Friday.

Assurance of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) was quoted as saying the measure will help Bangladesh attract more foreign direct investment from Switzerland.

Besides, the source said, such an agreement with any country, especially within the EU country will benefit the exporters to a large extent.

He said Bangladesh expects to receive foreign investment from Switzerland.

The foreign ministry officials said Bangladesh has already signed a agreement on avoidance of double taxation with nine EU countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland.
Hu Jintao calls on boosting Sino-Japanese ties

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Friday called for the expansion and deepening of cooperation with Japan and boosting of bilateral relations to a new level.

The two sides should maintain friendly exchange at various levels, expand and deepen pragmatic cooperation, settle bilateral disputes through dialogue and equal consultation and continue to expand the mutual benefit between the two nations in an effort to boost bilateral relations to a new level“, Hu said.

Hu made his remarks in a meeting with Ichiro Ozawa, president of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) at the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing.

He highlighted the recent growth momentum of bilateral relations, saying that the development of bilateral relations, Ozawa, who heads a 450-member Japanese delegation, said that Japanese people highly appreciate China’s commitment to the Japan-China relations, expressing his hope to seize the opportunity to boost mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples.

The booming of a strong relationship between Japan and China not only serves the two nations, but is also vital to the stability and prosperity of Asia and the world at large, Ozawa told Hu.

MNA/Xinhua

Static blamed for gas station blast in N China

TIANJIN, 8 Dec — Static electricity is thought to have triggered a blast at a Tianjin oil supply depot that injured four people on Thursday, investigators said on Friday.

Officials with the municipal work safety watchdog said their initial investigation cited static as the cause of several fires which broke out when two trucks were pumping out diesel from a supply tank at the privately-owned gas depot around noon.

The two trucks caught fire immediately and a strong shock wave sent the huge tank flying about 100 metres from its pad.

Fortunately, a China National Petroleum Corporation (Petroleum) gas station and two oil homes adjacent to the site were not affected.

MNA/Xinhua

Police say US mall shooter hid assault rifle in sweatshirt

OMAHA, 8 Dec — A 19-year-old school dropout who shot and killed eight people and himself at a Nebraska shopping mall smuggled a stolen assault rifle into the building wrapped in a sweatshirt he got out of a third-floor elevator, police said on Thursday.

Robert Hawkins left text and voice messages with friends and family before Wednesday’s bloodbath. ‘He had apparently been experiencing some mental health problems, ideations of suicide’ Omaha Police Chief Thomas Warren said the tapes seem to show that Hawkins had the gun wrapped in a hooded sweatshirt.

Warren said the tapes seem to show that Hawkins had the gun. Warren said the tapes seem to show that Hawkins had the gun.

MNA/Reuters

NYC changes subway management for better service

NEW YORK, 8 Dec — New York City Transit said on Thursday that it is making major changes to subway management in a bid to provide swifter service on a smoother ride. The move was expected.

The management will be responsible for all operations of their line, including tracks, trains and stations, it said. Each line will compete with others and be rated on service, cleanliness and other measures, it added. New York’s complex subway system was one of the first in America.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen (L) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh before their meeting in New Delhi on 8, Dec, 2007. Sen is on a four-day state visit to India.

INTERNET

Moderate quake jolts Indonesia resort island of Bali

BALI (Indonesia), 8 Dec — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale jolted on Friday Indonesia’s resort island of Bali, where a two-week UN climate change conference was currently going on.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The tremor, which was felt in Bali, was centred 150 miles southeast of the island and struck around nine miles beneath the ocean floor, according to the US Geological Survey.

The quake was not strong enough to trigger a tsunami warning. Indonesia’s world famous popular holiday resort island of Bali is located on the so-called ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’, an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin. — MNA/Xinhua

People dressed as Santa Claus stand in front of an upside-down house during a convention in Scymbark, close to Gdansk in northern Poland, on 6 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET
Elimination of poppy through extended raising of poultry, pigs and fish

(Maung Aung-LBVD)

Narcotic drugs including opium pose a grave danger to mankind. This being the case, they have been banned from being produced, used and trafficked in successive periods. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council also, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was formed in order to ward off the dangers of the drug. The CCDAC reconstituted the poppy substitute agriculture and livestock breeding committees in 1997 with a view to minimizing the production, use and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

The poppy substitute livestock breeding committee is carrying out the poppy substitute livestock breeding tasks in border areas for elimination of poppy cultivation. The poppy substitute livestock breeding tasks are to undertake livestock breeding on a large scale to suit the region, to engage in extended breeding of quality multicolor cows and poultry with the help of the livestock and fisheries bank, to distribute pedigree animals and poultry to special regions, to set up model livestock breeding villages for development of livestock breeding, to put fingerlings into rivers, creeks and lakes, to ensure food security and to place emphasis on animal health and prevention of infectious diseases.

The committee is also undertaking the education and development tasks which included conducting courses on livestock breeding at the drug rehabilitation camps, conducting on-job training courses on modern livestock breeding and conducting training courses on apiculture for boosting the crop yield.

In its effort to implement the livestock breeding tasks, the committee distributed pedigree animals free of charge for improvement of the socio-economic life of former poppy growers. It distributed four million in 2000-2001, ten bulls, ten cows, 3,501 pigs and 61,911 poultry to the special region 1 and 2 of Kachin State from 1999 to 2007. And it also distributed 31 houses, 69 bulls, 24,331 pigs, 5,415 pedigree pigs, 54,047 poultry and 39,304 domestic fowls poultry to Kachin region. We also gave Shan, Shan and PaO region to Shan State (North), Laukkai region and PaO region in Shan State (East) from 1999-2000 to 2006-2007 spending K 12.039 million.


In the meantime, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries distributed poultry, pigs and cattle worth K 102 million for improvement of the socio-economic life of national races in border areas. The ministry also carried out tasks for higher living standards of national races, prevention and control of animal diseases, setting up of model farms, putting fingerlings into rivers, creeks and lakes, distribution of quality animals, beekeeping and conducting apiculture courses, spending K 1.65 million.

Thanks to relentless efforts of the CCDAC and the ministry, the number of buffalo has increased to 36,220 in 2007 from 15,212 in 2000. That of cattle to 24,669 from 20,792, that of pig to 24,940 from 20,792, that of poultry to 173,128 from 53,300 in Lanlaka, Kamagha, Mon State, PaO region and PaO region in Shan State (North) in 2003-2004. The ministry also distributed four stallions, 10 bulls, 24,331 pigs, 5,415 pedigree pigs, 54,047 poultry and 39,304 domestic fowls poultry to Kachin region.

The government is making all-out efforts to get rid of poppy cultivation, the evil legacy of colonialists. Regarding this, it is providing national races who were engaged in poppy cultivation for various reasons in the past with agriculture and livestock breeding undertakings in order to improve their living standards.

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Translation: TS

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...

(Read from page 1)

The morning the tournament opened, the second round at the same venue.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC members and ministers took part in the tournament.

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After the second round, the prize presentation ceremony followed.

At the City Golf Course, the Secretary-1 presented prizes to respective winning teams.

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At the City Golf Course, the Secretary-1 presented SPDC Chairman's Cup to Ministry of Defence Team.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thila Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents SPDC Chairman's Cup to Ministry of Defence Team.

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects water storage capacity in Lagunpyin dam, Ngamoeyeik Water Pumping Project

YANGON, 9 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and party inspected maintenance of channels, water supply tasks and storage capacity of Lagunpyin dam, progress of Ngamoeyeik Water Pumping Project and water supply to some farmlands in Hlegu Township this morning and called for timely completion of the project tasks for the development of a green urban sector.

At the hearing hall, Director U Kyaw Thwin (Yangon) of Irrigation Department briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe on land preparation for main canal and tributaries and water supply building and supplying water to summer paddy fields in 2007-2008.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on supplying water to summer paddy this year and inspected earth works with concerned officials of the Ministry of Construction.

The project, named the Ngamoeyeik Water Pumping Project, was inspected by Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party this morning and some farmlands in Hlegu Township this morning and attended to the needs.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence visits Ngamoeyeik water pumping project in Hlegu Township... — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung meets Myanmar Hajj pilgrims at Central Hotel.— MNA

Myanmar secures three more silver, four more bronze

YANGON, 9 Dec — Myanmar Sports Contingent bagged three silver medals and four bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games today.

Pa Pa won one silver medal in the women’s marathon, Aung Ko Min one silver medal in the men’s singles sculls and Shwe Sin Latt one silver medal in the women’s lightweight singles sculls.

Saw Min Na won a bronze medal in the 20 km women’s walk race. Kyu Kyu Thin one bronze medal in the women’s lightweight singles sculls and Shwe Sin Latt one silver medal in the women’s lightweight singles sculls.

First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament continues

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec — The First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament 2007 continued at the designated places here today.

In the competition, Ministry of Electric Power No 2 won the semi-final match of Culture 3-0. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee hammered Ministry of Foreign Affairs 3-0; Ministry of Home Affairs beat Ministry of Labour 3-0 and Ministry of Industry-edge out Ministry of Health 3-0. — MNA
Lavrov warns US missile plan to jeopardize NATO-Russia dialogue

BRUSSELS, 9 Dec — It would be difficult for Russia to continue dialogue with NATO if Washington deployed a missile defence system in Europe in defiance of its own plans, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here Friday.

"If a missile defence system in Europe is tailored only to the United States' unilateral plans, it will be hard for us to continue the Russia-NATO dialogue," Lavrov told reporters after a NATO-Russia Council meeting.

"I absolutely do not think that this strengthens one party's stability," he added, saying that it would jeopardize Russia-NATO cooperation in missile defence.

The US wants to deploy systems in the Czech Republic and a missile defence base in Poland. Russian Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a press conference after the meeting of the NATO-Russia Council that the US would "materially strengthen missile defences".

US officials had said a decision to deploy a missile defence system would be "an investment to secure long-term US interests".

"In regards to the missile plans "in a uncoordinated way," Lavrov warned US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, "it is very difficult for us to continue the Russia-NATO dialogue," Lavrov told reporters after a NATO-Russia Council meeting.

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Nigeria, Cameroon meet at UN on land handover

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Dec — Nigerian and Cameroonian officials discussed on Friday Nigeria's handover to Cameroon of Bakassi, a peninsula with offshore oil deposits, as UN officials played down recent problems between the two states.

The officials, members of a follow-up committee monitoring a 2006 agreement on the handover, held what the United Nations called a "positive meeting" chaired by UN mediator Kieran Prendergast, and later met UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

A giant spitting cobra, measuring about 2.75 meters and carrying enough venom to kill at least 15 people, has been discovered in Kenya, conservation officials said on Friday.

"It has a bite and venom that is extremely dangerous and potentially fatal," said Steve Austin, head of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

The newspaper quoted the report as saying. The newspaper said the child cancer risk was highest near nuclear plants.

The UN civilian observers in the area "continue to report that the parties are not only complying with the agreement but working to get the best for the well-being of the populations".

Study says child cancer risk higher near nuclear plants

BERLIN, 9 Dec — A German study has found that young children living near nuclear power plants have a significantly higher risk of developing leukemia and other forms of cancer than in non-nuclear regions.

"One study confirmed that in Germany a connection has been observed between the distance of a domicile to the nearest nuclear power plant and the risk of developing cancer, such as leukemia, before the fifth birthday," German Environment Minister Jutta Schreyogg said on Friday.

The researchers found that 37 children within a five-kilometer (3-mile) radius of nuclear power plants had developed leukemia between 1990 and 2003, while the statistical average during this time period was 17, she said.

The newspaper cited an unnamed radiation protection expert familiar with the study who said its conclusions underlined the problem. He said the data showed there was an increased cancer risk for children living within 20 kilometers of a reactor. — MNA/Reuters

Report says Iran has stopped selling oil in US dollars

TEHRAN, 9 Dec — Iran has completely stopped selling any of its oil for US dollars, a Iranian news agency reported on Saturday, citing the oil minister of the world's fourth-largest crude producer.

The ISNA news agency did not give a direct quote from Oil Minister Gholamreza Nozari.

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Oil officials last month said "nearly all" of Iran's crude oil sales were now being paid for in non-US currencies.

For nearly two years, OPEC's second-biggest producer has been reducing its exposure to the dollar, saying the weak US currency is squeezing its purchasing power. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who often rails against US currency is eroding its purchasing power, said in an interview in May that Iran's crude oil sales were now being paid for in non-US currencies.

"The government has proposed to OPEC members that a direct quote from Oil Minister Gholamreza Nozari.

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Steffen Uffenorde, dressed as Father Christmas, steps over the edge the facade of a hotel during a ‘House Running’ event in downtown Berlin on 9 Dec, 2007. Participants of the event hosted by entertainment agency ‘Jochen Schweizer’ walked down 98 metres (322 ft.) from atop the hotel in the German capital.— Internet

French Louis Palmer sits inside his solar taxi at the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Nusa Dua, on Bali Island, on 7 Dec, 2007.— Internet

An oil-covered crab on a beach in Taean. A huge clean-up operation on South Korea’s stricken Southwest coast after the country’s worst oil spill is set to drag on for two months, a government minister has warned. Internet

File photo shows a giant pair of inflatable jeans in the pedestrian precinct Frankfurt during a promotion campaign. Scraped, torn, creased, frayed, stained, sprayed and mended: never will jeans, the 150-year apparel now the planet’s most popular clothing, be as battered and bruised as the models due to hit stores in 2009.— Internet
**Britain unveils plans for new terrorism powers**

**London, 6 Dec**

Britain said on Thursday it wanted to give police the powers to hold terrorist suspects for up to 42 days without charge, as part of compensation packages it has failed to appease many who condemn the plans on rights grounds.

Since taking over from Tony Blair in June, Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said police powers need to be extended to give them time to carry out complex investigations that could involve multiple plots and many countries.

But he has had to backtrack from initial plans to simply raise the detention limit, in the face of mounting opposition not only from political opponents and civil rights groups, but from senior legal figures and from within his own Labour Party. Instead, Brown announced proposals that would allow the government to use temporary measures only in extreme situations, permitting detectives to question suspects for a maximum of 42 days — up from the current 28.

These additional powers would be subject to parliamentary approval and would expire after two months.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said the measures were needed to support an increasing "trend and sustained threat".

Britain’s security services have said they are monitoring thousands of individuals who pose a risk. This year 45 people have been convicted of terrorism offences.

But Smith said the new powers would only be used in exceptional circumstances.

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**China expects technology transfer mechanism under UNFCCC**

**Beijing, 1 Dec** — China has a much higher expectation in technology development and transfer, and very much like to have an effective technology transfers mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said a high-ranking Chinese official here on Friday.

China’s technology needs cover both mitigation and adaptation technologies as China is a very diversified economy and is now in the process of industrialization.

Sn. Wei, director-general of the Office of National Leading Group on Climate Change under the National Development and Reform Commission.

Due to the natural endowment of resources and the increasing demand of productivity for the world market, China has an enormous task of developing clean and less-carbon technologies and know how for energy efficiency and renewable and nuclear energy, said Sn. at a side event for the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali.

For capacity building, China’s needs mainly include development of human resources, adaptation, training and education, raising public awareness, database and information system development. Sn. told participants at the side event called "The United Nations and China: Connecting Institutions, Technology and Partnerships to Combat Climate Change".

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**GEF launches account for tropical forest**

**Bali (Indonesia), 9 Dec**

— The Global Environment Facility (GEF) here on Saturday launched the Tropical Forest Account Initiative which will help safeguard forest ecosystems while strengthening sustainable financing for protected areas and for sustainable forest management.

The window to save the last remaining functioning expanses of tropical forests, which are responsible for the delivery of crucial global environmental services is closing fast," said Monique Barbut, the chair of the executive directors (CED) and chargé d’affaires of the world’s largest environmental funding body.

"GEF is managing with its partners a generous, demanding, sustainable, civil society to attract that challenge head on. GEF’s investments are also expected to encourage more ambitious financing from private investments looking to build environmentally-friendly forest markets."

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**Suicide car bomber kills 8 in northern Iraq**

**Baghdad (Iraq), 9 Dec**

— A suicide car bomb exploded in a residential neighborhood in northern Iraq on Saturday, a Reuters witness said. Police said at least eight people were killed and 40 wounded.

A Reuters television camera man said at least 11 cars were destroyed and 15 homes damaged by the blast, which targeted the home of an anti-terrorism official in a residential area in Basra, a northern Iraq town with a large oil refinery.

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**Smoke**

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**Don’t Smoke**

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**Women look on sculptures as they visit the 5th Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition in Teheran’s museum of contemporary arts on 8 Dec, 2007. — Internet**
UN hails China for endeavour in combating climate change

Bali (Indonesia), 8 Dec — China is doing what it can in combating climate change, said an official on Friday.

Climate change mitigation has to be put in a global context, and it has to be "rational and fair" in the moulding of actions agreed for mitigation, said Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in a side-event held during the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali.

"China is doing a great deal in terms of bringing about high efficiency of energy use," said Pachauri on the side-event, "The United Nations and China: Connecting Institutions, Technology and Partnerships to Combat Climate Change."

Pachauri said China has made major investments in hydro-projects in an important shift to new sources of energy. And China has made major strides in renewable energy, he said.

The official said on Friday.

Kenya issues alert over desert locusts invasion

Nairobi, 8 Dec — Desert locusts have invaded Kenya's arid northeastern region, threatening maize and wheat crops, but the Agriculture Ministry said on Friday it was well prepared to fight the pests.

"The desert locust's destructive power stems from its gregarious nature that allows it to move in swarms, eating whatever vegetation it finds in its path," the ministry statement published in local newspapers said the locusts were not aggressively feeding yet but were in their last stage of development and laying eggs on the montly sandy soil of the hot season.

"In view of the above and understanding the ecology of the pest, it is important to note that hopewhich are the most destructive stage are expected to appear from around 10 December," the statement quoted Roman Kiome, the ministry's permanent secretary, as saying. "This stage is the focus of control. He said the government was preparing with pesticides and spraying equipment and that the attack was the fastest since 1962."

Benin finds two flu outbreaks, suspects H5N1

Cotonou, 8 Dec — Benin has discovered two outbreaks of bird flu among poultry which it believes to be the deadly H5N1 strain, the first such cases in the West African country, a senior health official said on Friday.

The cases were discovered late on Thursday in Adjoua, some 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the capital Porto Novo, and on a farm in the commercial capital Cotonou. We found several dead birds. We were ahead with tests which turned out to be positive," Julien Tossa, a senior public health official told Reuters in an interview.

"We have taken samples which we have already sent to Italy to be confirmed but we are convinced that these (bird) deaths are due to the H5N1 strain of bird flu," he said.

Health Ministry officials said several hundred birds had been slaughtered as a precautionary measure in a five kilometre radius around the two separate locations. All farms within a 15-kilometre radius were being disinfected.

Failure to understand root causes of deforestation warned

Bali (Indonesia), 8 Dec — A new study by one of the world's leading forestry research institutions warns Friday that the new push to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) is impaired by a failure to grasp the root causes of deforestation.

The study by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), a leading international forestry research organization, found that the study, based on more than a decade of in-depth research on the forces driving deforestation worldwide, found that these simple opportunity to reduce carbon emissions if financial incentives will be sufficient enough to flag feasible and economic realities that came deforestation.

The study by researchers at CIFOR sought to link the underlying causes of loss of 13 million hectares of forest each year to the pursuit of — and potential pitfalls of — of REDD schemes. The report was released Friday at the United Nations Conference on the Forester's (CCF-15) in Bali, a sector island of Indonesia, where environment ministers from over 100 countries are meeting to draw up a long-term strategy for combating global warming.

High on the agenda is reducing the 1.0 billion tons of carbon emissions caused each year by deforestation, which amounts to one-fifth of global carbon emissions and more than the combined total contributed by the world's energy-intensive transport sector.

Malaysian defender Mohamad Aidil Zafuan executes a reverse kick to clear the ball from the goal post during a match against Singapore in the first half of the play of the 24th Southeast Asian Games (SEA games) in Korat. —Reuters

Chinese actor Wang Lee-hom (L), director Ang Lee (C) and Chinese mainland's actress Tang Wei pose as on the red carpet for the 44th Golden Horse Awards in Taipei (China) on 8 Dec, 2007. —Reuters

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Palermo rise to 7th after sinking Fiorentina

ROME, 9 Dec — Fabiano Miccoli and Fabio Simplicio led Palermo to a 2-0 home win over Fiorentina to move up to seventh in Serie A on Saturday.

Fiorentina had to play the 17th minute when an on-off a defensive split from Brazilian strike partner Amauri and chipped the ball over Fiorentina keeper Sebastien Frey.

Alberto Fontana did well to keep Palermo ahead in the 41st minute with a powerful 20-yard shot.

Fiorentina had to play the last 20 minutes with 10 men after Alessandro Gamberini pulled up injured with all the unfortunate consequences already on.

Palermo pressed forward with the extra man and they produced two fine saves to keep on Brazilian midfielder Simplicio dizzied past two defenders to slot the second goal in the 71st.

Fiorentina stayed fifth with 24 points from 15 games, 10 points behind leaders Inter Milan who lead the table on 34 points and eight points ahead of Manchester City, who play at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Liverpool lose unbeaten record at Reading

LONDON, 9 Dec — Reading ended Liverpool's unbeaten start to the Premier League season with a shock 2-1 win over Rafa Benitez's team at the Madjeski Stadium on Saturday.

The result left fourth-placed Liverpool seven points behind leaders Arsenal while Manchester United and Chelsea maintained their title challenges with home wins over Derby County and Sunderland respectively.

United beat bottom club Derby 4-1 at Old Trafford where Ryan Giggs scored his 100th league goal.

Chelsea's Andriy Shevchenko (L) scores past Sunderland's goalkeeper Darren Ward (R) during their WBA Light Flyweight boxing match at the Madejski Stadium in Reading, southern England, on 8 Dec, 2007. — MNA/Reuters

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (R) scores against Reading during their English Premier League soccer match at the Madjeski Stadium in Reading, southern England, on 8 Dec, 2007. — MNA/Reuters

Real race 7 points clear after win in Bilbao

MADRID, 9 Dec — Real Madrid changed seven points clear at the top of the Primera Liga after a second-half strike from Raul van Nistelrooy earned a 1-0 win at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

The Dutchman angled a powerful right-foot shot into the far corner of the net after 55 minutes to take his tally for the season to seven in the league.

The victory gave Real Schuster's side 35 points from 15 matches, seven ahead of Barcelona and Villarreal who both play on Sunday.

Erlies, Ronald Koeman's Valencia continued their poor run of form with a 0-0 draw at Osasuna. The Dutchman decided to field a new look side after last weekend's 3-0 home defeat by Bilbao but his side also had little effect as Valencia outmuscled both a home start to the season.

Bayer hold on to draw by Duisburg

BERLIN, 9 Dec — Bayern Munich were held to a goalless draw at home to Duisburg on Saturday but still cling on to top spot in the Bundesliga as rivals Werder Bremen lost 4-3 at Hannover 96.

Duisburg easily looked like claiming a first win away to Bayern in 40 years but they held on to their third-place position, which can be a great achievement, even if it was only a respectable 2-0 win.

The second-half for the home side, who have 37 points from 15 matches, 16 behind leaders Arjen Robben and Michael Ballack.

Ajax go top with victory at Tilburg

AMSTERDAM, 9 Dec — Ajax Amsterdam went a point clear at the top of the Dutch league after winning 2-0 at Willem II Tilburg on Saturday.

Los Santos defeated Vieux 2-0 in the only other game played on Saturday thanks to goals from Antonie Courtois and Glenn van der Hoeven.

French's Brahim Asloum (R) fights France's Ibrahima Da (L) during their WBA Light Flyweight boxing match at Le Cannet on 8 Dec, 2007. — MNA/Reuters

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British canoeist who ‘returned from dead’ charged

London, 9 Dec — A man who ‘returned from the dead’ after apparently being lost at sea for over a week began his family home on Friday evening after a week of revelations.

Anne Darwin, 57, walking into a London police station after a week of revelations of his false declaration to get a passport.

Another person, who hidden him at the family apartment in an adjoining house, how her husband had taken ill, was actually at home with her, Anne Darwin, who recently left Britain for central America, told the Daily Mirror.

Four die in accident at Hyundai’s car plant in India

New Delhi, 9 Dec — Four people, including three engineers, have died in an incident at a sewage tank at the Hyundai car factory in south India.

The incident took place at Hyundai Motor India Ltd Vice-President when a sewage tank used to Chennai on Friday evening.

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Afghan abductors free Bangladeshi air worker

Dhaka, 9 Dec — A Bangladeshi air worker kidnapped in Afghanistan nearly three months ago was freed by the authorities on Saturday, the foreign ministry said.

Noor Islam was working for Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) when he was taken away in Logar province, north of Kabul, on September 15.

He was freed on Friday night and is now under the safe custody of the Afghan authorities, M. A. Asadullah, director of police officials and communications of BRAC said in Dhaka. He will be flown back to Bangladesh immediately when the Afghan authorities hand him over to us after necessary medical check-up, Asadullah told Reuters.

The air force has been active in Afghanistan since 2002, trying to empower the people with programmes in macro-economic education, health and a gender.

Afghan gunmen shot dead Abdul Ali, another BRAC official, at a village in Badakhshan province a couple of days before the abduction of Islam.

The Bangladeshi air force has offered in 24 Afghan provinces, and employs around 4,500 workers, including 200 Bangladeshis.

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People’s Desire

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project in Mandalay

Universities, colleges under Science and Technology Ministry to open on 24 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University, technological universities, Government Technological College and Government Technical Institute under the Ministry of Science and Technology will be opened on 24 December 2007, it is learnt. — MNA

Weather Forecast for 10-12-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area
Fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area
Generally fair weather.

Mandalay and neighbouring area
Fair weather.

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