Maj-Gen Tha Aye honours outstanding students, teachers of Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence honoured outstanding students who won distinctions in the matriculation examination for the 2007 academic year in Kayin State.

A ceremony to honour the state’s outstanding students was held at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 23 December.

Speaking on the occasion, Maj-Gen Tha Aye said the world has developed rapidly and has experienced changes in the 21st century. Changes in the information technology have caused challenges to humanity, he said. He continued to say that so, countries in the world had changed their education systems before the end of the 20th century in an attempt to overcome challenges in the 21st century.

As part of efforts for human resource development, Myanmar has also carried out education promotion programmes since 1998 to keep pace with globalization, he said. After laying down short and long-term education programmes, the government is implementing the programmes, he added.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye said insurgencies in the past in Kayin State caused hindrances to development tasks in the state. Today, as peace prevails in the region, plans for development of the agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and trade sectors are underway while efforts have been made for development of the education, health, religion and social sectors in the state, he added.

It is glad to know that Kayin State has a 36.76% pass rate for the 2007 academic year while the pass rate of the whole country reaches 27.17% and that of No 1 Basic Education Department 27.02%.

Commander attends summer paddy cultivation in Hlegu Township

YANGON, 26 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended a ceremony to organize the summer paddy cultivation for 2007-2008 in Hlegu Township yesterday and called for making efforts for increasing per acre yield.

The ceremony took place at the 37-acre field of farmer U Aung Lwin in Thanatpyin Village, Hlegu Township, and the acting chairman of Hlegu Township PDC and an official of Yangon Division Myanmar Agriculture Service reported to the commander on arrangements to irrigate cultivation of summer paddy and using modern farming machinery.

Yangon Division sets its target of 240,000 acres of paddy in this summer. Commander Maj-Gen (See page 8)

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

Thursday, 27 December, 2007

Grow more quality coffee for greater profits

Coffee is a favourite hot drink in almost every country in the world and it is a cash crop that benefits growers in the long run. The coffee plant, a perennial crop, enjoys sub-tropical climate with the average temperature of 20°C. It can grow best in the areas over 4,000 feet above sea level.

Coffee that grows best in cool climate is being cultivated most in PyinOoLwin, a hill station, and Nawngkhio Township. Extended cultivation of coffee is being undertaken in Yaksaw, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Hopong and Taunggyi Townships in Shan State.

PyinOoLwin, Nawngkhio, Wylan and Yaksaw Townships are designated as coffee project areas. It is necessary for farmers to grow on a commercial scale. They can make more profits in a few years with the use of quality seeds and correct cultivation methods.

The cultivation acreage of coffee was only 14,000 in 1998 and now it increases up to 50,000 acres. The country produces over 4,000 metric tons of coffee and the surplus is being exported.

Over 100,000 acres were reclaimed in PyinOoLwin and Nawngkhio Townships for extended cultivation of coffee with the permission of the ministry concerned. Private entrepreneurs have established a great deal of coffee farms in those areas. Therefore cultivation of coffee is successful with the assistance of modern cultivation methods by agriculturalists.

The government provides quality coffee seeds to growers and makes arrangements for supply of water to the areas in states and divisions where coffee is grown. It is sure that coffee production will increase all over the country in the world and it is a cash crop that benefits growers in the long run.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pope makes Christmas appeal for world peace

VATICAN CITY, 26 Dec — Pope Benedict on Tuesday said he hoped Christmas would bring consolation to those living in poverty, injustice and war and appealed for just solutions to conflicts in Iraq, the Holy Land, Afghanistan and Africa.

In his “Urbi et Orbi” (to the city and the world) Christmas Day message, the Pope also urged people to accept the light of Christ and warned that many human tragedies were caused by environmental upheavals.

“May this Christmas truly be for all people a day of joy, hope and peace,” he said in his address from the central balcony of St Peter’s Basilica to tens of thousands of people below.

The address was broadcast live to some 57 countries and after it the Pope, sitting on a throne and wearing elaborately embroidered gold vestments, read Christmas greetings in 63 languages.

“May the light of Christ, which comes to enlighten every human being, shine forth and bring consolation to those who live in the darkness of poverty, injustice and war,” he said.

Iran firm on US talks, 19 atomic plants planned

TEHERAN, 25 Dec—Iran said on Monday it rejected any preconditions for talks with the United States, which suspects it wants an atomic bomb, and a member of Parliament was quoted as saying Teheran planned 19 nuclear power plants.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki made clear Iran’s position on talks three days after US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington was open to talks before broader talks could begin.

“After the publication of a report by America’s intelligence organizations, US officials have talked of negotiations with preconditions with Iran,” Mottaki was quoted as saying by Iranian media.

“But we do not accept any preconditions for talks,” he said in comments to an Iranian satellite television station, reported on the state television website and by Iranian news agencies.

He was referring to a US intelligence estimate published this month which said Iran had ended its nuclear work.

President Ilham Aliyev’s visit to Jordan in July, 2007.

Direct flights between Azerbaijan and Jordan will be operated as from 1 April, 2008, and Jordan will be operated as from 1 April, 2008, the ambassador told the Press, adding that the proposal on opening Baku-Amman direct flights was discussed during Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s visit to Jordan in July, 2007.

The heavily-crowded bridge collapsed after a support pillar at one end fell apart under the weight. —INTERNET

15 die, scores missing in bridge collapse in W Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 Dec—At least 15 people died and scores of others went missing when a suspension bridge over the Bheri River in Surkhet District in far-western Nepal collapsed Tuesday afternoon, The Kathmandu Post reported on Wednesday.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, the Armed Police Force confirmed the deaths of 15 including three women and two children.

The Home Ministry, meanwhile, said 32 people including 20 women and 12 men are receiving treatment at Surkhet Regional Hospital, some 375 km west of capital Kathmandu.

Around 200 of those who fell into the river reportedly managed to swim to safety while a considerable number of others were rescued. Personnel from the Armed Police Force (APF), the Nepal Army and Nepal Police and locals have been searching for the missing. According to the daily, over 300 people were estimated to have been on the bridge when the mishap occurred. They were crossing the river to participate in a yearly fair on the other side of the river.

Russian FM slams US planned missile shield

MOSCOW, 26 Dec — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has complained that Washington disregarded Moscow’s concerns over the planned deployment of US anti-ballistic missile (ABM) components in Central Europe, ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Tuesday.

“The ABM negotiations were hard. We seem to share the goal of strategic stability and missile non-proliferation, but the American methods disregard Russian concerns,” Lavrov was quoted as saying in an interview to be published in the Vernoia Novosti newspaper.

Washington initiated plans at the beginning of this year to deploy a radar station in the Czech Republic and interceptor missiles in Poland, claiming it will prevent potential missile attacks from Iran.

Moscow has repeated its opposition to such a system, saying it will weaken its deterrence and undermine strategic balance.

The two rivals have held several talks on the issue but failed to record any breakthrough.

“We have serious reports, which say that the system will deter Russia instead of neutralizing hypothetical threats from Iran,” the top Russian diplomat said.

Jordan to launch direct flight to Azerbaijan

AMMAN, 26 Dec—Direct flights between Azerbaijan and Jordan will be operated as from 1 April, 2008, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Jordan Elman Arasli said on Monday. Royal Jordanian Airways will operate the flights twice a week, the ambassador told the Press, adding that the proposal on opening Baku-Amman direct flights was discussed during Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s visit to Jordan in July, 2007.

Actress Huang Yi (R) and actor Huang Lei attend Press conference of TV play “The Family” in Beijing, China, on 25 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA

The introduction book for the newly issued Olympic animal stamps is unveiled on 25 Dec, 2007. —XINHUA
Chinese govt depts urged to take lead in saving energy

BEIJING, 25 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan has told government departments to set an example in saving energy and reducing pollution by using less water, electricity and paper.

By 2010, the energy consumption of government agencies, by floor space and head count, should be cut by at least 20 per cent from the 2005 level, Zeng told a meeting on energy saving on Monday.

The Vice-Premier ordered government departments to exert “strict control” on the scale of office buildings, “strict control” on the consumption of government procurement and government procurement, urged improvement in government procurement of energy-efficient products.

Government departments and public places in China have been asked to set air conditioners at or above 26 degrees Celsius during this coming summer, with heaters at no warmer than 20 degrees Celsius in winter.

According to the Government Offices Administration of the State Council, government office buildings nationwide achieved declines of 12 per cent and 19 per cent in per capita electricity consumption and water use, respectively, in 2006.

Adjusted for inflation, the expense per head declined by 5.8 per cent to 203 yuan (27.4 US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Escaped tiger kills one, injures two in San Francisco

BEIJING, 26 Dec — A tiger was shot and killed at the San Francisco Zoo Tuesday after it escaped from its cage and killed one visitor and injured two others, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The tiger was shot, San Francisco Fire Department spokesman Lt Ken Smith told the newspaper.

It was not immediately clear how the tiger escaped.

Officials at first thought four tigers had escaped, but only one left its pen, Smith told the Chronicle.

Shotgun-wielding police officers and firefighters gathered around the zoo’s south entrance soon after the 5:17 report of the attack, the paper reported.

Firefighters used ladders to shine flashlights into the zoo through dense eucalyptus trees.

The killing happened almost exactly a year after a zookeeper was mauled during a public feeding. According to the Chronicle, the state ruled that the zoo was responsible for that incident because of the unsafe configuration of the cages.

INTERNET

Ten children killed in Iraq train crash

HILLA (Iraq), 25 Dec — A cargo train collided with a large family car and killed 12 people, including 10 children from the same extended family, a hospital official said on Monday.

The estate car was crushed by the train as it attempted to cross a rail crossing in the small town of Sayahiyya, 15 kilometres (10 miles) north of the central city of Hilla on Sunday, police said.

A morgue official in Hilla’s hospital said six girls and four boys were killed, along with the male driver and a woman passenger. Most of the children were aged between 11 and 12 years old, he said.

MNA/Reuters

S Korea: Ship carrying nitric acid sinks, 14 missing

BEIJING, 26 Dec — A ship with 15 sailors aboard and carrying nitric acid was missing Tuesday after the vessel was thought to have sunk in South Korea’s southern waters.

The 1,323-ton ship was carrying 2,000 tons of nitric acid — a highly corrosive chemical used to clean metals — when it disappeared.

Choi Eun-ju, a regional Coast Guard officer, said because nitric acid easily dilutes it is unlikely to pose a threat to the ocean or marine life if the ship sank.

South Korea’s Coast Guard and Navy started searching for the ship after it sent out a distress signal off Yeosu, 283 miles south of Seoul, early Tuesday, said spokesman Eum Seung-ye. It was sailing to Taiwan after leaving the southern port city of Gwangyang on Monday night. One sailor — identified as a 28-year-old Myanmar — was found floating unconscious at sea hours later, but the other 14 crew members — 12 South Koreans and two from Myanmar — were still missing, Eum said. The news comes as South Korea battles to contain the nation’s worst-ever oil spill, which has blackened beaches and jeopardized the ecosystem along the country’s west coast.

A wayward barge hit a supertanker on 7 Dec causing the tanker to leak 78,920 barrels of oil.
Int’l plane makers competing in Vietnam market

HANOI, 25 Dec—Europe’s Airbus, the United States-based Boeing, France’s ATR and Canadian aircraft producer Bombardier are competing to sell their planes to Vietnam.

Airbus last week gained two contracts worth 3.5 billion US dollars to provide 30 aircraft to national flag carrier Vietnam Airlines and the Vietnam Aircraft Leasing Company, the Vietnam Investment Review reported Monday.

Under the contracts, Airbus will sell 10 new generation Airbus A350-900 and 20 Airbus A321-200 with the first planes to be delivered in 2012.

John Leahy, chief operating officer of Airbus, said Vietnam’s rapid economic growth and the 20-per-cent annual growth of the country’s aviation sector are offering great opportunities to international aircraft producers.

“Vietnam is one of three main markets that Airbus is focusing on, with the two others being China and India. We will tighten the close relationship with Vietnamese partners to provide more aircraft to the market,” Leahy said.

Vietnam Airlines, which currently operates a fleet of 44 aircraft, and plans to expand the fleet to 86 by 2015 and 110 by 2020, has recently announced it would buy live more ATR 72-500 planes to serve domestic routes.

“We plan to be one of the largest airlines in the region so we would continue investing in our fleet,” said Pham Ngoc Minh, newly-appointed general director of Vietnam Airlines.

In 2005, Vietnam Airlines signed a contract to purchase four Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners which will be put into operation in 2009 and 2010.

Chinese township enterprises’ profits to rise 14% in 2007

BEIJING, 25 Dec—The total profit of China’s township enterprises is expected to rise 14 per cent year-on-year to 1.69 trillion yuan (about 230 billion US dollars) in 2007, according to figures released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday.

Aggregate turnover would reach 28 trillion yuan, up 13.5 per cent, the ministry said.

Township enterprises are involved in many businesses, such as farm produce processing, construction and catering, among others. Farm products processing contributed one third of the total value-added of the enterprises, which is likely to reach 6.6 trillion yuan this year. By the end of this year, the enterprises will employ about 150 million people, with up to 4.1 million newly-employed this year.

According to the ministry, township enterprises still face problems such as low value-added operations.

ADB, Sweden to help Mekong region in power trade

HANOI, 25 Dec—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Sweden are helping to set up an institutional framework to support competitive regional power trade in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

The framework will ensure long-term stable and mutually beneficial electricity supply to six GMS members, the Vietnam News newspaper reported Monday.

The project will ensure that environmental impacts resulting from developing power projects for regional power interconnection and trade will be kept under control.
ADB, Japan help develop Cambodia’s impoverished region

PINOM PENH, 25 Dec — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan are helping raise the capability of the Tonle Sap communities, the most impoverished region in Cambodia, to participate in an ongoing development initiative, a Press release said Monday.

The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction will provide a 1.5 million US dollars grant for the Building Community Capacity for Poverty Reduction Initiatives in the Tonle Sap Basin, the Press release said, adding that ADB will manage the funding.

The project will support training, demonstration and knowledge sharing with the community leaders, organizations and concerned government staff so that they can participate effectively in the poverty reduction efforts under the Tonle Sap Initiative, it said.

ADB’s Tonle Sap Initiative, which was launched in 2002, is a partnership of organizations and people working to meet the poverty and environment challenges of the Tonle Sap area, it added.

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Russian trucks form record queues in Finland

HELSINKI, 25 Dec — Russian trucks have queued up for 100 kilometres (62 miles) at the Finnish border ahead of the holiday season, prompting the Nordic nation to ask the European Union for help eliminating the record blockage.

Russia’s booming economy has led to constant traffic headaches in the region as trucks carrying new cars, televisions and machinery transit through Finland and the Baltic nations.

Finland is now as large a trading partner for Russia as the United States because of the surging trans-border traffic, but Customs posts on the border are continuously struggling to cope.

While trucks are stuck at the border, retailers in Russia and the transport firms are losing money and local people are afraid to drive on the roads with one lane blocked by trucks.

Finland’s Government said on Friday the Minister for Transport, Anu Vehvilainen, had again pleaded with the European Commission to influence Russia to reduce the traffic block by increasing electronic customs services, reducing border bureaucratic and developing roads on the Russian side.

Truck queues were about 50 kilometres long on Sunday morning at Finland’s busiest border, Vaalimaa, east of Helsinki. They extended to more than 100 kilometres late on Saturday, the Finnish Road Administration said.

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Oil gains on tight US stocks, Mexico port closures

BOSTON, 25 Dec — Oil prices rose above 94 US dollars on Monday in thin trading as dealers anticipated a further tightening of US energy stockpiles and foul weather forced Mexico to shut two key oil ports.

The gains, however, were tempered by forecasts that mild weather in the Northeast would slash demand for fuel in the world’s largest heating oil market.

US crude CLc1 settled up 82 cents to 94.13 US dollars a barrel after trading between 92.50 US dollars and 94.23 US dollars. Brent crude LCOc1 settled up 24 cents to 92.70 US dollars.

The gains came as oil analysts anticipated a government report to be released later this week that is expected to show US crude inventories fell 1.8 million barrels last week.

US oil inventories are already at their lowest level in nearly three years after dense sea fog along the Gulf Coast slowed down imports.

More support for oil prices came from news on Monday that foul weather shut down two Mexican oil ports, potentially further slowing shipments into the United States.

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North Korea must come clean on uranium project

SEOUL, 25 Dec — South Korea’s chief nuclear envoy on Monday called on North Korea to come clean about its suspected programme to enrich uranium for weapons, which has been a sticking point in an international disarmament deal.

North Korea struck an agreement with regional powers to give a complete list of its nuclear activities by the end of this year and to start dismantling its ageing nuclear facility that produces arms-grade plutonium.

But while acknowledging its plutonium-based weapons programme, North Korea has persistently denied US allegations that it had engaged in inappropriate uranium-based activities.

South Korean envoy Chun Yung-woo called on North Korea to “have the courage to tell the truth about the uranium enrichment programme,” a Foreign Ministry official quoted him as saying.
Chinese senior mili official meets Indian guests

KUNMING, 25 Dec—Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of China, met here on Monday with the Indian military observer delegation headed by Sushil Gupta, deputy chief of Army Staff Indian Army. Ma noted that Chinese and Indian soldiers were attending the joint anti-terrorism military exercises in Kunming. They showed high levels of attainment and increased their competence in fighting terrorism by learning from each other.

He said this joint exercise had helped to enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust between Chinese and Indian Armed Forces, strengthen their exchanges in the field of defence affairs and deter the ‘three evil forces’ of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Gupta said that terrorism had posed a serious threat to the world.

New bird flu case reported in Germany

BERLIN, 26 Dec—Germany has found a new case of bird flu in a small poultry farm in the northeastern state of Brandenburg, officials said Tuesday.

This is the third case of the deadly virus in ten days in Germany, the German news agency DPA reported. The H5N1 virus was detected among 15 chickens in the poultry farm in Brandenburg, which surrounds the German capital Berlin.

The farm’s owner, who contacted officials Monday, was also looking after a neighbouring farm with 31 chickens among the Christmas period. As a precaution the chickens on both farms were culled. Area around the farms has been shut off, the DPA said.

Poultry in the surrounding area were held in closed pens, and owners have been told to immediately report any sign of illness among their birds to local veterinary authorities, said the report.—MNA/Xinhua

61 killed, 36 missing in landslides in Java

JAKARTA, 26 Dec—At least 61 people were killed and 36 others were missing after rain-triggered landslides hit Tawangmangu District at Karanganyar regency of Central Java Province on Wednesday, disaster management agency said.

Torrential rain and lack of forest coverage were blamed for the accidents, said the official. “Two consecutive days of heavy rain was the cause of the landslides,” he said.

B’desh wants return of artifacts loaned to France

DHAKA, 26 Dec—Bangladesh wants a consignment of ancient artifacts on loan to France for an upcoming exhibition to be returned after two 1,500 year-old statues of the Hindu God Vishnu were stolen while awaiting shipment from Dhaka airport.

“The Guimet Museum (in Paris) would be informed, regrettably, that it would not be possible to go ahead with holding the exhibition of the items as planned,” a statement from the office of the head of the interim government said on Tuesday.

One consignment of items had already been successfully sent to France when the theft occurred on Saturday as a second shipment was being loaded on a Paris-bound flight. A government spokesman said the French exhibition would have to be cancelled and the artifacts already in Paris returned to Bangladesh.

Four girls killed in Dutch Chinese restaurant fire

BRUSSELS, 26 Dec—Four girls aged between one and eight were killed in a fire in a Chinese restaurant in a southern Dutch town, the Chinese Embassy in The Hague told Xinhua.

The girls’ father is the owner of the restaurant in the town of Arnemuiden. The girls were sleeping on the first floor when the fire broke out. But all the patrons and restaurant staff on the ground floor were safely evacuated.

The fire started from the first floor at about 7 pm local time on Monday, and attempts to get the girls out failed due to the ferocity of the fire, a Dutch journalist who has been following the incident told Xinhua. The fire was extinguished early Tuesday morning.

Bomb explodes at Bolivian trade union building

LIN, 26 Dec — A bomb exploded on Monday in the Bolivian Workers’ Federation (COB) building in La Paz, Bolivia’s administrative capital, shattering windows but harming no one, according to reports reaching here on Monday.

The explosion took place in the entryway to the building, police said. It was very close to where COB executive secretary Pedro Montes sleeps, but he was away from La Paz at the time. —MNA/Xinhua
Entrepreneurs of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone urged to give priority to manufacturing of agricultural machinery

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tha Naing Win, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min and officials, viewed out-patient department, operation theatre, blood bank, pathology department, trauma and orthopaedic special ward and X-ray department of Hpa-an General Hospital in Hpa-an on 23 December morning.

They comforted patients and presented cash assistance to them. While in Hpa-an Township, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met cold season crops growers in Kawhlaik Village-tract and inspected the groundnut plantation.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye honours those teachers who contributed to the achievement of the state and students who tried hard to win success in the matriculation exam, he concluded.

Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min also delivered an address on the occasion. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented awards to the heads of three BEHSs that won the highest pass rate in Kayin State and one five-distinction student.

Kya-in-Seikkyi Township had the highest pass rate in Kayin State for the 2007 academic year. Kyayatwin Basic Education High School won the highest pass rate in Kayin State for the 2007 academic year; Kawbein BEHS in Kawkareik Township the second and Shwegun BEHS in Hlaingbwe Township the third.

Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min also presented prizes to outstanding schools, teachers and students.

Official concerned also awarded distinction winners of the 2007 academic year through heads of district education departments in Kayin State.

Hpa-an, Kawkareik and Myawady district PDCs contributed K 1.5 million, businessmen in Hpa-an Township over K 2.5 million and Kayin State PDC K 1.5 million to the funds for the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding schools, teachers and students.

After the ceremony, Maj-Gen Tha Aye went to the local battalion and met with members of social organizations.

Commander attends summer... (from page 1)

Hla Htay Win urged local farmers to use natural fertilizer mixing with chemical fertilizer to get the targeted per acre yield. He also called for extended cultivation of oil crops and physic nut in the township.

The commander also urged farmers to extend growing of natural fertilizer.

The commander also viewed thriving winter crops on both sides of Darbein-Thakutpin Road and inspected Sardalin-Darbein-Kyewku Road Section.

He also inspected upgrading of Ywathagyi Station in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at 11th founding anniversary of Ministry of Sports. — SPED

Sports Ministry marks 11th founding anniversary

YANGON, 26 Dec—The 11th Founding Anniversary Ceremony of the Ministry of Sports (2007) was held at Nation Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna), here, this morning.

Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a speech and presented cash awards to the staff who won prizes in Central Institutes of Civil Service (Phaunggyi and Zeebingyi), the third prize-winning team of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry football tournament, the second prize-winning football team in Second Division football tournament, the U-13 football team, Huin Ei Swe who participated in Pre-SEA Games, those who won prizes in sports events held at home, Phyoo Min Tha (Tennis), Ma Thandar Aung (Tennis), San Shwe Maung (Volleyball), and Min Hein Khant (Cricket) who were selected to represent the nation at international sports events, and outstanding students of staff in the matriculation examination (2007 academic year).
Progress of livestock breeding tasks supervised in Mandalay Division, Shan State (North)

20 December.

Task along Lanmadaw road in NyaungU Township on Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected repairing reservoir undertaken by Township Development minister inspected No 2 Sepauk tube well and Sepauk Department of Kyaukpadaung Township, the deputy committee.

In the village being conducted by Development Affairs Minister Col Tin Ngwe arrived at Hmantaw village in reservoir and nursery plants. Afterwards, Deputy inspected No 2 water pumping station of Taungzin, farms in PyinOoLwin on Thein inspected poultry Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein open booths of medicine for livestock breeding in Mandalay.— MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein open booths of medicine for livestock breeding in Mandalay.— MNA

USDA membership applications submitted in Ottwin Tsp

22 December.

farms and instructed officials to prevent bird flu. The minister and party viewed nurturing of 300,000 tea saplings being undertaken by Sein Wut Hmon Co in Nalyan Village of Lasio Township. They oversaw growing of rubber at 4,000-acre Nalyan rubber farm of private companies and the USDA (Central). After inspecting 5,000 acres highland reclamation project being undertaken by the USDA, the minister attended to the needs. The minister viewed pig farm in Napha Village and gave necessary instructions.

On 23 December, Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein attended the 20-ton feedstuff factory. They also inspected goat and cow breeding farms. On 24 December, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered speeches at the 6th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Labour Minister meets with officials of Mon, Kayin States

26 Dec — Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi inspected departments and dispensaries of the Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour in Mawlamyine, Thaton, Kyaiiko, Mudon and Thanbyuzayat townships in Mon State and Hpa-an in Kayin State from 20 to 23 December.

In meeting with officials, the minister instructed them to create job opportunities, see to the rights of employees and occupational safety, give full health care, boost production of goods and carry out the tasks with duty-consciousness.

Minister U Aung Kyi inspects parts of machinery manufactured by Mawlamyine Industrial Zone.— MNA

Rural water supply tasks inspected

Yangon, 26 Dec — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected repairing task along Lammadaw road in NyaungU Township on 20 December.

During the tour, the deputy minister also inspected No 2 water pumping station of Taungzin, reservoir and nursery plants. Afterwards, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe arrived at Hmantaw village in the township where he looked into sinking of tube well in the village being conducted by Development Affairs Committee.

On arrival at the Development Affairs Department of Kyaukpadaung Township, the deputy minister inspected No 2 Sepauk tube well and Sepauk reservoir undertaken by Township Development Affairs Committee.— MNA

CEC member accepts USDA membership applications at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 26 Dec — Member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-Charge) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the membership applications presentation ceremony of Hlinethaya Township USDA at the hall of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Section-5 in Hlinethaya Township this morning.

Chairman of the Management Committee for the industrial zone section-5 U Mya Maung handed over 1094 membership applications to the CEC member.

Next, the CEC member accepted cash donations from wellwishers. Later, the chairman of the Management Committee for the industrial zone section-5 spoke words of thanks.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepts USDA membership applications.— MNA

Minister U Aung Kyi inspects parts of machinery manufactured by Mawlamyine Industrial Zone.— MNA
**Vietnam’s northern border trade with China rises this year**

HANOI, 26 Dec—Two-way trade through Mong Cai international border gate in Vietnam’s northern Quang Ninh Province bordering China was estimated at 2.4 billion U.S. dollars this year, up 16 percent against last year, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported Tuesday.

Vietnam mainly exports rubber, farm products, seafood, coal and cosmetics, while importing urea, equipment, consumer goods, agricultural machines, and auto-mobile and motorbike parts via the border gate.

The border gate’s Vietnamese management board has recently established a sub-border gate to facilitate export of local seafood. Now, some 40 Chinese companies and traders import 80-100 tons of the product via the sub-border gate each day, the newspaper said.

Trade between China and Vietnam grew over 9.95 billion dollars in 2006 from 8.2 billion dollars in 2005, according to the Chinese Commercial Ministry. The figure is expected to reach 13-14 billion dollars in 2007, many Vietnamese trade experts predicted.

**Indonesian dies after rescuing friends in Malay fire**

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Dec—An Indonesian construction worker died from smoke inhalation when trying to rescue three of his colleagues from a fire at their quarters in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Durang Surano, 35, was overcome by smoke when he went back into the burning building to rescue his colleagues, said Mohd Ramali Arbai, officer-in-charge of the Pudu Fire and Rescue Station.

“While trying to help his friends, Durang Surano fell and died due to smoke inhalation.

The three friends managed to escape with minor injuries,” Malay- sian national news agency Bernama quoted Mohd Ramali as saying.

He said 102 workers were asleep in the quarters when the fire broke out at around 3:30 am on Tuesday.

The department was assessing the damage and cause of the fire, he said. MNA/Xinhua

**At least 22 killed in US snowstorm as weather eases**

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—Sunny skies before Christmas holidays came as a big help to road crews dealing with the remnants of a snowstorm, which blacked out thousands of homes and businesses and caused at least 22 traffic deaths in the upper US Midwest.

The weekend-long snowstorm rolled through Colorado and Wyoming on Friday, then spread snow to Minnesota, Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota and parts of Michigan and Indiana.

Accidents on highways slippery with snow and ice killed at least eight people in Minnesota, three in Indiana, three in Wyoming, five in Michigan and one each in Texas and Kansas.

The storm system had blown out to sea Monday, but in its wake wind blowing at 40 kilometres per hour picked up moisture from Lake Erie to create lake-effect snow in Buffalo, New York.

MNA/Xinhua

**Magnitude 6.0 quake hits northern Japan**

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec—A magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit northern Japan on Tuesday, 62 miles (100 kilometres) northeast of the city of Sendai, the US Geological Survey reported.

It said the quake struck 30 miles (48 kilometres) deep off the eastern coast of the main island of Honshu at 11:04 pm (1404 GMT).

The quake was initially reported as a magnitude 6.2 but was later revised to 6.0. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre did not issue an immediate tsunami warning and no details of any casualties or damage were available.

MNA/Reuters

**Palestinian rockets fall into southern Israel**

GAZA, 26 Dec—Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip said on Tuesday that they fired six homemade rockets into southern Israel earlier in the day. Saraya al-Quds, military wing of the radical Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movement, claimed responsibility for launching four rockets into Israel’s Sderot City about one kilometre away from northern Gaza Strip. The group said that the shelling was part of reactions to a recent Israeli airstrike on its commanders in the coastal Strip which killed at least 10 of its member last week.

The firing was “in response to frequent Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people,” Saraya al-Quds said in a statement.

Meanwhile, an armed wing of the December Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) claimed the other two makeshift rockets which landed on open areas in Israel with no damages or casualties caused.—MNA/Xinhua
A huge octopus made of ice will be part of a festival opening on 25 Dec in Rövershagen near Rostock in northern Germany. Called “the Fifth Ice Age,” it will bring together 15 artists from Germany and abroad who have created an eerie world full of ice sculptures. The festival’s theme is “Atlantis -- a Sunken World — 20,000 Miles Below the Ice.”—INTERNET

Two young Lilalu trapeze artists showed what they learned outside the classroom during a performance on 9 Dec, in Munich. Part of the Circus Krone, Lilalu is a children’s circus that teaches kids circus skills in all-day workshops during school vacations.—INTERNET

A human faced spider is pictured in this photo taken on 25 Sept, 2007. The novel spider, which seems to have a girl’s face, was discovered in Hami, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Tuesday and has aroused a great deal of interest of local residents.—INTERNET

Volker Schmidt has achieved cult status among students for his Christmas lectures, in which he vividly demonstrates the laws of physics. After 20 years, the University of Freiburg physics professor is putting on his popular “show” for the last time on Friday, 14 Dec. Here he shows the effect of an electric charge.—INTERNET
Sinopec forecasts a rise in production

BEIJING, 26 Dec— Sinopec Corp said it expects to process 42.5 million tons of crude oil in the final quarter this year, up 7.5 percent from the final quarter last year.

HANOI, 25 Dec— Vietnam will soon permit all securities companies in the country to offer online securities trading services such as Internet or call centre trading to help them save time and cost.

VIETNAM TO ALLOW ONLINE SECURITIES TRADING SOON

Three arrested at Peru’s airport for cocaine smuggling

LIMA, 25 Dec— A woman and her two teenage children were arrested when allegedly trying to board a flight to Argentina with 360 capsules of cocaine hiding in their stomachs, the police said Monday.

They were arrested at Lima’s International Airport on early Sunday morning and later were taken to Daniel A. Carrion hospital in the western city Callao, where they were held, waiting to have the capsules expelled, the National Drug Enforcement Department said. The anti-drug unit declined to give the name of the two children but said they were aged 17 and 15.

The mother, Evelyn Chingara Lazo, admitted that she and her two children had received 2,000 US dollars each for trafficking drugs. Each capsule, five cm long and two cm wide, contains 12 grammes of cocaine. People who have swallowed it will be killed soon as the drug invades the bloodstream within two minutes if one single capsule breaks. — MNA/Xinhua

China expects 30% annual growth in tax revenues

BEIJING, 25 Dec— China’s tax revenues are expected to surpass 4.9 trillion yuan (668.8 billion US dollars) in 2007, up 30 percent year on year, the country’s top tax official said here on Tuesday.

Addressing a national conference on taxation, Xiao Jie, State Administration of Taxation director, said this figure represented one of the highest annual tax growth rates since the country adopted reform and opening up policy in 1978.

He ascribed the robust increase to stable economic growth and a rapid increase in industrial enterprise profits.

Tax revenue mix had experienced an obvious shift in recent years. The share of turnover tax in the total tax revenue structure dropped from 57.6 percent in 2002 to 49.5 percent in 2007. The contribution of income tax had a bigger economic macrocontrol effect and increased from 22 percent in 2002 to 26 percent in 2007, Xiao said.

11 feared dead in Indonesian boat accident

JAKARTA, 26 Dec— A small passenger boat with 14 people onboard sank off Indonesia’s Riau Province, leaving 11 passengers missing and two others dead, local Press said Tuesday.

The boat’s captain was the sole survivor, said the official.

Six killed in fire at eiderdown workshop in C China

ZHEKINGZHOU, 25 Dec— At least six people were killed in a fire at an eiderdown workshop in central China’s Henan Province on Monday, an official said.

The fire broke out at around 4 am in Wulikou Town, Taikang County, and has been extinguished, said the official with the Taikang County government.

Details of casualties and the fire were not available at the time of going to Press.

Police are investigating into the cause of the fire, the official added. — MNA/Xinhua

Driver with care

Two bodies have been recovered from the site. — MNA/Xinhua

Illegal land grabs are threatening food supplies in China as scarce farming land is destroyed to make way for industrial and urban development, a minister was quoted as saying on Wednesday. — Internet

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Study says men’s bones also easy to deteriorate

LOS ANGELES, 25 Dec—Men’s bones may also be easy to deteriorate as one in five with bone deterioration is male in the United States, according to a new study.

This accounts for two million men who suffer osteoporosis in the United States, said researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (UTMBG), whose report was published in the December issue of the Annals of Family Medicine.

When women reach a certain age, usually 50, their doctors routinely test their bones for signs of osteoporosis. Although men suffer from thinning bones as well, they rarely worry about the condition—and their doctors rarely test for it. “This is just not on the radar screen,” said Dr. Angela Shepherd, a professor at the UTMBG.

Shepherd and her colleagues recently used data from nearly 3,000 men to devise a questionnaire that can identify men at risk for osteoporosis. Men or their doctors can use the questionnaire, which gives patients points for advanced age, low weight and a history of lung disease.

Hispanic women more likely to carry breast cancer gene

BEIJING, 26 Dec—A study indicated many Hispanic women carry a gene mutation that gave many Jewish women a high risk of breast cancer, researchers said in Internet.

The mutation occur in Asian-American women only at 0.5 percent and 1.3 percent among black women. Researchers tend to believe that maybe many Hispanic women have unknown Jewish ancestry.

About 178,500 women are diagnosed breast cancer and 40,500 die of it or its implication in the United States each year.

Heavy fog lingers over N China region for a week

SHIJIAZHUANG, 25 Dec—Heavy fog has lingered in north China’s Hebei Province for the seventh straight day on Tuesday, and it is unlikely to dissipate till this weekend.

The provincial observatory forecast Tuesday. The fog is one of the strongest for the same period in the local observatory history, said Guo Yingchun, a spokesman of the observatory.

More than 100 flights via the province have been called off or delayed for further notice, and major highways linking the province with neighbouring Beijing and Tianjin have been closed since 20 December, according to the traffic departments. The province is responsible for 50 percent of vegetable supply for Beijing and Tianjin.

Big coaches and vans were seen stopped at highway stations waiting for the traffic to resume. Closure of highways pushed passengers to train travel. Sources with the railway authorities said that tickets were sold out on routes to Beijing.

Indonesian woman dies from bird flu

JAKARTA, 26 Dec—A 24-year-old Indonesian woman dies from avian influenza, putting the total fatalities in the country to 94, the Indonesian Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The woman died on Tuesday morning at Cengkareng Hospital in the capital and both of her laboratory tests showed that she was positively infected by H5N1 virus, said Nyoman Kandun, director of the ministry.

“She died on Tuesday afternoon, two of her laboratory tests indicate that she is positive of bird flu,” Kandun told Xinhua.

He said that it is not clear whether the woman had historical contact with fowls as investigation is underway. The woman first showed the symptoms of the disease on December 14, and six days later, she was treated at the hospital, said Kandun.

Contact with fowl is a common cause of the bird flu death in Indonesia. Indonesia, the world’s fourth most populous country and home to millions of backyard chickens, is considered a possible hot spot for spreading the disease, although the country has culled millions of chickens.

Indonesia has been at the front row in fighting to combat the spreading of highly pathogenic H5N1 viruses, which have slowly and persistently spread on human

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

Second best time is now.
Red Star Belgrade officials released from custody

BELGRADE, 26 Dec — Three Red Star Belgrade officials and a match delegate arrested following a riot earlier this month were released from custody on Tuesday pending further investigation, the club's legal representative said.

“They have been released after all the witnesses in the case have been heard in the preliminary stage of the investigation,” Red Star's lawyer Dragan Ninkovic told Reuters.

“The legal grounds for their detention have ceased to exist,” he added, “they can’t repeat the offence during the ongoing winter break in the league and the club has also been penalized.

The inquest will continue and it’s now up to the prosecutor to press on with the case or drop the charges.”

Red Star's general secretary Zoran Damjanovic, stadium manager Miodrag Corovic, security chief Novica Mijuskovic and match delegate Rade Popovic were arrested after a policeman was seriously injured in their home game with Hajduk Kula.

They were charged with causing a “general state of danger” for failing to prevent the riot during which fans battered the police officer with burning flares, forcing him to fire shots into the air in self-defence.

Serbian soccer has been rife with violence in recent years and Partizan were kicked out of the UEFA Cup in August after their fans started trouble at Bosnian rivals Zrinjski Mostar in the first qualifying round.

The Serbian champions have been fined and ordered to play three home matches behind closed doors.

South Korean boxer Choi in coma after title defence

SEOUL, 26 Dec — South Korean boxer Choi Yosam lapsed into a coma defending his World Boxing Organization inter-continental flyweight title after taking a beating in the final round, officials said on Wednesday.

Choi, who won Tuesday’s fight’s seconds before the end of the 12th and final round by a hard right landed by Indonesian challenger Heri Amol.

Choi, 33, staggered to his feet but collapsed shortly after the bout. He was taken out of the gymnasium by stretcher and had not regained consciousness, officials said. Choi underwent brain surgery for a cerebral haemorrhage.

“It seems like the outlook for his recovery is very bad. Even if he does recover, there seems to be a high chance he will be in a vegetative state,” said Han Bo-young, vice president and secretary general of Korea Boxing Commission.

“He’s in a coma right now and doctors are just waiting for him to wake up. They said we'll have to wait about two to three days.”

The fight brought back memories of a 1982 title bout in Las Vegas between lightweight champion Ray “Boom Boom” Mancini of the United States and Kim Duk-koo, where the South Korean challenger died from injuries sustained in the fight.

MNA/Reuters

AEK go top after comeback win, Olympiakos draw

ATHENS, 24 Dec — AEK Athens returned to winning ways and the top of the Greek Super League after Olympiakos Piraeus were held to a goalless draw by Larissa on Sunday.

AEK, whose grip at the head of the table was loosened last week when they lost 1-0 to Olympiakos, came from behind to beat bottom club Ergotelis 4-1.

After conceding in the 18th minute, AEK drew level through Greece defender Traianos Dellas in the 29th minute.

Yachts race off in a line at the start of the Sydney To Hobart yacht race in Sydney, Australia, on 26 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Miroslav Djukic named Serbia coach

BELGRADE, 26 Dec — Former Yugoslav defender Miroslav Djukic was named Serbia’s new coach on Wednesday after sealing a two-year contract with the country’s Football Association (FSS).

Djukic, who steered Serbia’s Under-21 side to the European Championship final in June, officially takes over on January 1 and will also be in charge of the team that qualified for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the FSS said.

He succeeds Spaniard Javier Clemente, who was sacked earlier this month after failing to qualify for Euro 2008.

“The FSS executive board made a unanimous decision to appoint Djukic as the national team’s head coach and we have complete faith that he will take Serbia back to winning ways,” FSS spokesman Aleksandar Boskovic told a news conference.

“The contract will be automatically extended by another six months if Serbia reach the World Cup 2010 finals in South Africa,” he said.

The 41-year old Djukic, who stepped down at Partizan Belgrade last week after steering them to the top of the Serbian First Division at the winter break, was upbeat about his chances of doing well.

“This is a great honour and we will do everything we can to qualify for the World Cup 2010 finals,” he said.

“It will be an uphill task in a very tough group but we have the quality and the determination to take Serbia’s soccer where it deserves to be.” Serbia have been drawn in Group 7 with World Cup 2006 finalists France, neighbours Romania, Austria, Lithuania and the Faroe Islands. —MNA/Reuters

Rangers lose McCulloch in draw with Aberdeen

GLASGOW, 24 Dec — Rangers had striker Lee McCulloch sent off and missed the chance to go level on points with leaders Celtic after a 1-1 draw at Aberdeen on Sunday.

Charlie Adam put Rangers ahead on the half hour mark but lost McCulloch eight minutes later after a melee. Aberdeen equalised in first half stoppage time through Lee Miller. Champions Celtic, who drew 1-1 with Hibernian on Saturday, lead Rangers by two points but the Ibrox side have two games in hand.

“We’re obviously disappointed, even going down to 10 men, not to get the three points. I thought we played very well throughout the match... and we were unfortunate not to win,” Rangers manager Walter Smith told BBC radio.

Adam broke the deadlock when he ran in at the back post to meet McCulloch’s low cross from the right and drill a five metre shot back across keeper keeper Jamie Langfield into the net.

But the first half erupted following flying tackles by Rangers defender Alan Hutton and Aberdeen’s Chris Clark on each other within three minutes.

MNA/Reuters

Los Angeles Lakers Andrew Bynum (L) stops Phoenix Suns Amare Stoudemire during their NBA basketball game in Los Angeles on 25 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters
Indonesian FM calls for improving human resources

JAKARTA, 26 Dec— Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda called on the country to improve its human resources in the face of full the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration in 2015. Antara news agency on Tuesday.

“The full ASEAN economic integration in 2015 of which the blueprint has already been launched has its minuses and pluses but will benefit this nation in its effort to speed up the attainment of its progress,” Antara news agency quoted the minister as saying.

Unless the Indonesian nation made preparations for the ASEAN economic integration which will allow free flows of goods, service and investment among ASEAN member states, it would lag behind other nations, he said on Monday. One of the arrangements to be applied soon was an ASEAN open-sky policy which would have negative and positive impacts on Indonesia and that the country needed to produce professional human resources, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

German private jet crashes in Kazakhstan, one dead

ALMATY, 26 Dec— A small German-owned private jet crashed during take-off from Almaty Airport on Wednesday, killing its only passenger, Kazakhstan’s Emergency Ministry said.

Three crew members were taken hospital with injuries, the ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

It did not give the nationality of the dead passenger.

The Canadian aircraft owned by the German company Jet Connection Business Flight veered off the runway, hit a wall and exploded, it said.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Wednesday, 26 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin, Kayin and Kayah States, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Namhsam and Pindalung (2°C) each, Heho (3°C) and Mogok (5°C).

Minimum temperature on 25-12-2007 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 26-12-2007 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-12-2007 was 91%. Total sunshine hours on 25-12-2007 was (8.1) hours approx.

Ratlakhon 26-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.57) inches at Mingladon, (141.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 25-12-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea, West Central and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-12-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-12-2007: Generally fair weather.
People’s Desire

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

Minister on inspection tour of Khabaung Hydropower Project

NAV PSI TAW, 26 Dec—Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and Director-General U Hoke Kyi of Hydropower Administration Department, went on an inspection tour of Khabaung Hydropower Project in Toungoo Township yesterday.

At the briefing hall, Project Director U Maw Tha Htwe and Mechanical and Electrical Installation Director U Khin Maung Win presented reports to the minister on the project tasks and Deputy Minister U Myo Myint gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on requirements of the project and inspected progress in building the power plant, installation of machines at the plant and stockpile of machinery.

The minister looked into power control rooms and laying of underground cables, progress in building the switchyard, installation of porcelain balls, placing of concrete on steel pipelines, digging outlet canal of the power plant and dredging of Khabaung creek.

The minister called for making efforts to complete the project tasks in time, carry out the tasks for proper flow in Khabaung creek, correctly install machinery at the power plant, perform greening tasks for the plant and its environs, grow shade trees and other crops, conserve natural beauties and forests and take preventive measures against the fire.

Ninety per cent of Khabaung Hydropower Project has completed. Upon completion, the 30-megawatt installed power plant will generate average 120 million kwh yearly. — 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.

Significant night temperatures

Haka (1°C)
Namhsam,
Pinlaung (2°C)
Heho (3°C)
Mogok (5°C)

☆ 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