

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 259

10th Waxing of Pyatho 1365 ME

Thursday, 1 January, 2004

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Cuba

YANGON, 1 Jan — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed by the chairman of Nyein Foundation, peace negotiators and national race leaders at the dinner to mark Kachin traditional Inlon Innan harvesting ceremony at Malikha Yeiktha in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 29-12-2003. — MNA

## Without having any bias against any race, Government implementing plans for harmonious development of all national races based on parental love, goodwill Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner to mark Kachin traditional Inlon Innan harvesting ceremony

YANGON, 31 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner to mark Kachin traditional Inlon Innan harvesting ceremony hosted by Nyein Foundation on the lawns of Malikha Yeiktha in Myitkyina, Kachin State, at 7 pm on 29 December.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, peace negotiators, national race leader of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khun Ting Ring and members, national race leader of Kachin State Special Region-2 U La Mon Tu Gyaing and members, Chairman of Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabew Jum and members, priests, officials of the Baptist Council, national race leaders of the New Mon State Party, Kayan Pyithit Party, Kayinni National Democratic Party, Kayinni National and Kayah State All National Races Libration Front, peace negotiators of Kayin, Mon, Chin, Kayah, and Wa national races, members of Kachin State cultural troupes, national races guests and specially invited guests.

First, the Prime Minister and party arrived on the lawns of Malikha Yeiktha where the dinner was hosted. The Prime Minister was welcomed there by Chairman of Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabew Jum and peace negotiators, national race leaders, members of Kachin cultural troupes and local national races.

Before the dinner, fireworks were displayed to welcomed the Prime Minister and party and guests.

Members of Kachin cultural troupes sang the song National Brethren of the Union to mark the commencement of the dinner.

Rev Dr Sabew Jum extended greetings. He said he was pleased to see the dinner graced by the dignitaries of the State, national race leaders, religious leaders and townsenders. (See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt beats Kachin traditional gong at the dinner on 29-12-2003. — MNA

## Rural development tasks facilitate and strengthen national development

Nowadays, the Government has been making all-out efforts to bring about harmonious development in all parts of the Union and rural development tasks facilitate and strengthen national development. Seventy per cent of Myanmar population reside in rural areas. Therefore, only with rural development, will all parts of the Union develop speedily and harmoniously, thereby contributing to national development.

Senior General Than Shwe,  
State Peace and Development Council Chairman,  
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief  
(From address at the graduation parade of the  
46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

Independence Day commemorative  
features on pages 6, 7 and 11.

### INSIDE

#### Perspectives

For successful realization of 56th Anniversary Independence Day objectives  
Page 2

It is incumbent upon all the professionals in acting career to keep up the film industry as they did in the past  
Page 16

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Laotian Minister  
Page 2

#### Article

State-owned factories and industrial zones to fulfil basic needs of the people  
Page 6

### Circulation

23,346

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 1 January, 2004

### For successful realization of 56th Anniversary Independence Day objectives

It was on 4 January, 1948, that our country succeeded in freeing itself from the colonial rule and it was designated as the independence day. Since that time, the Independence Day has been observed every year with objectives of full political essence.

It is necessary for all the citizens of the Union of Myanmar, especially the younger generation, to realize the sacrifices our forebears had to make to regain our freedom and the value of independence. It is only because ours is now an independent and sovereign nation that it has been possible for us to realize our national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

It is important for all the national brethren of the Union to be patriotic and regard it as their inborn duty to safeguard their national independence and sovereignty as long as the world lasts. And the younger generation must bear in mind that, as they are ones who will have to shoulder the responsibilities of the State, they will have to work unitedly for the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty.

Nowadays, the entire nation, under the leadership of the Government, is making concerted efforts for all-round development of the nation and for the successful realization of systematic transition to a discipline-flourishing democracy. The objectives for the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day have been laid down for these purposes. They are:

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty,

- All the national to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity,

- All the national people to strive in unity for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building a new, modern and developed nation

- All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

We would like to call upon the entire national people to work unitedly and as hard as they can for the successful realization of the objectives for the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day so that we will reach our national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

### Full dress rehearsal of Independence Day Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held

YANGON, 31 Dec — The full dress rehearsal of Yangon City Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day for the year 2004 was staged at the People's Square on Pyay Road here this morning. The flag hoisting ceremony was held

at 4.20 am and the saluting ceremony at 7 am. Present on the occasion were Yangon Command Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders, senior tatmadaw officers, responsible personnel and others.

MNA

### Pyay Road to be closed temporarily

YANGON, 31 Dec — The 56th Anniversary Independence Day Yangon City Flag Hoisting and Flag Saluting Ceremonies will be held on 4 January 2004, and Pyay Road between Ahlon

Road and Shinsawpu Road will temporarily be closed from 4 to 9 am, announced by the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council.

MNA

### The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

### People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Phandouangchit Vongsa, Minister of Information and Culture of the Lao PDR. — MNA



### Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Loatian Minister

YANGON, 31 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Mr Phandouangchit Vongsa, Minister of Information and Culture of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Information Brig-Gen

Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

Present together with the visiting Minister of LPDR was Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Leaders Magazine. — MNA

### Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Leaders Magazine

YANGON, 31 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Mr Henry O Dormann, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Leaders Magazine at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here

at 2.30 pm today. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA



## Red Cross asks US-led coalition in Iraq for access to Saddam Hussein

GENEVA, 31 Dec—The international Red Cross has asked the US-led coalition in Iraq for access to captured former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Under the Geneva Conventions the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has the right to contact any prisoner of war or detained civilian, said ICRC spokesman Florian Westphal said Tuesday.

"We have been in contact with the Americans regularly concerning prisoners of war and other detainees in Iraq and in the course of this contact we have also talked about Saddam Hussein," he told AFP. "Saddam Hussein, as somebody protected by the Geneva Conventions, has a right to ICRC visits," he said.

The agency, which is the internationally-recognized guardian of the

Geneva Conventions, has asked for access to the former President since his capture by US forces on 13 December, Westphal said, without elaborating.

The ICRC was merely following its mandate with regards to seeking access to all detained people, he explained. There was no fixed timeframe specifying when the ICRC could speak to Saddam.

"There are a number of different factors which can have an influence on each individual case. The general idea is that it should happen as soon as possible," Westphal said. The ICRC is working under the assumption that Saddam Hussein is a prisoner of war

and therefore protected by the third Geneva Convention, which details minimum standards of humane treatment, underlining the responsibility of the "detaining power"—in this case the United States.

It says that prisoners are only bound to give their name, rank, date of birth and equivalent information, and forbids physical or mental torture, or "any other form of coercion ... to secure from them any kind of information whatever". "Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted or exposed to any unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind", the convention adds. —Internet

ထိုက်တိုက်နက်နက် ခိုးမြို့ခြင်း

## Ft Lewis soldier collapses and dies in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec—A second Fort Lewis soldier has died in Iraq in the space of a week, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

Sgt Curt E Jordan Jr, 25, of Greenacres, Spokane County, died Sunday of noncombat injuries near Bayji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 14th Combat Engineer Battalion, 555th Combat Engineer Group, based at Fort Lewis. Another soldier from that unit, Spc Charles Guin Haight, 23, was killed Friday when a convoy vehicle he was riding in struck an explosive device.

Internet



A US soldier stands guard on top of a humvee in Baghdad's densely populated area of Karada on 30 December, 2003, after their convoy was targeted with a roadside bomb.

INTERNET

## China's State Council calls for further western development

BEIJING, 31 Dec—The Leading Group under the State Council for Development of the Western Regions held a meeting Monday, which called for carrying out the western development strategy unswervingly.

The meeting was presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and head of the Leading Group.

The meeting reviewed the achievements in carrying out the western development strategy over the four years, and stressed that the western development, an important part of the country's modernization drive, was a long-term and arduous historical mission.

The meeting called for blazing a new path in carrying out the western development strategy under new historical conditions.

Participants discussed suggestions on

promoting western development and the major tasks of western development next year.

The meeting urged all-round, coordinated and sustainable development in western regions, asking governments at all levels to continue to speed up economic and social development in the regions.

Efforts to develop the western regions next year should include protecting the environment, returning farmland to forest and pastures and improving farmers' conditions for work and life.

Construction of infrastructure facilities in rural areas must be accelerated, the meeting said. —MNA/Xinhua

## HK's cancer fund spreads message of hope

HONG KONG, 31 Dec — Hong Kong's oldest patient support group is to export its formula for success to Shanghai to help improve "life after cancer" for thousands of patients.

The Hong Kong Cancer Fund will set up a foundation to help raise money for the Chinese Mainland project to be run by the Shanghai Cancer Recovery Club, fund chairwoman Sally Lo was quoted as saying by the *South China Morning Post* on Monday.

Lo founded the group in 1986 after a young friend died. It now has a network of 17,000 peer support volunteers and several "like-minded" doctors. It funds various patient support groups, from those suffering various forms of cancer.

The Shanghai organization, which was set up by cancer survivor Yuan Zhengping in 1992, already has 8,000 former patients working in the community through a non-profit school. It needs funds to expand its network to hospitals.

Yuan and 150 cancer survivors visited Hong Kong in December to see the fund's service centres, facilities and support networks.

Lo said her fund would try to help the Shanghai group gain a foothold in the hospitals, so patients could receive better support and follow-up care.

In Hong Kong, the fund relies on the network of volunteer patients and social workers who visit hospitals.

"The cancer survivors become volunteers and they show the way for newly diagnosed cancer patients," she said.

"We feel our model can be adopted in Shanghai and possibly Beijing and other big cities. We are just one big network with a vision of overcoming cancer through a positive message of hope."

She said people who learnt they had cancer need psycho-social support. The fund's social workers also spend time with the family, to make sure the situation and their options are explained to them.

"They also explain to the patient what is happening so they feel more in control and they understand that they also have choices," said Lo. —MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia's consumer confidence in November highest in 2003

JAKARTA, 31 Dec — Indonesia saw its consumer confidence in November hit the highest level in 2003 on the back of soft inflation and large holiday bonuses that allowed consumers to spend generously, a survey said.

The consumer confidence index rose by 3.6 per cent in November to 95.60. Fewer work days and Idul Fitri bonuses enabled consumers to celebrate the Islamic holiday under a more jubilant atmosphere, boosting confidence in the economic recovery.

"People felt much better with regard to what went on

during November in their economic environment," the survey was quoted Tuesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

It said people felt more sure that the momentum of the current recovery would continue, to generate more jobs and provide them with opportunities for improvement in family income in the six months to come.

The Danareksa consumer confidence survey is based on a representative sample of 1,700 households in six different main areas and on face-to-face interviews.

Consumer confidence is designed to measure the mood of consumers with regard to purchases, which can help predict buying patterns. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police officers examine a crater made by a suicide bomber in Karbala, on 29 December, 2003. Suicide bombers and assailants with mortars and grenade launchers blasted two coalition military bases and the governor's office on Saturday. —INTERNET

## Mexican authorities seize 17 tons of US beef

MEXICO CITY, 31 Dec—Mexican authorities Monday seized 17 tons of US beef in the northwestern state of Sinaloa to guard its citizens against mad cow disease that erupted in the United States.

The Agriculture Ministry said the beef was intercepted by El Carrizo check post on the Pacific coast. It was to go on sale in the central market of Los Mochis City in Sinaloa.

The cargo would be returned to the US, said the Sinaloa State government and the National Sanitary Service.

Last Tuesday's outbreak of the first mad cow case in the US caused widespread concerns in countries importing US beef. Mexico's Agriculture Ministry last week announced suspension of US beef importing.

MNA/Xinhua

## Russia says only UNSC can end Iraqi weapons dispute

Moscow, 31 Dec—The Russian Government said in a statement that only the Security Council can put an end to the Iraqi weapons dispute, local media reported Tuesday.

Quoting the statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press department Monday, the *Interfax* news agency said the question concerning whether Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction can only be resolved when the Security Council made its decision based on the reports of two UN watchdog agencies.

The UN agencies in charge of Iraqi weapons inspections are the Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

According to the statement, the coalition forces led by the United States excluded UNMOVIC and the IAEA from their search of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The Russian Government doubted the validity of such an act, saying that even if those weapons allegedly possessed by Iraq were found by the coalition, international inspectors should be brought in for verification.

The statement stressed that the results from the US search should be reported to the Security Council, in line with the Council's Resolution 1483.

According to the resolution, UNMOVIC and the IAEA will have to report to the United Nations before the Iraqi weapons problem is settled.—MNA/Xinhua

## Russia says India deserving candidate for permanent seat in UNSC

Moscow, 31 Dec—Russia has said that India is a "deserving and worthy" candidate for a permanent berth in the reformed UN Security Council.

"From Russia's point of view Germany, Japan, India and Brazil are deserving candidates for the expanded permanent membership of the Security Council," Russia's permanent envoy in the world body Sergei Lavrov said in an interview to *ITAR-TASS*.

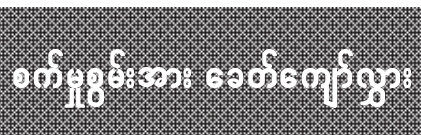
Lavrov said that Russia will also insist on the mandatory inclusion of a representative of Africa in the expanded Security Council as there is a need for ensuring equal

approach for developed and developing nations of all regions.

He, however, added that it was "premature" to say whether the new permanent members of the UN Security Council would have the coveted veto powers.

"Like many other countries we also propose to return to this veto right issue after the reforms if they take place — and election of new permanent members", Lavrov said.

MNA/PTI



## Bomb blast on US convoy kills one

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec—A roadside bomb exploded near a US military convoy on Tuesday when it travelled through eastern Baghdad, killing at least one Iraqi, witnesses and Iraqi police said.

No US soldiers were killed or injured in the explosion, which occurred in the densely-populated Karrada District, according to Iraqi police.

Initial report indicated one Iraqi was killed and another wounded in the blast, which damaged many shops and groceries nearby.

Iraqis were often compromised in various insurgent attacks presumed to be targeting the US-led coalition forces.

A roadside bomb attack on a US patrol killed a US soldier and two Iraqi children in the same area on Sunday.

A total of 12 US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire in Iraq since the US forces captured former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein on December 13.

According to US Defence Department, 327 US servicemen have died of hostile action since the US-led forces launched the war on Iraq last March.

MNA/Xinhua

## China strives to ease power shortage in 2004

BEIJING, 31 Dec—China is looking for solutions to its increasingly serious power shortage as demand for electricity is expected to continue rising next year.

China will give priority to power supply for residential quarters and schools, increase power production, do away with preferential policies formulated by localities to boost power consumption when supply exceeds demand, and restrict the expansion of some energy-intensive industrial projects.

Chen Jinxing, deputy general manager of the State Grid Corporation, said a growing demand for power and inadequate increases in power generating capacity in the coming year means the gap between supply and demand will become even wider.

"Electricity consumption has been growing by at least 15 per cent on average for the past 17 months since June, 2002.

Twenty-one provincial areas, or two-thirds of China's total, had to limit the use of electricity due to power shortages," said Chen.

The power shortage has affected people's lives and economic growth, said the deputy general manager.

According to the State Grid Corporation, China's electricity consumption would grow to 2,091 billion kilowatt hour in 2004, up 207 billion kilowatt hour over 2003. Power shortage would worsen and more areas would encounter blackouts.

The Chinese Government has decided on six-point measures to boost power generation and supply at a recent special meeting, Chen noted.—MNA/Xinhua



A member of the US special forces stands guard at a police station hit by a bomb on 27 December in the Iraqi city of Karbala, on 28 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

## Japan rejects US request for beef import resumption

TOKYO, 31 Dec—The Japanese Government on Monday rejected a US request for early resumption of beef imports from the United States but agreed to send experts to the United States in early January to check on the safety of beef products.

According to *Kyodo News*, in the high-level talks since the discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the United States earlier this month, US officials told Japan that the two countries need to discuss ways to lift the beef import ban that Tokyo imposed last week.

But the Japanese side turned down the request, saying the two countries should focus on fact-finding for the time being and it is premature to discuss resumption of imports, *Kyodo* said.

Japan proposed sending a mission of experts to the country on January 5 to discover the details surrounding the case of mad cow disease found in a Holstein cow in the state of Washington.

Japan banned beef imports from the United States immediately after Washington announced last Tuesday that a cow in Washington State tested positive for the brain-wasting bovine disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Japan is among more than two dozen nations that suspended US beef imports after the announcement.

Japan, which has so far reported nine cases of the disease since September 2001, tests all the cows it slaughters. Japan is calling on the United States to test all herds to ensure the safety of beef products.

Mad cow disease was first diagnosed in Britain in 1986. A fatal and incurable human disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, is believed to be caused by eating neural tissue from cattle with BSE.

MNA/Xinhua

## Three Gorges Project to get four more generators in 2004

YICHANG, 31 Dec—Four more generators are expected to be installed and go into operation next year on the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze, China's longest river.

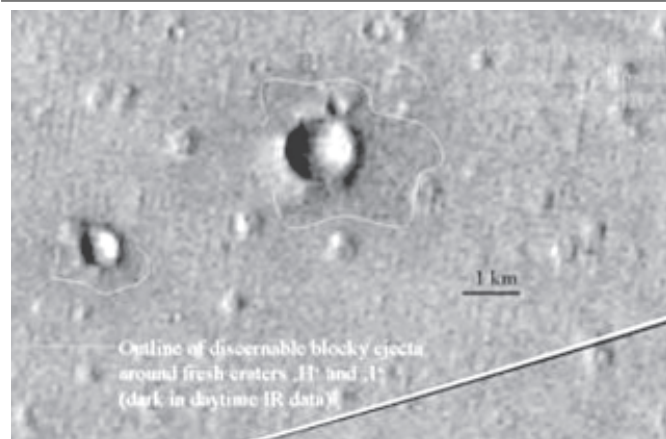
The four generators will have an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatt each, according to sources from China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation.

The gigantic water control project will be installed with 26 generators. On completion in 2009, the entire project, which is also

to play a role in flood control, will be able to generate 84.7 billion kilowatt/hours of electricity a year.

The Three Gorges Project began construction in 1993. So far, six generators have been installed and put into operation since July 10.

MNA/Xinhua



This photo released, on 29 Dec, 2003, by Malin Space Science Systems shows a photo-graph of two craters, on Mars, up to a kilometre wide and possibly several hundred metres deep, in the middle of the site where the Europe Beagle 2 Mars probe was supposed to have landed on Christmas Day. Scientists fear that Beagle 2 may have been damaged if it hit a boulder around the rim of the craters or has landed so deep that communications and sunlight to provide power have been cut off.—INTERNET

## Petrochemical industry becomes most profitable in China

BEIJING, 31 Dec—China's petrochemical industry, with profits of 159.8 billion yuan (19.3 billion US dollars) from January to November, has become the most profitable industry in China, according to figures from the State Development and Reform Commission.

The petrochemical industry, followed by the machine, light industry, power and metallurgical industry in profits rankings, increased profits by 50.2 billion yuan over the same period last year.

The profits of the machine industry totalled 135.3 billion yuan, 50.7 per cent of which was contributed by China's booming auto industry.

MNA/Xinhua



## Iraq keeps Russia, France in running for oil deals

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec— Iraq's Governing Council will let Russian and French firms compete for oil sector development contracts despite opposition from pro-US members, a leading Iraqi politician said on Tuesday.

Hamid al-Bayati, a senior official with the main Shiite Islamic group Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), said a Governing Council delegation led by his party has told Moscow and Paris not to fear exclusion from Iraq, although they did business with Saddam Hussein and opposed the US-led war that toppled him.

Bayati said Iraq could also honour a 3.8 billion US dollar deal between Russian company Lukoil and former leader Saddam Hussein struck in 1997.

"We asked Paris and Moscow to be involved in the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty and reconstruction, including oil. We do not want them to be isolated from Iraq," Bayati told Reuters.

The delegation, which met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, included SCIRI head Abdelaziz al-Hakim, who is keen along with some Islamist and Kurdish members of the Governing Council to strengthen relations with countries like France and Russia and become less dependent on Washington and its allies.

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal al-Talabani, who was supported by the Soviet Union and lately became an ally of the United States, was also with Hakim.

They met with Lukoil, the major partner in a Russian-led consortium that signed a 3.8 billion US dollar deal with the former Baathist government to develop the West Qurna field in southern Iraq, whose production is

projected at 600,000 barrels per day.

"Saddam cancelled the contract after Lukoil refused to bust the UN sanctions. Lukoil expressed interest in discussing the contract and we responded by inviting them to Baghdad and asking his excellency the Oil Minister to see whether the contract was legally binding," Bayati said.

"We are also examining whether it was competitive and whether it could be amended to further Iraq's interests."

But Oil ministry spokesman Assem Jihad said the contract was not discussed at a meeting on Monday between a delegation from the company and Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum.

MNA/Reuters

## Parmalat founder admits diverting funds

MILAN, 31 Dec — The founder of the Italian food giant Parmalat <PRF.LMI>, at the centre of a massive fraud scandal, has admitted misappropriating hundreds of millions of euros of company funds, one of his lawyers said on Monday.

Calisto Tanzi, under arrest for suspected financial crimes at the insolvent dairy firm, made the admission during questioning on Monday at Milan's San Vittore prison, lawyer Fabio Belloni told Reuters.

"He admitted diverting funds," Belloni said, adding Tanzi said he had funneled around 500 million euros away from Parmalat and into other companies, including Parmatour, a family-owned tourism company.

Tanzi's shock admission came after authorities had accused him of embezzling more than 800 million euros from his food conglomerate over the past decade.

A judicial source, speaking to Reuters after Tanzi was questioned on Monday, said the 65-year-old former Parmalat chief had also admitted falsifying company accounts.

"He admitted misappropriation and falsification (of accounts), without knowing the arrangements that were entrusted to his officials," the source said.

Tanzi resigned as Parmalat's chairman and chief executive two weeks ago amid one of Europe's biggest corporate scandals.

He was arrested at the weekend and held in jail on suspicion of financial crimes at Italy's eighth biggest group, including fraud, false accounting and market rigging. Neither he nor any of the 20-odd others under investigation have been charged.—MNA/Reuters



A US Army soldier, of the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion 22nd Regiment, during a foot patrol in Tikrit, Iraq, on 27 December, 2003.—INTERNET

## Aspirin plus ulcer drug tested for cancer prevention

LONDON, 31 Dec— British scientists said on Monday they had launched a major clinical study to see whether a combination of aspirin and an anti-ulcer drug could prevent thousands of cases of cancer of the oesophagus, or foodpipe.

Millions of people already take aspirin to relieve headaches and arthritis and to prevent heart attacks and stroke. More recently, however, researchers have also suggested the century-old drug could have a protective effect against cancer.

The trial will recruit 5,000 men at risk of cancer and last 10 years, making it one of the largest cancer prevention trials in the world.

Patients will be given aspirin alongside AstraZeneca Plc's ulcer pill Nexium, with the aim of preventing a pre-cancerous condition developing and subsequently becoming cancerous.

Oesophageal cancer can start with a disorder called Barrett's oesophagus, caused when stomach acid regularly flows back

from the stomach — one of the symptoms of this being heartburn.

Acid damage can trigger changes within cells lining the foodpipe and lead in a minority of cases to oesophageal cancer, which kills around 7,000 Britons a year.

Cancer Research UK, which is funding the study, believes successful treatment of Barrett's oesophagus could prevent up to a half of cases of cancer in the trial.

Aspirin's mechanism of action as a potential anti-cancer agent is unknown but researchers think it could cut cancer risk because of its impact on an enzyme called cyclooxygenase-2, which is involved in inflammation and is thought to be linked to the development of cancer.

MNA/Reuters

## Democrats urge ban on sick cattle for US human food

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec— Two Democratic lawmakers on Monday said they backed a Senate plan to ban US "downer" cattle, those too sick or injured to walk, from the human food supply as a safety precaution against mad cow disease.

The nation's first case of the fatal mad cow disease was diagnosed last week by the US Agriculture Department in a downer cow sent to slaughter in Washington state on December 9.

Senator Byron Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat, urged the Bush Administration to support an amendment approved by the Senate last month that would prohibit US

slaughter plants from using downer cattle in beef for human consumption.

The Senate language, adopted as part of the USDA's annual spending legislation, was dropped from a final bill by House Republicans. "This situation requires effective and decisive leadership," Dorgan said in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.—MNA/Reuters

ဘားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုး ပြန်အကျိုး

## British clergy slams

### "White vigilantes" Bush, Blair

LONDON, 31 Dec— Two British church leaders blasted Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday for going to war in Iraq, with one bishop saying he and US President George W Bush had acted like "a bunch of White vigilantes".

Their criticism — plus an embarrassing contradiction over weapons of mass destruction by the US Administrator of Iraq at the weekend — comes at the end of a miserable year for Blair whose popularity has tumbled over the invasion of Iraq. The Archbishop of York, David Hope, who is the Church of England's second most senior churchman, said Blair had displayed "a real lack of listening" over Iraq and his claims of fallen leader Saddam Hussein's arms capability remained unproven. Hope urged British churchgoers to pray for Blair, and said he and Bush should remember they will one day answer to God.

"I want to say...that there is a higher authority before whom one day we all have to give an account," he said.

The Bishop of Durham, Tom Wright, was scathing about Blair's military alliance with Bush in Iraq. He likened them to a pair of mavericks fighting crime in multi-racial inner-city London.

"For Bush and Blair to go into Iraq together was like a bunch of White vigilantes going into Brixton to stop drug-dealing. This is not to deny there's a problem to be sorted, just that they are not credible people to deal with it," he told The Independent newspaper.—MNA/Reuters

## US cattle prices sink further on mad cow fears

CHICAGO, 31 Dec— US cattle futures prices fell the daily limit at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for the third consecutive session on Monday as doubts about beef safety following the first US case of deadly mad cow disease hung over the markets.

Fallout from the December 23 announcement that a Holstein dairy cow in Washington state had contracted the fatal disease continued to pummel the 27-billion-US-dollar US cattle industry.

But analysts on Monday also cited some hopes that, after a weekend report from the US Agriculture Department that the infected cow may have come from Canada, stability may return to the market as fears ease of a consumer backlash against beef. At the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, live cattle for delivery in December through April 2004 all closed down the allowable 5.00-cent per pound daily trading limit on Monday. The limit was expanded from 3.00 cents on Friday.—MNA/Reuters



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says AIDS, war, child abuse, life expectancy and a lack of investment in education will be the key concerns for child welfare in 2004. Here an Afghan health worker feeds a baby.—INTERNET

**Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:****State-owned factories and industrial zones to fulfil basic needs of the people***Maung Maung Soe*

The motto "transformation from manual farming to mechanized farming" has now been successfully translated into reality. Ever since its assumption of the State's responsibilities to date, the Government has been striving day in, day out for ensuring harmonious and equitable development of all parts of the Union.

In the process, it is

placing great emphasis on stability of the State, smooth and secure transportation and economic development of the nation.

Now, construction of the economic, social and transport infrastructures essential for the nation's development are nearly completed and so the industrial sector is about to make rapid progress.

These achievements have come through combined efforts of departments concerned, national industrialists and the people.

The Government with a view to developing the industrial sector has established 18 industrial zones at the regions with potential resources, after organizing private industries. Some 7,000 national industrialists are making efforts to the best of their ability to manufacture respective industrial products at the industrial zones.

Among them, Yangon, Mandalay, Ayethaya of Taunggyi and Monywa industrial zones are in the fore front. They are also fulfilling the requirements of the State, gaining technological assistance from the Ministry of Industry-2.

The nation is trying to become an industrialized one based on the agricultural development. With regards to the agricultural sector, the number of sown acreage was only over 19 million in 1988 but it has now increased to over 26 million. And thanks to the emergence of new dams, reservoirs and river water pumping stations, the sown acreage has grown up to around 40 million

including the areas of double or triple cropping and mixed crops.

Consequently, the use of agricultural machinery is growing, and the nation is engaged in mechanized farming. The government and industrial zones are manufacturing such farm implements and machinery as power tillers, combined reapers and transplanters qualitatively and quantitatively in order to contribute considerably towards the agricultural sector.

Private industrial zones are now capable of producing not only agricultural machinery but also import-substitute standard trucks and automobiles on a commercial scale.

As the private industrial zones can pro-

duce quality machinery for the State, the tasks for building up a new, modern and developed nation will be accomplished in a short time.

In the past, Myanmar farmers had to give up their farmlands and they became jobless owing to the colonialism. But, now they have more than enough for home consumption and for charity. An increasing number of farming machinery and equipment have now been put into use.

With the high living standard of the rural people, there will definitely emerge a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Because, the majority of the nation's population, over 53 million, live in rural areas. That is why the State gives top priority to fulfilling the basic needs of the rural people and raising their living standard.

Considering into food sufficiency of the increasing population, the government has been taking systematic measures for promotion of the agricultural sector as well as transformation from manual farming to mechanized farming.

With genuine goodwill, the Government's main objective is to ensure sufficiency in food, clothing and shelter of the people in the long run. So, it is giving encouragement to sufficiency of rice and meat and fish in the nation. In other words, it is like laying foundation on basic needs of the people.

The private industrial zones are to make collective efforts to become reliable ones in a bid to build up an industrialized nation.

At the same time, the Ministry of Industry-2 established an industrial zone in Indagaw region, Bago Township, and is carrying out the tasks. It is constructing factories in the 400-acre zone including modern factories which were opened on 30 December.

In Indagaw Industrial Zone, modern factories such as farm machinery factory, automobile parts factory and aluminium wire factory in addition to power tiller factory, foundry plant and ball bearing factory have been constructed. The power tiller engine factory has a capacity of producing 3,000 18-HP power tiller engines and 3,000 18-HP power tillers annually.

The State-owned and private-owned factories gradually help the people reduce reliance on imported items. With the technological development of the industrial zones and the State-owned factories, reliance on imported machines will be reduced to the minimum.

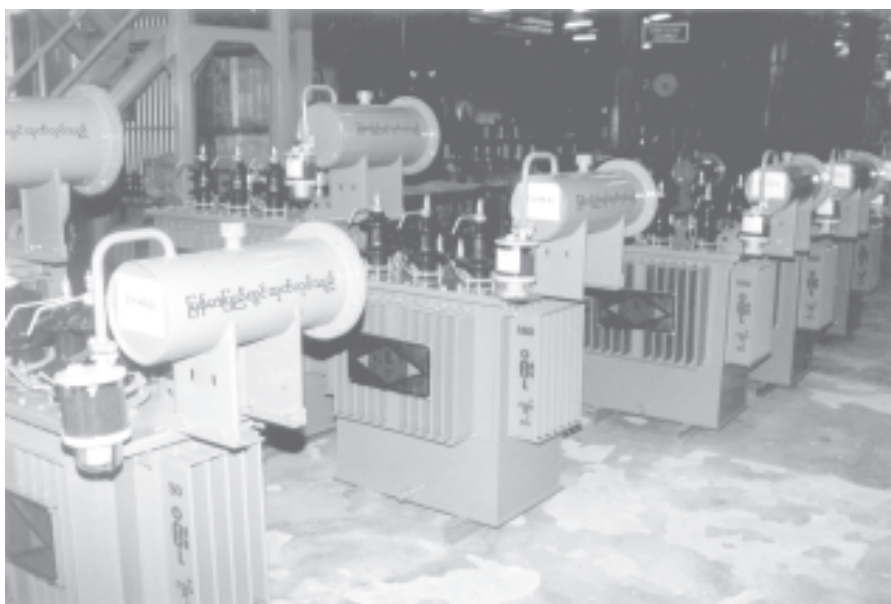
By manufacturing personal goods and industrial machines of high quality, the nation will become an industrialized one, and there will definitely emerge a peaceful, modern and developed nation with high living standard of its people.

**Translation: MS**

**Mechanized farming**

**Now, construction of the economic, social and transport infrastructures essential for the nation's development are nearly completed and so the industrial sector is about to make rapid progress.**

**Considering into food sufficiency of the increasing population, the government has been taking systematic measures for promotion of the agricultural sector as well as transformation from manual farming to mechanized farming.**



*Transformers, which won first prize gold medal for innovation in Myanma Industrial Exhibition (1996) and first prize for the best product in Myanma Industrial Exhibition (2003), produced by Soe Electric Industry in South Dagon Industrial Zone-1.*



Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

## Endeavours for industrial development

**Factories of the Ministry of Industry-1 in 2002-2003**

No	Industry	Total number of factories	Projects under implementation
1.	Textile	33	3
2.	Foodstuff	43	3
3.	Pharmaceutical	18	6
4.	Ceramic	23	6
5.	General and Maintenance	28	-
6.	Paper	9	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>23</b>



Cylinder blocks of farm machinery plant in Ingon Village in Kyaukse Township



Plastic packaging materials being produced with the use of modern machines in a plastic factory in South Dagon Industrial Zone-1, Yangon Division.

Kyaukse Cement Plant: one of the three new cement factories in Kyaukse Industrial Zone. The plant was opened on 27 January 2003.

The plant, which is situated one mile west of Thantaungmyat limestone mountain east of Kyaukse in Mandalay Division, can produce 120,000 tons of cement a year. Machinery of the plant cost the State 16.5 million US dollar.



## Without having any bias ...

(from page 1)

and expressed his belief that all the national races would strive for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation by doing their bit under the leadership of the Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

He pledged to organize the national races to live like a family in the Union, expressing his firm conviction that all the national races are national brethren though slightly different in costume, dialect, traditions, culture, race and region settled. He said Nyein Foundation and Peace Negotiators Friendship Association of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin and Mon States are determined to organize the peoples of Kachin and religious, social and peace organizations to strive by doing their bit for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State initiated by the Prime Minister and Our Three Main National Causes—Non-disintegration of national solidarity, Non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty of the State—laid down as the national policy.

Conspicuous development can be seen in all the regions of the State thanks to the peace and tranquillity restored with the goodwill of the dignitaries of the State and national race leaders. He said he would like to thank the Government to see the people enjoying the fruits of development achieved with efforts to enhance the living standard of the people by the State. Before peace could not be restored in Kachin State, it lagged 20 years in development. All the peoples in Kachin State now felt the goodwill of the State, he added.

In conclusion, he said all the Kachin national races are actively participating for the development of the State under the leadership of the dignitaries of the State.

Afterwards, Rev Dr Sabaw Jum presented gifts, a Kachin traditional silver sword and Kachin traditional bag.

Next, Rev Dr Sabaw Jum presented traditional gifts to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, national race leader U Za Khon Ting Ring of Kachin State Special Region-1 and national race leader U La Mon Tu Gaing of Kachin State Special Region-2.

Chairman of the committee for holding the dinner Rev Gregory Nordin presented Kachin traditional gifts for ministers to Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

Rev Dr Sabaw Jum also presented Kachin traditional gifts to ministers, deputy ministers, national race leaders, peace negotiators and senior military officers.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He expressed pleasure to meet with the national brethren again at the ceremony commemorating the harvesting festival of the ethnic Kachin brethren. The ceremony is like a reunion of the family members.

It is true that the brethren at the ceremony are also enjoying with happiness the peace and stability as well as the taste of tranquillity of the Union family born of the national solidarity firmly flourishing in the Union. In this regard, the national races are urged to further strengthen their resolve to always live in amity for perpetuation of the Union. The essence of the Inlon Innan harvesting ceremony including presentation of the fruits of the collective endeavours to the leaders, sharing of the fruits among the relatives and friends, and the wishes for an abundant supply of food for the future are the cherishable traditions of the Myanmar national races.

The national races have been preserving their own traditions and cultures and traditional festivals, with noble essence, while residing at places where plenty of food and water supply, in the nation for a period countable by the years in the thousand, and later became the national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. It is the true history of the Union.

Time and eras have changed, and there emerged the 14 States and Divisions in accord with the administrative system, but no state or division is a place of single national race, all are like mini Unions home to various national races. And it is one of the fine traditions of the Union.

For example, various national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan are residing in Yangon Division, while Bago also is a home to multi national races including Kayin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Bamar, Chin, and PaO.

In Sagin Division Bamar, Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan, Naga, Kadu and Lushaing together. Shan State is a place where 33 ethnic Shan races as well as PaO, Palaung, Wa, Kokang, Lahu, Lihsu, Intha, Danu, Taungyoe, Kachin, Bamar, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin reside.

In addition to Kachin races including Jeinhaw, Maru, Rawon, Lihsu, Lacheik and Azee, Kachin State is also a home to Kayin, Bamar, Rakhine, Chin and Naga. But the



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt poses for a documentary photo together with national race leaders and Kachin nationals at the dinner to mark Kachin traditional Inlon Innan harvest ceremony at Malikha Yeiktha in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 29-12-2003. — MNA

Union formed with 14 mini unions has not emerged overnight. It was gradually formed by the national brethren living in unity since the time of their ancestors. Or in other words, it is a family heritage.

Perpetuation of the Union, the heritage handed down by the ancestors, while preserving the tradition of living in weal or woe and in togetherness, is the duty of present-day nation races. Without having any bias against any race, the Government has been laying down and implementing plans for harmonious development of all the national races based on parental love and goodwill. First the Government gave priority to prevalence of peace and stability in the border areas, while laying down and implementing border areas and national races development projects at the remote corners of the nation, where peace and stability had been restored, for regional development and raising the social standard.

The Government has launched projects to develop the rural areas of the remote regions that were far from the administrative machinery. In addition, it has been carrying out the development zone project to ensure that there is no development gap between the regions.

For example, Shan State already has three development zones, the first one, based in Taunggyi, the capital of the state, the second, based in Lashio, and the third, based in Kengtung. The Panglong region, the birth place of the Union, has also been designated as a development zone. Thus, the Panglong zone now has the Panglong University, Loilem Government Technological College, Panglong Government Computer College and Loilem 200-bed hospital. In addition to Myitkyina region, Bhamo region has also been designated as a development zone in Kachin State. Thus, a degree college, a computer college and 200-bed hospital have already been built there.

Development infrastructures including education and health sectors are being built in some vital regions that are not included in special development regions. In Kachin State a degree college was established in Mohnyin and a 100-bed hospital was opened. Moreover, arrangements are being made for opening of a Government Technical Institute, he said.

Emphasis is in placed on building of development infrastructures in the respective regions according to the requirements of their conditions. Now the government is giving priority to better transport in Chin State and task for uplift of health and education standard.

He said roads in Kachin State were upgraded for ensuring better transport between Myitkyina and Putao, Myitkyina and Phakant and Myitkyina and border areas. The region has developed economically as well as socially due to construction of major roads on the east and west banks of the Ayeyawady River linking Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and Shan State, he said.

With the harmonious development of all parts of the Union all national races living in the various regions can share and enjoy fruitful results of development. Better foundations on equality and unity will further strengthen national solidarity and the Union Spirit among the national races, he added.

At a time when the government is making systematic efforts for strengthening of national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union Spirits, all national races are to live in unity forever while respecting cultural traditions of each other in accord with family characters and essence

of family life such as mutual understanding, friendship, forgiveness and help that developed in the course of history. By doing so, perpetuation of the Union safeguarded by the forefathers will last as long as the world exists, he added.

The government has laid down the seven-point future policy programme that can guarantee non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of national solidarity and essence of family life existed among the national races in the long run in successive eras and is implementing it, he said.

He urged all national races to make concerted efforts for prevailing of peace, unity and continued progress in the Union based on the Union Spirit and national solidarity for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

In conclusion, he wished prevalence of peace and prosperity in the Union including Kachin State. He also wished that all national races can endeavour for perpetuation of the Union based on national solidarity and the Union Spirit and consolidation of unity, friendship, understanding and sincerity safeguarded among them in the course of history.

He wished the Union made up of states and divisions enjoy peace, stability and prosperity forever.

Next, Rev Htong Shal Lwan Dong wished the prosperity of the State. Next, Chairman of KIO U Lamun Tu Gyaing made a speech. He said:

Today is an auspicious day for us. It is because of the first arrival of General Khin Nyunt in Kachin State as a Prime Minister. We thanked Chairman of Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabaw Jum and officials who invited General Khin Nyunt to Kachin State. The harvest festival is a significant one and of full essence among Kachin traditional festivals. The festival is to offer fruits and rice produced from farms first to those who are worthy of respects, ancestors, parents and heads. Kachin nationals believe that they are free from dangers and gain success in their future work by doing so.

Therefore, the opportunity to offer feast to the Prime Minister like this is a historic golden opportunity for those who live in Kachin State. We upholding Our Three Main National Causes are to march to the new year in unison regardless of race and religion.

Afterwards, member of Kachin Traditional Culture Karoe Zein sang a song titled "the Union".

Next, national race leader of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khon Ting Ring made a new year speech. He said: Whenever Kachin traditional harvest festivals that are held yearly arrive we have the opportunity to meet with and pay respects to the State leaders. We are grateful to officials concerned for regaining the fine tradition of seeking guidance from the State leaders today. We are pleased to be able to strengthen the national solidarity, to ensure perpetuation of the independence and sovereignty and help build the national unity through the new harvesting festival.

This year's new harvesting festival is significant since the Prime Minister, high-ranking officials and leaders of the national race peace group participated in it, thereby contributing to further strengthening the nationalism and Union Spirit. We believe that the seven-point roadmap of the State will make progress and the National Convention

(See page 9)



## Without having any bias ...

(from page 8)

We are grateful to the Tatmadaw who not only bring about peace across the nation but also safeguard independence and sovereignty for being able to hold the harvest festival in which the national races from north to south and from east to west could meet. We are pleased to be able to engage in national and regional development tasks. The affairs of the national races is the affairs of the Union. Only when all the national races have been able to make efforts in unison will the Union make progress. We the national races will have to be united regardless of dialect, native and religion. We are to forge mutual trust and understanding and build friendship and co-operation among the national races. At the same time, we are to safeguard peace. We are to coordinate and address our internal affairs with goodwill. Much of progress has been made owing to the participation of the national races, the Tatmadaw and the people.

The national races are striving together with the Tatmadaw for national development. Accordingly, if the political parties and politicians participate in national development together with the Tatmadaw will the Union of Myanmar make progress all the more.

Next, Chairman of Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabaw Jum presented Kachin traditional gong Simsa Bau Kyit bearing words "Manaw-Myeyan-Nyeinchan-Than-Moung-Than-Go-Swe-Myelet-Twe" to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

## It is incumbent upon...

(from page 16)

By giving awards like this, the Government is taking measures to enhance the quality of the film world. The same thing can be said of those engaged in acting career as they are also striving for the benefit of the film world, the country, and the race. These can be seen throughout the history of the movie world. To reiterate their commitment to the movie world:

— it will be found how hard those engaged in acting career tried to develop the film industry of pre-war era amidst the shortage of technology and equipment into present-day film industry;

— honour is due to them because they managed to inspire Myanmar people with artistic skills to arouse their nationalism under the suppression of the colonialists throughout the pre-independence period;

— there are historical evidences that they not only opposed the colonialists and the fascists but also fought them during the periods of independence struggle;

— apart from it, they also play an active part in the nation-building tasks as they did in the independence struggle;

— it is delightful to see the prospect of Myanmar film industry become bright as everyone in the film industry has carried out national duties throughout successive years; and it is also believed that they will continue doing their bit in the implementation of the seven-point roadmap designed to create a

modern and developed democracy while maintaining the success already achieved in the film industry. It is incumbent upon all

ard of the film industry, and Myanmar films will be able to penetrate the world. To overcome these obstacles:

(1) Scenes and plots should be created with new

foreign markets, and to participate in international film festivals and seminars;

(6) Efforts are to be made to modernize cinema



General Khin Nyunt attends the Motion Picture Award presentation ceremony and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech. — NLM

the professionals in acting career to keep up the film industry as they did in the past.

An enormous amount of foreign movies, video tapes and CDs have found their way into Myanmar. According to statistics, it is found that there were 38,610 movies on video tapes and laser CDs and 755 films, totalling 39,365 during the period from 1988 to 2003. Everybody in the film industry should be aware of these circumstances as it is more effective to use the weapon of media to counter of the penetration of foreign media.

A look at the standard of the film industry will reveal that there are still weaknesses in scenes, presentation, acting, production, shooting, technology, cinema service and so on. Only the remedy of such weaknesses can raise the stand-

outlooks and ideas that deviate from routine romantic ones without harming Myanmar culture;

(2) It is necessary for all directors, performers and technicians to make efforts to enhance the quality of film industry; likewise, producers are to make films of high quality and standard for their long-term economic benefits;

(3) Measures are to be taken to overcome the shortage of technology by hiring necessary machinery and shooting the films on joint venture;

(4) Seminars, workshops and courses are to be conducted to upgrade Myanmar film industry;

(5) Ways and means are also to be sought to acquire new technologies, to make new contacts, to put Myanmar films on

halls by using the 'high quality through competitions' system;

(7) It is necessary for Myanmar Motion Pictures Asiayon to conduct more acting courses than now so as to produce talented individuals;

(8) Arrangements are to be made to shoot high-quality films and sell them to foreign nations so as to earn foreign currency to buy modern shooting machines; and

(9) All those in the film industry are to be united in overcoming the difficulties and promoting the film industry. Only then will everything encountered now be able to be solved out to reach the developed and successful Myanmar film industry. The Ministry of Information, on its part, will do everything to the best of its ability to

### POEM:

## Will continue to strive together in harmony

- \* For the independence for Myanmar Union  
We've had to work with sweat and blood  
And giving lives, we attained it.
- \* Before Freedom could be enjoyed  
Immediately, there was wedge-driving towards  
disunity  
There was misunderstanding among us  
And we were left divided.
- \* Among brothers  
There was grudge and rivalry  
There were those who sat and clapped  
Who might it be?  
Colonialists were seen.
- \* Our sovereignty  
They returned it because they had to  
From the distance  
To meddle in our fate  
They schemed and acted.
- \* This matter  
Though we knew quite well  
Because of the meddlesome evil  
We had to take time and coordinate  
And we held hands as we understood.
- \* Now again  
With miscellaneous thoughts  
Our hands that are entwined  
Though they worked to unentwine  
With steadfast tenacity  
For the strengthening of sovereignty  
Our hands we hold fast  
And continued to strive.

Byan Hlar (Trs)

render assistance to the development of the film industry.

The list of the winners of academy awards for the year 2002 will soon be announced. The purpose of presenting academy awards by the State is:

(1) to recognize the brilliant performance of artists and technicians;

(2) to inspire the other performers with the achievements of prize winners; and

(3) to raise the standard of Myanmar film industry and make it sure to be on a par with the world film industry. To name the academy award winners, the seven basic criteria stated in the Film Act, which was enacted in 1966, was adopted. They are:

- (2) to propagate Myanmar traditional culture;
- (3) to arouse patriotism and love of the country;
- (4) to get national races united;
- (5) to widen the scope of knowledge with correct thought and outlook;
- (6) to be of great help to morale and good conduct;
- (7) to be of great help to the perpetuity of sovereignty, development and stability of the State.

A total of 19 movies produced in 2002 were scrutinized repeatedly on the basis of the seven criteria.

Therefore, those who win the awards are to continue to sharpen their artistic skills and those who miss the awards are also to keep on trying to win ones in the years to come.

(See page 15)

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Gwa Township of Rakhine State

YANGON, 31 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Myanmar Agriculture Service, went to Gwa in Rakhine State on 29 December and inspected regional development tasks.

On arrival at Kakalay junction on Yangon-Pathien Road in Kyaunggon Township at 9 am, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and military officers. Next, they proceeded by car along Yangon-Pathien road and Ngathainggyaung-Gwa road. They reached Beda camp at 10.55 am and were welcomed by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and responsible personnel. They proceeded to terrace horticultural farm of U Nyi Nyi in Daungchaung village-tract on Ngathainggyaung-Gwa road. They inspected cultivation of cashew, betel nut and pepper on 41 acres.

Thence, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Gwa and met with local authorities, departmental personnel and townselders at the Township Peace and Development Council Hall. Officials concerned reported implementation of five rural development tasks, cultivation of paddy and other crops as well as transportation and educational affairs.

In delivering an address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that in building up the nation into a modern and developed one, prevalence of peace and tranquillity, the rule of law and order, economic growth and human resources development are

fundamental requirements. He observed that Gwa township is self-sufficient in rice and he urged local people to extend the cultivation of pulses & beans, oil crops and perennial crops systematically by applying advanced technology and utilising natural and chemical fertilizers. He also urged to make efforts for extending fish and prawn breeding works and poultry farming in the region.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed round the developments in the town. They arrived Nyaungchaung affiliated middle school in Gwa Township at 5.30 pm. Responsible personnel reported matters on education.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated a set of computer to the school. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected Kanthaya Beach in Gwa Township and gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects multimedia classrooms of Kyeintali BEHS in Gwa. —MNA

## Multimedia classrooms opened at Kyeintali high school in Gwa Township

YANGON, 31 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Minister of Defence, together with Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, senior military officers, departmental officials and responsible personnel attended the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms at Kyeintali high school in Gwa Township of Thandwe District, Rakhine State, on 30 December morning.

The opening ceremony was held on the premises of the school. Headmaster U Htein Lin and School Board of Trustees Chairman U Win Myint formally opened the classrooms by cutting a ribbon.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the signboard of the classrooms and viewed round computer application room, computer aided instruction room, language laboratory room, electronic media video system room, visual presenter room, electronic media audio system room, printed media reading corner, painting room and domestic science room.

In delivering an address on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that human resources development is essentially needed for achieving rapid development and thus focus is made on developing the

education sector by laying down plans and implementing them. Of the five rural development tasks, one is to promote the education standard of rural people and efforts are being made in this direction, he observed.

Nowadays, new primary, middle and high schools are being opened extensively and affiliated schools are also opened at suitable places. Required number of teachers are appointed and necessary teaching aids provided. Regarding the higher education, arts & science universities, technical institutes and computer universities as well as colleges and degree colleges are being opened in 24 special development regions, he noted. Multimedia classrooms are opened at schools under the sponsorship of the Government and participation and support of wellwishers, he said.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented K 1 million for Kyeintali station hospital to Medical Officer of the station hospital Dr Aung Chan Mon and K 1 million for Kyeintali Home for the Aged to Trustee Board member Dr Maung Maung Kyi.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted teachers, parents and students of the schools. At 12.50 pm, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than together with the commander and party inspected Kyeintali station hospital and gave necessary instructions. Later they left by car and arrived Beda camp at 3.10 pm. Ayeyawady Division

Peace and Development Council Chairman South-Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials welcomed them.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Beikkalay bridge near Daunggyi village in Yekyi Township and inspected the cultivation of paddy and matpeon 15,000 acres. In Ayeyawady Division in 2003-2004 cultivation season, summer paddy is targeted to be grown in 1.6 million acres and so far 0.8 million acres have been put under summer paddy. Pulses & beans are targeted to be grown in 1,322,040 acres and so far they have been grown in 1,253,847 acres. Edible oil crops are targeted to be grown in 363,107 acres and so far they have been grown in 266,613 acres. Maize is targeted to be grown in 135,226 acres and so far they have been grown in 114,381 acres. Chili is targeted to be grown in 54,960 acres and so far they have been grown in 42,559 acres. Vegetables are targeted to be grown in 69,000 acres and so far they have been grown in 63,723 acres.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded by car and arrived Bo Myat Htun Bridge across River Ayeyawady at 8 pm. Officials reported the maintenance works and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. Then he left for Yangon. —MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than views pepper produced at terrace farm on Ngathainggyaung-Gwa road. —MNA

## Minister receives guest

YANGON, 31 Dec — Minister for Immigration & Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa received Country Director of WFP Mr Bhim Udas at his office at 3 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, Director-General of Immigration and National registration Department U Maung Htay, Deputy Director-General of Population Department U Myo Min and officials.

MNA

## Ex-tempore talks held

YANGON, 31 Dec — The competition of English language teachers in ex-tempore talks was held in conjunction with the essay contest of eighth and ninth standard students at the BEHS No 2 in Mingaladon Township here on 29 and 30 December. The prize presentation ceremony was held at the school this morning.

## U Win Aung sends felicitations to Cuba

YANGON, 1 Jan — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Felipe Perez Roque, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2004. —MNA

## Ex-tempore talks held in Kunlon

YANGON, 31 Dec — The Kunlon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association in Shan State (North) held ex-tempore talks in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day at Kunlon high school on 16 December. Local authorities, mem-

bers of social organizations and students were present among others. After the talks, officials concerned presented prizes to the winners. Maung Hein Myint Thu stood first, Nan Ei Sanda second and Nan Ei Mon third.

MNA

## Raw opium seized

YANGON, 31 Dec — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and special anti-drug squad, stopped a motorcycle ridden by Mashi Tan Guan of Liza town and Tan Naung of Kaunggyayan village of Bhamo Township, at the entrance of Si-in village in Bhamo Township and seized 15.5 kilos of raw opium together with arms and ammunition on 24 December. Action is being taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —MNA

## Formation of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation explained

YANGON, 31 Dec — A meeting to explain the formation of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at International Business Centre on

Pyay Road here at 9 am today. MNAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the meeting and delivered an address.

Present were MNAF Vice-Presidents Prof Dr Daw May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet,

Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Divisional WAC Patrons Daw Khin Htay Htay and Prof Daw Hla Myint and others.

MNA

## Entry date for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards extended

YANGON, 31 Dec — It has announced that those wishing to take part in the 2003 Sarpay beikman Manuscript Awards Contest are to submit their manuscripts not later than 31 December 2003. The entry date was extended up to 31 January 2004. Those from towns can obtain entrance form by sending K 40 for stamps. —MNA



**Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:****Bridges of 180 feet and above constructed in the time of the State Peace and Development Council**

State/Division	Number of bridges	State/Division	Number of bridges
Kachin State	9	Mon State	3
Kayin State	6	Rakhine State	26
Chin State	2	Yangon Division	24
Sagaing Division	10	Shan State (East)	2
Taninthayi Division	10	Shan State (South)	4
Bago Division	15	Shan State (North)	3
Magway Division	12	Ayeyawady Division	39
Mandalay Division	9		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>

The Ministry of Construction has exerted efforts to construct new bridges and repaired old ones with the aim of ensuring smooth and secure transport and harmonious development of all the states and divisions of the Union including border areas.

A total of 174 bridges of 180 feet and above have been constructed in the entire Union.

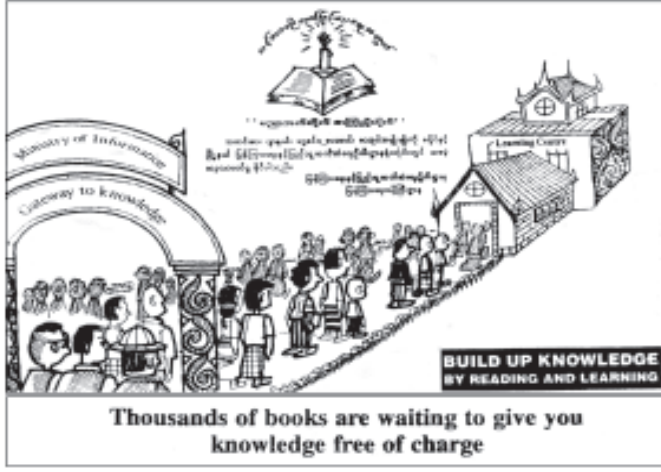
Chindwin River Bridge (Monywa) contributes towards the facilitation of transport sector of the Union.



2688-foot long Bala Min Htin Bridge across the Ayeyawady River in Myinkyina, Kachin State, was inaugurated on 14 November 1998.

400-foot long Yu Creek Bridge across the Yu creek in Tamu Township, Sagaing Division, contributes towards the development of Sagaing Division and Chin State.





## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Largest ship building base begins construction in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 31 Dec — China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) on Monday began construction on the Changxing Shipbuilding Base on the Shanghai coast, which will be the largest shipyard in the world.

The base was built on Changxing Island with a water frontage of eight kilometres. Its annual shipbuilding capacity would reach eight million tons when it is completed in 2015, said the CSSC president Chen Xiaojin.

The first phase of the construction, about 15 per cent of the total area, is to enclose and fill a sea area of 1.8 million square metres by the end of next year.

Meanwhile, design companies from Europe, Japan and South Korea have been invited to bid for the project. The result would come out in February of 2004, Chen said.

Shanghai, where China's shipbuilding industry originated, now has an annual shipbuilding tonnage of three million tons. The new shipyard would help increase Shanghai's shipbuilding capacity to 12 million tons in 2015, said Chen.

MNA/Xinhua

### NEW YEAR GREETING

Hninzigone Home for the Aged wishes happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year to all our donors and well-wishers.

Management Committee  
Hninzigone Home For the Aged

## Iran says US quake help will not alter relations

KERMAN (Iran), 31 Dec — President Mohammad Khatami said on Tuesday US aid to earthquake victims in Iran, while welcomed, would not alter the state of relations between the two arch foes who broke off ties nearly a quarter century ago.

"I don't think this incident will change our relations with the United States," Khatami told a news conference in the capital of the southeastern Kerman Province where officials say up to 50,000 people were killed in an earthquake that struck on Friday.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in an interview with the *Washington Post* published on Tuesday that Washington was open to restoring a dialogue with Iran after "encouraging" moves by the Islamic republic in recent months. Powell referred to Iran's willingness to accept US aid for the earthquake relief effort, paving the way for the first US military planes to land in Iran in over 20 years.

But Khatami, who is viewed as a foreign policy moderate in Iran, played down the importance of the US assistance. "In incidents like this governments normally do not consider their differences," he said. "But this has got nothing to do with political issues. The problems in Iran-US relations are rooted in history. Washington broke ties with Iran shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution when radical students stormed the US embassy in Teheran and held 52 hostages for 444 days. US President George W Bush last year included Iran along with North Korea and Iraq under Saddam Hussein in an "axis of evil" developing nuclear and chemical weapons and supporting terrorist groups. — MNA/Reuters

## Israel to launch space telescope through Indian satellite

JERUSALEM, 31 Dec — Israeli and Indian technical space science teams will meet in New Delhi in January to prepare a timetable for launching an Israeli 'TAUVEX' experimental ultra-violet research telescope aboard India's launch vehicle GSAT-4 by September 2005.

The development follows on the heels of last week's signing in New Delhi of an MoU between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

ISA has allocated four million US dollar to finance the project's new interface programmes. These will adapt the TAUVEK's (Tel Aviv University Ultra Violet Experiment) three, 20-centimetre

wide field identical co-aligned Ritchey-Chretien UV telescopes to India's 6.5 ton GSLV which will hurl GSAT-4 into space from Antariksh Bhavan space satellite station. Israeli and Indian science and industry teams will fly between New Delhi and Tel Aviv in efforts to complete the technical adaptations by June 2005 when the 32 kilos telescope is scheduled to arrive in India for final tests prior to the launch. — MNA/PTI

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန  
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၏ အစီအစဉ်

## MIN KYAW MIN'S SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS

သင်တန်းသစ်ကို ၅-၁-၂၀၀၄ ရက်တွင်စတင်  
သုံးလသင်တန်း တနင်္လာ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး၊ သောကြာ 9.00 am to 11.30  
လူဦးရေအကန့်အသတ်ဖြင့်သာလက်ခံမည်။

Multi-media style lab, audio-visual aid နှင့် ခေတ်မီအထောက်အကူများသုံးမည်။

၁၀ တန်းအောင်ပြီးသူ၊ ဘွဲ့ရ၊ ဘွဲ့လွန်များအတွက် အကျိုးဝင်၊ အသုံးဝင်မည်။

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာတိုက်

ကမ်းနားလမ်းနှင့် ၄၃ လမ်းထောင့်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

စုံစမ်းရန် ဖုန်း-၂၉၆၁၆၁

TRADE MARK CAUTION  
The Siam Cement Public Company Limited, a company incorporated in Thailand of No. 1 Siam Cement Road, Bangsue Sub-district, Bangsue District, Bangkok Metropolitan, Thailand, is the owner of the following Trade Marks:-



Reg. No. 2381/2000



Reg. No. 2383/2000

in respect of "Cement, white cement, dry mortar, asbestos mortar, mortar for building, lime, concrete, fine plaster, general plaster, masonry mortar, asbestos cement and construction materials (not of metal)"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.  
for The Siam Cement Public Company Limited.  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.  
Dated: 1 January 2004

## GCC agrees to provide \$400m to help Iran's quake victims

RIYADH, 31 Dec — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decided Monday to offer 400 million US dollars to help finance reconstruction projects in Iran after a powerful earthquake almost flattened a city in southeastern Iran.

The GCC made the decision at an extraordinary meeting held Monday night in the Saudi capital in a bid to coordinate their efforts to help Iran's quake victims, according to a statement released after the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

### Lost Announcement

We hereby announce that Country of Origin were lost for the below air shipment.  
Shipper : Myanmar Daewoo Int'l Co Ltd  
CO Ref : 397/(9)-(8)/2003 & 398/(9)-(8)/2003  
Ref AWB no : PI20935 & PI20936

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်  
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့

ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် ၄၇/၂၀၀၃

(၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၂၄ ရက်)

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အလုပ်သမားဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသောအောက်ဖော်ပြပါရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလိုရှိပါသည်။

ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
ဦးစီးအရာရှိ	စီးပွားရေးပညာဘွဲ့(စာရင်းအင်း)	၂ နေရာ
(စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဝန်ထမ်း)	(သို့မဟုတ်)တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုမှ	
အဆင့်-၂)	ဘွဲ့ ရရှိပြီး စာရင်းအင်းပညာ	
	ဒီပလိုမာရရှိသူ	

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-

(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။  
(ခ) ၂၆-၁-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ ရုံးသို့ ၂၆-၁-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့်စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေး ၅၆/-ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေဖြေ၊ နှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့ကကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေဖြေစာမေးပွဲစစ်ခွဲဌာနများထားရှိမည်။ မိမိဖြေဆိုလိုသောစာစစ်ခွဲဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်းတိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ စွန့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၆-၁-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ဓာတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၁၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၁၅-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ်ရေဖြေ စာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။ ၁၂-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း၊ အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီများနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ ရုံးတိုက်ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတိပြုချက်ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ ခရိုင်နှင့် မြို့နယ်အချင်းချင်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီများ၊ ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း မြို့နယ်အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနများတွင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ဤအဖွဲ့ ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း၊ အမှတ် (၃၇၈၆၃)သို့ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ် နိုင်ပါသည်။

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး

သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုက်



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Scientist says "Beagle 2" might be in a crater

LONDON, 31 Dec — Europe's first Mars lander *Beagle 2* might have fallen down a crater on the red planet, close to where the probe was due to touch down, a leading scientist said here Monday.

Cameras on the Mars-orbiting spacecraft *Mars Global Surveyor* took a picture of the Isidis Planitia, a flat basin on the planet where *Beagle 2* was supposed to land on Sunday night.

"There is a crater of one kilometre wide in the centre of the area," Colin Pillinger, chief scientist of the *Beagle 2* team, told a news conference in north London.

It is possible, although unlikely, that *Beagle 2* may be unable to communicate because it landed in the crater. "We'd have to be incredibly unlucky that it went right down this crater," he added.

In the past few days, the European team has received no transmissions from the probe, which was supposed to touch down on the distant planet on Christmas morning to begin its search for Martian life.

NASA's orbiting *Mars Odyssey* has passed four times over the area where scientists hope *Beagle* would have landed, without picking up a signal.

Scientists have now set up a "tiger team" of top experts to work through all possible reasons for the silence. The small group, based at the

British National Space Centre, Leicester, has drawn up a list of "blind" commands to send to *Beagle* that might prompt it to respond.

"We're working under the assumption that *Beagle 2* is on the surface of Mars and for some reason cannot be (reached)," *Beagle* mission manager Dr Mark Sims said at the news conference.

He added the team was looking at other problems including a software glitch that would interfere with *Beagle's* ability to copy data between different parts of its memory.

The *Beagle* team now believes that their best hope of raising the probe will come when *Mars Express*, the "mothership" which carried the "pocket watch" lander to the Red Planet, gets into position to contact its "baby" on January 4.

*Mars Express* is now heading away from the planet preparing for a major engine burn on Tuesday that will sweep it back into a polar orbit of Earth's near neighbour.

Britain's Science Minister Lord Sainsbury said the government remained committed to unmanned space exploration and did not consider the mission a failure. — MNA/Xinhua

## Heat wave, earthquake lift '03 disaster death toll

FRANKFURT, 31 Dec — Natural disasters have killed nearly five times more people in 2003 than they did last year, partly due to the earthquake in Iran and the summer's heat wave in central Europe, the world's top reinsurer said recently.

German-based Munich Re said in an annual report on natural disasters that 50,000 people had been killed around the world this year by earthquakes as well as floods, storms and other extreme weather that could be a result of climate change.

It is only the fourth time such a high death toll has been recorded since 1980 and Munich Re warned that the recent spate of extreme weather was set to continue.

"Unusual events such as heatwaves in the past year are yet another sign of climate change," Munich Re, the world's biggest insurer to insurers said.

"They show that we should expect a new kind of

risk from weather and potentially more damages," it said.

Boosting the death toll, the earthquake in Iran on Friday and the earlier heatwave in central Europe had both killed more than 20,000 people, it said.

Rescuers in the ruined Iranian city of Bam on Monday held out little hope of finding more survivors in the rubble of the earthquake and a government official in the affected Kerman Province estimated that up to 30,000 people had died.

Munich Re said the Iranian city's dense population and weak buildings meant many people had been killed. It warned that a similar combination of risk factors existed elsewhere in developing countries.

The reinsurance giant said that Europe's record temperatures from June to August caused economic losses of some 13 billion US dollars and it warned that the sweltering weather may be the "summer of the future".

"By the middle of the century it could turn out to be more or less normal," Munich Re's head of Geo-risk research, Gerhard Berz, said.

Insurers paid out 15 billion US dollars this year, more than in 2002.

Damage from tornadoes and hail storms in mid-west America in May cost more than three billion US dollars, putting them among the 10 most costly storms in insurance history.

MNA/Reuters

## Clapton honoured a rung below Sir Mick, Sir Paul

LONDON, 31 Dec — Guitar legend Eric Clapton becomes the latest British rock legend to win high honours from Queen Elizabeth in this year's annual New Year's honour list.

The grammy-winning rocker becomes a Commander of the British Empire, one of Britain's highest honours, putting him just a rung below the full-blown knighthoods enjoyed by Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John and Sir Mick Jagger. Ray Davies, frontman for the sixties band the Kinks, also wins a CBE.

MNA/Reuters

## Santa crashes from sky in Serbia

BELGRADE, 31 Dec — A helicopter carrying a man dressed as Santa Claus to street celebrations in a Serbian town crashed on Tuesday, injuring several people.

The helicopter crashed a few hundred metres from a crowd of children gathered to greet Santa in the central town of Kragujevac, witnesses and local media said.

The pilot, co-pilot and the Santa were all injured. *Beta* news agency reported. Four people were injured but their lives were not in danger, a hospital official said. There was no word on the cause of the crash.

MNA/Reuters



US aviator Gustavus McLeod takes off in the *Velocity*, a four-seat canard pusher experimental aircraft, at College Park Airport in Maryland, on 29 Dec, 2003, where he was embarking on an attempt to capture one of the last aviation records, circumnavigating the globe from Pole to Pole in a single-engine aircraft. McLeod is flying the *Velocity*, which has been modified by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute to accommodate extra fuel tanks and electronic equipment needed to complete the estimated two-month flight around the world. —INTERNET

## China offers a further 10 million yuan aid to Iran

BEIJING, 31 Dec — China decided Tuesday to offer another 10 million yuan (about 1.21 million US dollars) worth of relief supplies to Iran following last week's powerful earthquake, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here.

Li made the remark while meeting with Iran's Ambassador to China Fereydoun Verdinejad.

Chinese leaders, including President Hu Jintao, top Legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao and the Chinese Government were very much concerned about Iran's earthquake damage, Li said.

According to the Foreign Minister, Hu expressed his sympathy to

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami after he heard of the earthquake in Bam a city in southeast Iran.

The Chinese Government immediately decided to offer emergency aid of five million yuan (about 0.6 million US dollars) worth of relief goods, and sent a 43-member rescue team on Saturday, Li said.

China's Red Cross Society had also provided Iran's Red Crescent Society with 100,000 US dollars for

rescue efforts, the minister said. China was one of the first countries to offer aid, which indicated the sincere friendship between the two peoples, Verdinejad said. On behalf of the Iranian Government and people, the ambassador thanked the Chinese Government and people for their sympathy and generous assistance.

Li said the Chinese people were concerned about the Bam earthquake.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iran quake death toll may reach 50,000

TEHRAN, 31 Dec — The death toll for Friday's earthquake in southeastern Iran may reach 50,000 people, government officials told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

"We are expecting the death toll to reach around 50,000," a senior Interior Ministry official said. "If we consider that, on average, five people lived in each house, we can say the death toll will reach 50,000."

Another senior government official confirmed the projected death toll. "It's

what I am hearing as well," he said.

Search and rescue teams have already begun to abandon the hunt for any more survivors trapped beneath the rubble in the ancient Silk Road city of Bam, 600 miles southeast of Tehran.

MNA/Reuters



The US Postal Service unveiled four new commemorative postage stamps on 30 December, 2003, that celebrate friendship as portrayed by the Walt Disney studio, honouring some of the most beloved animated characters in the history of American entertainment. The friendship stamps feature several world-famous friends: Goofy, Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck; Bambi and Thumper; Simba and his father, Mufasa; and Jiminy Cricket and Pinocchio. The Postal Service will issue the 37-cent, self-adhesive stamps next summer. —INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Roy Keane reveals coaching ambition

LONDON, 31 Dec—Manchester United captain Roy Keane revealed on Tuesday that he would manage a club at the end of his playing career.

The 32-year-old Irishman told Manchester United magazine that "I definitely see myself as a manager eventually".

"It is getting much stricter and there are lots of qualifications. It is important to have these things in place when you retire.

"With the right qualifications I can go for a job straight away if I want to. I would like to think further down the line I could be a good manager."

He had raised the prospect of managing a big club like English champions Manchester United.

"I'd like to pass on the experience I have had — and I have been fortunate to play under some brilliant managers such as Sir Alex Ferguson and Brian Clough," he told the News of the World last weekend.

"The challenge would appeal to me and to be manager of Manchester United? Why not!" he added. — MNA/Xinhua



Dwrit Pezzarosi of Comunicaciones, centre, fights for the ball with Israel Donis, left, and Selvin Ponciano, of Municipal during the Guatemala soccer championship in Guatemala City on 30 Dec, 2003. The match ended in a 0-0 draw with Municipal winning the championship with a 3-2 aggregate.—INTERNET

## Atletico striker Moreno mulling over Bolton loan offer

MADRID, 31 Dec—Out-of-favour Atletico Madrid striker Javi Moreno says he is considering an offer to join English Premier League side Bolton Wanderers on loan until the end of the season.

"I'm flattered that a team is interested in me because it shows that I am not finished," the former AC Milan player told reporters after training on Tuesday.

"At the moment I am not sure if I want to leave, though, and I'll have to think it over carefully because it is an important and difficult step to make. "The two clubs have been in negotiations and Atletico told me about it yesterday evening, but I haven't spoken directly to Bolton."

Bolton boss Sam Allardyce said some serious negotiating was needed before a deal could be concluded.

"We know all about Javi and we are showing an interest in him but it will all come down to reaching an agreement with him and his club," he told Bolton's web site.

Moreno joined Atletico from AC Milan for 13 million US dollars in 2002 after they won a return to the top flight following two seasons in the second division.

But the 29-year-old has failed to earn himself a regular place in the starting line-up and has spent most of the last two seasons on the bench.

Moreno, who has won five caps for Spain, had a similar experience when he moved to Milan in 2001 fol-

lowing an outstanding campaign with Spanish side Alaves. He played a key part in Alaves's surprise run to the 2001 UEFA Cup final, which they lost 5-4 to Liverpool, and was one of the top scorers in the Primera Liga that season with 22 goals.

Bolton chairman Phil Gartside has said the club would not have any extra money for transfers in January, despite it having a new owner. Eddie Davies took over ownership of Bolton on Monday after increasing his shareholding to 94 per cent.

Bolton are 12th in the 20-team Premier League.

MNA/Reuters

## Real coach Queiroz hopes to face United in dream final

MADRID, 31 Dec—Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz says he hopes to end to his first season in charge by seeing his team meet his former side Manchester United in the Champions League final in May.

"It would be a dream final," Queiroz told Spanish sports daily on Tuesday. "It would be fantastic to see Real face up to United and that is the final I want to see."

The former Portugal coach was Alex Ferguson's assistant at United last season but left after just a year when he was offered the job of replacing Vicente del Bosque at Real.

Despite some criticism of his tactical decisions in early matches and difficulties in dealing with a shortage of cover in defence, Queiroz believes his first six months at the club have been a success.

"I think things have gone well so far because we have reached January in a comfortable position thanks to the motivation and confi-

dence of the team."

Real lead the Primera Liga by two points from Valencia following an impressive run of form in December when they defeated neighbours Atletico, arch-rivals Barcelona and high-flying Deportivo Coruna.

They also beat Porto to book their place as the only undefeated team in the last 16 of the Champions League and survived a scare from Second Division Leganes to qualify for the second round of the King's Cup.

"We are on course to achieve our objectives," said Queiroz. "But of course we haven't won anything yet and it is on our achievements that we will be judged at the end of the season."

Real were returning to

training on Tuesday after an eight-day Christmas break but they will have little respite in the next two months because of midweek cup matches.

The nine-time European champions also have to prepare for a clash against Bayern Munich in the first knock-out stage of the Champions League at the end of February.

"We are going to find ourselves facing a very, very strong Bayern," said Queiroz. "After their winter break they will be in top shape and focused on the match against us."

"The only thing that could have been worse than facing them would have been to have been drawn against either Juventus or United."

MNA/Reuters

## Owen set to return for Liverpool's Cup clash

LONDON, Dec—Michael Owen could return for Liverpool's FA Cup third round tie at Third Division Yeovil on Sunday.

The England striker has been suffering from various leg injuries and has not played since Liverpool's 1-0 UEFA Cup win over Steaua Bucharest on November 27 when he tore a thigh muscle.

Liverpool manager

Gerard Houllier is desperate for his leading scorer to return to boost the club's flagging season in which they have fallen 20 points behind league leaders Manchester United.

"Michael had a scan and

he is doing a lot better now," Houllier told the club's web site. "As soon as he can train he will train."

"We will see how he is before Yeovil but I would not totally rule out the possibility of him being involved at this stage."

Houllier believes Owen's absence and injuries to summer signing Harry Kewell have hit hard.

"We started the season well but if you look at the number of shots we have had since Michael and Harry have been out, it has dipped markedly," Houllier said.

Definitely missing from Liverpool's trip to Yeovil is captain Steven Gerrard who picked up a thigh injury in the 2-2 draw at Manchester City on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters



World 100 and 200-metre champion Kelli White and five other American athletes have tested positive for the stimulant modafinil, the US Olympic Committee (USOC) announced on 31 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

## Rio de Janeiro mayor keen to bring back Rivaldo

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Dec—The mayor of Rio de Janeiro has offered to use public funds to help one of the city's four First Division clubs sign World Cup winner Rivaldo.

Cesar Maia said in a radio interview on Tuesday that he had spoken to the former Barcelona,

Deportivo Coruna and AC Milan player, who was open to the idea of continuing his career in the so-called "Marvellous City".

Maia added that he had discussed the idea with the president of newly promoted Botafogo but said the offer was also open to their rivals Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco da Gama.

Rivaldo has been a free agent since being released by Italian Serie A club AC

Milan this month following what he has described as the worst year of his career.

"He told me on the phone that he was open to this possibility," Maia said. "We didn't talk about money because that is something that he has dealt with between the club and the player."

"I've told Botafogo how much money I've got available for this investment but he could go to a different club, if they can reach the amount that Rivaldo is asking for."

"The idea is to use money from the city government's

advertising budget to help promote Rio de Janeiro's football, which has lost its way recently but will get it back.

"We're not taking money from the health and education budgets," he added.

Maia, who is in his second stint as Rio's mayor, has been keen to use sport to boost the city's image which has been tarnished by violent crime and poverty.

Rio will host the next Pan American Games in 2007 and is one of the candidates for the 2012 Olympics.

MNA/Reuters



Germany's Ronny Ackermann jumps during the nordic combined skiing World Cup event in Oberhof, eastern Germany, on 30 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET





Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Best Film Award to Myint Myint Khaing. — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Best Supporting Actor Award to Nyunt Win. He has now won six motion picture awards. — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Best Supporting Actress Award to May Than Nu. She has now won five motion picture awards. — NLM

## It is incumbent upon ...

(from page 9)

Artists and technicians now also participate in the nation-building tasks enthusiastically just as they did in the past. It is necessary for them to play an active part in the implementation of the seven-point roadmap, through which a modern and developed nation will be established, by keeping Union Spirit and Our Three Main National Causes in the fore.

Next, he called upon movie fans to render their assistance to the development of Myanmar film industry. He also spoke of the need for the entire national people to cooperate with the Government and the Tatmadaw in building a modern and developed democratic nation.

Next, the list of academy award winners were announced. Best Sound Award went to Po Htaung and group for his work in 'Hsan-yay'; Best Cinematography Award to Kyaukpyu (Padetha) for his work in 'Yaukhama-soda-takhatonka-thamatpa'; Best Film Editing Award to Zaw Min (Hanthamya) for his work in 'Nga-thudapa-yaukkyameinma'; Best Scriptwriter Award to Nyein Min for his script in 'Nga-thudapa-yaukkyameinma'; Best Supporting Actress award to May Than Nu for her performance in 'Nga-thudapa-yaukkyameinma'; Best Music Awards to Khin Maung Gyi for his work in 'Nga-thudapa-yaukkyameinma' as well as to Gitalulin Maung Ko Ko for his work in 'Hsan-yay'; Best Supporting Actor Award to Nyunt Win for his performance in 'Hsan-yay'; Best Film Awards to 'Nga-thudapa-yaukkyameinma' and 'Hsan-yay'; Best Director Awards to Bagyi Soe Moe for his



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Best Actor Award to Lu Min. — NLM

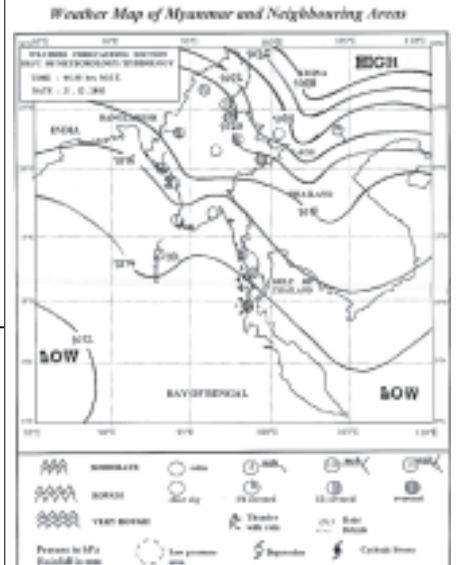
work in 'Nga-thudapa-yaukkyameinma' as well as to Kyi Soe Tun for his work in 'Hsan-yay'; Best Actor Award to Lu Min for his performance in 'Shwe-hmon-kye-thaw Moe-kaung-kin'; Best Actress Award to Khin Zarchi Kyaw for her performance in 'Nga-thu-da-pa-yauk-kyameinma'.

Next, some good scenes that helped them win the awards were shown. Then, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented motion picture award for 2002 and K 100,000 each contributed by the VeVe Co to the winners.

The award winners spoke words of thanks and the ceremony came to an end. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greeted the award winners. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Best Actress Award to Khin Zar Chi Kyaw. — NLM



## WEATHER

Wednesday, 31 December, 2003

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin States, Mandalay Division, (5°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (6°C) below normal in Shan State, Ayeyawady Division and (8°C) below normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 30-12-2003 was 32.3°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 31-12-2003 was 14.5°C (58°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-12-2003 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 30-12-2003 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 31-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 221.1 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 231.5 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 239.4 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Northeast at (14:00) hours MST on 30-12-2003.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 1-1-2004:** Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of decrease of night temperatures are likely in Eastern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-1-2004:** Generally fair weather.



Thursday, January 1  
View today:

- 7:00 am  
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် တရားကြီးမိမိတော်ထံသို့ဟောတော်မူသော အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောရှုရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအရဟံသာသနာ့ဓမ္မာတော်တို့ တိမ်မြောက်စေတနာတော်ကို ဆရာတော်ဘွဲ့ရရှိသောဆရာတော်၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am  
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am  
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am  
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am  
5. Dance of national races
- 8:00 am  
6. ဈေးဝယ်ကြီး(မြို့လှ) ဈေးလှည့်တစ်ခရီး(ပဲခူးတိုင်း)
- 8:10 am  
7. Dance Variety
- 8:20 pm  
8. Musical Programme

- 8:30 am  
9. International news
- 8:45 am  
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm  
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm  
4. Musical Programme
- 5:00 pm  
5. အဝေးသံတရားသို့လိပ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
- 5:15 pm  
6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
- 5:25 pm  
7. Musical programme
- 5:40 pm  
8. Cule little dancers
- 5:55 pm  
9. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm  
10. "ရောင်မြန်းပန်းခြံ" မင်းအုပ်စိုးကဲ့သို့လိပ် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့စု)
- 6:15 pm

11. ဗဟုသုတသွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 6:30 pm  
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm  
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm  
14. Milo success in soccer
- 7:10 pm  
15. (ဂွမ်)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ အစီအစဉ်
- 7:25 pm  
16. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm  
17. အချစ်အမြင်အာတာရွှန်ရှည်ကြာ မိမိမာစေ့ ရှိနေ့မှ "တိရစ္ဆာန်သစ်မြန်မာ့ ဓက်မွေးတော်"
- 8:00 pm  
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. Myanmar movie: "သုက္ကနမဇ္ဈိ" ညွှန်စဉ်းနေအောင်ကျော်သူ၊ ကျော်ရဲအောင်လွင်မိုး၊ အေးသန်းနု၊ ခံရှားတင်၊ နုစွာလွင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးထွန်း)
22. The next day's programme



Thursday, January 1  
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
- 8:50 am National news/ Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Turn back time (Aung Soe Tint)
- 9:00 pm 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Radio Play: Our flag symbolizing Independence
- 9:10 pm Article/Music
- 9:20 pm Topics potpourri
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by "Aung Soe Tint"
- Obla Di, Ob-la-da (Beatles)
- Only you (Enrique Iglesias)
- When you say nothing at all (Ronan Keating)
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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

**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

## It is incumbent upon all the professionals in acting career to keep up the film industry as they did in the past

Everybody in the film industry should be aware of the circumstances as it is more effective to use weapon of media in countering penetration of media

Artists and technicians now participate in the nation-building tasks enthusiastically just as they did in the past

YANGON, 1 Jan — The Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2002 of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, here this evening. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe graced the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, the ministers, responsible officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the chairman and members of the panel of the judges of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, officials of the motion picture censor board and video censor board, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the

Ministry of Information, officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon and Myanmar Music Asiayon, film artistes, technicians, film makers, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artistes in the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern orchestra.

U Wint Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as masters of ceremonies. The academy awards ceremony started at 6 pm. On the occasion, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address. In his speech, he said: I would like to first and foremost extend my warm greetings to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who graces the film academy awards ceremony with his presence, and Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the ministers, the deputy ministers, departmental heads, and chairmen and executives of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Thabin Asiayon, Music Asiayon, and other NGOs,



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets academy award winners for 2002. — MNA

movie stars, guests, and movie fans. I wish them all the auspiciousness, and peace of mind and body.

I also would like to express my thanks towards them all for their presence at the ceremony.

Talented performers and technicians will be picked out from movies screened during 2002 and awards for outstanding

performance will be presented to them. The Government has been presenting film academy awards since 1952. Therefore, today's ceremony is not an ordinary one. It is golden jubilee film academy awards ceremony replete with all significance. The encouragement given by the Government to the drive to promote the quality of Myanmar

movies is seen as such:

- Three academy awards for the best film, the best actor and the best actress were presented in 1952;
- with an additional academy award for best director, four academy awards were presented in 1954;
- with an additional academy

award for best cameraman, five academy awards were presented in 1956;

— with two additional academy awards for supporting actor and actress, seven academy awards were presented in 1962;

— but, in the time of the State Peace and Development Council Government, 11 academy awards are being presented with four additional awards for screenplay, music, sound, and editing. Moreover, award with two-tical gold content is presented instead of two-tical silver content. Should there be two persons whose performance is excellent enough to win a particular academy award, the academy awards of same kind are presented to both of them. A total of 254 academy awards have so far been presented to brilliant performers, musician and technicians. The gradual increase in both number and value of the awards sheds light on the Government's goodwill towards the development of film world as well as performers and technicians.

(See page 9)



Academy award winners pose for a documentary photo. — NLM