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Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of Fifth Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy. — MNA

Standing tall in glory as a sovereign nation

In accord with the sayings which go “Blood becomes thicker in times of emergency” and “No one can draw a line on the water to divide it”, the national races showed the spirit of national solidarity at the Panglong Conference on 12 February 1947 to regain the independence in unity. Even in the final moments of granting independence, the colonialists hatched up a wicked scheme to destroy the national solidarity; they abetted the plot to assassinate the national race leaders.

However, due to the relentless efforts made with the strength of the national solidarity and Union Spirit, which were conceived at the Panglong Conference, Myanmar, which had lost independence for 100 years, was able to restore her independence on 4 January 1948, and since then it has been standing tall in glory as a sovereign Union among the world nations.

Senior General Than Shwe,
State Peace and Development Council Chairman,
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief
(From message on the 56th Anniversary Union Day)

Defence services medical forces discharging duties with strong patriotism since independence struggle Straightforwardness, fairness basic factors to win respect of all subordinates Senior General Than Shwe addresses DSMA fifth intake graduation parade

YANGON, 1 Jan — The graduation parade of the fifth intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy was held at the parade grounds of the DSMA here this morning, with an address delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Senior General Than Shwe in his address said: At the graduation parade of fifth intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy, I will tell you all what you need to know.

All of you, who are brave doctors and victorious soldiers, are going to discharge medical services duties and the national defence duties.

Members of the defence services medical forces have been the persons discharging their duties with strong patriotism, while overcoming all the difficulties with great zeal and perseverance since the time of independence struggle. In this regard, you will have to preserve and relay the fine traditions.

Concerning the medical sector, imparting of health education and knowledge is the most important part. As in the case that an ax will have to be used for the problem that only needs a needle in the initial stage, an illness will worsen and the terrible and unnecessary consequences follow be-

cause of the lack of health knowledge. Hence, I would like to urge you to give priority to health education services.

As a saying, which goes, “No remedy for an undiagnosed disease” swift and accurate diagnosis is needed for quick recovery from an illness. But experience and knowledge is necessary to know the disease swiftly and correctly. So, you will have to seek knowledge and make discussions on your profession as necessary. You should not have an excessive pride in your knowledge. You should be humble in trying to ask others to share their knowledge and experiences with you.

Furthermore, you will have to make a research on the serious diseases region-wise. Doctors from abroad are launching joint treatment operations in the country together with Myanmar counterparts to gain knowledge. Likewise, you also will have to eagerly search new knowledge on your field in every place in the nation you are assigned to, and to record your finds. You are going to conduct not only the treatment, but also the research, and keep records.

With farsightedness, you are also required to record the facts on the extent of health knowledge region-wise, the
(See page 8)

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

Excerpts from Senior General's address

- * All of you, who are brave doctors and victorious soldiers, are going to discharge medical services duties and the national defence duties.
- * Concerning the medical sector, imparting of health education and knowledge is the most important part.
- * You will have to eagerly search new knowledge on your field in every place in the nation you are assigned to, and to record your finds.
- * A leader must have the will to make sacrifices, the esprit de corps and loving kindness.
- * The better training you undergo, the superior leadership will you be able to give.
- * The Tatmadaw at present is energetically launching the border areas and national races development drive, the 24-development zone project, and rural development tasks for the whole nation to achieve progress without having any gap in any area.
- * As we are good sons of the State, we are working in the interest the people.



Defence Services Medical Academy Fifth Intake graduation columns. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 2 January, 2004

Strive for further development of Myanmar motion pictures

It hardly need be emphasized that literature, music, movies and fine arts are very effective in widening the horizon of knowledge of the people and in shaping their outlook in the right perspective. Men of letters and artistes have served the interests of the nation and the people throughout various ages and therefore the government has honoured them in a deserving manner.

The Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for the year 2002 of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon, on 31 December. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and the Minister for Information delivered an address on the occasion.

Minister for Information, in his address, said that it was heartening to see that the history of Myanmar movie world was brilliant and Myanmar actors and actresses have discharged national duties in different periods. And he added that he believed all those in the Myanmar movie world would actively take part in the implementation of the seven-step roadmap for the emergence of a new genuine democracy.

The government has presented the motion picture academy awards every year since 1952. In 1952, only three awards for the best film, the best actor and the best actress were presented. In 1954, the additional award for the best director was also presented and in 1956 the award for the best cameraman was also added. In 1962, the awards for the best supporting actor and the best supporting actress were also given away. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council Government, a total of 11 academy awards, including the ones for the best scriptwriter, music, sound engineering and editing are also presented.

As the Government has always encouraged the development of and trying to raise the standard of Myanmar movies, those in Myanmar cinema have always worked to forward the interests of their profession, the nation and the people. We strongly believe that they will continue doing so and at the same time they will actively lend themselves to nation-building tasks.

56th Anniversary

Independence Day Objectives

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty,
- All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity,
- All the national people to strive for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building of 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.

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

Kinpon Bridge on Gwa-Thandwe Road commissioned into service in Rakhine State

YANGON, 1 Jan— Kinpon Bridge on Gwa-Thandwe Road was commissioned into service in Gwa Township, Rakhine State, on 30 December, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

The bridge was built by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction.

Present were Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, officials, local authorities, members of social organizations, and local people totalling over 5,000.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than quoted, the Head of State as saying, "Transport plays a key role for national development. There will be economic and social development only if there is better transport. Roads and bridges have been built as the Government does not wish to see weakness in the relations and development gaps between the regions resulting from poor transport." In accord with the guidance, motor roads and railroads have been built reaching all the directions of the Union. The Government has built 4,477 miles of new roads and 173 major bridges exceeding 180 feet in length.

Because of the guid-

ance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, with pure goodwill, Yangon-Sittway Union Highway has been built. The An-Taungup section of

have made the state accessible through An mountain pass, Taungup mountain valley road and Gwa-Ngathaingchaung roads from any place of the Un-

cation sectors will improve further.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo also made a speech.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin



Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally open the Kinpon Bridge on Gwa-Thandwe Road. — MNA

the Yangon-Kyaukphyu Union Highway, with An as the centre, is under construction. Thus, a coastal highway will link Sittway in the north and Gwa in the south of Rakhine State. After the completion of the Yangon-Kyaukphyu Union Highway, island towns such as Kyaukphyu and Yambye will become accessible by road.

Kinpon Bridge is 420 feet long, supporting a 24 feet wide motorway. Its maximum load-bearing capacity is 60 tons. In addition to local transportation facilitation, the new roads

ion.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun spoke on the occasion. He said in building a peaceful, modern developed nation it is necessary to ensure national solidarity and prevalence of community peace and the rule of law. Better transport is also needed to carry out economic and regional development tasks.

He said opening of Kinpon Bridge contributes towards smooth transport between Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division and economic, health and edu-

Maung Than, the commander and the minister formally opened the bridge.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party posed for documentary photos with officials of Public Works and local people.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge and inspected the bridge. — MNA

Laotian Minister leaves

YANGON, 1 Jan — Minister of Information and Culture of the Lao People's Democratic Republic who had visited Myanmar at the invitation of Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, left here by air this morning.

The Laotian Minister was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, heads of department under the Ministry of Culture, and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane.

MNA

Drive safely



Newly opened Kinpon Bridge on Gwa-Thandwe Road in Rakhine State. — MNA

China issues blueprint to develop industries

BEIJING, 1 Jan— China's top economic watchdog issued draft industrial development regulations, highlighting restructuring China's economy and preventing it from overheating.

The draft, published by the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC), was also accompanied by a list of sectors and technologies to be encouraged in the restructuring process, reported Wednesday's *China Daily*.

The English-language newspapers said that the state is seeking expansion in advanced energy systems, genetic engineering, information technology and modern transportation, according to the list. Specific areas and some 55 technologies, including seedling and product processing, encouraged to be used in the agriculture sector, are covered by the list. In the information technology sector, Internet equipment, satellite communications and computer components are encouraged. A commission official was quoted as saying that public's suggestions to improve the regulation and list need to be submitted by February 10, 2004, before the State Council approve them.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunfire erupts in Kirkuk, Baghdad

KIRKUK, 1 Jan — Gunfire erupted Wednesday in the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk. Police said two people were killed.

In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded as a US convoy passed on a street full of shops, destroying a Humvee, Iraqi police Sgt. Thabet Talib said. An 8-year-old Iraqi boy was killed and 21 other people were wounded, including five US soldiers and five Iraqi civil defence personnel, authorities said.

Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armoured Division, said it was not clear what kind of bomb caused the blast.

Later in the evening, a bomb hidden in shrubs outside a restaurant in Baghdad went off as a US military convoy passed, wounding three American soldiers and three Iraqi civilians.

US soldiers and Iraqi police stepped up security in the capital, erecting more razor wire and checkpoints in key areas. Military officials have reported the possibility of

attacks by insurgents over the New Year holiday, similar to attacks on Christmas Day.

Near the southern city of Basra, a South Korean was killed in an ambush and resulting gunbattle between Romanian soldiers and Iraqi insurgents, South Korea *Yonhap* news agency reported Wednesday. There was no immediate confirmation of the report or whether the victim was a soldier or a civilian.

Despite fears at home over casualties, South Korea has pushed forward with a plan to send 3,000 troops to Iraq, in addition to 465 medics and military engineers already there. Two South Korean civilian engineers were killed by insurgents in November.

Also Wednesday, US military officials reported a US soldier was killed and a second wounded in the accidental discharge of a weapon Tuesday night in the town of Tanf on the Syrian border. — *Internet*

Car bomb kills five at Baghdad restaurant

BAGHDAD, 1 Jan—A car bomb ripped through a crowded restaurant hosting a New Year's Eve party in the Iraqi capital, killing five Iraqis and wounding 24 others, including an American and two Britons.

The attack came amid tightened security in Baghdad over the holiday as military officials expected insurgent attacks. There were two other explosions earlier Wednesday near US military convoys in the capital — one a car bomb, the other a bomb hidden in bushes outside another restaurant.

After the evening explosion, sirens wailed and helicopters buzzed overhead as ambulances and US soldiers converged on the Nabil restaurant, a popular spot with foreigners that had advertised a New Year's Eve party with live music and bellydancing.

An American soldier leaned into the rubble after discovering an injured victim. "She's got a pulse, she's got a pulse," he screamed.

Internet

300 tons of oil leak in tanker collision off South China

GUANGZHOU, 1 Jan— Emergency maritime workers have succeeded in containing a spill of 300 tons of oil after an oil tanker collided with a container ship near Lingding Island in south China's Pearl River mouth on Monday.

The accident occurred at 6:30 am Monday when the tanker carrying 1,989 tons of fuel oil struck the container ship with a load of 15,000 tons.

Two compartments of the tanker were severely damaged, causing the oil to spill into the sea. Salvagers and craft sent by the Guangzhou Maritime Safety Administration arrived at 8:03 am. Emergency mea-

sures were taken immediately to prevent the oil dispersing.

The command of the salvage crew made the decision to tow the tanker aground with a powerful tugboat to prevent it sinking.

At about 3 pm the tanker grounded 800 metres from the main sea route and the remaining oil was transferred to two other vessels. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Asia is gearing up to ring in the New Year with optimism following a tumultuous 12 months in which the region's economies emerged from the wreckage of SARS and the US-led war in Iraq. — *INTERNET*

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Citizen soldiers dying more in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan— Citizen soldiers of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve are suffering an increasing share of American military deaths in Iraq, according to Pentagon statistics.

Of the 38 deaths reported by the Pentagon for December, 10—or about 26 percent—were citizen soldiers, according to an *Associated Press* review of Pentagon reports. That is up from 13 percent in November, the deadliest month of the war with 83 American deaths. The most recent were Staff Sgt Michael J Sutter, 28, a National Guard member based in Grayling, Mich, and Spc Michael G Mikalakis, 18, a guardsman based in Fairfield, Calif. Both died on 26 Dec.

Overall, since the start of hostilities last March, 14 percent of all US military deaths have been members of the Army Guard or Reserve. The Army says it has had 68 reservists killed so far, compared with nine among the Marines, two in the Navy and one in the Air Force. — *Internet*



Iraqi policemen and an ambulance (R) arrive at the site of a powerful explosion which targeted a popular restaurant in Baghdad's Karrada district recently. — *INTERNET*

Chinese farmer-turned engineer builds aircraft

LANZHOU, 1 Jan — Zhang Yuxiang is honest, persevering and somewhat conservative, like many north-westerners who prefer to stay behind when many peasant farmers move to the city. But he has dared to dream far beyond the confines of his country village.

The 45-year-old peasant farmer-turned engineer from Gansu Province has built an aircraft with a Santana car engine, three motorcycle tyres and propellers he sharpened out of wood.

Zhang's home-made aircraft, which is six metres long, two metres tall and has a wingspan of over nine metres, can seat two people.

The silvery white body of the 480 kilos aircraft is made of light aluminium and is held together by over

20,000 rivets.

As one of the few villagers who have finished high school, Zhang became an avid aviation fan after he read an aviation magazine in his mid 30s, and has been dreaming ever since of building his own light aircraft.

Zhang's dream came true early in 2001, when he finally had enough savings after 10 years of repairing motorcycles in his hometown, a small village in Pingchuan District, Baiyin City in the eastern part of the province.

He spent three years and 80,000 yuan (9,600 US dollars)—an astronomical sum in the eyes of his impoverished fellow villagers in poverty—on the aircraft.

But Zhang's enthusiasm was dampened when his aircraft failed to fly last week.

Though it was the first time most villagers had ever seen an aircraft, most soon lost interest when it failed to take off, after speeding up time and again on the village's shabby "runway".

MNA/Xinhua

Computer workers face national exam in China

BEIJING, 1 Jan— Computer workers will sit for standardized China-wide examinations from 2004, regardless of their qualifications, professional titles and work experience, the Ministry of Information Industry announced Tuesday.

The examinations, to be divided into elementary, medium and advanced levels, are aimed at computer professionals in application technology, software, networks, information systems and information services.

Officials said China would end the professional title assessment system with

the launch of the new examinations.

Elementary-level certificate holders will be qualified to apply for posts as technicians, or assistant engineers, medium-level certificate holders will qualify as engineers while advanced-level certificate holders qualify as senior engineers.

The national examinations will be organized by the Ministry of Personnel and Ministry of Information Industry twice a year. The certificate will need renewing every three years.

China has only 400,000 skilled computer personnel, meeting just half the demand. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Expert to talk on impact of Iraq crisis

PETALING JAYA, 1 Jan—A renowned European academic and expert in peace studies and conflict resolution will present a lecture on the impact of the Iraq crisis on the rest of the world.

Prof Peter Wallensteen, who is with Sweden's Uppsala University, will deliver the lecture entitled "What Has the Iraq War of 2003 Meant for the World Order" at 11am on Jan 6 at Menara Star.

Wallensteen, who holds the Dag Hammarskjöld Chair of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution at the university, played a pivotal role in helping Universiti Sains Malaysia launch its Peace Studies Centre a few years ago.

He is currently researching conditions for durable peace, conflict prevention and resolution, trends in conflict, peace and security, implementation of sanctions and the UN system.

Internet

UN adds \$2.6b to Iraqi reconstruction fund

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Jan—The United Nations on Wednesday transferred another 2.6 billion US dollars left over from its now-defunct oil-for-food programme to Iraq's US-led administration to help finance Iraqi reconstruction.

The fund transfer brought to 5.8 billion US dollars the total value of UN humanitarian funds shifted to the Coalition Provisional Authority's Development Fund for Iraq since the CPA began administering Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

The UN Security Council authorized the CPA last May to use left-over oil-for-food

money — as well as the proceeds of Iraqi oil sales and Iraqi funds found overseas after the US-led war — to help pay for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Under a Security Council resolution, the Development Fund for Iraq's activities is in turn audited by a special monitoring board whose members include United Nations, World Bank,

International Monetary Fund and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development officials. Including the money just transferred, the Development Fund for Iraq has so far taken in 10.1 billion US dollars, including 3.6 billion US dollars from Iraqi oil sales, and has spent 1.9 billion US dollars, according to CPA and UN figures.

MNA/Reuters



A US soldier looks at the destruction following a powerful explosion in a popular restaurant in Baghdad's Karrada district recently.—INTERNET

HK clothing brands competitive on Chinese Mainland

HONG KONG, 1 Jan—Clothing carrying Hong Kong brand names are enjoying better opportunities on the Chinese Mainland, according to a survey released here Wednesday.

The survey, conducted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), shows that consumers on the Mainland take to Hong Kong's fashionable designs, cut and prices, and are highly interested in new brand names.

Mainland retailers are bullish about Hong Kong's prospects in the garment business and are keen on bringing in more Hong Kong brands, according to the survey which was conducted in the third quarter of 2003.

The study examined the characteristics of garment markets in Harbin, Shenyang, Tianjin, Hangzhou, Nanjing and Ningbo on the Chinese Mainland.

Consumer behaviour was analysed as were the competitiveness of Hong Kong brands, consumers' spending power and the retail environment on the Mainland.

Hong Kong garment-makers should not hesitate to launch new brands, particularly in the mid- and high-end

segments of the market, says the survey, conducted by TDC's Assistant Chief Economist Dickson Ho.

Students were found to be the biggest buyers of casual wear; office ladies (not necessarily executives) were the strongest buyers of office dress; and male professionals and managers were also found to be the biggest spenders on office wear, the survey says.

The competitiveness of Hong Kong brand names rests mainly on style, quality and brand image. The study revealed that Hong Kong fashion trends were a big influence on Mainland shoppers' choice of garments.

Hong Kong clothing companies are in an advantageous position to set up wholesale and retail businesses on the Mainland as a result of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement's (CEPA's) preferential treatment, it says.

MNA/Xinhua

Five US soldiers wounded in bomb explosion in central Baghdad

Five US soldiers wounded in bomb explosion in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 Jan—A suspected suicide bombing devastated a Baghdad restaurant crowded with New Year revellers on Wednesday, killing at least five people, Iraqi police said.

Witnesses said the front of the Nabil restaurant in Baghdad's Ararat district had been destroyed and that the building was in flames. At least 30 people were inside when the blast occurred, witnesses said.

The blast occurred hours after at least five Iraqis were killed and more than 20 wounded when gunfire erupted during a demonstration in Iraq's northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk. An Iraqi policeman was killed and three wounded, one seriously, when their patrol came under fire in the northern oil centre of Kirkuk.

An Iraqi child was killed and five US soldiers were wounded when a parked car exploded in central Baghdad as a US military convoy drove by, Iraqi and American officers said.

Two Iraqis were killed in an ambush south of Baghdad in an attack on a British and Iraqi convoy, the US military said in a statement.

A US soldier was killed in Iraq and another injured when a gun went off as another soldier was cleaning it, the US-led coalition said.—Internet

India submits offers at WTO

NEW DELHI, 1 Jan—India has submitted its offers at WTO to open up various services including health, telecom, engineering, construction, book-keeping and accounting, travel and tourism, maritime and computer-related services.

Services negotiations at WTO are carried out in form of offers and requests and according to official sources India's offer for these sectors are in various modes of supply.

They, however, said most of the offers cover Mode I and Mode 4 of supply implying cross-border supply of services and movement of natural persons respectively.

The offers made can be revised or withdrawn depending on the response received from the trading partners.

India had made limited commitments at the end of Uruguay Round in some sectors like engineering, computer-related, hospital and tourism which have been revised now.

Cabinet Committee of WTO headed by the Prime Minister had approved the broad strategy for services negotiations at WTO in June this year.

The Cabinet had also made it clear that government was not willing to negotiate on the opening up of distributive (retail and wholesale), legal, posts and courier and audio-visual services.—MNA/PTI



A US helicopter hovers over the Iraqi town of Tikrit, some 250 km (150 miles) north of Baghdad, on 31 December, 2003. US troops were on alert for possible attacks to coincide with the New Year holiday.—INTERNET

China to launch lunar landing programme in 2004

BEIJING, 1 Jan—China plans to launch its unmanned lunar landing programme in 2004, with a lunar satellite by 2007, a senior Chinese space official said here.

Sun Laiyan, deputy director of the China National Space Administration, said the satellite, part of the three-stage programme, would be followed by the landing of an unmanned vehicle on the moon in the second stage by 2010 and collecting samples of lunar soil by 2020 in the final stage.

But he said the last two stage projects were still under review by scientists before official approval.

The satellite project was designed to obtain three-dimensional images of the lunar surface, analyse the content of useful elements and materials on the surface, and probe the depth of the lunar soil and the

space environment between the Earth and the Moon, said Sun.

China would use its Long March IIIA launch vehicle to launch the satellite, which would be based on its Dongfanghong satellite platform, said Sun.

He described the satellite project, as an important step for China's exploration into deeper space, and the moon would provide a good platform from which to probe deeper space.

The lunar programme is also known as the Chang'e Programme, referring to a goddess who reached the moon in an ancient Chinese fairy tale.—MNA/Xinhua

High-speed ferry opens between China, Vietnam

NANNING, 1 Jan—The first high-speed passenger shipping line between China and Vietnam has opened.

The line, linking Fangchenggang City, in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Ha Long, Vinh, in Quang Ninh, Vietnam is expected to promote tourism and economic cooperation between the two countries.

It is the first time Vietnam has opened its inland sea to foreign vessels.

The 80-mile route will be jointly run by the two countries and will take three hours on a high-speed ferry.—MNA/Xinhua

Ancient conch fossil uncovered in S-W China

GUIYANG, 1 Jan—Archaeologists in southwest China's province of Guizhou have reported the discovery of a conch fossil dating back over 100 million years.

Though totally fossilized, the 40-centimetre long conch remained intact, with a white surface, through which the texture of the ancient shell could be seen, said Liu Enyuan, of the Guizhou Provincial Archaeology Institute.

Liu said the conch was found in a place called Liaojiazui, in Tujia Autonomous County of Yanhe, on the bank of the Wujiang River, a branch of the Yangtze, China's longest river.

MNA/Xinhua

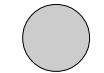
CONTINUING RESISTANCE AGAINST US TROOPS



Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) troops join US soldiers on a mission in Tikrit north of Baghdad. US-led coalition forces were on alert for attacks to coincide with the New Year holiday on 31 December. —INTERNET



Iraqi civilians contracted by the United States Army, from left, Samir, Adil and Khalil cut a hole in a steel plate that was attached to the front windshield of a 5-ton military truck to shield its passengers from small arms fire and shrapnel on Monday, 29 Dec, 2003 at the Anaconda logistics service area base in Balad, Iraq. With convoys coming under attack by roadside bombs or mortars, transportation units have been forced to add armour and defence weapons to their trucks to shield drivers from injury. —INTERNET



An injured man is brought for treatment into a hospital after a Baghdad restaurant was destroyed in a bomb attack on New Year's Eve on 31 Dec, 2003. INTERNET



US troops secure the area after explosives went off in Baghdad's Palestine Street on Wednesday, 31 Dec, 2003. At least two people were injured in the incident. INTERNET



An Iraqi policeman directs rescue workers after a Baghdad restaurant was devastated in a bomb attack on New Year's Eve. Iraqi police said that at least five people were killed in the attack. — INTERNET



A US Army soldier holds a machine gun while guarding at a check point in Baghdad suburb on 29 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Public life with sound health and higher education

Reporter Soe Thein



Efforts are being made to develop the national human resources for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, a goal set by the entire national people. In other words, the establishment of a modern and developed nation capable of braving possible difficulties at present as well as in future rests on the development of human resources.

With this end in view, the Government is implementing the development projects of highly-qualified human resources essential for the country and those essential for every region after laying down a special national education promotion programme. According to the programme, the Ministry of Education is responsible for the basic and higher education sectors; and the Ministry of Science and Technology for engineering and computer science. Similarly, other ministries conduct courses on relevant subjects extensively.

To provide an equal learning opportunity nationwide, a total of 154 universities and colleges have been opened along with the Myanmar Maritime University and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University. Moreover, masters degrees and doctoral degrees were extended in respective courses. Now, doctoral degrees on 20 courses can be acquired at the universities under the Ministry of Education, while the doctoral degrees for engineering, applied science and computer science are also available at univer-

sities under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Likewise, as for the basic education level, the number of basic education schools now stands at 40,049. And post-primary schools are also being opened in rural areas to promote the rural education standard. With a view to promoting the education standard, basic education schools, universities, and colleges have been equipped with multimedia classrooms and teaching aids. Besides, a total of 455 e-learning centres have been set up so far all over the country.

As more and more basic education schools are being opened in the country, a total of 18,873 high school teachers, 53,684 middle school teachers, and 146,015 primary school teachers have so far been employed. And there are 402,199 students at high school level, 820,153 students at middle school level, and 1,090,536 students at primary school level. Therefore, there are a total of 2,312,808 students pursuing basic education.

The State opens three basic education schools in every five villages under the 30-year national education promotion plan. Up to the end of the 2002-2003 fiscal year, a total of 88,277 students pursued education under 2,812 teachers at 750 schools for the development of border areas and national races.

Similarly, a total of 890,000 students are studying under 16,600 teachers in the higher education sector. Arrangements were made to extend the number of post-graduate courses to 154 at universities, degree colleges, and colleges. Under the human resource development programme, 139 courses were conducted during the period from 1988 to 2003 and a total of 78,853 trainees were produced. Consequently, the courses for doctoral degree have been conducted at Yangon University since 1994-95 academic year. Later, Mandalay University and Yangon University of Economics started offering doctoral courses in 1998-99

academic year; and Yangon Institute of Education, in 2001-2002 academic year. Doctoral degrees have been conferred on 206 persons.

In this way, measures are being taken to develop human resources which are crucial for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Although Myanmar is rich in natural resources, they could not be exploited due to lack of modern technology. Therefore, the education sector plays a key role in enhancing the efficiency of national people.

That is why the Government embedded the 'uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation' in the four social objectives of the State. The contemporary history of Myanmar being the Education Age, the Government is placing special emphasis on the promotion of national education.

While endeavouring to extend the number of international-standard sciences to develop human resources in the education sector, the Government is making all-out efforts to provide public health care services. With this end in view, more and more general hospitals are being opened.

As a result, the number of hospitals increased from 631 in 1988 to 750 at present. Likewise, 13 hospitals and 37 station hospitals have been opened in border areas.

All over the country 429 dispensaries, 1,404 rural health care centres, 348 maternal and child health care centres, 84 regional health care centres, 80 school health care centres, and 214 traditional medicine dispensaries have been opened.

To carry out public health care services continuously and to produce medics, institutes of medicine are being opened. In 1988, there existed three institutes of medicine and one institute of dental medicine. But now, there are five institutes of medicine and two institutes of dental medicine, in addition to three institutes of nursing, two institutes of pharmacy, two institutes of paramedical sciences, and one university of primary health. Likewise, the number of nursing training schools in



Panglong University built by the Ministry of Education in Loilem District, Shan State (South)

states and divisions has increased from 28 in the past to 43 at present. A total of 7 doctoral courses, 20 masters degree courses, and 10 diploma courses are being conducted at the institutes of medicine.

To ensure better public health care services, more specialists were employed at hospitals in states and divisions. By providing the hospitals with modern equipment, success has been achieved even in advanced cardiac surgeries, and kidney transplant.

Significant milestones set in the health sector of Myanmar can be seen in the following table.

Subject	1988	2003
Success in operation on conjoined twins	1	3
Success in Renal transplant	-	9 (22 patients)
Success in replantation of crushed distal forearm	-	2
Total	1	14

Diseases common in Myanmar such as small pox, leprosy, trachoma, iodine deficiency, and polio have now been brought under control successfully owing to the concerted efforts of health staff and the people under the leadership of the Government.

As there was none that suffered from leprosy in ten thousand of the population of Myanmar in 2003, the World Health Organization recognized Myanmar as a leprosy-free country. Moreover, not only did polio diseases disappear under the programme of total eradication of polio, but wild polio virus was no longer

detected either. As a result, Myanmar could declare that she was free from polio disease within the targeted timeframe of the programme.

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association came into existence in order to raise the health standards of mothers and children and to render assistance to social organizations. In addition, the MMCWA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, also plays an active part in educational campaigns like breastfeeding, immunization days, TB eradication, leprosy eradication, cleft lips,

to 10 at present. Likewise, the number of traditional medicine dispensaries has also increased to 214.

The holding of Myanmar traditional medicine seminars and traditional medicine practitioners conferences annually helps make Myanmar traditional medicines and therapies more effective and potent.

Moreover, nine herbal plant gardens were set up to be able to produce more potent medicines and the institute of traditional medicine was upgraded into the university of traditional medicine in order to enhance the skills of traditional physicians.

In this way, sustained measures are being taken to carry out public health care services so that people of Myanmar can live longer.

The Government will be able to secure the 'public life with sound health and higher education' status by building a healthy and strong force for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the goal of the State, and the higher living standard of national people through the promotion of national education standard.

Translation: KTY



Conjoined twins Moe Ma Ma Aung and Moe Pa Pa Aung who underwent surgical operation on 11 August 2002.

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:**Endeavours for sound public health & higher education**

On 3 January 2002, Myanmar surgeons successfully performed operation on renal transplant in Mandalay General Hospital.

To provide better health care services to the public, TB Hospital (100-bed) of Social Security Board has been built in Htantabin Township, Yangon Division.

Subject	1988	2003
Basic education student	5239878	7550896
Basic education teacher	173000	222000
University teacher	6500	16600
Degree	Only master degree	313 kinds of degree including master and doctorate
Masters degree holder	266	9474
Doctorate degree holder	-	206
Basic education school	33747	40049
University/College	32	154
University student	over 130000	over 890000
Technological University	-	4
Computer Science University	-	2
Aerospace and Engineering University	-	1
Maritime University	-	1
Technological College	-	26
Computer College	-	24



Basic education schools, universities and colleges have been built throughout the country. The photo shows Dawei University in Taninthayi Division.

Defence services medical...

(from page 1)

existing diseases and the probable occurrence of new diseases due to the socio-economic and environmental condition of a certain region, and the required disease prevention measures as they will be helpful to the national health.

You have already been taught and trained military science to a platoon commander level and the art of military leadership. But you still need to undergo advanced military training step by step. As a good soldier of the Tatmadaw, you will have to make yourself fully equipped

Moreover, its building of economic and social infrastructures including roads, bridges and dams in all sectors in every direction of the nation is not only for the present, but also for the posterity.

Here, I would like to say that as we are good sons of the State, we are working in the interest the people. I would like to tell you to look after the health of the rural people representing over 70 per cent of the nation's population.

In conducting rural health care services, your attention must be paid not only to the treatment, but also to a large array of sectors including the economic and social conditions and availability of clean water supply. Only then



Senior General Than Shwe takes the salute of graduation parade companies of the Fifth Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy. — MNA

with field experience. In addition, you, who are going to serve the State, must try to become military commanders having strong patriotism and sacrificing spirit.

The main requirement for leadership is that your deeds must be exemplary for others. And if you become a model for others you become their leader. Giving appropriate command to all the persons with their own duties as a united force for a single purpose is the nature of the military duty.

Thus, only if a leader is good, will his command be effective, and besides, a leader must win the respect, trust and reliance of his subordinates.

Straightforwardness and fairness are the basic factors to win respect of all the subordinates. Moreover, a leader must have the will to make sacrifices, the esprit de corps and loving kindness.

You must have good morale, ability, courage, daring spirit and innovative mind to become a leader trusted and relied on by all the subordinates of your unit. You must be thorough, accurate and skilled, while having the capability to give brilliant leadership with the spirit of a good commanding officer.

You all may already have known the above-mentioned qualifications. But knowing them only is not enough for you. You must practically train yourself to be imbued with the qualifications. Here, I would like to tell you that the better training you undergo, the superior leadership will you be able to give.

The Tatmadaw at present is energetically launching the border areas and national races development drive, the 24-development zone project, and rural development tasks for the whole nation to achieve progress without having any gap in any area.

At the same time, it is also endeavouring to ensure peace and stability of the State for the people to live with a peace of mind and earn their living unhindered. In addition, it is working hard to raise the per capita income annually and develop the national economy. In every part of the nation, its endeavours are for the annual growth of the gross domestic product as it will lead to improving the life expectancy and raising the health, education and social standard of the people.

will it become a complete and comprehensive health care service. The five rural development tasks are inter-dependent on each other.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you to brilliantly discharge the Tatmadaw medical duty as well as the national defence duty as I have already told you that you all are brave doctors; to try to become good leaders; to strive to become medical practitioners, on whom the State and the Tatmadaw can rely; and to make greater efforts in discharging the national defence duty and the national-building task.

Also present were Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-

in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, Military Appointment General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Brig-Gen Soe Maung, Inspector-General Brig-Gen Thein Htaik, senior military officers and directors of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the station, guests and relatives of the cadets.

At the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe inspected the graduation company. The cadet companies marched past the Commander-in-Chief.

Senior General Than Shwe presented Aungsitthi Award and Excellence in Studies Award to cadet Soe Min Aung, and Excellence in Training Award to cadet Kyaw Kyaw.

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address.

Later, he left the parade grounds.

He met with the two outstanding cadets and their parents at the parlour of the main lecture hall of the DSMA.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects graduation parade companies of DSMA Fifth Intake. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe meets with outstanding graduated cadets and their parents. — MNA

Horticulture show & competition

YANGON, 1 Jan — The opening ceremony of the 12th Horticulture Show and Exhibition to mark the 56th Anniversary Independence Day 2004 was held at the Mindhamma grounds in Mayangon Township this morning.

The ceremony was attended by leading patrons and patrons of the MFA, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the deputy mayor, members and officials of YCDC, and ambassadors.

Leading Patrons of Myanmar Floriculturists Association wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khin Than Nwe, and wife of Yangon Mayor Dr Daw Khin San Nwe opened the show and exhibition.

Afterwards, those present viewed round the fruits, flowers, flower arrangement of the 400 contestants and 448 booths of 99 nurseries of the show and competition.

Leading patrons of MFA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, and Daw Khin Lay Thet and members of the panel of patrons presented prizes to winners. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented the championship prize to U Aung Min, who later spoke words of thanks on behalf of the prize winners. The show and competition is open to the public till 7 January. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Aungsitthi Award to graduate Soe Min Aung. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Excellence in Studies Award to graduate Kyaw Kyaw. — MNA



Dignitaries at the graduation parade of the fifth intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy. (News on page 1)— MNA

Work committee for trade and investment cooperation between four nations meets

YANGON, 1 Jan — The first meeting of the Work Committee for Implementation of Trade and Investment Cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand under the Ayeyawady-Chao-Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy was held at the Ministry of Commerce this evening.

It was attended by committee members Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, directors-general and managing directors, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the secretary-general of the Union of Myanmar Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials.

Chairman of the committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone made a speech. Member of the committee Director-General U Nyunt Aye of the Directorate of Trade explained matters related to the implementation of the drafted plans. Those present also took part in the discussions. — MNA

Drug traffickers sentenced

YANGON, 1 Jan — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-drug squad, acting on information, inspected the house of Sai Pyan in Siwan Htaung Village, Mongphone (A) Village-tract, Tachilek Township, on 4 February 2003, and arrested Sai Pyan, Aik Htar, and Aik Son together with 50 stimulant tablets.

Action was taken against Sai Pyan, son of U Nan Pyan, Aik Htar, son of U Khin Kyauk of Pa Htaung, and Aik Son, son of U Kyaw of Tawkaw Apyin Village under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Wanpan Police Station.

Tachilek District Court handed down 5 years' imprisonment and 12 years' imprisonment to serve separately under Sections 15 and 19 (A) of the law on Sai Pyan, 12 years imprisonment under Section 19 (A) on Aik Htar and 5 years' imprisonment and 10 years imprisonment under Sections 15 and 19 (A) on Aik Son on 3 October 2003. — MNA



Dignitaries at the graduation parade of the fifth intake of Defence Services Medical Academy. (News on page 1)— MNA

Say no to drugs



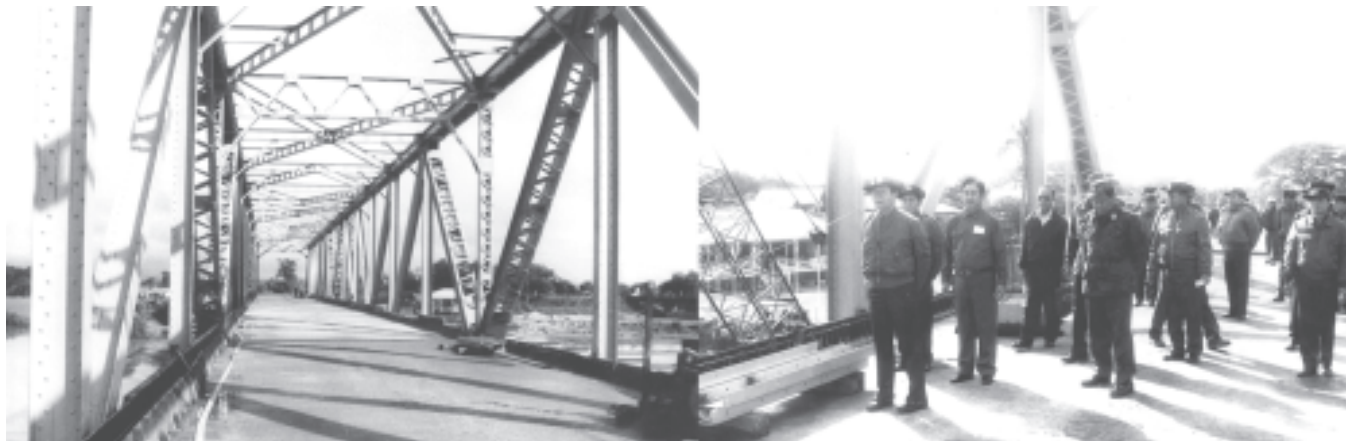
Maj-Gen Kyaw Win addresses press meeting on ITF 14 & Under Asian Championships 2004 Zone (2). — MNA

Holding Asian Tennis C'ship 2004-Zone-2 coordinated

YANGON, 1 Jan — A press conference on holding the ITF 14 & Under Asian Tennis Championship 2004-Zone-2 organized by the International Tennis Federation in Myanmar took place at Theinbyu Tennis Court here this afternoon. It was attended by Myanmar Tennis Federation Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, President U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), Executive Maj Tin Saw Naing (Ministry of Defence), Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin, EC members, journalists, Myanmar managers and coaches of Myanmar youth tennis team and guests.

The patron and chairman made speeches on the occasion. Next, the patron, the chairman and the secretary replied to the queries raised by those present.

The tournament will be held in Myanmar from 12 to 19 January 2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect progress in construction of Nankaungchaung (Mogaung) Bridge in Mogaung, Kachin State, on 30-12-2003. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects...

(from page 16)

The Government could not launch regional development projects effectively due to lack of peace and stability in the region, he pointed out.

Now, peace has been restored in the region. At a time when the Government places a special emphasis on regional development, respective departmental officials and local people, on their part, are to make concerted efforts in unity with the sense of further raising economic, education, health and social infrastructures, he stressed.

Since Mogaung is a historic town and Mandalay-



Prime Minister and party view the 3000-ton jade boulder mined in Namthaw block 109 donated by Ruby Dragon Co Ltd. — MNA

Myitkyina railroad goes through the region, it should have developed more than it is now. Peace has been restored in Kachin State for ten years and since a long time ago, golden opportunities have been created for enabling the people to travel to remote areas with convenience and in peace and to effectively take measures for regional development.

At such opportune time, departmental officials concerned and local residents are to unitedly strive with might and main for achieving greater success in regional development sector, the General said.

He called on departmental officials concerned to make strenuous endeavours unitedly and collectively but not individually for ensuring progress of the regions to which they are assigned duties by combining the might of unity, perseverance and innovative measures after forming respective development committees made up of all departments sector-wise. Townsiders are also to actively participate in the regional development tasks without considering that regional development is responsible for the Government alone, he remarked.

Myanmar has not become a developed nation yet, and the might of the people's participation therefore plays a vital role in development of the nation.

As the participation of the people plays a main role in realizing the national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation, the entire people are to enthusiastically and unitedly take part in the implementation of the State's future seven-point policy programme, urged the General.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt donated TV sets, video cassette players and inverters to Mogaung BEHSs 1 and 2 through respective principals.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Nankaungchaung (Mogaung) Bridge Construction Project site. Deputy Superintending Engineer of Public Works U Soe Thet reported on salient points and 90 per cent completion of the project. The Prime Minister gave instructions completion on time of the project and inspected the finishing touches.

The bridge is located on Shwebo-Myitkyina road. The 945-foot-long bridge has a 20 feet and six inches wide motorway on it. Its lower structure is of reinforced concrete and its upper structure, of steel beams. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. They headed for Mohnyin, where they were welcomed by Tactical Operation Commander Col Soe Myint, local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The General and party went to Mohnyin Government Technical Institute. Managing Director of Ever Green Construction Co U Than Shwe reported on progress in construction of the three-storey main building and two-storey buildings; Minister for Science and Technology U Thauang, on academic matters.

The General and party inspected the construction site and the study of the students in the new building. They planted star-flower trees in front of the main building.

Next, they went to Mohnyin Degree College and inspected lecture rooms, e-Education learning centre, computer room centre and language lab.

Managing Director U Than Shwe reported on work progress and future plans; and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, on opening of classes for first year students, subjects, population of students and teachers, opening of IT rooms with 92 computers. The General left necessary instructions.

At the Sein Le Yadana Hall, the General and party met with local authorities, departmental staff, social organizations and townsiders. The township PDC chairman reported on progress in implementing of the instructions of the Prime Minister in the previous tour of the region, land reclamation, measures being taken for ensuring edible oil sufficiency, greening and beautifying tasks, construction of Myawady TV retransmission station, and education, health and road and bridge construction sectors.

After hearing the report, the Prime Minister gave instructions. He said he and ministers made inspection tours of the town for three times this year with the aim of fulfilling the requirements for the regional development. The Prime Minister quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as giving guidance on taking necessary measures for development of the economic and social infrastructures, and human resources of the regions which lagged behind others and providing advanced health care services to the people of the regions.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Government made arrangements for the development of such regions including Mohnyin Township. Being able to establish a degree college and a government technological college complete with advanced teaching and learning aids and modern buildings in the township within six months indicated the goodwill of the Government.

Since its assumption of the responsibilities of the State, the Government, with determination to achieve the aims, had been exerting relentless efforts for the tasks in the interests of the people, the Prime Minister added. To fully provide the health care services of the local people, Mohnyin People's Hospital had been upgraded into a 200-bed one. Construction of education and health infrastructures in the region at the behest of no one showed the Government's goodwill towards the people similar to the wishes of parents who bequeath fine legacies for the their children. Local

people, realizing the goodwill of the State, were required to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the people. Fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the people was not repaying the gratitude of the State but cooperation between the national brethren in the interests of the people and the Union upholding the Our Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State, the Prime Minister said.

Modern and developed democratic nation would emerge sooner thanks to the combined forces of the leadership and assistance of the Government, cooperation of the people and correct and active participation of departmental personnel. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged departmental personnel and the local people to unitedly strive for the regional development with the assistance rendered by the government.

Next, the Prime Minister handed over television sets, video players and electricity boosters for Nos 1 and 2 BEHSs in Mohnyin to the headmasters concerned.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Phakant. Tactical Operations Commander Col Tin Shein and members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations welcomed the Prime Minister there.

The Prime Minister and party attended the ceremony to unveil the stone inscription of the history of Phakant Gems Land by No 1 Highway of the town at 1.30 pm.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint formally opened the ceremony. Next, the Prime Minister formally unveiled the stone inscription and viewed round it.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the Uru Yadana Yeiktha in the town and inspected the jade mines in the blocks carried out under joint-venture by the State and private gem companies. Next, the Prime Minister met with members of the Township Peace and Development Council and social organizations and departmental personnel at Uru Yadana Hall in the town.

First, the Prime Minister handed over computer sets and teaching aids for the BEHSs in Kamaing and Phakant to the headmasters of the schools.

Next, the tactical operations commander and the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council reported to the Prime Minister on upgrading tasks on roads in the towns and matters related to communication, education and health care services.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements. He said Phakant is the important gems land in Myanmar which is abundant in priceless jade land and ruby land. Departmental personnel and jade mining entrepreneurs are required to unitedly contribute towards the development of the region by carrying out business in accord with the rules and regulations and laws, said the Prime Minister. Afterwards, the Prime Minister urged the entrepreneurs and departmental personnel to make concerted efforts for making the gems land a tourist attraction and a famous place.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Namthaw Block 109 in Phakant Township. Officials of Ruby Dragon Co welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed the 3000-ton jade boulder found in the block and donated to the State by the company.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party left for Myitkyina. Later, the Prime Minister left Myitkyina by air and arrived at Yangon in the evening. The Prime Minister was seen off at Myitkyina Airport by peace negotiators, national race leader U Za Khun Ting Ring of Kachin Special Region-1, national race leader U La Mon Tu Gyaing, national race leaders, and members of Kachin cultural troupes.

MNA

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Import-substitute product factories of Ministry of Industry-1 in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



Cement Plant (Kyaukse)

The 500-ton Cement Plant of Myanmar Ceramic Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyaukse Industrial Zone.



Thanks to the efforts of the State Peace and Development Council for the nation to become an industrialized one, there have emerged various infrastructures in the industrial sector.

The factories in the country are now concentrating on production of quality import-substitute goods in great quantity and items for export.

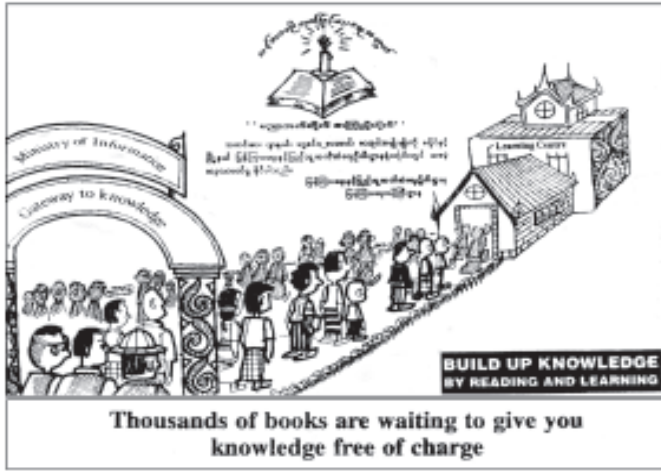


Rare and invaluable blue-green algae is found only in three countries in the world including Myanmar and it can be exported. The photo shows the Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae (Spirulina) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yekha) which is located in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division.



The 200-ton Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) is being implemented by Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries near Hlaygyit Village, Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Division.

Subject	Factory projects implemented from 1988 to 2003-2004				Projects to be implemented	
	Projects completed	Investment (kyat in million)	Projects under implementation	Investment (kyat in million)	Projects to be implemented	Investment (kyat in million)
Textile factory	10	3573.834	6	20608.926	8	52900.00
Foodstuff factory	10	978.611	2	636.055	9	3166.364
Pharmaceutical Factory	10	5704.177	5	11000.866	6	6571.401
Ceramic factory	6	7324.255	1	967.000	12	26684.000
General and Maintenance	8	2553.190	-	-	8	6535.000
Paper mill	3	1846.164	6	17184.897	7	50000.000
Total	47	21980.231	20	50397.744	50	145856.765



ADVERTISEMENT

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် ၄၈/၂၀၀၃
(၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၂၄ ရက်)
လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကူးသန်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ နယ်စပ်
ကုန်သွယ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက် ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ
ရာထူး နေရာများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလိုရှိပါသည်။

ရာထူး ပညာအဆင့်အမျိုးမျိုး လစ်လပ်
ဦးစီးအရာရှိ ကွန်ပျူတာသိပ္ပံပညာ J နေရာ

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၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့်စာရွက်
စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည်နှင့် လမ်း၊ ရေဖြေ၊
နှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍
ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်း
ရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် ၄၈/၂၀၀၃ နေ့
လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်
ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်သူများ
ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိမြေဆိုလိုသောစာစစ်သူက လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရင်းလင်း
တိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်
ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ ရွှေပြချက်
ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၆-၁-၂၀၀၄ နေ့
အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ဓာတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ
ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၁၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၁၅-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ်
ရေးဖြေ စာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။ ၁၂-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း၊
အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီများနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင်
မြေဆိုခွင့်ကတိပြုများကိုထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ ခရိုင်နှင့် မြို့နယ်အချင်း
သာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီရုံးများ၊ ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း မြို့နယ်
အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနများတွင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့
လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း၊ အမှတ် (၃၇၈၀၆၃)သို့ဖြစ်စေ
ဆက်သွယ် နိုင်ပါသည်။

Venezuela offers \$2m quake aid to Iran

CARACAS, 1 Jan — Venezuela's Council of Ministers on Tuesday offered to Iran an economic assistance valued at two million US dollars to help tackle the aftermath of the powerful earthquake that hit the southeastern Iranian city of Bam.

After a ministerial meeting at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, Venezuelan Interior and Justice Minister Lucas Romero said necessary arrangements were being made to send rescue materials and equipment to Iran. "We are gathering materials and equipment to help the victims of such a horrible tragedy," Rincon said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 2 January 2004

Costa Rica seizes 1,160 kilos of drugs in 2003

SANJOSE, 1 Jan — Police in Costa Rica seized 1,160 kilos of drugs and detained 335 drug dealers in anti-narcotics raids this year, Public Security Minister Rogelio Ramos said on Tuesday.

The seizures prove Costa Rica is being used by traffickers to transport narcotics, Ramos said.

The seized total included 1,054 kilos of cocaine, 110 kilos of heroin, 44,405 doses of crack cocaine and 301 ecstasy pills.

Police also destroyed one million marijuana plants and a clandestine laboratory.

The minister said that of the 335 dealers arrested this year, 176 were foreign citizens.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

Flu deaths hit epidemic level in US

ATLANTA, 1 Jan — The flu is widespread in almost every US state and the number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza is now at an epidemic level, federal health officials said on Wednesday.

Health departments in 45 states, New York City and the District of Columbia reported widespread influenza activity for the week ending December 20, according to the latest data collected by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pneumonia and influenza accounted for 7.8 per cent of all deaths reported for the period, hitting what the CDC described as an "epidemic threshold" for the period.

These were the highest levels seen during the 2003-2004 flu season, which started about two months earlier than usual and has killed at least 42 children and an unknown number of adults.

Influenza, an infectious disease marked by respiratory inflammation, fever, muscular pain and intestinal tract irritation, kills an estimated 36,000 Americans and hospitalizes 114,000 every year.

About 92 children under the age of 5 die from flu-related illnesses in an average year, according to the CDC.

A CDC spokeswoman said there were indications in a few states that flu cases had peaked.

Flu season runs from October until April, with the peak usually occurring in the winter months.

Public anxiety this year is high because the virus hit the country hard in early October, before many Americans were vaccinated. A subsequent rush for flu shots was complicated by a shortage of vaccine in some parts.

MNA/Reuters

Three drug traffickers arrested in Mozambique

MAPUTO, 1 Jan — The Mozambican police arrested three drug traffickers at Maputo International Airport last week, local media reported on Tuesday.

The police said that one of them is a Mozambican and the other two are foreigners. These people were found to be carrying 90 capsules containing cocaine in their luggage.

The route followed by the traffickers was the same as used by others caught earlier this year. They travelled to Maputo from Brazil via Lisbon, and their final destination was South Africa.

It is thought that the three are part of the same group as Singathawa Mandongana and Zeldha Haas, two South African women arrested at the airport earlier this year, and found to be carrying cocaine in their stomachs.

MNA/Xinhua

US court rejects Lewinsky request for \$1.16m

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan — A federal appeals court on Tuesday ruled that Monica Lewinsky should not be reimbursed for 1.16 million US dollars in legal fees related to an independent counsel investigation of president Bill Clinton's affair with the former White House intern.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals in Washington, which has jurisdiction for independent counsel cases, ruled that Lewinsky failed to meet the requirements to be reimbursed by US taxpayers.

The Ethics in Government Act provides for reimbursements of attorneys fees by people who have defended themselves against an investigation under the act. But

reimbursement is only allowed when the person is the subject of the independent counsel's investigation, if they incurred the fees during the investigation and would not have incurred them otherwise.

Lewinsky, whose affair with Clinton ultimately led to his impeachment, had asked the court for 1.16 million US dollars she said she incurred during the independent counsel's investigation into the scandal.

She said she should be reimbursed because there would have been no investigation into perjury and other allegations against her if it had not involved the president.

But the court disagreed

and said Lewinsky could have been probed by the Justice Department even if the independent counsel had not been investigating the matter.

The court also noted arguments by the independent counsel that Lewinsky initially refused an immunity deal and accumulated more than 800,000 US dollars in attorneys fees before negotiating a deal she agreed to.

Since news of Lewinsky's dalliance with Clinton broke, leading to his 1998 impeachment and later acquittal by the US Senate, Lewinsky has designed handbags and, most recently, hosted a reality TV show.

MNA/Reuters

Traffic accidents kill 846 in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Jan — A total of 846 people were killed in 690 traffic accidents in South Africa during the Christmas festival by Sunday, the Department of Transport said on Tuesday.

The department said that the road death toll was more than 10 per cent lower than last year's, which 947 people were killed in 734 crashes.

"This figure is particularly good in the light of a 5- to 6-

per-cent increase in traffic this festive season over the volumes recorded during Christmas 2002," according to the statement.

It ascribed the lower death toll to law enforcement, the commitment of most road users to share responsibility with the government to reduce road carnage, and a radio and television advertising campaign.

"We must emphasize that

each and every death on our roads is a personal tragedy for a family and that we need to take further measures to improve road safety in South Africa. Every day throughout the year an average of 40 families are bereaved by an unnecessary death."

The department urged people not to use roads after consuming alcohol over the New Year's period.

MNA/Xinhua

AIDS is a national concern.

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်းတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Bereaved Iraqi family prays for a better New Year

BAQUBA, 1 Jan—As she ekes out a harsh existence living in a ruined barracks once occupied by Saddam Hussein's troops, Iraqi mother Wansa says her New Year wish is that God keeps her remaining eight children alive.

Her second son, Husam, was mistakenly killed by US soldiers in November in the derelict camp where the dispossessed family are among thousands of Arab Sumaida tribesmen who moved there after being expelled from their homes earlier this year.

"I pray to God to preserve the rest of my children and for fear and terror to go away," Wansa, 38, said in the camp near Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad. "I want my children to know their future so that we can live like other people."

Husam says bitterly that the US soldier who killed her son lives in a military base just opposite her camp. The US Army has admitted one of its men shot Husam in error.

"At night I cannot sleep, but the Americans here can find sleep," she said. "The

American who killed Husam stays opposite me... I pray to God he will never have a day of peace."

Kurds expelled Sunni Arab tribespeople from the bordertown of Khanaqin just weeks after Baghdad's fall last April in revenge for Saddam's policy of settling Arabs in their midst.

"Is this Bush's democracy to burn the hearts of Iraqi mothers? It's fear that the Americans gave us," Wansa said.

The family recall how Husam would go out with American troops in search of abandoned ammunition that litters the sprawling camp and has cost the lives of several children.

"The Americans are my friends, Husam would say... He would drive with them around the camp and show them the missiles and gre-

nades so it wouldn't hurt the children," said Ahmad, 20, recalling his dead brother.

Wansa's husband, also named Ahmad, says the family have nowhere else to go, despite the dangers of living in the camp close to US military exercises. "Their bullets fly over our heads and their evil comes to us, and at the break of dawn they begin their training," he said.

Wansa still keeps the sweatshirt riddled with bullet holes that Husam was wearing the day he died.

For the deported Arab tribespeople who fell victim to Kurdish revenge against Saddam's brutal resettlement policy, the year comes to an end with more hardship and suffering.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey, Iraq sign MoU for transportation

ANKARA, 1 Jan—Turkey and Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding here on Tuesday to promote cooperation in transportation between the two neighbouring countries.

The document was signed by Turkish Transportation Minister Binali Yildirim and his visiting Iraqi counterpart Bahnam Zia Pohis.

Yildirim said the two countries decided to hold the Transportation Joint Commission Meeting in Ankara on February 16, 2004 in a bid to improve overland transportation between the two countries.

He noted that the two sides had some concerns over the security of Turkish truck drivers in Iraq and an agreement was reached to deal with the problem. Under the memorandum of understanding, a direct railway linking Turkey's southeastern town of Nusaybin and Iraq's northern city of Mosul will be constructed.—MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean protester holds a candle and anti-war banner at a rally against the additional dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq next year, near the US embassy in Seoul, on 31 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

UN transfers 2.6-billion-dollar oil revenues to Iraq development fund

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Jan—The United Nations on Wednesday transferred 2.6 billion US dollars in surplus funds from its now-defunct "oil-for-food" programme to the Development Fund for Iraq, a UN spokesman said.

This is the fourth such transfer since the UN Security Council called for the action in May when it adopted resolution 1483. The first transfer of 1 billion dollars was made two days after the resolution passed. As oil-for-food contracts were reviewed and prioritized, a second billion was transferred in October and a third in November.

The latest transfer came after outstanding contracts were completed and letters of credit issued. Once all UN agencies and programmes that participated in the oil-for-food programme have reported their 2003 expenditures, the UN will officially close its books on the scheme for 2003 and present its financial statement to the UN Board of Auditors. At that time a further transfer of funds will be made to the Development Fund for Iraq, which is under the direction of the US-British occupying coalition, officially known as CPA.

Internet

Iran earthquake survivors battle cold

BAM (Iran), 1 Jan—Thousands of homeless Iranian earthquake survivors huddled against the cold early on Wednesday five nights after up to 50,000 people died in one of the worst natural disasters in a decade.

Humanitarian aid poured into Iran as foreign rescue teams headed home after concluding no one could still be alive beneath the collapsed mud-brick houses of the south-eastern Silk Road city of Bam.

Nearly 500 million US dollars has been pledged by dozens of countries.

Iran's President Mohammad Khatami welcomed US aid, but insisted it would not alter relations between the two countries.

"This has got nothing to do with political issues. The problems in Iran-US relations are rooted in history," he said on Tuesday.

A senior US official said President George W Bush was considering opening a dialogue with Teheran but would like to see some gesture from Iran first.

Some 30,000 bodies have been recovered since Friday's pre-dawn tremor devastated Bam, which lies some 600 miles southeast of Teheran.—MNA/Reuters

Three "LA Times" reporters injured by Baghdad bomb

LOS ANGELES, 1 Jan—Three *Los Angeles Times* reporters were among those injured on Wednesday when a powerful bomb ripped through an upscale Baghdad restaurant filled with New Year's revellers, the newspaper said.

Suffering cuts and bruises in the blast were Tracy Wilkinson, the *Times* Rome bureau chief, correspondent Ann Simmons and Chris Kraul, who until recently headed the paper's Mexico City office.

All three had been assigned to the Baghdad bureau.

"So far it's cuts and bruises but we don't have a complete report," *Times* Managing Editor Dean Baquet said, adding that all three had been taken to a military hospital for treatment. He said Wilkinson had telephoned the paper and was apparently in good spirits despite her injuries.

Wilkinson, a veteran foreign correspondent who has also worked for the newspaper in Jerusalem, won the 1998 George Polk Award for her reporting on the war in

Kosovo.

At least five people were killed in the explosion at the Nabil Restaurant in the Arasat District of Baghdad in what police said may have been a car bomb. Much of the building and a nearby house were destroyed and the restaurant was in flames.

Witnesses said dozens of people had been inside when the bomb went off.

Officials in the emergency ward of the nearby Ibn al-Nafis Hospital said more than 20 people had been wounded, a count that apparently included the three *Times* reporters. The restaurant, in one of Baghdad's most upmarket districts, is frequented by wealthy Iraqis and is popular with foreigners. A New Year party was underway when the bomb struck, witnesses said.—MNA/Reuters

Chirping birds save 2 Iranian children from ruins

BAM, 1 Jan—The chirping of two pet canaries from beneath the rubble of a destroyed house in Bam saved two children after the birds attracted the attention of rescue workers, Iran's official news agency reported on Tuesday.

"The two children were stuck in the debris next to their broken bird case," the IRNA news agency said. "After hearing the birds singing, rescue workers went to the location and were removing the debris when they found the children."

Pet birds such as canaries and nightingales are popular in rural villages in Iran.

MNA/Reuters

21 people injured in road accidents in northern Egypt

CAIRO, 1 Jan—At least 21 people were injured in two road accidents in northern Egypt on Tuesday, the official MENA news agency reported.

On the Cairo-Alexandria Highway, 10 people were wounded when a light lorry overturned, it said.

In another accident, two speeding vehicles, a taxi and a trailer, collided on the Desouk-Kafr El Sheikh Highway, injuring 11 people, some in serious condition, it added.—MNA/Xinhua



A passenger walks near the world's first magnetic levitation train for commercial use, the Maglev, on 1 Jan, 2004 in Shanghai, China. The Maglev which started its regular service Thursday runs between Longyang Road Station and Pudong International Airport at a speed of 430 kilometres (270 miles), an hour for about 7 min. 20 sec.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Marilson breaks Kenyan dominance in Silvestre race

SAO PAULO, 1 Jan—Brazil's Marilson Gomes dos Santos won the 15 kilometre Sao Silvestre road race on Wednesday to break Kenya's dominance in the traditional new year's eve event through the streets of Sao Paulo. Gomes, 10,000 metres silver medallist and 5,000 bronze medallist in this year's Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, left New York marathon champion Martin Lel and Boston Marathon champion Robert Cheruiyot, both of Kenya, in his wake as he won in 43 minutes 48 seconds.

Gomes, last year's runner-up behind Cheruiyot, broke clear of four other runners going up the 1.5 kilometre Brigadeiro hill to finish nine seconds ahead of compatriot Romulo Wagner with Lel a further second behind in third place. Cheruiyot was fourth.

An estimated 15,000 runners took part in the race which has been held every year since 1925. Kenya had won six of the previous eight races. New York marathon winner Margaret Okayo of Kenya won the women's race in 51 minutes 23 seconds.

MNA/Reuters



Athletes run the traditional St. Silvestre race in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 31 Dec, 2003. Some 15,000 runners from about 15 countries took part in the 15-kilometre (9.3 miles) street race.—INTERNET

Keeper Bonano leaves Barca for struggling Murcia

MADRID, 1 Jan—Argentine goalkeeper Roberto Bonano has joined Primera Liga strugglers Murcia for the rest of the season after agreeing to rescind his contract with Barcelona.

The 33-year-old former international, who joined Barcelona from River Plate three seasons ago, had fallen out of favour at the Catalan club since the arrival of new coach Frank Rijkaard and had not been included in the team's official squad list for the present campaign.

"I have been training on my own for the last six months and it has been a very tough experience," Bonano told a news conference in Murcia on Tuesday night.

"But I will now be giving everything for my new team because they have shown that they want me.

"Some odd things happen at Barcelona," he added. "The problem that the club (Barcelona) has with goalkeepers is that they

make too many changes and no one is given any continuity and that makes it impossible to succeed there."

Bonano is the third player to join Murcia this week with Ecuador international defender Ivan Hurtado and Argentine midfielder Leonel Gancedo also signing deals until the end of the season.

At the same time the club has also discarded six players, including former Malaga defender Mikel Roteta, from their squad and has told them to look for other teams.

Murcia, who are four points above Espanyol at the bottom of the table, play leaders Real Madrid at the Bernabeu in the league on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

McLeish set to pitch new signing Rae into Glasgow derby

GLASGOW, 1 Jan—Rangers manager Alex McLeish says he is set to hand Scotland midfielder Gavin Rae his debut in Saturday's Glasgow derby at Celtic.

The 26-year-old Rae will complete a move to the Scottish champions from their premier league rivals Dundee for a nominal fee when the transfer window opens on January 1.

He will be available to face Celtic this weekend and McLeish insists he will not hesitate to play a fully fit Rae against their Old Firm rivals.

"I have no doubts in my mind that Gavin would relish the chance to make his debut against Celtic just days after signing for us," McLeish told the club's official website on Wednesday.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have landed him as we've been keeping tabs on him for

years.

"The timing is now right for both him and Rangers and I'm sure he will be a big asset in the years to come.

"If he is 100 per cent fit he will certainly come into my plans for the game with Celtic."

Although Rae is in contention to face the league leaders, Dutchman Ronald de Boer will miss out as he continues his recovery from a knee injury.

Rangers must avoid defeat to retain realistic hopes of defending their SPL title with Celtic already eight points clear in the standings after 18 matches of the 38-game campaign.

MNA/Reuters



General view of the metal roof of the velodrome around Athens' Olympic stadium on 4 Dec, 2003. Greece has completed all the work planned for this year ahead of the 2004 Olympic Games, with some projects ahead of schedule, the country's top Olympics official said on 31 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Tevez named Latin Footballer of the Year

MONTEVIDEO, 1 Jan—Teenage Argentine striker Carlos Tevez, who led Boca Juniors to this year's Libertadores Cup title, was voted Latin America's Footballer of the Year on Wednesday in a poll conducted by Uruguayan newspaper El Pais.

Paraguayan striker Jose Cardozo, last year's winner, came second after another year of prolific goalscoring with his Mexican club Toluca, and Santos midfielder Diego, another

teenager, was third.

Tevez, 19, has inherited the coveted Boca number 10 shirt once worn by Diego Maradona and has captivated South Americans with his speed, vision and ball skills.

He was also the subject of a bitter row between the Argentine Football Association (AFA) and his club over whether he should play in the World Youth Championship or World Club Cup final this month.

Boca eventually won the tug-of-war and Tevez helped them to a penalty shootout win over European champions AC Milan after the match in Yokohama ended in a 1-1 draw. Tevez was one of five Boca players to finish in the top 10.

The big surprise of the poll was that Brazilian midfielder Alex only managed a modest seventh place.

Alex, Ronaldinho's usual understudy in the Brazilian national team, was the inspiration this year as Cruzeiro won the Brazilian championship for the first time. Brazilian media had expected him to battle with Tevez for the title. Carlos Bianchi of Boca Juniors was voted the region's best coach for the fifth time after previously topping the poll in 1994, 1998, 2000 and 2001.

Bianchi has won the Libertadores three times with Boca and once with Argentina's Velez Sarsfield.

Bianchi was followed by Vanderlei Luxemburgo, the former Brazil coach now in charge of Cruzeiro, and Colombian Hernan Dario Gomez, who coaches Ecuador.

The poll, the most respected in the region, has been conducted every year since 1986. Players and coaches have to be based in Latin America for at least part of the year to be eligible. Previous winners include Brazil's Romario and Cafu and Colombia's Carlos Valderrama, the only player to win the award twice.

MNA/Reuters

Previous winners of Latin Footballer of the Years

MONTEVIDEO, 1 Jan—Previous winners of the Latin America Footballer of the Year poll conducted by the Uruguayan newspaper El Pais.

- 1986 - Antonio Alzamendi (Uruguay)
- 1987 - Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
- 1988 - Ruben Paz (Uruguay)
- 1989 - Bebeto (Brazil)
- 1990 - Raul Vicente Amarilla (Paraguay)
- 1991 - Oscar Ruggeri (Argentina)
- 1992 - Rai (Brazil)
- 1993 - Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
- 1994 - Cafu (Brazil)
- 1995 - Enzo Francescoli (Uruguay)
- 1996 - Jose Luis Chilavert (Paraguay)
- 1997 - Marcelo Salas (Chile)
- 1998 - Martin Palermo (Argentina)
- 1999 - Javier Saviola (Argentina)
- 2000 - Romario (Brazil)
- 2001 - Juan Roman Riquelme (Argentina)
- 2002 - Jose Cardozo (Paraguay)
- 2003 - Carlos Tevez (Argentina)

MNA/Reuters



Former sumo wrestler Akebono, from Hawaii, left, and Bob Sapp, a former NFL Minnesota Vikings lineman, fight during a K-1 match in Nagoya, central Japan on 31 Dec, 2003. Sapp used a left-right combination to floor the massive Akebono in the first round of the scheduled three-rounder before 43,000 spectators.—INTERNET



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveils the stone inscription of Phakant Jade Land. (News on page 16) — MNA

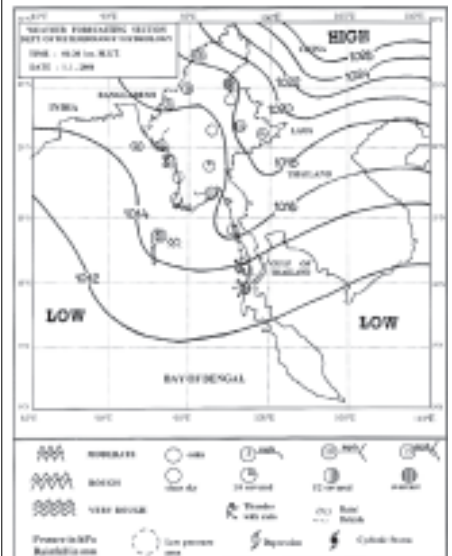


Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects lecture halls of Mohmyin Degree College in Mohmyin, Kachin State, on 30-12-2003. (News on page 16) — MNA



Three-storey main building and two-storey buildings under construction in the Government Technical Institute in Mohmyin, Kachin State. (News on page 16) — MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 1 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Shan and Kayin States, Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (2°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 31-12-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 1-1-2004 was 14.5°C (58°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-1-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 31-12-2003 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from North at (10:45) hours MST on 31-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 2-1-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-1-2004: Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-1-2004:** Fair weather.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓာတိက တိပိဋကဓရမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှိက္ခိယသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန</p> | <p>7:10 pm
14. (၅၆)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ အစီအစဉ်
7:25 pm
15. Musical programme
7:40 pm
16. အချစ်အမြင်အာသာစွန့်ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်ငံမေမှု ချီရူရှ
"မျိုးချစ်ခင်မတ်" (အပိုင်း-၁)
8:00 pm
17. News</p> | <p>18. International news
19. Weather report
20. Myanmar movie: "သုက္ကနိမေဇီ" (အပိုင်း-၂) ညွှန်စမ်းနေဆောင်ကျော်သူ၊ ကျော်ရဲအောင်လွင်မိုး၊ မေသန်းနု၊ ခံ့ရှားတင်၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးထွန်း)
21. The next day's programme
*****</p> |
|---|---|---|



Friday, January 2
View today:

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓာတိက တိပိဋကဓရမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှိက္ခိယသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန

၀ရိတ်တရားတော်

- 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. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍစုနည်း
- 8:00 am
6. ရုပ်သေးကြိုခွဲ
- 8:15 am
7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am

9. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေးရပ်မြင် သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ခါတုခေအထူးပြု) (ခါတုခေ)

5:15 pm

6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm
7. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm
8. Songs of yesteryears
- 6:00 pm
9. နည်းစနစ်မှန်မှန်အားကစားအခြေခံ
- 6:15 pm
10. Discovery
- 6:30 pm
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
13. Milo success in soccer

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

Dinner hosted to mark graduation of 5th Intake of DSMA

YANGON, 1 Jan — To mark the graduation of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy, a dinner was hosted at the assembly hall of DSMA this evening. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing graced the ceremony with their presence.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat



Hein, their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, senior military officers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, faculty of the DSMA, graduating officers and their parents and relatives. After the dinner, guests were entertained with songs and dances in accompaniment of Myawady music troupe at the hall of the DSMA.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend the dinner hosted to mark the graduation of the Fifth Intake of the Defence Service Medical Academy. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects regional development projects in Mogaung, Mohnyin and Phakant

YANGON, 1 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by 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 Swe, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left Myitkyina by helicopter and arrived at Mogaung in Kachin State on 30 December morning.

They were welcomed there by Col Myint Hein of

Mogaung Station, local authorities, departmental heads and members of social organizations. The Prime Minister held a meeting with local administrative bodies, service personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders.

Township PDC Chairman U Khin Maung Than reported on location, area and sown acreage of the region, cultivation of monsoon paddy, ensuring of regional rice sufficiency, cultivation of edible oil crops, regional edible oil sufficiency, land reclamation, and education, health, rural water supply tasks and road and bridge construction tasks; depart-

mental officials, on tasks being carried out and requirements department-wise.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for upgrading of Mogaung Township People's Hospital and basic education high schools and maintenance of roads and bridges, saying that the purpose of the tour was to fulfil the requirements of the region.

During the previous tour of Kachin State that covered far-flung areas in Putao District, he attended to the needs of transport, education, health, social and economic sectors for regional development and elevating the liv-

ing standard of local people, he added. Again in the tour of Mogaung, he fulfilled the requirements of education, health and transport infrastructures essential for regional development, he noted.

Arrangements had been made for upgrading of 25-bed hospital to 50-bed one and construction of a station hospital, he said.

Likewise, measures had been taken to upgrade three affiliated basic education middle schools to BEMS (branches) and to carry out the finishing touches in construction of buildings for some BEPSs.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in construction of two-storey buildings of Mohnyin Degree College in Mohnyin, Kachin State, on 30-12-2003. — MNA