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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

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

Senior General Than Shwe visits Ahtetbuywa, Kyeeohn-Kyeewa dam project sites

Based on own strength and know-how it is important to stand on own feet in the long run

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Emir of the State of Qatar

True patriotism
* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction tasks of Ahtetbuywa Dam in Sedoktara Township.——MNA
Exert efforts for ICT development

At present, the world is experiencing rapid development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Information Technology (IT) is being used globally in economic, education and trade and commerce sectors. Now is the electronic age in which the world peoples are extensively dealing with the electronic community.

A ceremony to open Yatanarpon Teleport in Yadanabon Myothit of PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, was held on 14 December, and Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the occasion.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that Yadanabon Myothit was set up for development of modern information and communication technologies in Myanmar. As the government has provided water and power supply and communication and administration facilities for the new town, it is necessary to create good opportunities for enabling local and foreign entrepreneurs to pour investment into the teleport and to smoothly carry out modern IT tasks.

The government has laid down and is implementing plans for IT development. It promulgated the computer science development law in 1996, and formed the e-National Task Force in 2000. Myanmar ICT Park was then opened in 2002 and Mandalay ICT Park in 2003, and work is well under way for IT development.

Yatanarpon Teleport was built on 10,000 acres by the side of Mandalay-Pyay road, here, at 2 pm today.

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Now, the 6th Myanmar ICT Week is being held at Yatanarpon Teleport where modern IT equipment and other computer accessories are displayed by 115 local and foreign companies. During the week, talks and workshops are being conducted with the aim of imparting IT knowledge to the public.

The emergence of Yatanarpon Teleport will give rise to further development of ICT, thereby enabling agricultural, research, trade and service sectors to carry out tasks more swiftly and effectively.

Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield continues

YANGON, 17 Dec — The 2nd Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2007-2008 jointly organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No 3 Basic Education Department continued at the respective venues today.

In boy’s events took place at Bahan Cricket Ground—Ahlon BEHS-4 beat Dagon BEHS-2 by 2 wickets and Kyimyindaing BEHS-3 beat Dagon BEHS-2 by 9 wickets. Matches of the Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield continue tomorrow at designated grounds.—MNA

Laptops and Fax machines donated to MFA

YANGON, 17 Dec — A ceremony to hand over laptop computers and facsimile machines donated by HE Mr Guan Mu, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the Ambassador’s residence here this evening.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu accepted the donations from Chinese Ambassador HE Mr Guan Mu. Also present were responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy.—MVA

Fighter aircraft crashes in training session

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A fighter of the Defence Services (Air Force) this afternoon crashed due to engine failure during training session, after taking off from Mandalay International Airport.—MNA

Minister receives Vice-President of Shin Satellite Co, Ltd

YANGON, 17 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Vice-President Mr Makin Petplai and party of Shin Satellite Public Co. Ltd from Thailand at Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay road, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were department heads and officials of the ministry.—MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabir Al-Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2007. — MNA

Donate blood
**Italians in new protest over US base expansion**

VICENZA (Italy), 17 Dec—Around 20,000 Italians marched through the northern city of Vicenza on Saturday in a new protest at the expansion of a US military base that is opposed by pacifists in the centre-left government.

However, leading leftist politicians stayed away from the march and the turnout, according to police estimates and witnesses, was lowly compared with a February protest against the same base, when more than 70,000 people took part.

Prime Minister Romano Prodi earlier this year authorized the expansion of the base, home to part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, saying he did not want to change Washington’s “defence policy of the past 50 years”.

The decision angered some of his own ministers. The Pentagon wants a larger base so that it can house the entire brigade instead of dividing it between Italy and Germany.

Military personnel will be expanded to 4,500 from 2,750.

The new barracks are set to be built on the other side of the city from the existing one. That has raised worries about new roads to handle military traffic linking the two parts, loss of green space and strains on public services.

Opponents also argue the base could make Vicenza, a small city of 115,000, the target of terrorist attacks.

**One dead, six infected with bird flu in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, 16 Dec—Pakistan has recorded its first human death from bird flu and six other people have been infected with the deadly H5N1 virus over the last two months, a senior Health Ministry official said on Saturday.

“Seven in total. One died and six other people were infected with the H5N1 virus,” Federal Health Secretary Khushnood Akhtar Lashari told Reuters. “It was confirmed by blood tests.”

The cases were reported in the North West Frontier Province, Lashari said.

Two people have recovered and four are in quarantine.

While Pakistan has registered cases of bird flu in poultry this is the first time it has been reported in humans, Lashari said. The first poultry case appeared in early 2006.—MNA/Reuters

**Malaysia floods kill 17**

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Dec—Monsoon rains and flooding have killed 17 people in Malaysia, made 20,000 homeless and could push up food and palm oil prices.

The New Straits Times newspaper reported on Saturday that the Meteorological Department forecast more heavy rain for at least the next four days and Pahang and Kelantan states have been put on red alert.

Kelantan registered the most deaths with eight, the paper said. The monsoon rains have cut off roads.—MNA/Reuters

**Japan’s naval destroyer catches fire, four injured**

TOKYO, 16 Dec—A naval destroyer anchored at Yokosuka Base southwest of Tokyo caught fire late Friday, injuring four crew members, Kyodo News said on Saturday.

The fire broke out at around 10:20 pm (0120 GMT) Friday near the rudder house of the 5,200-ton Shirane and was extinguished eight hours later on early Saturday, slightly injuring four crewmen, the report said.

The fire is believed to have started near the radar screen in the vessel’s combat information centre that controls missile and machine gun firing operations. The cause of the fire was suspected to be an electrical system glitch.

The Maritime Self-Defense Force ship, anchored at Yokosuka Base in Kanagawa Prefecture, is loaded with three helicopters and can simultaneously share electronic data with US vessels. Some 80 crew members were aboard the warship when the fire broke out, the report said.—MNA/Xinhua

**250 flights delayed due to heavy fog in Delhi**

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec—About 250 flights, including both international and domestic, were delayed and 50 flights were cancelled due to heavy fog at Delhi airport Friday, the Indian Express reported Saturday. On Friday, heavy fog disrupted flight schedules for more than eight hours and caused inconvenience to hundreds of passengers. Lots of passengers were forced to stay inside airplanes for four to six hours as the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) and airlines tried to deal with low visibility. DIAL officials said around 72 flights arrived and departed under low-visibility conditions. Most airlines used the special facility for landing.—MNA/Reuters

**Oil spill off Norway mostly dissolved**

OSLO, 16 Dec—An oil slick spilled from a North Sea field was dissolving far from the Norwegian coast on Friday as calmer seas allowed ships to begin a clean-up, energy group StatoilHydro said.

In Norway’s second worst oil spill, some 25,000 barrels of oil leaked from a loading unit at StatoilHydro’s Stafford field on Wednesday, stirring a public debate about the environmental risks of opening pristine Arctic areas for drilling. StatoilHydro said. MNA/Reuters

**More than 500 colourful toy cats are put on display in Dongan Market in Beijing on 15 Dec, 2007.**—INTERNET

**The 433 ft long MV “Beluga SkySails” in an undated image. Turning ocean winds into gold while cutting green-house emissions in the process might sound like some sort of alchemy for the 21st century.**—INTERNET
**WFP seeks funds after Storm Olga hits Caribbean**

**GENEVA, 15 Dec —** The United Nations food agency appealed on Friday for $4 million to help tens of thousands of people forced to flee their homes in the Dominican Republic after Tropical Storm Olga unleashed flash floods.

The death toll from the storm, the second to hit in just over a month, reached at least 19, mostly drownings, Dominican officials said on Thursday.

“We need four million US dollars to help victims over the next six months,” Christiane Berthiaume, spokeswoman of the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP), told a news briefing in Geneva. The WFP would issue details of the appeal later in the day, she said.

Some 37,000 people had fled their homes in the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island Hispaniola with Haiti, Berthiaume said. Olga killed three more people in Cuba, Puerto Rico and Jamaica, according to a statement issued by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The majority of the Dominican deaths were people who drowned when a river burst its banks and flooded parts of Santiago, the Dominican Republic’s second-largest city, 110 miles (176 kilometres) north of the capital Santo Domingo.

**Bulgarian oil trader gets probation for UN scandal**

**NEW YORK, 15 Dec —** Bulgarian oil trader Ludmil Domissiev was sentenced to two years’ probation on Thursday for his role in paying secret kickbacks to Iraq in the UN oil-for-food programme.

Domissiev, 61, worked as a consultant to Texas oilman David Chalmers to help buy Iraqi oil for Chalmers’ companies, Bayoil USA Inc and Bayoil Supply and Trading Ltd.

In one January 2001 deal, Domissiev told a news conference.

The charges against Domissiev and others stemmed from Iraq’s requirement from 2000 to 2003 that recipients of oil should pay a secret surcharge, in violation of UN sanctions and US law, to front companies and bank accounts controlled by the Iraqi Government.

**Iran police kill 12 rebels in S-E province**

**TEHERAN, 15 Dec —** Iranian police killed 12 armed rebels in a shootout on Thursday in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, Iran’s state television reported.

The report said police clashed with armed “counter-revolutionaries,” who had planned sabotage, ethnic revolts and bombings, near the town of Iranshahr, about 1,600 kilometres southeast of Teheran.

The leader of the rebels and 11 others were killed in the shootout, the report said, adding that police also seized “a remarkable amount” of explosive materials, bombs and weapons at the clash site.

Iran’s security forces often clash with local armed groups which were involved in drugs smuggling, Sistan-Baluchestan and its neighbouring province of Kerman have been hit by a string of attacks and kidnappings in the past years, which the Iranian authorities blamed on a Sunni group called Jundallah.

**Russian rocket blasted off with Canadian satellite atop**

**MOSCOW, 15 Dec —** A Russian rocket with a Canadian satellite on board was launched from a Central Asian space centre on Friday, news agencies reported.

The Soyuz-FG carrier rocket blasted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 16:17 Moscow Time (1317 GMT), media reports said.

The Radarsat-2 earth remote sensing satellite will be put into a solar-synchronized orbit with an altitude of 805 kilometres to join another Canadian satellite, Radarsat-1, which has been circling around the Earth since 1995, RIA and Itar-Tass cited mission control centre sources.

The satellite will carry out series of missions such as to lay out maps of sea ice and ship routing, as well as iceberg detection, agricultural crop monitoring and marine surveillance for ship and pollution detection.

**Latvian President nominates new PM**

**RIGA, 15 Dec —** Latvian President Valdis Zatlers Friday nominated Ivars Godmanis, the outgoing interior minister, as the country’s next prime minister.

At a news conference after meeting with Godmanis, Zatlers said he had asked the nominee to form the government and the main opposition party, said the president.

“This will not be an easy task ...,” he said, adding that he had not set deadlines for Godmanis to form the government.

How quickly the new government is formed depends on Godmanis’ abilities and concerned political forces, including the four parties in the outgoing government and the main opposition party, said the president.

**An environmental activist releases a turtle at a beach near the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Nusa Dua on Bali island. —INTERNET**

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**MNA/Xinhua**
ECONOMIC NEWS

French tax system not attractive to European Cos

PARIS, 17 Dec—France is far from being a tax haven for European companies owing to the “very high” rate of compulsory levies and a complicated tax regime, a study conducted recently has shown.

According to the findings of the study, which was carried out by French-based research firm Ipsos and published Friday by the La Tribune newspaper, 61 per cent of European business leaders believe that taxation in France is “very high”.

Furthermore, the study reveals that 88 per cent of the leaders, who responded to the poll, believe that France’s taxation rules are complicated.

In addition, the business leaders expressed their dissatisfaction over the quality of public services in the country, according to the study.

The poll was conducted by Ipsos and the European Monitoring Centre on Business Taxation, using a representative sample population of 1,006 business leaders in Europe, by phone from 1 to 22 October.—MNA/Reuters

Cambodia intensifies “one province one product” programme

PHNOM PENH, 17 Dec—The Cambodian Government launched the second exhibition of “one province one product” programme to promote investments and exports of local products here on Saturday.

This fair will bring chances for investors to find business partners, create opportunity of exports of local products and promote economic integration in the region and the world, Cham Prasith, Cambodian Minister of Commerce, told the opening ceremony of the exhibition, which being held from 15-18 December in Phnom Penh.

“We have 53 stores for this fair and the products are from the provinces and cities of Cambodia. Many countries join this event, including China, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Pakistan, South Korea, the United States, Japan and South Africa,” he said.

Airbus celebrates 5,000 delivery

PARIS, 17 Dec—The European aircraft manufacturer Airbus Friday marked a milestone by delivering an Airbus A 330-220 plane to Australia’s Qantas airlines.

Airbus Chief Executive Officer Tom Enders said at a special ceremony held in Toulouse, southern France, Airbus delivered its first aircraft an A 380 B2 in May 1974.

“Enders was quoted as saying during the ceremony organized to officially hand over the plane to Australia’s Qantas airlines.

Since its launch, Airbus has continued to pursue policies that have boosted the rate of production. For example, the company only managed to produce 1,000 planes during its first 19 years of operations, then taking six years to produce the next 1,000 planes and has consistently averaged 1,000 planes every three years ever since.—MNA/Xinhua

Volkswagen reports record sales

BERLIN, 17 Dec—German auto giant Volkswagen on Sunday said it had sold a record number of 3.37 million VW vehicles in the first 11 months of 2007.

The figure is an increase of 8.8 percent over the same period in 2006, Europe’s biggest carmaker said in a statement.

It said VW sales soared by 10.3 percent in November with 324,000 cars delivered to clients.

“After 11 months, we have sold roughly as many cars as we did in the whole of 2006,” Volkswagen boss Martin Winterkorn said.

Volkswagen posted strong third-quarter results in October and said it expected record full-year sales as Chinese and South American growth offset slumping turnover at home and in the United States.—INTERNET
It is known that the Union of Myanmar has been a predominantly Theravada Buddhist nation in the world for nearly one thousand years, and over 90 per cent of the nation’s population has taken faith in Theravada Buddhism since then. Furthermore, the Union of Myanmar has been recognized as a permanent higher learning centre of genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in the Buddhist world but also throughout the world. According to historical records of Buddhism, the Fifth and Sixth Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were successfully convened in the Union of Myanmar with a view to ensuring purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the Buddha’s teachings) all over the world. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council, which was attended and participated by Maha Theras from Five Theravada Buddhist Nations, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, was successfully held in the Union of Myanmar in 1954.

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, a great number of Buddhist Monastic Institutions and Learning Centres of Buddhist Scriptures have been established in the Union of Myanmar for years. For the time being, the two Pariyatti Sasana Universities, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay have been so far established to promote and propagate the Theravada Buddhism throughout the world. At present, Buddhist monk students are attending these two universities, and if they have got through the prescribed examinations held by these Universities, they will be conferred Takkaasala Dhammacariya Degree (Bachelor of Arts) in Buddhism and Tekkasala Maha Dhammacariya Degree (Master of Arts) in Buddhism respectively. And now, the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the very first one in the Buddhist world has been also already established in the Union of Myanmar in order to propagate, promote and flourish genuine Theravada Buddhism throughout the world, and to share the knowledge of Buddhism and flourish genuine Theravada Buddhism throughout the Union of Myanmar in order to propagate, promote and preserve the Buddhist world has been also already established in the Union of Myanmar.

In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examinations is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years. It is learnt that such examination cannot be held in other Theravada Buddhist nations.

According to the Pariyatti (learning canonical Texts) Education System of the Union of Myanmar, there are seven kinds of religious examinations including the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination yearly held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar. The seven kinds of religious examinations are as follows:

- **(1) Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination**
- **(2) Dhammacariya Examination**
- **(3) Pathamagyi Examination**
- **(4) Pathamatat Examination**
- **(5) Pathamange Examination**
- **(6) Abhidhamma/Visudhamagga Examination (only for Laymen and Nuns)**
- **(7) Five Nikaya Examination**

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar since fifty-nine years ago. Buddhist monk candidates who wish to appear for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi Examination.

In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates have to take (33) days to sit for this examination. They have to take both oral examination covering Pali Texts of 8026 pages of Tipitaka canons and the written examination that consists of Pali Texts, Athakatha (Commentaries) and Tika/Sub-Commentaries or 9934 pages of Tipitaka canons respectively.

Only the candidates who have got through both oral and written examinations will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (the Title of Religious Heroes). Up to now, only nine outstanding members of Sangha (Bhikkhus) were presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within over 59 years’ duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

It is learnt that many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examinations is the most difficult of the religious examination which are yearly held in the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years. It is learnt that such examination cannot be held in other Theravada Buddhist nations.
Duties and responsibilities of teachers are related with progress of nation and perpetuation of independence and sovereignty

Special Refresher Course No 63 for Basic Education Teachers concludes

YANGON, 17 Dec — The conclusion of Special Refresher Course No 63 for Basic Education Teachers was held at Nawarat Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township this morning.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein attended the ceremony and made a speech.

In his speech, the Minister said nowadays education leads and influences political, economic and social aspects and this is why the government is making efforts for shaping the future of the State with the strength of education in accord with the national requirement.

As new technologies are developing rapidly in the world it is found that technological gap among the nations of the world and wealth differences have caused lop-sided situation in international relations, he said.

He pointed out the fact that the citizens are to get prepared for the existence of the nation and its people and various kinds of challenges in the present situation of competition.

He said only when the government nurtures younger generation who are capable of facing and solving the challenges of the present and future, will the nation and its people perpetuate.

In accord with the attitude the government is creating educational infrastructures and good educational environment in the education sector, he added.

He said the government is implementing the programmes on promotion of education sector, learning opportunity and preservation of value of cultural and social norms of the nation and the people.

He urged the teachers to teach the students the history of the past with nationalistic spirit and to train them through the classrooms.

He said it is true patriotism based on lessons bestowed by history. In other words, it is the consolidated spirit forged from essence and the history of the Union based on national solidarity.

He said duties and responsibilities of teachers in the education sector are related with progress of the nation and perpetuation of independence and sovereignty. He urged the teachers to make endeavours for successful realization of national education objectives.

Next, Minister Dr Chan Nyein presented prizes to outstanding trainee teachers and cordially greeted them.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.

Finance and Revenue Minister back from Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — The Myanmar Delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun arrived back here this afternoon by air after attending the Finance Ministers’ Meeting on ClimateChange 2007 held at Intercontinental Hotel in Bali, Indonesia, on 10 and 11 December. Ministers and representatives from 36 countries and heads and representatives from international organizations had attended the meeting.

Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the meeting on 11 December. Indonesian Finance Minister Ms Indrawati Mulyani chaired the meeting.

The meeting discussed the matters on climate change and reviewed on the results of previous meetings.

With Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun were Myanmar Central Bank Director Daw Ohnmar Sein and Deputy Director U Min Htut of the ministry.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun attends Finance Minister’ Meeting on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia.—MNA

69 fires broke out in Nov

YANGON, 17 Dec — A total of 69 fires broke out across the country in November leaving three dead, four injured and 602 homeless, and 153 houses and five factories were destroyed in the fires.

Out of 69 fires, 54 started in kitchens and due to negligence, two were set by saboteurs and one was a forest fire.

Most of the fires in November broke out in Yangon Division, and others in Mandalay and Bago divisions.

Out of 26 fires in Yangon in November, 20 had started in kitchens and due to negligence. A total of 24 fires broke out in villages in November across the country.

Fire Services Department drew a fire safety plan and had conducted fire drills in states and divisions in efforts to prevent fires. State/division fire services departments are alerted in the dry season and have conducted fire drills. — MNA

Drive safely
Senior General Than Shwe visits Ahtetbuywa,…

(from page 1)

step, Mezali Diversion Weir will provide irrigation water in all weathers contributing to boosting cultivation. Next, the minister reported on the Buywa dam project work and prospects to generate 42 megawatts. Out of the Mone Creek projects, Mone Creek multipurpose dam project has already been completed and it is generating 75 megawatts and supplying water to Kyeeohn-Kyeewa dam. On completion of all the projects, nearby regions will become green and lush enjoying irrigation water and electricity.

The four step-by-step projects, Upper Bu, Bu, Mone Creek and Kyeeohn-Kyeewa dams will irrigate 100,000 acres of farmland through Mezali Diversion Weir and generate 341 megawatts.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min reported on supply of cement and heavy machinery for the projects.

In giving guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said the projects being undertaken along the Mone Creek are the ones that will contribute to the development of the Ayeyawady western bank regions and improvement of socio-economic life of the local people. They are also aimed at providing adequate power supply for industries that will come into shape in the next few years. So it is important to complete the projects systematically and quickly meeting the standards set. Efforts need to be made for earlier completion of the projects.

Projects being undertaken along the Mone Creek are the ones that will contribute to the development of the Ayeyawady western bank regions and improvement of socio-economic life of the local people.

Out of the Mone Creek projects, Mone Creek multipurpose dam project has already been completed and it is generating 75 megawatts and supplying water to Kyeeohn-Kyeewa dam. On completion of all the projects, nearby regions will become green and lush enjoying irrigation water and electricity.

Panoramic View of Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Dam construction project.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects a scale model of Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Dam.—MNA
Senior General Than Shwe visits Ahtetbuywa,...
(from page 8)

As the engineers and technicians have already gained much experience, they should have the capability to make their own innovations not only in the field of irrigation facilities but also in the field of hydro-electricity. Based on own strength and know-how it is important to stand on own feet in the long run. Then, the Senior General stressed the need for the staff to have confidence and skilled personnel.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party looked into the construction of the hydro-electric tunnel, diversion tunnel, the site for the main dam and other project work.

Buywa Dam is the gravel-filled one and it will be 451 feet in height and 3300 feet in length. The project will generate 150 megawatts.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Kyeohn-Kyeewa multipurpose dam and they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Director of Irrigation Department U Tun Aung Lwin and officials.

At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report on the salient points of the project, progress of work and future tasks.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint reported on work being carried out sector-wise.

In response to the report, Senior General Than Shwe spoke of the need to complete the project as soon as possible for regional development and to extensively use heavy machinery in that regard.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe and party looked into progress of the main embankment and construction of the spillway, and viewed the scale model of the dam.

Later, they inspected the sites chosen for construction of water intake building and hydel power plant and building of canals.

The Kyeohn-kyeewa dam is being built on Mone Creek near Wunlo Village about 15 miles lower reaches of Mone Creek Dam and 5 miles upper reaches of Mezali Diversion Weir in Pwintbyu Township.

Upon completion, the dam will be able to generate 74 megawatts.

With the emergence of 4 dams along Mone Creek including Kyeohn-Kyeewa multipurpose dam, it is possible to generate more electric power with the effective use of water from the creek. All the four dams built along the creek will be able to generate 341 megawatts.

Moreover, local people will be able to engage in summer paddy cultivation and double cropping in addition to monsoon paddy cultivation at irrigated areas.

On his inspection tour, Senior General Than Shwe also looked into water storage of Salin Dam and Mone Creek Dam, supply of water by dams and reservoirs, measures taken for greening of environs and conservation of forest.—MNA

Wheelchairs, cash, medicines donated to older persons in Thanbyuzayat

YANGON, 17 Dec — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated wheelchairs, cash and medicines to the older persons of Thanbyuzayat Township in Mon State at Township Peace and Development Council’s Office on 13 December. First, member of Mon State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai extended greetings. CEC member of MMCWA Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt spoke on the occasion. After that, CEC member Daw Khin Nwe Nwe explained the purpose of the donation. CEC member Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt handed over cash and medicines to Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai for the older persons. Next, CEC members Dr Than Oo and Daw Khin Nwe Nwe provided wheelchairs for the older persons.

At Thanbyuzayat Home for the aged, they made cash donations. In Mudon, they observed the weaving works by members of MCWA.

In Paung Township, they held round table discussions with the expectant mothers.

Members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donate provisions to older persons.—MMCWA

Transport Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received Deputy General Manager Mr. Ma Zhilian of the CMC Export Division and party of the People’s Republic of China at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on airlines and the transportation sector between Myanmar and PRC.

YCDC Chairman receives Kunming Mayor

YANGON, 17 Dec — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn received a delegation led by Kunming Mayor Mr. Zhang Zu lin of Yunnan Province, the People’s Republic of China at Park Royal Hotel Ballroom-2 on Alan Pya Pagoda road in Dagon Township here at 7 pm today.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn hosted a dinner to the delegation.—MNA
**Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association holds prize presentation ceremony**

**Yangon, 17 Dec** — Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association organized the 2nd prize present ceremony for the outstanding students of MWJA members’ children who passed the matriculation examination 2006-07 at the meeting hall of MWJA in Sarpay Beikman here today attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were the directors-general and the managing directors of the ministry, chairman of MWJA and executive committee members and others.

First, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) delivered an address and Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo explained the prize presentation ceremony.

Afterwards, Mini-ster Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented prizes and cash award to Ma Su Myat Thwe of Saganing Township, Maung Thant Pyay Tun of Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Maung Thet Wai Oo of Insein Township and Maung Ye Dwe Soe of Yadashi Township who won five distinctions, Maung Min Than Tun of Zigon Township and Ma Su Mon Shwe Lin of Ahlon Township who won four distinctions, Maung Nyan Win Htet of Sangyoung Township, Ma Nu Wai Zan of South Okkalapa Township, Maung Aung Ye Maw of Thingangyun Township, Ma Myat Su Han of Yanbin Township and Ma Thit Su Moe Nay of DaikU Township who won three distinctions.

After the prize presentation, U Maung Maung Aye (Alinkarswuyee Literary and Arts) donated K1 million, U Ko Ko and Dr Tha Tun Oo K 200,000 each, Snap Shot Journal and Daw Than Than Lay (Sein Chit Film Production) K 100,000 each, Executive committee member U Maung Maung Myint Aye and Press Scrutiny and Registration Division K 50,000 each and U Soe Shein (Maung Soe Hteik-Thongyu) K 30,000 to the association.

Vice Chairman 1 of MWJA U Tin Kha accepted the donations. Next, on behalf of the outstanding students, Maung Thant Pyay Tun spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greeted attendees. — MNA

**National Kandawgyi Gardens, flower…**

(from page 16)

are decorated with fruit and flowers. Those who love flowers gathered at the festival and the fragrances of flowers permeating the air in the festival.

Not only rare species of orchids but also hybrid orchids including Cymbidium Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, Den- drobium, Vanda and Oncidium are grown in the orchid garden which is said to meet the international standard. As the orchid garden has been established, people can visit the garden for pleasure and can gain knowledge of growing orchids.

In the National Kandawgyi Gardens, rare species of birds are kept for the public observation. Scale models of city halls, Kyakhtiyi Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, Zwekabin Hill, Taungkwe Pagoda, Kanbozathadi Palace, Inle PhuangdawU Pagoda, Goat-hteik Bridge, Khakaborazi snow capped mountain, Kaunghmudaw Pagoda, royal moat, Shitthaung Pagoda and the Magway Division oil field are displayed in the National Landmarks Garden. — MNA

**Fire breaks out in Thingangyun Township**

**Yangon, 17 Dec** — A fire broke out in Thingangyun Township yesterday and an upholstery shop and a tyre shop were destroyed in the fire.

The fire started at the kitchen of No-290, room-6 Thanthumar Road in Thuwunna at 03:50 am as the owner of the upholstery shop forgot to switch off an oven, on 16 December.

A shop which sells and repairs tyres was also destroyed in the fire. Action is being taken against U Win Kyaw, 37 owner of the upholstery shop. — MNA

**German chickens test positive for H5N1 flu strain**

**Berlin, 17 Dec** — Two chickens in the northeastern German state of Brandenburg have tested positive for the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, local authorities said on Saturday.

A total of 11 birds in a small private holding in the district of Oberhavel were suspected of having the virus. Five of them died and two were sent for tests which produced positive results. The state Agriculture Ministry said in a statement. Official sealed off a three-kilometre (two-mile) protection radius and imposed a 10-kilometre surveillance radius around the area.

— MNA/Reuters

**Blooming flowers seen in National Kandawgyi Gardens. — MNA**
UN Climate Change Conf concludes with Bali roadmap

Bali, Indonesia, 16 Dec — The UN Climate Change Conference ended here on Saturday with the agreement of 187 countries to launch negotiations on a crucial international climate change deal.

The Bali decision includes a clear agenda for the key issues to be negotiated up to 2009, including action for adapting to the negative consequences of climate change, such as droughts and floods; ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; ways to widely deploy climate-friendly technologies and financing both adaptation and mitigation measures.

Indonesian Environment Minister and President of the conference, Rachmat Witoelar said: “We now have a Bali roadmap, we have an agreement to reach an agreement, Rachmat Witoelar said: “We now have a Bali roadmap, we have an agreement to reach an agreement.”

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The 15-day climate meeting attracted over 11,000 delegates from over 180 countries, making it the largest UN climate change meeting ever held.

Next year’s Climate Change Conference will be held in Poznan, Poland.

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Colombia Govt destroys 18,000 weapons

BOGOTA, 16 Dec — The Colombian Government on Friday destroyed 18,000 weapons seized from disarmament former paramilitary groups and planned to turn the weapons into artworks promoting peace.

Jose Miguel Insulza, general secretary of the Organization of American States, presided over a ceremony for smelting these weapons, which was carried out at the National Iron and Steel Company in central Boyaca Province.

“We hope this act is a firm advance towards peace,” said Insulza, whose organization is observing the peace process between the Colombian Government and the country’s right-wing paramilitary United Self-Defense Forces (AUC).

Colombia’s high peace commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo also attended the ceremony.

The AUC had fiercely fought the anti-Government leftist guerillas before joining a government-initiated peace process in 2003.

A total of 31,000 members of the group had disarmed themselves by April 2006 in ex-change for amnesty granted by the government or reduced jail terms.

Bean sprouts grow in tomato

BEIJING, 17 Dec — Miss Li was very surprised to find bean sprout growing in a tomato when she cut it open to eat.

Daynews.com recently reported that the strange incident happened in Taiyuan, northern China’s Shanxi Province. Li said she thought the tomato was rotten at first glance, but later realized bean sprout were flourishing inside the tomato.

“There are dozens of bean sprouts, with a length of around 7 to 8 centimetres,” Li added.

Expert from the local agriculture department said it is very rare to see bean sprouts growing naturally inside a tomato.

It’s a case of individual variation.—Internet

Association for homeless camps in downtown Paris

PARIS, 17 Dec — French association The Children of Don Quichotte Saturday morning put up dozens of tents to house homeless people along the banks of River Seine near Notre-Dame de Paris, in a bid to highlight the plight of the homeless people in France.

According to Augustin Legrand, spokesman of the association, 250 tents had been erected on the banks of River La Seine and the Notre Dame Square, before the police moved in and carried out forced evacuations.

Earlier on Friday, the government had warned associations to desist from this type of action after it concluded an agreement to dismantle a camp that had been erected on Paris’ La Banque Street to provide shelter for inadequately housed families.

The day before, Legrand had strongly castigated the government for “unfulfilled promises” that will ensure “that several thousand people will once again this year sleep on the sidewalks, especially in Paris.”

Saying that out of the 27,000 housing units promised by the government, only 14,000 had been made available, Legrand had expressed his willingness to lead his association into erecting a new homeless people’s camp at the heart of Paris.

18 Vietnamese employees die in rockslide

HANOI, 16 Dec — Eighteen Vietnamese men including 16 construction workers and two engineers died in a rockslide in Vietnam’s central Nghe An Province, Central Vietnam Television reported on Saturday evening.

The victims, working at a quarry in Tuong Duong District to serve the construction of a hydroelectric plant, have been buried in thousands of tons of stone since Saturday morning, and their bodies have not been taken out of the debris yet.

The men aged from 21 to 50 from some northern localities were staff of the Song Da No 5 Company, the Song Da No 2 Company, and the hydroelectric plant project management board.

The management board and construction companies have mobilized eight excavators, five trucks and hundreds of workers to the accident site to clear stone and land to take the bodies out of the debris. However, their work is very tough due to difficult access to the site caused by narrow roads and a deep abyss.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has asked relevant state agencies and corporations to deal with the accident’s aftermath, and find out its cause, said the TV.
**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7069)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7069) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4:30 pm up to the Claims Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**First shark attack at Australia’s Bondi for 70 yrs**

**Canberra, Dec 17—** A swimmer has been attacked by a shark at Australia’s Bondi beach, popular with tourists from around the world, for the first time in 70 years.

Scott Wright, 54, was swimming at the south end of the beach on Friday evening when a small shark bit his arm, leaving him with deep gouges, local newspapers reported on Sunday.

**Berth damage delays iron ore shipments in Rio port**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Dec—** An accident that damaged a berth in Rio de Janeiro state has delayed vessels from taking shipments of iron ore from Brazil to China, port authorities said on Friday.

On Friday, a vessel hit a berthing dolphin at the terminal of Sepetiba port and repair work will take 30 to 40 days.

The damage has caused delays of iron ore shipments from several mining companies like Brazil’s Vale as iron ore could not be loaded to the vessels, the authorities said. Three vessels have not been loaded due to the berth damage, it said.

In a statement, Vale said it will try to reallocate iron ore shipments as the other terminals at Sepetiba continue to operate normally. Port officials said they will try to resume shipments at the berth on 15 December.

**Russia disappointed at missile defence talks with US**

**Moscow, 16 Dec—** Russia is disappointed about the results of the last round of missile defence talks with the United States in Budapest Thursday, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official told a press conference on Saturday.

“At the present time, the outcomes of this conversation are discouraging,” Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

Russia hopes that this dialogue, which is being maintained on instructions of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart George W Bush, would help the two countries “progress in search of common ground in settling problems of missile technology proliferation, preventing threats, and monitoring these threats, so that this should meet the interests of security for all,” Kislyak said.

At an October meeting in the “two-plus-two” format joined by defence and foreign ministers of the two countries in Moscow, Russia and the United States failed to reach any agreement on missile defence in Europe, but made a decision to continue discussions at an expert level.

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**Quake hits Timor Leste, no threat of tsunami**

**Jakarta, 17 Dec—** A strong quake with magnitude of 6.2 rocked Timor Leste on Saturday, no potential of tsunami and no immediate report of damages or casualty, according to Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

The quake struck at 15:03 pm Jakarta time, 08:03 GMT with epicentre at 243 kilometres northeast Dili, capital of Timor Leste, and at 120 kilometres under sea bed, said Eddy Kusuma, official of the agency.

The intensity of the shake was less one MMI (modified mercury intensity), Kusuma said, adding that the shake of the quake was not felt by human, only instrument can record it.

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**Bangladesh hit by power cuts on eve of festivities**

**Dhaka, 16 Dec—** Most of Bangladesh, including its capital Dhaka, was without electricity on Saturday after a national power failure that threatened to dampen national independence celebrations.

“Most of the country’s some 60 power plants went out of generation after the grid failed following mechanical trouble at a plant at Ashuganj near Dhaka,” an Energy Ministry official said. Ashuganj is about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of Dhaka.

The grid failure came as an embarrassment on the eve of celebrations on Sunday to mark Victory Day when all government and public buildings are normally illuminated.

Bangladesh was liberated on 16 December, 1971, following a nine-month-long guerrilla war against Pakistani forces.

The power situation was expected to improve by Saturday midnight, but normal generation and transmission of electricity might not be possible until Monday, officials said.

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**MARRIAGE**

Captain Myo Lwin (Uniteam Marine Ltd)& Daw Khin Saw Thein

12 Myawuttyi Street, Parami Yeiktha, Mayangone Tsp announces the marriage of their eldest daughter

Ei Myo Lwin

B.A. English YUFL, ACCA Part 3.

to

Kyaw Bo Bo Hlaing

Bachelor of International Business (Murdoch University)

(Import Operation, ESS Shipping Pty Ltd, Perth, Australia)

youngest son of U Kyaw Chit Hlaing (Hlaing Myitayar Co., Ltd.) & Mrs. Lorna Hlaing, 64 A Kyaukwin Pagodo Rd, Mayangone Tsp & Perth, Australia. On 15 December 2007 in the presence of parents, elders and Mr. Rod. H. Carter

(Marriage Celebrant, Perth, Australia).

Both Parents &

Ei Myo Lwin-Kyaw Bo Bo Hlaing

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**Don’t Smoke**

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**Athens to broadcast Mandarin Chinese programme**

**Athens, 17 Dec—** Athens International Radio (AIR 104.4 FM) will broadcast a one-hour programme in Mandarin Chinese every night from 15 December.

Ioannis Synodinos, General Editor-in-Chief of Athens International Radio, told Xinhua that the one-hour programme is provided free by China Radio International (CRI).

In July and August next year, before and during the Beijing Olympic Games, Athens International Radio will broadcast another 5-hour special programme every day on the Beijing Olympic Games in English, French, German, Russian and Albanian.

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**Models present creations during the annual Mongolia fashion festival in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia, on 15 Dec, 2007.**

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**CONDOLENCE**

We express our heart-felt condolence on the sad demise of U THEIN LWIN@ SUBRAMANIYAN (age) 64 Years, General Secretary of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council who expired on Saturday (15-12-2007).

We share the same grief along with his family members.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

President U Shwe and Executive Committee Members All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, Yangon.
Taking advantage of strong sunshine and big temperature gap between day and night, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region produces top quality tomatoes that are sold to European and American markets.—INTERNET

Chinese scientist receives prestigious UK RSC highest honour

BEIJING, 16 Dec — One of China's top chemists, Bai Chunli, becomes the first Chinese scientist honoured by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) of the United Kingdom for his innovative research on chemistry.

Richard Pike, RSC chief executive officer, granted the certificates of the honorary fellow of the RSC to Bai in Beijing, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) website reported on Friday.

Bai is among the 87 global academic celebrities, including a handful of Nobel laureates in chemistry, to earn the extraordinary honour.

The RSC constitution stipulates the total number of honorary fellows should be no more than 120 and they must undergo a rigorous nomination and election process.

The 54-year-old chemist, deputy CAS president and president of the Chinese Chemical Society, is leading the most cutting-edge research on molecular nanostructure and nanotechnology in China, which earned him election in April 2006 as the elite foreign associate of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Bai studied as a postdoctorate at the California Institute of Technology from 1985 to 1987, and previously focused on the structure and properties of polymer catalysts and molecular mechanics, which are core and original studies in physical chemistry.

Egypt, France to jointly retrieve ancient lighthouse

CAIRO, 16 Dec — The Egyptian Government on Friday permitted a joint operation with France to explore the submerged ruins of the ancient Lighthouse of Alexandria which once stood in the northern Egyptian port city.

Minister of Culture Farouq Abdel-Aziz Hossni gave the go-ahead order of the operation of the Egyptian-French Mission for Sunken Antiquities due to start in January, Egypt's MENA news agency reported.

Hossni expected the team to retrieve huge slabs of the tower's foundation inscribed with Ptolemaic designs, MENA said.

Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, was quoted as saying that his council had worked with the European Union to determine the type of the sunken stones, ahead of rebuilding the lighthouse designed by Greek architect Sostatos, whose name was engraved on the tower in honour of his good work.

Hawass revealed that the lighthouse dates back to the era of Ptolemy II's rule (282-246 BC) and was built at the cost equal to 2,000 pound sterlings back then.

Ahmed Shoeb, group leader of the Egyptian side, noted that the discovered slabs were mostly made of rosy granite, marble and adobe, adding that a geological map of local quarries will be drawn and the project is expected to be completed in three years.

The Lighthouse, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, was severely damaged by two earthquakes in 1303 and 1323. It was then totally lost to the sea in 1480.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 18 December, 2007

WB calls for investment in TB control

LUSAKA, 16 Dec — The World Bank has said that the countries with the world's highest numbers of TB cases could earn significantly more than they spend on TB diagnosis and treatment if they signed onto a global plan to sharply reduce the numbers of TB-related deaths.

According to a World Bank new research report on “the economic benefits of global investments in tuberculosis control”, highly affected African countries could gain up to nine times their investments in TB control, the World Bank News and Information Services reported in Lusaka on Saturday.

The report indicates that the economic cost of TB-related deaths (including HIV co-infection) in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2006 to 2015 is estimated at 519 billion US dollars when there is no effective TB treatment as prescribed by the Stop TB Strategy of the World Health Organization (WHO).

It said that by sickening or killing working-age adults, TB imposes a heavy cost on people's incomes as well as national economies.

In Zambia, the report said that adult deaths among small maize and cotton farmers caused crop yields to fall by roughly 15 per cent.

"However, if these same countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were to offer such treatment to TB patients, in keeping with a global plan to halve the prevalence and death rates by 2015 relative to 1990 figures, countries could see their economic benefits exceed their costs by about nine times over," according to the report.

A little fashion shop whose shape closely resembles a bus appeared recently in an underground mall in Shanghai. It is equipped with seats and other bus facilities within and attracted many customers.—INTERNET

Veterinarians give diaplasis operation to an injured wild giant panda at the Shaanxi Province Rare Wildlife Rescue & Breeding Research Centre in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 16 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA

British research proves better new breast cancer drug

LONDON, 16 Dec — A British research has proved that a new drug, Anastrozole, for breast cancer is better than the treatments already widely available and can prevent the disease returning for up to eight years.

Anastrozole, marketed as Arimidex, produces better results than tamoxifen which has been a preferred treatment for more than 20 years, setting a new benchmark for treating early stage breast cancer in postmenopausal women whose disease is fueled by oestrogen, according to the study published on Saturday.

The latest study confirms that the drug, approved for use on the NHS (national health service) in Britain in August and prescribed to patients with breast cancer since November, continues to work even after a patient stops taking it, with a greater chance that tumors will not return or spread.

Anastrozole acts by cutting the level of oestrogen circulating in the blood-stream, reducing the cancer risk in so-called receptor-positive cancers.

About four in five of the 41,000 women found to have breast cancer each year have passed the menopause and 70 per cent of those have cancers that are exacerbated by oestrogen.—MNA/XINHUA

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Defeat wrecks Panathinaikos hopes of going top

ATHENS, 17 Dec — Panathinaikos missed out on the chance to go top of the Greek Super League, losing 1-0 at Panionios on Saturday.

With leaders AEK Athens playing second-placed Olympiakos Piraeus on Sunday, Panathinaikos had an opportunity to claim first place but were sunk by a goal from former Watford triestial Rafik Djebbour in the 42nd minute. It was the Algeria striker’s ninth league goal of the season.

Panathinaikos remained third with 24 points from 12 games, level with Olympiakos and three behind AEK.

It teams are level on points, head-to-head records count and AEK lost 2-1 to Panathinaikos last month.

Arsis Solomonita returned to winning ways with a 2-0 victory at home to Xanthi which took them to fifth on 19 points, two behind Asteras Tripolis.

Federer wins Swiss sports award for fourth time

BERN (Switzerland), 17 Dec — The world number one tennis player Roger Federer has been named Switzerland’s top sports personality for a record-tying fourth time.

Federer, who also won the Sportman of the Year award in 2003, 2004 and 2006, was against world time trial cycling champion Fabian Cancellara and marathon runner Viktor Roethlin.

“It’s always an incredible feeling to win these awards from my home country, even if people always say I’m the big favourite,” the 12-time Grand Slam champion said in a live video link from his training camp in Dubai on Saturday. Federer, who follows formercountryman Tony Rominger as a four-time winner of the award, said he was close to tears after being congratulated in video messages from former champions Bjorn Borg, Roy Emerson and Pete Sampras, who still holds the record of 14 Grand Slam singles titles, told Federer to “have fun” breaking that record.

“It’s amazing to hear messages like that”, Federer said, and of course breaking Pete’s record would be a dream for me.

McCulloch strike gives Rangers 2-1 win over Hearts

GLASGOW, 17 Dec — Striker Lee McCulloch struck his second goal of the match to give Rangers a late 2-1 win over Hearts on Saturday and cut Celtic’s lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League to two points.

McCulloch gathered a pass from Kris Boyd and crashed a rising shot high into the net for the opener in the 18th minute.

Hearts hit back after the interval with Lithuanian striker Andrius Velicka levelling in the 57th minute only for McCulloch to snatch a late winner in the 86th minute. Champions Celtic have 36 points from 16 games while Rangers are second on 34 from 15.

Federer, who won a title with all four of the clubs he has managed, was been working as a commentator for Rai since he was sacked by Real Madrid in June, despite winning the Spanish title.

Man Utd go top after 1-0 win over Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, 17 Dec — Carlos Tevez’s goal gave Manchester United a 1-0 win at Liverpool on Sunday and sent the champions to the top of the Premier League. The Argentine scored in the 43rd minute by diverting a Wayne Rooney shot into the net at close range following a Ryan Giggs corner. United took over Arsenal at the top of the table, although Arsene Wenger’s side have the chance to make a quick return when they host third-placed Chelsea at 1600 GMT.

Liverpool were a shadow of the side that had beaten Marseille 4-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Their best chance fell to Ryan Babel close to equalizing with a fierce shot that flew narrowly wide, while Steven Gerrard landed a last minute free kick on the top of the net.

Rooney wasted an excellent chance to score a second for United in the 78th minute by side footing wide Cristiano Ronaldo’s cross when unmarked in the box.

The defeat sees Liverpool drop nine points behind United and seriously damages their chances of gaining a first league title in 17 years.

— MNA/Reuters

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Russia Polina Vytkhireva, centre, shoots past Norwegian Katja Nyberg, left, and Ragnhild Aamodt, right, during their women’s Handball World Championship final, at the Paris Bercy stadium, on 16 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Capello says England job will be his last

MILAN, 17 Dec — England’s new manager Fabio Capello has said the job will be his last in soccer and acknowledged he has a tough task ahead of him. The 61-year-old Italian was appointed on Friday until 2012 to replace Steve McClaren, who was sacked last month after England failed to qualify for Euro 2008.

“This is the final crowning of my career. It would be very nice to finish in the best way,” Capello told Rai television on Saturday. “I didn’t think that one day I would be able to coach England. Some time ago I was close then nothing happened. This time the dream has come true. ”I will face a different way of working in a country where football is considered a religion. Every one in England asks why the national team are not able to win.”

Capello, who won a title with all four of the clubs he has managed, was been working as a commentator for Rai since he was sacked by Real Madrid in June, despite winning the Spanish title.

— MNA/Reuters

Simeone appointed River Plate coach

BUENOS AIRES, 17 Dec — Former Argentina midfielder Diego Simeone has signed a one-year contract to coach River Plate starting on 3 January, the club announced on Saturday.

Simeone replaces Daniel Passarella, who quit last month after River were knocked out of the Copa Sudamericana by modest Arsenal ending their last chance of winning a trophy this year.

Simeone, 37, turned to coaching in 2005 after playing 106 games for Argentina and having represented some of Europe’s top clubs including Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid. He began his coaching career at Racing Club and led Estudiantes to the national championship in 2006.

— MNA/Reuters

Defeat wrecks Panathinaikos hopes of going top

ATHENS, 17 Dec — Panathinaikos missed out on the chance to go top of the Greek Super League, losing 1-0 at Panionios on Saturday.

With leaders AEK Athens playing second-placed Olympiakos Piraeus on Sunday, Panathinaikos had an opportunity to claim first place but were sunk by a goal from former Watford triestial Rafik Djebbour in the 42nd minute. It was the Algeria striker’s ninth league goal of the season.

Panathinaikos remained third with 24 points from 12 games, level with Olympiakos and three behind AEK.

It teams are level on points, head-to-head records count and AEK lost 2-1 to Panathinaikos last month.

Arsis Solomonita returned to winning ways with a 2-0 victory at home to Xanthi which took them to fifth on 19 points, two behind Asteras Tripolis.

MNA/Reuters
Brown suffers further poll slump

LONDON, 17 Dec — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s Labour Party trails the opposition Conservatives by the largest margin in more than 15 years, an opinion poll for the Sunday Times newspaper showed.

The poll by YouGov put Labour on 32 points, 13 percentage points behind the Conservatives on 45. Brown’s personal rating has also slumped since he took over from Tony Blair in June.

“With Westminister the sense of doom is growing, and no single analysis of Labour’s troubles seems entirely satisfactory,” Martin Bright, political editor of the left-wing weekly New Statesman, wrote in commentary published on Sunday.

Brown does not have to call an election until May 2010 and his advisers hope recent crises will pass, the economy will rebound and confidence in Brown and his policies will be restored before voters judge him at the ballot box.

Foreign Secretary David Miliband said it was the government’s job to take the difficult decisions needed to move the country forward, even if they aroused opposition.

“It doesn’t feel like meltdown at all,” he told the BBC. “In the end, what counts are not headlines but ideas. And it’s the ideas that this government in the end will live or die by.”

Brown was riding high in the polls after taking 45% of the vote. But the first run on a bank in more than a century, the loss of half of the country’s personal data in the post, allegations of sleaze and a downturn in house prices have all hit Labour.

Perceptions that Brown dithered over whether to call an early election or attend the signing of a new EU treaty, coupled with growing fears among voters of an economic recession have also undermined the former finance minister’s showing.

Brown’s personal rating—the gap between those saying he was doing a good job and those saying he was doing badly—has plummeted from plus-48 in August to minus 26 four months later. With an election some years off, the only risk to the Prime Minister is if his Labour Party begins to have serious doubts about whether he can defeat the Conservatives next time round.

However Brown is now coming under fire from the left of the political spectrum, a natural ally in the past.— MNA/Reuters

Poland will listen to Moscow on missile shield

LONDON, 17 Dec — Poland will listen to Russia’s arguments but will make its own decision on whether to install a US anti-missile base on its territory, Polish media reported on Sunday.

“Poland has no nuclear potential, but Russia does. We will hear out their arguments, but our final decision will be a sovereign one,” Polish media quoted the country’s new Defence Minister, Radoslaw Sikorski, as saying.

He was replying to a Russian warning that the firing of a weapon from a US anti-missile system in Poland could be misread by Moscow’s automated defences, triggering the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile in return.

“The firing of an anti-missile rocket from Poland could be seen by Russia’s automated system as the launch of a ballistic missile, which could provoke a responsive strike,” Army Chief of Staff Yuri Baluyevsky told a news conference in Moscow on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Monday, 17 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperature in Kachin. Eastern Shan and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4°C) and PyinOoLwin (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 16-12-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2007 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-12-2007 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 16-12-2007 was (6.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.57) inches at Mingaladon, (141.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from North at (14:30) hours MST on 16-12-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-12-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin States, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of thesea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-12-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-12-2007: Partly cloudy.
People’s Desire

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

Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabir Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2007.—MNA

Objectives of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day

(a) All the national people to constantly join hands for safeguarding the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State;
(b) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
(c) To ensure emergence of an enduring constitution in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention that has been completed successfully;
(d) All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation;
(e) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State’s seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit, patriotic spirit and the spirit of sacrifice.

National Kandawgyi Gardens, flower festival attract thousands of visitors

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The 2nd flower festival and the orchid garden in the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin were packed with visitors today.

The 2nd flower festival is being held while the National Kandawgyi Gardens is celebrating its 76th anniversary.

In the gardens, a tree which includes in the list of the oldest trees in the world and Rock Garden attract most of the visitors.

At the 2nd flower festival, archways are decorated with local and exotic species of different flowers and Myanmar maps and the royal moat (see page 10)

INSIDE

The aims and objectives of holding the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination are to preserve, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism all over the world.

PAGE 6

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